

Title: **Thousands still need help nearly a year after historic flooding**
 Author: BY BRUCE SMITH Associated Press
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SOUTH CAROLINA

Thousands still need help nearly a year after historic flooding

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

A look at the ongoing recovery:

HELP NEEDED

Falon Alo, the executive

director of Hearts & Hands Disaster Recovery the flooding case 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.

SEE FLOODING, 4A

FROM PAGE 3A

FLOODING

PEE DEE DISTRESS

While other areas of the state, notably Charleston and Columbia, were hit hard most of those who 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. In one home lives an 8-year-old boy who is on the list for a heart transplant.

FEDERAL AID

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.

FARM AID

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

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MIC SMITH AP

Greg Ward, with the Kingstree Fire Department, conducts a search in October 2015. Recovery from an event such as last year's flooding usually takes three to seven years.

Title: **Congress honors S.C. State Guard**
 Author: BY HAL MILLARD halmillard@gmail.com
 Size: 31.0 column inches
 Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



Congress honors S.C. State Guard

BY HAL MILLARD

halmillard@gmail.com

The S.C. State Guard has received recognition from Washington.

At the behest of Rep. Joe Wilson of Springdale, the U.S. Congress honored the men and women of the guard in recognition of S.C. State Guard Week.

Gov. Nikki Haley first proclaimed Guard Week each June three years ago.

"The unpaid volunteers of the State Guard are always prepared for challenging events in the community," Wilson said on the floor of the House.

"They respond quickly to work to help families recover after natural disasters. The South Carolina State Guard was crucial during the flooding last October. This 1,000-year flood devastated many neighborhoods. Members from all three brigades of the State Guard worked

around the clock in filling sandbags and in assisting engineers and law enforcement," Wilson said.

"I was grateful to visit disaster relief centers firsthand, which was coordinated with the State Guard, and I was accompanied by (state) Reps. Kirkman Finlay and Chip Huggins. Our citizens really appreciate the command staff of the South Carolina State Guard for leading and inspiring these members: Maj. Gen. Thomas Mullikin, Brigadier Gen. Richard Leonard,

Brigadier Gen. Leon Lott, and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Freeman."

The State Guard is designated as a protective reserve military force under the command of the South Carolina Military Department and the South Carolina Adjutant Gen-

eral.

Tasked as a state defense force, the State Guard's primary mission is to be prepared to protect and, when called into service by the Governor, protect the citizens and property of the state and uphold the laws of the state.

Units are occasionally sent out of state by order of the governor, as in the aftermath of the 9-11 terror attacks and Hurricane Katrina.

The State Guard is essentially the modern-day continuation of the South Carolina Militia, which existed before the United States became a sovereign nation.

The State Guard is composed of non-conscript volunteers, many of whom are veterans of the armed services, military reserves, and both the S.C. Army National Guard and S.C. Air National Guard.

Title: **why use Dropped Guest Graduation Speakers**
 Author: By Andy Shain
 Size: 37.51 column inches
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Why USC Dropped Guest Graduation Speakers

By Andy Shain

Looks like no more politicians will speak at University of South Carolina graduation ceremonies for a while.

The state's flagship college announced that starting in May, only USC President Harris Pastides will deliver the commencement address and not guest speakers. The school will still hand out honorary degrees to dignitaries, but they won't address students and their families.

USC spokesman Jeff Stensland said the school made the change because of increasing difficulty in lining three quality speakers in May and a desire to refocus commencement on students and families rather than a big-name speaker.

Having Pastides speak at graduation also provides "a nice bookend to freshman convocation, where they hear from the president for the first as freshmen," Stensland told *Free Times*.

But the state's flagship university has received some criticism about a recent spate of political commencement speakers. USC, like other public colleges in the state, vies for state money and alumni donations that could be hurt by who is chosen to speak before graduates.

Between May 2014 and December 2015, speakers at USC graduations included: Vice President Joe Biden; former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush; South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley; U.S. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina; and former Charleston Mayor Joe Riley. (That's three Republicans and two Democrats, for those keeping count.)

The school ended that run in May with speeches by a corporate chief executive who headed the school's \$1 billion fundraising

campaign, a USC trustee who was past president of the American Bar Association and Boeing's chief lobbyist.

The head of a free-speech education watchdog said he is not surprised at USC's new commencement policy after rising protests on college campuses nationwide led some schools to disinvite speakers. At least 10 colleges disinvited commencement speakers this year, twice as many as in 2015, according to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

"It would be sad that [USC] did this

because they were afraid to bring in someone who would be the slightest bit controversial," foundation president Greg Lukianoff tells *Free Times*.

USC denies caving to political pressure in adopting the no-guest commencement speaker policy.

"Politics and political correctness," Stensland says, "really haven't been part of the discussion."

USC fails to land some big-name speakers because the college does not pay fees or honorariums. The school covers speakers' expenses to travel and stay in Columbia. That scenario can lead USC to lean on politicians or nondescript business leaders and government officials to address graduates.

"There's an arms race for commencement speakers, because they can draw a lot of attention to a school," says Tom Harnisch, director of state relations and policy analysis for the American Association for State College and Universities.

Rather than participate in the rush for top-name speakers or risk criticism for a commencement invitation, some colleges, such as Bradley University in Illinois, are choosing to opt out, Harnisch says.

Other colleges without guest commencement speakers include Alabama, Baylor and some Ivy League schools — Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Brown and Cornell.

Next spring, Pastides will give commencement addresses at the USC ceremonies held at Colonial Life Arena on Friday and Saturday.

He also will speak at winter commencements starting in 2017. USC eliminated the summer commencement this year because of poor attendance.

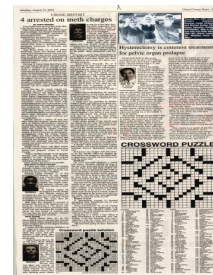
In another change for ceremonies, USC will begin limiting the number of tickets each graduate receives starting with the December commencement.

Graduates will get six tickets. They will be asked to return any unused tickets to share with students who need more.

The new restriction ends the university allowing graduates to bring as many relatives and friends as they want to Colonial Life Arena on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Let us know what you think: Email editor@free-times.com.

Title: **USC**
Author:
Size: 10.69 column inches
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**Tammy Warr, USC Union
Student Academic
Success Center Director,
and Michael Sumer, USC
Union Palmetto College
Coordinator, take a pic-
ture with Gov Nikki Haley
after the ribbon cutting
for "Meeting Place on
Main."**

Title: 'We want to lift people up'
 Author: By GRAHAM WILLIAMS Gov. Nikki Haley says
 Size: 83.54 column inches
 Union, SC Circulation: 0



'We want to lift people up'

Governor helps open job center

By GRAHAM WILLIAMS

Gov. Nikki Haley says

she was impressed by the community support shown during the "Back to School Bash" her Original Six Foundation held in Union several years ago.

"It wasn't just people coming to get doctor's visits and tetanus shots and bookbags, it was people saying 'we want to help,'" she said last Wednesday during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Meeting Place on Main, a workforce readiness center on Main Street. "I had as many volunteers showing up to say 'we want to help

See HALEY, Page 2

Haley

Continued from Page 1:

be a part of this.' That's never left our foundation. That's never left what we are about because at the end of the day we want to lift people up if they want to be lifted up."

Meeting Place on Main is the brainchild of Pastor Neil Keisler of Trinity Baptist Church and Mikee Johnson, vice chairman of the Original Six Foundation. Earlier this year, Keisler received a \$37,000 grant from the

foundation to renovate the former McCall's Frame Shop and Gallery at 111 West Main St.

"We're trying to clear away details that stand in the way of people trying to find gainful employment," Keisler said.

Besides job training, Meeting Place on Main offers services and activities for at-risk youth, mentoring and counseling. Four computer workstations with Internet access are located along one wall

of the building.

"I cannot give enough credit to Pastor Neil because it always takes someone in a community to say, 'I can do this if you help me,'" Haley said. "And what we are looking at with the Meeting Place on Main is a place where people can come get help with resumes, get ready for an interview. If they don't have clothes for an interview there will be clothes here for them to wear. If they didn't have

food before the interview we're going to make sure we feed them. If they need any help whatsoever, no one should ever feel like they're living by themselves any more. Because this place is a place where you can truly figure out how you lift your life up."

Haley noted that during the six years she's been in office, more than 900 jobs have been created in Union County. The unemployment rate - once as

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high as 17 percent - is now 7 percent.

"So, while that is something we're excited about I leave Union County thinking about those who have given up on trying to find a job," she said. "I leave Union County saying 'what else can we do?'"

Meeting Place on Main will work with the county's Workforce Investment office and Wade's Employment to help peo-

ple find jobs, Keisler said.

Common Grounds Coffee Shop, a ministry that formerly operated in the Union Square Cinemas, is also located in the building. Proceeds from the sale of coffee and sandwiches will help finance operations for Meeting Place on Main.

Other funding will come from the United Way, grants from companies

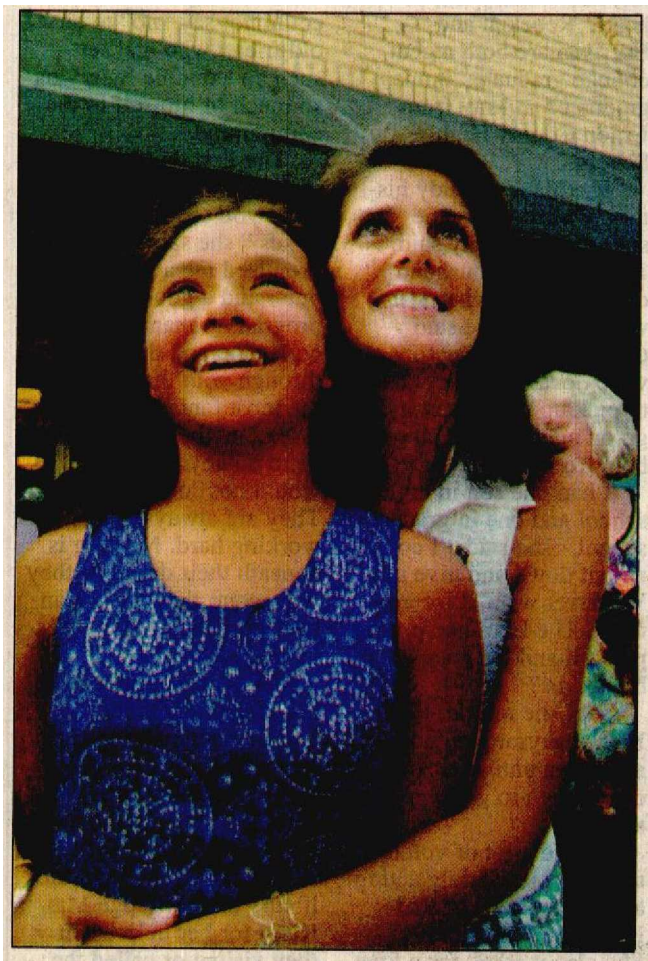
such as Broad River Electric, churches and private donations, Keisler said.

"I want you to spread the word about what Meeting Place on Main is, because this is just the beginning of where we're gonna go," Haley said. "What I'm going to ask you is to please continue the community support; we're gonna need the clothes, we're gonna need

the food and we gonna need the help from our companies. We're not leaving; this ribbon cutting is a start. We'll continue to come back. We'll continue to look at the needs. We'll continue to look at the successes. But together, I truly believe that Union County's days are only going to get better from here."



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Pastor Nell Keisler (above left) cuts the ribbon to officially open Meeting Place on Main with help from Gov. Nikki Haley. Later, Haley posed for a photo with 9-year-old Maggie Grace Lancaster.

Graham Williams photos

Title: **Official: Program a gateway for students**
 Author: BY MELISSA ROLLINS Morning News mrollins@florencenews.com
 Size: 64.79 column inches
 Florence, SC Circulation: 35092



Read to Succeed

Official: Program a gateway for students

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
 Morning News
 mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — A state education official says South Carolina's Read to Succeed program is a gateway for students to become more literate and prepared for college or careers.

Cathy Jones Stork, a team leader

in the S.C. Department of Education Read to Succeed Office, spoke at a professional practices conference for teachers in Florence School District One. Around 1,500 teachers took part in the conference, held Wednesday at South Florence High School.

The conference, a first for the district, featured over 200 sessions on

everything from English language arts curriculum and MAP (Mea-

sure of Academic Progress) testing to what should be done if child abuse is suspected. Randy Koon, the district's assistant superintendent of instruction, said the conference, which replaced the annual

See **READ**, Page 5A

SEND US YOUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL PHOTOS

» For many people, a new school year starts this week. As the summer break ends, new schedules begin. As you capture the first day of school, share your photos with us. Email them to news@scnow.com and include names, grades and schools in your captions. We hope to have enough participants for an online gallery and a picture page in print. May you all have a great school year!

Read

From Page 1A

convocation, was very well received.

"We're hoping that this will provide teachers with additional ideas for activities and strategies for their classrooms," Koon said. "We offered 230 sessions, and about 200 of those were offered by people who work in our district, so it's teachers sharing with teachers. It is like coming in and trading and stealing each other's ideas. It had also given them a chance to socialize, which they don't really get with a district this size. I think it has been very productive; hopefully we can make it even better if we decide to do this again next year."

Koon said that having in-dis-

trict teachers leading the sessions made the information more practical because it has been tailored to students in the district.

"It is valuable to have teachers in the district leading these sessions because they work with the same kids, the ones I've have in my classroom you might have had in yours and you can tell me what worked for you," Koon said. "These are people who have gone out and experimented to try and develop new activities and strategies. Sharing is something that we don't do enough of."

One outside speaker was Stork. She spoke to teachers about the implementation of Read to Succeed, also known as Act 284.

It took a while for the Depart-

ment of Education and its staff to lay out just how the policy would work in the districts and the schools, Stork said.

"This legislation was signed into law by Nikki Haley in 2014 but it took us a little while to get our feet on the ground and find our way," Stork said. "Act 284 is

South Carolina's comprehensive reading reform policy. We are one of 11 states that have similar policies designed to improve reading proficiency for all of our students in pre-K through 12. The goal is to ensure that all of our students leave us college and career ready."

Read to Succeed looks at different facets of literacy, which Stork said is the whole point of

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the policy.

"Unless children read, they don't write well. Unless they write, they don't read well. Unless they have opportunities to question and ponder, they're still not the readers and the writers we envision them to be. So when I say 'Read to Succeed,' I really want you to think 'Literacy to Succeed.'"

Act 284 focuses on eight components: teacher preparation; summer reading camps; reading interventions; reading plans on the state, district and school levels; third-grade progression assessment; educator endorsement requirements; early learning and literacy developments; and reading coaches.

Stork said all of the components work together. The district and school plans help teach-

ers and administration identify where students are successful and where they are not. It then lays out how to work on improvements.

"Often times, we think of third-grade retention as being Read to Succeed," Stork said. "In all honesty, that is not even one of the components of the legislation. I would ask you to think of this as a gateway through which our students must go."

Stork said that third-grade retention should be looked at as an opportunity to ensure that a student is successful from fourth through 12th grade. Summer reading camps offer a chance to give a student extra time to meet the important benchmarks on tests to show that they have learned all that they need to have at that point.

"Students are invited, but they are not required to attend a camp," Stork said. "Parents have the ultimate say in whether the child attends or not ... Florence One, this year, had 50 students served, and I think that data shows that most of those students had a successful completion of camp and many made moderate gains based on their pre and post camp assessments."

The new legislation is not just for teachers to follow; it makes a difference district-wide.

"This Read to Succeed legislation affects all of us," Stork said. "Whether you are a classroom teacher, a building level administrator, support staff, a district level administrator, we all have to figure out how all of the moving parts work together."

Title: **Politicians a-Twitter in South Carolina**
 Author: BY BRISTOW MARCHANT bmarchant@thestate.com
 Size: 85.40 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



THE BUZZ

Politicians a-Twitter in South Carolina

■ Who you should follow on social media to get news about S.C. politics? Plus, what some S.C. teens are doing ahead of the fall election.

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
 bmarchant@thestate.com

As Donald Trump has shown yet again, social media has changed the way politics works in the 21st century. At times, the GOP nominee's campaign has seemed to run primarily on Twitter.

The digital age has opened new avenues for political actors to reach the public directly, including in South Carolina. Here are some of the more interesting S.C. political minds in the Twitterverse.

SC Legislator (@SCLegislator)

This one is a bit of a mystery. This anonymous account, maintained by someone affiliated with the S.C.

Legislature, tweets an inside view of the goings-on at the State House along with some snide comments that might be best left unsigned by anyone with political aspirations.

For instance, on the primary runoff defeats of state Sens. **Lee Bright**, R-Spartanburg, and **Mike Fair**, R-Greenville, respectively, SC Legislator opined:

● It's a dark day for those of us who have worked so hard for religion in science class, SC currency, bathroom monitors, & light bulb freedom.

● Mike Fair went down too, leaving SC children at risk to educators trying to

slip science into our schools' science classes.

The Buzz hasn't been able to nail down SC Legislator's secret identity, but tips are welcome at thebuzz@thestate.com.

Tyler Jones (@TylerMJones)

A prolific tweeter - with 34,000 or so tweets since 2009 - Jones can provide an insider's view of the State House with a name attached. He is the senior adviser to the Democratic state Rep. **Todd Rutherford**, D-Columbia, the minority leader in the S.C. House, and the former state director for **Martin O'Malley's** aborted presidential

campaign. His tweets can range from the State House to the presidential campaign and beyond.

Gary Clary (@garyclarysc)

Representative of a lot of his fellow House members, the Republican lawmaker from Central has a feed that can have a constituent services feel to it. But his subjects also stretch from politics to sports - especially if it involves Clemson. A straight-laced legislator, Clary's worth the follow for some occasionally frank, outside-the-box thinking that can offer insight into the sausage-making process. He also makes the list be-

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cause he tweets a lot - and we appreciate the retweets from @BuzzAtTheState.

Katrina Shealy (@KatrinaShealy)

The GOP senator from Lexington tweets what she thinks, whether it is wrangling with the media or a Facebook feud with her own Republican governor over the Department of Social Services. She regularly tweets from political events, including this summer's Republican National Convention. But she also has featured more lighthearted fare, like the tweet highlighting her donkey **Roads**. (But she missed a chance to make a joke at the Democrats' expense.)

Phil Bailey (@PhilBaileySC)

Bailey is the former political director of the S.C. Senate Democratic caucus, but is probably better known for talking about political movers and shakers outside the State House as half of the

onetime Pub Politics webcast team with former GOP Senate operative **Wesley Donehue**.

His tweets can sometimes get Bailey into trouble. A 2012 tweet that referred to Gov. **Nikki Haley** as "Sikh Jesus" for trying to "resurrect an unlawful campaign" got him temporarily kicked off the medium by Senate leaders. "I don't even know exactly what Twitter is," state Sen. **Brad Hutto**, D-Orangeburg, told The State newspaper then, "but he's not going to be doing it."

HIGH-SCHOOLERS NAMED TO NEW TEEN DEMOCRATS' STATE BOARD

High school students hoping to get involved with the political process this year have a new option. The Teen Democrats have organized their first statewide chapter in South Carolina.

Five seniors were named to the inaugural executive

board, just before they head back to school.

"We plan to have one meeting before the end of the year, but we are communicating daily," said **Joshua Dantzler**, a Rock Hill native and student at the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville, who was named the board's chairman.

Dantzler attended a national meeting of the High School Democrats and was asked to take up the task of starting a S.C. organization.

"This was one of the states they'd like to form because they want to have more of a presence in red states," Dantzler said.

Other teens on the board are: **Quadri Bell** of Manning High School, **Malik Frazier** of South Pointe High School in Rock Hill, **Katie Hill** of Carolina Forest High School in Myrtle Beach, and **Lauren Xu** of the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities.

BUZZ BITES

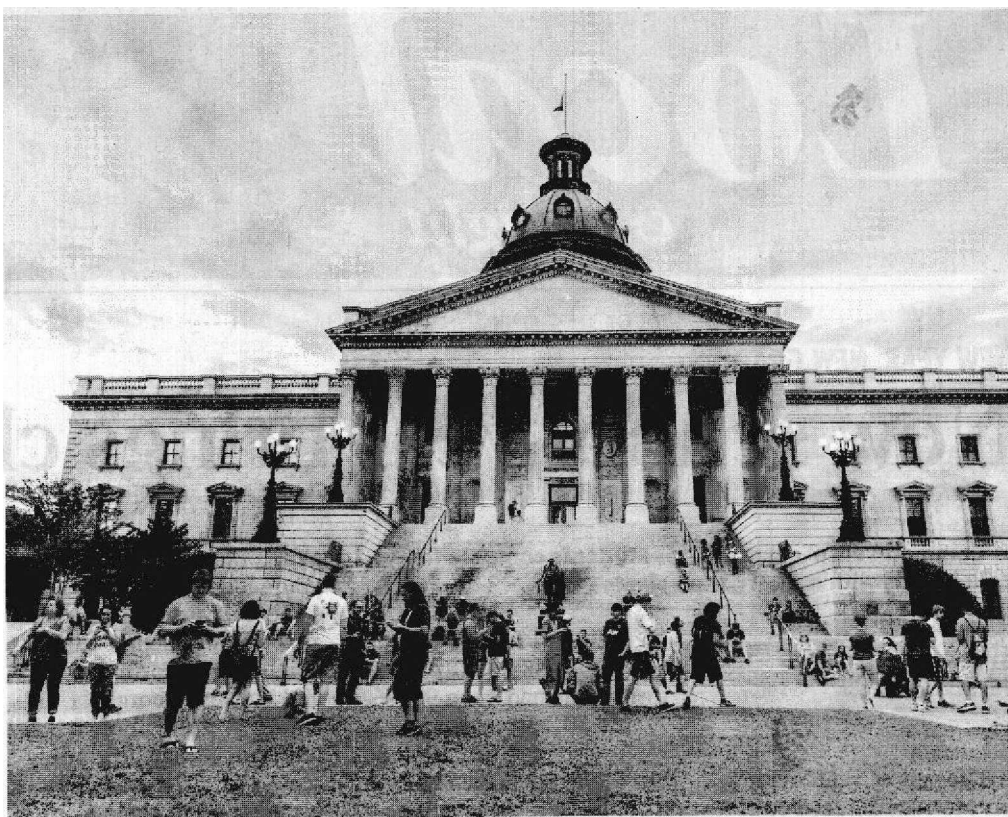
● **Nikki Haley** made a stop in Union Wednesday to promote a new jobless initiative but not at the town's state employment office.

Instead, the governor's Original Six Foundation is partnering with Union's Trinity Baptist Church to open the Meeting Place on Main, a new workforce readiness center that will be funded by the Original Six and staffed by local non-profits. The private foundation spent \$37,000 to renovate the church-owned building.

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 @BuzzAtTheState

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C. RUSH online@thestate.com

While most young adults are caught up in online games like Pokemon Go, several teens have come together from across the state to form the first statewide Teen Democrats chapter in South Carolina.

Title: **Gov. Nikki Haley announces Emily Farr as next LLR Director**
 Author:
 Size: 35.18 column inches
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Gov. Nikki Haley announces Emily Farr as next LLR Director

On Monday, Governor Nikki Haley announced Emily Farr as the next Director of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR). Farr is an attorney who specializes in employment law at Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd in Columbia.

"We are excited to welcome Emily Farr to our team," the governor said. "Emily's background - in employment law - means she brings some of the same experiences that our previous directors brought to the agency, and her work in fields such as financial services and the manufacturing sector make her a great fit to keep the agency and our state moving forward."

A graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law and a member of the South Carolina Bar, Farr's experience in employment law

includes working with human resource professionals and employers to solve workplace issues, including drafting company policies and procedures, assisting with the preparation and implementation of employee handbooks, and preparing independent contractor agreements. Farr's

experience also includes banking and consumer financial litigation matters involving federal law, such as the Fair Credit Reporting Act and the Truth in Lending Act, and state law, such as the South Carolina Consumer Protection Code and statutes addressing predatory lending. Farr will replace outgoing LLR Director Richele Taylor. Taylor, who has led the agency since the governor appointed her in 2014, has taken on a new role as Chief Legal Counsel in the Office of the Governor.

Farr is a member of Junior Achievement of Greater South Carolina's Board of Directors, active in Leadership Columbia and the Society of Human Resource Management.

Farr, 38, is married and a mother of three.

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Title: **Campaign begins to reduce food waste**

Author:

Size: 35.49 column inches

N. Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 7250



Campaign begins to reduce food waste

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, S.C. Department of Commerce and S.C. Department of Agriculture announced Don't Waste Food S.C., a collaborative campaign to reduce the number one item thrown away in the state: wasted food.

One out of six people struggle with hunger in the United States, yet food waste is the single largest component being sent to landfills and accounted for 21 percent (35.2 million tons) of the nation's waste in 2013. South Carolina alone produced an estimated 607,000 tons of food waste in fiscal year 2015.

Don't Waste Food S.C. is aimed at educating and empowering individuals, busi-

nesses and communities to take action by preventing, composting or donating surplus food. The campaign is working towards a goal of reducing food waste in the state by 50 percent by 2030.

"South Carolina is positioned to be a leader in tackling the complex environmental and health challenges of food waste," said Catherine Heigel, director of DHEC. "The Don't Waste Food S.C. campaign is building awareness and partnerships to help our state make a collective impact on this 607,000 ton issue. Working together, we can reduce the amount of food being added to our landfills and connect food resources with communities in need."

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley proclaimed July 13,

2016, as "Don't Waste Food S.C. Day" as the state agencies launched the initiative and invited all South Carolinians to join the effort. The campaign has already gained momentum with early involvement from several private stakeholder partners, including Harvest Hope Food Bank, Re-Soil and Loaves & Fishes.

"Composting is not only important for South Carolina's environmental health, it also has the potential to become a significant driver of our economy," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. "As many as 1,400 new jobs can be generated for every one million tons of composted materials, so this is a critical issue for Team South Carolina; and, I urge all businesses within our state to do

what they can to donate and compost unused food."

The partners are working together to connect food surpluses to those in need, enhance infrastructure for composting and educate consumers, communities and businesses about what they can do to join the initiative.

"I see firsthand the amount of hard work, dedication and time that farmers put into growing food, and I see the needs of other South Carolinians who all too often go hungry. I truly believe that through this campaign, we can sustain our state's economy by eliminating wasted food and further empower our own neighbors as we feed the hungry," said S.C. Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers.

Title: **Trump faces fresh GOP pushback despite bid to reset his campaign**
 Author:
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Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump waves after delivering an economic policy speech to the Detroit Economic Club on Monday in Detroit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump faces fresh GOP pushback despite bid to reset his campaign

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — Donald Trump is seeking to quell concerns he lacks the discipline or policy know-how to make a competent president, even as the list of fellow Republicans deeming him unfit for the Oval Office grows.

Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a moderate long wary of Trump, became the latest Republican to announce her intent not to vote for her party's nominee. Days after rebuking Trump for insinuating Somali refugees in Maine were dangerous, Collins said late Monday she'd thought "long and hard" about whether she was obligated to support the GOP nominee and decided she could not.

"With the passage of time, I have become increasingly dismayed by his constant stream of cruel comments and his inability to admit error or apologize," Collins wrote in a *Washington Post* op-ed.

Collins wrote that she sup-

Haley: Trump better candidate than Clinton

COLUMBIA (AP) — Republican South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says given a choice between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, she supports Trump for president.

But she told a Statehouse news conference Monday she'll continue to speak up when she thinks someone is wrong.

Local media outlets report Haley's comments came a week after criticism of Trump's treatment of the parents of a Muslim U.S. Army captain killed in Iraq. Haley didn't mention Trump by name last week, but she said Monday that "Gold Star families are off limits. Period."

ports neither party's nominee, though previously she's said she's open to voting for Hillary Clinton.

The defection from a respected senator added to a chorus of GOP voices insisting they can't back Trump. Some 50 Republican former national security officials signed an open letter calling Trump the most reckless candidate in history, prompting a counterattack from Trump, who said the signers share blame with Clinton for making the

world "a mess" and fueling the Islamic State group's formation.

The renewed focus on GOP discord was not the theme Trump hoped to emphasize, especially as fresh polls appear to show Clinton widening her lead. But Trump suggested Tuesday there would be no dramatic change of strategy to regain control of the race.

"I think it's just, you know, steadiness," Trump told Fox Business. "And it's just doing what I'm doing."