

Title: **WHERE DID PRESIDENT TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN SPEND MONEY IN SC?**  
 Author: BY BRISTOW MARCHANT [bmarchant@thestate.com](mailto:bmarchant@thestate.com)  
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# WHERE DID PRESIDENT TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN SPEND MONEY IN SC?

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT

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The largest recipient of Donald Trump's campaign spending in South Carolina was a S.C. legislator now under indictment for misconduct in office.

The Trump campaign spent \$333,792 for strategic consulting provided by Geechee Communications, a company run by state Rep. Jim Merrill, Trump's S.C. campaign director.

Last month, Merrill was indicted on 30 counts of misconduct and ethics violations as part of a long-running probe of corruption at S.C. State House. The allegations against Merrill are not related to his work for Trump's campaign.

Geechee's numbers were included in a two-year breakdown of spending by the Trump

campaign with the Federal Elections Commission.

## PUBLIC ENTITIES

Some of Trump's campaign money ended up in public coffers as, for example, the candidate paid to rent public facilities.

For instance, the city of Myrtle Beach was paid a total of \$12,000 for rentals of its city-owned sports center and other properties. The campaign also paid \$6,699 to use the Charleston Area Convention Center. To rent other venues, Trump's campaign paid \$6,395 to the Florence Civic Center, \$5,210 to Winthrop University and \$4,880

to the Beaufort County school district.

Some law enforcement agencies also were compensated for providing security.

The Anderson County Sheriff's Office, for example, received \$210 for providing security for an Anderson event. Sumter County was paid \$11,000 for providing security and renting the county's civic center.

## MAJOR S.C. PLAYERS

One elected official also collected money from the Trump campaign.

S.C. Treasurer Curtis Loftis received \$5,850 from the Trump campaign after it rented facilities from the Lexington Republican.

Others who might be known to South Carolinians also cashed in:

- Nancy Mace, the first woman to graduate from the Citadel and an unsuccessful candidate for the GOP nomination for the U.S. Senate in 2014, received \$57,091 for field work on Trump's campaign.

- Jeff Taillon, Trump's S.C. political director, was paid \$55,377.

## THE TREE FARM

One of Trump's most high-profile appearances in South Carolina came at Lexington County's Harmon Tree Farm, where he received the endorsement of Lt. Gov. Henry

McMaster. It was the first endorsement Trump received from a statewide elected official.

Harmon Tree Farm was paid \$3,000 by the campaign.

A year later, Trump nominated S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, paving the way for McMaster to become governor.

## WHERE DID THEY STAY?

Trump's team had a clear favorite when it came to looking for a place to stay in the Palmetto State.

- Marriott hotels received \$35,983 from the campaign while staffers were in South Carolina.
- Holiday Inn came in second, making \$12,566 from the S.C. campaign. Of that, \$6,715 came from renting space for an event.

## LIGHTS, CAMERA ...

Besides Geechee Communications, the largest recipient of Trump's spending in South Carolina was Production Design Associates, a Charleston-based production and audiovisual company that was paid \$243,583.

The only other six-figure recipient in South Carolina was ACS Sound and Lighting of Columbia, paid \$114,015.

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CAROLYN KASTER AP

President-elect Donald Trump arrives at the U.S. Capitol on Friday for the ceremony in which he would be inaugurated as the nation's 45th president.



Title: **GOP lawmakers introduce plan to raise gas tax**  
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# GOP lawmakers introduce plan to raise gas tax

CASSIE COPE

THE STATE

A proposal to increase the South Carolina gas tax — the second-lowest in the nation — was introduced by House Republican leaders Wednesday.

The plan would raise the 16.75-cent-a-gallon gas tax by 10 cents over five years, increasing it by 2 cents a year. When fully phased-in, the increases proposed by House leaders would raise about \$600 million a year to repair the state's crumbling roads and bridges.

The Department of Transportation has estimated it needs nearly \$1 billion a year in added money to make S.C. roads safer.

The bill is co-sponsored by House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington; House budget chairman Brian White, R-Anderson; and House Majority Leader Gary Simrill, R-York. One Democrat — state Rep. Jimmy Bales, D-Richland — is also a co-sponsor.

The proposal includes:

» Increasing the sales tax cap on vehicle sales to \$500 from \$300.

» Enacting a \$60 fee for hybrid vehicles and a \$120 fee for electric vehicles. Both fees, for vehicles that use less gas but still use state roads, would be paid every two years.

Requiring motorists who move to South Carolina and register their vehicles in the Palmetto State to pay a \$250 fee.

The prospect of raising taxes is politically explosive in heavily Republican South Carolina, where a basic GOP political tenet is "no new taxes."

The House leaders' statement reflected that concern, calling the higher gas taxes "motor fuel user fees." The statement also stressed that nonresidents, driving through the state, and drivers of alternative-fuel vehicles would contribute, relieving pressure on the state's general fund, made up largely of sales and income

taxes.

"For far too long, South Carolina's taxpayers have been the ones to solely foot the bill to repair our crumbling infrastructure," Lucas said in a statement.

"Today's legislation removes that burden and appropriately places it on every motorist who drives on South Carolina interstates and highways."

It is not clear if soon-to-be Gov. Henry McMaster will endorse or veto an increase to the gas tax. McMaster has stayed silent on the issue. "I'll address those points at a later date," McMaster said Wednesday.

However, state lawmakers anticipate the 69-year-old political veteran will be easier to work with than outgoing Gov. Nikki Haley.

Haley, who is expected to be confirmed as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and re-

**See TAX, Page 4A**

## Tax

Continued from Page 3A

sign as governor, drew a hard line on raising taxes to pay for road repairs.

Shortly after winning re-election, Haley unveiled a proposal to increase the gas tax by 10 cents a gallon but demanded that plan be paired with an even larger cut in state income taxes.

Critics said that pro-

posal eventually would cost state agencies \$1.8 billion — money needed to pay for S.C. schools and law enforcement.

In the state Senate, Sean Bennett, R-Dorchester, has introduced a proposal similar to the House plan.

Bennett's proposal would increase the state's gas tax by 12 cents a gallon, phasing the in-

crease in over three years and adjusting the tax for inflation. Bennett also proposes other increases in driving fees, and cuts to the state's income and business property taxes.

The House plan does not include any tax cuts.

In 2015, the House voted 87-20 to approve a gas-tax hike. That plan died last year — an election amid pressure from political groups.

Instead, lawmakers approved borrowing money to pay for roughly \$4 billion in road-repair projects.

Still, lawmakers acknowledged that borrowing proposal was not a long-term fix and vowed to pass one this year.

"This plan allows for safety improvements, job creation and improved roads," GOP Majority Leader Simrill said Wednesday.

Title: **Could Trump's tough talk on trade backfire?**  
 Author: BY VERABERGENGRUEN vbergengruen@mcclatchydc.com  
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## U.S. ECONOMY

# Could Trump's tough talk on trade backfire?

BY VERA BERGENGRUEN  
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### WASHINGTON

In some of the states where economic frustration propelled Donald Trump to the White House, the jobs he promised to bring back were already returning before he started making deals.

For the first time in decades, areas of the Carolinas that had been crippled by the loss of the textile industry are seeing some of those jobs return — thanks to the Chinese. Former mining towns in Pennsylvania have been revitalized thanks to jobs at Bimbo Bakeries USA, Wise and Mission foods, which are Mexican-owned companies.

In fact, 6.1 million Americans are directly employed by majority foreign-owned firms, and more than 12 million American jobs linked to foreign investment. These jobs pay a third more on average, and roughly 40 percent are in the manufacturing sector with significant job growth in Rust Belt states.

In other words, exactly the kinds of jobs the president-elect promised to bring back.

While Trump's tough talk on jobs leaving the country

may have helped him win the election, many worry that if those protectionist policies become a reality they could backfire on U.S. workers who rely on the growing number of jobs supported by foreign investment. Trump has also said he plans to renegotiate trade agreements like NAFTA, which he described as "the worst trade deal ever signed," and impose steep tariffs on imported goods.

It's certainly not Trump's intention to limit foreign investment in the U.S.

"President-elect Trump definitely gets the foreign investment benefits," said Nancy McLernon, president and CEO of the Organization for International Investment, which represents the US subsidiaries of global companies. She pointed out his overtures to Japan's SoftBank and Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba.

Members of Trump's administration, including vice president-elect Mike Pence as governor of Indiana, and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, have in the past aggressively courted foreign companies to invest in their states.

Some economists say Trump's administration can't have it both ways, touting protectionist policies and painting globalization as a threat to American workers while reaping its rewards.

A survey conducted for global management consulting firm A.T. Kearney last year found that the number of foreign companies planning to increase their investment in the U.S. could be reduced by 13 percent with a populist candidate such as Trump or Bernie Sanders in the White House.

"Isolating ourselves in a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy which is more globally connected than ever does not make the U.S. more competitive," McLernon said. "Global companies succeed best in competitive markets."

### IN THE CAROLINAS

Taken at face value, Trump's economic proposals "will result in a more isolated U.S. economy. Cross-border trade and immigration will be significantly diminished, and with less trade and immigration, foreign direct investment will also be reduced," economist Mark Zandi wrote in a

Moody's report last year.

That impact could be felt sharply in states like North Carolina, where U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies write the paychecks to nearly 7 percent of its private sector workforce, about 230,500 workers.

"Trade and investment are two sides of the same coin," said Christopher Chung, chief executive of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, saying that the impact of the latter is more visible. "They are investing in bricks and mortar and payroll, so it's very easy to see the benefits, with more North Carolinians going to work."

It remains to be seen how Trump's threats go over with foreign companies once his administration is in place.

"I don't think many people know what to make of Trump's trade policies (as a reality)," said John McDermott, who chairs the Economics Department at the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina.

A week before his inauguration, Trump threatened to slap a 35 percent tariff on every car that German car-

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maker BMW imported into the country unless it cancels its plans to build a plant in

Mexico.

BMW's largest plant in the world is in Spartanburg, and employs 8,800 workers. It exports more than 70 percent of its U.S. production. In addition to hundreds of suppliers, BMW and Michelin account for more than 75,000 jobs in the state's civilian workforce of just over 2 million.

"People just don't realize how many export jobs there are. South Carolina has remade itself amazingly from a state that relied on import good to export goods – tires, autos, aerospace, it's a huge exports industry," McDermott said. "What Trump is doing trying to influence the auto companies is just crazy — it's all about deals and not markets. I don't think he can possibly micromanage to the degree he's used to in his

own firm."

#### **MEXICO AND CHINA**

When it comes to jobs that rely on foreign companies, tough protectionist policies could endanger more jobs than Trump can save.

For example, Indiana has lost 7,000 manufacturing jobs in the past year. Trump's deal saved about 800 jobs at the plant of Indiana air conditioner manufacturer Carrier by giving the company a \$7 million tax break. But between 2012 and 2014, Indiana had brought in \$4.6 billion in foreign investments, creating nearly 13,300 jobs, according to data from the U.S. Bureau for Economic Analysis. Most of those are in manufacturing.

While the largest share of foreign investment comes from the United Kingdom, Japan and Canada, there are a significant number of U.S. jobs being supported by Mex-

ico and China — two of Trump's favorite punching bags when it comes to trade during his presidential campaign.

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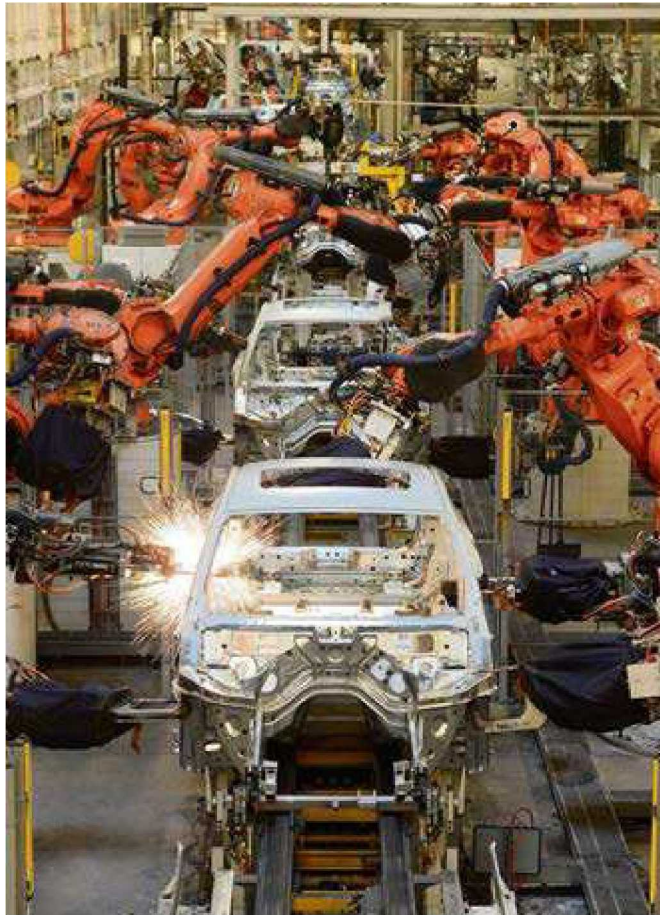
## **\$353 BILLION**

*Amount invested by international firms in the U.S. economy in 2015, an all-time high and twice as much as in 2014, according to the Organization for International Investment.*

## **25,000**

*People across the U.S. employed by Mexican bakery giant Bimbo, which has invested \$1 billion in its northern neighbor since 2012.*

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JOHN BYRUM john.byrum@shj.com

Robots weld on the frames as the soon-to-be cars travel along the assembly line at the BMW plant in Greer.



Title: **National Religious Freedom Day**

Author:

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# National Religious Freedom Day

This past Monday was National Religious Freedom Day, a time set aside to remember the inalienable right of all people to faith, conscience, religious practice. It was first proclaimed by President George H.W. Bush and then by every sitting president since then. Again this year it was also given a proclamation by Governor Nikki Haley.

The day serves to commemorate the passage of the Virginia Statute For Religious Freedom, penned primarily by Thomas Jefferson and adopted 3 years prior to the Constitution. It also was the forerunner and pattern for our First Amendment right to freedom of religion.

While the First Amendment right is briefly stated, Jefferson spent much time in the Virginia Statute declaring religious freedom to be a "natural right" and one that no government can take or lessen. It was declared that no one can be forced to practice a religion and also that no one can be kept from practicing his/her religion or punished for keeping his/her faith, conscience or religion.

This is a universal right given to every person on earth because all of us are religious and all of us have a "god". The freedom is valid for Baptists or Buddhists, Catholics or Confucianists, Methodists, Mormons or Muslims, Anglicans or "atheists", humanists or Hindus, Sikhs, Presbyterians, Epis-

copalians, Animists and the like. And

when one group seeks to abridge the rights of another, then that group's rights are also endangered.

Last Friday I was privileged to attend the National Religious Freedom Day meeting of Catholics/Americans for Freedom of Religion at the beach. The highlight of the evening, for me, was the reading of an original essay on religious freedom by a young 8th grader who had won the essay contest put on by the group. That poised and articulate young lady was Ryley Grace Bethle and with her permission this is her essay:

"In history class, you may remember learning about the 27 Constitutional Amendments and how important they are to us individually and as a nation. Freedom of religion is clearly explained in the first amendment, but it is being overlooked and

pushed aside more and more each day.

"Unfortunately, I have experienced a denial of religious freedom in my own public school. Recently, my school worked together to display a 'Christmas Around the World' theme, with students decorating all the classroom doors to include different religious themes from countries around the world, including Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Muslim, and Christianity religions. A decorated Christmas tree was placed in the school lobby for all to enjoy. Soon after, a fellow student, who I personally know celebrates Christmas, wrote a letter to the school requesting to have the tree and door decorations removed because she felt it was excluding some religions. Instead of trying to see if anyone felt excluded by taking a school-wide student survey, or including decorations for those religions that the student felt were being excluded, the school officials took down the tree and had students remove all the door decorations. I felt so sad to see everything gone. I loved walking into school

every day, being reminded that Christmas is so near! And even though there were no pictures of baby Jesus included with the decorations, I still thought of him several times a day because that's what Christmas is all about!

"I think our school denied most of the students their right to express

their religious beliefs the moment school officials caved in to one student's opinion. I'm very disappointed and frustrated that the school officials didn't even try to defend the Christmas theme, or come up with a solution that would have made everyone happy. There was so much we could have learned about the different religions and diversity from around the world. It would have been a fun learning experience for me and most of my fellow students."

Not only is Ryley's essay a clear explanation of her opinion, she is very correct in what she expressed. The First Amendment clearly states that authorities cannot "prohibit the free exercise" of our religious beliefs. It does not specify a particular person who has that right; students do and teachers do. It doesn't limit that practice to home or church; we can practice our faith everywhere. And it doesn't say that everyone has to like it or agree. That's why there are so many flavors of ice cream; we all have different views.

Ryley's school administration missed a great "teaching moment", sharing the need for "tolerance" for the "dissenting student" and allowing for diversity by continuing the Constitutionally protected holiday display. The correct solution would have been to allow that student and others to bring their decorations and include them for the education of all the students. And the school would have taught the students the importance of our fundamental "natural" and Constitutional rights and the security the students have that the administration would protect those rights.

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But today we see individuals and organizations using bully tactics to scare governmental bodies (councils, school boards and administrators, and so on) and threaten them with expensive legal actions and the like. And these people, who should be examples of how to stand up to bullies, too often capitulate and in so doing take away and endanger the very rights that we all have. Whether

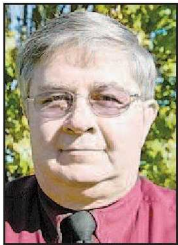
their lack of knowledge of the Constitution is ignorance or willful misunderstanding I don't know.

Our founding documents are very easy to read and to understand. And reading them refute that greatest of all hoaxes perpetrated on the people of America, using "separation of church and state" to limit our rights.

We value the other rights of the first amendment: speech, press,

peaceable assembly and would never allow them to be relegated away from the public square. We dare not try to do that with our God-given freedom of faith, conscience, religion. This right is too precious. On National Religious Freedom Day and on the other 364 days of the year, let us stand up and be counted that we all have this right, responsibility, obligation!

**If you have news of activities that you would like to have included in this weekly column, contact me at 369-5665 or 369-7729 or fax me at 369-7731. You may also email your item to BethanyB@sc coast.net**



**| CHURCH |**  
**TALK**

LARRY  
 DEEDS





Title: **Could Trump's tough talk on trade backfire on U.S. jobs?**  
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## U.S. ECONOMY

# Could Trump's tough talk on trade backfire on U.S. jobs?

BY VERA BERGENGRUEN  
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In some of the states where economic frustration propelled Donald Trump to the White House, the jobs he promised to bring back were already returning before he started making deals.

For the first time in decades, areas of the Carolinas that had been crippled by the loss of the textile industry are seeing some of those jobs return — thanks to the Chinese. Former mining towns in Pennsylvania have been revitalized thanks to jobs at Bimbo Bakeries USA, Wise and Mission foods, which are Mexican-owned companies.

In fact, 6.1 million Americans are directly employed by majority foreign-owned firms, and more than 12 million American jobs linked to foreign investment. These jobs pay a third more on average, and roughly 40 percent are in the manufacturing sector with significant job growth in Rust Belt states.

In other words, exactly the kinds of jobs the president-elect promised to bring back.

While Trump's tough talk on jobs leaving the country may have helped him win the election, many worry that if those protectionist policies become a reality they could

backfire on U.S. workers who rely on the growing number of jobs supported by foreign investment. Trump has also said he plans to renegotiate trade agreements like NAFTA, which he described as "the worst trade deal ever signed," and impose steep tariffs on imported goods.

It's certainly not Trump's intention to limit foreign investment in the U.S.

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Members of Trump's administration, including vice president-elect Mike Pence as governor of Indiana, and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, have in the past aggressively courted foreign companies to invest in their states.

Some economists say Trump's administration can't have it both ways, touting protectionist policies and painting globalization as a threat to American workers while reaping its rewards.

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global management consulting firm A.T. Kearney last year found that the number of foreign companies planning to increase their investment in the U.S. could be reduced by 13 percent with a populist candidate such as Trump or Bernie Sanders in the White House.

"Isolating ourselves in a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy which is more globally connected than ever does not make the U.S. more competitive," McLernon said. "Global companies succeed best in competitive markets."

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That impact could be felt sharply in states like North Carolina, where U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies write the paychecks to nearly 7 percent of its private sector workforce, about 230,500 workers.

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Chung, chief executive of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, saying that the impact of the latter is more visible. "They are investing in bricks and mortar and payroll, so it's very easy to see the benefits, with more North Carolinians going to work."

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"I don't think many people know what to make of Trump's trade policies (as a) reality," said John McDermott, who chairs the Economics Department at the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina.

A week before his inauguration, Trump threatened to slap a 35 percent tariff on every car that German carmaker BMW imported into the country unless it cancels its plans to build a plant in Mexico.

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#### **MEXICO AND CHINA**

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For example, Indiana has lost 7,000 manufacturing jobs in the past year. Trump's deal saved about 800 jobs at the

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While the largest share of foreign investment comes from the United Kingdom, Japan and Canada, there are a significant number of U.S. jobs being supported by Mexico and China - two of Trump's favorite punching bags when it comes to trade during his presidential campaign.

Annual direct Mexican investment in the U.S. more than tripled from 2006 to 2015, from \$5.3 billion to \$16.6 billion, according to Bureau of Economic Analysis data.

The U.S. is also increasingly benefitting by foreign investment by China, a country Trump frequently criticized on the campaign trail, and more recently insulted by speaking to Taiwan's leader. More than 90,000 Americans are employed by Chinese-affiliated U.S. companies, a threefold increase in just three years, according to an analysis by Rhodium Group, a New York-based economic advisory group specializing in China.

The same report cautioned regulators and lawmakers to "ensure that political rhetoric and politicization do not needlessly impede job creating investment inflows, particularly in an election year."

That seems unlikely with Trump's appointment of well-known China trade hawks like Peter Navarro, whose 2013 film was called "Death by China" and will head a White

House trade council.

For the time being, states expect things to stay the same. If anything, there is an uptick in companies expressing interest in coming to the U.S. while they wait and see what the next administration will do, Chung said.

"As long as the U.S. continues to be a beacon for people all over the world, with talent availability and strong rule of law, it will continue to be a location where foreign companies come to invest," Chung said. "It boils down to whether the U.S. continues to be an attractive location."

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DARRON CUMMINGS AP

President-elect Donald Trump's deal with Carrier saved about 800 jobs in Indiana. But between 2012 and 2014, Indiana had attracted \$4.6 billion in foreign investments, creating nearly 13,300 jobs.

Title: **South Carolina supporters flock to D.C. for Trump's inauguration**  
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## U.S. POLITICS

# South Carolina supporters flock to D.C. for Trump's inauguration

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT

[bmarchant@thestate.com](mailto:bmarchant@thestate.com)

A new era in U.S. politics begins Friday, when Donald Trump is sworn in as president. And South Carolinians will have front-row seats.

Those traveling from South Carolina for the inauguration range from a Republican National Committee member to high school students on a field trip.

What do they hope to see from the new Trump Administration?

## 'SOUTH CAROLINA SHOULD BE VERY PROUD'

*Drew Johnson of Chester, 45, works for TruVista Communications*

"We're going to the inaugural ball — I think the main one where the president is going to be. I've never been, so I'm very excited. ..."

"I'd like to see the health care law

repealed, and I'd like to have something to replace it with, but I know legislation is like watching sausage get made. ... I'd like to restructure our military and make sure it's better funded, and my congressman is going to be in the (White House) budget

office, so I know Mick Mulvaney will do a fantastic job. And Nikki Haley too (as U.N. ambassador), so South Carolina should be very proud."

## FOCUSED ON HEALTH CARE AND JOBS

*Glenn McCall, a 62-year-old Republican National Committee member and retired Bank of America executive from Rock Hill, went to Washington earlier this week for RNC meetings*

"We'll go to the 'Make America Great Again' concert at the Lincoln Memorial

(Thursday night), and the main ball. (My wife) doesn't care to go, since I'll be in meetings all week, so I'll be seated at the inaugural with (S.C. Republican chairman) Matt Moore and Cindy Costa (South Carolina's other RNC member).

"I'm focused on what they will be working on in terms of more patient-centric health care and creating jobs also. I'm confident they can bring our immigration system into the 21st century, and I'm looking forward to changes in the tax code that will allow companies to bring hundreds of billions, even trillions of dollars back into the country. Some things will take longer than others, but I'm confident we can put them in place."

SEE VOTERS, 6A

## FROM PAGE 1A

## VOTERS

### 'PRAY HE'LL BE A GOOD PRESIDENT'

*Shery Smith, 54, is Sumter County GOP chair and was a delegate to the 2016 Republican convention*

"Because I was on the Electoral College, I was offered two tickets. We're going to the South Carolina Society ball and a couple others. There's one at the Bulgarian embassy that's being hosted by (S.C. Congressman) Joe Wilson and the Bulgarian ambassador.

"If he (Trump) follows through on what he's said, we have much better days

ahead. The economic benefits, we've already seen. ... Foreign policy will improve, and we'll gain respect

across the world. I hope he'll deliver a more pro-American, positive message. And I'm pro-immigration, but we need to have legal immigration that makes more sense. ...

"I haven't heard anything from him (Trump) that makes me think, 'Oh,

no.' I'm very positive about what the future looks like. And every American, no matter who you voted for, should feel like that. I felt the same way about Obama. He's my president, and I pray he'll be a good president."

### CIVICS LESSON FOR IRMO HIGH STUDENTS

*Ray Canady, 47, is a U.S. history teacher at Irmo High School; his student group left by bus early Thursday for Washington and will return late Sunday*

"We have

13 students signed up to go to the inauguration. We started planning this last December

(of 2015), and they signed up in January, not knowing who would be elected.

"We don't have tickets, so we're going to be on the Mall, and then go to the parade and a students' inaugural ball on Saturday organized by the company ... that organized the trip.



Title: **South Carolina supporters flock to D.C. for Trump's inauguration**  
 Author: BYBRISTOW MARCHANT bmarchant@thestate.com  
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We're also going to see a lot of the memorials and monuments. ... And we'll go to the Capitol, and we might have an opportunity to see Sen. (Tim) Scott and Congressman (Joe) Wilson, if they can find an open window. ...

"Because I'm a U.S. history teacher, it was intriguing to be able to do this. It (the trip) was offered to rising juniors and seniors. ... They are pretty excited."

#### **'WE'LL SEE SOME GOOD CHANGES'**

*Lewis Gossett, 50, from the Irmo area, is director of the S.C. Manufacturers Alliance*



Johnson



McCall



Smith



Canady

"I'm going to the South Carolina Society ball on Thursday. I went in '05, and it was fun. ... (But) I'll probably watch the inauguration on TV, just because security is going to be so tight. ...

"I think we're going to do something about Obamacare. I don't think they will throw it out all at once because that's not practical, but they will do something to deal with it. I think they will reduce the corporate tax rate to make America more competitive, look at

the regulatory agenda, because regulations hold back investment and expansions, and stop (the National Labor Relations Board) from trying to change American labor law. I think we'll see some good changes."

#### **'HE SPEAKS LIKE ALL OF US'**

*Jerry Rovner, 66, retired Navy captain and SC presidential elector, Pawley's Island*

"I'm excited. Electors (in the Electoral College) get special seating. ... Nobody even knew who (was an elector) before this year, when I got 4,000 hate emails about

it. ... Me and my wife ... we'll go to the South Carolina ball and have lunch with (U.S. Rep.) Tom Rice at the Capitol.

"I know the mainstream media cares about conflicts of interest, but he's already saved jobs. My neighbor's daughter is an engineer in the Carrier plant in Indiana, and now that it's been saved, she's been promoted to the head of engineering. The entire mood will be positive because he speaks like all of us."

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Gossett

Title: **Moped bills go in different directions in state House, Senate**  
 Author: AVERY G. WILKS THE STATE  
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# Moped bills go in different directions in state House, Senate

**AVERY G. WILKS**

THE STATE

COLUMBIA - A proposal to require moped drivers to register with the Department of Motor Vehicles, follow the same traffic rules as other vehicles and wear reflective vests at night is headed to the S.C. Senate floor.

Meanwhile, a House version of the bill, which differs in that it also requires moped drivers to carry liability insurance, is headed back to the drawing board for tweaks.

Senate panels this week hastily advanced state Sen. Greg Hembree's moped proposal. The bill is identical to one that passed both houses last year but was vetoed by Republican S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, who said it was "government

overreach."

The bill, which also requires moped drivers younger than 21 to wear a helmet, could be among the first taken up when the full Senate meets again next Tuesday.

"It's much easier, because we thoroughly vetted this thing last year and worked so hard on it to try to get it to a good place," said Hembree, R-Horry. "It's a pretty easy lift."

The bill still could face opposition in the Senate.

State Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington, has said requiring moped owners to wear reflective vests is an unnecessary burden, especially for poor drivers.

Hembree counters that vests can be bought for \$4.50, and making moped drivers more visible would curb the ris-

ing moped death toll on S.C. roadways.

The Trauma Association of South Carolina this week said it cost state trauma centers \$27.8 million to treat victims of 510 moped collisions from April 2014 to October 2015.

Those hospitals were reimbursed \$4.3 million for their treatment. Taxpayers picked up the rest of the tab — an average of roughly \$46,000 per collision, the association said.

"I'm trading \$4.50 for \$50,000," Hembree said. "That's as cost-effective as I imagine."

Hembree said he has not spoken to soon-to-be-Gov. Henry McMaster about the bill but thinks the Columbia Republican and former state attorney general will get behind it. "He's a public safety guy."



Title: **DDSN responds to violations**  
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM  
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# DDSN responds to violations

TIM SMITH

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COLUMBIA - Parents of children being referred to a residential treatment facility that has been slapped with 18 violations by the state's health agency will now be told of the violations before their children are placed there, the executive director of the state's disabilities agency told *The Greenville News* on Thursday.

Her comments came following reports in *The News* that the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, which licenses Palmetto Pee Dee Behavioral Health in Florence, had cited the facility for 18 violations, including two that are considered by the agency to be among the most serious types of violations, following three unannounced visits in December and earlier this month.

Also Thursday, commissioners raised

questions about why millions of dollars set aside for capital improvement projects have sat dormant for years.

The violations at Palmetto Pee Dee allege abuse, understaffing, a lack of supervision and maintenance issues, among others. One of the visits stemmed from a Columbia mother's complaint that her autistic son had lost an excessive amount of weight and had been bitten repeatedly by other children there.

The state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs has no oversight of the facility, but local disabilities boards can and have referred children there.

Deborah McPherson, a former DDSN commissioner, told the DDSN board Thursday it should re-examine the role of

service coordinators who refer children to the facility to be sure they are informing families and advocating for them when things go wrong.

"Was the mother provided information about this provider to make an informed choice before her son was placed at this facility?" she asked. "I would recommend that DDSN re-examine the role of service coordinators, as well as how information can be provided in assisting families and individuals with disabilities in making informed choices."

DDSN Director Beverley Buscemi told *The News* after the meeting that parents would be informed of the DHEC violations.

"Obviously, we want to be sure our

**See VIOLATIONS, Page 4A**

## Violations

Continued from Page 1A

families are informed of any actions," she said. "DHEC has now taken action so part of our responsibility as an agency that has no oversight of this particular provider is we want to be sure we educate and inform our families so they know a provider is in good standing or questionable standing. Now that formal action has been taken, I think it's part of our role and responsibility, either in case management or as DDSN, to make sure families have that information so they can make an educated choice for the best provider."

A spokeswoman for DHEC said the agency's investigation of the facility is ongoing.

*The News* earlier this month reported that current and former workers at the facility alleged that children at the facility have been hurt after altercations with staff, were given inadequate food and programming, and the facility often has been short-staffed.

Workers also said the aging facility has suffered a host of maintenance problems, including broken laundry equipment, malfunctioning showers and mold.

Training has been inadequate, workers have been forced to work 16-hour shifts, staph infections and scabies have been found at the facility, and children there

have been subjected to verbal abuse by staff, the concerned workers told the newspaper.

On the issue of money for capital projects that has been sitting in accounts unused for years, commissioners asked for a change in the agency's money management procedure.

In one case, officials said, an \$870,000 project that was begun in 1992 to build dorms for one of the agency's regional centers never resulted in any construction after officials wavered about whether to build the dorms.

Tom Waring, the agency's finance director, told commissioners that in more recent years the agency hoped to "re-scope" the project to deal with the regional center's "obsolete" electrical system.

"I'm missing something here," said DDSN Chairman Bill Danielson. "Are we re-scoping with dead people? What are we doing here for 25 years? Are we talking with SCE&G? Why don't we amend this project?"

Buscemi, who was hired long after the project was started, said the project sat "for years" while officials tried to decide whether to build, especially in light of national trends away from dorms for the disabled.

Waring said the agency is talking with the utility and is hoping to have more in-

formation in a month or so.

He said the agency has about 50 open projects, and the total amount remaining unspent is about \$8 million. Some projects, he said, are ongoing, while others were constructed but still have funds left over. Still others such as the dorm project, have never been built.

Brian Gaines, director of the executive budget office in the Department of Administration, said officials have three years to get projects started in construction. After that, he said, officials are supposed to request an extension from the Joint Bond Review Committee.

Commissioner Vicki Thompson of Seneca first raised the issue last year after discovering dozens of open projects. She told the board Thursday such projects should be closed after three years if construction is not ongoing.

"Having an open project for a long time is not what we're supposed to be doing," she said. "We need to get in compliance with the whole procurement process."

She told the board she would like to close some of the projects that have been dormant and use the money for something else, such as raises for direct-care workers.

Waring said the money is one-time money and could not be used for raises.

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According to a listing of the 50 projects, 32 were approved by the DDSN commission in 2013 or earlier.

Some of the projects expended some money but contain hundreds of thousands of unspent dollars that officials have apparently earmarked for maintenance, according to the agency's documents.

"Project kept open to have funds available as needs arise," officials noted beside the \$110,000 left over from a 2012 project of \$240,000 for "building envelope repairs."

Beside a \$248,000 project approved in 2012 for "statewide sitework lifecycle," officials noted in explaining the \$100,000 balance kept on the project that, "this project has a very general scope that can be used for many areas when failure occurs. This allows the department to meet the needs as they arise."

The same wording was used for a 2011 project for renovations at the Midlands Center, a project approved for \$175,000 and that still has \$121,436.

"We put this money in the debt service

account and then we don't spend it because we have \$9 million," Thompson said. "That is ridiculous. Why are we sitting on all this money when I feel like we could be doing something with it? There's something wrong with that system. There's got to be a better way."

Commissioner Eva Ravenel of Charleston, joining the meeting by conference call, told the board, "I agree, I agree, I agree."

Waring said some of the accounts are kept open to cope with emergencies, such as when air conditioning systems fail.

But Thompson said the agency spends only about \$1.5 million annually out of that account. According to the agency's documents, about \$7.2 million remains unspent of the \$9.8 million approved for the projects.

"We're out of balance," she said. "I understand emergencies, but historically we haven't needed \$9 million a year."

Waring said there is some backlog due to a lawsuit that suspended projects for more than a year.

"We're trying to catch up," he said. "It's a major task. We know that we have some needs out there and we're trying to get there."

Danielson questioned Waring on two projects, including a 2013 project to build some dorms that still had \$24,000 and was open.

"The reason we're keeping that open is from time to time kitchen cabinets, appliances on that campus degrade so we have the money to move right in," Waring said.

Danielson asked that the projects be reclassified to remove balances.

"What happens down the road is not part of the original project," he said. "That's a maintenance thing."

DDSN is asking lawmakers to approve \$33 million more for its budget that begins in July, including about \$10 million to increase pay for direct-care workers. The governor in her executive budget asked lawmakers for a total of \$3.2 million more.

"We need to figure out how to do better than that," Danielson said of the Haley's total.



TIM SMITH/STAFF

The Department of Disabilities and Special Needs office in Columbia.

Title: **Lt. Gov. McMaster paying ethics fines**  
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## STATE GOVERNMENT

# Lt. Gov. McMaster paying ethics fines

*Associated Press*

### CHARLESTON

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster has paid ethics penalties as he awaits the possibility of becoming South Carolina's governor.

The Post and Courier of Charleston reported that McMaster's campaign attorney says the lieutenant governor has paid a \$5,100



McMaster

fine to the State Ethics Commission and plans to refund excess campaign contributions from his 2010 gubernatorial bid.

The extra contributions total just over \$69,000 from 51 donors.

The penalties were part of an order issued in March against McMaster.

He'll become South Carolina's 117th governor if Gov. Nikki Haley is confirmed as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

McMaster chief of staff Mark Plowden says the lieutenant governor is also paying \$600 in fines for submitting lobbying reports late, though his office is not required to register as a lobbyist.



Title: **Another Trump nominee, Nikki Haley, disagrees with him on Russia, the U.N.**  
 Author: BY VERABERGENGRUEN AND MATTHEW SCHOFIELD McClatchy Washington Bureau  
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## CONFIRMATION HEARING

# Another Trump nominee, Nikki Haley, disagrees with him on Russia, the U.N.

BY VERA BERGENGRUEN AND  
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McClatchy Washington Bureau  
WASHINGTON

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, the president-elect's nominee for ambassador to the United Nations, made it clear during her confirmation hearing Wednesday that she disagrees with Donald

Trump quite a bit regarding U.S. foreign policy, from Russia to NATO to the United Nations itself.

As such, her three-hour hearing in front of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee went fairly smoothly. Even one of her harshest critics, Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said near the end of his questions to Haley that he believed they would "have a con-

structive relationship going forward."

But that was after she'd put distance between herself and President-elect Trump, whose Cabinet she will join if she is confirmed. Where they differed: Trump has called NATO obsolete. She called it "an important alliance." He's dismissed the importance of the United Nations and talked about cutting American funding of the organization. She said "slash and burn" diplomacy didn't work and should be avoided.

Trump recently implied that he'd begin his administration trusting Russian President Vladimir Putin as much as he would German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and he's been largely dismissive of allegations that Putin directed an attempt to disrupt the

recent U.S. elections. Haley said Russia had committed war crimes in Syria, tried to interfere in the U.S. elections and had wrongly seized Crimea and invaded Ukraine, while Germany was an important ally.

The hearing was a sharp departure from the rancorous confirmation hearings for several other Cabinet choices, including those of Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala. — the attorney general nominee — and former Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson — nominated as secretary of state.

Haley addressed her inexperience — a key concern for many Democrats — in her opening statement, and the topic wasn't brought

**SEE HALEY, 10A**

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## HALEY

up much after that. Haley said her lack of formal foreign policy experience meant she would bring "an outsider's look" to the role.

"International diplomacy is a new area for me. I don't claim that I know everything. But diplomacy itself is not new to me," she told the committee. "Like most government agencies, the United Nations could benefit from a fresh set of eyes."

In her opening statement, Haley questioned whether U.S. funding of the institution is justified.

"We contribute 22 percent of the U.N.'s budget, far more than any other country," she said. "Are we getting what we pay for?" But throughout the hearing she said cutting the entire funding for the organization would not be in the best interests of the United States. She said she believed

targeted cuts might have an impact but that they should be based in problems with the process that couldn't be addressed, not in the results of votes.

At one point, she suggested that concerns about Trump's positions would be best put to Trump. And she noted that Trump has shown himself willing to change his mind if the case presented to him is persuasive. Still, on

Russia she was fairly direct: "Russia is trying to show their muscle. It's what they do. I don't think we can trust them."

Beyond that, she was pushed on climate change. On several occasions, she said, "Climate change will always be on the table."

Still, later, she said, "Global warming is one of the threats we face, not the primary threat."

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Haley