

Title: **State denies secession rally**
 Author: ANDREW SHAIN ASHAIN@THESTATE.COM
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State denies secession rally

Officials cite security
in revoking permit

ANDREW SHAIN

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State authorities said security concerns led them to revoke a permit this week for a group planning to hold a rally commemorating the anniversary of South Carolina seceding from the Union.

The decision comes five months after police clashed with some protesters at simultaneous rallies by the Ku Klux Klan and Black Panther Party, held a week after the Confederate battle flag was removed from the State House grounds.

"We have gained intelligence that we may see participants, including counter-demonstrators, similar to what we saw at the July 18 rally," said Lt. Roger Hughes, a spokesman for the S.C. Department of Public Safety. "Following the events of the summer, we have seen what can happen when opposing groups are allowed on State House grounds."

The state Secessionist Party

planned the rally on Dec. 20 at the State House, near the Confederate Soldier Monument, said James Bessenger, the party's founder. The Confederate battle flag was flown next to the monument before state lawmakers voted to remove it in July.

The party's reservation of space on the State House grounds for the rally was approved by officials Nov. 23, according to state documents. But Bessenger said he started receiving calls from State House police this week with news about potential counter-protests.

Bessenger said he was asked to cancel or move the rally during calls with state law enforcement officials on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. He declined.

"I was told, 'That's your call. We're just giving you the information,'" said Bessenger, a 27-year-old Army veteran living in Charleston.

Bessenger said he received a

letter Thursday canceling the party's State House reservation because of unspecified security concerns raised by the Department of Public Safety.

Law enforcement cited the chaos from the Ku Klux Klan and Black Panther Party rallies in July, which drew more than 2,000 people to the State House. Authorities arrested five people.

"The State House grounds are a place where the public is encouraged to gather and even protest peacefully, as we have seen in past events," Public Safety director Leroy Smith wrote in a letter to Department of Administration director Marcia Adams recommending that her agency cancel the reservation. "But our primary concern must always be safety and security."

Bessenger said his group was being held to a different standard than others.

See RALLY, Page 7A

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Rally

Continued from Page 3A

“They make it sound like it’s our fault,” he said. “It’s ridiculous to ask us to back down. This is a question of letting a couple crazy people beat their chests and beat down the First Amendment. If this was (civil rights leaders) Al Sharpton or Jesse Jackson, or (Gov.) Nikki Haley holding this rally, they would arrest the people threatening them.”

Sen. John Courson, a Richland Republican who sits on a committee that oversee the State House grounds, said protests of rallies, conducted in a civil manner, are part of a public discourse that should be allowed at the State House.

“Unless there’s a specific threat of violence, it’s inappropriate to cancel a permit,” he said.

Susan Dunn, legal director of the

American Civil Liberties Union of South Carolina, said state officials should allow the rally and, if necessary, find a way to protect the Secessionist Party supporters.

“Whose speech are you approving?” Dunn asked, rhetorically. “You can’t pick a way to silence people. The threat of violence should not stop a rally, and police should not defer to it.”

The Secessionist Party still plans to hold its State House rally on Dec. 20, Bessenger said. Groups that reserve space have the first right to use it, the Department of Administration said.

Bessenger expects about 200 people to attend the event, which could include a reading of the state’s 1860 Ordinance of Secession. Bessenger said the party has about 500 active members.

“We want to restore a sense of pride in South Carolina,” Bessenger said of his

party’s goals. “People have become so intimidated with all this political correctness.”

The Secessionist Party favors South Carolina seceding again from the United States and supports libertarian issues, including the legalization of marijuana, he said. The party plans to run candidates for the state Legislature next year.

The Secessionist Party also backs returning the Confederate flag to the Confederate monument at the State House, Bessenger said.

The flag was removed in the wake of the June slaying of nine parishioners at an African-American church in Charleston. The accused shooter is a white man from the Columbia area, who was pictured holding the Confederate flag in photos posted online.

Title: **Haley to impose MOX fines**
 Author: By DERREK ASBERRY dasberry@aikenstandard.com
 Size: 45.10 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Haley to impose MOX fines

S.C. threatens suit if DOE refuses to pay \$1M a day

BY DERREK ASBERRY

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Gov. Nikki Haley is seeking \$1 million a day in penalties from the Department of Energy over an upcoming missed milestone at the Savannah River Site's Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility.

If the Department refuses to pay, Haley said South Carolina will be forced to sue.

The facility is the main building in the nation's MOX project, the chosen pathway for meeting a nonproliferation agreement with Russia by disposing of 34 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium.

Jan. 1, 2016, was the agreed upon date set by the Department of Energy and former S.C.

Gov. Jim Hodges in 2003 for either 1 metric ton of weapons-grade plutonium to be processed through the SRS facility, or for 1 ton to be removed from South Carolina.

Neither will happen in the next two weeks

Please see **HALEY**, Page 7A

HALEY

CONTINUED from 1A

since the facility is only about 70 percent complete and there are no plans to remove any of the plutonium stockpiles from SRS.

That is why Haley and Attorney General Alan Wilson sent a letter Monday to DOE Secretary Ernest Moniz putting him on notice that South Carolina intends to "collect the \$1 million per day economic and impact assistance payment."

Payments to South Carolina are not to exceed \$100 million per year, according to the 2003 agreement.

Haley noted that the state is grateful to play a part in the nation's nonproliferation efforts; however, South Carolina takes

risks by putting its security, economic and environmental interests at stake.

"South Carolina cannot stand idly by while DOE violates federal laws and fails to fulfill its commitment to the State," Haley wrote.

Last year, the state filed suit against the Department of Energy and others after President Barack Obama proposed placing the MOX program in a cold standby while nuclear officials considered other disposition pathways. The suit was dropped after Moniz vowed to keep the program running through the remainder of the fiscal year.

The MOX project, which employs about 2,000 workers, has

been scrutinized for cost overruns and delays in construction.

Parts 1 and 2 of a congressionally-mandated report from Aerospace Corp. concluded in May and August that a downblending alternative would be a cheaper way to meet the nation's agreement with Russia.

Aerospace concluded that the MOX method, which is expected to convert the plutonium into commercial nuclear fuel, will cost an additional \$47.5 billion on top of the nearly \$5 billion already spent.

The downblending method, which would dilute the plutonium and send the final solution to a designated repository, would cost \$17 billion from beginning to end, according to Aerospace.

Obama signed off on another

\$345 million for the MOX facility through the current fiscal year. The funding came with a stipulation that Moniz must put together an updated project baseline which would give legislators and stakeholders a better grasp of progress and projected costs.

The baseline is expected to reach Obama in time for him to use the information in his upcoming fiscal year proposal. It usually surfaces in February.

Derrek Asberry is the SRS beat reporter for the Aiken Standard and has been with the paper since June 2013. He is originally from Vidalia, Ga., and a graduate of Georgia Southern University. Follow him on Twitter @DerrekAsberry.



Haley

Title: **Greenville chef chosen as ambassador**
 Author: LILLIA CALLUM-PENSO LPENSO@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 55.02 square inch
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Greenville chef chosen as ambassador

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A veteran Greenville chef has been chosen to represent the Upstate as one of the Governor's 2016 Chef Ambassadors.

Chef Teryi Youngblood, who leads the kitchen at Table 301 Restaurant Group's Passerelle Bistro, was honored with the title for her long reigning career in the culinary world and her passion for preserving the state's food culture. Youngblood was appointed to her post along with three other South Carolina chefs in a ceremony with Governor Nikki Haley Wednesday.

"It's extremely humbling to be asked to represent the State of South Carolina on behalf of the Upstate. We have so many great things going on here culinary-wise and I'm just thrilled and honored to be given this opportunity."

The South Carolina Chef Ambassadors program is part of an initiative started in June 2014 to promote South Carolina's local food economy. The program recognizes chefs from around the state "who embody the best of South Carolina's food scene, both in the quality of their provisions, as well as their dedication to using healthy, locally-grown ingredients," according to an official announcement Wednesday.

Each year, a Chef Ambassador will be selected from the state's four regions: the Upstate, the Midlands, the Pee Dee, and the Lowcountry.

"This initiative showcases South Carolina's wealth of agricultural resources," South Carolina's Commis-

sioner of Agriculture, Hugh Weathers said in a statement. "These chefs, and many others, strive to consistently incorporate the state's vast produce offerings into their menus – which is wonderful to see and taste."

Throughout the year, the chef ambassadors will participate in a number of culinary and tourism specific events across the Southeast, hosting cooking demonstrations, conducting educational seminars and discussing the offerings found in the cities in which their establishments are based.

Youngblood said she has big plans for her role, one of which is to foster greater relationships between the state's local producers and chefs. Youngblood said she hoped to increase communication between chefs and farmers, and to work on collaborations that could help both parties.

"I'm excited to show off all of the produce, grains, livestock and artisan products that South Carolina produces, and make people more aware of the great growers and makers we have in the State," Youngblood said.

Youngblood takes over from the Upstate's 2015 ambassador, Heidi Trull, of Grits & Groceries in Belton. Other 2016 Chef Ambassadors are Ramone Dickerson of 2 Fat 2 Fly & Wing City in Columbia, Orchid Paulmeier of One Hot Mama's on Hilton Head Island and Forrest Parker of Old Village Post House in Mount Pleasant.

For more, visit www.passerelleinthepark.com



PERRY BAKER

From left are Chefs Forest Parker of the Old Post Office in Mount Pleasant; Ramon Dickerson of 2Fat 2Fly and Wing City in Columbia; Steven Jankowski, executive chef at the Governor's Mansion (advisor); Orchid Paulmeier of One Hot Mama's on Hilton Head Island; Brandon Velie of Juniper in Ridge Spring (advisor) and Teryi Youngblood of Passerelle Bistro in Greenville.

Title: **Aiken County Habitat celebrates 100th home**
 Author: BY DEDE BILES dbiles@aikenstandard.com
 Size: 59.05 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Aiken County Habitat celebrates 100th home

BY DEDE BILES

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Aiken County Habitat for Humanity, which has been around since 1988, reached a major milestone this year by building its 100th house for a family in need.

On Sunday, the organization celebrated that accomplishment at Newberry Hall after the Aiken Jaycees Christmas Parade.

"I can't believe seeing all this work

the community has done – all the volunteering and the commitment and the funding," said Habitat Executive Director Richard Church. "All of these things put together to finally culminate in the 100th house being built, that overwhelms me. I don't have words to describe what I feel deep inside, but I am very grateful."

There was a display that showed

photos of all 100 homes, and there also were three cakes – one for sponsors, one for volunteers and one for homeowners.

In addition, there was a brief ceremony during which local elected officials took part.

South Carolina State Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken, read a letter from

Please see **HABITAT**, Page 8A

HABITAT

CONTINUED from 1A

Gov. Nikki Haley and presented a certificate of recognition from the State Senate.

South Carolina State Rep. Bill Taylor presented a certificate of recognition from the State House.

And Aiken County Council member Andrew Siders read a resolution from his group.

"The 100 houses that we've built equal 2,000 years of assistance," Church said. "The average mortgage for each home is 20 years, so that's 20 year of assistance apiece. During that time, the future of the family living there is

changing for the better. They have a place they can afford, and they find that the quality of their life is improving. They're growing closer together. Their children are going to college and getting great jobs."

The first Aiken County Habitat house that 78-year-old volunteer Bob Prather helped construct was No. 16. He also was involved in building No. 100.

"I've worked on 75 or so homes, and I really love it," Prather said. "It's so good to see these people happy in their new homes."

The groundbreaking ceremony for the 100th

house was held in August in Habitat's Warren Ridge Subdivision in Warrenville. It is finished, and its owner, Jennifer Pixley, and her four children will move in before Christmas.

"To be able spend Christmas in our new house, we couldn't ask for anything more," Pixley said. "We'll have dinner and presents and everything."

Pixley said she showed up every Friday and Saturday to assist the Habitat volunteers who were putting up the home.

"Habitat didn't require me to be there that much, but it

was a house that was being built for me and my kids, so why not be there if I could," said Pixley, who is a cook at HarborChase of Aiken, an assisted living facility. "I pretty much helped with everything. I did everything that they asked."

The 100th house will be dedicated early in 2016.

Dede Biles is a general assignment reporter for the *Aiken Standard* and has been with the newspaper since January 2013. A native of Concord, N.C., she graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Participating in Aiken County Habitat for Humanity's 100th House Celebration at Newberry Hall on Sunday were South Carolina State Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken; Habitat Board of Directors President Dr. Aaron Washington; Habitat Executive Director Richard Church; South Carolina State Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken; and Aiken County Council member Andrew Siders.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Jennifer Pixley, third from left, who will own Aiken County Habitat for Humanity's 100th House, and her family make some tiles with houses on them during the 100th House Celebration at Newberry Hall on Sunday. Also pictured, from far left, are Adriyanna Mack, Vanessa Pixley, Josiah Mack, Arthur Mack, Shana Pixley and Aliza Blocker.

Title: **Protestors can't stop Trump, S.C. front-runner, at USC-Aikentown hall**
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com
 Size: 60.14 square inch
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



ELECTION 2016

Protestors can't stop Trump, S.C. front-runner, at USC-Aiken town hall

BY ANDREW SHAIN
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AIKEN

Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump, trying to solidify his lead in South Carolina, gave a crowd of more than 4,000 what they wanted on Saturday – promises to protect gun rights, better aid military veterans and overturn President Barack Obama's executive orders on immigration.

The hour-long event – part of a series of presidential forums on legal issues hosted by Republican S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson – was interrupted several times by protesters who think Trump's views divide the country along lines of race, religion and national origin.

But Trump kept to his message that difficult times under the Obama administration – from overreaching regulation to

weak foreign policy – leave little room for political correctness.

After police escorted the first set of protesters out of the University of South Carolina-Aiken Convocation Center, Trump replied: "For the last seven years, we should have been doing more of that."

Trump, who has led S.C. polls since July, was making his fourth stop in three weeks in the state with the South's first 2016 presidential primary. The New York real estate mogul has created headlines during his past two stops in South Carolina.

In Myrtle Beach last month, he stood behind often-refuted claims that thousands of Muslims were seen cheering in New Jersey in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. On Monday in Mt. Pleasant, Trump defended his

newly released plan to ban temporarily Muslims from entering the United States in the wake of mass shootings in Paris and San Bernardino, Calif.

Despite recent controversies, Trump's supporters who lined up outside the Aiken arena hours before the forum said they like the political-election newcomer's no-restraints campaign style and real-world experience that made him a billionaire.

"He works with world leaders in his businesses," said Cal Dempsey, an Army retiree from Barnwell. "He can achieve his goals. He has the money and the knowledge that he can get people to serve on his staff and take care of the world's problems and advise him in a proper way."

But his large following has not stopped fellow

Republicans from criticizing his latest proposal. Republican S.C. Gov.

Nikki Haley called Trump's Muslim travel ban proposal "un-American" and damaging to the GOP.

Some Trump supporters who came to the forum on Saturday think Haley should rethink her opinion.

"She needs to read the Constitution. There is no constitutional right to come into this country," said John Hart, an Aiken salesman wearing Trump's iconic red "Make America Great Again" trucker hat. "The Constitution applies to Americans. If you're in ISIS, you've got no (expletive) rights at all in America."

Wilson, the state's top legal official, did not ask Trump about his proposed Muslim travel ban during the forum Saturday.

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RICHARD SHIRO AP

Donald Trump answers questions from South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson, right, at a town hall meeting.

Title: **Haley won't seek aid for farm losses**
 Author: By SEANNA ADCOX The Associated Press
 Size: 9.3 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



Haley won't seek aid for farm losses

By SEANNA ADCOX

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Farmers are urging Gov. Nikki Haley to ask Congress for money to offset their losses from last month's historic flooding.

But Haley says farmers shouldn't be treated differently from other affected businesses in South Carolina. She says they should have crop insurance, and she's asked the federal government to expedite the insurance claims.

Republican Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers says insurance won't come close to covering farmers' costs.

Hundreds of farmers packed the Statehouse on Monday to plead their case, saying she needs to advocate for them. Weathers said farmers lost an estimated \$330 million in crops destroyed or damaged in the field, as well as \$46 million in winter crops that can't be planted in the muck.

Title: **State's 47th police shooting sets record amid calls to review use of deadly force**
 Author: BY TONY BARTELME Post and Courier (Charleston)
 Size: 78.74 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



State's 47th police shooting sets record amid calls to review use of deadly force

BY TONY BARTELME
Post and Courier (Charleston)

A deadly exchange of gunfire Thursday morning in Greenville County marked the 47th police shooting this year, a new record that experts and lawmakers say should trigger a hard look at how officers use and misuse deadly force.

"We need to look at what's going right and what's going wrong," said Geoffrey Alpert, a University of South Carolina criminologist and noted expert on police use of force.

The previous record of 46 police shootings was set in 2012, according to *The Post and Courier's* Shots Fired database. On average this year, South Carolina officers shot someone once a week.

Alpert said that overall tally of police shootings has limited value. "How many were justified? You need more context." But the constant barrage of police shootings here and across the nation nonetheless means something isn't right.

Alpert's comments Thursday echoed testimony he gave earlier this year to a presidential task force on policing. Among his recommendations then: Prohibit officers from using boilerplate language, such as "I was in fear for my life" to justify shootings; and require officers to do more training to prevent "officer-created jeopardy" — situations in which officers put themselves in danger and then feel forced to fire their weapons.

Better training is key. Doing police work "is a tougher job than it was 10 years ago," Alpert said, adding that this training needs to take into account cultural and historical forces. "Who are the police officers

now? We're seeing a lot of people come back from the military who trained to use deadly force as an offensive weapon, not defensive. And we're also seeing a lot who grew up playing (violent) video games."

High-profile shootings ranging from the Walter Scott shooting in North Charleston in April and the Zachary Hammond shooting in Seneca in July have put police tactics in the spotlight. The newspaper's investigation earlier this year found that officers can justify almost any shooting by saying they felt their lives were in danger. Such language in police reports sometimes contradicts what's found in footage from dashboard and body cameras. In several cases, law enforcement agencies have

delayed for months releasing videos to the public. Several lawmakers want this practice to change.

Larry Martin, a Pickens Republican who chairs the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee, has proposed legislation that would require police to immediately make public any dashcam footage and audio recordings. Martin said he also thinks the state needs to place some focus on retraining deputies and officers in the appropriate use of deadly force.

Martin said he is not suggesting that there are widespread problems, but he does think everyone with a badge and gun would benefit from more training in the latest law enforcement practices, particularly when it comes to the uses of deadly force. "I don't think that is asking too much."

Martin said he has asked S.C. State Law Enforcement Division Chief Mark Keel to come up with recommendations. Keel, who also serves as co-chairman of the state's Law Enforcement Advisory Council, told *The Post and Courier* last month that it's time for the state to improve training and refine police tactics to reduce future bloodshed.

One effort to re-examine police training and tactics is underway. In the wake of the Scott shooting, Gov. Nikki Haley in July issued an executive order to

create a 10-person commission to study training, tactics and other policing issues. Haley's order calls for specific recommendations to hire and screen police candidates and recommend possible changes in the state's use-of-force policies. A preliminary report is due at the end of the month.

The state's police shooting record fell Thursday morning when Greenville County deputies responded to a burglary report at an apartment complex in Taylors. Officials said that when the deputies entered a room, they found themselves facing off with a man with a gun.

The man fired at the deputies, striking one deputy in the head. The deputies returned fire, killing the man, officials said.

SLED agents are investigating the incident. No video of the gunfight was available, SLED said in a statement. The names of the man and the deputies have not been released.

The wounded deputy was taken to the hospital for surgery, and Greenville County Sheriff Steve Loftis told reporters that

the deputy was expected to recover. Both deputies involved are on administrative leave while SLED investigates, which is standard in officer-involved shootings. The newspaper's Shots Fired investigation found that Greenville County led the state in such shootings with 17 between 2009 and mid-2015. Greenville deputies have been involved in four shootings this year alone.

Charleston-area civil rights activist Thomas Dixon, co-founder of The Coalition: People United To Take Back Our Community, said initial accounts from the latest shooting indicate the deputy was acting in self-defense, and officers certainly have the right to protect themselves when their lives are threatened. But Dixon is convinced that isn't the case in all police shootings. This year's record-setting tally suggests a deeper discussion is needed.

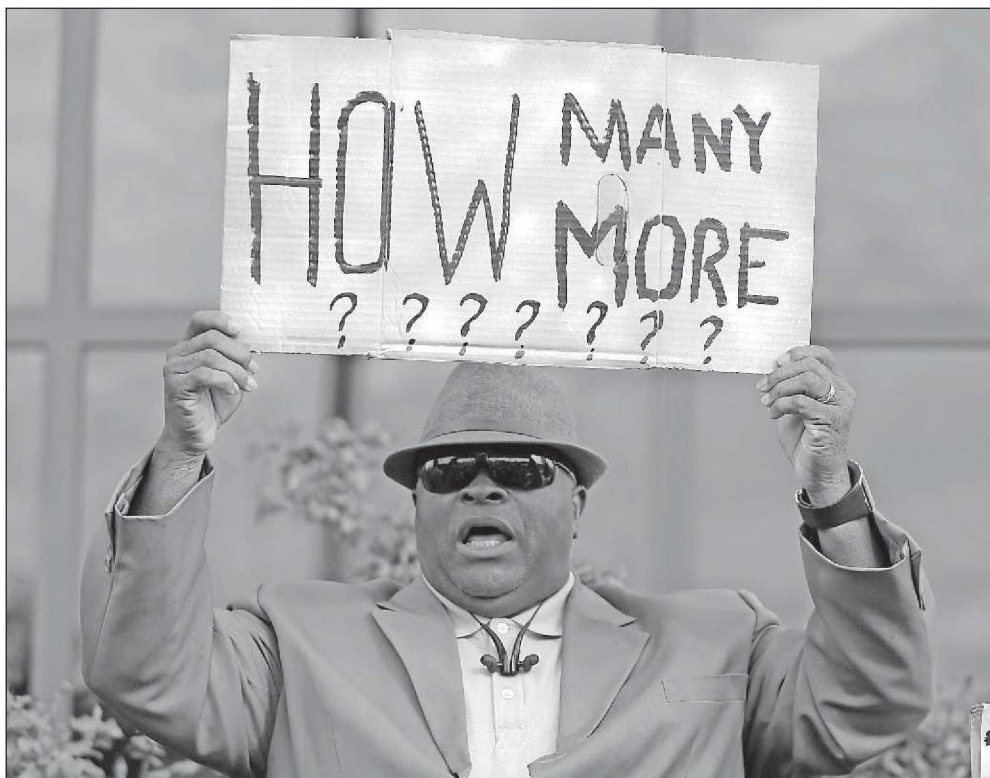
"When do we get to the point where our law enforcement officers no longer shoot first and ask questions later?" he asked. "I would hope that somewhere along the way law enforcement would start to look seriously at how they react to situations."

Glenn Smith contributed to this report.

What do you think?

Comment on this story at www.aikenstandard.com, write to Opinions, *Aiken Standard*, Box 456, Aiken, S.C. 29802 or send an email to editorial@aikenstandard.com.

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AP PHOTO/CHUCK BURTON

The Rev. Dr. Arthur Prioleau holds a sign during a protest in the shooting death of Walter Scott at city hall in North Charleston on April 8. Scott was killed by a North Charleston police officer after a traffic stop on Saturday. The officer, Michael Thomas Slager, has been charged with murder.

Title: **Gov. Haley: We must reverse cuts to nation's military forces**
 Author: SUSANNE M. SCHAFER ASSOCIATED PRESS
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Gov. Haley: We must reverse cuts to nation's military forces

SUSANNE M. SCHAFER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA - America's military forces have been weakened by budget cuts that should be reversed, Gov. Nikki Haley told a group of senior military commanders on Wednesday.

The Republican governor made the comment during her annual meeting with 10 officers from the state's major military installations, delayed by the massive flooding that afflicted the state in October. The group represents Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard installations.

Haley, whose husband Michael serves in the South Carolina Army National Guard, said she wants to prepare arguments for those in Congress who continue to argue for military budget cuts.

She called the budget and manpower cuts "terrible."

"We have got to reverse course. We have got to strengthen our military. We have to strengthen the equipment

and the resources because we don't know what is in the future," Haley said.

The governor said U.S. forces must be better prepared, given international and terrorism threats at home and abroad.

At the session, Haley also thanked the 4,000 members of the South Carolina National Guard who were called to active duty to assist in the state's emergency operations by conducting evacuations as well as road and dam repairs. She noted that military commanders are being required to beef up security, given attacks such as the one in July that resulted in five military service members killed in shootings in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

"But whatever it is, we're not ready," Haley said.

Several of the military commanders told the governor that besides the ongoing slimming of the nation's forces, they

fear the automatic budget cuts scheduled for the coming years should the process known as "sequestration" be allowed to continue.

Lt. Gen. Michael Garrett, the three-star commander of U.S. Army Central, pointed out that his command headquarters was moved several years ago to Shaw Air Force Base in central South Carolina with "over 1,000 soldiers with 2,800 family members."

However, the Army is looking to cut his headquarters by 54 percent, resulting in a reduction to 539 soldiers and 73 Army-employed civilians by next fall, he said.

Those cuts have been ordered with no cutbacks in his duties, the general added.

Garrett's forces include the Third Army, which supports U.S. military units in the Middle East, western Africa and southwest Asia and engage terrorist organizations throughout, he said.

Title: **Haley wants to sell buildings**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 53.94 square inch
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Haley wants to sell buildings

Governor looking to market facilities that are obsolete or in need of investment

TIM SMITH

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COLUMBIA - Gov. Nikki Haley wants to sell some of the state's 7,800 buildings and be more efficient in how it uses office space, moves she said could save taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

Haley on Wednesday announced the results of an assessment of state properties, concluding the state owns too much and is wasting space. The assessment was done after her executive order in 2013 asking agencies to look at the property they own and how money could be saved.

According to the assessment by the real estate firm CBRE, the state owns 7,800 buildings with 81

million square feet and 2,500 parcels of land totaling more than 500,000 acres.

Haley wants to sell facilities that are obsolete, underutilized or in need of significant capital investment, pointing to nine buildings that could save the state more than \$30 million in capital expenses.

"We've got a lot of money pits in South Carolina," she said, "money pits our taxpayers don't need to be spending on. Instead of sitting there and owning these money pits, we need to get rid of

See BUILDINGS, Page 4A

Buildings

Continued from Page 3A

trol. While 17 agencies are in the governor's cabinet, dozens more are not.

One of those non-cabinet agencies, the state Department of Education, is ready to move from its high rise in downtown Columbia that costs it \$4 million a year in maintenance, said State Education Superintendent Molly Spearman.

Spearman said officials were hoping in 1998 her agency could move out of the 14-story Rutledge Building, which is about two blocks from the Statehouse.

"It does not give us the space we need to really complete our mission," she said. "When teachers come in for teacher certification, we don't have a place for them to park."

Haley also has targeted the downtown Columbia headquarters of the Department of Health and Environmental Control as a building that should be sold.

"It looks old and it smells old," Haley said. "Everything about it is just not good. Everybody should love their job. How can you love

your job when it looks like it is just decades old and it doesn't smell good and you wonder if you are allergic to something? That is not how government should run."

CBRE also recommended the state adopt and enforce space standards to reduce the square footage of the state's primary office portfolio, a move the firm estimates could save the state a net present amount of \$32.4 million over 30 years.

Haley also supports a recommendation to centralize the state's real estate management, a move CRBE estimates will save \$35.3 million annually in operating costs.

"I think once we start doing this we are going to take lots of aches and pains off the directors that don't want to be in the real estate business," she said.

Marcia Adams, executive director of the state Department of Administration, said the state currently spends about \$98 million on maintenance costs for state buildings.

Haley said she would like to see a central fund established to put in any proceeds of building sales that could

then be rolled over for renovations or lease costs.

Eventually, she said, the state can develop a 30-year maintenance plan to go about repairs in a methodical and systematic way rather than the hodgepodge of line items in the General Fund budget as is done currently.

CBRE is being paid \$1.4 million for the work done thus far, Adams said, which includes conducting 138 maintenance surveys, title searches in every county, facility condition assessments for 150 properties and 222 space utilization site visits.

Adams said the work in ongoing and officials will have to determine in each case the costs involved in selling a property, if for instance a building contains asbestos.

"I've told Marcia that if we need to auction some properties off, have at it, because it's costing too much money to keep them," Haley said. "I would be doing cartwheels if we could sell the nine. I want the lists going. I want the property out the door."

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Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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BRUCE SMITH/AP

The headquarters of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, or DHEC, in Columbia., is one of the state buildings Gov. Nikki Haley would like to sell.

Title: **Haley: State needs to get rid of 'money pits'**
Author:
Size: 8.21 square inch
Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



STATE NEWS IN BRIEF

Haley: State needs to get rid of 'money pits'

COLUMBIA (AP) — Gov. Nikki Haley said the state needs to sell its “money pits,” starting with eight properties that include the state Education Department’s administration building.

Haley said Wednesday selling those properties identified so far would enable taxpayers to avoid spending \$30 million on maintenance and other expenses over five years. The figure is not a direct savings, since it’s unclear

how much the state would spend on employees’ new offices.

Schools Superintendent Molly Spearman said her agency welcomes the idea of moving, as its current location doesn’t provide adequate meeting space or parking.

Selling the buildings is among recommendations in a report assessing state-owned property.

It also recommends shrinking the square footage employees occupy. The report said renovating four buildings using “space standards” will save \$32 million over 30 years.