

Title: **Haley wrong in her defense of Uber**
Author:
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Haley wrong in her defense of Uber

Once again our sophomoric governor has shown her inadequacy for being the head of a government. Writing a letter to the Public Service Commission expressing her disappointment in ruling that Uber must cease and desist operations until fully licensed, insured and certified is at odds with her role in state government.

As a state-licensed building contractor who is required to be bonded, insured and municipally licensed, I am incensed that she would allow a company to operate in any capacity without proper credentials, insurance and so on. She should be backing the ruling of her state agency and the decisions it makes. Her opinion, in my opinion, in the words of the late Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, is "bovine scatology" at best.

JACK SELLERS
Irmo

Title: Critics: Change the way S.C. elects judges
Author: By JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
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Critics: Change the way S.C. elects judges

'The question is: Whose politics do you want involved?'

By JAMIE SELF jself@thestate.com

The day before S.C. lawmakers voted to elect judges last week, some received advice on the importance of letting the public know that legislators take that exclusive power seriously. House Majority Leader Bruce Bannister of Greenville told fellow Republicans Tuesday morning to

give "serious, thoughtful answers" if asked why they support a candidate.

Don't respond with, "Well, I knew them in kindergarten," or

something," he said.

The next day, lawmakers elected more than 20 judges, including deciding a contentious judicial race between a lawmaker's spouse and a 16-year incumbent.

That race drew cries of nepotism from Gov. Nikki Haley. It also re-launched a debate among lawmakers

about whether S.C. law needed to be changed to avoid conflicts of interest - whether real or perceived.

Advocates of changing that system say Wednesday's judicial controversy is just one of several examples of why South Carolina

INSIDE A look at plans to change how S.C. judges are elected, A6

SEE JUDGES PAGE A6

JUDGES

FROM PAGE A3

should end lawmakers' exclusive authority over nominating and electing judges.

They note:

Legislators' spouses have run before and won posts, putting everyone involved in uncomfortable situations.

The independence of S.C. courts has been questioned, given the way the General Assembly picks judges and sets their budgets. That system has judges, elected by legislators, ruling on the laws made by

those same legislators, who will decide if those judges stay in office.

But advocates of the current system say other options for electing judges could be worse, turning judicial elections into fundraising contests or giving the governor too much power.

ONE BRANCH CONTROLLING ANOTHER

The way South Carolina elects judges is rare.

Virginia is the only other state where legislators

control the nomination and election of judges.

Lawmakers should share that power with the public or the governor to create checks and balances, some say.

"We don't need one branch of government basically controlling everything about another branch of government," said Lynn Teague with the League of Women Voters.

But even as lawmakers debate ethics-related legislation, a 2-year-old effort to tighten the rules on legislators' activities, only a small

chorus of lawmakers is talking about changing the way judges are elected.

Their proposals lack consensus on whether lawmakers should give up nominating or electing judges - or both.

In defense of how lawmakers now pick judges, some say South Carolina's system could be worse.

The public could elect judges in partisan races "where judicial candidates have to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for political campaigns and

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run as Republicans or Democrats,” said Tyler Jones, a House Democratic Caucus spokesman who says the state’s current process is much better.

He’s not alone in that concern about even more politicization of the judiciary.

“The politics of the next popular election and who contributed money should not come into play as a factor” in a judge’s decision, said state Sen. Chip Campsen, R-Charleston.

POLITICS AT PLAY

Some lawmakers were repelled by the negative politics that they said were at play in Wednesday’s judicial election between Bill Funderburk of Camden and 16-year-incumbent Carolyn Matthews of Columbia.

The revulsion was so extreme that about two dozen lawmakers, who had voted in another competitive race just minutes before, either did not vote for Funderburk or Matthews or voted “present” in protest.

Gov. Haley also weighed in, posting the vote on Facebook and calling out lawmakers who backed Funderburk, accusing them of supporting nepotism.

The political back-and-forth continued Friday.

House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford, D-Richland, accused Republican Haley of seeking “political payback” against Democratic Rep. Funderburk of Camden.

In 2012, Funderburk was the only member of the House Ethics Committee who did not want to dismiss a complaint that Haley had violated state ethics laws by failing to disclose her work as a consultant for a Columbia engineer-

ing firm. Funderburk also was the panel’s only Democrat.

Rutherford also noted Haley, too, cast a vote that helped the spouse of a lawmaker become a judge.

Haley press secretary Chaney Adams, in turn, accused Rutherford of mudslinging, adding Haley gladly would join both parties in an effort to ban state lawmakers “from appointing their spouses as judges.”

‘THEY KNOW MY AUNT MAY’

State Sen. Larry Martin, the Pickens Republican who is head of the Senate Judiciary Committee, already is pushing a proposal that would ban the spouses of legislators from running for judge.

Sen. Campsen says he would like to dial back the political influence on lawmakers by giving them more time to consider candidates.

Candidates must wait 48 hours after the Judicial Merit Selection Commission releases its list of nominees to ask lawmakers for their support.

Now, lawmakers seldom have time to review the nominees and the selection commission’s report on their qualifications – usually released on a Thursday at noon – before candidates start asking legislators for their vote the following Tuesday, Campsen said.

Sometimes judicial races are decided that first day that legislators are back in Columbia for their three-day work week, long before election day in the General Assembly.

“You fire the gun, and the race is over,” Campsen said. “It’s supposed to be a 5-K (race), but, instead, it’s a 4-yard dash.”

Campsen also said his proposal would encourage lawmakers to put in more thought before they pledge to vote for candidates.

Sometimes lawmakers choose candidates who live near them, go to their Rotary Club or “know (their) Aunt May,” he said.

Then, Campsen added, lawmakers sometimes regret their commitments after learning more about the candidates from talking to other lawmakers, and say, “I wish you would have told me that before.”

‘ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE’ TO AVOID CONFLICTS

At least five other bills introduced in the House and Senate this year seek to change the way lawmakers nominate and elect judges.

Two proposals would remove lawmakers from the process of nominating judges, while allowing them still to elect them.

Under one of Martin’s proposals, the governor would renominate the incumbent or nominate three candidates who would face an election in the General Assembly.

Another Senate proposal, by Tom Corbin, R-Greenville, would remove lawmakers from the screening process, replacing them with members of the public, who would be nominated by lawmakers and appointed by the governor.

The governor would pick a chairman from the public members of the judicial screening panel.

Teague said the League of Women Voters would support members of the public controlling the screening process for judges – a move that would curb suspicion that lawmakers were favoring candidates

with ties to them.

“There’s nothing unethical about anybody running because they’re married to a legislator,” Teague said, referring to Wednesday’s race where Rep. Funderburk’s husband defeated incumbent Matthews, 87-50.

“The question is: How do you evaluate whether extra influence is brought to bear?”

In a small state like South Carolina, where lawmakers “wouldn’t have been elected if they didn’t have ties with others,” it is “almost impossible” to expect judicial candidates – or candidates for other legislative appointments – not to know someone in the Legislature, she added.

POLITICS OF ONE OR 170?

Three other bills would end altogether the process of lawmakers electing and nominating judges.

Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, and three House Republicans have filed bills that would allow the governor to nominate judges. Lawmakers would confirm the governor’s appointees through a formal screening process and could reject nominees.

State Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, supports having the governor nominate judges – and having lawmakers confirm them. Doing so would lead to higher-quality judges who are more independent from the legislative branch, he said.

Davis said politics now drags down the process of legislators electing judges, leading, as it did in Wednesday’s race, to a limited discussion on the “pros and cons based on (the candidates’) merits.”

S.C. Attorney General

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Alan Wilson, R-Lexington, also strongly supports changing the way the judges are elected to include the executive and legislative branches of government, he said in an email Friday.

"The current method omits any involvement by the executive (branch, meaning the governor)," Wilson wrote. "We greatly need the participation of both the executive and legislative branches in this process. Full participation by all branches of government works best."

Letting the governor choose judges for lawmakers to vet and approve would ensure South Carolinians know who to hold accountable for judicial conduct, said Ashley Landess, president of the S.C. Policy Council, a limited-government think tank.

The buck would stop with the governor, who would be responsible for selecting qualified judges, she said. That system is similar to what happens on the federal level, where the president nominates judges and the U.S. Senate confirms them, she added.

Thus far, however, none of the judicial reform proposals has gained traction. Combined, they have seven sponsors out of the 170

"This is a very old system. It's going to take a long time to force lawmakers to give up power."

Ashley Landess, president of the S.C. Policy Council

members of the General Assembly.

Despite the slow start, support for change is building, Landess said.

"This is a very old system. It's going to take a long time to force lawmakers to give up power."

But Campsen sees danger in following the federal model and consolidating the power to nominate judges in the governor's office.

Legislators should continue electing judges, he said. That diffuses power over the judiciary over the 170 members of the General Assembly, not one person, he said, adding, either way, the process will be political. "The question is: Whose politics do you want involved?"

Reach Self at
(803) 771-8658.

CHANGING THE WAY S.C. ELECTS JUDGES?

Bills introduced this year to change the way judges are elected

S. 111 and S. 112 – Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, Family Court and Administrative Law

Court judges would be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the state Senate, which could reject a nominee

S. 180 – The Judicial Merit Selection Commission, which screens candidates for judge, would collect applications for judgeships and forward them to the governor, who would nominate candidates for the General Assembly to elect

S. 242 – The Judicial Merit Selection Commission would be expanded to 15 members from 10. The chairman would be a member of the public appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

H. 3123 – Judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Circuit Court would be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the General Assembly, which could reject a nominee

ELECTING S.C. JUDGES NOW

The complete control that S.C. lawmakers wield over nominating and electing judges has led to controversies in previous judicial races or court decisions, giving the impression of a conflict of interest even when elections are conducted fairly, critics say. Some examples they cite:

2013-14: House Speaker **Bobby Harrell** actively campaigned in the Legislature for votes to re-elect Supreme Court Chief Justice **Jean Toal**, who won by a narrow margin. The following year, the Supreme Court decided whether to allow Attorney General **Alan Wilson** to continue a State Grand Jury investigation into public corruption allegations against Harrell. A government watchdog previously had asked Toal and her challenger in the 2013 Supreme Court race to withdraw from hearing the Harrell case. Neither did, and the court ruled in Wilson's favor, not Harrell's. Later, there were reports that lawmakers

were interviewed about possible illegal vote-swapping tied to the Toal race.

2012: The S.C. Supreme Court threw more than 200 primary challengers off the ballot because they improperly filed paperwork. The justices' decision benefited seated legislators, who appoint them and control their budget, by eliminating many of their primary challengers.

2009: A state senator attempted to throw candidates for the Supreme Court off the ballot in a race where the only remaining candidate was **Kaye Hearn**. Hearn's husband, **George Hearn**, was a first-term legislator at the time. Hearn was recorded in the House journal as voting to defeat the effort to start over with new candidates. After his wife won election by acclamation, Hearn was recoded as abstaining from the vote, citing a potential conflict of interest.

Title: Gov.Haley's latest non-stop campaign
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Gov. Haley's latest non-stop campaign

Gov. Nikki Haley is back in campaign mode, trying to win over skeptics of her hybrid income-tax cut and roads-funding plan. But can she legally spend money raised for her successful re-election bid last year to push the first major initiative of her second term?

Haley's campaign had \$539,493 in campaign money left over on Jan. 1 after raising a record \$8.4 million to win the Republican a second four-

year term. Three months after defeating Democrat Vincent Sheheen (again), "Nikki Haley for Governor" is paying for online and social media ads to

promote her proposed swap of a 10-cent-a-gallon gas tax hike for a 29 percent income-tax cut.

To push

that effort, Haley's campaign website has undergone a makeover.

Gone are her bio and campaign positions, replaced by summaries, Q&As and quotes from supporters on her roads-and-tax proposal.

SEE THE BUZZ PAGE B5

THE BUZZ

FROM PAGE B1

After an election, state law says candidates can use any leftover campaign money "to defray ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection" with their duties in public office.

There's the rub.

No one is quite sure of the meaning of "ordinary and necessary expenses."

"The commission has never issued a formal opinion containing a definition of either term," S.C. Ethics Commission director Herb Hayden said. "Therefore, it would be inappropriate for me to offer a personal opinion on this matter."

The Haley campaign took a pass on answering questions about the governor's post-election ad blitz.

That blitz highlights the income-tax cut first. Sec-

ond-billing goes to roads.

That leads some lawmakers to think Haley is more interested in getting attention from a proposed tax cut - that could drain billions in future state revenues, critics say - when South Carolinians care more about money to fix potholes and road cracks that are damaging their cars.

It also has fueled speculation (again) about Haley's 2016 aspirations.

"What else could it be?" one lawmaker sighed to The Buzz.

The governor has denied repeatedly any interest in joining a possible Republican administration despite receiving attention from would-be GOP White House nominees, lavished because of the Palmetto State's primary pole position in the South.

Maybe Haley's campaign could buy some ads to bring home that point.

COME TO OUR PARTY, GUV

Haley's tax cut-and-roads ads aren't aimed at the one group of folks who can turn her ideas into reality - the Republicans who make up a majority of the S.C. House and state Senate.

GOP House members want to avoid having two competing roads bills - one from the House and one from the governor. And they would like to hear Haley, their party leader, speak to them on what is becoming the session's most divisive issue. (Ethics reform? That's going nowhere in the state Senate.)

House Republicans have invited Haley to at-

tend their caucus meeting Tuesday - a day before a House roads bill, under development for months, is set to be introduced.

Haley's office said she is considering the invite but has not made a final decision.

However, some House members say Haley has declined that invitation. (All House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, would say is that Haley has an open invitation to speak to the caucus anytime.)

The governor certainly would face complaints that her tax-swap plan - merging a massive income-tax cut with a gas-tax hike, an idea some GOP lawmakers loathe - could doom getting more money for roads this year.

Haley also could hear complaints about alleged

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threats from her office against legislators who fail to back her proposal.

Governor, the RSVP is waiting.

NEARLY A CLEAN SLATE FOR S.C. STATE

The makeover of S.C. State University's board of trustees should have been completed by July.

But it won't.

Lawmakers have not re-elected S.C. trustees since 2013 in reaction to the school's financial mess, which landed it on probation with accreditors.

S.C. State has received \$18 million in emergency loans and funding after revelations that South Carolina's only historically black public college had a \$14 million deficit from years of borrowing to pay its bills.

The next round of board elections this year was supposed to complete the replacement of 12 of the 13 trustees chosen by the General Assembly. (Gov. Haley appoints one trustee.)

But lawmakers will fall one trustee short.

The path was cleared.



The Buzz

Andrew Shain

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Incumbents have stopped trying to win back their seats – including three whose terms expired this year: **John Corbitt, Gail Joyner-Fleming and Tony Grant.**

Grant, a Columbia businessman, said lawmakers suggested alumni not seek re-election. He and Corbitt are the only remaining S.C. State grads on the current board.

But there's not total excitement about the task of joining the S.C. State board to rescue the 3,000-student school.

It took two elections in the past year to find a successor for **Patricia Lott**, a spot filled by **Tammy Kelly** of Sumter last week after Lott stayed on the trustee board for an extra eight months as she awaited a replacement.

This time, no candidates filed to assume Corbitt's seat, representing the 4th congressional district.

That means Corbitt, the longest-serving member of the S.C. State board at 14 years, will remain a trustee – for now.

In all, five board seats are open at S.C. State, including a pair vacated

by trustees who resigned.

■ **Erika Abraham**, an Anderson bank manager, left less than a year into her term after not attending any meetings. She thought trustees met at night and could not make the daytime meetings, according to a report in The (Orangeburg) Times and Democrat.

■ Former S.C. Republican Party chairman **Katon Dawson** resigned midterm after helping start the effort to get the school's finances in order. But Dawson said he hopes to continue working with a panel established by Senate President Pro Tempore **Hugh Leatherman**, R-Florence, to help S.C. State through its crisis.

"The circumstances I found when entering the board have greatly changed and the paths to recovery are now in place," Dawson wrote in his resignation letter. "It is with my most humble gratitude to have been able to participate in the university's current success."

BUZZ BITES

■ The University of South

Carolina and U.S. Department of Justice officials shot down an online news site's report last week that the federal agency pulled out of a 20-year, \$106 million lease for the college's former business school building over the issue of the Confederate flag that flies on the State House grounds. "No, the flag played no role," Justice spokesman **Wyn Hornbuckle** said. "The reasons are budgetary."

■ Reports from the Garden State say the feds want to know about former Port Authority of New York and New Jersey chairman **David Samson's** personal travel, including a direct Newark-to-Columbia United Airlines flight that was canceled soon after Samson left his government job last year. The family of a pal of Gov. **Chris Christie** has a house in Aiken, The (Bergen County, N.J.) Record reported last week. A quick Buzz flashback: Christie visited Aiken in 2013 where his photo was snapped at a local restaurant. At the time, Christie's office said he was playing golf and visiting friends.

Title: **Trump visiting The Citadel ahead of GOP plans**
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Trump visiting The Citadel ahead of GOP plans

You can't run for president as a Republican in South Carolina without first visiting The Citadel. Later this month it's **Donald Trump's** turn.

The reality TV host and New York real estate mogul will be honored at the Republican Society's Patriot Dinner Feb. 22. Also on the bill is U.S. **Tim Scott**, R-S.C.

"We reached out to him," Republican Society organizer **Eddie Taylor** said of getting Trump to appear.

While Trump's schedule is still in the works, he's expected to fly into Charleston on his private plane. There will also be a tour of the interior for a group of cadets.

"His own tab," Taylor said of his flight arrangements.

The Republican Society is a school club with more than 300 members. The Patriot Dinner is the annual fundraiser that helps pay for club members to attend the Conservative Political Action Conference each year in Washington, D.C. About 50 cadets are going to CPAC Feb. 25-28 and will make up the opening day color guard.

Mitt Romney, **Newt Gingrich**, **Bobby Jindal** and **Rand Paul** are just a few of the recent GOP presidential contenders who have visited the school.

Haley gas tax plan a target

Since the start of the current legislative session last month,

Statehouse Democrats have held three news conferences taking jabs at Republican Gov. **Nikki Haley's** roads and income tax proposal.

They've continually referred to Haley's plan as a tax increase, not a roads plan.

On Thursday, House and Senate Democrats joined forces to once again criticize Haley.

"I think it's our responsibility as a minority party to hold the majority accountable," Rep. **James Smith**, D-Columbia, said afterward. "In order to do

that you have to stand up and speak out when you believe they are not taking the right actions on behalf of the people of South Carolina. I think it's a responsibility we have."

Conservatives will take their shots at the gas tax this week. On Tuesday, Americans for Prosperity is hosting a "No Gas Tax Hike" Lobby Day at the Statehouse.

"We urge our legislators to oppose any and all plans that include a gas tax hike," said AFP South Carolina State Director **Dave Schwartz**.

Haley's plan would raise the tax on gasoline by 10 cents per gallon over three years while reducing the state income tax from 7 percent to 5 percent over 10 years.

It also calls for restructuring the Department of Transportation. Haley has vowed to veto any increase in the gas tax without the other two parts of her plan.

Gilliard talks turkey

State Rep. **Wendell Gilliard** stood on the floor of the House last week and asked why lawmakers wanted to "talk turkey," referring to what he considered a less-than-priority bill aimed at protecting the state's turkey population.

The Charleston Democrat was recently accused by Rep. **Jim Merrill**, R-Charleston, of deceiving members on a resolution that would have renamed the **Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge** structure The Sweetgrass Skyway. The backlash was swift, and a Senate panel plans to kill the measure.

But Gilliard wanted to keep talking about it Tuesday. "Did you know that I got bashed for talking about issues irrelevant to the state of South Carolina? Now we're up here talking turkey. I just want to know what is that going to do for things like domestic violence, gun violence, unsolved murders?" he asked.

The sponsor of the turkey bill, H. 3118, took it in stride. Rep. **Bill Hixon**, R-North Augusta, told Gilliard the state must do something to protect the dwindling turkey population. The bill allows the Department of Natural Resources to issue emergency regulations related to hunting turkeys if the population is threatened, among other measures.

The bill passed with only one "nay" vote — Gilliard's.

Civics test requirement

The national movement to require that high school

students correctly answer 60 of 100 questions on the civics portion of the U.S. citizenship test has come to South Carolina.

Lawmakers who support the **James B. Edwards Civics Education Initiative** will hold a news conference Tuesday at the Statehouse to promote the effort. A House bill has already been filed.

The test already is given to anyone applying to become a U.S. citizen. It includes 100 questions about basic American government and history. The minimum score is 60. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 92 percent of immigrants applying for citizenship pass the test.

But when high school seniors in Arizona and Oklahoma were surveyed, only 4 percent were able to achieve a minimum score, according to supporters.

The test is being pushed nationally by the education-promoting **Joss Foss Institute**. Their goal is to have all 50 states adopt it by 2017, the 230th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution.

Arizona lawmakers last month made it the first state in the nation to pass the requirement. Critics question whether taking the test promotes learning.

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FILE/ALEX BRANDON/AP

Donald Trump

How your U.S. lawmakers voted

Y – Voted yes
N – Voted no
O – Did not vote

Rep. Mark Sanford, R-1
Rep. Joe Wilson, R-2
Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-3
Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-4
Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-5
Rep. James Clyburn, D-6
Rep. Tom Rice, R-7
Sen. Lindsey Graham, R
Sen. Tim Scott, R

SOUTH CAROLINA Tally

For the week ending Feb. 6
By Thomas Voting Reports, Inc.

Y Y Y Y Y N Y	<p>Repeal of Health Law: The House voted, 239-186, to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Since 2011, House Republicans have passed four bills to abolish the law while voting 50-plus times to weaken it. They have not brought a replacement to the floor. A yes vote was to pass HR 596.</p>
N N N N N Y N	<p>Drug Costs, Gender Bias: The House defeated, 179-241, a Democratic bid to shelve HR 596 (above) if it would raise Medicare Part D drug costs, allow gender bias by insurers or permit insurers to deny coverage on the basis of pre-existing conditions. A yes vote backed the motion.</p>
Y Y Y Y Y N Y	<p>Federal Agency Rules The House expanded, 250-173, a law that dissuades the government from putting "unfunded mandates" on companies or state and local governments. A yes vote was to pass HR 50, which enables the law to block rules issued by independent federal agencies.</p>
N N N N N Y N	<p>Rape, Domestic Violence: The House defeated, 184-239, a Democratic motion to prevent HR 50 (above) from interfering with federal regulations designed to prevent crimes such as rape, domestic violence and sex offenses against minors. A yes vote was to adopt the motion.</p>
Y Y	<p>Homeland Security, Immigration: Senators failed, 53-47, to reach 60 votes for ending Democratic blockage of a bill that would appropriate \$39.7 billion for homeland security in fiscal 2015 while negating two of President Obama's immigration orders. A yes vote was to advance HR 240.</p>

KEY VOTES AHEAD
 ■ In the week of Feb. 9, the House will vote on final congressional approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline and take up bills on charitable contributions and business tax breaks. The Senate will consider the nomination of Michael Botticelli as director of National Drug Control Policy.

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Title: **Advocates in the fight against domestic violence recognized**
 Author: BY CHRISTINA ELMORE celmore@postandcourier.com
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Advocates in the fight against domestic violence recognized

BY CHRISTINA ELMORE

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Illuminated by the faint glow of candlelight in memory of those lost each year to domestic violence, the Zonta Club of Charleston and Liza's Lifeline on Saturday recognized four advocates of the cause and thanked them for their efforts to reduce the numbers.

The fifth annual Breaking the Silence Awards Gala drew a crowd of about a hundred to the Harbour Club, 35 Prioleau St. in Charleston, including area attorneys, judges, law enforcement officers, firefighters and social workers.

"Tonight is a celebration," Zonta Club Vice President Sarah Moore said, "but first let us remember those who lost their lives to senseless, cruel, and devastating acts of violence."

South Carolina's in "dire need" of advocacy, support and education on the issue, she said, adding that the rate of women

killed by men in the state is nearly double the national average.

Zonta and Liza's Lifeline both aim to prevent violence by raising funds, assisting victims and holding workshops to increase awareness.

Post and Courier reporter Doug Pardue, a member of the team that produced the five-part series "Till Death Do Us Part," served as the gala's keynote speaker. The series explored South Carolina's status as one of the nation's deadliest states for women, a place where more than 300 had been killed in domestic violence over the past decade, dying at a rate of about one every 12 days.

Pardue took the occasion to thank a number of women who shared their stories of abuse with the newspaper.

"It takes real stories, real

people and real tragedy to make people stand up and pay attention," he said.

Gov. Nikki Haley recently announced the creation of a domestic violence task force that will address cultural issues that contributed to South Carolina being among the deadliest in the nation for women.

Christan Rainey, the Executive Director of Real Men Against Domestic Violence and Abuse, announced at the gala that he had received a call from Haley asking him to be one of the task force's 40 members.

Rainey was awarded Best Volunteer at the event. He became an advocate after losing five members of his family to domestic violence. He told attendees he sometimes feels as though he doesn't deserve the awards and recognition he's received for his efforts.

"There's so much more I want

to do and so much more that needs to be done in the state of South Carolina," he said.

The following people were also honored at the gala:

- Liza's Lifeline Person of the Year — Patricia Warner Kurent, director of the Tri-County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

- Best Professional — Brenda Edmond, Joint Base Charleston.

- Best Advocate — Levolia Rhodes, Goose Creek and Lisa Bullard, city of North Charleston.



Online

Read The Post and Courier's special investigative report at postandcourier.com/TillDeath. For more resources and to share your stories, go to [facebook.com/SCTillDeath](https://www.facebook.com/SCTillDeath).



Title: Haley outlines her DHEC goals
Author: BySAMMYFRETWELL sfretwell@thestate.com
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Haley outlines her DHEC goals

'A lot of things' on governor's to-do list for health agency

By SAMMY FRETWELL sfretwell@thestate.com

Gov. Nikki Haley says there are "a lot of things" she would like to see done at the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control if her choice to run the agency is confirmed by the state Senate.

During a news conference Thursday, Haley said she wants Eleanor Kitzman to focus on key health issues. She also suggested that Kitzman could help environmentalists and businesses make compromises simi-

lar to one they recently struck over dredging the port of Charleston.

"I don't want that to be a one-time thing," the Republican governor said, responding to questions about changes she'd like to see Kitzman make. "I'd like to see us do more of

that. See more how we can pull those groups together to get more things done for South Car-

olina."

Conservationists and the state Ports Authority last month announced an agreement in which the authority would protect unspoiled, forested land near Charleston. In exchange, the S.C. Coastal Conservation League agreed not to challenge permits for dredging the port. The port needs deepening to accommodate larger ships.

When the deal was announced in January, many

praised it as a way to help the environment without slowing down the port project through costly legal appeals.

Kitzman, a political ally of Haley's and former state insurance director, faces tough questioning before the Senate Medical Affairs Committee. Sen-

SEE DHEC PAGE B3

DHEC

FROM PAGE B1

ators have voiced numerous concerns about Kitzman's qualifications to run DHEC since she has little known experience with health and the environment. Much of her professional background is in insurance.

Kitzman, a Texas native, has been hired by the

agency in a temporary capacity until the confirmation process is completed. The DHEC job also has brought criticism from Democratic senators. Confirmation hearings aren't expected to begin until at least Feb. 19, when the committee's next meeting is scheduled.

Haley said Kitzman will be "very good about mak-

ing sure that we are moving forward."

The governor said DHEC has made progress, including with its sometimes clunky, slow-moving environmental and health permitting system. Now, "I want us to get smarter," she said.

The governor said she wants Kitzman to work closely with hospital exec-

utives in dealing with diseases, such as Ebola and the measles. She also said DHEC needs to deal with hospital certification issues that are emerging. In addition, she wants Kitzman to continue looking for ways to cut down on the use of paper at DHEC.

Those are directives "she'll be amazing at," Haley said.



Kitzman

Title: **Berkeley sets dates for election of sheriff**
 Author: BY DAVE MUNDAY dmunday@postandcourier.com
 Size: 13.17 square inch
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Berkeley sets dates for election of sheriff

BY DAVE MUNDAY
dmunday@postandcourier.com

Berkeley County has announced dates for the selection of the next sheriff:

- Candidates can file from noon Feb. 20 to noon March 2 at the Voters Registration & Elections office in Moncks Corner. The filing fee has not been set but is expected to be less than \$3,990.31, which is the amount candidates had to pay last election to run for a four-year term. The State Election Commission will calculate the filing fee for a term that will be about six months less than four years.
- Primary elections will be April 21.
- If needed, primary runoffs will be May 5.
- The special election will be June 9.

Former Sheriff Wayne DeWitt resigned Thursday after police charged him with leaving the scene of a crash involving personal injury and driving under the influence.

Gov. Nikki Haley will appoint a temporary replacement until a new sheriff is elected.

The Berkeley County Senate delegation sent a letter asking her to appoint Calvitt "Chab" Clarke, a retired SLED agent.

Reach **Dave Munday** at 937-5553.

Title: Professor, 1 other killed in murder-suicide at USC
Author: By CLIF LeBLANC, JOHN MONK and HARRISON CAHILL
Size: 220.41 square inch
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Professor, 1 other killed in murder-suicide at USC
1st multiple on-campus shooting in 35 years stuns USC

By CLIF LeBLANC, JOHN MONK and HARRISON CAHILL
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A professor at the University of South Carolina's public health division was gunned down Thursday in a campus building in what authorities say was a murder-suicide that locked down most of the campus for several hours, sources told The State newspaper.

The names of the two people who died have not been disclosed officially in the first multiple shooting deaths at USC in more than three decades.

But sources told The State newspaper that Raja Fayad was shot and killed. Fayad, 45, was a

graduate director, head of the division of applied physiology and an expert in colon cancer at the urban campus' Arnold School of Public Health. Witnesses said the shootings occurred on the fourth floor of the five-story building along busy Assembly Street.

Sources said they were not able to confirm the name of the shooter.

State Law Enforcement Division agents late Thursday afternoon were at a home the professor owned in a Lexington County subdivision near Lake Mur-

ray. Neighbors said he was

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SHOOTING

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Lebanese and moved into the neighborhood in 2009. University documents show Fayad received a degree in Aleppo, Syria.

"Today, the USC family experienced a great tragedy," President Harris Pastides said in a statement, acknowledging a murder-suicide. "The thoughts and prayers of our entire community are with the families of the deceased tonight. We know the grieving period will be long and our counseling center is available to anyone who may need assistance."

Dozens of officers converged on the campus, from USC police to U.S. marshals, federal Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents, Richland County deputies, Columbia

police and SLED agents. They shut down several city blocks surrounding the western part of campus.

At 2:30 p.m., SLED spokesman Thom Berry would say little other than "There was no active shooter other than the two deceased." He would not say if the deceased were students, faculty or staff or where in the building the shooting occurred.

Students quickly turned in droves to social media, trying to understand what was happening and to make sure others they knew were safe. By midafternoon, many were naming and mourning Fayad in tweets and online postings.

The student body became aware of the shooting when the university at

1:16 p.m. sent a schoolwide text alert that stated: "SHORS (sic) FIRED AT NEW SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH. Seek safe shelter."

Student mobile phones at the on-campus Wendy's restaurant about a block from the scene of the shooting buzzed and pinged with the announcements.

Not everyone was on the text alert system, including Jerry Griggs, a maintenance technician from Red Bank. As he left a convenience store across the street from where the shooting occurred, Griggs said he heard a loud pop like a gunshot and ducked near his truck.

"It is disturbing," he said after he learned more. "I haven't been in the

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middle of a situation like this.”

A view from neighbors

Residents in the neighborhood where Fayad lived came home from work Thursday to discover a half-dozen unmarked police SUVs and cars parked at the professor's home.

Fathi Elsahli, a next-door neighbor of Libyan descent, said he and Fayad got together occasionally over tea to chat in Arabic about “typical things neighbors talk about” as well as campus life at USC.

Elsahli said he and Fayad recently spoke about a stormy relationship with a woman Fayad lived with and described as his girlfriend.

The problems worsened a few weeks ago after Fayad said he moved out to be with another woman, said Elsahli, a part-time USC computer science teacher.

The pair initially moved here from Chicago, neighbors said. But she regularly commuted back there until settling into the home in August after getting a job that she then lost, they said. Some had heard about what happened at USC and thought of the estranged couple.

The woman rarely ventured out after Fayad left but she sometimes had visitors from an unknown church, neighbors said.

Helena Sanford, who lives next door, said the woman recently told her that Internet service and electricity had been cut off at the home.

“It’s devastating,” Sanford said of the shooting. “It’s a terrible waste of life.”

Campus alerts praised

USC’s text and email warnings drew praise from students. They said the university kept them updated.

Through its Carolina Alert, USC sent three text alerts and four emails. All told, the electronic communications went to more than 54,000 users, according to the university. A 2:15 alert announced the end of a threat to public safety.

“Our school was proactive about this,” said senior Cole Mumpower of Charlotte. “I don’t feel unsafe. But this is scary to know stuff like this can happen so close.”

Hannah Fakoury, a sophomore mu-

sic major from northern Virginia, said that initially no one was sure how serious the situation was. But the stream of alerts drove home the point.

“We were always up to date,” said Fakoury, who learned of the crisis as she walked from the music building on Assembly Street to a class near the Horseshoe. Several students who were not in class in the area of the Horseshoe sought shelter there, she said.

“I wouldn’t have known unless we got the text messages,” Fakoury said while watching the scene unfold from College Street. “I love this school. You have to take into account it could happen anywhere. I don’t think this reflects (badly) on the university at all. They handled this very well.”

Some students, however, were critical of the university’s decisions and actions taken by some professors.

“I was in class when we got the alerts, and the teacher had no kind of procedure to follow,” said Emilie Dawson, a fourth-year student studying public relations. “I was shocked after events on campuses like Virginia Tech, that there was no procedure or way to get information to the professors faster than the students. The university needs some kind of plan for this.”

Immediately after the alert, Cameron Razzaghi, 22, a USC student standing in a bank parking lot across from the public health school, said he was concerned some friends might still be in the building.

“I’m worried,” Razzaghi said.

Campus violence rare; fallout to come

As the college went into lockdown, some students were walking casually as close as a block from the public health building as police were closing off surrounding streets.

At mid-afternoon, Pastides declined to comment as he entered a board of trustees meeting. USC spokesman Wes Hickman subsequently said the building had been secured and an all-clear issued.

The Arnold School, a 104,860-square-foot classroom and

research center, opened in May 2006 and was the university’s second green-certified building, according to USC.

After the shots, classrooms were locked and students stayed in those rooms until someone pulled a fire alarm and police began to let students leave the building, a source said.

Officers took students across the street to the basement floor of the School of Music building and debriefed them in a music rehearsal room.

Around 3 p.m., the disrupted campus was slowly returned to a new normal. But confusion persisted.

USC’s Rutledge Chapel was open from 7-9 p.m. Thursday for a group counseling session that was sparsely attended.

Thursday was not the first time USC students were shaken by a killing on campus.

In October 1979, an 18-year-old student killed two other students and wounded five more at an on-campus fraternity party at Bates West dormitory on Whaley Street.

The two students killed at the Kappa Alpha Psi party were USC senior Terrell Johnson of St. Matthews and freshman Patrick McGinty of Wilmington, Del.

The shooter, USC sophomore Mark Houston, was sentenced to two life prison terms.

It remains the worst on-campus crime in the school’s 214-year history.

In the 1980s, a staffer killed himself in the Administration Building at the Horseshoe.

USC officials said Thursday that all public health classes and any classes in the Arnold School had been canceled for the remainder of the day.

Some students said all classes should have been canceled.

“I am greatly disappointed that the university chose to revert back to normal conditions,” said Michael Danko, a senior criminal justice student from Indian Land. “I have a class at 6:30 and am choosing to not go because I don’t think I could focus on schoolwork after hearing about today’s events.”

“I understand there may be pressure to keep classes scheduled since it’s the first week or so of exams,”

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Danko said.

Close to the crime

Hours after the shooting, the bodies remained in the building in the heart of the Capital City.

Savanna Ivill, a 19-year-old public health sophomore, walked into the building just as alerts circulated. She left as police began pouring in.

Officers in SWAT gear, armed with AR-15s, moved students across Assembly Street from the public health building.

"At first I was scared because we didn't know if the shooter was on the loose," Ivill said. She described other students' texts as "frantic."

"It's now sinking in that there are two deceased people that were only

floors above me at the time I was there," Ivill said Thursday night. "It's still maybe going to haunt me a little bit going into that classroom and that building."

Just a few blocks away, Gov. Nikki Haley cut short a news conference because of security concerns. Some state government workers in the Capitol Complex also were notified by security officers.

"From all indications, this does appear to be a very isolated incident involving the two individuals, both of which are now deceased," SLED's Berry told reporters clustered outside a cordoned-off area that stretched over several blocks of the city.

Police blocked Park, College and Pendleton streets.

Traffic was closed at Park at College and College at Assembly, where yellow crime-scene tape was strung across the major north/south corridor of the city, which divides the campus.

The manager of Subway across from the school of public health said police ordered the shop and gas station to lock its doors about 1:30 p.m. Six employees were inside.

"The road is blocked," said a woman, who declined to give her name. "Nobody in and nobody out. We see in the window a bunch of police officers on the road, firetrucks and everything."

Staff writers Sammy Fretwell, Tim Flach, Dawn Hinshaw, Bertram Rantin and Sarah Ellis contributed.



TIM DOMINICK/TDOMINICK@THESTATE.COM

Shock and sadness fill the USC campus Thursday after gunfire at the School of Public Health.

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MATT WALSH/MWALSH@THESTATE.COM

Law enforcement officers Thursday outside the Arnold School of Public Health after a murder-suicide in the building.

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SEAN RAYFORD/ONLINE@THESTATE.COM

Students and faculty gather Thursday night inside Rutledge Chapel on the Horseshoe for counseling after the murder-suicide that shocked the USC campus.

Title: Roadplans splitHouse andHaley
Author: By ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com
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Road plans split House and Haley

Proposals are taking different routes

By ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com

Competing state roads-funding plans from the GOP-controlled S.C. House and Republican Gov. Nikki Haley appear to be on a collision course unless a compromise can be reached by next week.

No bills supporting either plan, meant to raise billions to repair the country's fourth-largest state-owned road system, have

been introduced more than a month into the legislative session.

But state Rep. Gary Simrill, the York Republican who has led a House panel developing a roads plan for the past six months, said he plans to introduce a bill Wednesday. His proposal includes tying a lower state gas tax to inflation, giving more state money to counties

that take over some state roads and levying a 6 percent tax on fuel wholesalers, which would be passed on to consumers.

Haley said Thursday her plan — a 10-cent-a-gallon gas-tax hike in exchange for a 29 percent state income-tax cut — could have been introduced this week. But she said she asked a

sponsor to delay the bill until next week to work out differences with the House.

The sides agree on some issues, such as changing how road projects are managed. Negotiations are expected over the weekend.

"You look at elements of each one, where do we agree SEE ROADS PAGE B8

ROADS

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(and) where we do not," Haley told reporters. "If it looks like it can't mesh, you'll see two bills."

Haley, a Lexington Republican, said she had heard rumors she had threatened to fight the reelection of GOP lawmakers if they backed Simrill's bill.

"I've never been able to say anything to anybody

that opposes anything I want," she responded. "What we try and do is educate them on the fact that we want to stay competitive" in winning jobs by cutting the state income tax.

House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, said he spoke with the governor Wednesday, and she did

not threaten to oust opponents of her roads plan, which she debuted during her State of the State address two weeks ago.

The House delayed introducing its road plan in early January to give the governor more time to unveil her proposal.

House leaders, who did not know about the contents of Haley's plan until

shortly before she delivered her Jan. 21 State of the State address, were caught off guard that her plan included a direct gas-tax increase.

Some GOP lawmakers, wary of opposition to Haley's plan by the limited government Americans for Prosperity group, are hesitant to back a direct gas-tax increase.

Title: Haleyvs. nepotism: '09vote atissue
Author: By JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
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JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

Haley vs. nepotism: '09 vote at issue

Then-Rep. Haley helped legislator's spouse become judge

By JAMIE SELF
jself@thestate.com

Gov. Nikki Haley - who lambasted the Legislature for electing a lawmaker's spouse as a judge Wednesday - cast a vote as a state representative in 2009 that helped another legislator's spouse become a judge.

Then-Rep. Nikki Haley, a Lexington Republican, cast a vote that helped Kaye Hearn, whose husband was a S.C. House member at the time, win a seat on the S.C. Supreme Court.

In 2009, Haley voted with an overwhelming majority of lawmakers to defeat an attempt to remove Hearn from the Supreme Court race and start over, seeking new candidates. As a result of that vote, Hearn, unopposed after her two challengers withdrew, automatically won the Supreme Court seat.

Asked about her 2009 vote at a Thursday news conference,

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HALEY

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Haley responded, "Did I vote for Kaye Hearn? Did I vote for Kaye Hearn? I did not vote for Kaye Hearn because I remember that election very well."

Asked whether she protested Hearn's candidacy, Haley said, "Really? ... I'm offended that you're asking this."

Critics say Haley's stance on the Hearn race calls into question her complaints of nepotism against lawmakers who voted Wednesday to elect Bill Funderburk, wife of Democratic state Rep. Laurie Funderburk of Camden, to the state's Administrative Law Court.

Bill Funderburk beat 16-year court incumbent Carolyn Matthews, 87-50.

The race between Funderburk and Matthews rubbed many lawmakers the wrong way, in part because of Bill Funderburk's marital ties to a sitting legislator. But, lawmakers also noted, it is not illegal for the spouse of a lawmaker to run for judge in South Carolina.

After the vote, Haley posted lawmakers' votes on Facebook.

"Unfortunately, conflicts of interest are alive and well at the Statehouse," Haley wrote. "The legislature elected the spouse of a legislator today to be a judge. This is blatantly unfair to other candidates willing to serve. Those who voted for Funderburk supported the conflict of interest. Thank you to those who took a stand and

voted for Matthews."

Thursday, Haley explained her online critique of the Funderburk and Matthews race. "There is something wrong when a spouse of a legislator can come in and run for judge, and everybody else is too scared to vote for (the challenger).

"There is a conflict of interest when a (legislator's) spouse runs for a judicial seat, knowing that the legislator has the ability to work the floor when an incumbent can't or when another candidate can't."

However, some lawmakers said Haley's concerns about nepotism are hypocritical, citing her 2009 Supreme Court vote.

State Rep. Mike Pitts, the Laurens Republican who worked to win legislators' votes for Funderburk, said Haley has not cried nepotism when the spouses of GOP lawmakers have sought appointments.

"If she wants to use the bully pulpit, that's one thing," Pitts said Tuesday. "But to use it in this race – and not others – would come into question."

The two-term governor has faced questions about nepotism and cronyism – when she replaced a popular University of South Carolina trustee with a campaign donor, when her daughter landed a job at the State House gift shop and, more recently, when a close friend and campaign donor was nominated to run the state's environmental agency by that agency's board, which did not consider other candidates.

Reach Self at (803) 771-8658