

Title: **Haley's budget has money to repair beaches**
 Author: By Chris Sokoloski csokoloski@southstrandnews.com
 Size: 33.48 square inch
 Georgetown, SC Circulation: 8446



Haley's budget has money to repair beaches

By CHRIS SOKOLOSKI

csokoloski@southstrandnews.com

Pawleys Island Mayor Bill Otis Jr. said he was happy when he read that the governor included money in the next state budget to help restore the state's damaged beaches.

"I consider this to be very positive news if what I've read in the (media) is accurate," Otis said. "It's a wonderful start."

Gov. Nikki Haley's new budget includes \$40 million to repair the damaged beaches.

"Tourism is a big part of what we do in South Carolina," Haley said when the budget was released. "Having healthy beaches for people to come back to is important."

Otis told Town Council this month that representatives of many coastal municipalities, including himself, contacted the governor about the damage, and complained that the state was not advocating for the coast with the Fed-

eral Emergency Management Agency.

"I think the governor has reacted specifically to our concerns as addressed in the letters we've sent and the letters others have sent," Otis said.

The mayor met with FEMA officials on Jan. 20 to show them damage on the island.

He said the meeting went well and provided FEMA with more information to use to make a decision on how much the town will be reimbursed for repairing its beach.

A combination of high tides and flooding in October severely damaged the state's coastline. Otis said the Corps of Engineers has estimated the damage to the state's beaches to be more than \$90 million.

The money in the proposed state budget will go to the state's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism to initiate emergency beach

nourishment projects.

Otis is waiting to get more information on whether PRT will be required to use all the money on beach repair, and whether the town can get a share.

The money for beach repair is part of more than \$160 million in the budget related to October's flooding.

Haley has also proposed \$124 million for the state's share of disaster-related spending by federal agencies; \$1.5 million to repair National Guard Armories that were damaged by the storm; \$49 million for the Department of Transportation to cover

the cost of repair projects for roads and bridges that are not eligible for federal reimbursement; and \$661,500 for new dam inspectors at the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Also included in Haley's \$7.5 billion budget is \$350 million for roadwork and \$300 million in education initiatives.

Education spending proposals include: \$20 million for new school buses; \$13.5 million to attract and retain teachers in impoverished districts; and \$11 million in targeted technology spending in poor schools and home Internet access for about 10,000 students.

The governor's budget now goes to the state Legislature for approval.

Seanna Adcox from The Associated Press contributed to this story.



Otis

Title: **Senate taking another crack at road funding**
 Author: By Jeffrey Collins The Associated Press
 Size: 39.83 square inch
 Georgetown, SC Circulation: 8446



Senate taking another crack at road funding

By JEFFREY COLLINS

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A pair of state senators who are not seeking re-election — a Republican from Murrells Inlet and a Democrat from Columbia — plan to spend this week trying to shape a bill to get more money to improve South Carolina roads and get the rest of the Senate to finally go along.

Both senators warn that the process is going to take a few weeks if not longer. But they are confident they can pull together a bill that business leaders and pothole-hitting drivers have been clamoring for.

"I think you'll see all of us try to take baby steps toward consensus," said Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Columbia.

Consensus has been hard to come by. Lawmakers seem to agree any bill that raises more money for roads and highways will also need to cut taxes elsewhere and reform how the Department of Transportation is run.

But the 46 senators seem to have 46 different ideas. Conservative Republicans

are leery about raising the gas tax without a significant cut in other taxes. Democrats want to make sure any tax cuts get to the largest number of people and don't threaten services. Some senators are quietly hinting the board that runs DOT doesn't need to be changed at all. The board is made up of members picked by lawmakers and an at-large appointment from the governor.

"The road funding piece, that's pretty black and white. Either you want to raise more money or you don't," said Sen. Cleary

Ray Cleary, R-Murrells Inlet, who plans to work on his fellow Republicans. "But there is plenty of room for disagreement elsewhere."

Lourie and Cleary have announced they aren't running for re-election next year, leav-

ing them more room to take a stand that might lead to a challenger in a party primary.

The House passed a bill in 2015 that would raise around \$400 million a year for roads through an increase in the gas tax, and reduce income taxes by a comparable level. Rep. Gary Simrill shepherded the bill through the House and it appeared to fit Gov. Nikki Haley's criteria of changing the DOT structure and balancing a tax increase with a tax cut.

Simrill has said the House is waiting to see what the Senate sends back. But the Rock Hill Republican thinks the House could alter its earlier proposal and still come up with an agreement again this year.

The DOT announced this month it needs about \$1.2 billion extra a year for repaving, bridge work and widening to get the state's roads and bridges to good condition.

The Senate adjourned last week with Cleary controlling the floor to assure a roads bill is debated.

The Senate Transportation committee was scheduled to take up a bill on the DOT board Tuesday morning, and the Senate Finance Committee — which would discuss any tax-related matters — was set to meet Tuesday afternoon.

The roads bill strayed from its lane last year when Sen. Tom Davis filibustered it in the final weeks of the session because he didn't think there was a need to raise taxes on gas.

The Beaufort Republican was bothered by Senate President Hugh Leatherman putting together a group of four Democrats and four Republicans to discuss the roads behind closed doors, saying his and other conservatives' worries weren't heard.

Davis has been coy about his plans this year, but said last week: "I will make my case on the Senate floor."

Associated Press writer Seanna Adcox contributed to this report.



Title: **Gov. Haley asks SC prosecutor to sue feds over MOX project**
 Author: Associated Press
 Size: 13.64 square inch
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



Gov. Haley asks SC prosecutor to sue feds over MOX project

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley on Tuesday moved forward with her threat to sue the U.S. Department of Energy for the agency's failure to meet a Jan. 1 nuclear fuel deadline, asking South Carolina's top prosecutor to pursue litigation and collection of \$1 million daily fine.

"The federal government has, once again, failed to keep its promise to the people of our state," Haley wrote to Attorney General Alan Wilson in a letter obtained by the Associated Press. "South Carolina will not sit idly by

while DOE continues — in violation of federal law — to ignore its commitment to the people of South Carolina."

The Savannah River Site's mixed-oxide project — known as MOX — is intended to turn weapons-grade plutonium into commercial nuclear reactor fuel.

It is years behind schedule, and billions over its original budget.



**NIKKI
HALEY**

Title: **Committee work and state of the state**

Author:

Size: 23.87 square inch

Laurens, SC Circulation: 7825



Committee work and state of the state

There was lots of activity in the State House last week as we continued the early stages of the legislative cycle and heard from the governor in her annual State of the State address on Wednesday evening.

My Republican colleagues and I were happy to hear the governor's support for many of our priorities such as education reform, infrastructure improvements and ethics reform.

Echoing Governor Haley was the Republican leader of the House, Bruce Bannister (R-Greenville): "This week we heard from Governor Haley's heart. Our caucus appreciates her positive message and optimistic tone. Governor Haley mentioned education reform, fixing our roads and bridges, and ethics reform. House Republicans have led on all three issues in the House, while the Senate has refused to act. With Governor Haley's help, perhaps we will see movement in the Senate chamber on these important issues facing our state."

Among other important issues, the governor also highlighted the tragedies our state encountered over the past year. The flood of 2015 was the worst natural disaster since hurricane Hugo. My colleagues and I have



MARK WILLIS

S.C. House
District 16

heard from flood victims across the state over the past months, particularly farmers who in some instances saw their entire crops disintegrate and fields ruined under standing flood waters. Agriculture represents one of the largest industries in South Carolina and if you know a farmer, you may know that one year with no yield can be the difference between having the resources to plant again next year and closing the doors. We continue to look for conservative solutions for these farmers and others affected by the flood, and I will update you as we move forward.

Finally, as is typical in January, much was done in our House committees. Once a bill is introduced, it must go through legislative committees before they come to the House floor for an up or down vote. We tried to spend as little time as possible on the floor this week so they could have time to get their work done.

The Holly Hill
Observer
Holly Hill, SC
Circ. 1178
From Page:
4
1/7/2016
64839



¹⁴⁸ Governor Haley to deliver Republican Address following State of the Union

Special Report

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced Tuesday that Gov. Nikki Haley will deliver the Republican Address to the Nation following the State of the Union on Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

"Nikki Haley has led an economic turnaround and set a bold agenda for her state, doing things done and becoming one of the most popular governors in America," Speaker Ryan said. "In a year when the country is crying out for a positive vision and alternative to the status quo, Governor Haley is the exact right choice to deliver the Republican Address to the Nation."

"Nikki Haley is a proven leader and committed reformer who believes deeply in the promise of the country we all share," Sen. McConnell said. "Not only has Governor Haley fought to bring opportunity and prosperity to the people of her state, but she's also demonstrated how bringing people together can bring real results. Governor Haley knows

the American Dream and wants to see every American share in it, and we're pleased that she will be delivering this year's Republican Address."

"I was honored to be asked by Speaker Ryan and Senator McConnell to deliver the Republican address to the nation," Gov. Haley said. "This is a time of great challenges for our country, but also of great opportunities. I intend to speak about both."

About Gov. Haley

Governor Nikki Haley, the 116th Governor of South Carolina, is the first female and the first minority governor in South Carolina history and currently the youngest governor in the country. She was reelected to a second term in November 2014.

Nikki Haley has delivered results to the people of South Carolina. Under her leadership, South Carolina's jobless rate hit record lows, the state announced more than 73,000 jobs in 45 of 46 counties, more than 25,000 South Carolinians moved from welfare to work, and the state made its largest infrastructure investment in a generation without raising taxes. Governor

Haley brought together leaders of both political parties, educators and the business community to pass landmark education reforms. She has also increased transparency and accountability to state government, and delivered tax relief for small businesses, pension reform, and Medicaid reform.

Born in Bamberg, the daughter of Indian immigrants, Governor Haley's first job was keeping the books for her family's clothing store - at the age of 13. She went on to graduate from Clemson University with a B.S. degree in accounting. Governor Haley and her husband Michael, a Captain in the Army National Guard and combat veteran who was deployed to Afghanistan's Helmand Province, attend Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church in Lexington. The Haleys have two children, Rena, 17, and Nalin, 14. Learn more by visiting her official website or by following her on Facebook and Twitter.

NOTE: The 'Republican Address to the Nation' will be live streamed at <http://gop.gov/SOTU>.



Coastal
Observer
Pawleys
Island, SC
Circ. 5136
From Page:
6
1/7/2016
64210



59 + 148 An emergency by any other name

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT from after Hugo," Pawleys Island Mayor Bill Otis said. And that isn't a good thing. The town has discovered that the state is shockingly unprepared to deal with emergencies along its beachfront.

Hurricane Joaquin of 2015 didn't cause a fraction of the damage that Hurricane Hugo caused 26 years earlier. No houses fell into the ocean. The water that swept across the island's narrow south end between ocean and creek didn't create a new inlet. But Joaquin and the low-pressure system that accompanied it on a path up the East Coast did cause serious erosion to the beachfront. And just like 1989, the storms were followed by some of the highest tides of the year.

Within a week after Hurricane Hugo, the state approved an emergency measure to allow property owners to scrape sand from the beach to rebuild dunes in front of their property. Within two weeks, private contractors were at work pushing up sand to prevent further damage to homes that had no natural protection.

Three weeks after Joaquin, astronomical high tides caused further damage to the dunes. Three months after the storm, the town of Pawleys Island is still seeking permits for emergency beach repairs. And if it had those permits, it would be required to contact each of the 80 property owners along the south end to get their approval before starting work.

Ever since Hurricane Hugo, the town of Pawleys Island and the Litchfield Beaches Property Owners Association have maintained healthy cash reserves in anticipation of the time when they would need to mount another dune-building operation. Pawleys Island has now learned that money isn't enough. It's a good thing that Joaquin's damage was limited because the high tide and nor'easter that followed that storm would have multiplied damage on the scale of Hugo. This is a serious shortcoming that needs to be addressed by state lawmakers and regulators. The loss of beachfront homes would be felt across the county and the state in the form of lost taxes and lost revenue from tourism.

Perhaps because 1989 was a simpler time, the state's solution was simpler as well. It al-



Coastal
Observer
Pawleys
Island, SC
Circ. 5136
From Page:
6
1/7/2016
64210

lowed emergency scraping of sand to a depth of 1 foot. The goal was to protect the property left standing. Preserving what remained of the status quo bought time to have the needed debate over long term solutions, whether beach nourishment or a retreat from the shoreline. Whichever side of the debate you fall on, it's important that the discussion isn't ruled by a ticking tide clock.

The town of Pawleys Island has asked Gov. Nikki Haley to help. It shouldn't be hard for the state to restore some urgency to emergency permits, but it shouldn't take an emergency to show just how far the state lags in this regard.

LEGISLATURE 149

Debate resumes over infrastructure

BY JASON LESLEY
COASTAL OBSERVER

Local legislators say it's past time to do something about the state's roads.

Rep. Stephen Goldfinch and Sen. Ray Cleary say infrastructure improvements should be a priority during the upcoming session of the South Carolina General Assembly. Goldfinch and Cleary were scheduled to join Rep. Carl Anderson and Sen. Ronnie Sabb to discuss issues facing the state at the annual Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce legislative breakfast this morning in Georgetown.

This will be the last year in the Senate for Cleary. He has announced he won't seek re-election in November. Goldfinch will leave the state House to run for the open District 34 Senate seat.

With a \$115 million budget surplus, the legislature will have an opportunity to address some of the state's needs on a one-time basis, Cleary said. Repairing damage from last fall's flooding to roads, agriculture and beaches have been added to the list that

includes crumbling infrastructure, an under-funded state pension system and education, he said.

"After three years we have finally set the road bill for special order," Cleary said. "We almost have to talk about it in January."

Cleary anticipates legislation being offered to trim income taxes by \$800 mil-

lion — that's less than half of what Gov. Nikki Haley wants — in order to raise a similar amount from an additional tax on gasoline. "With \$300 million of that coming from tourists," Cleary said, "it will be a net tax savings for the average person."

Goldfinch said he's willing to vote for an increase in the gasoline tax that accompanies an income tax cut because time is running out to repair the state's roads and bridges. "If the Senate doesn't act on road funding this year," Goldfinch said, "we've got a big problem. We've got a tremendous amount of damage from flooding, some covered with excess funds, but that just magnified the problem."

Goldfinch said repair-

ing the state's roads is the No. 1 priority of his constituents. "If I'm hearing it from the everyday person, companies are hearing it," he said. "We are at the bottom of the barrel when it comes to infrastructure. People are going to decide they won't relocate companies here. People are going to decide they won't stay here. These are serious issues the Senate needs to consider."

Though Goldfinch and Cleary have not agreed on how to fund road repairs in the past, they say it's time to reform the state's fees and sales tax exemptions.

"I would love to go to a fee-based system," Goldfinch said. "I'm not sure

the General Assembly has the political will to do that at this time. The gas tax is a simple sort of solution, not my preferred method, but I understand why the General Assembly wants to do this. It's not the most reliable method with gas mileage going up and CAFE standards going up every single year, but I'm willing to jump on board to get some road funding done immediately."

Cleary said the state has cut funding for higher education by \$315 million a year, leading to some of the highest college tuition costs in the Southeast. The state Highway Patrol has fewer officers on the road than it had in 2006. The legislature has trimmed funding to local governments by \$75 million, forcing cuts to mental health and other programs directed to counties, and the state retirement plan is being under-funded yearly. "We have a lot of capital needs," Cleary said. "Armories are falling into disrepair because we are not doing maintenance."

Cleary said the big debate will be how to address the various shortfalls and cut taxes at the same time. Goldfinch said the surplus is a testament to the good stewardship in Columbia. "If we are going to be putting another tax on the backs of our citizens," he said, "we need to offer some of that money back as a tax cut."

Coastal
Observer
Pawleys
Island, SC
Circ. 5136
From Page:
5
1/7/2016
64210






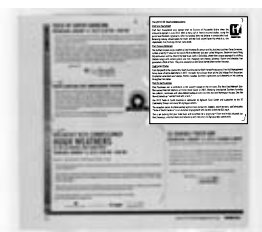
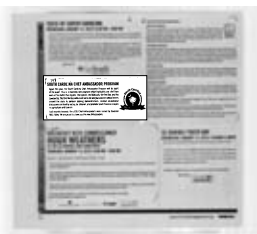
Marion Star &
Mullins
Enterprise
Marion, SC
Circ. 3842
From Page:
4B
1/6/2016
63186

148

SOUTH CAROLINA CHEF AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Again this year, the South Carolina Chef Ambassador Program will be apart of the event. This is a relatively new program which highlights one chef from each of the state's four regions: the Upstate, the Midlands, the Pee Dee, and the Lowcountry. The Chef Ambassadors will serve for one year and will attend events around the state to perform cooking demonstrations, conduct educational discussions on healthy eating for children, and promote South Carolina staples in agriculture and tourism.

Just recently honored, the 2016 Chef Ambassador's were named by Governor Nikki Haley. We are proud to showcase the new Ambassadors.

The 2016 SC Chef Ambassadors:

Chef Teryi Youngblood

Chef Teryi Youngblood was named Chef de Cuisine of Passerelle Bistro when the restaurant opened in June 2013. With a menu full of French-inspired dishes, using the purest and freshest ingredients, Chef Youngblood does not believe in complicated food. Believing cooking should speak for itself, and the food should taste like what it is, she implements this thinking into her menu daily.



Chef Ramone Dickerson

The stuffed chicken wings created by Chef Ramone Dickerson and his business partner, Corey Simmons, landed a reality TV show on the Oprah Winfrey Network last year called Wingmen. Dickerson owns Wing City restaurant and the 2 Fat to Fly food truck, both in Columbia, where their unique approach to stuffing chicken wings with collard greens and rice, macaroni and cheese, jalepeno / bacon and cheddar, has generated a flock of fans. They also appeared on the Steve Harvey Show earlier this year.

Chef Forrest Parker

From Opryland to the Lowcountry, South Carolina native Chef Forrest Parker joined the Hall Management Group team of acclaimed chefs in 2012. He leads the culinary team at the Old Village Post House Inn. Charleston-educated and trained, Parker includes Southern ingredients and elements in his cooking throughout his career.

Chef Orchid Paulmeier

Chef Paulmeier was a contestant in the seventh season of the hit show, The Next Food Network Star. She opened One Hot Mama's on Hilton Head Island in 2007. Blending time-tested Southern favorites like collards, cornbread and slow-cooked barbecue and ribs with her own homespun recipes, One Hot Mama's serves up "comfort food with a kick."

The 2016 Taste of South Carolina is sponsored by AgSouth Farm Credit and supported by the SC Commodity Groups and many SC Ag Organizations.

The reception serves to showcase key agribusiness companies, leaders, award winners, and advocates. "Taste of South Carolina" is an invitation engagement with limited tickets for \$25 each.

This is an evening that your taste buds will remember for a long time!! There will be lots of great fun, food, beverage, entertainment and fellowship with the entire SC Agribusiness community.



Marion Star &
Mullins
Enterprise
Marion, SC
Circ. 3842
From Page:
4
1/6/2016
63186



S.C. Editorial Roundup

148

The Greenville News on dam safety

At an additional cost of \$1.8 million per year, it is difficult to envision a rationale for South Carolina to not improve its dam safety program in the wake of last fall's torrential rains that caused nearly three dozen dams to fail.

A bill presented by South Carolina Speaker of the House Jay Lucas would nearly quadruple the budget for the program that's administered by the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, according to a report by The State newspaper. The department's current budget is about \$470,000, and it is woefully inadequate.

Unfortunately, South Carolina got irrefutable proof of just how inadequate the program now is. When October's 1,000-year rainfall event dumped more than 20 inches of water on parts of the state, 32 dams failed, causing significant property damage and putting lives at risk.

An analysis of the state's dam safety program revealed that the state's network of 2,400 regulated dams is not inspected frequently enough and the staff that does the work is far too small. In addition, too many dams in the state are not being inspected at all.

In a detailed report in November, Greenville News investigative reporter Rick Brundrett revealed that DHEC has only 6.75 employee positions dedicated to inspecting all of the state's regulated dams. Unbelievably, that's an improvement from 2005, when only 1.5 full-time positions were in the program. At times, the program's budget has been as low as \$200,000.

The national model calls for dam inspections every year for those structures that pose the greatest risk to life and property if they fail, every two years for the next class of dams, and every five years for the least risky dams. Brundrett's analysis found that at least a dozen dams that were under emergency order for repairs after the fall's floods had not been inspected in the past five years or more.

Such a lag should not be allowed to continue.

The dangers of a breached dam are far too great for South Carolina not to take this seriously. Although this state has a history of requiring agencies to operate on bare-bones budgets and kicking problems down the road, the need to fix this funding disparity should be obvious.

As DHEC Director Catherine Heigel said, "We do have a role at the end of the day to keep people safe."

To their credit, lawmakers appear to readily see that need as well.

Lucas' bill would expand the office by 13 staff members, allowing them to properly inspect and monitor the state's regulated dams and increase the number of dams that the agency inspects.

It is hard to imagine that this legislation would not get the support it deserves. The total cost to recover from the October deluge exceeds \$1 billion. Certainly only a fraction of that would have been prevented had the dams been inspected more routinely, but it seems worth the relatively small cost to make the dams safer.

Once Lucas' bill is passed, the Legislature and the governor need to follow through with funding.

A spokeswoman for Gov. Nikki Haley acknowledged after the flood that there's a funding gap in the agency and said that there would likely be a more money for the program in the executive budget. That needs to happen.

The reality is, South Carolina gets heavy rains throughout the year. The 1,000-year rain might have been a freak occurrence, but it doesn't mean the state shouldn't be prepared for the next significant rainfall. Ensuring the state's dams are properly inspected, and that more of them are inspected, is simply common sense.

This should be an easy vote and it should happen very early in the upcoming legislative session.

Lancaster News
Lancaster, SC
Circ. 12696
From Page:
1
1/8/2016
62165



148

Auditor Morgan won't seek 8th term

Christopher Sardelli

csardelli@thelancasternews.com

After almost three decades as Lancaster County's auditor, Cheryl Morgan announced this week she will not seek another term.

Morgan, who was first elected in 1988, plans to finish out her seventh term, which expires June 30, 2017.

Though voters will have a chance to elect her successor in the upcoming general election in November, the au-

ditor does not take office until the beginning of the following fiscal year – July 1, 2017.

According to the county's website, the auditor handles a number of tax issues, including ensuring all taxable property in Lancaster County is assessed and placed on the tax books. The county is one of 44 out of 46 counties in the state with an elected auditor.

Having spent years delving into the complexities of the county's tax codes, Morgan said this week it was time to move on. One of her motivating factors, she said, is spending more time with family, including her husband Bobby, son Andy and daughter Jessica, as well as four grandchildren.

"I plan to stay pretty active," Morgan said.

See **MORGAN I** Page 3

IN HER OWN WORDS

Read Morgan's letter to voters, page 7





Morgan

>>FROM 1

"My co-workers were pretty concerned and sad to see me go, but they understand," she said.

Morgan began her career with the county 36 years ago as a clerk in the auditor's office. She later worked as a deputy auditor before ascending to her current position.

During her tenure, she has also served as president of two state associations, including the S.C. Auditors, Treasurers and Tax Collectors (SCATT) and the S.C. Association of Assessing Officials (SCAAO).

"There have been quite a few changes here during that time," she said. "We've had fee-in-lieu agreements and the local-option sales tax and assessment districts."

As growth exploded in the county, so did the size of her office, which has almost doubled in size from four to seven employees.

"There has been so much growth. When I took office in 1988 the county's assessed base was \$61,228,000, and in 2014 it was up to \$327 million," she said. "This shows you the growth of the assessed value of all the property in the county. This is all the county's wealth and shows how

the county's net worth has increased."

Looking back on her career, she remembers several highlights, including her work in state legislative committees to change the state's property tax code, as well as her input into bills to create certain tax exemptions for widows of veterans.

She currently serves as a mentor to new auditors across the state.

"If they have questions they call me, and I try to use my experience to help," she said.

Deputy auditor will run

With Morgan's news becoming public, her deputy auditor Susan Wallace felt the time was right to make an announcement of her own – her intention to run for auditor.

"I have invested my time in learning this job, and I love my job. And yes, I'm going to try and follow in her footsteps and make her proud," Wallace said Jan. 7. "(Morgan has) done a marvelous job for the citizens of Lancaster County. I believe she'll be missed among all the 46 counties because she's been such a presence in all the counties."

As a self-professed "bean counter," Wallace said she is a good fit for the position and feels she

has the experience to address issues that come along with growth.

She began working for the county 13 years ago as a clerk in the treasurer's office. She became deputy treasurer in 2006, moved to the auditor's office in 2009 and assumed the responsibilities of deputy auditor in 2010.

"I take a lot of pride in seeing the growth and development and seeing the life breathing into Lancaster County. Growth is exciting, and it's a positive," she said. "I'm excited...and I have got some good support behind me."

Acknowledging Wallace's auditing experience, Morgan urged citizens to avoid voting along partisan lines and instead vote for someone with experience.

"Even when I came in 1988, I had worked here eight years and still didn't know everything there was in this office. And it's even more complex now, so you cannot just bring someone in off the street. They need experience," Morgan said.

Helping when they're lost

As she settles into her last year and a half on the job, Morgan glanced around her office Thursday. The room is packed with mementos from her tenure as auditor.



Lancaster News
Lancaster, SC
Circ. 12696
From Page:
3
1/8/2016
62165





Lancaster News
Lancaster, SC
Circ. 12696
From Page:
3
1/8/2016
62165



Open on her desk is a worn copy of the S.C. tax code, also known as Title 12, its pages lit up with yellow highlighter marks and affixed with hand-made tabs for easy reference.

"Title 12 is like my tax bible. I have it all indexed and everything," Morgan said.

Hanging on a wall near her desk is an appreciation award for her work as president of the SCAAO. On another is the prestigious L.H. Sonny Siau Award of Excellence, presented by SCATT for being a "tireless proponent of fair property taxation, a faithful friend and comrade."

And in front of her desk hang the seven oaths of office she's signed through the years, each bearing the signature of the governor at that time, including Carroll Campbell, David Beasley, Jim Hodges, Mark Sanford and Nikki Haley.

Each item elicits memories of the changes she's

seen and accomplishments she's made.

"We've gone from using tablets and calculators to computers and spreadsheets," she said. "I'll miss seeing these people I work with, and I'll miss being able to

help people with homestead exemptions or VA exemptions or just helping them when they're lost and didn't know where to go."

Contact reporter Chris Sardelli at (803) 416-8416 or follow his Twitter feed: @csardelliTLN