

Title: **Sheriff Faile joins state panel overseeing law officer training**
 Author:
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Sheriff Faile joins state panel overseeing law officer training

From release

Lancaster County Sheriff Barry Faile is one of two sheriffs in the state appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley to the S.C. Law Enforcement Training Council, where he will help formulate training procedures and policies for the state.

All law enforcement officers in the state must be trained and certified by the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy. The General Assembly created the training council to help oversee the academy's efforts, "to maximize training opportunities for law enforcement officers and criminal justice personnel, to coordinate training, and to set standards for the law enforcement and criminal justice service, all of which are imperative to upgrading law enforcement to professional status."

The training council develops police training programs and standards, publishes training materials, adopts regulations related to training, and trains and certifies candidates for law enforcement positions.

For example, in 2015 the training council conducted hearings across the state to develop

guidelines for the use of body-worn cameras by law enforcement agencies. Those guidelines formed the basis for body-worn camera policies that the agencies were required to implement.

The training council has 11 members, including the S.C. attorney general, the chief of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, the heads of the Departments of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, Corrections, Natural Resources, and Public Safety, along with two sheriffs, two police chiefs and one detention director.

"I am honored to have been appointed to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council by Governor Haley," said Faile. "Training and professionalism in law enforcement have never been more critical. The training council plays a vital role in ensuring that we provide the best and most up-to-date training possible to the men and women who protect us."



Faile

Title: **1i500 high-tech jobs coming to the county**
 Author: Mandy Catoe mcatoe@thelancasternews.com
 Size: 115.16 column inches
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1,500 high-tech jobs coming to the county

Texas-based CompuCom moving HQ to Indian Land

Mandy Catoe

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Texas-based CompuCom Systems Inc. is relocating its headquarters to Indian Land, bringing a \$41 million capital investment and creating 1,500 jobs over the next five to seven years.

It's the largest single job announce-

ment in Lancaster County history, said Gov. Nikki Haley's office.

"This is an exciting new chapter in CompuCom's journey," said CompuCom CEO Dan Stone. "We will build a state-of-the-art command center that will be closer to many of our clients, as well as near an expanding network of IT professionals in North and South Carolina."

Founded in 1987 and based in Pla-

no, Tex., CompuCom is a privately held global company that focuses on helping businesses outsource their information technology services. With about 11,500 employees, it is a partner to six of the Top 10 Fortune 500 companies.

Its new 150,000-square-foot Indian Land facility will be located in Bailes Ridge Business Park on S.C. 160, housing its headquarters and global contact-center operations. Work on the site is already under way.

Lancaster County officials expressed excitement and said the deal

See **COMPUCOM** | Page 5

CompuCom

>>FROM 1

is a team effort that began in fall 2015 when interim economic director Michael Trotter and County Administrator Steve Willis began negotiations with CompuCom in Columbia.

"This speaks volumes for our business climate

and the potential we have to support corporate facilities," said Jamie Gilbert, who became the county's economic development director in July.

"Not only is this the county's largest single new job announcement in the county's history,

this is the largest in the state and the Carolinas this year," he said.

Gilbert was quick to credit Trotter and Willis and the S.C. Department of Commerce.

"Michael Trotter and Steve Willis began this,

and I picked it up when I began this past summer," Gilbert said. "We got it in the end zone as a team.... It shows what that partnership can accomplish."

Hiring will begin before the end of this month, the company said. Those interested in

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applying for the new positions should visit the company's career page online at compucom.com/careers.

"We are thrilled to have them locate in Lancaster," Willis said.

"They will be a great fit and addition. The 160 and 521 area is turning into a corporate headquarters. The success of Red Ventures and Movement Mortgage bodes well for the success of

CompuCom."

"Lancaster County is ecstatic," said county council Chairman Bob Bundy. "This is very exciting news for the county, region and state, as we are getting one of the world's leading IT and network solutions providers and over a thousand high-salary jobs."

Haley's office said the state's Coordinating Council for Economic

Development has approved job-development credits for the project, along with a Rural Infrastructure Fund grant of \$1 million to assist with construction costs.

"When a company like CompuCom decides to build its global headquarters and create 1,500 new jobs here, it sends a message to the entire world that South Carolina is open for business," Haley said.

"The commitment that this \$41 million investment represents is extremely important to our state, and we could not be more excited to welcome this fantastic company to the South Carolina family."

"When a company like CompuCom decides to build its global headquarters and create 1,500 new jobs here, it sends a message to the entire world that South Carolina is open for business."

– Gov. Nikki Haley

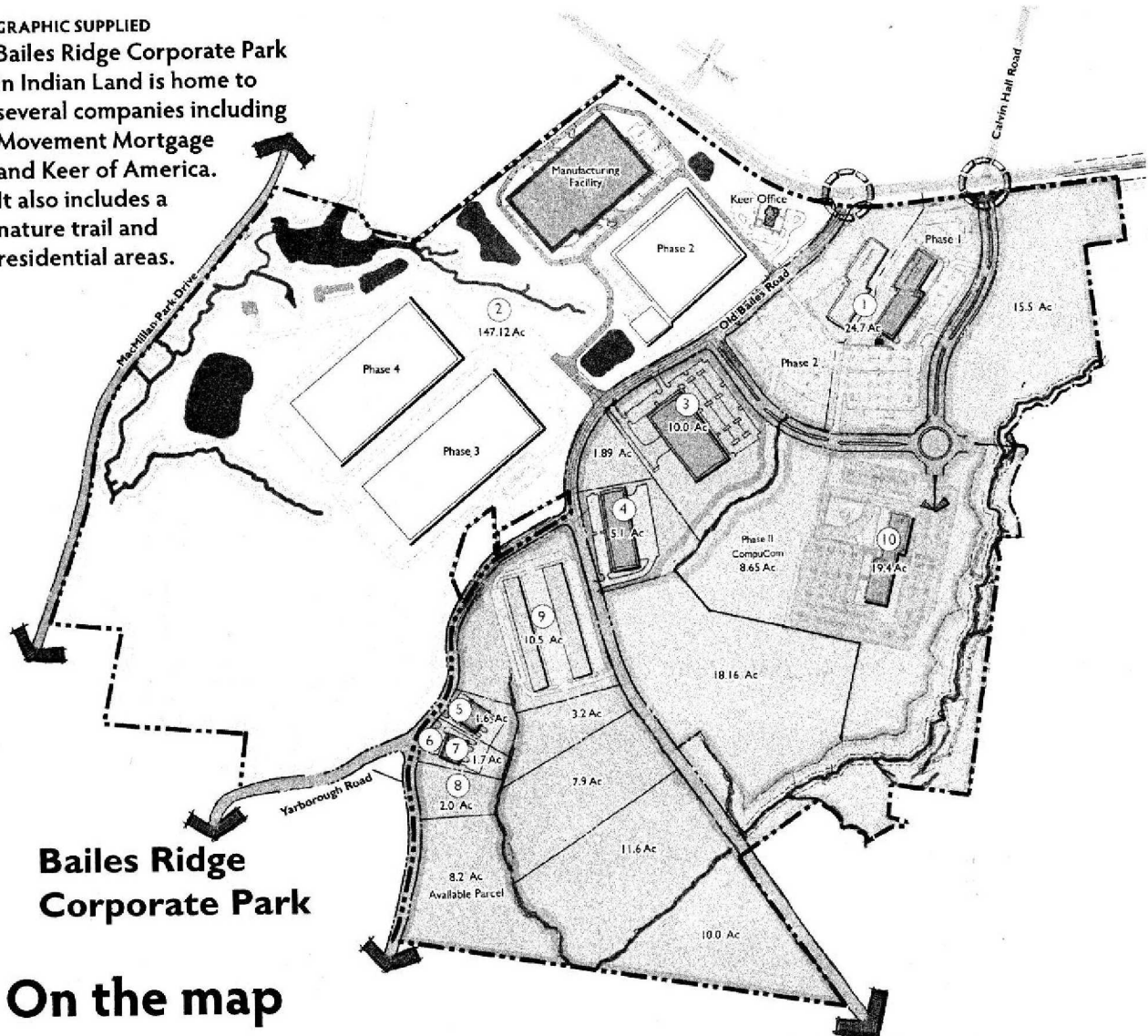


Stone

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GRAPHIC SUPPLIED

Bailes Ridge Corporate Park in Indian Land is home to several companies including Movement Mortgage and Keer of America. It also includes a nature trail and residential areas.


Bailes Ridge Corporate Park
On the map

1. Movement Mortgage
 2. Keer of America
 3. Honeywell Scanning and Mobility

4. Strategic Sales Partners
 5. Grace Communications
 6. Pencom
 7. Howe Roofing

8. Champion Machinery
 9. Available space for another venture
 10. CompuCom

Title: **Senators buck leader's election**
 Author: BY JERRY BELLUNE jeriybellune@yahoo.com
 Size: 17.20 column inches
 Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



Senators buck leader's election

BY JERRY BELLUNE

jeriybellune@yahoo.com

State Senate leader Hugh Leatherman is under fire.

Nine fellow Republicans voted "no" this week to his re-election as Senate President Pro Tem.



Leatherman

Such a move put them in direct opposition to the man considered the most powerful in state government.

Leatherman was re-elected Senate President this week, putting him in line to become lieutenant governor if Gov Nikki Haley steps down for an appointment as U.S. Ambassa-

dor to the United Nations.

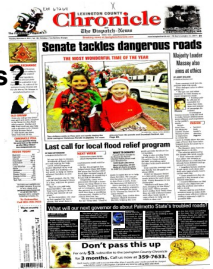
Leatherman has said he does not want to serve as lieutenant governor.

It would cost him power as Senate leader, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, a seat on the Budget and Control Board, the Infrastructure Bank board and other positions he holds.

Sen. Shane Massey, the Majority Leader who represents part of western Lexington County, said he and other Republicans voted against Leatherman because he has enough power.

Massey said he favored Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, who said he would be honored to serve the state as lieutenant governor.

Title: **What will our next governor do about Palmetto State's troubled roads?**
 Author: BY JERRY BELLUNE jerrybellune@yahoo.com
 Size: 24.8 column inches
 Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



What will our next governor do about Palmetto State's troubled roads?

BY JERRY BELLUNE

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South Carolina's next governor faces critical issues.

None appear bigger in the public's eyes than failing roads and bridges.

Will Henry McMaster favor a gas tax increase Gov. Nikki Haley opposed as one way to produce the billions of dollars needed?

"We have a huge infrastructure issue ahead of us," said state Sen. Katrina Shealy of Lexington.

"The new governor must decide what type of leader he

will be and what type of legacy he wants to leave.

"The governor needs to be a person who truly cares about this state's future."

Shealy, who won her Senate seat with support from Gov.

Haley, told the *Chronicle* she did not want to compare Lt. Gov. McMaster to anyone including Haley.

"He deserves his own opportunity

to lead and govern in his

own style given the opportunity," she said.

"Gov. Haley will leave behind a strong legacy in South

Carolina. Her accomplishments will be making a state strong on jobs.

"She has been a governor who dealt with disasters and did it well. From the Charleston shootings, the removal of the Confederate flag, the 2015 flood and Hurricane Matthew."

Asked about what Haley

may face as United Nations ambassador, Shealy said, "She will face her challenges

as she has done everything in the past. She will seek guidance from the right people and she will make the best decisions.

"She has always stepped up to the challenge when called upon, and this is just another step on the ladder.

"We will all be talking in a few years about what an excellent job Ambassador Nikki Haley has done."



Shealy

Title: **County lawmakers get seats on environmental panels**
 Author: by Jason Lesley COASTAL OBSERVER
 Size: 28.67 column inches
 Pawleys Island, SC Circulation: 5136



STATE LEGISLATURE

County lawmakers get seats on environmental panels

BY JASON LESLEY
 COASTAL OBSERVER

Georgetown County's new members of the state legislature were assigned to committees dealing with the environment this week after taking oaths of office in the state House and Senate.

Rep. Lee Hewitt in District 108 was assigned to the Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee. "That's one of the most critical components of this district," he said. Hewitt said he's requested to be placed on the Environmental Affairs Subcommittee.

"The elections, the process and the ceremony all kicking off was exciting," he said. His deskmate will be Rep. Mike Ryhal of Carolina Forest. Sitting directly behind him will be Rep. Russell Fry, who represents the Horry district that borders District 108. "We will be able to sit there and talk about any Horry-Georgetown county

issues," Hewitt said.

State Sen. Goldfinch, new to District 34, was assigned to six committees: Judiciary; General; Agriculture; Invitations; Fish, Game and Forestry; and Labor, Commerce and Industry. "That's a lot," he said. "I'll be busy."

Goldfinch said the Judiciary Committee is the "workhorse of the Senate" where 90 percent of the bills go. "Judiciary, Labor, Commerce and Industry and Fish, Game and Forestry will be my three big time-consuming committees," he said. "Agriculture does deal with environmental affairs. Any kind of meddling with environmental issues is Agriculture."

Goldfinch said he voted to re-elect Sen. Hugh Leatherman of Florence as president pro tem of the Senate. Leatherman was re-elected by a vote of 36-

9. Goldfinch said most of the nays were on principle. "I voted for him because it doesn't make sense to vote against somebody with no opposition," he said.

Goldfinch expects Sen. Kevin Bryant of Anderson to become the state's next lieutenant governor after Gov. Nikki Haley is confirmed as United Nations ambassador and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster becomes governor. Leatherman will temporarily step down to allow Bryant to become president pro tem and then lieutenant governor. Goldfinch said Leatherman has the votes to be re-elected.

Goldfinch said the Senate changed rules to streamline the legislative process. He voted for all three rules, approved by the Republican Caucus. He said the rules essentially eliminate the minority report, limit the number of objections to a bill and restrict the filibuster.

Title: **Revolutionary War re-enactors draw 500 to cotton field**
 Author: BY JASON LESLEY COASTAL OBSERVER
 Size: 93.77 column inches
 Pawleys Island, SC Circulation: 5136



Revolutionary War re-enactors draw 500 to cotton field

BY JASON LESLEY
 COASTAL OBSERVER

It's possible to spend a day or even a week retracing the paths Gen. Francis Marion took in beguiling the British during the Revolutionary War in South Carolina.

But it would require some serious research or joining a group of people led by a history scholar. Public interest is there. After all, the Revolutionary War was a "good" war that America won, and Francis Marion emerged as a legitimate hero in every sense of the word. The harder scholars dig, the better he looks.

Joe Long, education curator at the S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum in Columbia, said Marion prevented American Gen. "Light Horse" Harry Lee from lynching prisoners taken at Fort Motte. The museum currently has a display of memorabilia from Fort Motte in cooperation with the S.C. Department of Archives.

Patriot sympathizer Rebecca Motte advocated the Continentals set her roof on fire with flaming arrows to drive the British out. "One of the arrowheads is in the exhibit, which is just phenomenal," Long said. Motte eventually moved to the Santee Delta, just across the Georgetown County line.

"There's an awful lot of Revolutionary War history in this state, but it seems to

be something kind of neglected," Long said. "Half the population of Columbia has no idea about these Revolutionary War figures our streets are named after."

Despite the neglect, history is a tourism draw. More than 500 people attended a Revolutionary War re-enactment at Graham Farm near Lake City last weekend. Owner Paul Graham found papers in the attic of the family farmhouse that included a handwritten receipt from Marion for two bushels of corn and dinner for 11 men. Marion brought prisoners to the farm and used it as a staging area for an invasion of Georgetown.

Erick Nason led the 2nd South Carolina Regiment, Marion's unit, at the Lake City American Heritage Festival. He directed a mock battle in a cleared cotton field that saw American troops with a cannon rout a band of British Redcoats and Loyalists.

The heritage festival included a settlement of craftsmen, called sutlers, who supplied goods to the soldiers. Blacksmith Dale Smith of Johnsonville was there, demonstrating his craft and hoping to keep Revolutionary War interest alive until the state rediscovers it. The Francis Marion Trail Commission has not been funded in almost a decade. "It's discourag-

ing," Smith said. "Maybe with a new governor something will happen." He said Gov. Nikki Haley showed no interest in history. "She wouldn't do anything," he said.

Bob Hill of Plantersville, a gunsmith, was at the Lake City festival. He was hoping to boost interest in the colonial period within the original trail commission's area of concentration: Florence, Georgetown, Charleston and Clarendon counties. "We used to do some things with the schools," he said. "I don't know. To tell you the truth, that's the reason we are here trying to support this, hoping this will build into something near home. This is our backyard right here."

Smith said it's not often he finds Revolutionary War festivals as close as Lake City. "Kingstree has played out," he said. "They still do a little thing in Marion."

The Lynches Lake Historical Society in Lake City has compiled a list of 3,400 names of patriots who either fought in the war or contributed fi-

nancially. Volunteer Kent Daniels said the names are painted on a mural of Francis Marion in the society's facility at 238 E. Main St. Visitors can look up their

Revolutionary War ancestors, he said. "We have all the indent, petitions for payment, over 10,000 files for the state of South Carolina."

Darla Moore, a Wall Street financier who has contributed in a major way to restoring her hometown of Lake City, has boosted the prospects there. She arranged a bus tour of prominent Marion battle sites. Becky Donahue of Hemingway and Billy Jenkins of Kingstree are working to keep their towns' history in the forefront, according to Smith.

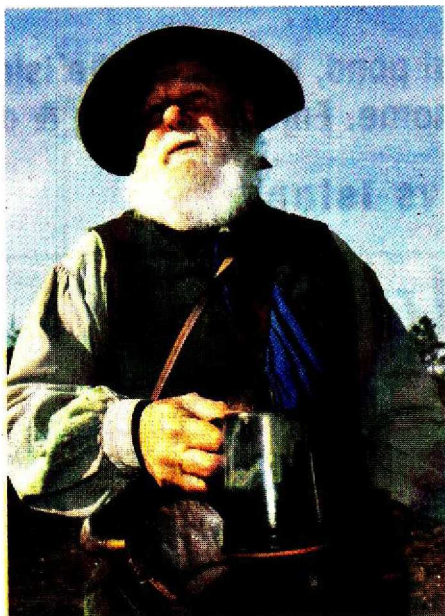
Former Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill's mother, Peggy, gave the trail commission prints of her painting of Francis Marion in Wil-

liamsburg County to sell. But for every step forward, there's two back. Smith said some folks arranged an 18th century dinner for supporters in Kingstree, and nobody showed up.

Piecemeal efforts aren't going to develop the resource as a tourism draw,

according to Ben Zeigler of Florence, the former Francis Marion Trail Commission chairman. "In order for it to work," he said, "it has to have regional buy-in. Everybody has to be on board. The only way to do that is for the state to get behind it."

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Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer

Members of the 2nd South Carolina Regiment, right, fire off a volley in Saturday's re-enactment outside Lake City. Bob Hill, above, a gunsmith, hopes the state can revive interest in its colonial history.



Title: **Officials urge winter weather preparedness**

Author:

Size: 24.18 column inches

Barnwell, SC Circulation: 6702



Officials urge winter weather preparedness

Governor Nikki Haley has proclaimed the week of Dec. 4-10 as South Carolina Winter Weather Preparedness Week.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division and the National Weather Service along with the agencies that comprise the State Emergency Response Team encourage everyone in South Carolina to prepare for severe winter weather by checking supplies and safety plans now.

Snowfall, ice storms and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region. Even areas that normally experience mild winters can be hit with an ice storm or extreme cold. Winter storms can result in flooding, storm surge, closed highways, blocked roads, downed power lines and hypothermia.

Residents should take the proper winter weather precautions now during milder temperatures

while the winter emergency supplies are in low demand:

- Include winter supplies like shovels and rock salt in your household emergency kit.

- Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off.

- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.

- Learn how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts.

- Portable generators are commonly used in the winter as a result of storm-induced power outages. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and deadly. Follow manufacturer's instructions to prevent death from carbon monoxide.

- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes

should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.

- Chimneys should be cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional. If not, it can become filled with highly flammable layers of creosote.

- Have your vehicle serviced to ensure it is prepared for the winter season.

- In every vehicle, place a winter emergency kit that includes: a shovel; windshield scraper and small broom; flashlight; battery-powered radio; extra batteries; water; snack food; matches; extra hats, socks and mittens; first aid kit with a pocket knife; medications; blankets; tow chain or rope; road salt and sand; booster cables; emergency flares; and a fluorescent distress flag.

Download the Severe Winter Weather Guide at scemd.org.

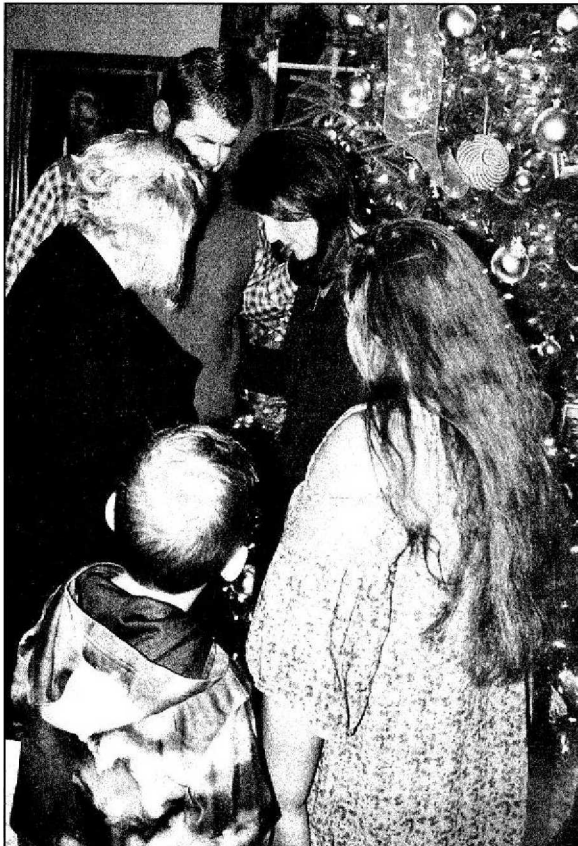
Title: **Prayers of blessing**
Author:
Size: 21.7 column inches
Chester, SC Circulation: 6700



Prayers of blessing

S.C. Governor Nikki Haley invited guests to join her for a Christmas Open House on Monday, Dec. 5, at the Governor's Mansion in Columbia. The Rev. Josh Parsons, formerly of Great Falls, and the Rev. Bridgett Parsons, both of Newberry, pastors at Ascension Ministries in Prosperity, had an opportunity to pray for Governor Haley and ask God's blessings upon her. President-elect Donald Trump chose Governor Haley as a U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. The Parsons and their children, Maggie and Eli, thanked God for His favor upon Governor Haley, asked His blessing upon her and her family during the transitional stage and asked that He go before her and make her paths straight as she represents the nation on the world stage.

BY NANCY PARSONS/GREAT
FALLS REPORTER



Title: **Local legislators weigh in on upcoming session**
 Author: BY JENNA-LEY HARRISON jharrison@journalscene.com
 Size: 90.52 column inches
 Summerville, SC Circulation: 5929



Local legislators weigh in on upcoming session

BY JENNA-LEY HARRISON
jharrison@journalscene.com

Roads and how to fund them dominated the discussion at this year's annual legislative luncheon in Summerville.

Four of the area's state legislators were on hand to give a crowd of local government and business leaders a rundown of the issues they believe the state is facing.

Legislators who attended the event, sponsored by the Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce, included Rep. Chris Murphy, R-Dorchester, Rep.-elect Katie Arrington, R-Summerville, and Sens. Paul Campbell, R-Berkeley, and Sean Bennett, R-Dorchester.

"We are killing about 1,000 people a year," Campbell said of South Carolina roads.

Campbell also said the state's poor road conditions are tearing up cars and forcing local ones to burn twice as much fuel because of the long commute for residents traveling between Summerville and Charleston.

"Getting in and out of our town is a real problem," Campbell said.

He additionally stressed the need for a gas tax—a revenue source Bennett and Arrington also championed.

"The gas tax has to be done," she said. "We need the...tax raised to the same level as our sister states. We need to be sure the ones who use the roads are truly paying for it."

According to Bennett, the specific tax should funnel straight into the State Highway Fund. He said he's planning to file a bill next legislative session that will focus on doing just that—as well as reducing other taxes.

"All of the components will

relieve (some) on the general fund and increase the highway fund," he said. "We're raising a tax but reducing others and also limiting the growth of government."

To clarify, Bennett said the bill wouldn't cut the general fund; it would simply reduce its growth rate.

The District 38 senator also expressed the dire need to find a recurring funding source for roadway infrastructure. Last year, as part of a compromise, roads funding received \$200 million in general fund money.

"This is something we've been talking about for 160 years," Bennett said of the discussion on roads, forcing a laugh from the crowd. "Now it's time to fix the funding mechanism—that's a big ticket item."

Bennett said studies have shown 70 percent of the state's motor fuel user fees come from South Carolina residents. The other 30 percent comes from out-of-town drivers.

He said the proposed bill, by imposing the gas tax, would ultimately lower taxes for business, the middle and lower middle classes and reduce income tax.

Murphy agreed.

"If we do not fix our infrastructure funding—that's our No. 1 priority—it will be the failure of the General Assembly," he said.

Murphy said he's ready for the state's change in leadership, as Gov. Nikki Haley transitions to the role of U.N. Ambassador. President-elect Donald Trump offered her the new title, and she accepted. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster is expected to take

Haley's place early next year.

Murphy criticized Haley for how "she burned a lot of bridges in the General Assembly" and continuously changing her support of a gas tax.

"What the end game was kept getting changed. It was a fiasco," he said of the roads bill passed last year. "Like her or not, she was going to be a lame duck governor."

Prisons, pensions and higher education

State prisons were also on Murphy's mind as he spoke about vital matters affecting the state. He particularly touched on the high percentage of aging inmates—35 percent are 55 and older.

"Our prison population is aging considerably," Murphy said. "Half our inmates are under no parole offenses. That's good, that's where they need to be."

But Murphy is concerned about the costs associated with housing offenders—each one costing the state at least \$18,000 per year, he said.

Paying for retirees is another concern, according to Bennett, who said the S.C. Pension System is reportedly \$19 billion underfunded but in reality, is closer to \$40 billion underfunded.

Tech schools remained a hot topic, too, for Bennett and Arrington. The need for a tech school campus in Dorchester

County—the largest in the state without one—is not a new idea. Trident Technical College currently has campuses in Charleston and Berkeley counties.

"Our tech schools are a real jewel in this state," Bennett said, "and we need to capitalize on that."

Arrington reiterated the importance of properly prepping students.

"We need to focus on education and get our technical schools right," she said.

Murphy said high school students need to know they have options other than a four-year school and a daunting future of paying back college loans. "Not every student wants to go to college; not every student can afford (to go to college)," he said.

Bennett expressed his high regard for Trident Tech's \$79 million aeronautics program, a necessity for the area, he said, since the industry "touches every county in this state."

Campbell spoke to the same idea—of educating the future local workforce based on the job skills the area needs. "We've

got to have people capable of the jobs coming," he said.

In the next week or so, Murphy said he's looking forward to reorganization in the House and election of new committee members, including welcoming about a dozen new freshmen legislators—including Arrington.

She said she's excited to start her inaugural political role and championed her seasoned counterparts for acting as true "public servants" for the communities they represent.

"I have big dreams," Arrington said.

Her desire, she revealed, is to capitalize on the beauty of her town and county, in hopes to urge new industry and their employees' families to also live here.

"I could've chosen to live anywhere in the country," she told Tuesday's crowd. But she chose Summerville, and she considers it "a vibrant community."

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 Author: BY JENNA-LEY HARRISON jharrison@journalscene.com
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"How do you bring quality of life here?" Arrington said. "You want your employees to see the value of the area. We have a beautiful place to live. (Let's) ensure we're giving what those (future) companies need so their employees move here."

Arrington said in the next

legislative session she is also planning to address the need for tax code reform and better military and medical funding.

"We're going to have to do some bold moves," she said. "We should be able to tackle mountains."

She considers the state's in-

come tax rate too high and commercial tax rates "challenging."

"The tax code is so complicated and has (had) so many tweaks over the years that we need to take the time to get a true understanding of what it truly encompasses," Arrington

said. "We will get it going in the right direction."

Rep. Joe Daning, R-Berkeley, and House Speaker Pro-Temporary Thomas Pope, R-York, were also invited to the luncheon but were unable to attend due to a meeting in Columbia, chamber staff said.



PHOTOS BY JENNA-LEY HARRISON/JOURNAL SCENE

Rep. Chris Murphy (left), R-Dorchester, and Sen. Paul Campbell (right), R-Berkeley, at the annual legislative luncheon at Summerville Presbyterian Church.



S.C. Rep-elect Katie Arrington, R-Summerville, pauses at the legislative luncheon in Summerville to speak to Dorchester District Two board members Justin Farnsworth (left) and Brian Mitchem (right).

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Sen. Sean Bennett, R-Dorchester, explains the top three issues he said he thinks the state is facing.

Title: **Coroner s office staffer says workers losing jobs**
 Author: BY JENNA-LEY HARRISON jharrison@journalscene.com
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Coroner's office staffer says workers losing jobs

BY JENNA-LEY HARRISON
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With the New Year will come a new coroner for Dorchester County — as well as other rumored office changes for which Coroner-elect Paul Brouthers is already catching heat.

According to Facebook posts on Brouthers' campaign page, voters are upset that he may have already told at least two long-term members of the staff their services won't be needed once his term starts in January.

Some of the comments even express individuals' regret over voting for Brouthers, though it's not uncommon for incoming elected officials to make personnel changes.

One of the staff members at the heart of the recent social media angst is Alice Durr, who's been serving as county coroner the last several months.

Her daughter, Melissa Durr Burns, who has worked for the coroner's office in the past but isn't currently listed among the staff, used her personal Facebook page to express her feelings on the matter. In a post dated Nov. 15, Burns issued the following

Coroner

from A1

Durr said she is already in the process of looking for a new job but that it probably won't be in the same career field, since such jobs are difficult to come by — the closest option being Charleston County, which she said is much too far from her St. George home.

For the last two decades, Durr has been a part of the coroner's office in some fashion. She said she started as a part-time volunteer and later worked her way up to secretary, deputy coroner and chief deputy.

"I enjoyed working there," she said.

For Durr, it was always all

statement: "My mom has been there for countless families over the years so I post this tonight to ask you all to support her during this difficult time. ... She will be adjusting to the unexpected loss of doing a job she loves. I'm sad that the citizens of Dorchester County will be losing such a dedicated and compassionate employee, but one person's loss is another's gain."

The Journal Scene spoke with Durr by phone, who confirmed Brouthers contacted her and Jackie Lilienthall, deputy coroner and office manager, last month, telling them they won't be needed under his leadership. Lilienthall has not responded to the Journal Scene's attempts to contact her.

Durr said the news was "a complete

surprise" and that each woman received the news via a letter about a week after the election.

"It's been a death to me," Durr said of her job's impending future.

Before receiving the letter, Durr said she got a phone call from Brouthers. Durr said her counterpart learned the news through the letter only.

Durr read the letter to the Journal Scene but declined to provide a copy. Short and to the point, part of it included the following, according to Durr: "Your appointment as deputy coroner will not continue into the next term. ... It's been a pleasure to get to know you ... best wishes."

Please see **CORONER**, Page A6

about helping victims' families. And that's why she said she never chose to run for the elected seat; she wanted to stay working with the families, not adding administrative duties to her responsibilities.

Brouthers has twice declined to explain his reason for the decision. The Journal Scene reached out to him on two separate occasions this month and last month. Both times he said he wanted to wait to talk until after taking office.

"Please understand that it would not be appropriate for me to comment on personnel matters before I take over in January," he messaged via

Facebook on Dec. 2.

During the election season, when Brouthers was asked about changes he had in mind for the office, he said "the decision to change anybody out has not been made."

The only mention he made of future staff changes included the possibility of adding a fourth deputy coroner — should the budget allow — and

a minority employee, but not for the sake of having a minority in the office. Brouthers said there would have to be a need for another person, and overall, he would hire only "the best and brightest."

He promised to restore integrity to the office after its "respect and credibility" was tarnished.

Former Coroner Chris Nisbet was suspended from office in October 2015. He was ousted for an indictment for misconduct in office after Summerville police charged him for pulling a gun on his unarmed neighbor in August 2015.

He later resigned and pleaded "no contest" to a breach of peace charge in August 2016.

While he was suspended, Magistrate Katrina Patton served as coroner per state law.

Once Nisbet resigned, Gov. Nikki Haley appointed Durr to serve as interim coroner.

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Brouthers