

Title: **Governor's race set to have incumbent**
 Author: The Associated Press
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Governor's race set to have incumbent

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina 2018 governor's race was supposed to be wide open, with the departure of popular Republican Nikki Haley, term-limited from seeking a third run. Now, with Haley's potential early departure pending her confirmation as U.N. ambassador, a space

has been created for current Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster — who will step in if Haley's confirmed — to run as an incumbent next year.

The Democratic side remains clear, with a few names tossed around but no candidate commitments. But with the state's politics trending more and more

conservative over the past decade or more, attention is focused on the potential pool of candidates who will vie for the Republican nomination. McMaster is getting a lot of attention, but will he get some GOP company on primary ballots?

The Incumbent

McMaster, 69, is a veteran of politics, both as a candidate but also a party leader helping shape

the process. Serving as U.S. attorney under President Ronald Reagan, McMaster also led South Carolina's GOP and was the state's

attorney general for eight years.

He sought the state's office in 2010, when he finished third in a four-way Republican primary ultimately won by Haley. He backed Haley and led her transition efforts, as well as an ethics committee she created to make reform recommendations.

Haley was re-elected in 2014, and McMaster was elected separately as lieutenant governor. Starting in 2018, governor and lieutenant governor will be elected on the same ticket, so McMaster could have the opportunity to

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Governor

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pick his No. 2.

A member of South Carolina's GOP establishment, McMaster went outside those boundaries early last year when he became the nation's first statewide officeholder to back Donald Trump for president. The move stunned political observers, but McMaster's support never wavered, despite Democrats' calls to withdraw it.

The move has now seemingly paid off, with Trump's nomination of Haley clearing McMaster's pathway to the governor's office, a post he's always wanted.

He's said little so far about what he'll do as governor, but McMaster has told The Associated Press in several interviews since Trump's election he'll do whatever he can to support the new president on the state's behalf.

The Outsider

Although she's never sought elected office, Catherine Templeton is no stranger to politics. The labor lawyer and union-fighting specialist was mentioned as a possible candidate for U.S. labor secretary after she was summoned to Trump Tower for a meeting with the president-elect.

Templeton has earned a reputation in South Carolina for having a no-nonsense approach to getting things done. She ran the state's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation early in Haley's first term, cutting out redundancies and streamlining the agency. Haley played up Templeton's union-fighting background and ability to keep unions out of the new Boeing Inc. assembly plant in North Charleston.

After a lawsuit over comments Haley made about the duo's ability to "fight the unions" at Boeing, the International Association of Machinists ultimately canceled a vote to certify the union.

Templeton served Haley a second time, directing South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control, the state's largest agency. As Ebola concerns swirled in late 2014, Templeton said her agency needed the ability to send simultaneous health alerts to hospitals on the front lines of identifying a potential outbreak. The director herself even tested the state's abilities, showing up at two Charleston hospitals and said she was suffering from the flu, in an attempt to see if hospitals were really ready to tackle identifying an unknown outbreak.

Templeton has said she's

exploring a gubernatorial bid but has made no official announcement.

The Prosecutor

As a solicitor in the 1990s, Tommy Pope gained nationwide fame for his case against Susan Smith, the Union County mother who killed her two sons by rolling her car into a lake. Pope pursued the death penalty against Smith, who was ultimately sentenced to life in prison.

Voters picked Pope to represent Rock Hill in the state House in 2010 and now, recently re-elected for a fourth term, he serves as House speaker pro tem. During last year's legislative session, Pope was chief sponsor of an ultimately successful ethics bill pushed by Haley.

Pope was the first Republican to officially say he'd run for governor after Hal-



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ey's time was up, announcing in 2014 he'd make a run for the state's top slot. Pope's biggest challenge, if he sticks with the bid, will be to boost his name recognition across the state.

The Others

Many other Republicans have already been mentioned as potential 2018 gubernatorial hopefuls,

including Attorney General Alan Wilson and state Sen. Tom Davis, a libertarian-leaning state senator recently elected to a third term representing some of South Carolina's coastal areas.

Yancey McGill, who briefly served as lieutenant governor, has previously said he'll run next

year. Tim Scott, a widely popular black Republican who just won his first full term in the U.S. Senate, recently said he hasn't ruled out a bid. U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney had been considered a potential candidate until his recent nomination to serve as Trump's director of the Office of Management and Budget.

As for the Democrats, the only apparent certainty is that two-time nominee Vincent Sheheen won't be making a third gubernatorial bid. State lawmakers Brad Hutto and James Smith are often mentioned as potential candidates, although neither has committed to running.

Title: **Children scream 6jmi stop' in 911 call from lawmakers home**
 Author: The Associated Press
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Children scream 'just stop' in 911 call from lawmaker's home

The Associated Press

AIKEN — Children can be heard screaming "Just stop, Daddy!" on a 911 call made from the home of a South Carolina legislator accused of beating his wife and pointing a gun at her, local media reported Friday.

Republican Rep. Chris Corley, of Graniteville, is charged with first-degree criminal domestic violence and pointing a firearm at a person. If convicted, the felonies could send him to prison for up to 15 years.

Corley's wife told deputies he stopped hitting her late Monday only after noticing she was bleeding and hearing the screams of two of their three children, ages 2 and 8.

Corley said his wife tried to punch him after accusing him of cheating, and the police report noted a scratch on his forehead. It's unclear if Corley, an attorney, has hired a lawyer. He has not returned voice mails from The Associated Press.

In the first 911 call to Aiken city police, no one talks to the operator but "Please stop" can be heard

repeatedly.

"Just stop, Daddy! Just stop! ... Daddy, why are you doing this?"



Corley

Corley's wife of 12 years also can be heard in the background: "Chris, please stop."

That prompted the dispatcher to call Aiken County 911.

"I had a caller, sounded a lot like children screaming for help and begging for their father to stop," the operator said.

In a later 911 call, a woman identified by the sheriff's office as Corley's mother-in-law asks for deputies to be sent to the home of a man threatening to kill himself. The dispatcher says deputies are already on the way for "some type of disturbance where the father is beating children?"

"No, no, no," she responds. "He beat his wife, and he's threatening to kill himself."

That corresponds with the police report released Tuesday, which said

Corley's wife took the family to her mother's house across the street after he threatened to kill her, then said he would kill himself. The report said she ran with the children when he went to the bedroom.

A judge set Corley's bond at \$20,000 and ordered him to not contact his wife. He's also barred from handling a firearm.

Corley didn't talk about the charges during his brief hearing Tuesday.

House Speaker Jay Lucas has promised to take action if Corley is indicted. By state law, he must be suspended from the House if indicted on a felony charge.

The 36-year-old Republican was easily re-elected to a second term last month with no opposition.

Corley's arrest comes after a legislative session where lawmakers strengthened punishments for domestic violence.

Gov. Nikki Haley made it a priority to reduce the state's high rate of women killed by men who know them. Corley voted for the legislation.

Title: **State to get \$65M in federal aid to rebuild**
 Author: BY AVERY G. WILKS The State awilks@thestate.com
 Size: 43.55 column inches
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Hurricane Matthew

State to get \$65M in federal aid to rebuild

BY AVERY G. WILKS

The State
awilks@thestate.com

COLUMBIA — South Carolina will get more than \$65 million in federal aid to help pay for long-term recovery from Hurricane Matthew. The state plans to use the money to rebuild and replace housing damaged by the storm that churned along the S.C. coast Oct. 8. Officials from the reeling Pee Dee town of Nichols say the money could be a godsend. The \$65 million from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department is part of a \$2.3 billion aid package for states hit hard by

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Matthew

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disasters in 2016.

It is one of the largest sources of long-term federal aid South Carolina can expect after Hurricane Matthew.

"Our team worked quickly to make sure these funds reach the communities most impacted by a major disaster this year," HUD Secretary Julian Castro said in a statement. "We'll do everything we can to support the people and places still struggling to rebuild."

Earlier this spring, South Carolina was given nearly \$157 million through the same housing program to pay for recovery from the historic October 2015 storm and subsequent flooding.

Money from that grant will help the state's poorest storm victims by paying to repair houses, replace mobile homes and offer temporary rental assistance, state officials

have said.

S.C. Disaster Recovery Office spokeswoman Beth Parks said the state expects to use the \$65 million similarly to help Hurricane Matthew victims.

'A town worth saving'

That could mean targeted aid for devastated towns, including Nichols in the state's Pee Dee region.

Just one of Nichols' 22 businesses has reopened fully after the storm, which left 235 of the town's 261 homes "severely damaged" or in worse condition.

The long-term aid, still a long way from arriving, could help some of Nichols' 150 still-displaced families return home, town clerk Sandee Rogers said.

"It's going to take a couple of years for us to get back on our feet," Rogers said. "These disasters come and go, and people forget about them.

... We're a town worth saving."

A HUD spokesman said the agency would publish instructions for how and where the grant money must be used "very soon," though he would not give a firm date.

The state then must write a preliminary action plan explaining how it will use the money, set aside time for public feedback and, then, send the plan to HUD for final approval. It can take months, or sometimes more than a year, before the money finally is spent.

HUD spokesman Brian Sullivan said the \$2.3 billion in aid was divvied up based on data on unmet housing needs after each disaster. That data was not available Thursday, he said.

Matthew, which briefly made landfall in South Carolina as a Category 1 hurricane, caused nearly \$341 million in dam-

age to public property, according to estimates

from Gov. Nikki Haley's office last month. At the time, the governor's office could not yet estimate the storm's damage to private households or businesses.

However, more than 47,000 S.C. residents applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency aid after Hurricane Matthew. A fraction of those received help, receiving roughly \$35.7 million in housing and other aid. Nearly 1,400 residents were approved for low-interest federal disaster recovery loans worth \$46.2 million.

Flood-battered Louisiana received the lion's share of the HUD disaster aid this year, getting nearly \$1.7 billion. Five other states got at least \$58 million each.

North Carolina, waterlogged for weeks after Hurricane Matthew, will get close to \$198.6 million.

Title: **PEE DEE POWER RETAINED**

Author:

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» **3. Pee Dee Power retained:** Two of the top spots in South Carolina government remain in the hands of elected officials from the Pee Dee. Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman Sr., a Florence Republican, was re-elected as Senate president pro tempore, while Rep. Jay Lucas, a Darlington County Republican, was re-elected by his peers as speaker of the House. Leatherman also retained his role as Senate Finance Committee chairman and continues to carry the label of "most powerful man in South Carolina." With Gov. Nikki Haley poised to become the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in 2017, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will move up to the governor's spot. Questions linger about the method of succession and whether Leatherman would be next in line for the lieutenant governor's spot. Leatherman has stated publicly that he will not take that position.

Title: **South Carolina to get \$65M in federal aid to rebuild**
 Author:
 Size: 26.04 column inches
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South Carolina to get \$65M in federal aid to rebuild

COLUMBIA (AP) — South Carolina will get an additional \$65 million in federal aid to help the state rebuild after Hurricane Matthew.

The State newspaper of Columbia reports the Department of Housing and Urban Development grant is part of a \$2.3 billion nationwide package for states hit hard this year by natural disasters.

But the money is still a long way from arriving. The federal agency has not yet given instructions for how and where the money can be used. Once it

for aid through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. A fraction of those received help totaling \$35.7 million. Nearly 1,400 residents were approved for low-interest loans worth \$46.2 million.

Louisiana is slated to receive the bulk — nearly \$1.7 billion — of the HUD disaster aid. North Carolina will get nearly \$199 million.

The federal agency also provided \$157 million to South Carolina for rebuilding from the October 2015 historic rainfall and flooding.

does, the state must write a proposal, allow for public comment and get the agency's approval. That could take more than a year.

"We'll do everything we can to support the people and places still struggling to rebuild," HUD Secretary Julian Castro said in a statement.

Gov. Nikki Haley's office estimates the hurricane caused nearly \$341 million in damage to public property in October. The damage to private homes and businesses was unknown.

More than 47,000 residents applied

Title: **Uneasy 2015 in South Carolina leads to more trials in 2016**
 Author: The Associated Press
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Uneasy 2015 in South Carolina leads to more trials in 2016

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — 2015 was supposed to be the uneasy year in South Carolina. The state was stunned by a videotaped police shooting of a fleeing black motorist, nine churchgoers killed in a hate crime, and a billion-dollar flood.

But then came 2016.

Along with two exhausting trials from the previous year's killings, South Carolinians endured the fatal school shooting of a first-grader, a serial killer who police said chained a woman inside a container, and landfalling Hurricane Matthew, which flooded the state all over again.

So when Gov. Nikki Haley spoke

at the celebration to light the state Christmas tree earlier this month, she thanked residents for their prayers and their faith, even as things seemed to go from bad to worse.

"Through all of that, we never fought. We never protested. We

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Unease

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prayed. We found our faith. We hugged each other. We showed love and kindness and respect for each other," Haley said.

Chances are Haley won't be lighting the 2017 Christmas tree. Causing a final flurry of political turmoil, she accepted President-elect Donald Trump's appointment to be ambassador to the United Nations, and plans to resign once the U.S. Senate confirms her appointment.

Here is a look at the stories that shook South Carolina in 2016:

Dylann Roof trial

The outcome was never in doubt. Dylann Roof's lawyers didn't dispute he killed nine black worshippers in a Charleston church in June 2015. And jurors took less than two hours earlier this month to find him guilty of 33 charges, including hate crimes.

Roof's saga will go on into 2017. The same jurors who convicted him return Jan. 3 to decide whether he should spend his life in prison or be executed. And Roof is charged with nine counts of murder in state court, where prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Michael Slager trial

The murder trial of former North

Charleston police officer Michael Slager failed to resolve his fate.

A jury couldn't reach a verdict over several days of deliberation in November after weeks of testimony on Slager's shooting of Walter Scott, an unarmed black motorist who tried to run from a traffic stop in April 2015.

Slager said he feared for his life because Scott grabbed his Taser as he resisted arrest. African-American community leaders said that was no excuse to fire eight shots at the back of a man who was nearly 20 feet away.

State prosecutor Scarlett Wilson promised another murder trial of Slager, who also is charged in federal court with violating Scott's civil rights.

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Upstate tragedies

Within five weeks, Upstate South Carolina dealt with a pair of stunning crimes.

First, a 14-year-old boy shot and killed his father, then drove to Townville Elementary School in Anderson County and shot at first-graders out for recess. Six-year-old Jacob Hall died a few days later.

Prosecutors are still deciding whether to ask to try the teen as an adult.

In November, Spartanburg County suddenly discovered they may have had a serial killer living among them. Real estate agent Todd Kohlepp was arrested after a woman was found chained in a container on his property, authorities said.

Within days, Kohlepp confessed to killing seven people — the chained woman's boyfriend, another couple and four people at a motorcycle shop in 2003, authorities said.

Hurricane Matthew

The massive Category 4 storm weakened before brushing the South Carolina coast in October, but it was still powerful enough to kill five people, mostly because of floods caused by up to a foot of rain in the northeast part of the state.

Beaufort County also was hard hit, with thousands of trees knocked down and exclusive gated communities thinking about charging residents thousands of dollars each to cover cleanup costs.

New Governor

Donald Trump's victory in the presidential race shook up South Carolina politics in ways that may be felt for the next decade.

Haley's acceptance of the U.N. ambassador job likely will elevate Trump's first and biggest South Carolina supporter, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, to the governor's office.

That means McMaster can run as an incumbent for what was expected to be an open governor's seat in 2018. Already, potential candidates for that race are changing plans.

As for who takes McMaster's job, that dispute will likely be decided in the state Supreme Court.

Title: **McDaniel will be breakfast keynote speaker**
 Author:
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McDaniel will be breakfast keynote speaker

The North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) welcomes Gerri McDaniel as its First Friday Business Builder keynote speaker on Friday, Jan. 6, 2017. McDaniel, who played a pivotal role in President-elect Donald J. Trump's presidential campaign success in South Carolina, will present "How South Carolina Helped Elect Donald Trump" at the chamber's next networking event.

Active in local and national politics, McDaniel served as campaign field director during President-elect Trump's sweeping 2016 campaign victory in South Carolina's primary for the seventh con-

gressional district. After this success, she became the S.C. State Director for "Donald J. Trump for President," helping to lead President-elect Trump to a victory with 71 percent of the vote.

McDaniel also served as a campaign field director for the 7th Congressional District of South Carolina under former Republican Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich when he sought the Republican Party nomination for president for the 2012 election.

McDaniel has been an active supporter in the Horry County Republican Party and has been involved in cam-

paigns of several successful city and county political candidates, including Gov. Nikki Haley's 2010 election.

"The chamber is pleased to welcome Gerri to North Myrtle Beach for next month's First Friday event," said Marc Jordan, president and CEO of the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, CVB. "While we expect a great turnout, we do encourage individuals to respect any opposing political views of their own and ask that attendees come out to support a powerful advocate for the state."

The First Friday Business Builder is an informative monthly breakfast meeting held on the first Friday of ev-

ery month by the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce. The event is available to chamber members and non-members as an opportunity to hear valuable speakers on important topics, updates on city council issues and new business opportunities.

Tickets are \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members and can be purchased on the chamber's website. The meetings are presented by the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, CVB.

To register for the First Friday Business Builder, find more information or purchase tickets visit the chamber's website or call 843-281-2662.

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Gerri McDaniel

Title: **push for more moped safety in SC**
 Author: BY AVERY G. WILKS awilks@thestate.com
 Size: 67.27 column inches
 Hartsville, SC Circulation: 6303



Legislators push for more moped safety in SC

BY AVERY G. WILKS
 awilks@thestate.com

COLUMBIA — As S.C. moped-related collisions and deaths continue to rise, a group of state lawmakers plans to take another swing at moped laws they call slack and loophole-ridden.

State Sen. Greg Hembree, R-Horry, and state Rep. Bill Crosby, R-Charleston, have revived a wide-sweeping, two-dozen-page moped safety proposal that nearly became state law last summer.

"Nothing has changed except more people have died," Hembree said. S.C. moped-related deaths reached a five-year high last year, and early data indicates 2016 will see no substantial drop-off. "I'm trying to get it pushed through as fast as we can."

Require helmets or safety vests?

Hembree and Crosby have pre-

filed bills in each state House chamber that would require moped drivers to register with the Department of Motor Vehicles, follow the same traffic rules as all other vehicles and wear reflective vests at night.

The proposal, criticized by some lawmakers last year as convoluted and onerous, also would mandate moped drivers younger than 21 years old wear a helmet.

It would give mopeds a single definition under state law. That is needed, legislators say, because conflicting definitions make laws involving mopeds unenforceable.

Hembree's bill also raises the minimum legal age to drive a moped to 15. Crosby's leaves it at 14.

Two other House members, Reps. Mike Ryhal and Alan Clemmons of Horry, are proposing to require moped drivers and passengers wear

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Mopeds

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reflective vests and equip their vehicles with a constantly flashing taillight for visibility.

Lawmakers and advocates point to a number of factors, among them:

Mopeds are growing in popularity because of their low cost and high fuel efficiency.

They are harder to see than other vehicles, espe-

cially at night.

They move slowly on roads with high speed limits, especially in rural areas.

Mopeds are held to lower legal standards than other vehicles.

For example, moped drivers cannot be charged with driving under the influence because the so-called "liquor cycles" are not considered "motor vehicles" under South Carolina law.

No training is required to

operate them, and users as young as 14 years old can apply for a moped-specific license.

Mopeds also need only generic tags issued by the dealer, making it tougher for law enforcement to track down their owners.

Death toll rising

The bills are the latest in a push over the past few years to shore up so-called soft spots in S.C. moped

laws some blame for the rising death toll on S.C. roadways.

That toll reached at least a five-year high last year. Forty-five people died in moped collisions in 2015, up from 21 in 2010 and 12 in 2001, according to DMV data.

The number of moped-related collisions in the Palmetto State also reached a new high, up to 819 in 2015 from 618 in 2010 and 167 in

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 Author: BY AVERY G.WILKS awilks@thestate.com
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2001, data show.

Preliminary data indicates 2016 will see no substantial drop-off, if any at all.

"Lives are being lost needlessly with not a whole lot of regulation," Hembree said.

Hembree said he has tried to get a moped bill passed for four years. Crosby has worked on it for three, since local law enforcement agencies approached him asking for support.

"We've had so many of the law enforcement people coming to us wanting us to do it," Crosby said. "And so many people riding mopeds are getting killed."

The bill also has support from medical groups, such as the Trauma Association of South Carolina.

"We as trauma centers in South Carolina, because (mopeds) are not regulated, see enumerable patients that are not licensed or do not have a license to operate a motor vehicle,

coming in with horrible injuries because they're not helmeted or they may be driving under the influence," said Amy Hamrick, president-elect of that organization and Spartanburg Medical Center's trauma program manager. "A lot of these accidents happen at night, and they're not identified, so you can't really see them, and they're getting hit by cars."

Bumpy road

The proposal had critics last year.

Republican S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed the bill last session, decrying as "government overreach" the provisions that required helmets and reflective vests.

As lawmakers scrambled to override the veto, House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford, D-Richland, and state Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington, complained the proposed

requirements would be cumbersome for moped riders.

Rutherford added the bill was too complicated, that moped riders wouldn't know they were breaking the law until being pulled over. Dangerous moped drivers "usually are only dangerous to themselves," he said.

The House voted to override, but the bill met its demise in the Senate when Malloy delayed a vote by asking the Senate to go to other matters while he held the floor. He later filibustered another proposal until the Senate adjourned, ending the session.

This week, Malloy objected to a characterization he blocked the legislation. He said he is not "against all aspects of a moped bill," only certain requirements, including the reflective vests.

"Whenever you start requiring them to wear a cer-

tain jacket, a certain color or those kinds of things, that is unacceptable and tantamount to being un-American," Malloy said. "When you are putting a burden on the people that are generally challenged, it's an unnecessary burden."

Hembree and others, though, are optimistic ahead of the start of the session in January. The bill already has been vetted by both chambers and already has made it as far as the governor's desk, they say.

"Last year was awful darn close," Hembree said.

"A lot of the lawmakers up there now have realized so many people are getting killed," said Crosby. "There's so many accidents. They're getting pressured by their local law enforcement people."



Title: **SC lawmaker charged with domestic**
 Author: The Associated Press
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SC lawmaker charged with domestic a

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A South Carolina House member who rebuked his colleagues in a Christmas card for lacking morals when they took down the Confederate flag is accused of beating his wife and pointing a gun at her, deputies said.

Officers in Aiken County charged

Rep. Chris Corley with a pair of felonies that could send him to prison for up to 15 years after he attacked his wife during an argument over his infidelity late Monday night at their home in Graniteville, according to a police

report.

The couple's young children were there, and the wife took the family to her mother's house across the street after Corley threatened to kill her, then said he would kill himself, the report said.

Corley's wife said he stopped

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Corley

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hitting her only after noticing she was bleeding and hearing the children screaming, deputies said.

Corley told officers his wife tried to punch him after accusing him of cheating, and the police report noted a scratch on his forehead.

Corley is charged with first-degree criminal domestic violence, which carries up to 10 years in prison if convicted, and pointing a firearm at a person, which has a maximum sentence of five years. Neither charge has a mini-

mum punishment.

A judge set Corley's bond at \$20,000 and ordered him to not contact his wife. Corley didn't talk about the charges during his brief hearing Tuesday afternoon.

The 36-year-old Republican lawyer was just elected to a second term.

Corley's arrest comes after a legislative session where lawmakers strengthened punishments for domestic violence. Gov. Nikki Haley made it a priority to reduce the state's high rate of women killed by men who know them. Corley voted for the legislation.

House Speaker Jay Lucas promised in a statement to take action if Corley is indicted. By state law, Corley must be suspended from the House if indicted on a felony charge.

Corley may be best known in the House as a staunch defender of the

Confederate flag. After the flag was removed from Statehouse grounds in July 2015, Corley sponsored a bill for a statewide vote on whether to return it. The bill went nowhere.

He also sent a Christmas card with the Confederate flag on it to Republican lawmakers in 2015 after the flag came down suggesting they "ask for forgiveness of all your sins such as betrayal," calling it a joke in his smart-aleck style. Democrats got a card with a photo of his children.

Corley's holiday card started with: "May your Christmas be filled with memories of a happier time when South Carolina's leaders possessed morals, convictions and the principles to stand for what is right."

The arrest was first reported by The Aiken Standard.

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Corley

Title: **Matthew strikes the town a year after epic flood**
 Author: BY JENNA-LEY HARRISON jharrison@journalscene.com
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 Summerville, SC Circulation: 5929



Matthew strikes the town a year after epic flood

BY JENNA-LEY HARRISON
jharrison@journalscene.com

The Lowcountry was faced with yet another deluge this year, forcing residents to repair flooded homes, remove uprooted trees and live in the dark for a few days.

Hurricane Matthew swept up the South Carolina coastline the first week of October, on nearly the same day the 1,000-year flood dumped unprecedented levels of water across the area a year earlier.

It was the first time in decades that tri-county residents, and those in a number of other communities around the state, were urged by state officials to evacuate. There were fears a lane reversal on Interstate 26 might ignite a chaos similar to the Hurricane Floyd evacuation in 1999, but in the end, Gov. Nikki Haley praised residents and first responders for a smooth operation.

Matthew made landfall Oct. 8 southeast of McClellanville as a Category 1 hurricane.

The morning high tide in Charleston Harbor was the highest since Hurricane Hugo and the third-highest on record, according to The Weather Channel. Dorchester County saw wind gusts of 60 miles per hour and, in some places, almost 10 inches of rain, according to the National Weather Service.

Yet some inland areas were more inundated than coastal areas. Tiny Nichols, South Carolina, some 50 miles from the coast, found itself underwater, and months later the town is still struggling to rebuild.

In Dorchester County, especially in Ashborough subdivision and Tranquil Estates, residents faced dollar signs and home repairs for the second time in a year, leaving them to question the skies and how the county might help them prevent similar future flooding.

FEMA approved more than \$100 in disaster relief for South Carolinians, and debris removal across the area continued into the holidays.