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148 Life Resources receives workplace health award

In celebration of the 2016 South Carolina Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award (PHWA) in the small, nonprofit category, Barbara Boatwright, founder and director of life resources, an integrated Christian Mental Health Resources Center, hosted a ceremony on Monday, May 16. It took place at the Wellbrock Parish Hall of the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul in downtown Charleston. The event also served to help educate the public about how Life Resources is providing affordable and beneficial healing resources to the Charleston community.

Dr. Boatwright said, "The fact that this award evaluates the psychological and relational health of an organization makes this recognition particularly meaningful, as our team recognizes that we can only offer to others what we live out on a daily basis."

Life Resources was one of three South Carolina businesses and the only organization in the Low-

country to receive this recognition for 2016. They also received a congratulatory letter from South Carolina Governor, Nikki Haley, applauding the organization for its excellence in business and service to the community. Nominees for the PHWA are evaluated based on five areas: employee involvement, work-life balance, employee growth and development, health and safety, and employee recognition. The award program highlights a variety of workplaces, including large and small, for-profit and nonprofit organizations and is given out annually on both state and national levels through the American Psychological Association.

Life Resources began in 2010 as a Christian mental health resource center serving the Lowcountry of South Carolina. They seek to provide affordable life-transforming resources to children, adolescents and adults in a peaceful, safe and confidential setting that honors individual religious and cultural differences.



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PROVIDED

**Dr. Barbara Boatwright, founder and director of Life Resources
and Dr. Leslie Bessellieu, SCPA chairperson, transformations
consulting and leadership development.**

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State and federal tax incentives led Charles Banks to recently install solar panels at his home in Cherokee County. Although it required a \$6,000 (net) investment, savings on electric bills will eventually offset the cost.

Thar's gold in that thar sun

By **SCOTT POWELL**
Ledger Staff Writer
spowell@gaffneyledger.com

Charles Banks has taken a novel approach towards saving money on his future power bills by installing rooftop solar panels at his home off Cherokee National Road.

Sun shining on solar panels generates electricity that goes directly to his home's breaker panel, which supplies electricity to power appliances and devices.

Banks started researching solar energy after Solar World in Greenville contacted the Gaffney resident to see if he would be interested in placing solar panels on his home. He estimates it cost \$6,000 to have the solar energy system installed, after tax credits and Duke Power incentives. It went online in late May.

Savings on electric bills will eventually add up to what homeowners pay for the solar system. The average return on investment is

3 1/2 years.

"They try to design the solar energy system based on your average monthly power bill," Banks said. "I don't notice any difference in how my home is heated and cooled. In months when the solar panels generate more power than I use, it goes back into the electric grid for later use."

Banks said he couldn't yet determine the actual monthly savings.

Since last October, Duke Energy has rewarded 277 South Carolina customers who installed solar power with a one-time rebate of \$1 for every watt of solar energy they install at their home or business. Utility customers must be property owners in South Carolina and are paid once their facilities are connected to solar systems. Renters cannot participate in the rebate program.

"Early on, we recognized that the cost was the primary barrier to more residential solar in South Carolina," Duke Energy South Carolina spokesman

Ryan Mosier said. "So we designed the \$1 per watt rebate to help our customers overcome the upfront financial barrier. So far, more than 1.5 million watts have been installed as a result of this initiative."

Homeowners and businesses in South Carolina can save money on their taxes by taking advantage of federal and state tax incentives.

Taxpayers can claim a credit of 25 percent when they install solar energy systems. The maximum incentive from Duke in any year is \$3,500 for solar installations used in heating water, air cooling, and making homes more energy efficient.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley signed a solar law in 2014. The law opens up the state for solar leasing to make rooftop systems more accessible for homeowners.

The federal government continues to be aggressive in its efforts to encourage investment in renewable energy sources. There are



federal tax credits available for solar energy systems, small wind energy systems and geothermal heat pumps.

"It was real simple," Banks said. "The state and federal tax incentives made it affordable to install solar panels."

Duke Energy and other utilities are allowed to build solar in the state and recoup those costs — just like it does with other power plants. State law re-

quires utilities craft programs for nonprofits and education buildings to expand their solar presence.

As of June 2015, only 250 Duke Energy customers in South Carolina had installed solar power on their homes. A year later, the tally is more than 500 customers.

"Solar energy installations on residential homes is not the new norm, since there is still a rela-

tively high cost of the underlying technology relative to local energy prices in South Carolina," Mosier said. "That said, solar as well as energy efficiency measures are cheapest to install when a home is built and not as a retrofit. That could change as the cost to install residential solar technology is expected to decline further over the next few years."

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¹⁴⁸ Secessionist group: Haley broke law flying university flag

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley apparently broke the law when she flew a university flag over the Capitol to celebrate a baseball national championship last week.

The governor likely violated the state's Heritage Act, which requires a two-thirds vote by lawmakers in order to change or remove historical items — including the flags that fly over the Capitol Dome.

"If she can do this without any repercussions, I want to put up my plaques," said Greenwood Mayor Welborn Adams, who is among the critics who say the law is overreaching. The law has blocked Adams from replacing existing plaques on a city World War I monument that list soldiers as "colored" or "white" with new plaques that don't segregate them.

James Bessenger of The South Carolina Secessionist Party first brought up the issue. He said his organization is talking to an attorney and considering whether to file a formal complaint with law enforcement over Haley's decision to fly the Coastal Carolina flag for a day.

State law is clear about the flags. After specifying only the U.S. flag and the state flag can be flown, the law says "no other flag shall be displayed in these locations or atop the dome or roof." A later chapter of the same section of law calls for up to 30 days in jail or a \$100 fine for using "the State House or grounds for any purpose not authorized by law."

This isn't the first time a governor has raised a championship winning school's flag this century. Gov. Mark Sanford in 2010 and Haley in 2011 raised a University of South Carolina flag after that school won national titles in baseball. But that was before Haley called for the removal of the Confederate flag from Statehouse grounds after the killing of nine black people in a Charleston church by a gunman police said was motivated by racial hatred.

Adhering to the law, Haley pushed lawmakers to get the required two-thirds vote to remove the Confederate flag entirely from the Capitol last July.

"All the sudden she now has the authority to override a two-thirds vote?" Bessenger said.

After the 2015 vote to take down the flag, House Speaker Jay Lucas said representatives would not take up any other issues related to the Heritage Act. He kept that vow all through the 2016 session, even as Haley herself asked that The Citadel be allowed to remove a Confederate flag from a chapel — a move also backed by the school's board.

Lucas' spokeswoman said he likely wouldn't comment on the issue. Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams answered questions about the flag with a statement pointing out the governor was just continuing a tradition started when Clemson University's football team won the national championship in 1981.

A group in Greenwood is currently suing the Legislature over the Heritage Act, saying it unlawfully takes away control from local governments. The mayor said the threat of criminal charges is

what kept him from changing the bronze war memorial plaques after he collected private donations and having the new ones cast.

"I didn't feel like pushing it that hard," Adams said.

The governor's seemed to have good intentions with the flag-raising. She sent pictures of her watching the game Thursday on Twitter, then photos of her and her husband as the Coastal Carolina flag was raised. A video on the front page of her state website Tuesday afternoon shows the event with upbeat band music being played in the background.

"These were the underdogs," Haley said in an interview outside the Statehouse about an hour after the team won the title. "They fought hard. They won. They made South Carolina proud."

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¹⁴⁸ **New law will expand access to drug-overdose antidote**

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A new South Carolina law aimed at reducing deaths from OxyContin, fentanyl and other opioids will allow people to obtain an anti-overdose drug in pharmacies without presenting a prescription.

State licensing boards for pharmacists and doctors have until Dec. 5 to approve rules for how naloxone can be dispensed, which will specify who can receive them and include requirements for documentation, storage and training.

"Having expanded access to this life-saving therapy I personally think is a great thing. We can save lives," said Addison Livingston, a state Board of Pharmacy member and pharmacist at Hawthorne Pharmacy in Columbia. "Opioids are dangerous. Even if you're taking a medication just like you're supposed to, you may experience respiratory distress."

Rep. Chip Huggins, R-Columbia, said Thursday he sponsored the bill at pharmacists' requests. He likened it to their ability to give flu vaccines without a prescription. Pharmacists acting under the law are immune from civil or criminal liabilities or profession discipline.

The approved expansion, signed into law June 5, comes a year after legislators allowed law enforcement officers and firefighters to carry and use the drug on someone they believe is overdosing.

So far, the 300 officers statewide trained in using naloxone have administered it twice. Meanwhile, emergency medical responders used the drug about 4,600 times last year, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. The agency doesn't track the number of lives saved.

Naloxone, which blocks opioids' effects, is a safe antidote that's easy to use. It comes in the form of a nasal spray or injection, similar to an EpiPen, said Livingston, also a member of a prescription drug abuse prevention council created by Gov. Nikki Haley.

"It's been proven to work," Dr. Stephen Gardner, president of the Board of Medical Examiners, said Wednesday. "The safety of this has been proven time and again."

The law authorizes pharmacists to provide the drug to people "at risk" of an opioid overdose or their caregivers.

"The issue is how we determine what 'at risk' means," Gardner, a neurosurgeon, said about writing the protocols.

The law will expand access to people with prescriptions for opioid medications, providing the antidote to patients as well as anyone in their household who may get hold of the drugs, he said.

"We're trying to build in wherever the prescription drugs go, the antidote follows, if they're at risk," he said.

The two licensing boards must jointly approve the rules. Recommendations will come from an advisory committee of health care professionals they appoint. No meeting has yet been scheduled, said Lesia Kudelka, spokeswoman for the state Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

Nearly all states have a naloxone access law of some kind, though they vary widely. New Mexico became the first state to increase access in 2001, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Last month, North Carolina became the third state to provide unlimited access to naloxone in pharmacies. The neighboring state's law created a statewide standing order at all pharmacies to immediately begin dispensing naloxone to anyone. Maryland and Pennsylvania have similar standing orders.

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148 + 234 Farmers learn about applying for assistance

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
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KINGSTREE – Brown's Bar-B-Q was packed Friday morning as farmers gathered to learn from officials about how to apply for S.C. farm aid.

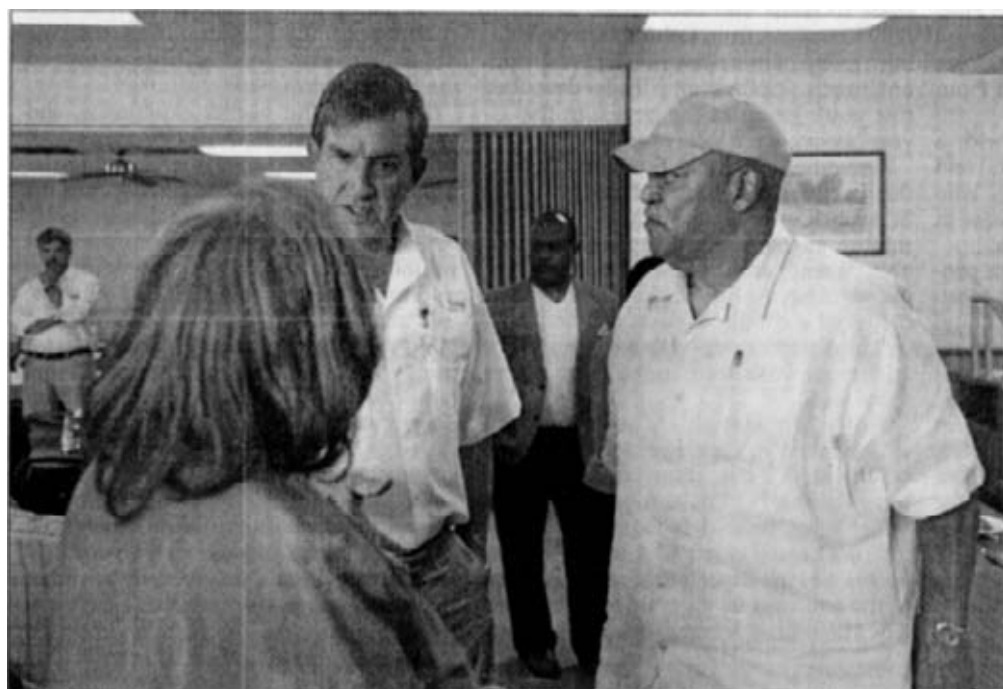
The meeting was the first of 19 that will be held over the next few weeks as the agricultural sector looks to rebound following last fall's historic flooding, which wiped out an estimated \$400 million in crops.

Farmers who incurred a 40 percent loss of agricultural commodities are eligible for grants up to \$100,000 under a \$40 million aid package passed by the legislature in late May.

Rep. Roger Kirby, a Democrat from District 61, co-sponsored the legislation and said he came to the meeting as "my whole district is ag. This is an important thing for a lot of my constituents."

Kirby was glad the first meeting was held in what he called "the heart of the farm belt in the Pee Dee."

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S.C. Agriculture Secretary Hugh Weathers, in yellow, chats Friday morning with John and Mary Culbreath at Brown's Bar-B-Q in Kingstree during the first of 19 meetings slated to take place this month to help guide farmers through the process of applying for S.C. farm aid.

Farm

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"The intent is not to make every farmer whole. We wanted to help as many as we could with limited resources," he said. "It's more intended to help small family farms that are on the brink of disaster."

While taking a mid-meeting break, Cliff Barron said "probably about 70 percent" of his row crops were destroyed by the October flooding. Cultivating about 1,000 acres in John-sonville, the 36-year-old farmer focuses on corn, beans and wheat. Drought conditions last year had already taken a severe toll on his corn before the historic deluge.

"All our hopes were on the beans and next thing you know, we got 27 inches of rain in three days," he said. "It was frustrating - we had good crops in the field."

Once he gets all his documentation squared away, he'll apply for aid.

"Things look better" this year, said Barron, who's farmed for 15 years. "A good-looking corn crop - beans looking pretty average. Things look up a little bit."

Bill Wallace isn't sure he'll apply until he plugs his numbers into the formula that determines his actual losses vs. expected revenue.

"I'm borderline," said the 61-year-old, who farms about 140

He knows several farmers with heavy losses who had to quit. He hasn't had to borrow money to purchase equipment and has been able to finance seed purchases, whereas fertilizer and chemicals have to be paid for up front.

"It's just hard. It's a struggle and will take awhile to bounce back," he said. "Sometimes you want to throw your hands up and walk away."

Still, he knows farmers like himself "have to keep on going."

"Right now there's a bumper crop of corn," he said, "but my fields are still wet and we can't plant beans. We've put down some but not much."

Hugh Weathers showed up at the well-known barbecue restaurant toward the end of the meeting.

"I want to hear what's on our farmer's minds," said Weathers, the state's secretary of agriculture. "I'm going to go to as many meetings as I can."

Though the entire program has been launched fairly quickly - the legislature overrode Gov. Nikki Haley's veto on May 24 -- Weathers hopes for as little bureaucracy as possible.

"This whole thing took about 45 days," he said, referring to the agriculture department planning for implementation of the aid. "In another 45 days we hope to be writing checks but it depends on meetings like this."

For more information about S.C. Farm Aid, check out <https://agriculture.sc.gov/>.

acres of corn and soybeans near Turbeville.



Stephanie Sox, who works in marketing for the S.C. Department of Agriculture, talks to farmers Friday morning about applying for S.C. farm aid. She spoke during a meeting at Brown's Bar-B-Q in Kingstree.

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We built this city—A workforce development scheme

June 24, 2016 by Jessica Cross @carolinaledger @thecarolinaledger

The Horseshoe at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. The university is growing as one of the state's premier research universities. Public domain. According to South Carolina government logic, you've got to engineer the economy by scheming to fill jobs that workers won't fill on their own.

Without any fanfare, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley signed a bill into law earlier in June that creates a Coordinating Council for Workforce Development.

An earlier version of the now-law would have costed taxpayers \$47 million in fiscal year 2017 plus an additional \$7 million in recurring funds every year thereafter, according to an April fiscal impact statement.

Instead, the council will simply make workforce recommendations to the governor and the General Assembly.

According to the law's language, the council is aimed at engaging in "discussions, collaboration, and information sharing concerning the state's ability to prepare and train workers to meet current and future workforce needs."

Perhaps the players won't engage in collaboration without this sort of government intervention.

The membership is comprised of leadership from—

- The Commerce Department
- Education Department
- State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education
- Department of Employment and Workforce
- Commission on Higher Education
- The president of a research

university chosen by other research university presidents

-The president of a four-year school chosen by his or her peers

-The president of a technical college, appointed by the chairman of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education

-An appointee by the Superintendent of Education

-An appointee by the president of the state Chamber of Commerce

Note that many of these councilors already play a role in engineering the workforce. Further note that not one economist is on that list.

On second glance, that's probably fitting. We tend to think of economy partly in terms of job growth.

But when Haley, Commerce Department officials and other government agencies talk about economic development in terms of job growth, they're perpetuating a misnomer.

An economy is measured by the

goods and services it provides the consumer, not by job growth.

The real threat is missing out on how the economy would have naturally changed the workforce while growing to meet consumer demands.

Consider removing from the equation workforce development and taxpayer-funded incentives that bribe businesses to locate here. There's a real possibility that we would have a thriving economy that looks nothing like the one driven by the hand of bureaucrats.

Besides, we already have workforce development. It's called college.

And government shouldn't meddle in workforce training any more than it already does at the public college and university level.



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148 -- **Letters and Op Four takeaways from election night's upsets**

June 29, 2016 by Staff Reports @
carolinaledger @thecarolinaledger

With eight new senators joining the Senate in the upcoming legislative session, this June's primary and runoff races taught us a few things—

2016 is the year of the underdog

Especially for challengers in the Upstate, where four Senate incumbents lost their seats.

Perhaps the most notable upset was the runoff election between Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, and former Rep. Rex Rice.

Martin, who led the Judiciary Committee, held his seat since 1993, but lost to his opponent.

Incumbent senators Lee Bright, R-Roebuck, and Wes Hayes, R-Rock Hill, lost to their Haley-backed challengers, Scott Talley and Wes Climer.

William Timmons defeated Sen. Mike Fair, R-Greenville. And Mike Fanning defeated the only sitting Democratic senator with a runoff, Sen. Creighton Coleman, D-Winnsboro.

Haley's endorsements held minimal sway.

Political consultants have—and will

continue to—debated the influence endorsements have over election results.

But if Republican Gov. Nikki Haley's endorsements were any indication, she was only able to sway Republican voters in two of the six Senate races in which she made endorsements.

Haley backed Martin, an ally who led the passage through the Senate of two ethics reform bills she signed last week.

The voters cared more about roads than ethics

Martin was instrumental this year in the passage of ethics reform, which supporters have dubbed the most significant ethics reform victory since the 90s-era Statehouse scandal, Lost Trust.

But that victory wasn't enough to sway the results in his favor. Political analysts say this year's slew of losses by incumbents is likely a nod to the public's impatience over legislative inaction on issues such as roads.

And there's probably some truth to that. But while travelers hurtle over potholes on busy Interstates, it's important to remember that the legislature already moved this year to begin funding road repairs.



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Jessica Cross, Carolina Ledger

Roads may have played a smaller role in the upsets than analysts think.

Lawmakers approved a short-term fix that will leverage existing Department of Motor Vehicle fees of \$200 million annually into a \$2.2 billion borrowing plan for bridges and Interstates.

Leaders in the Legislature say the borrowing plan is a first step to fixing roads. They plan to try for a permanent funding stream again next year, likely in the form of a gas tax increase.

Whether they will succeed remains to be seen. But if the flood of communications lawmakers received this year from voters unwilling to pay higher gas taxes is an indication, they may have a hard time increasing the tax.

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ATC President Receives South Carolina's Highest Civilian Award Aiken County Legislative Delegation also presents



(June 27, 2016, Aiken, SC) Aiken Technical College's retiring President received South Carolina's highest civilian award—the Order of the Palmetto—during a community reception held Monday at the College.

The honor was presented to Dr. Susan A. Winsor by members of the Aiken County Legislative Delegation on behalf of SC Gov. Nikki R. Haley. The Order of the Palmetto honors South Carolina

citizens whose service and achievements have had an impact statewide or on a national level.

"This award is in recognition of your extraordinary work

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and dedication to the citizens of our state," stated a letter from Gov. Haley read by state Sen. Tom Young, Jr. "Through your outstanding leadership as President of Aiken Technical College to your extensive involvement in business and civic affairs, you have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to excellence in all that you do. Your passion for education has not gone unnoticed and your contributions will have a lasting impact for years to come." In addition to the Order of the Palmetto, members of the Legislative Delegation also recognized Winsor with proclamations from both the state's Senate and House of Representatives.

"During her 17 years at Aiken Technical College, the work that she has done really cannot be quantified by words alone... She has done so much for the citizens of this community and this county," said Sen. Young. "We can't thank you enough for the dedication that you've shown to students, to the faculty and to the staff. She has served in various roles throughout the (SC) Technical College System to ensure that a quality technical college education remains affordable, accessible and relevant to the citizens of South Carolina."

Winsor, who was visibly moved by the honors, described serving

in education as a "calling" that she has enjoyed sharing with many over the years.

"We are all here because we care so much about our students and we care so much about our community," she said. "Those of you who are in the business and those who are my

wonderful colleagues here at Aiken Technical College, you know that this is a calling. This is a mission that we take very seriously. So I want to thank all of my colleagues here that have helped me realize the vision that

we hold together for this College. I'm really blessed to be spending my life in a career where you make such a difference in the lives of other people." Winsor has served as ATC's President since September 1999 and has spent more than 30

years within the SC Technical College System. Winsor with Order of Palmetto: Aiken Technical College President Dr. Susan Winsor was awarded the Order of the Palmetto on Monday. The award is South Carolina's highest

civilian honor. Winsor with Proclamations: The Aiken County Legislative Delegation presented Aiken Technical College President Dr. Susan Winsor with proclamation from the SC Senate and SC House of Representatives.



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148 Scrutiny Of SCSU Continues Despite The Appointment Of A New President

By Barney Blakeney

The appointment of James E. Clark as the 12th president of South Carolina State University comes as an abrupt surprise to many and a point of concern for some. Speculation abounds.

Two weeks after the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) lifted its two-year-old probation of the institution, former Provost Dr. W. Franklin Evans, who had served as interim president, resigned. Evans replaced Thomas Elzey at the helm. Elzey's March 2015 termination meant the university's seventh presidential search in 29 years.

Clark becomes president after serving a year as a member of the interim board of trustees seated by the Gov. Nikki Haley and the state's legislature. The seven-member panel charged with overseeing the institution's oper-

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ations until 2018 included Clark, its chairman Charleston businessman Charlie Way, Steve Swanson, Doris Helms, Milton Irvin, Donnie Shell and Jeff Vinzani.

Dismantling of the previously appointed board of trustees and

the appointment of the interim board was to many either the first steps toward making South Carolina State University financially solvent or making it a satellite campus of one of the state's larger university systems. One source said there is no distinction between the legislature and interim board. The interim board serves as the mouth piece of the legislature, the source said.

Other sources have said members of the interim board blatantly undermined Evans' authority. Though Evans navigated the institution through the SACS probation and into financial solvency over the past year, he suddenly resigned, citing other professional interests as his reason and then is replaced with a member of the interim board who's contract is guaranteed four years.

One SCSU alum asked why an interim board that only will be

seated two more years awards a four-year contract to one of its members.

"The way to continue building confidence in the school as more

alumni send their children there would be to leave Evans in place until a permanent board can hire a new president. We know that Historically Black Colleges and Universities around the country are being destroyed. Since SCSU was doing so well on the rebound, maybe this is the legislature's 'Plan B'. I feel like the legislature will be running the school."

That view was shared by another source. "Nobody's talking about the outcome for the university - how do we make the university competitive with others in the state? As institutions increasingly have to compete for funding and students, how will we repair a an institution that has been damaged?"

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James E. Clark will replace Dr. W. Franklin Evans as president of SCSU.



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Carolina Water needs to leave

Normally, we take conservative stands in this space each week. We will make an exception this week.

An irresponsible company — Carolina Water Service — is making a joke of government regulators and once again polluting our rivers and streams.

This is endangering lives.

As Lexington Town Councilman Todd Carnes wrote in a protest letter to state officials, Carolina Water has a long and detailed record of pollution by operating faulty sewage treatment plants with expired and non-renewable permits.

“Often they bring great environmental harm by dumping inadequately treated wastewater into our waterways, most recently making the Saluda River too dangerous for human

exposure during the summer,” Carnes wrote Gov. Haley and legislative leaders.

When the toothless Department of Health and Environmental Control finds them in violation, they receive a slap on the wrist and continue to profit from poor customer service.

Carolina Water has more offenses than any other provider in our state, Carnes says. They should receive punitive fines commensurate with the irreparable harm they cause.

State officials should end Carolina Water’s privilege to do business.

Carnes believes, as do we, that state officials have a duty to our people to:

- Immediately impose and

collect the \$10,000 a day fines for what they’ve done.

- Decommission them, essentially ending their privilege to do business in our state.

- Turn over water and sewer service to someone who will modernize their sewage treatment system that is fouling the lower Saluda River.

Where this is not possible, officials should take all legal steps available to correct the problems with or without Carolina Water Service’s cooperation.

“Our rivers and lakes are an infinitely valuable resource we can not afford to lose to the negligence of irresponsible corporations such as Carolina Water Service,” Carnes says.

Where is our legislative delegation on this?

— jerrybellune@yahoo.com