

Title: **Progress made on roads needs**

Author:

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## Progress made on roads needs

Gov. Nikki Haley's reluctance to sign legislation that will fund road improvements in South Carolina is understandable in light of her stated priorities. But she made the right call in pushing ahead with the plan sent to her by the Legislature.

Haley did not get what she wanted as the state's chief executive: control of the S.C. Department of Transportation. She contends the DOT reforms by the General Assembly fall far short of what is needed to ensure accountability.

The governor is politically savvy. She is aware South Carolinians were going to blame her as much as lawmakers if another legislative session passed with a continuing stalemate on roads.

So the plan for an immediate infusion of money for road and bridge improvements will move forward.

The bill allows for \$2.2 billion in borrowing over 10 years for infrastructure. Funding will come from \$200 million annually in existing fees and vehicle sales taxes. Coupled with other money from the DOT, the total package for road and bridge repairs is \$4 billion.

In a letter to legislators, Haley said: "To claim this law as anything close to a victory, to represent it in any way as a true solution to our infrastructure problems" would be deceiving the public.

For their part, lawmakers have acknowledged the legislation is not a permanent fix, but finding one that is satisfactory to the governor is going to require compromise on the part of the chief executive as well as the Legislature.

The key issues are Haley and her allies' unwillingness to go along with an increase in the state's gasoline tax and their insistence on further DOT reform.

Painting the Legislature as the "bad guy" in this is not fair.

Lawmakers signaled a willingness to go along with an increase in the state's lowest-in-the-nation gas tax, with the money to be an ongoing source of funds for road and bridge repair. But even the prospect of having out-of-state travelers pay a share of the tab — in effect a user fee — was not enough to convince opponents.

In making changes in DOT governance, lawmakers maintained legislative controls that Haley does not want for her or future governors. But disbanding the commission that governs DOT and handing full control to the governor is a major shift in power — one that does not ensure better operation of DOT.

To argue that putting the power in the hands of the chief executive ensures political influence will be removed from DOT and its priorities and operations is being naïve. What the change would do is consolidate more power permanently in the executive branch.

For now, South Carolina gets new money for repairing roads and bridges. That was the top priority — one that the governor and legislators wisely decided not to delay any further.

Left for resolution and as priorities in 2017 are a recurring source of funding for roads and bridges and how the agency using those funds will be controlled and operated.

— June 13, *The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg*

Title: **Rock Hill GOP Senate winner talks plans**  
 Author: BY BRISTOW MARCHANT [bmarchant@heraldonline.com](mailto:bmarchant@heraldonline.com)  
 Size: 85.87 column inches  
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**WES CLIMER**

# Rock Hill GOP Senate winner talks plans

**Climer knocked off a 25-year Senate incumbent Tuesday**

**Climer discusses plans for the next legislative session**

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT

[bmarchant@heraldonline.com](mailto:bmarchant@heraldonline.com)

ROCK HILL

Wes Climer triumphed in one of the most-watched political races in South Carolina on Tuesday, when he unseated 25-year incumbent Sen.

Wes Hayes in the Republican primary for the South Carolina Senate. Without

any opposition in November's general election, the Charlotte-based financial adviser and former York County GOP chairman is all but certain to be Rock Hill's next state senator. He sat down with The Herald to talk about the election and his plans for the future.

**Q: What's it been like for you since your primary win Tuesday night?**

Been very busy calling supporters, talking to folks from around the community and the state, trying to get as much advice and insight as I can take in.

**Q: How are you preparing to take over the District 15 Senate seat?**

The most important thing to doing the job well is staying in touch with the people who sent you there in the first place. So I'm

spending as much time as I can calling folks, asking questions, and getting advice from people, whether they supported me or not, who are interested and involved in the welfare of our community in York County.

**Q: Have you talked with Sen. Hayes about the transition?**

**SEE CLIMER, 5A**

**FROM PAGE 1A**

## CLIMER

I spoke with him on election night, and I hope to speak with him again in the near future. Did you hear his remarks on the floor (Wednesday)?... It really speaks once again to his exceptional character. He implored his colleagues to help make this a smooth transition for the people of York County.

**Q: Does the ethics bill that passed this week go far enough, or is there still work to be done?**

There's still work to be done on ethics. It's definitely a step in the right direction, but that bill

included income disclosure, and I believe in full financial disclosure, which would include assets, liabilities, real estate, boards. I also think there are structural issues with the new ethics commission that will ultimately need to be resolved, including the fact that you need a three-fourths vote to initiate an investigation. It will take time to work through that, but that work is not yet done.

Ultimately, ethics reform requires a cultural change, not just a statute. So more than anything else, I hope to lead by

example. I will be transparent, and do what I know to be right, and go above and beyond what the law requires. I don't think you should set as your standard doing the bare minimum what the law requires. The standard has to be doing what you know to be right, not just the bare minimum.

**Q: If it took the Legislature this long to get to this point, is there much of an appetite to toughen ethics enforcement even more?**

I hope so. I want to do

that. Part of the problem in getting an ethics bill done is the same thing that's held up progress in so many other areas, and that's the antiquated rules in the Senate that just stifle progress. It's too easy to hold things up. I've spoken with a few senators since Tuesday night, and that has been a subject of our conversations. I'm very hopeful that momentum exists to change the rules in the direction of making the Senate work. I have not heard or spoken to a single one of them who thinks this bill is the end of ethics

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reform. I don't. I think there's a long way to go, and I intend to fight for it.

**Q: Do you have a to-do list for what you'd like to get done in the next legislative session?**

The roads issue still needs a lot of work. The bill that recently passed doesn't include real DOT (Department of Transportation) reform. We have to have DOT reform. Our transportation system is structurally broken. DOT is broken internally. There are governance issues, procedural issues within DOT, and then there's a funding mechanism piece. All three of those have to be part of the ultimate solution.

**Q: Long term, are we going to have to raise the gas tax to fund roads repair?**

It's a mistake to take a tax-first approach. We need to deal with the reform component, taking the politics out of DOT, replacing a process that's politically-driven with one that's driven by traffic counts, safety concerns, economic development. Because throwing money into a broken system is never a solution.

I spoke with a local public official who deals with roads, and the way he described the system is, a municipality goes to DOT and says, "We want to do this project." They've hired an engineer, spent a lot of money and time to get the project ready. DOT says, "We'll greenlight it

as soon as you fix these five things." The municipality takes up to six months to make the changes, because it takes time, it takes work. They submit it back to DOT. DOT takes two or three months to come up with an answer, and DOT says, "Thanks for changing these five things, now we need you to change these seven things." ... That's why it takes seven years on average to build a road in South Carolina.

**Q: How do you move that along?**

An easy thing to do is say DOT gets one shot on corrections, and they have a finite amount of time to respond to the municipality or the municipality can move along with the project.

**Q: What can be done procedurally to change the way the Senate works, and is there an institutional ability to make those changes?**

The rules need to change. Based on the conversations I've had over the past couple days, I'm extremely optimistic that that will happen. It remains to be seen. The Senate for a generation has been the place where optimism turns to pessimism, but I hope we can fix that.

**Q: You got the endorsement of Gov. Nikki Haley. Will you be working with her on these initiatives?**

I know the governor is committed to reform.

She's committed to DOT reform, stronger ethics reform. She's an ally on all those things, and at the end of the day I'll work with anybody who wants to make our government work better. There's definitely a hunger among people all over the state to see government work better. People are tired of swerving around potholes. That is basic. Government has to get stuff like that right. They're tired of seeing tons of money get wasted all the time. Those kind of things have to come to an end.

**Q: You worked for a while on Capitol Hill in Washington. Is that experience you can apply to the Legislature, or are those two different worlds?**

I've seen dysfunction up close and personal before. And what I learned there is that the people who stayed focused on the people who sent them up there are the ones who are also the most effective in the Legislature, and that's the lesson. It's people who become friends with lobbyists and paid politicians that cause most of the problems. So, if anything, that experience taught me that if you want to get something done, you got to stay focused on why you got sent there in the first place.

**Q: Finally, do you have anything to say to the voters, the ones who voted for you and the ones who didn't?**

I spent a lot of my time

yesterday talking to people who supported Mr. Hayes. I made a point especially of reaching out to people who vocally supported Mr. Hayes, because I think in order for you to do the job well, you have to take into account that people aren't always going to agree with you on everything, but we all want a better place to raise our kids and go to our jobs and live our lives. It takes everybody pitching in on that effort to make it a good community.

On the other side, dozens and dozens of people went out and knocked on doors, made phone calls, put out signs, gave contributions, and I can't thank those folks enough. I'm deeply grateful to the people who voted for reform, people who voted to change the way they do business in Columbia. It's a daunting thing running against an incumbent. It's not an easy decision to make. But I ran for the right reasons, and I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to go and work on those things.

Good public policy can make our lives better. Bad public policy can be ruinous. I have three little kids with a fourth one coming in August, and I loved growing up here. It's a wonderful place to live. And we're going to have to work hard to keep it that way.

*Bristow Marchant:  
 803-329-4062,  
 @BristowatHome*

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Author: BY BRISTOW MARCHANT [bmarchant@heraldonline.com](mailto:bmarchant@heraldonline.com)  
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Wes Climer

Title: **Mourners recall Charleston church victims at service**  
 Author: BY BRUCE SMITH Associated Press  
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## EMANUEL AME SHOOTING: ONE YEAR LATER

# Mourners recall Charleston church victims at service

Gov. Nikki Haley says there hasn't been a day in the past year when she hasn't thought about the victims

3-hour service at the College of Charleston's TD Arena attended by about 2,500

BY BRUCE SMITH

Associated Press  
 CHARLESTON

South Carolina's governor somberly held up programs from the funerals of the victims of the Charleston church shootings, saying Friday during a memorial service that the faith of those victims showed how to heal in the aftermath of still another mass shooting.

"As for me, I will forever know that there are angels on Earth," said Gov. Nikki Haley during a three-hour service that was alternately somber and then punctuated by joyous singing.

Friday was the anniversary of the shooting deaths of nine black parishioners during a Bible study at Emanuel AME Church. A white man, Dylann

Roof, faces charges in both state and federal courts and prosecutors in each are seeking the death penalty.

Haley, who attended the funerals of all the victims, said she got to know the families of both those who were killed and the three survivors in the days and weeks following the shootings.

"There hasn't been a day since June 17, 2015, that I haven't thought about the 12," she said.

She recalled each victim, sometimes with gentle humor, as she showed the funeral programs she said she keeps as reminders.

The Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor "had the voice of an angel," she said.

Haley recalled state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, the Emanuel pastor who was slain, as "a gentle giant" and a man "who never talked about what he was against. He always spoke about what he was for."

Haley said that in the wake of the shootings the people of South Carolina "didn't have protests, they had vigils. They didn't have riots, they had hugs."

The College of Charleston's TD Arena, where the service was held, sits about 5,000 people and was about half full. The stage was lined with the pictures of the nine people killed. Above each were the words "Still Speaking from Eternity."

A presidential aide read a message to the congregation

from Obama and the first lady in which they said, "As a nation we are deeply moved by your boundless love and your unshakeable resilience."



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Author: BY BRUCE SMITH Associated Press  
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CHUCK BURTON AP

People walk past photos of some of the victims of last year's shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church on Friday before a memorial service honoring those killed in Charleston.

Title: **1 year after shooting, much is the same**  
 Author: By JEFFREY COLLINS and JONATHAN DREW Associated Press  
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# 1 year after shooting, much is the same

By JEFFREY COLLINS  
and JONATHAN DREW

Associated Press

CHARLESTON — The names of Confederate generals still adorn street signs in Charleston's public housing projects, and a heroic waterfront statue dedicated to the Confederate Defenders of Charleston still faces Fort

See **SAME**, page 4A

## SAME

Continued from 1A

Sumter, where the first shots of the Civil War were fired.

Just down from the Emanuel AME church — where nine black parishioners studying their Bibles were gunned down one year ago — a statue of Vice President John C. Calhoun, a staunch defender of slavery, towers above a park.

After the June 17, 2015, massacre, South Carolina lawmakers did what many people thought was impossible to achieve and removed the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds in Columbia. Across the country, as far away as Alaska, officials moved to strip streets, college dormitories and even lakes of the names of Confederates, secessionists and public figures who championed segregation.

But a year later, little has changed in Charleston, the city where tens of thousands of enslaved Africans first set foot in North America. It was here that the work of plantation slaves made the city one of the wealthiest in the nation before the Civil War. It was here where the bombardment of Fort Sumter threw the nation into that war in 1861.

A section of a street in front of the white stucco Emanuel AME church may have been renamed "Mother Emanuel Way Memorial District," but all of Charleston's Confederate commemorations remain intact — and longstanding racial issues endure.

"I think a lot of things happened out of the immediate emotions of how horrific the killings were. That's the human side of folks and the politeness, particularly of Charleston, that we just had to do something. But then when reality checks us — the question is what is that going to cost us in terms of changing the way we think and do things?" said Dot Scott, president of the Charleston branch of the NAACP.

A white man who police said hated blacks and posted photos of himself with the Confederate flag has been charged with killing the nine parishioners.

"It was truly an attack on a race of people," Malcolm Graham, the brother of victim Cynthia Hurd, said of the shootings. "After 400 years, the African-American community still is suffering and dealing with these types of issues relat-

ing to race."

So why was there not a push to remove Confederate symbols in Charleston following the church attack?

Bernard Powers, a black College of Charleston history professor, noted that it took a 15-year struggle to get the flag removed from the Statehouse grounds and that it happened only after the slayings.

"People see what it took, and ultimately that flag was removed because nine people were murdered," said Powers, who co-authored a book about the massacre called "We are Charleston." "I think people appreciate how deeply entrenched the reverence is for the Confederacy. For a lot of folks, it is a civil religion."

As soon as South Carolina lawmakers voted to pull down the flag, they shut the door on any other changes.

Gov. Nikki Haley had pushed for the flag to come down but feared that going further would incite fights across the state, so she asked lawmakers to protect all the other flags and monuments while removing the Statehouse flag.

Title: **REMEMBERING CHARLESTON**  
 Author: By BRUCE SMITH Associated Press  
 Size: 102.14 column inches  
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# REMEMBERING CHARLESTON

## Mourners recall church victims at service

By **BRUCE SMITH**

Associated Press

CHARLESTON — South Carolina's governor somberly held up programs from the funerals of the victims of the Charleston church shootings, saying Friday during a memorial service that the faith of those victims showed how to heal in the aftermath of still another mass shooting.

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are angels on Earth," said Gov. Nikki Haley during a three-hour service that was alternately somber and then punctuated by joyous singing.

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white man, Dylann Roof, faces charges in both state and federal courts and prosecutors in each are seeking the death penalty.

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See **SERVICE**, page 4A

## SERVICE

*Continued from 1A*

the shootings.

"There hasn't been a day since June 17, 2015 that I haven't thought about the 12," she said.

She recalled each victim, sometimes with gentle humor, as she showed the funeral programs she says she keeps as reminders.

The Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor "had the voice of an angel," she said.

Haley recalled state Sen. Clement Pinckney, the Emanuel pastor who was slain as "a gentle giant" and a man "who never talked about what he was against. He always spoke about what he was for."

Haley said that in the wake of the shootings — after which

many family members of the victims said they forgave Roof, the suspect charged in the deaths — the people of South Carolina "didn't have protests, they had vigils. They didn't have riots, they had hugs."

The College of Charleston's TD Arena, where the service was held, sits about 5,000 people and was about half full. The stage was lined with the pictures of the nine people killed. Above each were the words "Still Speaking from Eternity."

It's the same venue where President Barack Obama gave a rousing eulogy during the funeral for Pinckney that included a rendition of the

hymn "Amazing Grace" for the packed audience at the TD Arena. The Obamas were accompanied by Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill; nearly 6,000 people attended the funeral. Some 5,000 would-be mourners were turned away, apparently for lack of seating.

On Friday, a presidential aide read a message to the congregation from Obama and the first lady in which they said "as a nation we are deeply moved by your boundless love and your unshakeable resilience."

In the wake of the shootings, officials and businesses nationwide have taken steps to distance themselves from Confed-

erate symbols and name. The suspect, Roof, had appeared in photos with the Confederate flag.

In Texas, the Austin school board voted to rename Robert E. Lee Elementary. The Houston school board voted to rename seven schools named for Confederate leaders. Ohio State Fair officials banned vendors from selling Confederate flag merchandise. In New Jersey, the nation's oldest and largest flag manufacturer decided a week after the shootings to stop making and selling the Confederate flag.



Title: **REMEMBERING CHARLESTON**  
Author: By BRUCE SMITH Associated Press  
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Ausar Vandross, of Charleston, S.C., takes a photo Thursday of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C. Friday marked the one-year anniversary of the killing of nine black parishioners during bible study at the church.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Title: **Rankin will keep his Senate seat**  
 Author: BY TOM O'DARE TOM.ODARE @MYHORRYNEWS.COM  
 Size: 47.12 column inches  
 Conway, SC Circulation: 6250



# Rankin will keep his Senate seat

**BY TOM O'DARE**

TOM.ODARE

@MYHORRYNEWS.COM

Luke Rankin will keep his seat in the state Senate, despite the efforts of South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to send him packing.

Rankin defeated Scott Pyle in the Republican primary Tuesday for Senate District 33, unofficially picking up 56 percent of the votes.

Pyle received the endorsement of Haley in the waning days of the campaign — something that was duly noted by Rankin Tuesday evening.

"I'm honored to receive the support from folks who were not persuaded by the unparalleled infu-

sion of out-of-state money that flowed into this campaign, besmirching this county," Rankin said.

Following Haley's endorsement of Pyle, Rankin said the Governor had gone to New York to get thousands of dollars for her PAC to spend on campaigns in the state.

He also said Haley had misrepresented his voting record in the Senate.

"I'm tickled that despite the deception, it did not work," he added.

Rankin was first elected to go to Columbia in 1992.

He said his record is one that the people of Horry

County know well.

"People know me and know what I stand for," he said. "I've had good people standing with me during this campaign."

Rankin picked Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus to be his campaign chairman in the latter stage of the race.

Tuesday night, an elated Lazarus said it "was a great night for Horry County."

When Rankin addressed Haley's endorsement of his opponent at a recent press conference, he was

**RANKIN, A3**

## Rankin: Defeated Scott Pyle in Republican primary Tuesday

**FROM A1**

joined by several members of the Horry County Legislative Delegation.

Rankin said he was happy the voters of District 33 voted to keep him as part of the local delegation.

"No Senator can serve alone," he said. "We have a great team working together in Columbia and I'm glad the voters decided to keep the team to-

gether."

The Democrats didn't field a candidate for Senate District 33. Barring a write-in or petition candidate, Rankin will have no opposition in the November general election.

State Rep. Stephen Goldfinch and attorney Reese Boyd will have to battle it out again for the S.C. Senate District 34 seat.

In a four-man race, none

of the candidates garnered more than 50 percent of the votes, so the top two vote-getters will have to campaign for two more weeks.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley endorsed Boyd near the end of the campaign, but it wasn't enough to put him over the top.

Goldfinch picked up 43 percent of the vote and Boyd came in close behind

with 41 percent.

Pawleys Island resident Joe Ford came in third with 11 percent and Dick

Withington got 5 percent in the district that stretches from southern Horry County to northern Charleston County.

The candidates are looking to fill the seat of Sen. Ray Cleary who opted not to seek re-election this time around.

Title: **Rankin will keep his Senate seat**  
Author: BY TOM O'DARE TOM.ODARE @MYHORRYNEWS.COM  
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CHARLES PERRY / FOR THE HORRY INDEPENDENT

**Luke Rankin will keep his seat in the state Senate.**

Title: **Post 111 sends 10 to Boys State**

Author:

Size: 51.46 column inches

Conway, SC Circulation: 6250



# Post 111 sends 10 to Boys State

Conway American Legion Post 111 sent 10 young men to the 76th encampment of Palmetto Boys State at Anderson University this past week.

Rising seniors from Conway High School, Carolina Forest High School, including their students attending The Academy of the Arts, Science & Technology and the Scholars Academy, plus Conway Christian School and Early College High School were interviewed by Post 111. All were very well qualified and potential leaders.

This year's attendees are Cameron Bailey of Conway Christian School, son of Scott and Monica Bailey; Bryant Barnhill of Conway Christian School, son of Chris and Kathryn Barnhill; Joseph Benton of Early College High School, son of Richard and Laura Benton; Joseph Dabrowski of Conway Christian School, son of Brian and Karen Dabrowski; Evan Groome of the Academy of the Arts, Science, & Technology, son of Brent and Dana Groome; Cross Hardwick of Conway Christian School, son of Heath and Denise Hardwick; Will Jordan of Carolina Forest High School, son of McKenzie and Jenni Jordan; Whit Richardson of Conway High School, son of John and Michelle Richardson; Nick Stefanchik III of Carolina Forest High School, son of Nick and Carolyn Stefanchik; Jason Zhang of the Scholars Academy, son of Jennifer Zhang.

The American Legion founded the Boys State program in 1935 to teach young



COURTESY

**Among those attending Boys State from Post 111 were Nick Stefanchik III, Will Jordan, Jason Zhang and Evan Groome. Not pictured are Cameron Bailey, Bryant Barnhill, Joseph Benton, Joseph Dabrowski, Cross Hardwick and Whit Richardson.**

men about government and politics. South Carolina started Palmetto Boys State 76 years ago in 1940 and is one of the top three programs in the country. The program is intended to spark interest and pride in government on a local level as well as the national scope. Numerous college scholarships and college credits are offered by South Carolina Universities to those completing Palmetto Boys State.

The American Legion's Boys State program is a unique way for young men to learn about the American system of government by participating in a mock government system. It is called a "Laboratory of Government" because during the week each young man has the opportunity to run for and be elected to mock offices ranging from city level (e.g. city council, mayor) to state constitutional offices (e.g. lieutenant governor and

governor).

It is an honor to be chosen as a delegate to Palmetto Boys State. This year more than 1,000 rising seniors were selected from those nominated by their high school teachers and counselors to be delegates or "citizens" at Palmetto Boys State. The program is as much about leadership training as it is an opportunity to learn about and participate in government and politics. In fact many of South Carolina's political, business and community leaders attended Boys or Girls State.

While at Boys State, citizens are divided into "cities" named for state rivers. The cities come together to make up "counties" named for famous South Carolinians. Citizens are also divided into two political parties, the Nationalists and the Federalists. They campaign and/or elect city,

county and state officers. They have an opportunity to prepare speeches, compose party platforms, debate current issues and vote for elected offices.

Cities also compete for ribbons in athletics, spirit, college bowl trivia and other events. Citizens may also participate in a media school that publishes a daily paper, nightly news videos and conducts web updates regularly. They may also participate in law school, which conducts mock trials, a criminal justice academy and a Boys State band.

Boys Staters also have the opportunity to hear from some of South Carolina's top leaders. Speakers at last year's Palmetto Boys State included Governor Nikki Haley, Senator Tim Scott, S.C. House Majority Leader J. Todd Rutherford, ESPN writer Ryan McGee, Sixth Judicial Court Judge Brian W. Gibbons, 12th Judicial Circuit deputy public defender Vick Meetze, Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and Anderson Mayor Terrence Roberts.

Conway Post 111 funds the Boys State program through fundraising activities and donations from the community. The following local businesses generously contributed, making possible this year's Palmetto Boys State experience: Conway City Council, Fulmer Construction Company, Horry Electric, Horry Telephone, Rivertown Accounting, Conway National Bank, Horry County State Bank and Palmetto Chevrolet.



Title: **Some see Haley losing clout**  
 Author: CASSIE COPE THE STATE  
 Size: 33.94 column inches  
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# Some see Haley losing clout

**CASSIE COPE**

THE STATE

Gov. Nikki Haley's influence over the state Legislature appears to be waning.

In her six years in office, Haley — like her Republican predecessor Mark Sanford — clashed repeatedly with lawmakers in the GOP-controlled General Assembly.

In her first term, Haley gave

lawmakers report cards. She also once told a real estate group to "take a good shower" after visiting the State House, and she often takes to her Facebook page urging lawmakers to vote a certain way on legislation.

This year, Haley helped a po-

litical group raise more than \$500,000, mostly from out-of-state donors, in an effort to oust longtime state Senate leaders in the June 14 GOP primary.

However, Haley's chosen challengers won only one of the three Senate contests thus far decided. (Another will be decided by a June 28 runoff.)

Haley succeeded in ousting state Sen. Wes Hayes, R-York, one of three longtime state Senate leaders she targeted.

But she failed to oust Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, the state's most powerful politi-

**See HALEY, Page 4A**

## Haley

Continued from Page 3A

cian, and state Sen. Luke Rankin, R-Horry, head of the Senate Ethics Committee.

Afterward, Leatherman acknowledges he told a primary-night victory party that not only was Haley a lame duck, she was a "dead duck."

State Rep. Chip Limehouse, a Charleston Republican who did not seek re-election, criticized the role that Haley tried to play in the primaries.

"It's not good form for a sitting governor to go after members of his or her own party," Limehouse said.

"I don't think it makes getting her agenda passed for next year any easier," he said, adding Haley targeting Leatherman "was a mistake at every different level."

The influence of governors typically wanes in the last two years of their term, said Leather-

man, whose legislative tenure has seen six governors. However, backing challengers to sitting legislators — and failing to unseat them — could make Haley even more likely to become a lame duck, he added.

Florence County voters did not appreciate the governor telling them who should be their senator, Leatherman said, adding Haley's opposition helped him win re-election.

"I've even considered writing her a letter thanking her for helping me win," Leatherman told The Buzz.

House Majority Leader Bruce Bannister, R-Greenville, says Haley's position is perfectly normal.

The closer a governor gets to the end of his or her term, the more people start looking forward to what is coming next,

Bannister said. "Like the presidents and governors before her, obviously, she's in the last two years of her term."

Not everyone agrees Haley's influence is waning.

Haley has used her bully pulpit effectively in the past, most successfully when she called for lawmakers to remove the Confederate flag from the State House in the wake of the Charleston church shooting.

"I still think she drives the agenda," said state Rep. Rick Quinn, R-Lexington, a Haley ally. He added lawmakers passed two ethics proposals before going home for the summer. "If she wasn't pushing those bills we never would have passed them."

Another Haley ally, state Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee, said, "I've tried to be her supporter long before now, and I will continue to try to be."

Title: **Charleston's racial issues endure**  
 Author: JEFFREY COLLINS AND JONATHAN DREW ASSOCIATED PRESS  
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# Charleston's racial issues endure

Little has changed  
 a year after shooting

JEFFREY COLLINS AND  
 JONATHAN DREW  
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON - The names of Confederate generals still adorn street signs in Charleston's public housing projects, and a heroic waterfront statue dedicated to the Confederate Defenders of Charleston still faces Fort Sumter, where the first shots of the Civil War were fired.

Just down from the Emanuel AME church — where nine black parishioners studying their Bibles were gunned down one year ago — a statue of Vice

President John C. Calhoun, a staunch defender of slavery,

towers above a park.

After the June 17, 2015, massacre, South Carolina lawmakers did what many people thought was impossible to achieve and removed the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds in Columbia. Across the country, as far away as Alaska, officials moved to strip streets, college dormitories and even lakes of the names of Confederates, secessionists and public figures who championed segregation.

But a year later, little has changed in Charleston, the city

where tens of thousands of enslaved Africans first set foot in North America. It was here that

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## Charleston

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the work of plantation slaves made the city one of the wealthiest in the nation before the Civil War. It was here where the bombardment of Fort Sumter threw the nation into that war in 1861.

A section of a street in front of the white stucco Emanuel AME church may have been renamed "Mother Emanuel Way Memorial District," but all of Charleston's Confederate commemorations remain intact — and longstanding racial issues endure.

"I think a lot of things happened out of the immediate emotions of how horrific the killings were. That's the human side of folks and the politeness, particularly of Charleston, that we just had to do something. But then when reality checks us — the question is what is that going to cost us in terms of changing the way we think and do things?" said Dot Scott, president of the Charleston branch of the NAACP.

A white man who police said

hated blacks and posted photos of himself with the Confederate flag has been charged with killing the nine parishioners.

"It was truly an attack on a race of people," Malcolm Graham, the brother of victim Cynthia Hurd, said of the shootings. "After 400 years, the African-American community still is suffering and dealing with these types of issues relating to race."

So why was there not a push to remove Confederate symbols in Charleston following the church attack?

Bernard Powers, a black College of Charleston history professor, noted that it took a 15-year struggle to get the flag removed from the Statehouse grounds and that it happened only after the slayings.

"People see what it took, and ultimately that flag was removed because nine people were murdered," said Powers, who co-authored a book about the massacre called "We are

Charleston." "I think people appreciate how deeply entrenched the reverence is for the Confederacy. For a lot of folks, it is a civil religion."

As soon as South Carolina lawmakers voted to pull down the flag, they shut the door on any other changes.

Gov. Nikki Haley had pushed for the flag to come down but feared that going further would incite fights across the state, so she asked lawmakers to protect all the other flags and monuments while removing the Statehouse flag.

"Our goal was to hold everything together. Let's do what we can, let's be kind and accepting and understand history is just that — it's history," she said.

So a statue of former Gov. and U.S. Sen. "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman still stands on the Statehouse grounds. Tillman once famously praised a lynch mob that killed seven black Republicans in 1876 to intimidate others from voting. The statue calls

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him a "friend and leader of the common people" but makes no mention of the violence he bragged about for decades, something black lawmakers would like to see added.

Changing a monument requires a two-thirds vote, and South Carolina and House Speaker Jay Lucas has vowed to block changes of any kind.

That means the Citadel, South Carolina's Charleston-based military college, has to keep the Confederate flag up in the campus chapel among the flags of the 50 states and other territories, even though the school's board of visitors voted to take it down.

It's not just South Carolina. North Carolina passed a bill protecting its Confederate monuments, and other Southern states also made it harder to alter monuments or change the names of buildings honoring prominent Confederates.

Like many southern states, just about every North Carolina county has a monument extol-

ling the bravery and honor of its Confederate soldiers.

University of North Carolina history professor W. Fitzhugh

Brundage, who is white, said he understands blacks who feel alienated seeing statues in public places honoring those who fought a war in large part to keep them enslaved.

"That is a reminder that this state's history includes an organized effort to keep people like you, African-Americans, enslaved at the cost of hundreds of thousands of lives and hundreds of millions of dollars of destruction," he said.

Though the monuments remain, the Confederate fervor may be fading decade by decade in Charleston. The area commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Civil War earlier this decade with subdued events at Fort Sumter and elsewhere, compared to the celebratory mood surrounding the 100th anniversary. And there was a new emphasis on slavery

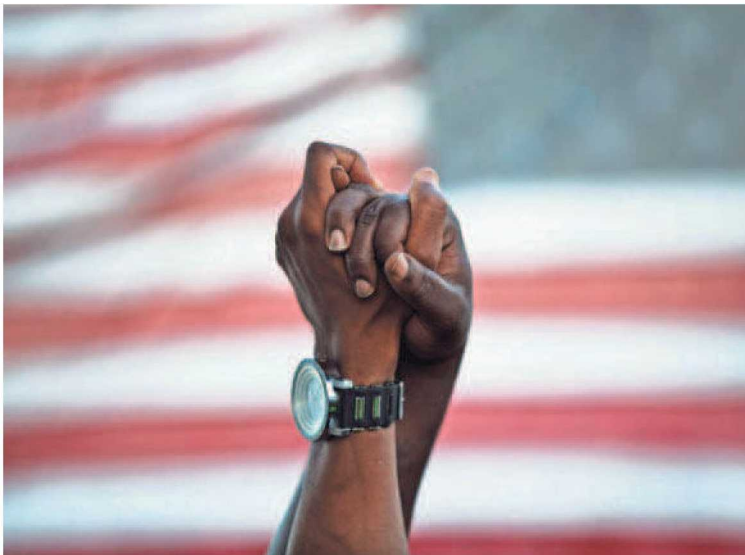
as a cause of the war and the roles that blacks played in the conflict.

Daniel Turner, a 57-year-old wastewater treatment plant operator from Charlotte, North Carolina, visiting Charleston's Confederate Museum, said he realizes why the Confederate flag is offensive to many.

"I understand the flag," Turner said. "There are bad people who used it. But the monuments are different. They are a part of history. We can't change that."

Brundage said he expects skirmishes over Confederate monuments to continue, but that a full-scale removal of Confederate symbols still seems a long way off, even generations removed from the Civil War.

"The flag may be down in front of the Statehouse of South Carolina, but the landscape of South Carolina is still full — bursting — with symbols honoring the Confederacy," the professor said. "And they're going to be there."



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

In June 2015, people joined hands against the backdrop of an US flag as thousands of marchers met on Charleston's main bridge in a show of unity.

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STEPHEN B. MORTON/AP

One year ago, police tape surrounded the parking lot behind the AME Emanuel Church as FBI forensic experts worked the crime scene, where nine people were shot by Dylann Storm Roof, in Charleston, S.C.



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BRUCE SMITH/AP

**On June 27, 2015, Bree Newsome of Charlotte, N.C., climbed a flagpole to remove the Confederate battle flag in front of the Statehouse in Columbia.**

Title: **Moped bill sputters ater Gov. Haley veto**  
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## COLUMN

# Moped bill sputters after Gov. Haley veto

BY MICHAEL SMITH

Columnist

Nearly six months ago at a legislative briefing in Columbia,



Smith

I stood in a multi-purpose room near the Statehouse, quizzing state lawmakers about why more hadn't been done to regulate mopeds.

"Why are moped bills getting held up? What's the delay?" I demanded. "People are dying."

In 2015, there were 50 moped-related deaths in South Carolina. Horry County, my former home, led the state with 18, according to an Associated Press report published this week.

I pressed state lawmakers, fully aware at least some sitting on the panel had voted against various moped safety bills. Some wore baffled expressions on their faces during the awkward silence that followed my question.

Sen. Greg Hembree, R-North Myrtle Beach, a moped bill supporter and someone I've known for years from my time working in Horry County, responded.

Hembree noted some lawmakers were averse to overregulating mopeds. He wasn't one of them,

but many legislators were, he said.

In spite of the General Assembly's reluctance to make mopeds safer, lawmakers ultimately passed House Bill 3440, which requires moped drivers to wear reflective vests and helmets, and equip their vehicles with a blinking taillight.

Gov. Nikki Haley shot down the measure, saying in a June 10 veto message the bill went too far in regulating adult behavior.

"I believe that adults over the age of 18 — who are allowed to vote and serve our military — should decide for themselves what they should wear for their personal safety," the veto message said.

During my 16 years working in Horry County, I lost count of the number of stories I wrote about fatal crashes involving mopeds. Every moped death was tragic, though the tragic story of a Myrtle Beach area woman stands out among all others.

In June 2015, a 63-year-old woman driving a moped was killed in a hit and run on U.S. 17 in Surfside Beach. A North Carolina man was charged several months later.

The tragedy of the woman's death was compounded because

less than an hour before the collision, a Surfside Beach police officer cited her for an improper taillight, according to court records.

Would a blinking taillight have prevented the crash that killed this poor woman? It's hard to say. But the existing law that allows moped drivers to operate under a cloak of darkness makes it much more likely we'll see more moped-related deaths.

Although moped safety is especially problematic in Horry County, it is a statewide issue.

Just the other day, while commuting from North Augusta to Aiken, I noticed a moped traveling in the opposite direction on Jefferson Davis Highway. It was coasting along in the passing lane, a herd of passenger vehicles trailing behind.

To me this was dangerous enough in broad daylight. I cringe over the possible scenarios had it been nighttime.

In her veto message, Haley said she's committed "to working with the General Assembly next year to adopt a bill that defines mopeds." She wants a bill that "balances public safety with personal responsibility."

Most mystifying is her comparison of mopeds to bicycles

and golf carts.

"These new regulations exceed those for motorcycles and are inconsistent with laws for bicycles and other low-speed vehicles, such as golf carts," the governor wrote.

Haley's veto message shows a fundamental misunderstanding about the danger unregulated mopeds present. As it stands, mopeds may be legally driven on any road except for interstates and limited access highways.

They are allowed on virtually every other road, even where the speed limit is 55 mph, including Hitchcock Parkway, University Parkway and Jefferson Davis Highway.

Virtually nobody would drive a bicycle or golf cart on these roads. Mopeds, however, are perfectly OK.

If Gov. Haley truly believes mopeds shouldn't be regulated, I would challenge her to hop on a moped herself and cruise at night around the bypass in Aiken or U.S. 501 in Myrtle Beach during the summer tourist season.

Perhaps then she would comprehend and respect the serious risk to public safety unregulated mopeds pose.

**Michael Smith** is the executive editor of the *Aiken Standard*.



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