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DHEC Takes Enforcement Action Following Investigation and Inspections of Abortion Clinics

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Today, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) notified abortion clinics in South Carolina of enforcement actions following an investigation and inspections.

"DHEC remains committed to ensuring that all clinics operating in South Carolina are safe and in compliance with state and federal laws," said DHEC Director Catherine Heigel. "We take the findings of this investigation very seriously and will work together with each of these facilities to help get them into compliance as quickly as possible."

DHEC regulates and licenses abortion clinics and the management of infectious waste.

On August 18, 2015, Governor Nikki Haley requested that the agency conduct an investigation of the three clinics currently operating in the state. As part of the investigation, DHEC reviewed prior inspection reports of these facilities and conducted onsite inspections between August 31 and September 4, 2015. All three facilities were due to be inspected by the agency later this fall.

During the onsite inspections, DHEC staff interviewed clinic personnel, reviewed documents and patient files, and conducted an inspection of the facilities.

Based on these investigative and inspection efforts, DHEC took the

following enforcement actions: The agency issued an Administrative Order of Suspension for Planned Parenthood of South Atlantic in Columbia, S.C., due to violations of state laws and regulations. The 21 cited violations included: non-compliance with the Woman's Right to Know Act, incomplete medical

and employee records, expired medications, improper infectious waste disposal practices, and failure to report abortions to DHEC Vital Statistics in a timely manner. The DHEC order becomes final on September 28, 2015, and will result in closure of the facility unless review by the DHEC Board is requested or the facility meets the terms of the order.

The agency issued an Administrative Order of Suspension for Greenville Women's Clinic due to violations of state laws and regulations. The six cited violations included: non-compliance with the Woman's Right to Know Act, incomplete medical record documentation, and improper infectious waste disposal practices. The DHEC order becomes final on September 28, 2015, and will result in closure of the facility unless review by the DHEC Board is requested or the facility meets the terms of the order.

The agency issued a Report of Visit to the Charleston Women's Medical Center, which notifies the facility of four minor violations (e.g., documentation errors) that need to be corrected. The facility will be required to submit a plan of correction to the agency within 15 days.

Planned Parenthood of South Atlantic in Columbia, S.C., and Greenville Women's Clinic must submit a plan of correction to DHEC by September 28, 2015, show proof of staff training, and pay any assessed penalties in order to lift their suspension orders or face closure.

Additionally, DHEC initiated enforcement action related to the management of infectious waste at all three facilities and against two companies that transport waste for Planned Parenthood of South Atlantic and Greenville Women's Clinic: Stericycle and MedSharps. Cited violations included insufficient documentation of waste disposal practices, failure to follow disposal protocol, and improper disposal of products of conception. The facilities and infectious waste transport companies have 15 days to meet with agency staff to discuss alleged violations, corrective actions, and possible civil penalties.





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**Statement From
Gov. Nikki Haley On
DHEC Investigation**

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Governor Nikki Haley today issued the following statement in response to the findings of the Department of Health and Environmental Control's investigation of abortion facilities in South Carolina: "The entire country was shocked by the videos showing Planned Parenthood employees' horrifying disregard for human life. That prompted me to ask our appropriate state agency to investigate whether such wrongdoing was taking place in our state. The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has now completed its investigation and has concluded that all three abortion clinics in the state are in fact in violation of South Carolina laws or regulations.

"This is completely unacceptable. I fully support DHEC's actions, including its referral of the matter to SLED. South Carolina is a compassionate state, and we are a state of laws. We will not tolerate law breaking of any kind, particularly as it relates to the callous treatment of human life."

Last month, Governor Haley asked DHEC to "engage in a prompt and comprehensive investigation of the policies and practices of abortion clinics in our state, prioritizing those affiliated with or owned by Planned Parenthood, its subsidiaries, and its affiliates."

In a letter to DHEC Director Catherine Heigel, the governor wrote, "Over the past weeks, I have been shocked by recent accounts of unethical practices at clinics affiliated with Planned Parenthood."

For more information on DHEC's findings contact the agency's public information office at (803) 760-5124.



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All SC Planned Parenthood Abortion Clinics Found in Violation of the Law

following enforcement actions:

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) released a statement last week that the Planned Parenthood abortion clinics in our state have been found to be in violation of state laws and regulations.
Please read the following statement

from Governor Haley in response to the findings of the DHEC investigation, followed by the communication release from DHEC on this matter. We applaud the Governor and DHEC for their strong response to this issue.



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South Carolina Ranked No. 1 For Jobs Linked To Foreign Investment IBM-Plant Location International Report Ranks S.C. First, Ahead Of Both Tennessee And Kentucky

COLUMBIA, S.C. – For the third time in the last four years, IBM-Plant Location International (IBM-PLI) has ranked South Carolina first per million inhabitants in attracting jobs through foreign investment. In this year's report, the Palmetto State is ranked above Tennessee and Kentucky, which are second and third, respectively.

"The reason we've seen so much success in recruiting international companies to South Carolina is our highly-skilled workforce that has proven, time and time again, that it's

capable of making any product, and making it well," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "With major companies like BMW and Volvo Cars continuing to move into our state, we have shown the world that when you invest in our state and her people, we will wrap our arms around you and warmly welcome you to the South Carolina family. This ranking by IBM-Plant Location International truly is a testament to everything that South Carolina has to offer as a destination for businesses from around the world."

Each year, IBM-PLI publishes a report titled Global Location Trends, looking at

around the globe. The report outlines the latest trends in corporate location selection, showing where companies are locating and expanding their businesses and creating jobs. The numbers in the new report were based on data gathered in 2014.

In addition to ranking first in foreign investment job creation per capita in this year's report, the Palmetto State also holds the spot for job creation through both foreign and out-of-state domestic investment per capita. Furthermore, South Carolina ranks third in total absolute jobs

created through foreign investment. "With more than 1,200 international establishments currently operating within our borders, South Carolina is enjoying tremendous success in foreign investment, and this ranking by IBM-PLI is a confirmation of that. Moving forward, the recruitment of

international companies will remain a critical component of our economic development strategy as we seek to cultivate a dynamic, globally-connected economy," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. The full report can be accessed online at www.ibm.com/gbs/pli.



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¹⁴⁸S.C. unemployment rate falls sharply

CHARLESTON (AP) — South Carolina's unemployment rate had its largest one-month decline in more than 30 years during August, a sign the state economy is continuing to gain strength, economists say.

"This is another sign that the economy in South Carolina is robust," said Frank Hefner, the director of the Office of Economic Analysis at the College of Charleston. But he said he would prefer that, instead of the biggest drop in unemployment since 1983, the state was reporting the biggest job increase in 32 years.

The Department of Employment and Workforce reported Friday that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped from 6.4 percent in July to 6 percent in August. It was the third straight month that unemployment has dropped and the largest one-month decline since 1983.

The department reported the number of people unemployed dropped by almost 8,000 during August while 2,700 new jobs were created in August. The difference between the two numbers is likely people who dropped out of the workforce or stopped looking for work.

Total employment has increased to

almost 2.1 million people, and during the past year, the state's labor force has grown by almost 52,000 workers.

"These numbers reflect the fact that more South Carolinians are working than any time in history," Gov. Nikki Haley said in a written statement.

The department reported that government jobs led the increase in employment, adding 1,400 new positions during August.

"This is a good jobs report, and it's consistent with what we have been seeing though 2015," said Joseph Von Nessen, an economist at University of South Carolina's Darla Moore School of Business. "But the employment growth rate is the single best gauge we have of the overall economy."

That rate, he said, has been a solid 2.8 percent in 2015, up from about 2 percent last year.

While August proved good news for the state's employment picture, the state's unemployment rate was still higher than the national jobless rate of 5.1 percent.

That's not unusual, Von Nessen said.

"South Carolina is a more rural state, and so we see higher unemployment in rural areas that brings the rate up. It's normal for us to lag the nation," he said.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**POOR SUFFER UNDER PRIVATE MEDICAID
MANAGEMENT BY OVERPAID EXECUTIVES**

Medicaid in South Carolina is financed by federal and state taxes. No money is provided by citizens paying premiums.

Medicaid in South Carolina is managed by private companies. These companies are given funds from federal and state taxes.

Two of these are Centene and Molina Healthcare Management. Their stock prices have soared.

Let's compare salaries. President Obama is paid \$400,000. Governor Haley is paid \$106,000.

CEO Nierdorff of Centene had a base salary of \$1.2 million in 2014. Total compensation is over \$19 million.

CEO Molina of Molina Healthcare was paid \$4.2 million in 2012. Salary in 2013 was \$11.9 million. In 2014, he made \$7 million.

Do the benefits to the citizens in poverty keep pace with executive pay? I believe the answer is no.

One of Sumter's hearing aid providers recently told me Molina is never accepted because they don't pay us. Their benefit package describes the provision of hearing aids.

Our state changed to private Medicaid a decade ago. Our poor citizens have been the losers. Executives of private companies are the winners. Remember, their pay is from your taxes.

Why does this occur? Donald Trump calls it the puppet effect. If our leaders receive big donations they see no evil. Salaries of CEOs 5, 10 and even 100 times our governor's are absurd.

America, wake up!

PHIL BRANDT, M.D.
Sumter



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Trustee: Superintendent should have announced new CFO

Besides apology, board member seeks information on policy for posting administrative positions

BY KONSTANTIN VENGEROWSKY

konstantin@theitem.com

During Monday's school board meeting, Sumter School District trustee Rev. Ralph W. Canty, Sr. questioned Superintendent Frank Baker on why the hiring of the new executive director of finance was not announced to the school board.

Canty asked why the new administrator hired in mid-July was not listed on the personnel report in the August school board meetings.

"When key positions are appointed, do you sense you have an obligation to let people know about these key appointments?" Canty asked Baker.

Baker said that he took full responsibility for not including the new director of finance name on the personnel report, and that it was an oversight on his part.

He said that Executive Director of Finance Nancy McMillan was hired July 13, after two weeks of the school district being closed, and there was no board meeting in July.

Canty asked why Baker did not send an email to the board, letting members know about the new finance director.

"All positions are important," said Baker. "I don't send an email when we hire other personnel, such as teachers."

Canty said that an administrative position is "clearly not seen in the

same light" as other positions.

"You have a new chief financial officer; an announcement is made through the local newspaper to the entire community; and your board does not even know anything about it," Canty said.

Baker said there was no intentional reason for him not including the new administrator hired in the personnel report.

"I made a mistake; I did not include it; it was an omission on my part, and I apologize for that," he said.

Canty also asked Baker what the district's policy was on posting administrative positions.

Baker explained that those positions are posted online and that the application process is electronic.

Baker said the only positions that may not be posted are new principal positions, because in those positions, administrators may be promoted internally, from assistant principals positions, for example.

Canty then asked what the policy was for compensation for new positions filled, whether it was based on the position itself or training and experience.

"It can go both ways," Baker said. "Certain positions have a salary, however, and it's not going to depend upon

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a degree.”

In other news:

- The district received a \$720,000 partnership grant with Lee County that will be used for math educators for Crestwood High School, Crosswell Drive Elementary School, Lemira Elementary School and Mayewood Middle School. The grant will be used for professional development, student learning objectives and teacher training; and

- The board approved high school diploma petitions. The petitions are based on Act 155 (H. 3919) passed by

‘You have a chief financial officer; an announcement is made through the local newspaper to the entire community, and your board doesn’t even know anything about it.’

THE REV. RALPH W. CANTY SR.

the South Carolina General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Haley in April 2014. The law states that starting with the graduating class of 2015, students are no longer required to meet the exit examination requirements set to earn a high

school diploma.

A person who is no longer enrolled in a public school and who failed to receive a high school diploma or was denied graduation solely for failing to meet the exit exam requirements may petition the local school board to de-

termine the student’s eligibility to receive a diploma.

People who graduated without passing the exit exams and want to receive a diploma, starting with the class of 1990, have to petition the local school board by Dec. 31.

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EDITORIAL

Deadliest state report stresses ongoing need

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South Carolina is once again ranked worst in the nation for deadly violence against women, according to a report released last Tuesday by the Violence Policy Center.

The state had a rate of 2.32 women killed per 100,000 people in 2013, leaving it first among states for women murdered by men. Those figures are more than twice the national average and represents 57 known deaths, compared with 50 a year earlier, according to the study.

The report found that nationwide, 94 percent of women killed by men were murdered by someone they knew, and the most common weapon used was a gun.

It's important to remember the rankings released on Tuesday are based on national data from 2013, the latest year for which full figures are available, and don't reflect the impact of comprehensive domestic reform measures enacted this year in South Carolina. Those measures came in the wake of the state consistently being ranked among the worst in the nation, as well as the Pulitzer Prize-winning series, "Till Death Do Us Part," published in

Domestic violence and gun ownership were widely discussed this past session in the South Carolina Legislature, which ultimately approved a bill aimed at curbing the state's persistently high rate.

August 2014 by *The Post and Courier* newspaper in Charleston.

Domestic violence and gun ownership were widely discussed this past session in the South Carolina Legislature, which ultimately approved a bill aimed at curbing the state's persistently high rate. The latest rankings, however, should provide renewed evidence that the laws and reforms passed this year were a warranted response to an ongoing crisis in our state and should be followed more closely.

Also, this news also follows a rather stark update last month by Gov. Nikki Haley's domestic violence task force that law enforcement agencies in the state are failing to take even basic steps to prevent or deter future spousal abuse. Another finding of the task force was the lack of statewide uniformity in filing incident re-

ports when officers respond to domestic violence calls but don't make an arrest.

The bill, passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Haley, appeared to make inroads by setting higher penalties and giving prosecutors more options for punishment.

The legislation also put greater emphasis on the severity of the abuse and the number of offenses and circumstances surrounding the crime when determining charges.

It's clear domestic violence is a cultural concern – one that demands wider social attention and going beyond mere legislative action. This is why it's imperative law enforcement agencies take the recommendations of the governor's task force to heart and tighten enforcement of these laws moving forward.





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Article Night. This is for ages 2- will be held all day. For menu information, call 702-5355.
American Red Cross And Partners Announce Home Fire Preparedness Initiative In State

NORTH CHARLESTON— Last year, 79 people in South Carolina lost their lives in home fires. In just minutes a family can lose everything, from their belongings to their home, and most tragically, a loved one. Home fires occur more often than most people realize; in South Carolina, the Red Cross responds to requests from local fire departments every 3.9 hours to come to the aid of victims affected by home fires. The Red Cross needs your help to save lives in South Carolina.

The American Red Cross, along with its partners, including the South Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal, the South Carolina Firefighters Association, and local fire departments, is announcing a home fire preparedness initiative to save lives, reduce injuries, and preserve property. Together, they will be keeping families safe across South Carolina by installing 50,000 smoke alarms over the next two years and teaching people how to lessen their chances of suffering from a home fire.

“Red Cross has been a tremendous partner to our state, and we couldn’t be more grateful for the work they are doing, along with the State Fire Marshal’s office, in making sure South Carolinians have access to smoke alarms. The 50,000 smoke alarms that the

Red Cross will install is a huge step, but this fantastic program will also help to bring awareness to an important issue facing our state,” said Governor Nikki Haley. South Carolina consistently ranks within the top ten states for home fire deaths per capita and the Red Cross assists more than 7,100 people a year, 2,000 of them children, after home fires.

“Heating is the second leading cause of home fires in South Carolina and we see a spike in home fires as the weather gets colder,” said Louise Welch Williams, regional chief executive officer for the American Red Cross, Palmetto SC Region. “Home fire safety, especially heading into the most fire-prone time of the year, is a key preparedness component for families across our state.”

South Carolina has been selected as one of only four innovative home fire prevention initiatives being rolled out across the United States. The initiative, and the best practices from it, will be used as a model for communities across the country to be better prepared for, and safer from, home fires. As part of the initiative, the Red Cross, fire departments, and community groups will be canvassing neighborhoods, installing smoke alarms and educating their neighbors on how to protect themselves and

their families from home homes. This builds on the more than 5,000 smoke alarms installed in South Carolina in the past twelve months, which resulted in fourteen lives being saved. “This initiative will significantly reduce deaths and injuries due to home fires and educate our community members on what to do in case a home fire or other disaster does strike,” explained Welch.

“This comprehensive program will help people all across South Carolina be safer from home fires,” said State Fire Marshal Robert Polk. “We are proud to partner with such great and diverse organizations to meet the needs of communities throughout the state.”

Individuals and groups have the opportunity to help protect their own friends and neighbors at a smoke alarm blitz. With blitzes already scheduled across the state including Dillon on October 3, and more being added, the Red Cross is looking for volunteers to assist in their local communities. Corporate partners are also able

to engage their employees in this life-saving work.

To join the Red Cross, local firefighters, and others who want to give back in their community, visit RedCross.org/SC and click on Home Fire Preparedness.



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118 Worksman Cycles coming to Conway

BY AUGUST DITTBENNER
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MYHORRYNEWS.COM

A New York City company that has been in business since 1898 has announced its expansion to Conway, its first time expansion outside of New York City, and an expansion to the tune of \$2.5 million in investments.

Worksman Cycles, manufacturers of a line of bicycles and tricycles that includes industrial vehicles, special needs tricycles, and classic American beach cruiser bicycles, will be moving into a 100,000-square-foot facility in Conway.

"If I were to put this into five sentences, it's a way we're ex-

panding our manufacturing capacity, becoming more efficient, improving the quality of the product, dealing with a nicer weather climate, and Horry County made us feel like family," said Wayne Sosin, president of the company.

Sosin noted that the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation (MBREDC) reached out to the company and convinced its officials of the benefits of being part of what Sosin calls "a community where everyone is helpful."

The company expects to add 50 jobs within five years, paying an average of \$15 per

CYCLES, A3



Worksman Cycles will be moving into a 100,000 square foot facility in Conway.





Cycles: New York manufacturer of bicycles and tricycles plans to bring 50 jobs to Conway

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hour.

And the company has already started its expansion. According to Sosin, over the past six months Worksman has been upgrading its Conway facility, which was formerly the location of a screen-printing company.

"We had to put new electrical service into the building, new plumbing service, new HVAC, it's a lot of work," Sosin said. "The building had been abandoned for a while, so it needs a little tender loving care to be brought back to life."

Once the building is rehabilitated, the company will begin moving in its manufacturing equipment. Wheel building equipment, powder coat finishing equipment, assembly stands and tools, presses and more will fill the facility once it is complete.

According to Sosin, full production won't start right away, but manufacturing certain parts and warehousing products will take place at the Conway location initially.

And like the old saying goes in real estate, Worksman Cycles chose Horry County because of "location, location, location."

"I can give you a lot of reasons why we picked Horry County, but [Horry Georgetown Technical School] is a big part of it," Sosin noted.

When Sosin came to the area to inspect possible locations, he was impressed with the technical school. He felt that it would allow the company to train employees and expand its skill base.

And of course, the mild weather played a part, as well.

Another big draw was how

many different manufacturers were located in the area. Many new manufacturing facilities in the United States are being located in the Southeast and Southwest, Sosin noted, so moving closer to existing and potential customers simply made sense.

The move will allow the company to process and ship orders nearly 50 percent faster from the new facility, which will provide greater value for Worksman's many customers.

"In South Carolina, a good example might be Michelin," Sosin said. "They use our tricycles at their facilities in South Carolina, as do some of the automotive plants in South Carolina."

Industrial tricycles like those made by Worksman are common in factories, and are used for employees to get around easier. That's especially important with bigger facilities that may be hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of square feet in area.

"An electrician might go on his rounds, with his toolbox on the back, using one of our tricycles," Sosin noted. "Or a facilities manager might go around on his tricycle carrying whatever supplies he needs, or a security guard might do his rounds on one of our pedal-driven tricycles."

"These are really heavy-duty, industrial-grade vehicles that are used instead of motorized vehicles or instead of walking," he continued.

Companies including Walmart, Ford, Exxon, GE, Home Depot and DuPont all use Worksman products, and Horry County is in closer proximity to those companies than Worksman Cycles' existing New York City locations.

One major manufacturer in South Carolina isn't currently using Worksman Cycles products, but officials say that could change in the near future. The Boeing plant near Charleston is considering buying Worksman's products, according to Sosin.

And there is history there, too. Boeing factories on the West Coast have been using Worksman Tricycles since World War II.

Sosin, who has been in the cycle industry for 35 years, also pointed to low cost of living, quality schools, affordable housing, low cost of energy and other business costs, and good access to transportation as other factors that made Horry County

so attractive.

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

Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus also praised the move.

"Worksman Cycles will be a great addition to the manufacturing industry in the community, and we are proud that they have selected Horry County to expand their business," he noted.

"It's a great day in South Carolina as we celebrate Worksman Cycles' decision to invest in south Carolina and her people," said Governor Nikki Haley. "This \$2.5 million investment... is a real reason to celebrate in Horry County and throughout the entire state."

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