

Title: **Deaths of uninsured on Haley's shoulders**

Author:

Size: 11.31 square inch

Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Deaths of uninsured on Haley's shoulders

Our governor and the Republican majority in the Legislature have followed the party line and simplistically declared that the Affordable Care Act is “wrong for South Carolina,” without providing hard facts to back up that slogan. They have tried to block the law’s implementation by refusing to accept federal Medicaid funds.

Apparently the few hundred preventable deaths predicted in South Carolina per year is an acceptable number in taking this ideological stand. After all, it will only be a few poor people dying from medical neglect.

But the people who die because they don’t have Medicaid coverage aren’t numbers. They have names and faces. They have friends and relatives who will mourn their needless deaths and remember who was responsible. This policy of neglect, along with the continuing underfunding of services for our mentally ill citizens, is part of Nikki Haley’s legacy.

She continues to prove that she’s no ally of poor people with treatable medical conditions and that she doesn’t grasp the wisdom of the ounce of prevention equaling a pound of cure.

– Jeff Koob
Columbia

Title: **State employees to be paid for work missed**

Author:

Size: 10.38 square inch

Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



State employees to be paid for work missed

COLUMBIA — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley eased the concerns of numerous workers by announcing that state employees will be paid for the time their offices were closed during flooding two weeks ago.

Haley said Monday that she intends to sign an executive order granting paid leave to affected employees.

“We’ve always done that, for storms and for everything else,” Haley said at a news conference.

“It’s always been very consistent that (state employees) will get that paid leave off.”

Offices such as those at the University of South Carolina were closed for the entire first week of October.

The paid leave is important for state employees such as William Boland.

“I know it’s easy to criticize, but we get out and we work hard,” Boland said. “A lot of us are coming to work under conditions where we can’t even wash our clothes or take a shower.”

State officials say there isn’t a special fund for the money. Rather, the money will come from the agencies as if the week was worked as normal.

Haley said the executive order hasn’t come to her yet, but she believes it will be signed in the next few days.

Title: **SBA opens business recovery center in N. Chas.**
 Author: BY WARREN L. WISE wwise@postandcourier.com
 Size: 37.82 square inch
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



SBA opens business recovery center in N. Chas.

BY WARREN L. WISE
wwise@postandcourier.com

Businesses affected by the recent flooding across South Carolina can apply for low-interest disaster loans in North Charleston starting Wednesday.

The U.S. Small Business Administration is setting up a "business recovery center" in the Trident United Way Building at 6296 Rivers Ave. in

Suite 304. It will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

"SBA's customer service representatives will be available at the center to provide program information and assistance in completing disaster loan applications," said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA field operations center east.

Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester

and Colleton are among 20 South Carolina counties declared disaster areas after the once-in-a-thousand-years storm Oct. 1-4.

Others are Bamberg, Calhoun, Clarendon, Darlington, Florence, Georgetown, Greenwood, Horry, Kershaw,

Please see **CENTER**, Page B3

SBA opens business recovery center to help owners with disaster loans

CENTER, from B1

Lee, Lexington, Orangeburg, Newberry, Richland, Sumter and Williamsburg.

Businesses in the counties are eligible for both physical and economic injury disaster loans from the Small Business Administration.

Small businesses and many private nonprofit groups in several adjacent counties are eligible to apply only for economic injury disaster loans.

Those counties include Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale,

Barnwell, Beaufort, Chesterfield, Dillon, Edgefield, Fairfield, Hampton, Lancaster,

Laurens, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Saluda and Union.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Dec. 4. The deadline to return economic injury applications is July 5, 2016.

Separately, the head of the SBA is scheduled to tour the flood-stricken Columbia area Wednesday. Maria Contreras-

Sweet's office said she plans to meet with business owners, residents and local officials on recovery efforts.

She also is scheduled to discuss federal disaster assistance that's available for the area with Gov. Nikki Haley and Columbia Mayor Stephen Benjamin.

Details

For more information, call the SBA customer service center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired) or send an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

Loan applications can be downloaded from www.sba.gov. Applicants may apply online at disasterloan.sba.gov/ela

Title: **SBA opens business recovery center in N. Chas.**
Author: BY WARREN L. WISE wwise@postandcourier.com
Size: 37.82 square inch
Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



FILE/GRACE BEAHM/STAFF

Small business owners across the state can apply for disaster loans Wednesday in North Charleston to help recover from the recent historic rainfall and flooding.

Title: **S.C. officials hope tourism campaign eases flood losses**
 Author: BY MAYA T. PRABHU mprabhu@postandcourier.com
 Size: 54.56 square inch
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



S.C. officials hope tourism campaign eases flood losses

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
mprabhu@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — Though historic flooding in South Carolina this month led to a drop in tourism numbers, officials say they hope a nearly \$400,000 marketing campaign keeps the state's economy from taking a major hit.

The S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism launched last week "The S.C. Coast is Clear" cam-

paigned to let those who want to vacation in the Palmetto State know that tourist areas were not affected by the storm and are ready to welcome their

business.

Agency Director Duane Parrish said occupancy numbers were down across the state's tourist areas the week of the storm, meaning a drop in hotel taxes and other visitor revenue.

"The storm really hurt us," Parrish

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S.C. officials hope tourism campaign eases flood losses

TOURISM, from B1

said. "The (hotel occupancy) numbers for Oct. 4 to Oct. 10 show that Hilton Head was down 10 percent from the same week last year. Charleston, depending upon the area, was down 14 to 25 percent, and Myrtle Beach was down 19 percent."

Occupancy numbers for Oct. 11-17 are due out Wednesday and Parrish said he expects only about a single-digit decrease from last year's numbers. Next week's numbers should return to normal, he said.

Parrish said he still expects the state's tourism industry to have a good year, despite the unexpected drop during a traditionally busy month.

"I think we've mitigated some of the damage," he said. "The month of October is going to look real bad, but the year as a whole (will do well). By the time November rolls around, I think we'll be back to normal numbers. We were pacing to be ahead of last year, and we could still, possibly."

The marketing campaign includes a social media blitz and the purchase of additional commercials featuring a voice-over from Gov. Nikki Haley that are airing in the Northeast, Parrish said.

He said the perception outside the Southeast is much worse than what occurred in the state's top tourist areas during the rain.

The state also is relying on

media partners and chambers of commerce around the state to spread the word that people still should vacation in South Carolina, Parrish said.

Rep. Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston, said he felt the impact of the storm in the Charleston area was blown out of proportion.

"We've had flooding forever in the Charleston area, and I think the media may have oversensationalized the storm in Charleston in the historic area," Limehouse said. "Before the storm hit Oct. 2, the accommodations market in Charleston was teed up for a record month. The restaurants as well. As a result of the cancellations due to the storm, it turned October into a

disaster for hotels and restaurants."

Parrish agreed that October was on pace to break records for tourism in South Carolina before the floods.

State Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Charleston, said he was confident the industry would bounce back quickly.

"I've heard of folks that have made calls to where they had a reservation to see if the roads were open and, once they found out they were, they just came on down," he said. "It won't be, 'gosh, dog it, South Carolina got hit by all this rain, let's go down to Panama City.' That's not going to happen."

Reach **Maya T. Prabhu** at (843) 509-8933.

Video



To see the ad, go to
[postandcourier.com/
 videos](http://postandcourier.com/videos)

Title: **S.C. officials hope tourism campaign eases flood losses**
Author: BY MAYA T. PRABHU mprabhu@postandcourier.com
Size: 54.56 square inch
Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



FILE/MATTHEW
FORTNER/STAFF

Officials don't expect the flooding this month to make too big a dent in the state's tourism revenue for the year. Paddleboarders in Charleston navigate through the intersection of Huger and King streets during the storms.

Title: **Focus on fixing rural schools**

Author:

Size: 37.2 square inch

Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



Focus on fixing rural schools

If the Legislature and the governor were to attack school problems in the state's poor, rural districts with the same vigor that they are attacking the S.C. Supreme Court's order that they do so, something good might actually come out of it.

That's not to say they aren't facing a daunting task. In a motion filed this week, state leaders called a Feb. 1 deadline "unrealistic." What is sure to be a complex plan would have to be designed and make it through the state's long legislative process and then be considered by the governor.

But Carl Epps, an attorney representing those targeted districts, has agreed to ask the court to remove the Feb. 1 deadline "as long as we have final legislation and programs in place by the end of the [2016] legislative session." That seems reasonable in that every year that goes by without improvement is a year more students miss out on adequate schooling.

And, unfortunately, the General Assembly's history of inaction as regards schools — and its seeming inability to get things in general done (ethics reform and infrastructure fixes are two examples) — suggests deadlines are necessary.

It's time for Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, House Speaker Jay Lucas and Gov. Nikki Haley to get down to the business ordered by the court. Legislative panels have been established in both the Senate and the House to find ways to comply with the court's decision.

State leaders should focus on moving that

process along instead of continuing to argue with the Supreme Court.

After all, the lawmakers' situation could be worse. The Washington State Supreme Court decided to fine its legislature \$100,000 a day until it addresses the chronic underfunding of public schools.

The much less drastic South Carolina decision in November 2014 should have come as no surprise. The lawsuit was filed 22 years ago.

And even if there had been no suit at all, lawmakers should have found solutions long ago. The failure of South Carolina's poor, rural schools is no secret. State leaders should have advanced remedies years earlier to a situation that is unacceptable both morally and practically.

Gov. Haley has demonstrated in a small way that solutions are attainable. She has offered incentives for teachers who take jobs in poor, rural schools, expanded the reading coach program and provided more modern technology.

But there is much more to do, and the General Assembly must be part of that overdue process. All children deserve the opportunity to get a good education. And since South Carolina has been marketing itself as a business-friendly state, an educated workforce is essential.

Resolving long-standing and entrenched problems with failing schools is a tall order.

But the court has ordered it, and the clock is ticking.

It's time for the General Assembly to get it done.



Title: **Ex-lawmaker Viers sentenced to 3 years for money laundering**
 Author: JEFFREY COLLINS ASSOCIATED PRESS
 Size: 22.16 square inch
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Ex-lawmaker Viers sentenced to 3 years for money laundering

JEFFREY COLLINS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA – A former South Carolina lawmaker who was once a rising star in the Republican Party and was getting noticed by the governor at conservative gatherings is heading to prison for more than three years for money laundering.

Thad Viers' three-year fall from grace hit a new bottom Tuesday as he was sentenced in federal court in Florence to 37 months in prison and ordered to pay back \$875,000.

The 37-year-old attorney helped his client, construction company owner Marlon Weaver, hide assets from an insurance company looking to collect after Weaver failed to fulfill a \$6 million state contract to pave part of Interstate 95, prosecutors said in a news release.

Weaver cooperated with authorities

and was sentenced to a year in prison. Viers pleaded guilty in April.

Viers also lied to the IRS and federal agents about what he did with Weaver's assets, authorities said.

Viers served in the state House from 2003 until 2012. He also was a front-runner for South Carolina's new U.S. House seat, created after the 2010 Census.

At a 2011 Charleston gathering sponsored by conservative blog RedState, Gov. Nikki Haley recognized Viers in the crowd and noted his run for Congress. She said he was "a good conservative, a strong fighter, somebody you should definitely pay attention to."

But before the 2012 election, Viers dropped out of the race after being charged with harassing a former girl-

friend. The girlfriend showed police a three-ring binder detailing dozens of phone calls, texts and emails from Viers after she told him she didn't want to speak to him again.

Viers resigned from the state House and pleaded guilty to second-degree harassment in January. He was on probation when he was charged with money laundering in August 2014.

In 2007, Viers pleaded no contest to unlawful communication and was fined \$500 for threats made to a man who was dating Viers' estranged wife at that time.

Viers' attorney in that case, fellow state Rep. Todd Rutherford, said after that plea that the charge was an attempt to get back at Viers, who acted "under the influence of love."

Title: **State workers will get pay for missed flood days**
Author:
Size: 6.97 square inch
Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



State workers will get pay for missed flood days

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has announced that state employees will be paid for the time that they missed work during flooding two weeks ago. Haley said Monday she intends to sign an executive order granting paid leave to affected employees. Department of Administration spokesman Brian Gaines says the state's approach is consistent with how it has dealt with snow days or other storms that prevent state employees from working. State officials say there isn't a special fund for the money. Rather, the money will come from the agencies as if the week was worked as normal. Haley says the executive order hasn't come to her yet, but she believes it will be signed in the next few days. – AP

Title: DMV chief in charge of disaster relief**Author:****Size: 7.59 square inch****Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473**

**DMV chief in charge
of disaster relief**

Gov. Nikki Haley has put the Department of Motor Vehicles' director in charge of coordinating disaster relief efforts from this month's floods with government agencies and nonprofits. Haley announced that retired Army Col. Kevin Shwedo is the state coordinator for flood recovery. Shwedo has led the DMV since January 2011. Haley says Shwedo can apply the customer service skills used to improve the DMV to his new role. She also says his military background will help in coordinating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Haley says the new job won't cost taxpayers anything. Shwedo's salary of \$123,000 won't change. Shwedo will return to his DMV job when a disaster coordinator is no longer needed. Haley gave no timeframe for that. An acting director will run the DMV for now. – AP



Title: **State's flood recovery is an ongoing process**

Author:

Size: 14.57 square inch

Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473

State's flood recovery is an ongoing process

The rain has stopped. It has been more than a week since dangerous rains have devastated South Carolina. On the coast of South Carolina the rains just kept on coming. And the Midlands and Columbia have been hurt by dam breaks.

"We still have to be cautious. This is not over yet," South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley told reporters on Wednesday morning, Oct. 7, about the work of state and federal emergency management agency officials. "We are grateful for them. Let us get through this. Let us get to work."

The damage caused by rains in South Carolina included dam breaks and [a number of] deaths.

About 1,000 residents near the damaged Beaver Dam were told to get out of that area the morning of Oct. 7. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham has said the disaster could "break the bank" of federal emergency funds, probably exceeding \$1 billion.

Gov. Nikki Haley had planned to visit the coast the Wednesday afternoon after the flood. She said in a news conference about people who needed help and were not safe, "We're holding our breath and saying a prayer."

Haley also said emergency funds had opened up for additional counties. And more counties might qualify for aid.

"We're going to be here for a long time," FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate said. "We're here supporting the governor."

As for Oct. 8, Thursday morning, electricity had returned to homes and businesses. And people were without running water. And roads, bridges, and highways are taking time to restore.

Steven Hawkins
Greenville

Title: **DMV director to lead disaster recovery efforts**
 Author: Associated Press
 Size: 12.24 square inch
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



DMV director to lead disaster recovery efforts

Associated Press

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An acting director will run the DMV for now.

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