

Title: **Stable road funding**

Author:

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But it's also not entirely accurate to suggest S.1258 won't potentially impact the general fund and the agencies that would be dependent on it.

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- Aiken Standard

Title: **Haley to endorse opponents of Leatherman and Rankin**
Author:
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FLORENCE

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is heading to Florence and Myrtle Beach this week to endorse Republican primary challengers to two longtime state senators.

The Republican governor will be at Wholly Smokin' barbecue Wednesday to support Florence County GOP Chairman Richard Skipper in his race against Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman.

On Friday, Haley will be in Myrtle Beach endorsing businessman Scott Pyle at Longbeards Bar N Grill. Pyle is running against Sen. Luke Rankin, who is seeking a seventh term.

— FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

Title: **Bikefest attendees question new rules, extra security measures**
 Author: BY EMILY WEAVER eweaver@thesunnews.com
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2016 ATLANTIC BEACH BIKEFEST

Bikefest attendees question new rules, extra security measures

Public safety measures were enacted in 2015 to combat violence officers saw over Memorial Day weekend 2014

Six shootings were reported this weekend, one of them fatal, two others resulting in injuries

Some say the extra enforcement didn't bother them, others say they won't return

BY EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@thesunnews.com

Some festival goers didn't let the barricades, the traffic loop, the extra police presence or the rainy weather of a tropical storm spoil their time at the 2016 Atlantic Beach Bikefest.

Others saw the extra public safety measures – only put in place for that event, colloquially-termed “Black Bike Week” and enacted last year to curb the violence officers saw in 2014 – as a racist unwelcome mat.

“I feel like they're trying to take the fun out of it. I feel like there's some racist (expletive) going on,” said Smoke Gambino, an independent rap artist from Atlanta,

Ga., who was getting ready to leave Monday morning. “Four

FROM PAGE 1A

BIKEFEST

language to a city code that made the offense a misdemeanor, punishable by law, last month.

Less than a week before Bikefest the city issued a new order that banned golf carts from Ocean Boulevard over the weekend, leading to at least one citation.

Three people died and seven were injured in eight shootings at hotels on Ocean Boulevard during the 2014 Memorial Day week-

years ago, it used to be straight fun.”

But the extra law enforcement, the barricades and the traffic loop that made him and others feel caged like animals wasn't fun, he said.

“We're not in prison,” said his friend, who goes by the name Scool Boy. “If y'all don't want people to break the law, why make so many laws and so many rules?”

At least two golf cart operators were cited for operating golf carts at nighttime, which is against state law.

Myrtle Beach police Chief Warren Gall said that golf carts were an issue during the traffic loop last year, but officers were unable to

enforce the state law because of a rewrite of the South Carolina ordinance that stripped the law's penalty provision.

Myrtle Beach leaders added new

SEE BIKEFEST, 8A

“

I FEEL LIKE IF MYRTLE BEACH WANTS TO MAKE MONEY THEY NEED TO LET ... (PEOPLE) HAVE FUN.

Smoke Gambino, visiting from Atlanta, Ga.

end, prompting Gov. Nikki Haley to call for an end to Bikefest. Grand Strand officials put several measures in place to try to curb the violence last year, such as a 23-mile traffic loop and pedestrian barricades.

And in 2015, officials said their efforts seemed to work, citing fewer arrests and only two shootings that resulted in no fatalities.

But despite their continuing efforts to maintain

order and keep the peace, police still had many calls to keep them busy this year.

Two were injured and one was killed in six shootings in Myrtle Beach this weekend.

Pierre Auntral Allen, 23, of Andrews was shot at the Fountainbleau Inn, 701 Flagg St., shortly after 2 a.m. Friday.

Allen was pronounced dead from mass trauma due to the gunshot wound at Grand Strand Medical Cen-

ter less than an hour later. Police are still investigating the case and have interviewed several witnesses, according to Capt. David Knipes of the Myrtle Beach Police Department.

Officers are still working to identify and locate the shooter.

At 9:30 a.m. Friday, a woman told police a bullet barely missed her as she struggled with an armed robbery suspect over her

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cellphone at the Monterey Bay Suites at 6804 N. Ocean Blvd.

The 19-year-old woman and a 31-year-old man were asleep in a bed next to the hotel room door when they were awoken by a man standing in the doorway with a handgun, yelling "give me your money," according to an incident report.

The woman told police she grabbed her cellphone and the suspect yelled at her to put it down. The two tussled over it until the suspect fired a gunshot that nearly hit the 19-year-old, police said.

The 31-year-old man told police he handed over \$1,750 to the suspect, who then fled the scene. The incident is still under investigation.

Police were called to another report of shots fired at 5:30 a.m. Saturday at 899 Main St.

When officers arrived they found Kelvin Cornelius Thomas Jr., 27, sleeping inside a vehicle with an empty gun holster on his belt, according to a police report. Officers found two shell casings behind Thomas' vehicle and confirmed there was a fight between several males in the area and shots were fired.

No injuries were reported and Thomas was not cited in the shooting, but was arrested for loitering.

Police responded to shots fired from a car at 17th Avenue South and Yaupon Drive around 11:50 p.m. Saturday. A witness told officers that he was working the barricades at the intersection when a passenger leaned outside the car and fired one to two shots after the witness told the passenger he couldn't let him past the barricade. No one was injured in the shooting.

Police issued a be-on-the-lookout for the suspects, but no arrests had been made as of Monday afternoon.

Another man, identified in a police report as Jermaine Smith, 34, was shot after a dispute around 1:30 a.m. Sunday in front of the Holiday Sands North hotel at 400 N. Ocean Blvd. Smith's condition remains unknown.

James Anthony Dwyer, 18, was arrested and charged with attempted murder in the case. But officers say Shaylan Charvoris Isaac, 21, allegedly fired the shots that sent Smith to the hospital, then fled the scene. Isaac is wanted for attempted murder and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

Less than 24 hours later, another man was found shot inside a fifth floor room at the Landmark Resort at 1501 S. Ocean Blvd. The man was transported to the hospital and his condition is still unknown.

No arrests have been made in the shooting, according to Knipes, but the case remains under investigation. Police urge anyone with information to call 843-918-1382.

In addition to the shootings, 11 motorcycle crashes were reported Friday night, spurring officers to encourage motorists to slow down and use caution as Tropical Storm Bonnie lumbered toward the coast. The storm brought rain and with it the threat of more wrecks, but no traffic fatalities were reported in Horry County over the weekend.

More than 550 citations, however, were issued in Myrtle Beach between the wee hours of Friday morning and Monday afternoon.

Ocean Boulevard was relatively quiet on Saturday evening as the rain from Bonnie deterred most bikers from hitting the strip. But vacationers didn't let the rain or the armed officers at nearly every block spoil their good time.

"It was all right. They didn't bother me. I didn't bother them," Brandon Sheffield said of the extra police presence.

Sheffield, of Daytona Beach, Fla., stood outside near the Coral Beach Resort and Suites Monday morning as the clouds opened up to reveal the blue sky hidden from bikers Saturday night. This weekend wasn't his first Bikefest and he said it won't be his last.

"We had a great time," said Da'Jour Williams, who came with his friends from Sumter.

He said they too would return.

But it was a different story for Smoke Gambino.

The rap artist, who worked to promote his music during his stay, said the city is hurting itself by scaring away tourism and the money he and other tourists bring - visitors who now question whether to return to Myrtle Beach.

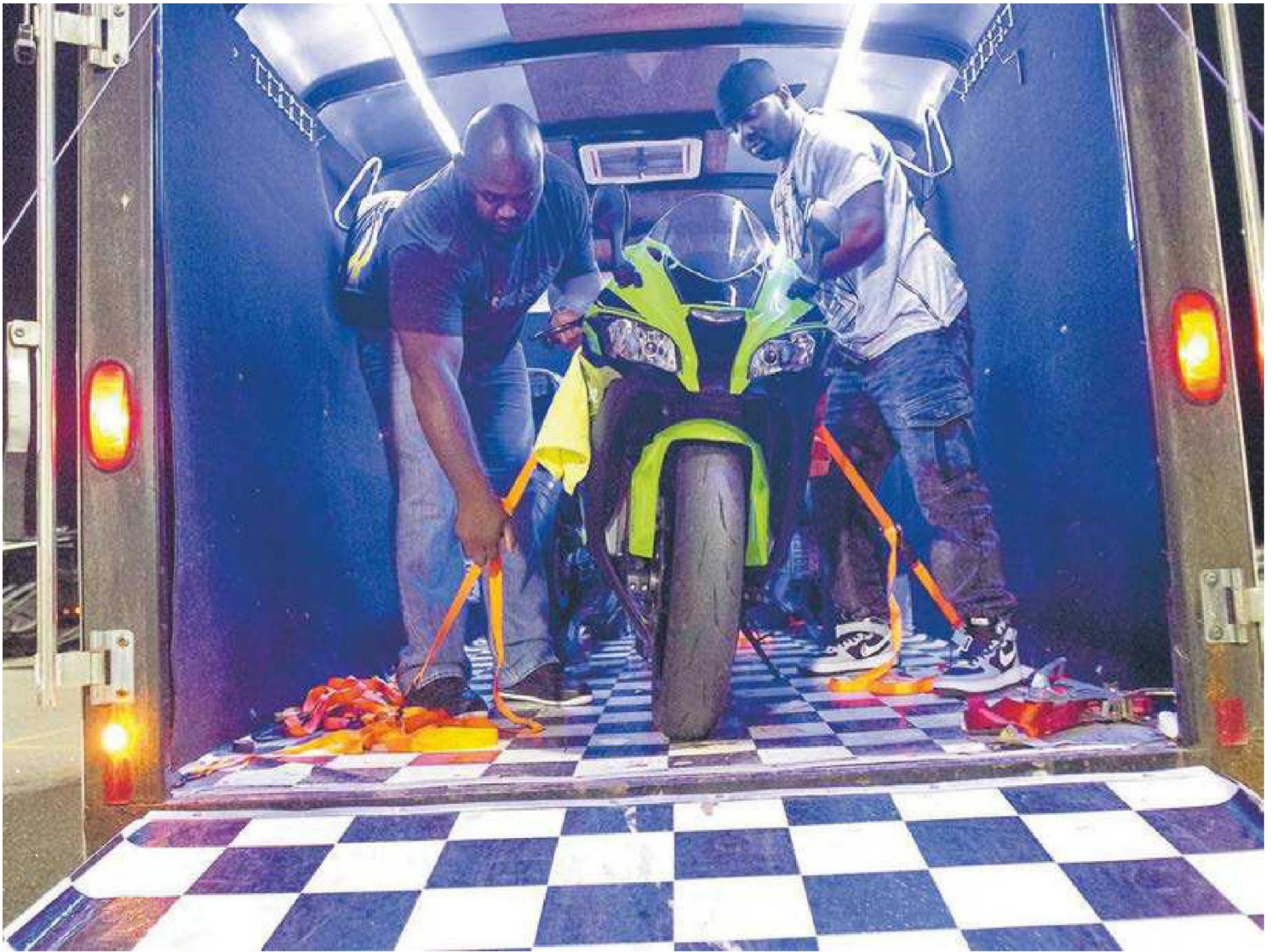
"Altogether I spent like \$4,500," he said. "I feel like if Myrtle Beach wants to make money they need to let ... (people) have fun."

Gambino said this was his third and his last Bikefest in Myrtle Beach.

Emily Weaver: 843-444-1722, @TSNEmily

TWO WERE INJURED AND ONE WAS KILLED IN SIX SHOOTINGS REPORTED IN MYRTLE BEACH OVER MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND.

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JASON LEE jlee@thesunnews

Dwane King (left) and Dashaun Stephens load their bikes on a trailer in the Walmart parking lot for the trip home to Tabor City, N.C. on Monday.

Title: **Haley to endorse opponents of Leatherman, Rankin in Senate**
Author:
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Leatherman was first elected in 1981, and Haley has said he is not financially conservative enough. Florence County Treasurer Dean Fowler also is running.

On Friday, Haley will be in Myrtle Beach endorsing businessman Scott Pyle at Longbeards Bar N Grill. Pyle is running against Sen. Luke Rankin, who is seeking a seventh term.

Haley and Rankin have clashed over ethics reform. The governor has accused the senator of blocking ethics legislation she supported.

A political action committee run by a Haley strategist is buying TV ads against Leatherman and Rankin.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Title: **Stableroadfunding**
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But it's also not entirely accurate to suggest S.1258 won't potentially impact the general fund and the agencies that would be dependent on it.

S. 1258, for example, diverts \$84.2 million in S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles fee revenue to the State Highway Fund. The bill in its current form also creates a detour from the state's school building fund, ferrying nearly \$61 million to the State Highway Fund. ...

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Author:

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Title: **Cellphone fees, education mandates among new state laws**
 Author: SEANNA ADCOX ASSOCIATED PRESS
 Size: 48.98 column inches
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Cellphone fees, education mandates among new state laws

SEANNA ADCOX

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA - New laws in South Carolina extend taxes to cellphones, require students to learn about America's "founding principles," and fix a quirk in campaign finance law that has entangled many state officials.

The Legislature has passed dozens of measures in the final weeks of its session, which officially ends Thursday. A few of them:

Phone Charges

Cellphone users will share the cost of phone services for rural customers and people with disabilities under a law Gov. Nikki Haley signed Wednesday.

Starting in January, the state's 1 million landline customers will pay less as fees extend to 4.5 million cellphones.

The law implements a Public Service Commission ruling in January that re-

quires cellphone companies to pay into the state's universal service fund. Landline customers have been paying since the Legislature created the fund in 1996 to ensure affordable phone service in rural areas, where it's costly to extend and maintain lines.

The law caps payments to so-called telephone "carriers of last resort" and requires audits of how the money's spent.

It also requires cellphone customers to begin contributing toward services for hearing- and speech-impaired residents — a fee not addressed by the commission's ruling.

Currently, landline customers pay 25 cents monthly to ensure nearly 25,000 disabled customers can communicate by phone, plus nearly 3 percent of their bill for rural landlines. That will change to 6 cents and roughly 2 percent, respectively, applied to all phone bills.

Campaign Donations

People running for office no longer have to abide by a quirky fundraising restriction if they advance to a primary runoff.

A law Haley signed Wednesday allows candidates to ask donors who maxed out their giving for a primary election to donate the next day for the runoff. Previously, they had to wait a week.

Runoffs are held two weeks after a primary. But under prior state law, the runoff cycle — for donation purposes — began seven days after the primary.

For a statewide race, donors can give up to \$3,500 per election cycle.

Before the June 2014 primaries, the South Carolina Ethics Commission issued an opinion reminding candidates about the law and cautioning them not to

See LAWS, Page 5A

Laws

Continued from Page 3A

accept donations that put them over the per-cycle state limit. The seven-day rule is clear, but there's a perceived inconsistency, the commission wrote in opting not to punish violators from past elections.

Candidates in 2010 who had excessive contributions because of the seven-day rule included Haley and her Democratic foe, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, as well as Attorney General Alan Wilson and his Democratic opponent.

Education Mandates

Public schools must teach the United States' "founding principles" under legislation Haley signed Thursday.

Its preamble stresses the importance of the Tenth Amendment, which says powers not given to the fed-

eral government are given to the states or the people.

"The preservation of our great nation depends on strict adherence to the Tenth Amendment and other principles that protect the states and the people from overzealous acts of all branches of the federal government," it reads.

The law requires the state Board of Education and Education Oversight Committee to include the "principles that shaped the United States" in classroom standards for social studies. It specifies lessons must include the Federalist Papers, the structure of government, the separation of powers doctrine, and freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

State law already required instruction on the "essentials" of the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Federalist Papers.

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Author:

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