

Title: **Haley seeking to fire all 7 board members**  
 Author: BY JOHN MONK jmonk@thestate.com  
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## RICHLAND COUNTY RECREATION BOARD

# Haley seeking to fire all 7 board members

■ Gov. Haley, after reviewing evidence, announced Thursday she will fire all seven board members of the Richland County Recreation Commission. She charged them with neglect of duty, mismanagement and incompetence.

BY JOHN MONK  
 jmonk@thestate.com

Gov. Nikki Haley is moving to fire all seven members of the Richland County Recreation Board.

The rare action by Haley comes after months of lawsuits alleging sexual harassment by recreation director James Brown III, who retired last month after he was indicted for misconduct in office.

It also follows allegations by a bipartisan majority of the 17-member Richland County Legis-

lative Delegation that members of the appointed recreation board that oversaw Brown had grossly mismanaged the recreation commission's affairs for years.

Lawmakers said board members allowed unwarranted pay raises and widespread nepotism and thus had neglected their duties.

In a 10-page executive order announced Thursday afternoon by the governor's office, Haley

affirmed the charges brought by the delegation majority and named the seven board members she seeks to remove.

They are: chairman J. Marie Green, vice-chair Barbara Mickens, Weston Furgess Jr., George D. Martin Jr.,

**SEE BOARD, 6A**

**FROM PAGE 1A**

## BOARD

Joseph Weeks, Thomas Clark and Wilbert Lewis.

Efforts to reach board members were unsuccessful. In the past, they largely have refused opportunities to speak publicly about the allegations against them as well as Brown.

"This is an absolute overreach," said Rep. Todd Rutherford, D-Richland, who said Haley should leave the board members alone. "They didn't do anything illegal or unethical." Rutherford also said Haley, a Republican, had not removed others from office who

were under investigation.

Three other delegation members hailed the governor's move.

"This is a critical next step to restore public confidence in the Recreation Commission," said Rep. James Smith, D-Richland.

Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, said delegation members had received numerous complaints from the Recreation Commission's approximately 160 employees about sexual harassment, a hostile work environment, nepotism and unfair pay raises.

"Employees over there

were being trampled on and said they had nowhere to turn," Lourie said. "The stories we heard were horrific. This board continued to turn a deaf ear to those complaints."

Rep. Beth Bernstein, D-Richland, praised Haley's action as "unprecedented but warranted. ... This board will now be held accountable."

Under the law, the delegation appoints the board members. But the delegation does not have the power to remove them.

The delegation majority had originally asked the

governor to remove five board members - everyone but Lewis and Clark. But after reviewing evidence in the matter, the governor decided to remove all seven, according to her order.

The firings are not immediate. Board members can request a hearing to defend themselves.

That hearing will be Nov. 30 "at a specific time and location to be determined," the governor's order said.

After being appointed by the delegation, commission members, like other members of legisla-

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tively appointed boards, operate with little public oversight. The commission's activities are largely funded by Richland County Council, but the council has no direct control over the commission, including how it spends its money.

The recreation commission oversees a network of county youth and adult sports programs and 40 public facilities, which include swimming pools, summer camps and an 18-hole golf course.

It raises large amounts of money from fees generated by the use of its public facilities.

It was to receive \$13.3 million from County Council this year. But several months ago, council agreed to freeze the funding at the state-mandated \$4.9 million for the

2016-17 financial year until an audit examines how the commission spends its money.

Last month, former recreation chief Brown was indicted by a Richland County grand jury, accused of using his position "to coerce and attempt to coerce female employees into having sexual contact with him." He says he is innocent.

Brown, whose annual salary was \$151,800, faces up to 10 years in prison if found guilty of the broad charge of misconduct in office, which can cover a wide range of behavior.

State law authorizes the governor to remove county or state officers for certain types of misconduct or wrongful behavior. The law also requires the governor to notify officials of the charges and give

the members an opportunity with reasonable notice to have their voices heard.

The governor will appoint a three-person panel to preside over a hearing. The panel will make a recommendation to her. She will have the final decision about whether the members should be removed from office.

In her Thursday order, Haley leveled various charges against board members. They include neglect of duty, incompetency, misfeasance and malfeasance for such actions as failing to review complaints of nepotism, harassment, retaliation, and intimidation as well as matters related to compensation of employees.

Haley's order also said:

- As recreation director,

Brown supervised family members he hired and approved their pay raises in spite of a commission policy banning nepotism. The board knew about Brown's actions but repeatedly failed to take action.

- The board gave Brown a 60 percent pay raise over five years. His \$151,800 was more than \$35,000 higher than any other county recreation director in the state.

- Relatives of Brown who were hired included his brother, his son and four nieces. Brown's son, James A. Brown, had his salary increased from \$34,377 in 2009 to \$70,000 in 2013. Earlier this year, Brown was arrested on drug trafficking charges and has been suspended without pay.



Haley

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Title: **Thank you for your trust**

Author:

Size: 11.78 column inches

Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473

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### **Thank you for your trust**

Dear Fellow Citizens of SC  
House District 27:

I want to take a moment and tell you how grateful Brenda and I are for the overwhelming support and encouragement you have given my re-election and us. Thank you very much.

We worked hard to represent you, and you have given us the opportunity to once again serve you as your representative in the S.C. House of Representatives. I am very excited about the opportunity to work with Gov. Nikki Haley, Speaker Jay Lucas and other members of the S.C. House of Representatives in making lasting changes to the way we do business in South Carolina state government.

During my last term of office we took our message to the streets and neighborhoods and talked with you about leadership, trust, improving education and making government run more like a business. I listened to your concerns, and I am once again prepared to act on your behalf as your representative.

Thank you again for your trust.

**Garry R. Smith**

*Garry Smith represents District 27 in the SC House of Representatives.*

Title: **Mark Palmer wants to be part of the solution 4 - «\*»\*,| ..nnXtwiydtuM...4NU\***

Author: BYTRAVIS JENKINS 1jenkins@onlinechester.com

Size: 58.28 column inches

Chester, SC Circulation: 6700



# Mark Palmer wants to be part of the solution

BY TRAVIS JENKINS

tjenkins@onlinechester.com

Mark Palmer says the South Carolina Senate is where good bills go to die. He'd like to breathe some new life into them.

Palmer is the Republican candidate for South Carolina

District 17, which includes all of Chester County, all of Fairfield County and a portion of York. A 20-year resident of York County, Palmer was born

in Greenwood. He is a system administrator with United

Refrigeration, served 29 years in the National Guard (he retired as a major) and earned a Bronze Star for his service in Iraq. Holly, his wife of 20 years, is a nurse and their daughter, Savannah, is a

senior at York Comprehensive High School.

This is Palmer's first run for office, though he has been

**See PALMER, Page 2**

## PALMER

Continued from Page 1

involved in the political process.

"I've spent many hours sitting in committee meetings, trying to hold the feet of legislators to the fire and let them know that people were concerned about certain issues. The results were too often not what the people want, so I decided to try to do something about it myself," he said.

Among the issues that drew him to Columbia in the past were discussions of Obamacare and some Second Amendment issues. He also worked to help defeat former U.S. Congressman John Spratt.

Palmer said he loves his home state and the district in which he lives and believes the resources and the abundance of great people here can serve as a sort of economic magnet, attracting new businesses and industry. He

thinks there are a couple of impediments, though, that have to be dealt with.

"We have to improve our infrastructure," he said. "Our roads and bridges are the second most dangerous in the entire country. It's a disgrace."

Palmer said education is another key. Some strides have been made, but more are necessary, he said, to insure there is a well-educated workforce ready to capably fill new jobs when they come. He does not believe in a top-down education model where the federal government wields an undue amount of influence on education, believing instead that states and local school districts should chart the course for education. He wants all school districts to be funded equitably so that all children have access to the same great education.

Palmer said another reason he decided to run

for office is that Columbia "has a lot of ethics problems."

"There are a lot of good men who go there intending to do good things, but something happens," said Palmer, who said he would be willing to stand against his own party at times if he believed they were wrong on a particular matter. "What's frustrating is that they investigate themselves and appear before judges that they appoint."

Palmer said he has no interest in going to Columbia "and becoming famous," then parlaying that into a seat in Washington D.C. He

doesn't plan to be a multi-term senator either. He wants to go to Columbia and help solve problems.

"We need to restore the relationship between the legislature and the people it represents," he said.

Palmer said he will

serve as a voice for and cheerleader of his district, but also considers it the duty of a state senator to serve the state as a whole and protect its sovereignty. He said he also wants to help improve the lives of citizens, but doesn't want to run their lives.

"If you look to the south and see Columbia as the Emerald City and believe the great and powerful Oz knows what's best for you and best knows how to spend your money and run your life, you should probably vote for my opponent. But if you look at Columbia and want it to be run by people who exercise wise judgment, frugal spending and respect your rights, I'm your guy," he said.

He also hopes people will be able to look southward, toward Columbia soon and see a legislative body where good bills and good ideas have a fighting chance.

Title: **Mark Palmer wants to be part of the solution 4 - «\*»\*,| ..nnXtwiydtuM...4NU\* i - | imi| - .**  
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BY BRIAN GARNER/THE N&R  
 South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, at left, stopped by the community room at the Richburg Fire Department to endorse Mark Palmer, the Republican candidate for State Senate District 17. The Governor focused on Palmer's military experience, his position as a family man and said she was looking forward to having him to be a partner with her on ethics, on taxes and in the area's prosperity.



Title: **Mosley: for county to embrace GOP**  
 Author: BYTRAVIS JENKINS [tjenkins@onlinechester.com](mailto:tjenkins@onlinechester.com)  
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# Mosley: for county to embrace GOP

BY TRAVIS JENKINS

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Erin Mosley thinks times are changing politically and that Chester County may finally be ready to embrace the Grand Old Party.

Mosley has been the Chester County Republican Party Chair since May. Chester has long been as a reliably blue county, but she believes that is changing. In 2014, for the first time since Reconstruction, Republican candidates for all state offices

swept Chester County. Earlier this year, the Republican Primary drew larger turnout than the Democratic Primary. Trying to capitalize on that momentum, Mosley has been very active, setting up a Republican Convention viewing party and hosting a number of prominent elected Republicans (Gov. Nikki Haley was in Richburg

Thursday and Attorney General Alan Wilson made a stop last week). She hopes that work will pay off on Tuesday.

At the top of the ticket, Mosley said she believes Donald Trump is the right person at the right time for the country. She thinks his pro-America message is resonating not only with Republicans, but with many working-class Democrats who have lost their manufacturing jobs

**See GOP, Page 4**

## GOP

Continued from Page 1

or perceive that America, in general, has slipped and that its government does not work in their best interests anymore.

"He believes in freedom for everyone and equal opportunities, which of course don't always come with equal results, but that is what this country was founded on. He's not running for the money or the fame, because he already has those things. I think he wants to give back to his country because of what its given to him in his life," she said.

Mosley likes Trump's background as a businessman and thinks it would be a real asset in the White House.

"He's created thousands of jobs in his life. He knows how to get the job done and his economy would benefit everybody," Mosley said.

As for Trump's opponent, Hillary Clinton, Mosley said she was "a corrupt lawyer who is now a corrupt politician."

"She lacks leadership skills," Mosley said. "She's a follower, not a doer. She's bought by money and power and tainted by scandal."

A little further down the ballot, Mosley said there is also a lot to like about U.S. Senator Tim Scott and U.S. 5th District Congressman Mick Mulvaney, both of whom are seeking reelection. She said both are very conservative and both are good stewards of public money. Beyond that, she said both are just good men.

"I think they look at things like regular people would. They aren't afraid to say 'hey, this doesn't make any sense.' They are the same character of men. Both are pro people

and not pro-their own political power," she said.

There was a time in the not-too-distant-past that Chester County would not have fielded any Republican candidates for state or local offices, but there are three on the ballot this year. One of those

is Mark Palmer, a candidate for South Carolina Senate District 17, of which Chester is a part. Mosley said she has been impressed by Palmer's knowledge of and passion for the U.S. Constitution.

"Mark is also just an overall great guy who is willing to help anybody," Mosley said.

She thinks Palmer's belief in low taxes, better roads, family choices on education and term limits will make him an excellent state senator.

Locally, Richard Smith is running for Chester

County sheriff, an office he held from 2009-2013 as a Democrat.

"Richard knows the ins-and-outs of the office and was a great sheriff. He's approachable, reachable and is a good guy," Mosley said.

Mosley noted there have been "a lot of negative headlines" out of the office since Smith left it and said he is the perfect choice to "calm the waters."

There is no Republican

on Chester County Council, but Mosley thinks that may change. Pete Wilson, a farmer and business-owner, is running against two-term District 4 incumbent John Wayne Holcombe.

"Pete is young and energetic and has a lot to offer. He has a lot of ideas about how to make the

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county better," Mosley is done in the county and vote for someone different. races, one the public is  
 said. the direction that Chester Let's try that," she said. invited to attend. She  
 Mosley said in terms of is headed. County Republicans hopes by the end of the  
 the lack of Republicans in "Well, there's no will have a party at The night that is is a grand old  
 county offices, she said she Republican representa- Summit on Election night party.  
 hears a lot of people tion locally. People say 'we to monitor returns in all  
 bemoan the way business need a change' well, maybe



Trump

Title: **Lawmakers: Combining victims services will better assist them**  
Author:  
Size: 11.31 column inches  
Sumter, SC Circulation: 19018



## Lawmakers: Combining victims services will better assist them

COLUMBIA (AP) — South Carolina lawmakers want to combine crime victims services now spread over several agencies, saying a single office can better assist them.

A proposal announced Thursday by Gov. Nikki Haley and Attorney General Alan Wilson would consolidate the various services in his office next year. Haley is signing an executive order to plan for the transition. The consolidation will require legislation. Legislators from both parties stood behind Haley and Wilson at the Crime Victims' Memorial Garden in Columbia. They say the proposal should easily pass in the legislative session, which starts in January.

The proposal was among a task force's 50 recommendations for combatting domestic violence last year. Haley, who created the group in January 2015, said officials are working to implement all of them.



Title: **Haley, CCCF celebrate donation to relief fund**

Author:

Size: 28.36 column inches

N. Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 7250



# Haley, CCCF celebrate donation to relief fund

Gov. Nikki Haley was joined last week by executives from Nucor Steel and representatives from the Central Carolina Community Foundation (CCCF) to celebrate the work of the One SC Relief Fund in helping South Carolina families recover from the impact of Hurricane Matthew.

As a part of the celebration, vice president and general manager of Nucor Steel Berkeley, Giff Daughtridge, announced the company's donation of \$100,000 to One SC.

"This is South Carolina at her best," said Gov. Nikki

Haley. "We have incredible corporate partners, and \$100,000 is an amazing contribution to a fund that is going to help so many people. ... To have over \$800,000 come in from individuals all across our state and from great companies like Nucor Steel goes back to the heart of South Carolina - it's who we are at our core, and it's neighbors helping neighbors."

"At Nucor, we take great pride in supporting the communities where we work and live every day. We also take pride in our South Carolina heritage where our steelmaking history was born over 50

years ago. So naturally, the over 2,000 South Carolina Nucor teammates at our four divisions want to do their part to help the families and neighborhoods that need support and rebuilding," said Daughtridge.

Established to assist South Carolinians recovering from natural disasters, One SC's first project was providing relief and recovery assistance to South Carolinians in the aftermath of last year's thousand year flood. Thanks to generous donors, One SC has distributed nearly \$2,000,000 in grants to non-profit organizations support-

ing flood recovery projects across our state. Those grants have resulted in approximately 1,500 families returning home.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, Governor Haley, in partnership with CCCF, expanded the fundraising efforts of One SC to help those impacted by the storm. Since that time, One SC has raised over \$800,000.

Nucor Corporation is the largest steel producer in the United States and has four divisions in South Carolina, employing more than 2,000 people in high-quality manufacturing jobs.

Title: **New faces with new ideas need to be elected to County Council**  
 Author:  
 Size: 32.70 column inches  
 McCormick, SC Circulation: 2455



## *Messenger Mail*

# **New faces with new ideas need to be elected to County Council**

Dear Readers:

My husband and I have been residents of McCormick for over 21 years. We moved here because it offered everything we wanted in retirement – a small town with little traffic, friendly people and a beautiful lake. And we were not disappointed. However, for our High School graduates and those looking for employment to support their families, McCormick County does not have much to offer. Economic development in our county has pretty much come to a standstill.

Our Governor, Nikki Haley, visited our county late last year to speak to some business leaders. The Governor spoke at a critical time for our county, since it is one of the few counties in our state that has not seen any recent job growth. In fact, out of the 46 counties in South Carolina we ranked absolutely last in economic development. That's right, we are number 46. During that same meeting, the Governor said, "The problem with McCormick is you need new county leadership. It has to be changed. If you want jobs, it has to be changed." This is from a Governor who has been successful putting businesses and jobs in almost all of the other counties in the state.

The residents of District 1 and District 4 have an opportunity on Nov. 8 to change the face and the direction of our McCormick County Council. Charles Jennings and Henry Banks are up for reelection. Mr. Jennings has been on the McCormick County Council for 26 years, the

past six as its chairman. Mr. Henry Banks has been on the Council for 16 years. Under Mr. Jennings Chairmanship very little has been done to bring new job opportunities into McCormick County. He's used taxpayer's dollars to hire consultants, to conduct economic surveys, to form committees to study and act on the results and still no job creation. It seems to be all words and no action.

Thessa Smith, our newly hired economic director, was hopeful that a spec building would be built in our announced industrial park by now that could be used to lure prospective companies to locate here. But no building has been started. County Council, under Mr. Jennings leadership, botched the procurement process and due to litigation we lost the \$1.2 million grant that was going to mostly finance it. Today, the land stands empty with no guarantee we will get the grant again or that the structure will ever be built. A good job opportunity squandered.

Kevin Busbee, a programmer for Fujifilm, is running against Mr. Henry Banks and Mr. Tim White, owner of Michelle's Pizza, is running against Mr. Charles Jennings.

To move this county forward and have a chance for businesses to be built here and provide much needed employment opportunities, we need these two gentlemen to be elected to county council. Your vote could change the economic outlook for our county.

**- Bobbi Lambeth**  
**A Concerned Resident**

Title: **Carolina Canners, Inc. expanding Chesterfield County operations**  
 Author:  
 Size: 51.46 column inches  
 Bennettsville, SC Circulation: 6289



# Carolina Canners, Inc. expanding Chesterfield County operations

**Ground breaking ceremony held to celebrate expansion bringing \$45 million investment and 40 new jobs.**

CHERAW - Carolina Canners, Inc., an independent Pepsi bottler and production cooperative, hosted a ground breaking ceremony on Tuesday October 25th. Employees, business partners and state and local dignitaries manned golden shovels during ground-breaking ceremonies for Carolina Canners' \$45 million, 45,000 square foot plant expansion Tuesday in Cheraw.

Expected to create 40 new jobs within the coming year, the new hot-fill manufacturing line will be used primarily to produce the Pepsi-Lipton Tea Partnership's fast-growing Pure Leaf, a premium iced tea brewed from real tea leaves.

Operating in Cheraw, since 1968, Carolina Canners has expanded its South Carolina operations multiple times over the last 40 years. The facility specializes in bottle injection molding and features two bottle-filling production lines, two can-filling production lines and a fountain syrup production line. The company also serves as a joint purchasing agent for many of the region's Pepsi bottlers.

Hiring for the new positions will begin in the second quarter of 2017, and those interested in joining the Carolina Canners team

should visit the SC Works website.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development has approved job development credits related to this project.

Carolina Canners plans to host a ribbon cutting ceremony in May, 2017, when the new line is officially up and running.

"We are very humbled and proud to be able to make this announcement. This event would not have been possible without many people at Carolina Canners, the Pepsi-Lipton Tea Partnership, Governor Nikki Haley and her staff, the S.C. Department of Commerce, Chesterfield County, the Town of Cheraw, the Department of Transportation, several utility companies and numerous others. This is proof of what can happen when there is a col-

laborative effort on the part of business and government, as well as a progressive and pro-business climate like there is here in the great State of South Carolina. We hope that this is just the beginning of many future ventures for Carolina Canners and for our affiliates," said Carolina Canners Board President Mark Avent of Bennettsville.

## Five fast facts

- Carolina Canners, Inc. is further expanding its operations in Chesterfield County.

- \$45 million investment to create 40 new jobs.

- Carolina Canners is an independent Pepsi bottler and production cooperative.

- Located at 300 Highway 1 South in Cheraw, the company will be expanding its existing building by 45,000 square feet and adding new, state-of-the-art equipment.

- Those interested in joining the Carolina Canners team should visit the SC Works website when the company starts hiring in the second quarter of 2017.

Title: **Carolina Canners, Inc. expanding Chesterfield County operations**

Author:

Size: 51.46 column inches

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**Pictured: (Left to Right): PepsiCo's Mario Mercurio and Emily Silver dig into new Pure Leaf capacity and partnership with Carolina**

**Canners' Mark Avent of Bennettsville and Jeff Stevens.**



Title: **haley visits marion to aid hurricane victims**

Author: BY NAEEM MCFADDEN Marion Star & Mullins Enterprise nmcfadden@florencenews.com ji

Size: 103.85 column inches

Hemingway, SC Circulation: 2192



# Haley visits Marion to aid hurricane victims

BY NAEEM MCFADDEN

Marion Star & Mullins Enterprise  
nmcfadden@florencenews.com

MARION—Gov. Nikki Haley met a large crowd gathered in the Marion County Administration Building on Friday for the first Team South Carolina Hurricane Matthew relief event.

"This is something we had to do," Haley said. "We had complete devastation in the area and I don't want people searching to go for what they don't know to find. I want to bring all of the resources to them. This is our way of bringing Team South Carolina to them."

The event serves as a one-stop shop where residents can find out about resources available to families and businesses to aid recovery. It includes a list of representatives from more than a dozen state and federal agencies along with nonprofit organizations to assist those in need after Hurricane Matthew.

Haley said the event covers a variety of needs including insurance claims, food, blankets and other supplies.

"What we're trying to do is give as much comfort as we can," Haley said. "I want them to know there is someone that can answer their questions."

Haley said the collective effort will continue. "I wish I had a miracle," she said. "What I can tell them is we're not going to leave them behind and do any-

thing and everything we can possibly do."

Local officials are also at work. Sen. Kent Williams has been working with volunteers organizing the Marion County Recovery Team. "We're just very appreciative and have a

distribution center along with 15 care centers set up throughout the county, using our faith-based community," Williams said. "The response here is overwhelming and shows that people are in need. I just want to thank Team South Carolina for putting this together and working together to help victims across the Pee Dee."

Marion County Administrator Tim Harper said he was pleased that the governor decided to start in Marion County. "It's for our citizens and we're excited to have a good turnout and that people could be assisted in every way possible," Harper said.

Sellers Mayor Barbara Hopkins said residents are in serious need of help. "People lost their homes and more than 53 homes are devastated," she said. "The Sellers area got hit so bad. Even during the storm while I was helping flood victims get to the church, an electrical wire hit my house and burned it down.

I have nothing but I thank God that I'm still here. My main objective is to help the people of Sellers get what they need."

Bonnie Scott and Deborah Briston of Mullins were among the crowd. Both had damage to their homes from the storm. "We need assistance on

just about everything," Scott said. Briston said the loss of food, cars, flooding and property damage has residents looking for answers.

Team South Carolina included local high school students unloading supplies, local physicians providing a free health clinic, and volunteers distributing

Red Cross supply boxes.

Team South Carolina Pee Dee Day will also serve residents of Darlington, Dillon, and Florence counties.

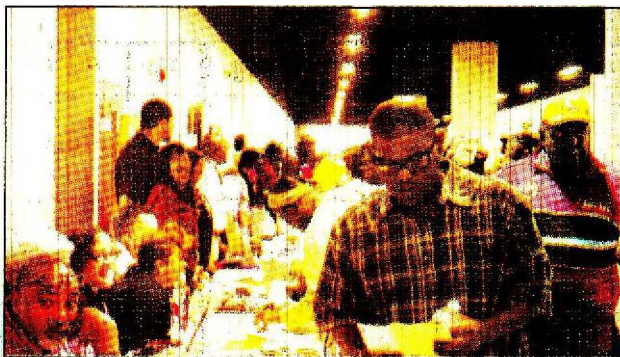


Title: **haley visits marion to aid hurricane victims**

Author: BY NAEEM MCFADDEN Marion Star &amp; Mullins Enterprise nmcfadden@florencenews.com ji

Size: 103.85 column inches

Hemingway, SC Circulation: 2192



**A crowd seeks assistance during Gov. Nikki Haley's Team South Carolina Marion County Day visit. More than a dozen different agencies, free health clinic and supplies were available at the Marion County Administration Building.**



**Marion County Department of Social Services staff are among the agencies helping visitors find assistance during the first Team South Carolina Hurricane Matthew relief event at the Marion County Administration Building.**

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PHOTOS BY NAEEM MCFADDEN/MARION STAR &amp; MULLINS ENTERPRISE

**Mullins City Councilwoman Terry Davis talks with Gov. Nikki Haley during the first Team South Carolina Hurricane Matthew relief event at the Marion County Administration Building on Friday. Davis brought along Mullins High School JAG students to help unload Red Cross supplies to distribute to more than 1,200 residents.**



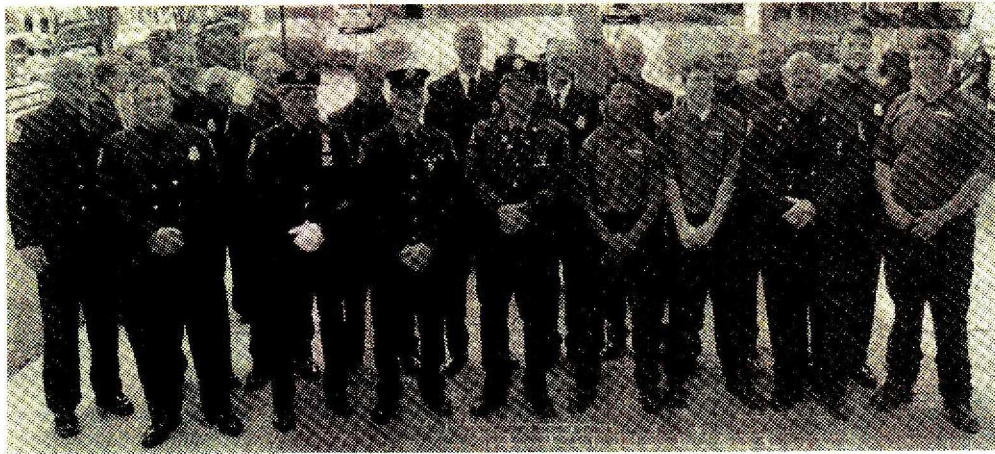
**Gov. Nikki Haley greets Mullins High School JAG students volunteering to help during the first Team South Carolina Hurricane Matthew relief event at the Marion County Administration Building on Oct. 28.**



Title: **Landrum Area Fire and Rescue District Earns Life Safety Achievement Award**  
 Author: By Tricia Taber  
 Size: 43.86 column inches  
 Landrum, SC Circulation: 1764



# Landrum Area Fire and Rescue District Earns Life Safety Achievement Award



By Tricia Taber

The Landrum Area Fire and Rescue District was recently presented with a Life Safety Achievement Award for its fire prevention accomplishments in 2015 by the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) Fire Research and Education Foundation in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company.

"When we hear the fire truck coming down the street and see its lights, we know firefighters are responding to someone in trouble. What we don't know is that these unsung heroes are doing a lot of things behind the scenes that save lives," said David Miller, Assistant Vice President of Special Investigations at Grinnell Mutual. "The Life Safety Achievement Award recognizes fire departments for their fire prevention programs that have been proven to save lives year after year."

Congratulating the District for its efforts, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley wrote, "It's a great day in South Carolina when you, our everyday heroes, receive recognition for your hard work and commitment to the safety of our citizens and communities. Michael and I are grateful for your willingness to put your lives on the line to save others."

Since 1994, the Life Safety Achievement Award has recognized local fire prevention efforts that have contributed to reducing the number of lives lost in residential fires. The Landrum Area Fire and Rescue District is one of 160 fire departments across the United States to receive the award this year for recording zero fire deaths in 2015 or reducing fire deaths by at least 10 percent during the year. In addition, award recipients documented active and effective fire prevention programs as well as a clear commitment to reducing the number of house fires in the community.

"Nationwide, residential fires account for only 20 percent of fires, but they result in 80 percent of fire fatalities," according to Chief Warren Ashmore of the Landrum

Area Fire and Rescue District. "Prevention efforts are key to reducing that number, and we are honored to be recognized for the work we've done in the Landrum area."

"Experience tells us that fire prevention activity and public education can significantly reduce life and property loss from residential fires," Browning said. "Prevention and education are very cost effective compared to the traditional approach of relying on fire suppression. The Life Safety Achievement Award recognizes fire departments for their fire prevention efforts and encourages them to continually improve upon those efforts."

Pam Hilsman, chairwoman of the Landrum Area Fire and Rescue District added praise for local personnel. "Chief Ashmore and our firefighters are dedicated to prevention and education efforts. They work directly with businesses, churches, schools, and other organizations interested in reducing risk factors before they become problems that require our trucks to arrive with lights and sirens. The culture of the Landrum Area Fire and Rescue District is that we are 'Neighbors Protecting Neighbors', and this national recognition illustrates how our department continues to go above and beyond to keep the Landrum area safe."