

Title: **Evangelical leaders seek Haley's help on transgender issue**
 Author: Wire, Staff Reports
 Size: 17.67 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Evangelical leaders seek Haley's help on transgender issue

Wire, Staff Reports

The presidents of seven evangelical Christian colleges want S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley to protect institutions like theirs from mandates on the use of bathrooms by transgender students.

In a letter Monday, the presidents of schools, including Bob Jones University in Greenville and Columbia International University in Columbia, ask the Republican to use her platform to "promote religious freedom."

The presidents specifically cited as a threat a California proposal that



Haley

would deny college students in that state the ability to take part in grant programs if their schools were found in violation of California's gender-identity policies. The California proposal would have no weight in South Carolina.

However, the presidents also warn mandates like the Obama Administration's order requiring public schools to let transgender students use bathrooms consistent with their chosen gender iden-

tity could violate "the privacy and modesty of students" who object based on religious values.

A federal judge has blocked the administration's order. The judge ruled federal education law "is not ambiguous" about sex being defined as "the biological and anatomical differences between male and female students as determined at their birth."

Also, among the presidents signing the letter were the heads of Anderson University, Charleston Southern University, Erskine College, North Greenville University and Southern Wesleyan.

Title: **School discipline, academics and the 18th horse**
 Author:
 Size: 57.97 column inches
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



CINDI ROSS SCOPPE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
THE STATE

School discipline, academics and the 18th horse

AFTER I WROTE last week about our state's disturbingly broad disturbing schools law, I got a letter to the editor and a letter to me that both referred to the October incident when a Richland County sheriff's deputy tossed a student from her desk and arrested her. Both letters asked, essentially: How else was the deputy supposed to remove the student from the classroom if she wouldn't let go of the desk?

And I remembered the story of the 18th horse.

"A farmer died," goes the story that was making the rounds on email chains last summer, "leaving his 17 horses to his three sons.

"When his sons opened up the will it read: My eldest son should get half of (the) total horses; My middle son should be given one third of the total horses; My youngest son should be given one ninth of the total horses.

"As it's impossible to divide 17 into half or 17 by 3 or 17 by 9, the three sons started to fight with each other.

"So, they decided to go to a farmer friend who they considered quite smart, to see if he could work it out for them.

"The farmer friend read the will patiently, (and) after giving due thought, he brought one of his own horses over and added it to the 17. That increased the

total to 18 horses.

"Now, he divided the horses according to their father's will.

"Half of 18 = 9. So he gave the eldest son 9 horses.

"A third of 18 = 6. So he gave the middle son 6 horses.

"A ninth of 18 = 2. So he gave the youngest son 2 horses.

"Now add up how many horses they have:

"Eldest son: 9

"Middle son: 6

"Youngest son: 2

"TOTAL = 17

"Now this leaves one horse over, so the farmer friend takes his horse back to his farm.

"Problem solved.

"Moral: The attitude of negotiation and problem solving is to find the '18th horse' — that is the common ground. Once a person is able to find the 18th horse, the issue is resolved. It is difficult at times. However, to reach a solution, the first step is to believe that there is a solution. If we think that there is no solution, we won't be able to reach any! Would be a good idea if all our politicians could do farmer math!"

What else could the deputy have done at Spring Valley? What if that's the wrong question?

Imagine what would have happened if, instead of calling in a school resource officer, the assistant principal had brought in the 18th horse. If he had said to the student who refused to

hand over her cell phone and then refused to leave: "Fine, I'll deal with you after class. And the results will be much worse than if you leave with me now." If he had then turned to the teacher and said: "Resume teaching. I'll just take a seat in the back in case the student decides she's ready to leave."

To me, there are no more daunting public-policy questions than how to improve the situation in our schools — whether that involves discipline or test scores, how to teach difficult-to-teach students or how to convince students to want to learn.

I can tell you how to make our highways safer, or make our tax code smarter, or prevent melt-downs like the one going on at the Richland County Recreation Commission, or improve our ethics law or our judicial-selection law or deal with a host of other problems. But those school problems don't have obvious answers, in large part because critics are absolutely correct to lay them at the feet of parents who don't do their jobs. What those critics refuse to recognize is that we

have to find answers even when they aren't obvious.

After I wrote in an earlier column that we have to make sure children in our state get a decent education, that we don't have the option of throwing them away, I got a call from a

Title: **School discipline, academics and the 18thhorse**
 Author:
 Size: 57.97 column inches
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015

man who said we could never do that until we stopped irresponsible people from having children. I tried to explain that while I would love to do that, the federal courts simply would not allow it. But the man who had just told me it was pointless for our schools to even try to educate those kids replied that my response wasn't acceptable because he doesn't accept "it's impossible" for an answer.

Although he was wrong to believe his solution *was* possible, he was right to reject the idea of impossible.

Imagine what would happen if — instead of saying there's nothing we can do to control misbehaving kids, or to teach difficult-to-teach children, because only more responsible parents can make a difference — we adopted Gov Nikki Haley's "can't isn't an option" mantra.

Imagine what would happen if — instead of declaring that 17 isn't divisible by three or two or nine, or shooting horses until we get to a number that is — we all searched together until we located that 18th horse.

Ms. Scoppe can be reached at cscoppe@thestate.com or at (803) 771-8571.

“

WHAT ELSE COULD THE DEPUTY HAVE DONE AT SPRING VALLEY? WHAT IF THAT'S THE WRONG QUESTION?



Title: **State evangelical leaders seek Haley's help on transgender issue**
Author: Associated Press
Size: 18.6 column inches
Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



State evangelical leaders seek Haley's help on transgender issue

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Presidents of seven evangelical Christian colleges are asking South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to protect their institutions from mandates on the use of bathrooms by transgender students. They want the Republican to use her platform to "promote religious freedom."

The presidents warned in a letter delivered Monday that the Obama administration's order requiring public schools to let transgender students use bathrooms consistent with their chosen gender identity could violate "the privacy and modesty of students" who object based on religious values.

Such mandates "could ultimately deny us the ability to fulfill our faith-based missions by taking away our freedom to hire and dismiss

employees, provide health care for our employees, protect the privacy of our students in restrooms, showers, and residence halls, and deny our students the ability to use the federal and state financial aid to which they are entitled at faith-based universities," they said.

The letter was signed by the presidents of Bob Jones University, Columbia International University, Charleston Southern University, North Greenville University, Erskine College and Seminary, Southern Wesleyan University and Anderson University.

Haley said she appreciated their input.

"South Carolina has a proud tradition of upholding religious freedom," she said in a response provided to The Associated Press. "I look forward to working with the universities to make sure we continue to honor that tradition."

Title: **School discipline, academics and the 18th horse**
 Author:
 Size: 57.81 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



CINDI ROSS SCOPPE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
THE STATE

School discipline, academics and the 18th horse

AFTER I WROTE last week about our state's disturbingly broad disturbing schools law, I got a letter to the editor and a letter to me that both referred to the October incident when a Richland County sheriff's deputy tossed a student from her desk and arrested her. Both letters asked, essentially: How else was the deputy supposed to remove the student from the classroom if she wouldn't let go of the desk?

And I remembered the story of the 18th horse.

"A farmer died," goes the story that was making the rounds on email chains last summer, "leaving his 17 horses to his three sons.

"When his sons opened up the will it read: My eldest son should get half of (the) total horses; My middle son should be given one third of the total horses; My youngest son should be given one ninth of the total horses.

"As it's impossible to divide 17 into half or 17 by 3 or 17 by 9, the three sons started to fight with each other.

"So, they decided to go to a farmer friend who they considered quite smart, to see if he could work it out for them.

"The farmer friend read the will patiently, (and) after giving due thought, he brought one of his own horses over and added it to the 17. That increased the

total to 18 horses.

"Now, he divided the horses according to their father's will.

"Half of 18 = 9. So he gave the eldest son 9 horses.

"A third of 18 = 6. So he gave the middle son 6 horses.

"A ninth of 18 = 2. So he gave the youngest son 2 horses.

"Now add up how many horses they have:

"Eldest son: 9

"Middle son: 6

"Youngest son: 2

"TOTAL = 17

"Now this leaves one horse over, so the farmer friend takes his horse back to his farm.

"Problem solved.

"Moral: The attitude of negotiation and problem solving is to find the '18th horse' — that is the common ground. Once a person is able to find the 18th horse, the issue is resolved. It is difficult at times. However, to reach a solution, the first step is to believe that there is a solution. If we think that there is no solution, we won't be able to reach any! Would be a good idea if all our politicians could do farmer math!"

What else could the deputy have done at Spring Valley? What if that's the wrong question?

Imagine what would have happened if, instead of calling in a school resource officer, the assistant principal had brought in the 18th horse. If he had said to the student who refused to

hand over her cell phone and then refused to leave: "Fine, I'll deal with you after class. And the results will be much worse than if you leave with me now." If he had then turned to the teacher and said: "Resume teaching. I'll just take a seat in the back in case the student decides she's ready to leave."

To me, there are no more daunting public-policy questions than how to improve the situation in our schools — whether that involves discipline or test scores, how to teach difficult-to-teach students or how to convince students to want to learn.

I can tell you how to make our highways safer, or make our tax code smarter, or prevent melt-downs like the one going on at the Richland County Recreation Commission, or improve our ethics law or our judicial-selection law or deal with a host of other problems. But those school problems don't have obvious answers, in large part because critics are absolutely correct to lay them at the feet of parents who don't do their jobs. What those critics refuse to recognize is that we have to find answers even when they aren't obvious.

After I wrote in an earlier column that we have to make sure children in our state get a decent education, that we don't have the option of throwing them away, I got a call from a

Title: **School discipline, academics and the 18thhorse**
 Author:
 Size: 57.81 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688

man who said we could never do that until we stopped irresponsible people from having children. I tried to explain that while I would love to do that, the federal courts simply would not allow it. But the man who had just told me it was pointless for our schools to even try to educate those kids replied that my response wasn't acceptable because he doesn't accept "it's impossible" for an answer.

Although he was wrong to believe his solution *was* possible, he was right to reject the idea of impossible.

Imagine what would happen if — instead of saying there's nothing we can do to control misbehaving kids, or to teach difficult-to-teach children, because only more responsible parents can make a difference — we adopted Gov Nikki Haley's "can't isn't an option" mantra.

Imagine what would happen if — instead of declaring that 17 isn't divisible by three or two or nine, or shooting horses until we get to a number that is — we all searched together until we located that 18th horse.

Ms. Scoppe can be reached at cscoppe@thestate.com or at (803) 771-8571.

“

WHAT ELSE COULD THE DEPUTY HAVE DONE AT SPRING VALLEY? WHAT IF THAT'S THE WRONG QUESTION?



Title: **Evangelicals seek Haley's help on transgender mandates**
 Author: ByMeg Kinnard AssociatedPress
 Size: 34.41 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



POLITICS

Evangelicals seek Haley's help on transgender mandates

■ Church leaders worry that religious freedom is being jeopardized with orders such as the Obama administration's mandate to require public schools let transgender students use restrooms consistent with their chosen gender

By Meg Kinnard

Associated Press
 COLUMBIA

Presidents of seven South Carolina evangelical Christian colleges are asking Gov. Nikki Haley to protect their institu-



Haley

tions from mandates on the use of bathrooms by transgender students. They want the Republican to use her platform to "promote religious freedom."

The presidents warned in a letter delivered Monday that the Obama administration's order requiring public schools to let transgender students use restrooms consistent with their chosen gender identity could violate "the privacy and modesty of students" who object based on religious values.

Such mandates "could ulti-

mately deny us the ability to fulfill our faith-based missions by taking away our freedom to hire and dismiss employees, provide health care for our employees, protect the privacy of our students in restrooms, showers, and residence halls, and deny our students the ability to use the federal and state financial aid to which they are entitled at faith-based universities," they said.

The letter was signed by the presidents of Bob Jones University, Columbia International University, Charleston Southern University, North Greenville University, Erskine College and Seminary, Southern Wesleyan University and Anderson University.

Haley said she appreciated their input.

"South Carolina has a proud tradition of upholding religious

freedom," she said in a response provided to The Associated Press. "I look forward to working with the universities to make sure we continue to honor that tradition."

With North Carolina facing economic boycotts and federal litigation over its law limiting discrimination protections and bathroom choices, a related effort failed in South Carolina's legislative session this year, and Haley actively campaigned against the bill's sponsor, Sen. Lee Bright, who then lost his re-election bid.

But a federal judge in Texas recently favored the colleges' position, blocking the Obama administration's order and saying federal education law "is not ambiguous" about sex being defined as "the biological and anatomical differences between male and female students as

determined at their birth."

Kevin Caiello of the Palmetto Family Council, which distributed the letter, said the educators also were prompted to action by pending California legislation, which they fear other states could pursue as well.

Religious colleges in California have vigorously campaigned against SB1146, which would have allowed LGBT students to more easily sue religious schools for discrimination.

The bill's sponsor removed language to eliminate a long-standing exemption from state anti-discrimination laws for religious institutions and potentially expose them to civil rights lawsuits. A weaker version would still require institutions to disclose any exemptions they assert from federal Title IX rules against discrimination.

Title: **City likely spend \$1.3M on police body, dash cams**
 Author: BY DAVID THACKHAM dthackham@heraldonline.com
 Size: 55.64 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688


ROCK HILL

City likely spend \$1.3M on police body, dash cams

■ The Rock Hill City Council on Monday approved an agreement to purchase \$1.3 million worth of body and dash camera equipment to outfit all of its sworn officers. The contract likely will be signed by City Manager David Vebaun.

BY DAVID THACKHAM

dthackham@heraldonline.com

ROCK HILL

The city of Rock Hill will likely pay \$1.3 million over five years to provide body-worn cameras, dash cameras and related file storage equipment for police use, after a decision Monday by the City Council to approve an agreement with Taser International.

The council voted 6-0 to approve Taser's fee, while agreeing to pass the contract to City Manager David Vebaun and city attorney Paul Dillingham for final review and signing. Assuming there are no substantive changes, Vebaun will likely sign the contract.

The lease-purchase agreement will outfit each of Rock Hill's 151 sworn officers, as well as provide six extra units. It would include more than 100 in-car dash cameras, as well as storage and file software, so officers could catalog and retrieve footage.

The Rock Hill Police Department had been research-

ing companies as early as January, and received written quotes from four different vendors between May and July. The full cost over five years will total \$1,334,200.

Mayor Doug Echols praised police Chief Chris Watts and his department for its work, and said he believed the technology would keep all parties accountable.

"It's good to have that visual record for everyone concerned," Echols said. "It's both for the protection of the public and the police."

After two and a half years, the city could trade in its body cameras for potential new models. After the five years, the contract would be up and the city could then decide whether to continue that current deal to provide for upgrades and software services.

The dash cameras could be replaced every five years. Both types of cameras come with no-fault warranties, Watts said.

The city already has approved in this year's budget a new position for the police department to handle all of the incoming footage from dash and body cameras.

The proposed software administrator would deal with the system's software, file retrieval and cataloging of the footage so it could be organized and retrieved at a later date.

David Biggers, captain of technical services with the police department, told the council that the position was necessary to deal with the projected four and a half terabytes of footage that could come in each year.

Taser International's cameras offer pre-event recording, which records the previous minute before an officer presses the record button. A camera can be programmed to begin recording when a patrol car's blue lights

SEE CAMERAS, 4A

FROM PAGE 1A

CAMERAS

are turned on or a weapon is retrieved from a car's weapons rack.

Monday night's council vote drew praise from Brad Rawlinson, a Rock

Hill attorney and leader of the group Concerned Black Men of the city of Rock Hill.

Rawlinson and several black leaders last month delivered a list of 10

demands they believe will create more transparency in police actions. One of those demands was the cessation of patrols using vehicles without visible

police markings, radar equipment and/or video equipment.

Rawlinson said he was happy for all parties concerned, saying that new



Title: **City likely spend\$1.3M onpolice body,dash cams**
 Author: BY DAVIDTHACKHAM dthackham@heraldonline.com
 Size: 55.64 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688

equipment would keep everyone safe.

"I'm just happy," he said. "I think they deserve congratulations this afternoon. ... I think the city showed how good it is at

its core."

S.C. Rep. John King, D-Rock Hill, said the decision brought a smile to his face.

"The city has probably done more than other

cities to have 100 percent of their officers using body cameras," he said. "It's a move in the right direction."

Gov. Nikki Haley signed into law last summer a bill

that requires all law enforcement officers to wear body cameras.

David Thackham:
 803-329-4066,
 @dthackham

“

THE CITY HAS PROBABLY DONE MORE THAN OTHER CITIES TO HAVE 100 PERCENT OF THEIR OFFICERS USING BODY CAMERAS. IT'S A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

S.C. Rep. John King, D-Rock Hill

Title: **Council to consider contract to buy \$1.3M in body, dash camera equipment for police**
 Author: BY DAVID THACKHAM dthackham@heraldonline.com
 Size: 46.03 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



ROCK HILL

Council to consider contract to buy \$1.3M in body, dash camera equipment for police

■ If the City Council approves the contract, Rock Hill would pay for body cameras for each of its 151 sworn officers, as well as six extras, according to city spokesperson Katie Quinn.

BY DAVID THACKHAM

dthackham@heraldonline.com

ROCK HILL

The Rock Hill City Council will consider a contract Monday to pay \$1.3 million over five years to provide body-worn cameras, dash cameras and related file storage equipment for police use.

If the City Council approves the contract, Rock Hill would pay for body

cameras for each of its 151 sworn officers, as well as six extras, according to city spokesperson Katie Quinn.

The lease-purchase agreement would also include more than 100 in-car dash cameras, as well as storage and file software, so officers could catalog and retrieve footage.

During Monday's meeting, the council will review the contract, then vote on whether to approve it.

The Rock Hill Police Department had been researching companies as early as January, according to Quinn, and received written quotes from four different vendors between May and July.

The full cost over five

years would total \$1,334,200.

After two and a half years, the city could trade in its cameras for potential new models.

After the five years, the contract would be up and the city could then decide whether to continue that current deal to provide for

SEE CAMERAS, 5A

FROM PAGE 1A

CAMERAS

upgrades and software services.

"It's been an item of interest for quite some time," said councilwoman Sandra Oborokumo. "It's something that's been in the works for a while."

The city has already approved in this year's budget a new position for the police department to handle all of the incoming footage from dash and body cameras, according to Quinn.

The proposed software administrator would deal with the system's software, file retrieval and cataloging of the footage so it could be organized and retrieved at a later

date.

Taser International's cameras offered pre-event recording, which records the previous minute before an officer presses the record button, says Quinn. Also, she said a camera can be programmed to begin recording when a patrol car's blue lights are turned on or a weapon is retrieved from a car's weapons rack.

"One of the officers was telling me that it was important to go with the company that had proven technology," said Quinn. "And Taser is one of those companies."

The move drew praise

from Brad Rawlinson, a local Rock Hill attorney and leader of the activist group Concerned Black Men of the City of Rock Hill.

Rawlinson and several black leaders last month delivered a list of 10 demands they believe will create more transparency in police actions.

One of those demands was the cessation of patrols using vehicles without visible police markings, radar equipment and/or video equipment.

Gov. Nikki Haley signed into law last summer a bill that requires all law enforcement officers to wear body cameras.

"I'm happy with the fact that they're moving forward with something that's long overdue," said Rawlinson.

"I'm especially happy with the fact that the contract appears to include in-car cameras, which is probably the one demand I believe had no legitimate argument on the other side. ... Assuming the contract gets signed, we can cross that off the list and move forward and continue to make the city better."

David Thackham:
803-329-4066,
@dthackham

Title: **Council to consider contract to buy \$1.3M in body, dash camera equipment for police**
Author: BY DAVID THACKHAM dthackham@heraldonline.com
Size: 46.03 column inches
Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



TASER INTERNATIONAL

The Rock Hill City Council
will consider a contract
Monday with Taser
International to provide
cameras for police.

Title: **YOURPHOTOS, YOURLIFE**

Author:

Size: 21.39 column inches

Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



YOUR PHOTOS, YOUR LIFE



SUSAN BLACKBURN Submitted

PURPLE HEART TRIBUTE

The Col. Jimmie Leach Purple Heart Chapter recently paid tribute to veterans at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island after Gov. Nikki Haley proclaimed Aug. 7 as Purple Heart Day. Pictured from left are Rueben Cedeno, Paul Sweet, Elizabeth Laban and Glenn Blackburn.

Title: **SC flood victims still need assistance**
 Author: BY BRUCE SMITH Associated Press
 Size: 35.34 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



SC flood victims still need assistance

■ Historic floods were almost a year ago, but thousands of people still are dealing with home damage and other problems.

BY BRUCE SMITH

Associated Press

CHARLESTON

Thousands of people in South Carolina still need home repairs, while the state has submitted a plan for using almost \$100 million in federal housing aid almost a year after historic rains inundated the state. The state is now also reviewing applications from farmers for state help.

Last October's rains, which some experts say was an event that happens only once every

1,000 years, dropped upward of 2 feet of rain, and the long-term recovery from such an event generally takes three to seven years.

Recovery agencies are still working with about 3,600 clients, many of whom are still living in storm-damaged homes. The state is reviewing applications from farmers for millions of dollars state lawmakers earmarked earlier this year for farm aid. And South Carolina for-

warded a plan to the federal government last month for using federal money to help for home repairs.

A look at the ongoing recovery:

THOUSANDS STILL IN NEED

Falon Alo, the executive director of Hearts & Hands Disaster Recovery, the flooding case

SEE SC FLOOD, 10A

FROM PAGE 3A

SC FLOOD

management provider for the state, says the agency currently has 3,600 clients in the 24 counties that were declared disaster areas after the floods. "Just about every single one of them is living in an unsafe home with mold infestation, buckling floor and roofs that still leak when it rains because they have no place else to go," she says.

IN PEE DEE, NEEDY INCLUDE ELDERLY, DISABLED

While other areas of the state, notably Charleston and Columbia, were hit hard, most of those still in need help live in the Pee Dee area. "The vast majority of our clients are people who are elderly and disabled and living in poverty," Alo says. They in-

clude an 8-year-old boy who is on the list for a heart transplant.

HELP FROM THE FEDS

After the storm, about 103,000 people registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for individual assistance. About 28,000 received some help with the average grant about \$3,000.

The state is getting almost \$100 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and last month submitted an action plan that is now being reviewed. The first aid checks could come in January.

AID FOR FARMERS

Stephanie Sox of the state Department of Agriculture says

the department hopes to issue checks for farmers affected by the flood by Oct. 1. This week was the deadline for most farmers to apply, although farmers in three upstate counties have until Sept. 6 because those counties were added to the federal disaster declaration later. The aid comes from \$40 million lawmakers approved over Gov. Nikki Haley's veto. The money will be some help, although it's estimated the floods caused farm losses of \$375 million.

ROAD TO RECOVERY

The Department of Transportation reported this week that sections of 31 state roads remain closed, well down from about 550 closed after the

Title: **SC flood victims still need assistance**
Author: BY BRUCE SMITH Associated Press
Size: 35.34 column inches
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

storm. Twenty-three roads are
closed because they cross dams
the state does not maintain.

Title: **South Carolina jobless rate dips to 5.2 percent**
 Author: BY JEFF WILKINSON jwilkinson@thestate.com
 Size: 23.87 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



South Carolina jobless rate dips to 5.2 percent

BY JEFF WILKINSON
jwilkinson@thestate.com

South Carolina's unemployment rate for July dropped to 5.2 percent in July from 5.4 percent in June, its lowest level since June 2001.

It is the third straight month the jobless rate in South Carolina has dropped.

"When we talk about priorities like workforce training and investments in education and students, there's a reason we do it — it's paying off," Gov. Nikki Haley said in a prepared statement.

Nationally, the unemployment rate remained the same from June to July at 4.9 percent.

Over the year, the state's jobless rate fell 0.5 percent from 5.7 percent, with the number of unemployed down 8,310. The number of people employed increased by 60,603, and the labor force rose by 52,293.

The most prominent increases were in the professional and business services sector with an increase of 2,300 jobs,

and government with an increase of 2,100 jobs.

Gains were also reported in the leisure and hospitality sector (800), education and health services (400) and financial activities (100). Industries shedding jobs included manufacturing, which dropped 1,000 and construction, down 900.

Over the month, unemployment declined by 4,858 to 120,788, while employment declined by 2,430 people to 2,182,646.

This resulted in a decrease in the labor force of 7,288 people to a total of 2,303,434.

Bamberg County registered the state's highest unemployment rate at 10.5 percent. Lexington County had the lowest rate at 4.9 percent.

Richland County's jobless rate dropped to 5.3 percent in July from 5.6 percent in June.

The Columbia metropolitan statistical region dropped to 5.1 percent from 5.3 percent in June.