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148 **Letter to the Editor**  
**Governor is no racist**

This is in response to Mitchell Sims' letter to the editor, "Does Haley hate white men?" published on Sept. 16. I do not believe that Gov. Nikki Haley is racist. As a matter of fact, she is far from it. As governor of a state, one may do things that may or may not be popular with constituents, such as removing the Confederate flag from Statehouse grounds.

In her defense, it was the South Carolina legislature that voted to remove the flag; the governor only signed the legislation. I must note that I think this was an act of cowardice on their part to use a tragic event as the catalyst to enact this legislation. My question to them is why wasn't the removal of the flag debated before this event? Can you say political expediency, or maybe they used the philosophy that you never let a good crisis go to waste. These are the individuals that you should be angry with. I will say this: In my opinion, the flag at the Confederate memorial was appropriate under the legislation.

As to the comment concerning the proprietors of the stores that Sims wrote of, in the United States, one's race, color or creed has no bearing on if they may or may not engage in commerce. Sims made his point concerning his dislike for Nikki Haley; however, he clouded it with statements that left me wondering. I would like to think Sims' dislike for our governor would not bolster a dislike for those who look like her.

**RUJON WILLIAMS**  
Darlington

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+  
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# Wrapping up

## Victors chef's ambassadorship comes to a close

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN  
Morning News  
dswearingen@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Cooper Thomas said he began cooking because he needed a job and money to pay rent.

"And I needed beer money," he joked.

But it quickly became apparent that cooking was something he loved. Thomas began working in college as a short order cook at a Charleston deli and he fondly remembers the four ladies who worked there and taught him a lot of what he knows.

Now, over 20 years later, he's the executive chef at Victors Bistro in Florence and a South Carolina chef ambassador representing the Pee Dee.

Thomas is one of the inaugural chef ambassadors for the program, which began in June 2014.

His term will end in December, although future ambassadors will serve for just one calendar year.

"The whole idea is just to champion local products as much as possible, so we're taking local products and merchants and putting their goods out there," Thomas said.

The chef ambassador program is tied with the state tourism department because it aims to encourage tourists to buy local products and put money back into the community. It is also tied with the state agriculture department, and nominees must be part of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture's Fresh on the Menu program.

"We wanted to focus on authentic cuisine, locally grown products and undiscovered destinations," said Ansley Turnblad, marketing specialist at the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA). "I can't

brag enough on how impressed I've been all four of the chef ambassadors."

Joining Thomas as South Carolina's chef ambassadors are Heidi Trull from Grits and Groceries in Belton, Brandon Velie from Juniper in Ridge Spring and Brian Waters from Saltus River Grill in Beaufort.

Originally, Turnblad said she was worried that it may be asking too much of the chefs to leave their restaurants and travel for various events.

But she was impressed with everyone's flexibility and said most appreciated the opportunity to see other regions of the state.

"Cooper has really taken it to the next level," she said.

He went to a lot of events that weren't required simply because he wanted to, she said, including a dinner party at Gov. Nikki Haley's mansion.

The governor was trying to get business to come, and invest their companies in South Carolina, to help build the economy and put people to work, Thomas said.

"All I did was cook, but if it helped in any way that would be great," he said.

See **CHEF**, Page 2C

Thomas said being an ambassador has been great because farming is part of his family's story.

"I remember going to my uncle's farm and picking peanuts," he said. "Then they'd boil the peanuts right there and we'd eat them."

He said it's nice to see the process from start to finish; he may eventually want to get into the farming business either with his family or on a smaller scale for the restaurant.

Turnblad said multiple chefs are nominated by the SCDA and South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department and ultimately four are selected by the governor. The current chef ambassadors will have a nomination for next year's group.

Each chef is required to participate in three events across the state during their year as ambassador.

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# Chef

From Page 1C

At Victors, Thomas said he has to work hard to balance affordable prices and high quality dishes. He said he wants his restaurant to be considered a "fine,

comfortable dining place" and not just somewhere for special occasions only.

Thomas's advice for aspiring chefs is simple: wash dishes at a restaurant for three months.

"And if you still like that business, start cooking,"

he said. "Because when you're the chef, you're the head of the kitchen. It also means that you're the head dishwasher. You're the prep cook, the head line cook. You have to be able and willing to do anything that anyone else here does."

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DEBORAH SWEARINGEN/MORNING NEWS

**Cooper Thomas, executive chef at Victors Bistro, said he hopes to make dining at his restaurant a comfortable experience.**



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# It's time to expand Medicaid in our state

Let's play a little word association.

When we say "Medicaid," some people hear "welfare." When we say "Affordable Care Act," some people hear "Obamacare." When we say "poor," some people hear "slackers."

When Republicans hear the words "Medicaid expansion," we hear them say "no" (sometimes preceded by a four-letter modifier for emphasis).

We say it's time to reconsider.

It's time for South Carolina to expand its Medicaid program.

When the Affordable Care Act was passed in 2010, 23 states with Republican governors rejected Medicaid expansion. Their refusal to cooperate with the rollout of what they derisively and politically labeled "Obamacare" was an act of defiance, a matter of principle. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley swore then that she would never expand Medicaid in the state, and she has not budged an inch from that position.

But not all states with Republican governors were this stubborn. Arkansas and Kentucky decided to accept federal money to expand Medicaid. Some states such as Pennsylvania, Indiana and Utah that originally rejected expansion have changed their minds and accepted the big money from Washington.

Two Republicans in the S.C. Senate — Ray Cleary of Georgetown and Paul Campbell of Berkeley — came around in the spring and said they would support a budget amendment to accept federal Medicaid money.

We're talking about big money.

How big? This year, the state is turning down \$846 million that could help the poor and the economy. The federal government is paying 100 percent of the costs for Medicaid expansion through 2016. After that, it would pay no less than 90 percent of the medical costs for newly eligible Medicaid enrollees.

In 2017, South Carolina would pay \$57 million per year. That would rise to \$153 million in 2021. This is why Haley and others are balking.

But the money that South Carolina would get from the federal government would rise to \$1.4 billion in 2021.

Haley and others seem to be worried that the federal government would pull back from paying 90 percent of the costs, leaving states with bigger tabs. But there is no





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reason to believe that would happen, and if it did, states could opt out at any time.

Here's the deal: South Carolinians are paying for Medicaid expansion, but they aren't reaping the benefits. The federal dollars are coming from all taxpayers in all states. Our money is subsidizing medical care for poor people in other states.

Let's talk about poor people in South Carolina. Nearly 200,000 in our state would benefit from Medicaid expansion. Most of these people are what we would call "working poor." These are the ones who are caught in a coverage gap. They make a little money, so they aren't eligible for Medicaid or the subsidy to purchase insurance. The expanded Medicaid program is designed to cover them.

In a guest column that the Morning News published in July, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn cited a recent report that estimated 200 South Carolinians will die unnecessarily every year if Medicaid is not expanded.

Clyburn, a Democrat from South Carolina who represents part of the Pee Dee, noted that one of the strongest advocates for Medicaid expansion in South Carolina was the late S.C. Sen. Clementa Pinckney, one of the victims in the recent Charleston church massacre. More than 100,000 people in six counties in Pinckney's district didn't have health insurance in 2013. Many of those people would be covered by a Medicaid expansion.

As The Greenville News noted in a July editorial, resistance of Medicaid expansion "forces hospitals to pick up the bill when these sick people are treated in the emergency room."

As Andy Brack noted earlier this year in a Statehouse Report column, Medicaid expansion could result in medical treatment that focuses on prevention, not expensive emergency treatment.

As The New York Times noted in a March editorial, "More health coverage means a healthier population, fewer people losing jobs because of health crises, greater productivity at work, fewer people getting charity care at costly hospital emergency rooms, and less strain on hospital and clinic budgets."

All of these arguments are on the money, so to speak. South Carolina has been making a costly mistake by declining hundreds of millions of federal dollars to expand Medicaid. It's time to stop denying health care to tens of thousands of poor South Carolinians.

Unsigned editorials represent the views of this newspaper. Editorial board members are Joe Craig (regional publisher), Don Kausler Jr. (regional editor), and John Rains (news editor).



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## 148 Haley puts DHEC between rock and hard place

It's the seven-minute gap that is most telling.

On Sept. 11 at 2:27 p.m., the state Department of Health and Environmental Control announced actions against three abortion clinics after an investigation pushed by Gov. Nikki Haley.

Seven minutes later, the governor, traveling overseas, released a seven-paragraph statement that had to take more than seven minutes to write, an indication of how our ambitious governor wanted to put the clinics under klieg lights. Recall how Haley recently told Washington reporters that she wouldn't turn down discussions of being a vice presidential candidate.

Bottom line: This brouhaha over abortion clinics is pure political theater, with DHEC serving as the pawn for a governor who wanted to twist a national issue.

But that's not surprising when you consider how Haley needs to be viewed as more conservative by GOP presidential hopefuls. Her conservative credentials suffered after rightly dumping the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds. In fact, that pushed up her poll numbers among Democrats and blacks.

It's all about perception, not reality. And DHEC was caught between a rock, the law and a hard place — the governor.

Earlier this summer, the continuing national debate over abortion flared again after actors hired by an anti-abortion group secretly taped videos with Planned Parenthood staff members involving possible purchase of tissue samples of aborted fetuses. The organization, which has denied wrongdoing, became a flash point, leading to congressional investigations and a media frenzy.

On Aug. 18, Haley, obviously trying to keep the story alive in South Carolina, called on DHEC to investigate the state's abortion clinics, with special focus on two operated by Planned Parenthood.

Between Aug. 31 and Sept. 4, DHEC sent inspectors to clinics in Greenville, Columbia and Charleston that had passed inspections with flying colors in recent years. This time, though, inspectors were under the gun to find something. At the Columbia clinic, for

example, they documented 21 minor violations, mostly involving paperwork. Only one of the cited violations carried a fine of \$1,000. Most were a \$250 slap on the wrist for things like failing to have proper employee background documentation, orientation records, job descriptions or training records. Our favorite: The water in three sinks was too hot (ever heard of the cold tap?)

On Sept. 9, according to DHEC spokesman Jim Beasley, the agency notified Haley's office of inspection results and the pending enforcement actions. Two days later, around 1:45 p.m., DHEC phoned people at the clinics as a courtesy to let them know emails were on the way about enforcement actions. All calls apparently weren't completed before the emails went out.

At 2:27 p.m., DHEC alerted the media, which soon started calling clinics. Some apparently had not opened emails and learned about actions from the press. At 2:34 p.m., Haley, traveling in Europe on business, released a triumphant statement attempting to make the findings sound bigger than they were — all to feather her political nest.

Planned Parenthood South Atlantic this week said the organization, which focuses 97 percent of its work on women's health care (not abortions), took DHEC's findings seriously and was taking immediate actions to come into compliance with the law.

"These matters will be addressed and it will be a blip on the screen, serving primarily not women's health but the political ambitions of the governor," said one longtime Statehouse player.

Yes, to get headlines, Haley used DHEC, whose board she appoints. But it didn't turn out exactly how she wanted. Instead of a big press conference about the findings, DHEC quietly released the information at one of the slowest times of the week for the media — Friday afternoon, when most reporters are finishing stories they've worked on for a week.

What's important to take away are three things:

» None of the violations cited by DHEC directly put any women or their health at risk. But anything





not up to snuff — even minor paperwork problems — needs to be brought into compliance. The law is the law.

» Thousands of dedicated DHEC employees have been embarrassed because the agency was dragged through the muck because of politics.

» This incident is a prime exam-

ple of how the passions of South Carolinians are being manipulated by a hyper-ambitious governor who wants to score points in a much larger political game.

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**Andy Brack**  
Statehouse Report





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# 148 Ethics board: It's legal for Haley to get Gamecock season tickets

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Add getting Gamecocks season football tickets in a luxury suite to the list of permissible perks for South Carolina's governor.

Gov. Nikki Haley and previous governors, going back decades, have routinely received the tickets as a benefit of occupying the Governor's Mansion. But Haley's office sought an opinion from the State Ethics Commission about the gift earlier this month following questions from a reporter, said her attorney, Butch Bowers.

The board on Wednesday unanimously approved allowing the university to continue the longstanding practice, calling it a gift to the office rather than Hal-

ey herself.

And what a gift it is.

The governor's office receives 16 tickets to each home game. Haley personally attended three of the seven home games last year, said Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams. Haley was out of the country and did not attend last Saturday's first home game of the season.

USC spokesman Wes Hickman says the university can't put a price tag on the tickets, because the governor's office has a private suite on a level otherwise reserved for news media, the visiting athletic director and others who don't pay. According to the Gamecock Club website, season tickets for non-suite seats directly beneath the press box cost

\$1,665 each.

USC also provides the governor's office four season tickets to men's basketball games, Hickman said.

The catch is the tickets' value far exceeds the limits set in the state ethics law for how much agencies that lobby state government can individually give elected officials. Those limits are \$60 daily and \$480 dollars total yearly.

Ethics Commission attorney Michael Burchstead called it a "close question."

Ordinarily, it's easier to discern when gifts to the governor's office that exceed the limit are nevertheless legal, he said, using the example of a painting that remains on the wall for future governors.

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# Pro Towels to expand its Abbeville County operations

**Company investing \$1.7 million to expand existing facility**

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Pro Towels, the largest towel supplier to the promotional product industry, is expanding its existing operations in Abbeville County. The company is investing more than \$1.7 million in the project, creating 50 new jobs over the next five years, according to a recent joint release from the South Carolina Department of Commerce and Pro Towels.

Gov. Nikki Haley said, "It's always exciting when a company decides to expand its operations in our state. With this \$1.7 million investment, Pro Towels is creating 50 new jobs and demonstrating their commitment to South Carolina, and we look forward to watching this great company continue its success here for many years to come."

"It's another great day for one of South Carolina's rural communities, as Pro Towels has decided to expand its Abbeville County facility. A testament to the loyal, highly-skilled workforce within the local community, this expansion only adds to South Carolina's reputation as an ideal destination for manufacturing," remarked SC Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

"Pro Towels has long en-

joyed an excellent relationship with Abbeville County and the State of South Carolina," said Pro Towels president Keven Nord.

"We appreciate the cooperation that both have demonstrated as we continue to grow our business. Abbeville has been an ideal home for us, and the strength of the local community and its high-quality workforce will continue to be the backbone of our success. We look forward to a bright future in Abbeville with this expansion."

Established in 2006 when Towels, Etc. acquired Professional Towel Mills, Pro Towels aims to provide its customers with top-quality promotional products, such as beach, golf, fitness and rally towels, as well as bathrobes, blankets and sweatshirts. In addition to its Abbeville County facility, the privately-held, Pittsburgh-based firm also operates a facility in California.

Last month, Pro Towels announced the acquisition of the Vancouver-based Kanata Blanket Company, as well as plans to partially relocate Kanata operations into Pro Towels' existing 300,000-square-foot Abbeville County facility, which is located at 234 Industrial

Park Road in Abbeville. To accommodate the increase in production, the company will upfit its building and invest in new machinery.

The expansion project, which is expected to result in more than 50 new jobs, is projected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2020. Hiring for the new positions is anticipated to begin in mid-2016.

"Pro Towels has been a large part of Abbeville County for many years, and it is exciting to see their continued commitment to our community. Abbeville County strives to create a positive environment where business can flourish, and this expansion shows that the business climate in Abbeville is continuing to grow. We look forward to partnering with Pro Towels and assisting them in any way possible in the future," commented Abbeville County Council Chairman Bryan McClain.

Those interested in joining the Pro Towels team should contact Melissa Mason, Human Resources Manager. Applications can only be filled out on-site. For more information on Pro Towels, visit [www.protowels.com](http://www.protowels.com).



Title: **A cry of support for home rule from chamber of commerce**  
 Author: By MARY KATE MCGOWAN mmcgowan@indexjournal.com  
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# A cry of support for home rule from chamber of commerce

By MARY KATE MCGOWAN

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Members of the Greenwood Area Chamber of Commerce gathered to voice their concerns for Greenwood businesses during a grassroots legislative meeting Thursday morning with the president of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

As part of a tour of about 10 cities, the grassroots meetings discuss the potential items for the chamber's competitiveness agenda, which the state chamber hopes will be pushed through in the next legislative session. Lawmakers were also in attendance Thursday, including, state Sens. Billy O'Dell and Floyd Nicholson, and state Reps. Anne Parks and Shannon Riley.

Ted Pitts, South Carolina Chamber president and CEO, said infrastructure and workforce development will remain the top two issues on the agenda, and the grassroots meetings will determine if any other items will be added. He said the issue of business licensing might be added this session as he has heard about troubles around the state.

The meeting ran smoothly with only minor bumps for Pitts until about 30 minutes into the discussion when Greenwood County Councilman Chuck Moates voiced his concern for funding local government.

"Every year, we're having to squeeze revenue that we have because we're not getting funded

by the legislature for the funds that are probably rightfully ours," Moates said.

Moates said he wants to see the state chamber address the issue of the lack of local government funding for all local governments as he said it is unfair to taxpayers because the county has to consider raising taxes to run the local government.

Toby Chappell, Greenwood County manager, said there is an agreement among state and local governments for the state to collect certain taxes and share a portion of that revenue with local governments that lasted about a decade before the recession.

The counties would receive 4.5 percent of the previous year's revenue to help fund state mandated facilities and programs such as local Veterans Affairs, Department of Social Services and Department of Health and Environmental Control offices. But when the recession hit, the state needed money, so the state suspended the formula but not the mandates, forcing county governments to fund state-mandated programs and agencies.

"This is something we mutually agreed to in legislation," Chappell said. "We're saying honor your commitment."

The discussion also migrated to the County Transportation Committee's control of roads and highways instead of turning

the control over to county councils, reigniting a battle for home rule by local governments. The concern arose again because state lawmakers have been considering returning thousands of miles of roads to the counties for maintenance and upkeep, in light of the state budget not having sufficient funds to maintain those roads.

During the meeting, while Chappell and Pitts were talking over each other, Chappell said he wants the state chamber and Pitts to advocate for county councils to be the determining factor for control rather than CTCs, which are appointed by legislators.

Pitts said the state chamber has never led on the issue of home rule and local government funding, and it probably will not take that lead in the future.

"Governments are going to have to find ways to do what they want to do without depending on another government to provide them funds," Pitts said.

Steve Brown, Greenwood County councilman, found Pitts' statement disheartening enough to voice his opinion that the state government needs to lessen the demands on county governments so counties can govern.

"Home rule is not somebody in Columbia telling the

city council or the county council how to handle their problems," he said.

Pitts, a former state lawmaker from Lexington County and a former chief of staff and legislative aide to Gov. Nikki Haley, said other meetings have not called for home rule, but he said he will help by "making sure that local governments agree to any investiture of state roads" by county governments having a seat at the table.

Regarding infrastructure, Pitts said reform of STIB — the state transportation infrastructure bank — may happen with potential more representation or by moving it under the Department of Transportation's jurisdiction.

STIB controls new and larger projects such as the Interstate 526 project while DOT maintains existing roads.

The House ways and means committee and the Senate finance committee are working on infrastructure funding and will likely have reform measures for STIB and SC DOT in that funding bill, according to Pitts.

Riley was also honored as a business advocate for his pro-business voting record at the Statehouse.

The state chamber's competitiveness agenda will be released in late fall or January.

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MARY KATE MCGOWAN | INDEX-JOURNAL

Brooke Holloway of Carolina Health Centers shares her concern that expanded Medicaid funding remains off the table for discussion among lawmakers and Gov. Nikki Haley. She spoke during the Greenwood Chamber's legislative grassroots meeting Thursday.

Title: **Rain saturates East Coast**  
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## ■ JOAQUIN

# Rain saturates East Coast

By TOM FOREMAN Jr.

Associated Press

SPARTANBURG — Drenching rains along an already-saturated East Coast caused major flooding Thursday, drowning a woman whose car quickly filled up with water and prompting flash-flood warnings from historic

Charleston to Washington, D.C.

An early-morning down-pour dumped 4 inches of rain on Spartanburg in a short time, causing floods that submerged several cars. To the northeast, one person died and another was injured in a crash near Fay-

etteville, North Carolina, when a tree fell across an interstate and hit two cars.

Residents across the region were bracing for several more days of rain and a possible strike by Hurricane Joaquin — a major Category 4 storm set to wallop the Bahamas and move toward

the U.S. Joaquin could intensify damage around the region, but more rain is forecast regardless of the storm's path.

In South Carolina,

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## JOAQUIN

*Continued from 1A*

56-year-old Sylvia Arteaga was driving home after a night shift at Bridgewater Candle Company on Thursday morning when authorities said the floodwaters trapped her underneath a railroad bridge at the edge of Spartanburg. Below the bridge, the street narrows to one lane and cars have to alternate passing under it to let traffic flow through.

Spartanburg County Coroner Rusty Clevenger said in a news release Thursday that Arteaga's car flooded "to capacity" inside.

Neighbor Hattie Palafox described Arteaga as a "very sweet, very kind, very loving" mother of 17- and 20-year-old daughters. Palafox said she had discussed the weather forecast with Arteaga earli-

er this week, but she hadn't seemed concerned about the expected heavy rains.

"She was very, very soft-spoken. I couldn't say enough about her," Palafox said after placing a bouquet of flowers at Arteaga's home, not far from where she died.

Palafox said she made it a point to keep up with Arteaga and her two daughters after her husband died of a heart attack two years ago.

The house is located on a narrow, quiet street not far from a highway and bordered on one side by a mobile home park. Relatives of Arteaga declined to comment.

Elsewhere in Spartanburg County, authorities said a man was rescued Thursday morning after his vehicle was swept off the road where a culvert had washed out. The

man managed to cling to a tree and was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Authorities around the region have warned of saturated soil giving way to falling trees, which appears to have played a role in the death near Fayetteville.

In the historic city of Charleston, National Weather Service urged motorists to avoid driving in downtown Charleston unless absolutely necessary. Forecasters said a storm that moved through early Thursday afternoon dumped at least 2 inches of rain on the city and the Weather Service posted a flash-flood warning for areas of the city through early evening.

The Weather Service said that streets were expected to flood and with high tides, the

water would be slow in receding from roadways.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley declared a state of emergency Thursday night, allowing government agencies to immediately start making preparations.

North Carolina Highway Patrol Lt. Jeff Gordon said the fatal crash happened on Interstate 95 about 1:30 p.m. when a tree fell across the road, hitting two vehicles.

Gordon says the passenger in one of the vehicles died, and the driver was taken to the hospital. There was no immediate word on the survivor's condition, and the driver of the second vehicle was not hurt.

Gordon said the area has had a lot of rain in the past

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several days. The National Weather Service reported light rain and winds of about 10 mph around the time of the wreck.

Governors up and down the coast warned residents to prepare for more heavy rains. In addition to South Carolina, states of emergency were declared in Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Virginia.

The National Weather Service issued flash-flood watches for Washington, D.C., northern Virginia, southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore from this Friday morning through late Saturday.



Title: Medicaid funded 222 abortions across SC
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DURING A 5 YEAR PERIOD

Medicaid funded 222 abortions across SC

By SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Medicaid paid for 222 abortions in South Carolina in the past five fiscal years, but none of those were provided by Planned Parenthood, the agency's director said Wednesday to legislators who are investigating state spending on abortions.

South Carolina's Medicaid agency has spent \$437,361 on 222 abortions performed between July 1, 2010, and July 30, 2015. Those numbers may adjust, as providers have a year to seek payment, and a review of 2014-15 payments is under way, Health and Human Services Director Christian Soura said.

By the numbers

222: No. of abortions reportedly performed between 2010-15.

\$437,367: Cost of abortions performed by state Medicaid during the above time period.

2: No. of questionable payments to Planned Parenthood uncovered in review.

adjust, as providers have a year to seek payment, and a review of 2014-15 payments is under way, Health and Human Services Director Christian Soura said. The law allows Medicaid to pay for abortions in cases of rape, incest, or when the mother's life is in danger.

A five-year review did discover

two questionable payments to Planned Parenthood that might be for abortion, but the amounts — one for \$78 and the other between \$200 and \$300 — make that unlikely, Soura said.

"We'll find out whether those two are tied to abortions or whether it's a keying code error," he told the House Oversight Committee.

The committee is investigating taxpayer funding to Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers. It's among several state investigations launched by Republicans following the release of secretly taped videos that show Planned Parenthood officials in other states discussing the collection of fetal organs for research.

Soura was one of several state agency directors called before legislators, whose

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## ABORTIONS

*Continued from 1A*

questions included whether any state or federal laws, policies or regulations require communication with Planned Parenthood, and whether Planned Parenthood receives money from the agency.

The investigations are part of the “political witch hunt going on across the nation,” Planned Parenthood spokeswoman Melissa Reed told reporters during a break in the meeting.

After the break, Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken, said he resented her characterization. Lawmakers have a right and responsibility to ask how taxpayers’ money is spent, he said.

Rep. James Smith, D-Columbia, chimed in that he hopes taxpayers scrutinize what the committee and presenting agencies are spending in time and money to “turn up not much.”

“We’ve found nothing suggesting anything illegal or criminal,” he said. “We’ve found a couple paperwork issues.”

As a result of an investigation requested by Gov. Nikki Haley, the state Department of Health and Environmental Control suspended the licenses of two of the state’s three abortion clinics earlier this month. Both turned in correc-

tion plans and paid their fines by Monday’s deadline. While the Greenville clinic has been cleared, Planned Parenthood’s suspension was put on hold after the organization disputed four of the cited violations and sought a review.

Of the three clinics in South Carolina that provide abortions, Planned Parenthood operates only the one in Columbia.

It’s also the only one enrolled as a Medicaid provider. Planned Parenthood, which also operates a health clinic in Charleston that doesn’t provide abortions, has received about \$298,000 from Medicaid in the last five fiscal years. Most of that is for contraceptive-related services, such as office visits, pap smears and birth control, Soura said.

The committee asked him for more data to be discussed at its next meeting Nov. 12, including breakdowns on what the \$298,000 paid for, reasons for the 222 abortions and Soura’s findings on the two questionable payments.

Reed said she’s unfamiliar with those payments, made between 2011 and 2013. Soura said they were discovered Tuesday.

“I’m sure once he provides us with the information, we’ll be able to provide the documentation,” she said.



# 148 Workman Cycles chooses Horry County for southeast expansion

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Workman Cycles, a New York-based manufacturer of bicycles and commercial industrial tricycles has announced their decision to expand their operations to Horry County. The \$2.5 million investment will create approximately 50 new jobs, paying an average of \$15 per hour.

Workman chose Horry County following a comprehensive two-year search in which the company's executives visited over twenty proposed sites in seven states.

"The choice of Horry County was easy, as it stood head and shoulders above every other location we visited," stated Wayne Sosin, President of Workman Cycles. "It was the friendly business environment of South Carolina with its great access to sea, rail and highway transportation as well as low-cost energy, and

the climate which will ease the strain that Northeast winters placed on our operation. And finally the quality of life for our workers with affordable housing options, low cost of living and good schools."

Workman Cycles will move into an existing 100,000 square foot facility in Conway, S.C., where operations are expected to be underway in early 2016.

This expansion marks the first time Workman has added a new manufacturing facility outside of New York City.

"It's a great day in South Carolina as we celebrate Workman Cycles' decision to invest in South Carolina and her people. This \$2.5 million investment, will create approximately 50 new jobs in

Conway is a real reason to celebrate in Horry County and throughout the entire state," said Governor Nikki Haley.

Another factor that contributed to the company's decision to move to Horry County was the close proximity to many of its key customers, which include: Walmart, Michelin, Ford, Exxon, GE, Home Depot, Boeing and DuPont.

"Workman Cycles will be a great addition to the manufacturing industry in the community, and we are proud that they have selected Horry County to expand their business," said Mark Lazarus, Horry County Council Chairman.

Workman executives are projecting that the company will be able to process and ship orders nearly 50 percent faster from the new, state-of-the-art Conway facility, which will translate to increased efficiency and greater value for its customers.

"The final factor was the efforts by Sandy Davis and her team from the Myrtle Beach Economic Development Office," said Jeff Mishkin, Workman's CEO. "We are a fourth-generation family-owned business and they treated us like family throughout the process. They have been an invaluable resource way beyond the selection process but through every step of the way - making introductions, opening doors, and generously giving advice. They made the difference."

"It's companies like Workman Cycles that are helping us change and diversify industry in Horry County. Fifty manufacturing jobs will have a big impact in our community, especially when they are full-time, well-paying jobs that offer benefits," said Fred Richardson, MBREDC Chairman.

Workman Cycles manufactures industrial and recreational bicycles and tricycles, as well as mobile food vending trailers, trucks and carts.

The company was founded in 1898 in the back of a retail store in lower Manhattan by Morris Workman, who started developing specialty bicycles and tricycles for local merchants looking for an alternative to a horse and buggy. Over the years, the business grew and his children joined the business.

Today, Workman Cycles is a fourth-generation family owned manufacturing business that prides in its employees, tradition and their quality, American made cycles.

For more information about Workman Cycles, visit [www.workmancycles.com](http://www.workmancycles.com).

The MBREDC is a public-private partnership that works closely with new and existing industry, site selectors and economic development professionals to promote economic growth in Horry County. Since January of 2012, the EDC has announced over 1,200 new jobs including announcements in advanced manufacturing, aerospace, forest products, and technology. Serving on the MBREDC Executive Committee are: Fred Richardson, Doug Wendel, Jim Apple, Sam Bennett, Laura Crowther, Franklin Daniels, Dr. David DeCenzo, Sean Flynn, Gary Loftus, Ebbie Phillips, Dodd Smith, Neyle Wilson, and Jimmy Yahnis. Additional members of the MBREDC Board of Directors include: Laurence Bolchoz, Scott Brandon, Michael Chestnut, Tom Collins, Harold Cushman, Brad Dean, LeGrande Dorman, Sam Frink, Henrietta Golding, Mike Hagg, Mike Hill, Pat Howle, Marc Jordan, Mark Lazarus, Alys Lawson, Bryan Lenertz, Michael Mahaney, Ralph Pandure, Scott Plyler, Luke Rankin, Jerry Rexroad, Justin Roof, Richard Singleton, Sarah Smith, Julien Springs, Mike Wooten, and Todd Woodard.

For more information, visit [www.mbredc.org](http://www.mbredc.org).