

Title: **3 WEEKS, 3 LESSONS**  
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# 3 WEEKS, 3 LESSONS

## ABOUT TRUMP'S EMERGING PRESIDENCY

Susan Page | @susanpage | USA TODAY

Donald Trump's tweetstorm charging, without evidence, that the election included "millions" of illegal voters is just the latest reminder of how distinctive his emerging presidency promises to be.

Three weeks after he surprised even his supporters by winning the White House, the president-elect has begun to provide important clues about how he'll govern. Through words, actions and appointments — by what he's done so far, and what he has delayed doing — the nation's 45th president has cut a course that is a mix of the predictable and the unprecedented.

Just like his campaign.

There's no template for Trump in office because Trump has never held office before, the first president in American history to have neither military command nor governmental experience. He moves into the Oval Office having had little backing from the political establishment that typically is tapped to form a new government. And he doesn't feel bound to follow his predecessors' practices, even down to his plans to

► STORY CONTINUES ON 2B

# PREVIEW OF HIS PRESIDENCY

► CONTINUED FROM 1B

divide his time between Washington and his hometown of New York.

That makes the search for clues of what's ahead even more intense than usual. Here are three lessons we've learned already:

### 1. THE FIRST TWITTER PRESIDENT

How will Trump communicate with Americans? Let's look at what he's done since he was declared the president-elect through Tuesday morning.

News conferences: zero.

Tweets and retweets: 77 and counting.

Trump hasn't had a news conference since the election. Indeed, he hasn't held a news conference since July, when he moved from being one of the most accessible presidential candidates in memory to one of the least. At that point, he began to rely mostly on speaking to a handful of preferred news outlets and, notably, social media.

Trump has more than 16 million followers on his @realDonaldTrump Twitter account and more than 15 million on his verified Facebook page. What's more,

the @POTUS Twitter account (the acronym for president of the United States) that he'll inherit from President Obama has more than 12 million followers.

That gives Trump a personal circulation on social media bigger than any American newspaper or TV evening news broadcast. It's a way for him to communicate with his supporters and spark stories in news outlets around the world without being subjected to the follow-up questions reporters presumably would pose.

Since the election, he has posted messages along traditional presidential lines, from wishing the Marine Corps a happy 241st birthday ("Thank you for your service!!") to sending Thanksgiving wishes to the nation. But he also has blasted "the failing @nytimes," castigated the cast of Broadway's *Hamilton* for reading a message from stage to Vice President-elect Mike Pence, and suggested *Saturday Night Live* owed him "equal time" in response to its satiric portrayals of him.

Over the weekend, he bashed moves by Green Party nominee Jill Stein to seek recounts in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, states Trump narrowly carried. He said without substantiation that fraud had given rival

Hillary Clinton a lead in the popular vote of more than 2 million. "In addition to winning the Electoral College in a landslide, I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally," he wrote.

Monday night, he retweeted five posts denouncing a CNN report that questioned his evidence for that claim.

### 2. LOYALTY. AND ITS LIMITS.

Loyalty matters to Trump, but there seem to be limits.

Two top campaign aides quickly landed ranking White House jobs, Reince Priebus as chief of staff and Steve Bannon as senior counselor. Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, the first senator to endorse Trump, was named attorney general. Retired Army lieutenant general Michael Flynn, a close adviser during the campaign, will be national security adviser.

But New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who enthusiastically endorsed Trump but remains embroiled in the Bridgegate scandal on his home turf, is on the outs, bumped from his role as head of the transition. Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, who continued to publicly defend Trump even in the immediate



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wake of the vulgar *Access Hollywood* video, hasn't won the job he wants, secretary of State, at least not yet.

Which brings us to forgiveness, and its limits.

A rival candidate for the nation's top diplomatic post, and to be fourth in line for the presidency, is Mitt Romney. During the campaign, the GOP's 2012 presidential nominee was Trump's most scathing critic from the ranks of senior Republicans. In a speech in March, Romney called Trump "a phony, a fraud," "very, very not smart" and a failed businessman who advocated "ridiculous and dangerous" ideas.

Still, Romney was scheduled to meet with Trump for a second time Tuesday to talk about the State Department job, an idea

that heartens establishment Republicans but enrages some of those who had supported Trump at the time Romney was denouncing him. "People feel betrayed to think that Gov. Romney, who went out of his way to question the character and the intellect and the integrity of Donald Trump, now our president-elect, would be given the most significant Cabinet post of all, secretary of State," Kellyanne Conway, Trump's former campaign manager, said Sunday on NBC's *Meet the Press*.

The battle between Romney and Giuliani could clear the way for some other prospect, such as Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker of Tennessee.

Trump appointed South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley as United Nations ambassador and Betsy DeVos as Education secretary. Both endorsed others during the Republican primaries, and Haley was particularly critical of Trump. She labeled him "everything a governor doesn't want in a president."

Unlike Romney, though, she did say she was voting for him in the general election.

### 3. BROTHERHOOD OF BILLIONAIRES

Rich folks often fare well in the bid for presidential appointments. Major campaign contributors routinely are nominated to serve as ambassadors to idyllic locales — think Paris, not Kabul — and to head agencies such as the Commerce Department. In 1953, Dwight Eisenhower's Cabinet, heavy with corporate executives, was dubbed "nine millionaires and a plumber." (Trivia alert: Who was the plumber? Labor Secretary Martin Durkin, a former president of the plumbers and pipefitters union. He lasted only eight months in the job.)

But the bank accounts of Trump's Cabinet appointees seem likely to overwhelm any previous administration. DeVos' family is heir to the huge Amway fortune. Trump was expected to announce Wilbur Ross, the billionaire businessman known as the "king of bankruptcy," to head Commerce. Steve Mnuchin, formerly of Goldman Sachs, report-

edly had been picked for Treasury secretary over another billionaire, Jonathan Gray of the Blackstone private equity firm, reported to have been a finalist.

By the way, if they take the government jobs, they will be subject to a federal law that says executive-branch employees can't participate in government matters in which they or their immediate families have a financial interest. That could force them to divest some assets or put them in a blind trust.

That ethics law doesn't apply to the president and his extensive business assets.

Trump also seems partial to generals. Besides naming Flynn, Trump has tweeted his regard for retired Marine Corps general James ("Mad Dog") Mattis as a prospective secretary of Defense. Mattis' appointment would require a congressional waiver from the requirement that the Pentagon chief be out of uniform for at least seven years. "Very impressive," Trump tweeted. "A true General's General!"

And he met for about an hour Monday at Trump Tower with retired general David Petraeus, who had to resign as CIA director for mishandling classified information. He's another possible secretary of State. "Just met with General Petraeus," Trump tweeted Monday afternoon. "Was very impressed!"

### The bank accounts of

**Trump's Cabinet appointees seem likely to overwhelm any previous administration.**

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TWITTER

**Since he was elected, Donald Trump hasn't held one news conference but has tweeted or retweeted 77 times.**



CAROLYN KASTER, AP

**President-elect Donald Trump announces Nov. 19 that Betsy DeVos, a fellow billionaire who did not endorse him in the primaries, will take the role of Education secretary.**

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Title: **U.N. post a natural step for Gov. Haley**  
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## ANALYSIS

# U.N. post a natural step for Gov. Haley

BY ROBERT COSTA

*The Washington Post*

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's journey to the United Nations has struck members of both parties as unlikely: the appointment of a Republican with limited foreign policy experience to a Cabinet-level post.

But through the prism of a career bursting with political diplomacy and ambition, it is a natural next step.

Haley, 44, whom President-elect Donald Trump announced last week as his nominee for U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, has long shuttled between her party's mainstream and its conservative base, maintaining ties to each wing even as she resists being labeled as "tea party" or "establishment."

And the daughter of Indian immigrants has consistently asserted herself as a voice for both the Republican future and its past traditions.

These contradictory signals and blended alliances have made her an ascendant force as well as occasionally in-



Haley

Haley's ability to translate those relationship skills and savvy to the U.N. will almost certainly be crucial in her success – or failure – in navigating the swirling spheres of influence at Turtle Bay.

Not only will she need to explain Trump and his brash foreign policy to the world, but she will be tasked with keeping her place within the president-elect's at times chaotic orbit and within a Republican Party that has cracks across it.

Such a job demands studied knowledge of global politics and statecraft. It also demands nuance and steadiness amid tumult and criticism, which is where Haley's experience is telling.

Her political profile so far is defined more by her steady responses to crisis and competing

scrutable. She is at once a favorite of the business elite and Mitt Romney and a populist-sounding, Sarah Palin-endorsed Southern executive.

pressures than by a particular ideology.

After the killing of nine black churchgoers in Charleston last year, Haley made headlines for her calm and poise in the

following days and spoke out against hate and racism. She called for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the state capitol and said that such symbols cause "hurt and pain" even if historic.

On race, Haley said in a subsequent remarks at the National Press Club that "black lives do matter" called her own party "shameful" in its outreach to minority groups.

Before and after that tragedy, she was championed by party officials as a welcome and diverse face.

Yet she rarely if ever challenges the deeply conservative policy doctrines that have dominated the GOP for decades.

Her relationship with Trump is an example of how she can shrug off lingering conflicts and calmly assert a new reality when necessary.

SEE HALEY, 2C

FROM PAGE 1C

## HALEY

Earlier this year, as Haley delivered the Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union, she warned viewers against the "siren call of the angriest voices," which was widely seen as an indirect shot at

Trump, and she later endorsed a Trump rival, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

Trump called her "weak" on immigration.

"I feel very strong about illegal immigration," he told Fox News at the time. "She doesn't."

To have all of these paths lead to the U.N. seems both odd and oddly understandable.

Having already been elected twice as governor, serving alongside Trump offers Haley an opportunity to gain credibility as a

global leader without being cast as a "globalist" or establishment Republican since she will be linked with Trump, who was elevated by the GOP's grass-roots activists.

Haley is also positioned for a future run for national



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office or an elevation to secretary of state or another Cabinet position in the coming years, should there be a shake-up.

When Trump roiled the

GOP primaries, Haley was trusted by party leaders and encouraged to speak out against his style of politics but she did so while rarely mentioning his

name. It was a messy jumble of gestures, mostly subtle and confusing.

“Some people think that you have to be the loudest voice in the room to make

a difference,” Haley said. “That is just not true. Often, the best thing we can do is turn down the volume.”

You might call it diplomatic.

Title: **Main Street United Methodist Church To Open Sanctuary For Prayer On Tuesday, Nov. 22nd**  
Author:  
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## ***Main Street United Methodist Church To Open Sanctuary For Prayer On Tuesday, Nov. 22nd***

In response to Governor Nikki Haley's request for a day of prayer, Main Street Methodist Church will be opening the sanctuary on Tuesday, November 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for those wishing to pray for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, continued strength in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, and for healing across the state. They will not be having a formal service. The noontime bells will also be set to ring for this occasion.

Title: **SC Editorial Roundup**

Author:

Size: 62.15 column inches

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## SC Editorial Roundup

### The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg on why the election of Donald Trump was not 'whitelash'

**T**his election year has been marked by a great deal of hyperbole, much of it ugly. We are seeing this after the election as well as before. It doesn't serve our country well.

Prevalent in social media and in some of the mainstream outlets is the idea that the American people voted for bigotry, misogyny and hatred in electing Donald Trump as the next president. That's absurd. The idea that almost 60 million Americans voted for hatred and bigotry is unsupportable.

Look around our community. Donald Trump won Spartanburg County and South Carolina. The majority of our neighbors are not hateful bigots.

The theme that voters have approved hatred is an oversimplification for a complex economic and political mood. The biggest factor in this climate is that people don't think our economic system is working for them anymore. They think it's working for someone, but it isn't working for them.

No longer can they graduate from high school and land a decent job. No longer can they get a job with a stable long-standing employer and have confidence that they can work there for the rest of their career, working their way up the ladder and earning significantly more money as they advance.

No longer can they work an entire career for one employer and know that they'll have good benefits and be able to retire with a decent pension that will support them in their old age.

No longer do they have confidence that their children will enjoy a better life and standard of living than they did.

They feel that this system isn't working for them and their families.

We saw this in the beginning of the campaign. This idea spanned the breadth of the political spectrum. Those who think that millionaire fatcats on Wall Street are to blame supported Sen. Bernie Sanders. Those who believe that companies moving overseas and foreign workers moving to this country are to blame supported Donald Trump.

In the end, Trump was the last candidate standing who represented change, and the people who felt like the system isn't working for them voted for him.

A majority of our nation didn't vote for hatred, misogyny or bigotry. This was no "whitelash." A majority of our community simply wouldn't do that. They voted for change. Some may have voted for Trump because of outrageous things he said, but most looked the other way at those statements so they could vote for change.

Our next president has wisely called for unity and for

putting away the enmity in which we have engaged for the past year or so. We need to follow that call.

### The Post and Courier of Charleston on improving the state's schools

As the state's chief executive, the governor should have a lot more to say about the direction of public education, as one of the state's pre-eminent responsibilities. The best way to accomplish that would be to give the governor authority to appoint the state superintendent of education.

Next year would be a good time to advance that idea, with legislative action for a statewide referendum enabling the requisite change in the state constitution. Both Gov. Nikki Haley and state Superintendent Molly Spearman are endorsing the change and are urging the Legislature to put the question to a vote in the next general election.

In a letter to lawmakers this week, they point out that South Carolina is one of only 13 states where the superintendent is an elected official, "wholly separate from the administration of the governor."

The result?

"Instead of moving the state forward with a common vision for education priorities, this divided leadership structure can result in incompatible positions, a lack of coordination and fragmented accountability for failures in our pre-K-12 education system."

And there is an unfortunate record of failure in public education in South Carolina, which typically ranks among the bottom tier of states in many measures of student achievement.

The state budget for education is \$4.2 billion — among its top funding categories.

Yet the governor has minimal influence over the direction of public education, except as an advocate for reform. It's hard to have an "education governor" when the power of the chief executive is so constrained.

As Sen. Chip Campsen, R-Charleston, observed, "It just doesn't provide the appropriate level of accountability or let the executive branch be effective in implementing education policy." Sen. Campsen will introduce a bill next session calling for a referendum in 2018 and, if it passes, make the change effective in 2023.

The restructuring reform has been regularly supported by superintendents and governors over the past 25 years. And it has been regularly approved by the House of Representatives in recent years. But it typically dies in the Senate, the graveyard for state reform.

The voters would likely approve it, if the two previous restructuring referendums are an indication.





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In 2012, voters agreed to have candidates for governor and lieutenant governor run on partisan tickets, as do the president and vice president. And in 2014 voters agreed to have the state adjutant general appointed by the governor. South Carolina was the last state to elect its adjutant general, who is in command

of the state's National Guard.

In each referendum, more than 55 percent of the voters endorsed the change.

The Legislature should be committed to give the voters an opportunity to decide this far more significant education reform in 2018.

Title: **Clone, crusader, statesman or a clean slate?**  
 Author: By Philip Rucker The Washington Post  
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## ANALYSIS — SECRETARY OF STATE

# Clone, crusader, statesman or a clean slate?

By Philip Rucker  
 The Washington Post

**T**he secretary of state is the star of most every Cabinet, and when President-elect Donald Trump makes his selection he will signal the kind of posture he intends to present to the world.

Does he want the nation's top diplomat to be a Trumpian clone? That would be Rudy Giuliani, the garrulous former New York mayor who sprays rhetorical fire at Islamic terrorists but whose business background is rife with potential conflicts of interest.

Or an ideological crusader? A leading candidate is John Bolton, an architect and enabler of the Iraq war that Trump has so often condemned, whose hawkishness and combative nature made him a controversial U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

What about a clean slate, someone who would see the world with fresh eyes and promote Trump's vision? That's where Nikki Haley figures in, the Indian American governor of South Carolina who lacks traditional foreign policy chops but is regarded as a quick study.

How about a central-casting statesman? Enter Mitt Romney, the 2012 GOP nominee who led the Republican resistance to Trump's candidacy and became a well-worn punching bag for him, but who could be a consensus choice and offer reassurance to anxious U.S. allies.

There may also be other contenders for the job, which is fourth in line to the presidency ahead of any other Cabinet official. One such prospect, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker, R-Tenn., has suggested that he does not have much of a footing.

"We have a president who, let's face it, approaches things with an exclamation point," Corker said Thursday on MSNBC. "I think what might be good is someone to complement that and be able to pragmatically go about making things happen."

Trump's aides are offering few clues, other than to say that the president-elect is keeping an open mind.

Earlier this week, Giuliani and Bolton were described by people close to the transition as the leading candidates.

Giuliani, 72, was Trump's campaign-trail sidekick, delivering fiery speeches introducing him. Giuliani earned his longtime friend's admiration by ripping into Hillary Clinton with gusto, offering biting critiques of everything from her

physical health to what he described as her criminal record as secretary of state.

Early on, Giuliani was seen as a shoo-in for a top administration position, and he has openly campaigned for State. But news reports this week about Giuliani's extensive global business dealings in his decade-and-a-half out of public office raised red flags.

Bolton, 67, supported Trump's candidacy, both with an outside super PAC and by appearing frequently on Fox News. In the last three Republican administrations, Bolton established himself as a hawkish voice on the far right — especially on the Iraq war — and espoused views out of step with Trump's.

Romney could be seen by senators as a consensus alternative to the more polarizing Giuliani and Bolton. He met with Trump on Saturday at the president-elect's golf club in Bedminster, N.J. People close to Trump cautioned that he may not necessarily extend a job offer to Romney — and even if he does, it is unclear whether Romney would accept.

Since his presidential campaign, Romney, 69, is said to have thought about serving as secretary of state, going so far as to consider how he might reorganize the notoriously inefficient Foggy Bottom headquarters and reimagine America's role in the world.

One of the more intriguing prospects is Haley,

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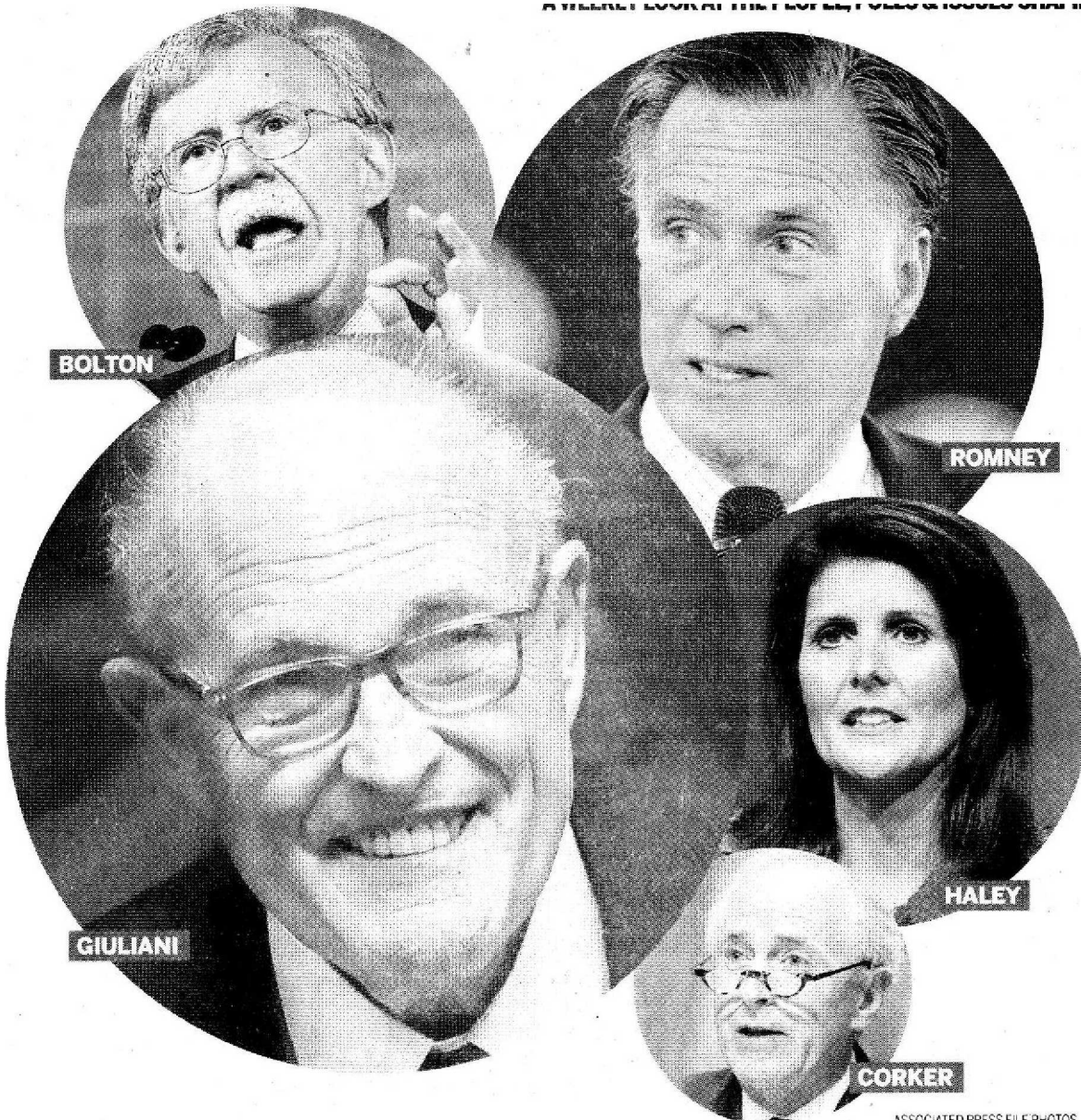
44, a Republican star who has left little mark in the foreign affairs community.

Asked to describe her qualifications and worldview, some experts were at a loss for words. Robert Zoellick, a former World Bank president who had been in line to serve as Romney's secretary of state, joked in an email: "Am in the Canadian arctic viewing polar bears with my wife! Connectivity weak."

Haley would bring diversity to Trump's Cabinet. She would make history as the first Indian American secretary of state — and it is not lost on Trump that his candidacy garnered a pas-

sionate following among some Indian Americans as well as in India. Haley led a 10-day state economic development trip to India in 2014, and the governor has taken similar trips to England, France, Germany and Japan.

"There's a lot of snooty talk about people being unqualified to be secretary of state, but being a governor or an elected politician is actually pretty good preparation for being a diplomat," said Kori Schake, a fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and a former Bush national security official who opposed Trump.



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTOS



Title: **Gov. Nikki Haley announces statewide prayer vigils**  
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## Gov. Nikki Haley announces statewide prayer vigils

***"We know how to have compassion...we are one state, one people"***

COLUMBIA, S.C. — As South Carolinians prepare for Thanksgiving and the holiday season, Governor Nikki Haley announced a day of prayer vigils throughout the state on Tuesday, November 22, 2016.

The governor, working together with leaders of the faith community, urges everyone, regardless of their faith or denomination, to pray for continued strength and healing across the state and give thanks for the state's blessings. Prayer vigils will be held in individual places of worship at 12 p.m. when bells will ring in observance of services statewide.

"Faith, prayer and helping our neighbors is what got us through a challenging time last year, and those things will get us through these two trials and the aftermath of the hurricane," said the governor. "In South Carolina, we know how to have compassion toward each other, count our blessings, and remember that we are one state, one people."

Two significant criminal trials are underway in Charleston, and many families along the coast and throughout the Pee-Dee are still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Matthew.

Title: **Haley, McMaster being considered**

Author:

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## Haley, McMaster being considered

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina's lieutenant governor says a member of Donald Trump's transition team has asked if he's interested in being attorney general.

Henry McMaster also says he's been told that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is being considered for secretary of state.

McMaster tells The Associated Press he was contacted Wednesday. The former U.S. attorney and two-term state attorney general declined to specify who on the team called him.

In January, McMaster became the first statewide officeholder to back Trump. His endorsement split with Haley, who endorsed and campaigned with Marco Rubio for South Carolina's first-in-the-South presidential primary. When Rubio dropped out, she backed Ted Cruz.

Haley criticized Trump throughout the contest.

Trump won South Carolina's primary by 10 percentage points.

McMaster says that primary victory gave Trump a "stamp of approval" and was pivotal in getting him elected.



Title: Governor, state cut business tax rate

Author:

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# Governor, state cut business tax rate

For the third consecutive year, the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce is cutting the Unemployment Insurance tax rate next year an average of 10.1% over last year's rate.

Gov Nikki Haley said this reduces the cost of doing business in our state while rebuilding the trust fund to withstand an economic downturn. The state has cut tax rates 30.9% since 2013.

Tax cuts resulted from a robust economy, employment of more than 2.185 million residents and unemployment at a 15-year low.

## Amazon donates smoke detectors

Amazon.com has donated 700 smoke alarms to the Lexington County Fire Service and other Midlands firefighters for local homes.

"Smoke detectors are vital to any fire-safety program, and we're glad that our donation will be put to good use," said George Schultz, general manager of Amazon's local fulfillment center in Lexington County.

## New medical association role

Todd Atwater of Lexington, former chief executive officer to the S.C. Medical Association, has been named chief executive officer of Financial Services Inc., Members' Insurance Trust, and Practice Management Services.

Marjorie Heggie, former chief operating officer, will succeed him as chief executive officer. The Medical Association has almost 6,000 physician members and serves as the voice of the medical profession in the state.

Atwater, a Republican, also represents Lexington in the state House of Representatives.

## What's new

- Cherokee Trail Veterinary Hospital in Lexington has earned a Gold Standard Cat Friendly Practice designation.

"This means our practice has taken steps to assure we understand your cat's unique needs and have made changes to decrease stress for your cat and provide a more calming environment," said Dr. Ginger Macaulay.

"We have exam rooms that are for cats only. No dogs allowed. Cats need routine checkups for wellness and preventative care."

Dr. Macaulay can be reached at 359-6611.

- Robert Rogers has opened Ideal Promo Products LLC, a distributor of promotional products and custom designed apparel here. Rogers has been a marketing consultant with Custom Images and 40 years of sales and marketing expertise. He believes his new company gives him the flexibility to help his customers.

He can be contacted at 706 495-6714 or email [roberttr@idealpromoproducts.com](mailto:roberttr@idealpromoproducts.com)

- The renovated Aldi grocery store at Methodist Park Road and U.S. 1 in West Columbia has been reopened. And Badcock Furniture is reportedly coming to Lexington. More on both when details are available.

## Business reminders

- Small Business Saturday this year will be Nov. 26, two days after Thanksgiving. If you plan a special event, please let us know. Just email [JerryBellune@yahoo.com](mailto:JerryBellune@yahoo.com)

- Subway sandwich shops will celebrate "Subway Cares for Kids Day" Thursday, Nov. 17, and donate part of the day's sales to benefit Palmetto Health Children's Hospital. Local Subway owner Heather Hornsby said the campaign is expected to raise about \$25,000.

- The Chronicle's VIP Club Master Mind will meet at 9:45 a.m. Friday, Dec. 2, at the Flight Deck restaurant in Lexington. This business group meets monthly to discuss challenges and opportunities. For details call 359-7633.

- Authors for Literacy plans a book signing 10 a.m. - noon Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Flight Deck to raise money for Midlands Turning Pages adult literacy tutoring, sponsored by restaurant owners Angela and Ted Stambolitis. A dozen authors will personally autograph their books for those on your Christmas gift list.

## Marketing magic

The Lexington Chamber of Commerce is offering a free 50-minute marketing and publicity seminar at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 17. And you don't have to be a chamber member.

You'll discover nine business-building, field-tested secrets other successful entrepreneurs use to attract and retain their ideal clients.

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For details call the chamber at 359-6113.

#### **Business Tip of the Week**

How would you feel about operating a business many people associate with pain?

That's a challenge dentists face. But Dr. Greg Wych of Irmo makes his patients feel right at home with a reception area decorated like a comfortable living room with individual choices of coffees and freshly baked cookies.

You never have to wait long as his people are

LINDA SAULS & CAROL MCCOMBS

lexingtonchronicle@gmail.com



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Got a tip? Write [jerrybellune@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrybellune@yahoo.com)

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## The gamblers

### Republicans who backed Trump put their reputations at risk

**T**he smart Republican money last January was on Jeb Bush, the son and brother of two former U.S. Presidents. But could or would American voters elect a third Bush family member to the White House?

But not everyone was betting on Bush.

Gov. Nikki Haley of Lexington and many other Republicans were betting on another Floridian, Marco Rubio, son of immigrants who fled Castro's Cuba. Rubio galvanized crowds with stories of his parents' struggles in trying to give their children a better life.

Many dark horses lined up in a crowded field of candidates seeking the Republican nomination in South Carolina's February primary.

None were any darker than billionaire businessman, TV star, casino owner, thrice-married Donald J. Trump of New York, a man who had never run for nor been elected to any office, federal, state or local. Not even dog catcher.

**AMONG THOSE WHO** stuck their necks out to support the billionaire political rookie were former Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, a man Gov. Nikki Haley had beaten in a Republican primary, and former state Sen. Jake Knotts, who had lost his seat to a challenger Haley backed.

Such was the state of the race for the Republican presidential nomination early this year.

Few could have imagined what would happen in last week's presidential voting.

Could even the most ardent Trump supporters have anticipated their man would win the presidency over a woman with decades of political experience here and abroad?

Even late election night as returns rolled in from across the country, Hillary Clinton's chances of becoming our first woman president still looked possible. Even plausible.

Then blue states turned red. Minorities voted Republican. A silent majority the pollsters had

overlooked quietly kept their mouths shut, ignored the political Kool-Aid the liberal media was dishing out . . . and voted Trump.

**SEN. KNOTTS CALLED** early the morning after Trump was declared the winner.

He had not been to sleep. He was too excited by a stunning upset victory over leftwing media darling Hillary Clinton.

He called to remind me about Lexington County voters waiting in line for hours on an icy January night at Harmon's Tree Farm in Gilbert to see and hear the billionaire as he kicked off his bid to take the Republican nomination in the state's first-in-the-south primary.

The former West Columbia senator said many friends thought he had lost his mind to back Trump. The man had been a Democrat contributor to Clinton campaigns. He had been married three times. He had a reputation as a tough-talking businessman on TV and real life.

But could he run a national political campaign against more than a dozen seasoned political veterans? And could he excite enough support to beat whoever the Democrats nominated, probably Hillary Clinton?

What the naysayers had not anticipated was Americans' disillusionment with progressive policies, burgeoning debt, a widening gap between the haves and have nots, strangling regulations, taxes, joblessness and hopelessness.

The desire for hope and change that elected Barack Obama made the difference last week.

### For early Christmas shoppers

More than a dozen local authors will offer you autographed copies of their books at our Authors for Literacy fundraiser for Turning Pages literacy tutoring at the Flight Deck restaurant in Lexington, 10- a.m.-noon Saturday, Dec. 3. For details, call 359-7633.

Title: **The gamblers**  
Author:  
Size: 47.74 column inches  
Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



**Donald Trump welcomes Henry McMaster's endorsement at Harmon's Tree Farm.**



**JERRY BELLUNE**  
JerryBellune@yahoo.com  
359-7633

**THE EDITOR TALKS WITH YOU**



Title: **Team S.C. Day**

Author:

Size: 28.67 column inches

Bishopville, SC Circulation: 2525



## Team S.C. Day

The Governor's office hosted a Team S.C. Day for hurricane victims in Marion County and Horry County. Bethany Wilmore from Lee County Department of Health and Human Services attended both days for the Lee County agency on October 28 in Marion County and November 4 in Horry County. Pictured is Torri Toland, left, Gov. Nikki Haley and Bethany Wilmore.

PHOTO PROVIDED

