

Title: **gov haley visits marion county**
 Author: BY NAEEM MCFADDEN nmcfadden@florencenews.com
 Size: 142.13 column inches
 Marion, SC Circulation: 3842



Team South Carolina

Gov. Haley visits Marion County

BY NAEEM MCFADDEN

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MARION — Gov. Nikki Haley met a massive crowd gathered inside the Marion County Administration Building 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 where residents can find out about resources available to families and businesses to aid recovery and includes a list of representatives from more than a dozen state and federal agencies along with non-profit organizations to assist those in need in the wake flooding and

other destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew.

Haley the event covers a variety of needs from insurance claims, food, blankets and oth-

er supplies during the ongoing process of recovery.

"What we're trying to do is give

See **MARION**, Page 8A

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Marion

From Page 1A

as much comfort as we can," Haley said. "I want them to know is 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 anything and everything we can possibly do."

Local officials are also hard 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 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 Gov. Haley 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 as more than 53 homes are devastated," she said of a recent assessment. "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 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 after

suffering damage to their homes during 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 impacted by the storm from Darlington, Dillon and Florence counties.

At the Team South Carolina Pee Dee Day residents can:

- » Register for financial assistance from FEMA
- » Apply for disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration
- » Learn more about repairing and flood proofing their home from FEMA
- » Get information about assistance for farmers with crop losses or damage from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency
- » Apply for unemployment benefits from the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce
- » Apply for food and financial assistance from the S.C. Department of Social Services
- » Get information about mental health and other healthcare services from the S.C. Department of Mental Health and the S.C. Department of Health and Human Services
- » Get help with insurance claims from the S.C. Department of Insurance
- » Receive a free kit to test well water from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control
- » Receive a free tetanus shot from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control

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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 Oct. 28. Davis brought along Mullins High School JAG students to help unload Red Cross supplies to distribute to more than 1,200 residents.



PHOTOS BY NAEEM MCFADDEN/STAR & ENTERPRISE

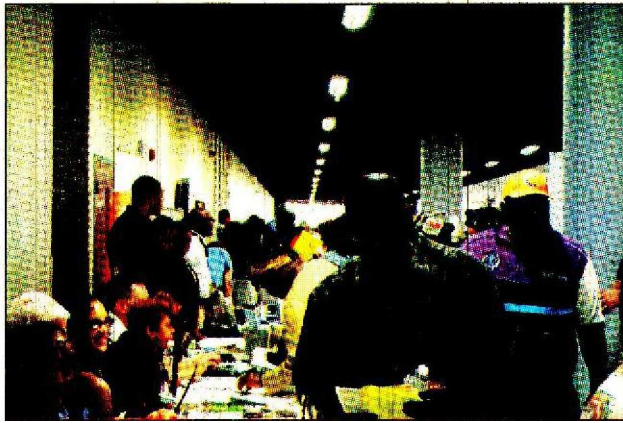
Volunteers pack up supply boxes during the first Team South Carolina Hurricane Matthew relief event at the Marion County Administration Building on Oct. 28.

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**American
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A crowd seeks assistance during Gov. Nikki Haley's Team South Carolina Marion County Day visit.

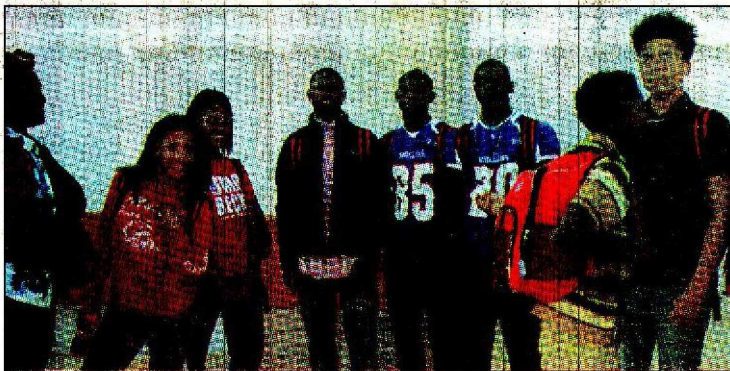


Marion County Department of Social Services staff are among the agencies helping visitors find assistance during the first Team South Carolina Hurricane Matthew relief event.

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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.



Mullins High School JAG students volunteer to help during the first Team South Carolina Hurricane Matthew relief event at the Marion County Administration Building on Oct. 28.

Title: **Remember the Richland Penny Tax investigation?**
 Author: By Chris Trainor
 Size: 73.62 column inches
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Remember the Richland Penny Tax Investigation?

By Chris Trainor

For the last several months, much attention has been paid — by citizens and the media — to the roiling controversy at the Richland County Recreation Commission, which has seen its director get indicted, arrested and then retire, while much of its board remains under fire from the legislative delegation and Gov. Nikki Haley.

Meanwhile, another controversy that had wracked the county for a year has quietly slipped from the public's radar: the state Department of Revenue's long-running probe of

the Richland County Transportation Penny Tax program.

However, Department of Revenue and law enforcement officials insisted to *Free Times* this week that the probe remains alive.

"The South Carolina Department of Revenue remains committed to ensuring accountability and to protecting taxpayers and their dollars," department spokeswoman Ashley Thomas says.

Meanwhile, SLED spokesman Thom Berry says the agency's investigation into the penny program is "open and continuing."

The Transportation Penny was approved by Richland County voters in a contentious 2012 referendum, with hours-long waits and a dearth of voting machines at some precincts on Election Day.

The penny tax is set to collect more than \$1 billion in the next two decades, to be used for various road and transportation projects. For example, the county announced last week that work is set to begin on repaving more than 100 roads throughout the county as part of the penny program. That particular repaving initiative is set to take a couple of years to complete.

For more than a year, state Revenue director Rick Reames has been sharply critical of the Richland Penny, saying he has concerns about possible public corruption and fraud in the program. He has said that his agency's probe into the penny "uncovered

millions of dollars of potential fraud, waste and abuse."

The department director lambasted the county for awarding \$3 million in contracts to a pair of firms for "public relations" work, as well as paying out \$900,000 to additional firms for public relations. He called into question the county's funding of the Small

Local Business enterprise program with penny funds and accused the county of using insufficient procurement procedures in awarding contracts of penny work.

However, despite the fact the Department of Revenue and SLED's investigations into the penny tax have been going on since 2015, they have not, to date, resulted in any formal charges that are directly related to the program.

The last headline-grabbing moves in the case came back in the summer, when Reames threatened to withhold penny funds from the county unless it came in line with his agency's directives. However, a judge told the Department of Revenue in June it could not withhold that money. Then, in August, a judge released the three private companies that form the county's penny project team from a Revenue lawsuit, though the judge did say the agency could continue its claims against the county.

In an August order, Judge Thomas Cooper noted that the Department of Revenue has a "level of statutory authority to oversee the county's use of penny tax revenues." Thomas says the county has appealed that ruling.

County Councilman Jim Manning, a vocal critic of the penny probe, says the issue has been quiet recently.

"We haven't heard anything in months," Manning tells *Free Times*.

"We haven't heard anything in months."

— *Richland County councilman Jim Manning on the investigation into the Transportation Penny*

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Title: **ELECTIONS 2016 If You Can't Beat sEm, Bruise 'Em**
 Author: BY EVA MOORE
 Size: 97.49 column inches
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ELECTIONS 2016

If You Can't Beat 'Em, Bruise 'Em

BY EVA MOORE

Republican U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson stands on a stage in front of the Korean Community Presbyterian Church in downtown Columbia, clutching a microphone. He just took a tour of the church's new building, he says, and it looks great. He mentions his trips to South Korea as a member of Congress and expresses his hopes for Korean reunification.

It's the city's 11th annual Korean Festival, and the eight-term congressman is showing his face around the district as the Nov. 8 election draws near.

Arik Bjorn, Wilson's Democratic opponent, works the crowd while Wilson speaks.

"He lied about voting for the Violence Against Women Act," Bjorn tells a pair of people bent over their udon and spicy pork. "The other day on ETV."

This is Bjorn's issue of the week: knocking the incumbent over his 2013 vote against a bipartisan bill that renewed and expanded resources for fighting domestic violence, including new protections for LGBT people and expanded tribal authority to prosecute domestic violence cases on reservations.

Wilson said he voted for an alternate version of the bill, one proposed by the House GOP. A Wilson spokesperson says the congressman voted against the final version because he had "constitutional concerns" that the bill might unlawfully extend the authority of tribal courts.

To those outside the state, Wilson's best known for shouting "You lie!" at President Barack Obama during a Capitol Hill speech in 2009. To those back home, though, he's your basic Chamber of Commerce Republican, into constituent service and parades and the like.

Bjorn, a progressive in the Elizabeth Warren-Bernie Sanders mode, has run a fierce (if ill-funded) campaign, not just touting his own belief in affordable health care and education, but knocking Wilson on his votes on infrastructure funding and other issues. Nobody *Free Times* spoke with thinks Bjorn

— or indeed, any other Democrat challenging an entrenched Republican in South Carolina this year — is going to win on Nov 8.

But the competition this cycle is more visible. And that could pay off in years to come, especially for the Democratic minority.

Raising Profiles

Two years ago, nobody even ran against Republican U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford — a high-profile former governor from Charleston — in the general election. Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy, a former Spartanburg prosecutor and head of a special committee probing the Benghazi terrorist attack, was challenged only by a Libertarian in 2012.

This year, however, every congressional seat in South Carolina is being contested by not just the opposing major party but some third parties as well. Sanford had a primary opponent, too. He's not vulnerable, but he's being forced to defend his votes in Washington.

There's even one semi-competitive race this year in the 5th Congressional District that covers northern part of the state including the bedroom communities outside Charlotte. Incumbent Republican Rep. Mick Mulvaney faces Fran Person, a former aide to Vice President Joe Biden and a former University of South Carolina football player, who's managed to raise some significant money.

Compared with four years ago, there are about 200 more candidates running for election in South Carolina, from local soil and water commissions to U.S. Senate — 1,550 candidates in 2016 compared with 1,350 in 2012.

It seems the state may have recovered from the 2012 episode *Free Times* dubbed "Ballot Bomb," when more than 200 candidates were thrown off the ballot over a paperwork technicality.

More candidates are surely a positive thing for democracy. But all candidates face the fact that South Carolina is largely a one-party state, with Republicans holding all state-level offices and dominating both houses of the

Legislature.

The state remains very red: South Carolina is the 11th most Republican leaning state in the nation, according to a Gallup survey.

Entrenched Majority

South Carolina's Republican majority is going nowhere anytime soon.

When the state legislature redraws district lines based on census data every 10 years, they tend to do so in a way that benefits incumbent politicians and the party in power. That means not just that Republican seats are safe, but that Democratic seats are, too — the lines are drawn such that voters are packed into districts with people like them, whether racially or otherwise.

"The dumping one way or the other has practically done away with competitive districts in the general election," says Neal Thigpen, a retired Francis Marion University political science professor.

Even this year, where the chaotic presidential race makes it seem like anything could happen, there's not really much of a chance for Democrats in South Carolina.

Columbia Democratic pollster Carey Crantford says Donald Trump's polling numbers (which are much lower than those of past Republicans in South Carolina) may have created some unreasonable expectations here in South Carolina that the presidential race — and hence some down-ballot races — could be close.

"I don't know that the needle is going to move," Crantford says. "It's not just South Carolina — we've seen decades of the triumph of gerrymandering which has helped to harden the one-party system. Once you throw in a little racial polarization in terms of the parties, then you've got a situation set in stone and very hard to move."

The State Is Changing

As entrenched as South Carolina politics currently are, political observers agree it's going to change before long.

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At an Oct. 20 forum at the University of South Carolina School of Law, GOP state chair Matt Moore said changing demographics mean a more competitive future for South Carolina politics.

"The country is getting more diverse," Moore says. "I would predict in a decade or

more that South Carolina will be a state like North Carolina, where there are competitive general elections again. Politics are a pendulum. Politics swing back and forth. Our party has to be at the forefront of appealing to all voters, not just some voters."

Moore also suggested he'd support a change to having legislators draw districts.

"We need more competitive general election races in this state," Moore says. "The problem is, the fox guards the henhouse. To create changes to the legislative maps, it takes legislators to create the maps and pass the maps."

Phil Noble, a tech entrepreneur and pro-

gressive critic of the state Democratic party, says change is inevitable for several reasons, including more people moving to South Carolina from other states.

"We have the second highest rate of immigration after Washington state," Noble says. "A lot of these people are young, who are traditionally Democrats, or they are older ... and say, 'I used to be a Republican back home, but I ain't one of these crazies here.'"

While state polls show a Republican-dominated state, Noble says, they also show South Carolina voters drifting more toward the Democratic position on issues like marriage equality, education spending and gun regulations.

"They haven't started voting like Democrats yet partly because we haven't ever given them a decent candidate," Noble says.

Crantford agrees, saying Democrats need to get it together.

"Statewide the Democrats haven't really

mounted an aggressive party in opposition of [Gov. Nikki] Haley," Crantford says. "And I think they need to get more focused. The problems South Carolina faces are the problems South Carolina has faced for decades. It's kind of amazing that the party in opposition has not found a very effective way to hold the party in power accountable for the things that have been ignored."

In fact, the rift Trump seems to be creating in the Republican Party could presage a shift in how voters align themselves with the parties.

One thing is sure: As the state continues to change, we're likely to see even more candidates representing major and minor parties stepping up to challenge incumbent politicians.

And in that way, 2016 may be a nod to the future. ■

Chris Trainor contributed to this story.



Title: **Scott faces three U.S Senate challengers**
 Author: GREGORY A. SUMMERS £summers@thelancasternews.com
 Size: 56.26 column inches
 Lancaster, SC Circulation: 12696



Scott faces three U.S. Senate challengers

GREGORY A. SUMMERS
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Thirty-four seats in the U.S. Senate are up for grabs Nov. 8, and Republicans, including South Carolina's Tim Scott, hold 24 of them.

While many political observers say Scott is safe, he faces three challengers Nov. 8. They include Democrat Thomas Dixon, Dr. Bill Bledsoe of the Constitution and Libertarian parties, and Michael Scarborough of the American Party.

Winthrop University political scientist Scott Huffman believes the popular incumbent will win another term.

He said Scott has a very high approval rating, low disapproval rating, is running in a Republican-leaning state, and is facing opponents who are not well known.

"He's safe," Huffman said.

Thomas Dixon

Scott's most serious challenger is Thomas Dixon, a community advocate and co-founder of People United to Take Back Our Community in North Charleston. Dixon is also pastor at Summerville Christian Fellowship.

Dixon grew up in the Southside projects of Chicago. He was drinking and using drugs by age 14 and fought through decades of drug abuse that ended with eight months in the Dorchester County Jail and two years in state prison.

Dixon left prison a Christian and put his fractured family back together. Both of his children are college graduates and these days, his goals are trying to repair the damage done through 30 years of poor choices.

Dixon said in a Youtube video that we, as a people, must stand up and do what's right on behalf of others.

Dixon said he has no aspirations to be a lifelong politician, but to be the voice of all South Carolinians in Washington, to champion social-justice issues and to better society for all.

"Unlike others, I've been in the streets where gun violence has overwhelmed mothers, and I've held them in my arms and cried with them.... I get up every day in order to help."

Bill Bledsoe

A Second Amendment advocate, Bledsoe is a Spartanburg veterinarian. He came through Lancaster in August and staged a "long-gun rally" in front of the Historic Courthouse on Main Street. A handful of people attended.

Bledsoe sees the federal government as awash in corruption, where elected officials place themselves above the laws they make. Politicians, he said in a release, must be held accountable and not violate the civil rights guaranteed to every American in the U.S. Constitution.

Bledsoe is also genuinely frustrated with the country's willingness to borrow money. According to the end of the latest federal

budget, the United States is \$19.4 trillion in debt. Elected officials, he said, must be required to balance the budget.

"We're broke," he said.

Michael Scarborough

A native of Bishopville, Mike Scarborough is the eldest of three sons in a military family. A 1996 honor graduate from Richland Northeast High School, he studied computer science at Georgia Tech and has worked in information technology for 15 years. He lives in Richland County.

Scarborough admits that he is not a politician, but someone who loves South Carolina and its people. On his website, Scarborough said he believes elected officials should be a voice for people, not political pawns.

He said it's no secret that government is broken, but by working together, "free of D.C. party bosses," it can be fixed.

"It's vital that we elect representatives who are focused on addressing the needs of our nation, moreso than playing the endless

political back-and-forth," he said.

Tim Scott

Scott, 51, is a former member of the U.S. House and was appointed to the Senate by Gov. Nikki Haley in 2013 when Jim DeMint resigned. Scott was elected to the remaining two years of DeMint's term in 2014 and is now seeking his first full term.

Scott was raised in poverty by a single parent and is an evangelical Christian. He is the only black Republican in the U.S. Senate.

Scott attended Presbyterian College from 1983 to 1984 on a partial football scholarship. He graduated from Charleston Southern University in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Scott served one term in the S.C. House of Representatives and eight years on the Charleston County Council. Scott owns an Allstate Insurance agency, is a co-owner of Pathway Real Estate Group and works as a financial adviser.

He traces his successes to his mother, Frances, and a conservative mentor, John Moniz, a white Chick-fil-A franchise owner whom Scott befriended as a teenager.

In a recent speech from the Senate floor, Scott said while racial problems exist, so do solutions. He said the nation must have some painful, thoughtful conversations, but he remains hopeful because he has personally experienced the power of a state that has been transformed.

"In the heart of the South in the home of the Civil War, in a majority-white district, voters elected the grandson of a man who picked cotton," Scott said.

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**Bledsoe****Dixon****Scarborough****Scott**

Title: **Funds going out to hurricane damaged areas**
 Author: By STAFF REPORT
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Funds going out to hurricane damaged areas

By STAFF REPORT

More than 900 Berkeley County residents have registered for federal assistance in the wake of Hurricane Matthew according to federal records.

In the tri-county region, more than 3,850 people were registered across Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties. In eligible coastal counties across the state, the number was 29,359.

Across the state, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. Small Business Administration have approved more than \$21.8 million in disaster assistance grants, loans and flood insurance payments.

As of the close of business Oct. 26, FEMA had approved \$15.2 million through its Individuals and Households Program, and nearly \$5 million in National Flood Insurance Program payments.

Additionally, the U.S. Small Business Administration has approved 42 low-interest disaster loans for \$1,670,500.

Survivors have until Dec. 13, 2016 to complete the FEMA application process.

In a prepared statement to media outlets on Thursday, FEMA stated the State of

South Carolina and FEMA encourage anyone with housing needs caused by the devastating storms and floods of Hurricane Matthew to register for disaster assistance.

The extent of the need is striking in the wake of a relatively weaker hurricane. But it didn't surprise Cathy Easley, Trident United Way's integrated community systems director, who works with community agencies and churches to provide help.

A lot of the damage was in wooded or low-lying and flood-prone places, she said. A lot of the people seeking help are older and even some of those who have just recovered from the devastating flooding in October 2015.

In those places, the hurricane was just as bad as the flood, she said. "It's been really hard hearing the people affected who were affected a year ago, and now they're back again."

Local agencies and FEMA are options for people needing help. The state's One SC disaster relief fund is dispersed through grants to the agencies. FEMA money can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs,

and for other serious disaster-related needs, such as medical and dental expenses or funeral and burial costs.

Earlier this week Gov. Nikki Haley and the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce announced that Berkeley county was eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), making funds available to assist people who became unemployed as a direct result of Hurricane Matthew.

DEW Executive Director Cheryl Stanton said South Carolina workers may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits under the DUA program.

Workers or business owners meeting the following criteria may be eligible for benefits:

- Individuals who are unemployed due to the disaster, and do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits.
- Self-employed individuals and small business owners who lost income due to the disaster.
- Individuals who were prevented from working due to an injury caused by the disaster.
- Individuals who have become the major supplier of

household income due to the disaster-related death or injury of the previous major supplier of household income.

- Individuals who are unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster.

- Individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment but were prevented by the disaster.

Individuals must first apply for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. To apply, call 1-866-831-1724 or go to mybenefits.dew.sc.gov. The deadline for applying is 30 calendar days from the date that DEW announces the availability of DUA in the county. If the individual is found to be ineligible for UI benefits, a DEW representative will contact them directly and will assist with the DUA application.

Residents can find help at disaster recovery centers in the area, for more information, visit DisasterAssistance.gov or call 800-621-3362. Also, check www.dew.sc.gov/dua for updates on the DUA program.

Reporter Bo Petersen contributed to this story.

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AP PHOTO/RAINIER EHRHARDT

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, left, listens to Chief Warrant Officer Kent Puffenbarger as they check flooding from a helicopter near Mullins, S.C., on Oct. 10.

Title: **Online eye exam company sues South Carolina over ban**
 Author: The Associated Press
 Size: 14.26 column inches
 Florence, SC Circulation: 35092



Online eye exam company sues South Carolina over ban

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A company that provides prescriptions for glasses and contacts using online exams is challenging a South Carolina law banning the practice.

The lawsuit filed Thursday in Columbia calls the law passed in May over Gov. Nikki Haley's veto

“economic protectionism.”

Chicago-based Opternative alleges that the law puts industry profits over patients. It cites Haley's veto, which accused eye care professionals of wanting to “block new technologies that expand low-cost access to vision corrective services.”

Opternative is suing the state Department of Labor,

Licensing and Regulation, which reports to Haley.

Legislators who backed the bill accused Haley of putting competition above quality health care.

Opternative co-founder Aaron Dallek says the company operates in 39 states. It started in South Carolina last summer but ended the service when the law took effect.

Title: **Richland recreation board won't give Haley harassment report**
 Author:
 Size: 6.97 column inches
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Richland recreation board won't give Haley harassment report

COLUMBIA — The Richland County Recreation Commission has refused Gov. Nikki Haley's request to turn over an internal report into possible sexual harassment by the commission's indicted former leader.

Haley requested the report and other documents earlier this month, saying she needs the information because she thinks she has the legal authority to follow a request from several Richland

County lawmakers to remove five members of the board who supported ex-director James Brown III.

Brown resigned after he was indicted on a misconduct in office charge.

From wire reports

Title: **Haley uses Marion visit to push for recovery**
 Author: BYNAEEM MCFADDEN Marion Star & Mullins Enterprise nmcfadden@florencenews.com
 Size: 65.72 column inches
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Hurricane Matthew

Haley uses Marion visit to push for recovery

BY NAEEM MCFADDEN

Marion Star & Mullins Enterprise
 nmcfadden@florencenews.com

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"This is something we had to do," Haley said. "We had complete dev-

astation 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

See **HALEY** Page 3A

Haley

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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 is 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 anything 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.

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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.



NAEEM MCFADDEN/STAR & ENTERPRISE

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