

Lancaster News  
Lancaster, SC  
Circ. 12696  
From Page:  
B3  
8/30/2015  
62165



## 148 South Carolina passes civics education legislation

From release

**COLUMBIA** – This legislative session, the James B. Edwards Civics Education Initiative was unanimously passed by S.C. General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Nikki Haley.

The initiative helps evaluate and measure the effectiveness of current civics and government instruction by requiring all students to take the 100-question U.S. Citizenship Civics Test.

While passage of the test is not mandatory for graduation, results of the test will be submitted to the Education Oversight Committee for evaluation of current civics education programs.

Initially spearheaded by a bi-partisan group of business leaders and former elected officials, the legislation was shepherded through

the General Assembly by state representative James Smith and Senator Chip Campsen.

They were joined by representatives Bruce Bannister, Gary Simrill, and Beth Bernstein and senators Glen Re-

ese, Greg Gregory and Brad Hutto.

The final version passed without any opposition in either the House or Senate under the direction of Education Committee leaders in both chambers: In the House, Chairman Rita Allison and Representative Tommy Stringer and in the Senate, Chairman John Courson and Senator Wes Hayes.

The assistance and support of State Superintendent of Education, Molly Spearman, was also critical.

"I was proud to see both houses and both parties of

the General Assembly rally around this effort," Smith said.

"Our high school graduates are also our newest voters, and we must ensure they know the basic facts about our government if we expect them to make informed decisions or be engaged in the process. The fact this bill passed without a single vote against it in either chamber speaks volumes."

As former U.S. Secretary of Education Dick Riley pointed out, "This is not a partisan issue. It is an American is-

sue.

Riley served as state co-chairman of the effort and was joined by former governors Hodges and Beasley, as well as Columbia restaurateur Bill Dukes, education activist Karen Iacovelli, Charleston developer Buck

Limehouse, homebuilder Steven Mungo, and the late Gov. James B. Edwards, who died during the effort and for whom the legislation was named.

The Palmetto State joins Arizona, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Idaho, Tennessee and Louisiana in passing civics education legislation this year.

The "Civics Education Initiative" was launched nationally in 2014 by the Joe Foss Institute, an Arizona-based non-profit started by the former two term governor of South Dakota and first commissioner of the American Football League.

The Joe Foss Institute seeks to pass civics education legislation in all 50 states by the 230th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution on Sept. 17, 2017.



Greer Citizen  
Greer, SC  
Circ. 9589  
From Page:  
1  
9/2/2015  
61135



# 148 Greer to launch domestic violence court

BY KENNETH COLLINS MAPLE  
STAFF WRITER

A new domestic violence court will debut in Greer on Oct. 8, according to city officials.

"This is an idea I have been playing with for the last several years, but we just were not at the point where we were ready for this type of specialized court here," said Greer Court Administrator

Kirsten Pressley before announcing the news at a recent city council meeting.

Pressley said the city's

Victims Advocate, Meghan Weibel, and Lt. Eric Pressley of the city's Criminal Investigations Division recently came to her with the same idea, however.

"I was so excited because there was no trying to convince anybody this was a great idea," Kirsten said. "We knew it was. It was the right time."

The court administrator said they initially wanted to move forward with the court, but in order for a prosecutor to come up from Columbia, they had

SEE COURT | A9



Greer Citizen  
Greer, SC  
Circ. 9589  
From Page:  
a9  
9/2/2015  
61135



## COURT: Expected to provide benefit

### FROM PAGE ONE

to have more cases of domestic violence. That's not currently the case. However, by contacting the City of Simpsonville, Greer was able to work out a system in which the city will get the prosecutor on the morning at 8:30 a.m. of each second Thursday of the month and Simpsonville will get the prosecutor in the afternoon, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Megan Gresham is the prosecutor. She has been an assistant attorney general in the South Carolina Attorney General's office since 2012. She currently travels across South Carolina training court officials, judges, lawyers, police officers and others on criminal domestic violence issues. She also prosecutes cases involving violence against women, including criminal domestic violence, criminal sexual conduct, harassment and stalking.

Judges in Greer and Simpsonville are glad to have her and the new court, according to a press release from the city.

"I'm excited about this opportunity. South Carolina is second in the nation in domestic violence deaths so we're clearly not doing something right," said Henry J. Mims, mu-

nicipal judge for the City of Greer. "Our first charge is to make sure defendants have fair treatment. That's always foremost. But we have to understand that victims have rights too. And it's more than just a criminal issue. The impacts range from economic loss, the kids, the rest of the families and

the community in general. If we can draft good solutions and get away from cookie cutter solutions, we can make a difference."

"The proposal extended by the Attorney General's office would result in that office essentially taking over the prosecution of domestic violence cases, whether it be from a plea, bench trial or jury trial standpoint," said Richard C. Moore, chief judge for the City of Simpsonville. "It is our belief that having the resources of the Attorney General's office will better enable the City to serve its citizens and their needs as they pertain to this issue, by allowing a single prosecutor to deal only with those particular issues in our court rather than grouping them with the other myriad of issues handled by our court system and our city prosecutor on a daily basis."

Both Greer and Simpsonville will participate in a three-month trial period

of the court.

"This will benefit the entire community," Kirsten said. "In one session we can bring together the

police officer, a specialized prosecutor, the victim advocate, the victim, witnesses, the defendant, the defense attorney, representatives from batterer treatment programs, and representatives from domestic violence shelters who provide counseling for the victims of domestic violence."

Earlier this year, South Carolina lawmakers took a tougher stance on criminal domestic violence by passing the Domestic Violence Reform Act. The bill, signed on June 4 by Gov. Nikki Haley, allows for harsher penalties based on the number of times an individual has been charged with domestic violence and the severity of the crime.

With recent statistics, it sounds as though cities in South Carolina are in need of domestic violence courts. The Washington-based Violence Policy Center ranks the state second in the country among women murdered by men. They were formerly atop the list.

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The Morning  
News  
Florence, SC  
Circ. 35092  
From Page:  
4  
9/2/2015  
61050



## <sup>148</sup>Pentagon to survey SC brig for Guantanamo detainees

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A Pentagon team is coming to South Carolina this week to evaluate whether the Navy brig near Charleston could be suitable to house detainees from the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, officials said Tuesday.

A small team will visit the brig Wednesday and Thursday, said Cmdr. Gary Ross, a Defense Department spokesman.

"These site surveys are necessary to determine potential locations for detaining a limited number of individuals in the United States, and to assess the costs associated with doing so. Prudent planning and site visits are necessary in order to assess all potential locations and costs associated with any

potential options," Ross said in an emailed statement.

Closing the Guantanamo Bay detention center has been a top priority for President Barack Obama. The effort has faced hurdles, including staunch opposition among both Republicans and Democrats in Congress.

About 52 of the 116 current detainees have been cleared for release. The remaining 64 have been deemed too dangerous.

A similar assessment has already been conducted at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Gov. Nikki Haley and Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback wrote last week to Defense Secretary Ash Carter, threatening to sue the Obama administration if detainees are brought to either state.

Both the House and Senate versions of the 2016 federal defense policy bill maintain prohibitions on transferring detainees to U.S. facilities. The Senate legislation, however, allows the restrictions to be lifted if the White House submits a plan to close the facility and it's approved by Congress.

House and Senate negotiators are working to reconcile the two bills.

South Carolina's Navy brig has previously held a man accused in an al-Qaida terror plotter. Jose Padilla, a U.S. citizen, was held there for more than three years without charge as an enemy combatant before he was indicted in Miami.

A jury found Padilla guilty in 2007. He's serving a 21-year prison sentence.

Title: **South Carolina ranked No. 1 for jobs linked to foreign investment**

Author:

Size: 25.57 square inch

Laurens, SC Circulation: 7825



## South Carolina ranked No. 1 for jobs linked to foreign investment

For the third time in the last four years, IBM-Plant Location International (IBM-PLI) has ranked South Carolina first per million inhabitants in attracting jobs through foreign investment. In this year's report, the Palmetto State is ranked above Tennessee and Kentucky, which are second and third, respectively.

"The reason we've seen so much success in recruiting international companies to South Carolina is our highly-skilled workforce that has proven, time and time again, that it's capable of making any product, and making it well," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "With major companies like Daimler and Volvo Cars continuing to move into our state, we have shown the world that when you invest in our state and her people, we will wrap our arms around you and warmly welcome you to the South Carolina family. This ranking by IBM-Plant Location International truly is a testament to everything that South Carolina has to offer as a destination for businesses from around the world."

Each year, IBM-PLI publishes a report titled Global Location Trends, looking at foreign investment around the globe. The report outlines the latest trends in corporate location selection, showing where

companies are locating and expanding their businesses and creating jobs. The numbers in the new report were based on data gathered in 2014.

In addition to ranking first in foreign investment job creation per capita in this year's report, the Palmetto State also holds the spot for job creation through both foreign and out-of-state domestic investment per capita. Furthermore, South Carolina ranks third in total absolute jobs created through foreign investment.

"With more than 1,200 international establishments currently operating within our borders, South Carolina is enjoying tremendous success in foreign investment, and this ranking by IBM-PLI is a confirmation of that. Moving forward, the recruitment of international companies will remain a critical component of our economic development strategy as we seek to cultivate a dynamic, globally-connected economy," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

The full report can be accessed online at [www.ibm.com/gbs/pli](http://www.ibm.com/gbs/pli).

Title: **Unions ready to fight**

Author:

Size: 17.98 square inch

Georgetown, SC Circulation: 11000



### Unions ready to fight

To the editor,

On Sept. 10 in a Georgetown hotel meeting room a group met for the 59th year here in South Carolina. There were no news crews or reporters in attendance.

This group awarded scholarships to members' children and grandchildren. The group discussed issues that affect citizens of our state and asked politicians to come and be a part of those conversations. The members have family ties to South Carolina dating back hundreds of years and are staples in their communities. The members of this group through a democratic process elected an executive board to work within our state for the betterment of the organization.

This organization discussed how it could help the Georgetown community after the devastating closure of the steel mill. Gov. Haley, who is younger than the time that this organization has been serving South Carolina, was invited to learn what this organization is and does in her state but was unable to attend.

This organization, a staple for almost 60 years, is none other than the SC AFL-CIO. An organization of unions with members who live across the state of South Carolina. An organization that has been repeatedly been told that it does not exist here in our state by Gov. Haley.

I encourage Gov. Haley and all our legislators to reach out to this organization to speak with the members and learn our history.

To learn that a labor organization is more than the internationalists that our politicians like to say are the ones pushing labor issues in our state.

To learn the stories of the struggles of the citizens of South Carolina and how the SC AFL-CIO works to help with those struggles. But, most of all, to learn that we are here, and we are not going any were without a fight because we fight for our ancestors, as well as our children's future.

*Joe Shelley*  
*Vice President*  
*SC AFL-CIO*

Title: **Game is over, governor**

Author:

Size: 19.68 square inch

Georgetown, SC Circulation: 11000



### Game is over, governor

To the editor,  
Applause from the audience.  
“Welcome to the new reality game show ‘SO YOU THINK YOU HAVE A DEAL,’ brought to you by the American Petroleum Institute. I’m Bob Blowhard, your host. Don, who is our first guest?”

Don: “Gov. Nikki Haley, COME ON DOWN.”

Bob: “Gov. Haley, you get to choose what’s behind door number one labeled ‘Money, Money, Money,’ door number two labeled ‘Jobs, Jobs, Jobs,’ or door number three labeled ‘Political Aspirations.’ Which door do you choose first?”

Gov. Haley: “Our great state needs money for all the programs it can’t afford, so I’ll choose door number one.”

Bob: “Sorry, governor, but President Obama and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell have decided that revenue sharing from offshore drilling should not go to the states so they kept it. You get zip. Care to try another door?”

Gov. Haley: “Well, we really do need jobs and offshore drilling needs infrastructure, and Georgetown could be the next Port Fourchon. I’ll take door number two.”

Bob: “Sorry again, governor,

but the oil drillers need suppliers right away and it would take years to develop that kind of port in Georgetown. They picked Norfolk, Virginia, because it is already a huge deep water port, has no bridges to get under, has Newport News Shipbuilders right there to make repairs or build new supply ships, and has freeways and railheads already built in. No jobs for South Carolina there. You have one door left.”

Gov. Haley: “Well, at least I still have my political career to fall back on. I’ll take door number three.”

Bob: “Sorry, Gov. Haley. Through some odd quirk of politics, a circus clown was nominated by the GOP to run for president, and he has chosen a swimsuit model as his running mate because she is ‘So hot.’ Don, what kind of parting gifts do we have for the governor?”

Don: “Well, governor, we have a hearty ‘Thank you’ to give you and bus fare back to South Carolina. And now for our next guest: U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, COME ON DOWN.”

Applause from the audience.  
*Ed Yaw*  
*Pawleys Island*

Title: **Unions ready to fight**  
 Author:  
 Size: 17.98 square inch  
 Garden City Beach, SC Circulation: 7500



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*Pawleys Island*

Title: **SC ranks No. 1 for deadly violence against women**  
 Author: Associated Press  
 Size: 25.11 square inch  
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



# SC ranks No. 1 for deadly violence against women

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina again ranked worst in the nation for deadly violence against women, according to a report released Tuesday by the Violence Policy Center.

Ranking first among states for women murdered by men, South Carolina had a rate of 2.32 women killed per 100,000 people in 2013.

That's more than twice the national average and represents 57 known deaths, compared with 50 a year earlier, according to the study.

South Carolina ranked second last year and has been in the report's top 10 annually for the last 18 years. This is the fourth time that the state

ranked worst in the nation.

The study found that nationwide, 94 percent of women killed by men were murdered by someone they knew, and the most common weapon used was a gun.

Domestic violence and gun ownership were widely discussed this past session in the South Carolina Legislature, which ultimately approved a bill aimed at stemming the state's persistently high rate. The bill signed into law by Gov. Nikki Haley both increases penalties and gives prosecutors more options for punishment.

Charges will now be based on a combination of the

severity of the abuse and the number of offenses and circumstances surrounding the crime. The law also bans some batterers from having guns. In a statement, Kristen Rand of the Violence Policy Center commended states including South Carolina for tackling the issue but said more improvement is clearly needed.

"Yet in the face of these alarming statistics, more needs to be done at the federal and state levels to protect women from abuse and prevent future tragedies," Rand said.

Haley's task force, which

has been meeting all year on domestic violence, issued dozens of recommendations last month, including training more 911 operators, improving documentation of the crime scene and increasing the number of shelters statewide.

Other recommendations include making paperwork for victims easier to fill out and more uniform and increasing the availability of emergency shelters.

The report comes just ahead of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. The study uses the latest data available from the FBI for crimes involving one male killing one female.

Title: **Pro Towels to hire 50, invest \$1.7M in Abbeville**  
 Author: By COLIN RIDDLE criddle@indexjournal.com  
 Size: 32.86 square inch  
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



# Pro Towels to hire 50, invest \$1.7M in Abbeville

By COLIN RIDDLE

criddle@indexjournal.com

Pro Towels will hire 50 more workers at its Abbeville County plant during the next five years, the state Department of Commerce announced Tuesday.

The company, which bills itself as the largest towel supplier to the promotional product industry, will invest \$1.7 million to upfit its current 300,000-square-foot facility and invest in new machinery, according to a news release.

"Abbeville County is working diligently, along with many partners, to foster a positive environment for business to grow and flourish. Pro Towels announcing their commitment to invest in Abbeville County shows that our community is primed for continued economic and community growth. Pro Towels has proven themselves to be an excellent corporate citizen since they first broke ground in Abbeville County, and we are very excited to see them succeed," Abbeville

County Council Chairman Bryan McClain said.

Last month, the company announced it was acquiring Vancouver-based Kanata Blanket Co. Plans include partially relocating Kanata's operations into the Pro Towels facility at 234 Industrial Park Road in Abbeville.

Pro Towels is a privately held, Pittsburgh-based firm with operations in Abbeville and California and was established in 2006 when Towels Etc. acquired Professional Towel Mills. The company makes promotional products, such as beach, golf, fitness and rally towels, as well as bathrobes, blankets and sweatshirts.

"Pro Towels has long enjoyed an excellent relationship with Abbeville County and the state of South Carolina. We appreciate the cooperation that both have demonstrated as we continue to grow our business. Abbeville has been an ideal home for us,

and the strength of the local community and its high-quality workforce will continue to be the backbone for our success. We look forward to a bright future in Abbeville with this expansion," Kevin Nord, president of Pro Towels, said in a statement.

Hiring for the new jobs should begin mid-2016 and the company expects to finish the expansion by late 2020.

In a statement, Gov. Nikki Haley said it is exciting when a company decides to expand operations and Pro Towels' announcement demonstrates the company's commitment to the state.

Those interested in applying should contact Melissa Mason, human resources manager, at [mmason@pro-towels.com](mailto:mmason@pro-towels.com). Applications can only be filled out at the Abbeville facility. For information, visit [www.protowels.com](http://www.protowels.com).

