

148 Local legislators guest at monthly CCCC meeting

KAROLYN TREDEAU
Staff Reporter

S.C. Reps. Patricia Henegan and Richard Yow and S.C. Sen. Vincent Sheheen of the Chesterfield County legislative delegation were the guests of the Chesterfield County Coordinating Council at its April 15 meeting at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Chesterfield.

The main topic of the meeting was reports from the state legislators.

Yow began the discussion with a mention of the House recognizing Walmart's Sammie McAlilly III as a "Hometown Hero" for his many contributions to the community.

Yow also spoke on Gov. Nikki Haley's refusal to accept federal funds for farmers, which could result in the state's losing half its farmers. Yow said he had a letter hand-delivered to the governor regarding the issue after his phone calls went unanswered.

Yow then told how veterans' issues are being addressed, such as stopping foreclosure of veterans' homes when they are deployed and the state of South Carolina not taxing veterans' pensions. He also referred to the Veterans Fair he had co-sponsored last year.

Yow reported the county is receiving a record \$13 million due to the cooperative effort of the delegation, and a lot is being done on county roads this year. He announced that \$25,000 has been allocated to Chesterfield and Lancaster counties for art programs, \$350,000 each to Pageland and the county for sewage improvements and \$6 million for bridges.

Yow also reminded every-

one of the \$1.2 million dollars in unclaimed property that is available and that the names are listed in last week's edition of The Link.

Henegan spoke about the difficulties of the people in rural areas receiving proper healthcare.

According to her, not enough residents qualify for the Affordable Care Act, and too many earn too much to qualify for Medicaid. She said many people work two and three jobs just to make ends meet, and it affects the families.

Henegan lamented the fact the state had turned down \$11 billion in Medicaid expansion funds, which went to other states. She also pointed to the relationship between poverty and education and touched on the teacher shortage and the fact that due to low teacher pay, many new teachers use the area as a starting point before going on to more lucrative positions.

"Not all communities are treated the same," Henegan went on to say about roads, adding the \$417 million proposed for roads passed the House but is still in the Senate.

Regarding economic development, Henegan said there are the well-developed areas and the rural parts of the state that are like "developing countries." She said the legislative delegation will continue to fight for rural communities.

Sheheen was the next speaker and voiced his pleasure on the expansion of the four-year-old kindergarten, which he had been fighting for over the past five years. Sixty districts now have it in place. He announced Chesterfield County is "at the top of the

heap" in 4K.

Regarding roads, Sheheen said that this year's allocation is a "drop in the bucket." Rather than instituting a small raise in the gas tax, the state is taking money from other areas for roads. In other budget news, he explained the state is underfunding education and that state workers got a two percent raise.

Underfunding of social services was another point the senator made, as well as the closing of seven hospitals in South Carolina due to the refusal to accept Medicaid expansion funds from the federal government.

In other business, Yow thanked retiring Chesterfield County Councilwoman Leonora Powe for her years of service. Sam Copeland of the Chesterfield County Transportation Committee announced the county is

planning to pave 14 miles of roads this year, which will be funded from last year's one-time extra money allocated by the General Assembly to go to the local CTCs for state secondary roads. He also announced the S.C. Highway 9 study, which has

been in the works for 10 years.

Farris Pigg of the CCCC announced the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will be held April 29 at the YMCA Conference Center in Chesterfield. Organizations interested in hosting their volunteers for \$10 each should call (843) 623-5562.

Probate Judge Gail Ingram announced the faith-based community is being contacted for the new pastors' committee being formed by Rep. Yow. She also informed the audience that Cheraw High School graduate

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Joshuah Campbell has been recognized by Business Week as one of the 12 best students graduating from Harvard.

Ralph Laney, director of the Department of Social Services, reported that child abuse costs taxpayers \$1 bil-

lion per year. In 2015, 18,848 abuse and neglect cases were reported. He urged people to report any abuse and neglect they witness. He also talked about the need for foster homes in the county so children won't be sent to foster homes hours

away, resulting in greater trauma, time and expense.

The next meeting of the CCCC will be in McBee on May 20. For further information, call (843) 623-5274.

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Karolyn Tredeau/Staff Photographer

From left, S.C. Rep Richie Yow, S.C. Rep Patricia Henegan and S.C. Senator Vincent Sheheen at the monthly CCCC meeting.

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148 S.C. sheriffs pledge to implement Gov. Haley's Domestic Violence Initiative

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

Chesterfield County Sheriff Jay Brooks was one of 45 South Carolina sheriffs who recently pledged to adopt Gov. Haley's domestic violence initiative that will improve officer response and create a baseline standard of uniformity statewide for domestic violence crimes by the end of the year.

The South Carolina Domestic Violence Task Force recognizes that law enforcement plays a critical role in the lives of domestic violence victims. Thus each sheriff's office will implement an internal policy specifically for domestic violence aimed at ensuring victim safety, offender accountability, and officer safety and accountability.

"What I'm proud to say is that every one of these sheriffs standing behind me said, not only will we do this - but they agreed to do it together," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "We're going to partner with these sheriffs, and I want to thank them for their investment and their commitment to the citizens they protect. The most important point that comes out of this press conference is the sheriffs here and the sheriffs representing these counties will have the backs of the survivors."

At a minimum, the internal policy will include five standards, which were identified

by the Governor's Domestic Violence Task Force as being critical to law enforcement response to domestic violence: requiring officers to file incident reports on every domestic violence call; mandating supervisory review of all domestic violence incident reports; designating an individual to obtain copies of orders of protection from family court; requiring officers to conduct a wanted check at the scene of a domestic violence call; and providing officers with a one-page reference guide, including key points of law and a basic checklist for a general lethality assessment.

Brooks said he was looking forward to implementing the new plan.

"I'm very proud of the S.C. Sheriffs Association. We're all committed to taking care of the victims. South Carolina has the highest death rate of criminal domestic violence, and we would all like to be the last," said Brooks. "Now we will have a standard operating procedure across the state. Each officer will have a laminated card available to make sure everything is done that needs to be done when responding to a domestic violence call. These calls are dangerous and often chaotic, so we want to make sure the officers have the help they need."

Each sheriff's office will also conduct a needs assessment for responding to and investigating domestic vio-

lence incidents for the purpose of developing a plan to obtain resources and improve services. The needs assessment will lay the foundation for Gov. Haley's law enforcement domestic violence initiatives in 2017 and 2018, continuing implementation of best practices proposed by the Domestic Violence Task Force.

For more information, go to governor.sc.gov and click on Executive Office. Then click on Domestic Violence Task Force.

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PALMETTO PRIDE ART Contest Winners.

PHOTO PROVIDED

PalmettoPride announces art contest winners at meet and greet with Governor Haley

PalmettoPride announced recently its 2015-2016 Litter Trashes Everyone Art Contest winners at a meet and greet with the Honorable Nikki R. Haley at the State House. Anna Reedy from Cedar Grove Elementary School in Williamston took top honors as State Winner.

Governor Haley congratulated the students on their creativity and leadership in educating others about the effects of litter.

Reedy's drawing will appear on the back of PalmettoPride's volunteer t-shirts for 2016-2017. Reedy also receives a monetary award as part of her prize. Cedar Grove Elementary and the Art Department will both receive monetary awards for supplies.

In addition to the state

winner, PalmettoPride selected four (4) regional winners. Each regional winner receives a framed copy of their drawing and a monetary prize. Each school and art teacher also receive monetary awards for supplies.

Regional Winners are as follows: Emily Horton, Upstate Region, Mountain View Elementary, Taylors; Gracen Zeigler, Lowcountry Region, Richard Carroll Elementary, Bamberg; Ellie Protsyuk, Midlands Region, Springfield Elementary, Fort Mill; and Sydnee Atkinson, Pee Dee Region, Aynor Elementary, Aynor.

This year had the highest number of participating students. More than 13,000 students were registered to par-

ticipate.

All school winners' drawings are on display the month of April at the historic Tapp's Arts Center in Columbia.

The Litter Trashes Everyone Art Contest is open to all elementary schools in South Carolina. Each school's winning student receives a framed copy of their artwork.

PalmettoPride is a 501C3 non-profit litter prevention and beautification organization in South Carolina. We engage citizens to take an active role in keeping their communities clean and beautiful. The programs have helped reduce litter by more than 60 percent. For more information, please visit www.palmettopride.org.

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148 Governor Haley signs lifesaving hands-on CPR in schools bill into Law

Governor Nikki Haley signed House Bill 3265 into law on Thursday, April 21, requiring all South Carolina students to learn hands-on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). This essential life skill will be incorporated into the already required high school health education curriculum and will ultimately benefit countless families by increasing the number of people with CPR proficiency. Far too many people die suddenly from cardiac arrest who might have been saved if only those around them were trained to administer CPR.

Coleman Maness, a young, sudden cardiac arrest survivor and American Heart Association volunteer shared his thoughts. "We have been working so hard on this legislation for the past four years, and it is great to finally see the result of our hard work today.

My life was saved by Bailey Barnes who performed bystander CPR, and this bill will ensure that other cardiac arrest victims will have a greater chance at survival." Coleman's story of survival motivated a close friend, at the time a high school student, Sally Sheppard, to take action by working with a local legis-

lator to have CPR in Schools legislation introduced during the 2012 session.

House Bill 3265 was sponsored by over 20 representatives and passed the House unanimously in 2015. The Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children endorsed the CPR in Schools legislation.

Nearly 424,000 people have cardiac arrest outside of a hospital every year, and only 10.4 percent survive, most likely because bystanders simply don't know what to do. When administered right away, CPR doubles or triples survival rates.

Teaching students CPR will fill the state with lifesavers, giving sudden cardiac arrest victims the immediate help they need to survive making our communities safer and improving South Carolina's survival rates.

South Carolina becomes the 30th state to require hands-on CPR joining Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota,

Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia—all of which require CPR be taught to students in middle or high school.

The legislation was endorsed by 14 national and state-wide organizations including the American Heart Association, South Carolina State Association of Fire Chiefs, South Carolina State Firefighters Association, and the South Carolina chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke – the two leading causes of death in the world. We team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The Dallas-based association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke.

To learn more or to get involved, call 1-800-AHA-USA1, visit heart.org.



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Company investing more than \$20 million in Kingstree development

PHOTO BY MICHAEL DUKI

United Phosphorus, Inc. (UPI), a manufacturing company specializing in chemical blending operations, plans to establish a new industrial operation in Williamsburg County. The company plans to invest more than \$20 million in the project and create 65 new jobs over the next several years. "The opening of

our first U.S. full production facility will allow UPI to locally enhance our new product development pipeline that is

expected to produce over 12 new products in the next 18 months," said UPI Executive Vicente Gongora. "Our new facility will allow us to meet that demand and provide the market flexibility that is needed for high value brands, as well as to better serve our customers. UPI's strategy is to invest in innovative products, the environment and the community, as a long term sustainable supplier of molecules aligned to the agricultural

value chain."

This new development will involve the renovation of an existing 520,000-square-foot building, located on 60 acres at 1457 Eastland Ave. in Kingstree. The project will include considerable improvements, including modernization of the building's existing shipping space. "Williamsburg County and its citizens are proving we can compete in a

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Investment will create 65 new jobs

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global economy. A world-renowned industry leader such as United Phosphorus, Inc. locating in our community shows we have the workforce, infrastructure and business community to make a company successful. We look forward to making a prosperous future with our newest corporate citizen," said Williamsburg County Supervisor Stanley Pasley.

"UPI's decision to invest in our people and our state is a real reason to celebrate. This partnership began when we were able to meet with representatives from

UPI in India, and the fact that this fantastic company has decided to invest more than \$20 million and create 65 new jobs in one of our rural communities shows its commit-

ment to South Carolina, and we couldn't be more excited to continue this partnership for years to come," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development awarded Williamsburg County a \$600,000 grant to assist with the costs of real property improvements. Job development credits were also approved for this project. "South Carolina has always attracted leaders of industry across all fields, and United Phosphorus is no exception. Our manufacturing base has never been stronger, and the addition of United Phosphorus to Williamsburg County will blaze a trail for continued investment," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

UPI is a national producer of crop protection products, specialty chemicals and a vari-

ety of other industrial products.

The company offers a wide range of compounds that include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and fumigants for use in multiple segments. Leading brands, such as Aquathol®, Lifeline®, Manzate®, Satellite®, Tengard® and Tricor®, are part of the extensive portfolio that UPI provides to growers. UPI's parent company, UPL Limited, is a leading global crop protection and seed-producing company servicing customers in more than 123 countries.

The company intends to begin accepting applications for employment in the fourth quarter of 2016. For more information on UPI or UPI's careers page online, go to www.upi-usa.com.



NEW DEVELOPMENT WILL involve the renovation of an existing 520,000-square-foot building, located on 60 acres at 1457 Eastland Ave. in Kingstree.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL DUKE

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Haley highlights new efforts to help former prisoners find jobs

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley told prisoners Monday a better life beyond the barbed-wire fencing starts with a legal job, and it's her job to help them find one.

"Every one of you deserves better. I don't know what got you in here, but I know you deserve not to come back," she told about 90 inmates at Manning Correctional Institution in Columbia, a pre-release center for men within six months of being released. "I want you to have a job so you've got something that makes you feel productive and worthy of living a good life."

Haley was visiting the state Department of Employment and Workforce's "work ready initiative" at Manning.

About 450 former inmates have completed the program since its launch in November 2014. According to the agency, 98 report they're currently employed. Exact numbers and where they work are unknown. But the agency plans to cross-match wage records to better track the program's results.

The program is intended to be the link between training for a job and actually landing one.

Inmates at Manning were already learning construction trades such as brick masonry and carpentry. The initiative added the teaching of computer, interview and "life" skills — such as proper attire and how to explain their incarceration. Inmates also craft a resume and apply for jobs online. Some inmates have been in prison so long, they don't know how to work a computer, said Department of Corrections Director Bryan Stirling.

"Before, they would still have job training, but we would basically give them a bus ticket and drop them off at the bus station and have them fend for themselves," he said.

Only inmates imprisoned for non-violent offenses qualify for the program. Other criteria include having a discipline-free record and a GED or high-school diploma. Nearly 470 are currently enrolled.

The program is too new for Corrections to have a recidivism rate for participants.

But if an ex-offender gets a job, they're much less likely to commit crimes for money, Stirling said.

The program is "good not only for these folks but for public safety," he said. "If

they're working and busy, they won't get in trouble."

The employment agency is asking employers to give ex-prisoners a chance. So far, they've put 200 businesses on the "second chance" list. Incentives "to help employers feel more comfortable" include federal tax credits, a federal insurance program and on-the-job training credits, said DEW Director Cheryl Stanton.

Of the roughly 900 inmates released from prisons statewide monthly, 100 of them leave from Manning, Stirling said.

While the program is limited, last month Corrections began registering every prisoner in DEW's database for job seekers as they're released, he said.

Haley said the program's still being developed, but the ultimate goal is that "every person who leaves the fence has a job" waiting for them.

"These are people who made bad decisions, but they aren't people we should throw away. These are people who deserve a better life. It's our job to make sure we lift them up and give them life skills and training skills," she said. "This is about filling the needs of businesses and giving people second chances."



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**South
Carolina
Gov. Nikki
Haley talks
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to Manning
Correctional
Institution
inmates
who are
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to be
released.**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Title: **S.C. delegation gives Trump lukewarm support**
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DECISION 2016

S.C. delegation gives Trump lukewarm support

BY VERA BERGENGRUEN

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WASHINGTON

South Carolina's congressional delegation has kept a low profile on the election front since Donald Trump became the de facto Republican nominee for president on Wednesday.

Among the Washington representatives of a deeply Republican state that handed the businessman a resounding primary win in February, there was no acknowledgment on social media that their party had for all intents decided on a presidential candidate, no statements of support.

When pushed, they gave tepid answers in unison.

The offices of Rep. Trey Gowdy, who had endorsed Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, and Rep. Jeff Duncan, who had endorsed Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, said they would "support the Republican nominee." Neither actually named Trump.

Gov. Nikki Haley said

the same thing on Wednesday, and added that she is "not interested" in being considered for the vice president slot. She didn't name Trump either.

Sen. Tim Scott's campaign spokeswoman, Margaret Spaulding, issued a statement to McClatchy on his behalf, saying, "As (Scott) has consistently said over the past year, he will support the Republican nominee."

Just a few hours before Texas Sen. Ted Cruz suspended his campaign late Tuesday, taking with it any hopes of stopping Trump's nomination, Sen. Lindsey Graham was tweeting that Trump was "completely unhinged."

"If we nominate Trump, we will get destroyed and we will deserve it," he tweeted.

Cruz dropped his presidential bid after a devastating loss to Trump in Indiana's Republican

primary, and a day later Ohio Gov. John Kasich followed, leaving Trump the only remaining candidate from a field of 17.

Graham, a famously vocal critic, has kept uncharacteristically quiet since Trump's nomination became all but inevitable, only praising Cruz and Kasich for "offering an alternative to Donald Trump."

Their colleagues face similar dilemmas. Only one senator, Alabama's Jeff Sessions, and sixteen congressmen had endorsed Trump by Thursday afternoon.

Speaking to CNN, House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin declined to support the presumptive nominee.

"I'm not there right now," he told CNN's Jake Tapper.

Meanwhile, Republican Party leaders in South Carolina have shown more enthusiasm, calling for the

party to unify behind Trump.

So far no members of the South Carolina delegation in D.C. have plans to attend the Republican national convention in Cleveland in July. Haley's office said the governor would make a decision in June.

"The governor is focused on finishing the legislative session strong – and once it's over, she'll make a decision on the convention," press secretary Chaney Adams told McClatchy.

With many of them up for re-election this year – although none is facing seriously competitive races – the S.C. delegation in Congress is likely weighing just how much enthusiasm they have to muster in support of Trump in a state where he won.

For the time being, they are staying out of it as much as possible.

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TRACY GLANTZ The State

At the Spartanburg Marriott Heritage Ballroom, Donald Trump thanks supporters after he won South Carolina's February primary. The provocative candidate is now the GOP's presumptive nominee.

Title: **On road repairs, VPs and college graduates**
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■ THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

On road repairs, VPs and college graduates

A thumbs up, a hallelujah, an amen.

All of the above are warranted as the other side of the tracks is finally getting some attention. Reference here is to the other side of the tracks on Maxwell Avenue heading out of Greenwood and toward Connie Maxwell Children's Home. It might look and feel a little bit like one of the worst roads in the state, the kind people point to when harping on lawmakers to fund some repairs, but it was like that already.

A layer has been scraped and a new, smooth layer is, we trust, in the future. This is a long overdue repair job. Now we have to wonder if and when that stretch of Grace Street closer to town will ever get smoothed out a bit. It's more like a four-wheeler terrain in that section.

Generally, we try to keep our thumbs in local news. Occasionally, we'll stray into news beyond the Lakelands' borders.

Gov. Nikki Haley made it clear Wednesday that she has no interest in being on a GOP ticket as the VP. Well, that's a good thing. She made it quite clear she was no fan of Donald Trump,

so she likely shot down that matchup on her own. But then, come to think of it, Carly Fiorina had some rather harsh words for Ted Cruz a few months ago and then was at his side as a running mate (until she fell and he pulled the plug on his bid), so perhaps a Trump-

Haley ticket would not have been out of the realm of possibilities. Still, it would be difficult to imagine Haley happily answering to Trump and taking orders from him. She's a rather strong-willed and independent person in her own right, and given the choice words he's had for women through the years, there's a good chance she'd wind up taking a swipe at Trump in the Oval Office if the two ran and won. Anyway, guess that's a thumbs up for her not changing her tune now that the nominee apparent is Trump.

A big ole thumbs up to the area college graduates. Lander University and Piedmont Technical College have had commencement exercises, sending a slew of graduates into the next chapters in their lives.

Some will yet continue education, some will begin searching for a career or job in their area of study, some were fortunate enough to already have jobs secured before walking across the stage. Let's hope all are successful in their ventures. After all, these are our friends, our neighbors, our children, our parents. They are, in fact, our future.

Title: **International Paper employee gets Dept. of Commerce award**
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PROVIDED

John Nixon of International Paper accepts an award on behalf of Jeannine Siembida. Siembida was recognized as an Ambassador for Economic Development. Nixon is joined by Governor Nikki Haley and Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

International Paper employee gets Dept. of Commerce award

From staff reports

As part of the 25th Annual Industry Appreciation Week, the South Carolina Department of Commerce last week announced the 2016 Ambassadors for Economic Development, and among those honored was an International Paper employee from Georgetown.

Recognized for their exceptional efforts to bolster community and economic development activities in South Carolina, the ambassadors were honored in a ceremony held on Thursday, April 28, at the Governor's Mansion Complex. This year, 46 individuals — one from each county — were selected.

Jeannine Siembida of International Paper was the Georgetown County honoree.

John Nixon, also with International Paper, accepted an award on behalf of Siembida.

"In South Carolina, growing our state's economy and creating jobs truly is a team effort, and the individuals recognized as ambassadors at last week's ceremony are proof of that. These local business leaders from all corners of our state are what really make South Carolina such a special place to live, work and play," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Each year the Department of Commerce joins local communities to thank businesses for their vital contri-

butions to South Carolina's economy during the state's Industry Appreciation Week. As part of the celebration, the state recognizes individuals throughout South Carolina as Ambassadors for Economic Development. These individuals include local leaders from the private sector, representing a variety of businesses committed to advancing their communities.

"Businesses don't locate to a state or a region. They locate to a community. So, it's important to recognize the local leaders in communities all across this state that help move South Carolina and its communities forward," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

Title: **Haley 'not interested' in VP slot**
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■ STATE

Haley 'not interested' in VP slot

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley says she's "not interested" in serving as a vice presidential nominee.

Haley said in a statement provided to The Associated Press Wednesday that she's "flattered" to be mentioned as a possible running mate but that her "plate is full" governing South Carolina.



**NIKKI
HALEY**

Haley's star has risen due in part to her response to the Charleston church shooting and South Carolina's historic flooding. She gave this year's Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address.

The statement came in response to questions about whether Haley would support Donald Trump as the GOP's nominee, now that other candidates have left the race.

Asked previously, Haley has said she'd back the eventual nominee, which she hoped would be Marco Rubio and then, after his departure, Ted Cruz.