

Title: **Bruce's Field at Aiken Horse Park holds ribbon-cutting ceremony**
 Author: BY DEDE BILES dbiles@aikenstandard.com
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Bruce's Field at Aiken Horse Park holds ribbon-cutting ceremony

BY DEDE BILES

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Bruce Duchossois' dream was to develop a state of the art equestrian center at the 66-acre Aiken Horse Park. He also wanted it to be a place that was aesthetically appealing with trees, shrubs and lots of green grass.

Duchossois died in 2014, but members of his family said Friday that he would have been pleased with how everything has turned out.

They were at the Horse Park's Bruce's Field for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the \$25,000 United States Hunter Jumper Association International Hunter Derby.

The International Derby was part of the Aiken Charity Horse Show II, which started Wednesday and con-

tinues through Sunday. The Aiken Charity Horse Show I was held May 4 to 8.

"It's exactly what Bruce would have wanted," said Dayle Duchossois, Bruce's sister. "He wanted a community place that was almost like a summer camp

for grown-ups, a place without pretense."

Bruce's brother, Craig Duchossois, also was enthusiastic.

"We are blown away; it's beyond our wildest expectations," he said. "What the Aiken Horse Park Foundation has done is spectacular. We love it."

Bruce's 94-year-old father, Richard Duchossois, used a pair of oversized scissors to cut a red ribbon stretched across an opening

in the fence surrounding one of the riding arenas. He also spoke briefly to the spectators who had turned for the Hunter Derby.

"This is just absolutely awesome," he said. "Bruce and his mother (the late Beverly Duchossois) are watching, and they are looking down and smiling."

Aiken Mayor Rick Osbon also participated in the ceremony.

"Can you believe this is in our backyard? Isn't this amazing?" Osbon said.

A prerecorded message from Gov. Nikki Haley also was played.

"There is such a love for the equine industry in Aiken," she said. "It's part of the culture and part of the community. It's part

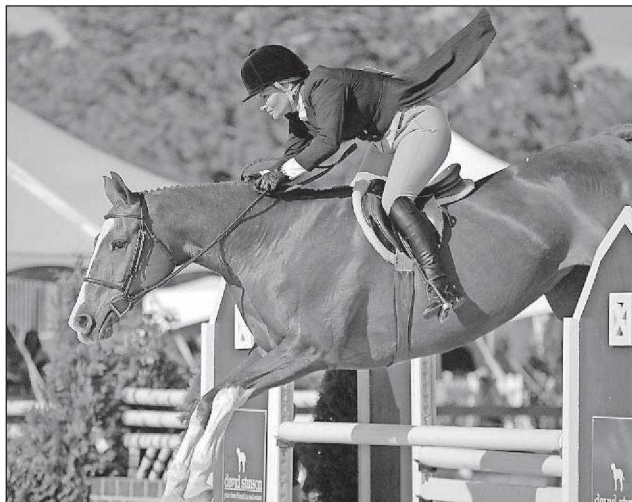
of what makes Aiken so great, and we are so excited about all the opportunities Bruce's Field has to give. This really makes it another great day in South Carolina."

Aiken County Council member Andrew Siders

sang the national anthem.

Construction at Bruce's Field began in earnest last spring. Facilities include five riding rings with all-weather footing and eight barns.

Dede Biles is a general assignment reporter for the *Aiken Standard* and has been with the newspaper since January 2013. A native of Concord, N.C., she graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Cawthra Burns and Posh clear a jump during the United States Hunter Jumper Association International Hunter Derby on Friday at Bruce's Field at the Aiken Horse Park.

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STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Craig Duchossois, left, Dayle Duchossois, Jack Wetzel, Richard Duchossois and Aiken Mayor Rick Osbon were at Bruce's Field at the Aiken Horse Park on Friday for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the United States Hunter Jumper Association International Hunter Derby. The derby started Wednesday and continues through Sunday.

Title: **House overrides Gov. Haley's veto of \$40M in aid for S.C. farmers**
 Author: BY JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press
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House overrides Gov. Haley's veto of \$40M in aid for S.C. farmers

BY JEFFREY COLLINS
 Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The House has overridden Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of a bill to send \$40 million in aid to South Carolina farmers who lost their crops in last year's massive floods.

The 112-2 vote on Tuesday was a sharp rebuke to the Republican governor and well over the two-thirds margin needed. The bill now heads to the Senate.

All members of the Aiken County Legislative Delegation, with the exception of Reps. Bill Clyburn, D-Aiken, and Don Wells, R-Aiken, who were not present Tuesday, voted to override Haley's veto.

In a news release following the vote, House Speaker Jay Lucas said, "The South Carolina House recognizes the unprecedented loss our farmers experienced last October and understands the economic

impact at stake if these concerns are ignored. Governor Haley's factually inaccurate justification for vetoing the Farm Aid bill is inconsistent with South Carolina values."

Lucas added, "When Gov. Haley petitioned the federal government for flood relief assistance last fall, she included homeowners and small businesses but intentionally ignored our farmers' plea for help by leaving them out of the request. Because of the governor's refusal to advocate on behalf of our state's largest industry, the General Assembly was forced to take action."

Haley said Monday she vetoed the bill because it gives farmers help not available to other small businesses. Haley said farmers have crop insurance and federal aid to cover their losses.

House Ways and Means Chairman Brian White said that's not true and Haley's veto makes no sense.

Title: **State Senate candidates line up to fight incumbent Lee Bright**
 Author: MICHAEL BURNS MDBURNS@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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State Senate candidates line up to fight incumbent Lee Bright

MICHAEL BURNS

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GREER - Three challengers for the state Senate seat covering District 12 worked to differentiate themselves during a candidates' forum Thursday night in Greer, but the starkest lines they drew highlighted opposition to incumbent Lee Bright, who's become one of the most well-known and controversial politicians holding office in South Carolina.

Lisa Scott, the mayor of Duncan, David McCraw, a Boiling Springs native and restaurant owner, and Scott Talley, a Spartanburg attorney and former member of the state House, agreed on a number of positions. They called for legislators' income disclosure as part of ethics reform, and they called for an override of Gov. Nikki

Haley's promised veto of a bill to provide special aid to farmers who lost crops to historic floods last year.

They also agreed the state would be best served if Bright, who's held the seat since 2008, was out of office.

Bright did not attend the forum held at the Cannon Centre in Greer. It was organized by *The Greenville News* and Chambers Of Commerce in Greenville, Greer, Simpsonville and Travelers Rest.

State Senate District 5 incumbent Tom Corbin didn't attend, either, but a challenger for his seat, Landrum attorney John B.

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Candidates

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White Jr., did, as did four candidates for Greenville County Council, District 18 incumbent Joe Baldwin and District 21 contenders Lance Byars, Stacy Kuper and Rick Roberts.

A complete replay of the forum is available at GreenvilleOnline.com.

Discussion of Bright's recent work — which has included efforts to require transgender people to use bathrooms corresponding to biological gender rather than the gender they identify with — dominated much of the Senate candidates' discussion.

"I think that was a clear case of him grandstanding and grabbing headline," said Scott. "I also think that he has a problem discriminating between a transgender person and a predator."

McCraw characterized Bright's stances as political showmanship, and he said the competitors beside him

Thursday night would be better choices than Bright come the Republican primary in June.

"When our senator starts talking about seceding from the union and changing our currency from the dollar ... to me, it's time for a change," he said.

"We are the economic engine of the state of South Carolina, Greenville and Spartanburg counties along this 85 corridor ... and unfortunately we've lost the last eight years," said Talley. "We've got to take stands on issues that matter to the state of South Carolina and look to the future."

White suggested Corbin's absence Thursday was evidence of needed change in Senate District 5.

"The reason I'm running is I have 22 beautiful grandchildren, and I'm concerned about their future," he said. "I'm concerned about our children's fu-

ture. I want our children to be able to worship without restriction. I want them to get a great education. I want them to have an opportunity to get a good job. And I'm a problem solver."

Greenville County Council candidates at times showed more disagreement than their counterparts vying for the state Legislature, identifying different strategies for handling local growth, concerns about public transportation and what to do with aged offices at County Square in Greenville.

Baldwin is being challenged in County Council District 18 by Mike Barnes, who did not attend the forum.

Byars, Kuper and Roberts are vying to fill the District 21 seat being vacated by Jim Burns. The winner of that Republican primary will face Libertarian Bill Michaud in November.

Follow Michael Burns on Twitter @MikeNearGreer

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LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF
Greenville County Council
candidates answer questions
during a forum at the Cannon
Centre in Greer on Thursday.

Title: **S.C. passes bill banning abortion after 19 weeks**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
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S.C. passes bill banning abortion after 19 weeks

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Legislature passed a bill Tuesday prohibiting abortion after 19 weeks, becoming the 17th state to pass the restrictive ban.

The legislation will now head to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. The Republican said in March she will almost certainly sign it, but wants to look at the details once it reaches her desk.

Similar laws are in effect in 12 states. They've been blocked by court challenges in three others, and the U.S. Supreme Court has yet to rule on the ban's constitutionality. A South Dakota law signed in March takes effect this summer.

In Utah, a related law, also signed in March, requires doctors to provide anesthesia to a fetus at least 20 weeks in the womb.

The South Carolina bill is among several fronts abortion rights supporters said make having the procedure

tougher. Abortion opponents also have passed laws in other states requiring clinics to get admitting privileges for doctors and banning a procedure commonly used in the second trimester, known as an evacuation method.

The South Carolina House approved the bill 79-29. The Senate approved a compromise in March.

The ban allows exceptions only if the mother's life is in jeopardy or a doctor determines the fetus can't survive outside the womb. The measure's limited definition of "fetal anomaly" means it would be illegal to abort a fetus with a severe disability if the child could live.

Such anomalies are generally detected around 20 weeks.

That "fetal anomaly" exception was crucial for the bill clearing the Senate, where Democrats had blocked the legislation for years.

Sen. Brad Hutto, a lead-

ing opponent, still believes it should be the woman's choice. But he called the compromise he's worked on since last year "the best we can get." As it initially passed the House, the bill gave an exception only for the mother's life.

Only four of the 16 states to pass the restrictions since 2010 allow a legal abortion if a doctor determines the child will be stillborn or die upon birth. South Carolina legislators borrowed the wording for that exception from Georgia, where state court blocked enforcement of Georgia's 20-week ban in 2012.

The South Carolina bill, like most of the similar laws, contains no exceptions for rape or incest.

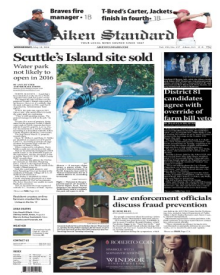
Supporters believe a fetus can feel pain at 20 weeks. Opponents argue such later-term abortions involve wanted pregnancies that go horribly wrong, and politicians should play no role in the difficult decision.



ONLINE

For an extended version of this story, go to aikenstandard.com

Title: **District 81 candidates agree with override of farm bill veto**
 Author: BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER mschechtet@giflikenstandard.com
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District 81 candidates agree with override of farm bill veto

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
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If all four S.C. House District 81 candidates were in Columbia on Tuesday, all would have voted "yes" to override Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of sending \$40 million in aid to South Carolina's farmers who lost crops to the October 2014 floods, they said.

The candidates – Bart Blackwell, K.T. Ruthven, Chris Austin and Jeremy O'Donnell – met for the second time on Tuesday, weighing in on issues from the release of public information, roads and how to help small businesses.

The seat is currently held by Rep. Don Wells, R-Aiken, who announced he will not seek reelection.

Tuesday's forum, held by the Aiken GOP, met just several hours after state House members voted 112-2 to override Haley's farm aid veto,

pushing sharply against the Republican governor's stance that she would not "bailout" one group over another.

"We're not talking about the Lay's Potato Chips farm, we're talking about the mom and pop farms," said Austin, a local attorney who grew up in New Ellenton.

The House vote got support from the Aiken County Legislative Delegation, with the exception of Reps. Bill Clyburn, D-Aiken, and Wells, who were listed as not present.

The bill will now head to the Senate.

Haley said Monday she vetoed the bill because it gives farmers help not available to other small businesses. She also said farmers have crop insurance and federal aid to cover their losses.

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FARM

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A Kansas native, O'Donnell said farming has been a life-long family tradition and he can understand the struggles family farms face.

"This bill was not meant to help the big commercial farmers," he said. "This will cover a small percentage of what they lost (in October). If you don't do this, the farms will fail. The only farms left will be the large commercial farms. That is not what we want in South Carolina."

Ruthven, a local Realtor and former Aiken GOP chairman,

said government should react when necessary during a catastrophe, giving a "hand up" when disaster strikes. Like Ruthven, Blackwell said he can understand the governor's take of not helping one interest group over another. Yet, he too, would vote to override her veto.

Blackwell said the House made the right decision, but how aid, if given, is administered and disbursed should be watched closely.

On roads, all four candidates agreed the state needs

to maintain its existing roads before siphoning money toward greater infrastructure projects, such as the "wasteful" spending of the five-lane highway proposed in Florence, Ruthven said.

All agreed legislators need to give greater attention to money already budgeted toward infrastructure improvements, with O'Donnell adding the No. 1 priority should be first to reform the state Department of Transportation.

Ruthven, Blackwell, O'Donnell and Austin also

could agree legislators need term limits. Ruthven added shorter legislative sessions would also be more conducive.

The four pushed for more transparency at the Statehouse. Blackwell said any obstacles in front of releasing public information must be eliminated, as "transparency in government is essential," he said.

Candidates vying for the Aiken County Treasurer's and Coroner's Office also took the

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podium, listing reasons why voters should head to the polls for them.

Aiken County Treasurer's Office:

Incumbent Jason Goings said during his four years with the county, he has "overhauled" the Treasurer's Office, fundamentally changing the county itself, he said.

Goings said he also has worked with the County Finance Department in a "way that has never happened," and over time, his office has saved the county thousands and thousands of dollars.

If re-elected, Goings said he will look at adding another office in the Wagener area, as the county did in North Augusta. He said he is running

on Republican principles, and will bring the ideals of limited government and lower taxes back to the Treasurer's Office.

Lee Bodie said he is running for county treasurer because he has the financial qualifications for the job, throwing a jab at Goings, who before being treasurer, worked as a school teacher and librarian for Aiken County.

Bodie said he has experience working in the financial industry and managing several employees.

Bodie said he's heard the Treasurer's Office in the past has bumped heads with county officials and isolated itself from other departments, which is one main reason he's running for treasurer.

As treasurer, Bodie said he

plans to open offices in every area of the county, aside from Wagener and North Augusta.

Aiken County Coroner's Office:

Incumbent Tim Carlton said he will continue to bring compassion and love to county residents if re-elected.

Carlton said he plans to continue providing county residents with educational classes to prevent deaths, as he has for the past 17 years since being selected for the position by late coroner Sue Townsend.

Thomas Scott, a volunteer firefighter and emergency responder, said he plans to "bring life back to the coroner's office" and return love

and compassion to residents.

The third candidate running for the county coroner is Clay Adams, who has extensive training and knowledge in law enforcement. Adams said as coroner he plans to work as a team and be aggressive to prevent deaths in the county, as it is just as important, he said.

Adams said he wants to create initiatives for residents, especially teenagers, on the lessons of texting and driving, as Townsend did with drinking and driving.

Maayan Schechter is the digital news editor with the *Aiken Standard*. Follow her on Twitter @MaayanSchechter. The **Associated Press** contributed to this report.



STAFF PHOTO BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER

Andrew O'Byrne, left, with the Aiken Leader and Aiken GOP Chairman, introduced candidates running for S.C. House District 81 seat. Pictured are Bart Blackwell, Chris Austin, Jeremy O'Donnell and K.T. Ruthven.