

Title: **Abortion-clinic probe is finding no crimes, but might affect fees**  
 Author: BY JAMIESELF [jself@thestate.com](mailto:jself@thestate.com)  
 Size: 37.2 square inch  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



# Abortion-clinic probe is finding no crimes, but might affect fees

BY JAMIE SELF

[jself@thestate.com](mailto:jself@thestate.com)

An S.C. House investigation into the state's three abortion clinics is drawing to a close without any findings of criminal activity, lawmakers said Tuesday.

However, those clinics could pay higher fees as the state's health department tries to cover its costs to inspect the facilities.

The clinics now pay a base fee of \$350 plus \$25 for each procedure room for inspections. Follow-up inspections cost \$200 plus \$25 for each procedure room.

The fees that the clinics pay fall short of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's costs to perform those inspections by more than \$1,400, Shelly Kelly, the agency's health-regulation director, told a panel of state representatives Tuesday. Kelly added the agency is reviewing those fees.

Last year, DHEC's Bureau of Health Facilities Licensing updated the fees that it charges facilities - from tattoo parlors and adult day-

care centers to hospitals and nursing homes - for health inspections. Generally, those fees cover the agency's inspection costs, a DHEC spokesman said.

But Kelly said Tuesday that DHEC has hired a new nurse and increased the number of patient charts that it reviews in its inspections of abortion clinics, increasing the cost of those inspections. Those changes came in response to a state legislative audit that said DHEC had failed to inspect abortion clinics

consistently.

That audit led Republican lawmakers to request the House panel probe the state's abortion clinics.

Also driving the lawmakers' concerns were accusations by an anti-abortion group that Planned Parenthood illegally was selling fetal tissue donated after abortions. The nonprofit healthcare provider denied those claims, adding its one S.C. clinic does not allow tissue donation.

**SEE CLINICS, 9A**

FROM PAGE 3A

## CLINICS

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley also called on DHEC to inspect the clinics - for the first time in five years. The inspections resulted in violations, \$10,250 in fines and the temporary suspension of two clinics' licenses. However, all three clinics remain open, having taken steps to resolve the violations.

State Rep. Gary Clary, the Pickens Republican who chairs the House panel, said Tuesday its work should wrap up next

month with a summary of what was learned in its hearings. After the report is complete, committee members can recommend policy changes. Clary said the panel's review was thorough and has led to improvements in the inspection process.

Democratic representatives complained the now-three-month probe achieved little besides debunking claims the abortion providers are breaking the law. Noting no allegations of criminal

activity were uncovered, state Rep. James Smith, D-Richland, criticized lawmakers who asked for the investigation, accusing them of playing politics.

"Words matter," Smith said. "As members of the General Assembly, when we say things, it matters.

"You're entitled to your own opinion, but you're not entitled to your own facts," said Smith, adding "fear-mongering" drove the probe, which has shown allegations of criminal activity are "absolute-

ly devoid of any credit or value whatsoever."

State Rep. Mia McLeod, D-Richland, who called Monday for state-funded security at abortion clinics, noted the S.C. ties of the alleged shooter at a Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic last week, asking for a moment of silence for the three victims. "That easily could have happened here," she said.

*Jamie Self: 803-771-8658, @jamiemself*

Title: **Abortion clinic security questioned by Democrats**  
 Author: By SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press  
 Size: 34.56 square inch  
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



## ■ SC HEALTH

# Abortion clinic security questioned by Democrats

By SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A Democratic state representative asked GOP Gov. Nikki Haley on Monday to increase security at the three clinics in South

Carolina that provide abortions following last week's deadly shootings at a Planned Parenthood in Colorado.

"It doesn't matter whether you're pro-life or pro-choice, our focus right now should be to make sure what happened in Colorado Springs doesn't happen" in South Carolina, said Rep. Mia McLeod of Columbia, a three-term House member who's running for an

open Senate seat in 2016.

"We need increased security at South Carolina clinics now," she added, without being specific.

McLeod called on the governor to coordinate with state and local law enforcement to monitor clinics in Charleston, Columbia and Greenville.

Haley's office said the governor's already doing that. Officials with the State Law Enforcement Division and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security have told Haley there are "no known threats" to Planned Parenthood in the Southeast, said her spokeswoman, Chaney Adams.

"The governor will continue to communicate with law enforcement to make sure we do everything we can to keep all

South Carolinians safe, as violence is never acceptable in our state," Adams said.

Robert Dear, a 57-year-old former South Carolina resident, is accused of opening fire Friday at a clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado, killing three people and injuring nine others. Colorado Springs police have declined to disclose any information on his motive.

"I'm afraid some of the rhetoric being tossed around by some South Carolina politicians may motivate someone here at home to try the same thing," McLeod said.

Her request comes a day before a House Oversight panel, on which she sits, holds its next hearing on abortion clinics in the state. The panel's investigation was among several

launched by Republicans following the release last summer of secretly taped videos showing Planned Parenthood officials in other states discussing the collection of fetal organs for research.

Planned Parenthood officials have repeatedly said none of the organization's clinics in the South Atlantic region — which includes the Carolinas, West Virginia and much of Virginia — participates in fetal tissue collection.

Of the three abortion clinics in South Carolina, Planned Parenthood operates only the one in Columbia.

In August, Haley asked the state's public health agency to

See **CLINICS**, page 4A

## CLINICS

Continued from 1A

investigate the clinics, starting with Planned Parenthood. Less than a month later, the Department of Health and Environmental Control suspended the licenses of two of the clinics

and fined them a combined \$10,250. Ultimately, sanctions were lifted and neither had to close.

On Nov. 12, the agency's director told the House panel it's pursuing additional fines that could amount to nearly \$51,000.

Republicans have applauded the agency's new director for tightening up on inspections.

Title: **Abortion clinic security questioned by Democrats**  
Author: By SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press  
Size: 34.56 square inch  
Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



**NIKKI  
HALEY**

Title: **Streamline veterans' services, panel says**  
 Author: BY JEFF WILKINSON [jwilkinson@thestate.com](mailto:jwilkinson@thestate.com)  
 Size: 31.46 square inch  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



## NEW LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

# Streamline veterans' services, panel says

BY JEFF WILKINSON  
[jwilkinson@thestate.com](mailto:jwilkinson@thestate.com)

Veterans and their families make up one-third of South Carolina's population. And with so many troops returning home after multiple deployments during 14 years of constant war, the need for assistance for those veterans and their families is increasing.

Services from suicide prevention to housing are available from numerous sources, including private providers and the federal government. But finding access to those services can prove a labyrinth for veterans to navigate.

Consolidating and streamlining that access is the role of a newly expanded joint legislative committee that met for

the first time Tuesday. Formed in May, the committee has been expanded to include appointees by Gov. Nikki Haley and Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston, the state's adjutant general, to show the state's highest level of commitment to the issue, said state Rep. James Smith, D-Richland.

"We need to have a longstanding and continued focus on the needs of our veterans," said Smith, a major in the S.C. Guard and a combat veteran in Afghanistan.

The committee initially focused mainly on the need for nursing home care and other housing issues for aging veterans. But with the new heft of the S.C. Guard and the governor's office, the committee plans to tackle such issues as veterans'

employment, eliminating redundancy of services and establishing "one-stop shopping" for veterans' services.

"We have a lot of great programs in South Carolina," said Col. Ronald Taylor, one of Livingston's appointees to the 12-person committee. "We have a lot of great people. But we need to create that one entity where a person can walk in and get assistance."

Complicating the process, however, is that each county has its own veterans' affairs office. Those offices are appointed by the legislative delegations and funded by the individual counties.

As a result, no state oversight exists, even from the S.C. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the delivery of services

## Veterans in South Carolina

**36,000:** Number of veterans in Lexington County

**430,000:** Veterans in South Carolina

**1.3 million:** S.C. veterans and their families

SOURCE: S.C. Department of Veterans Affairs

varies dramatically from county to county, committee members said.

Some committee members advocated a system of centers based on congressional districts to coordinate the county offices. Others said the state veterans affairs department should be expanded and given more power over the county offices.

"Right now they are holding an empty gun," state Rep. Michael Pitts, R-Laurens, said of the state office. "We need to give them some bullets for that gun."

Title: **Flood damage will cost state \$114 million**  
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com  
 Size: 51.92 square inch  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



# Flood damage will cost state \$114 million

BY CASSIE COPE

ccope@thestate.com

October's flood will cost the state of South Carolina an estimated \$114 million, Gov. Nikki Haley said Tuesday.

The federal government will pay an additional \$493 million, the Republican governor's office estimated.

Repairing S.C. roads and bridges alone will cost \$137 million with the state paying \$49 million of that cost, according to the state Transportation Department.

Statewide, flood losses are pushing \$1.5 billion, including \$587 million in agricultural losses, \$181 million in insur-

ance claims and \$35 million in tourism losses.

Haley, who often has criticized Washington for overspending, said Tuesday

**SEE FLOOD, 7A**

FROM PAGE 1A

## FLOOD

that she is asking the federal government for \$140 million in grants to repair flood-damaged housing. That money would come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to repair 2,600 properties owned by low- and moderate-income families.

That cost — roughly \$54,000 per home — is included in the \$493 million that Haley's office estimates the federal government will pay for flood costs.

Haley said she will ask lawmakers to pay the state's \$114 million in flood costs in next year's state budget. Haley plans to include the money in her budget proposal, typically released in January, outlining her spending priorities to lawmakers.

Lawmakers, who write the state's \$7.7 billion total general fund budget, have been meeting to assess flood-related costs incurred by state agencies.

Efforts to reach state Senate leader Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, and House Ways and Means Committee chairman Brian White, R-Anderson, Tuesday for reaction to Haley's pro-

posal to pay cash for the flooding damages were unsuccessful.

Reaction from other legislators to Haley's proposal was mixed.

"Clearly we are looking forward to getting the numbers in as much detail as we can as soon as we can," said Sen. Nikki Setzler, D-Lexington. Setzler, leader of the Senate Democrats, had said he would introduce a borrowing plan to pay for flood costs. He said Tuesday borrowing is one option available to the General Assembly.

State Rep. Gary Simrill, R-York, who sits on the House budget-writing panel, said borrowing only should be used for long-term needs. "Bonding ... should not be used to pay bills," Simrill said, adding the flood damage is a bill.

Haley ruled out borrowing to pay for flood-repair costs. Earlier this year, Haley helped defeat a

\$500 million borrowing proposal in the House that would have paid for construction and building repairs.

Haley said the added \$1.2 billion in revenues that law-

makers will have to spend when they return in January means the state can afford to pay for the flood damage. However, other causes will compete for that added money, including requests for more money from state agencies, money to repair state roads and bridges that already were crumbling and the cost of responding to a Supreme Court ruling requiring the state to improve rural schools.

Haley has approved moving \$9.3 million from the state's unclaimed property account to cover added flood-related costs incurred by the S.C. National Guard and its Emergency Management Division. That agency spent almost \$40 million responding to the flood, Adjutant General Bob Livingston said last month.

More than 90,000 South Carolinians have registered statewide for federal disaster aid, Haley said, adding several hundred more apply each day. The deadline to apply for that aid has been extended until Jan. 3.

*Staff writer Avery Wilks contributed.*

Title: **Flooddamage will cost state \$114million**  
Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com  
Size: 51.92 square inch  
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

## Flood costs push \$1.5 billion

### COSTS

**\$607 million** in costs to federal and state government, including \$137 million to repair flood-damaged roads and bridges

**\$587 million** in losses to state agriculture, including lost wages and ruined crops

**\$181 million** in insurance claims

**\$82 million** in disaster loans by the federal Small Business Administration

**\$35 million** in tourism losses

### WHO WILL PAY?

**\$493 million** in estimated costs the federal government will pay, including \$140 million in grants that Gov. Nikki Haley requested Tuesday to repair damaged housing. Much of the rest of the federal money will go to reimburse the state and local governments for their flood costs.

**\$114 million** in estimated costs that state government will pay

SOURCE: S.C. Governor's Office, state agencies





Title: **Dems calling for apology over election email**  
 Author: By MATT McNAB mmcnaab@islandpacket.com 843-706-8125  
 Size: 48.36 square inch  
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015

# Dems calling for apology over election email

## Board official says missive was not ethics rule violation

By MATT McNAB

mmcnaab@islandpacket.com  
 843-706-8125

An email sent by Beaufort County's Board of Elections chairman in October urging fellow Republican Party members to get involved in the party's push toward the 2016 election did not constitute an ethics violation, according to a state elections commission official, but that didn't stop Democratic Party members from demanding the chairman issue an apology and recuse himself from further party matters.

Board of Elections and Voter Registration chairman Ron Clifford sent the email Oct. 6 urging his fellow Republicans to help increase voter turnout locally or even travel to other battleground states to help Republican candidates.

S.C. State Election Commission public information officer Chris Whitmire said Clifford's email did not violate state law because it did not directly involve a campaign. Election board members are prohibited from taking part in the management of a political campaign, along with making contributions to a candidate, knowingly attending a campaign event or holding a political office.

Board members who violate the law can be removed by the governor or an "appropriate authority," Whitmire said.

"There's nothing to say they can't participate in political party activity," he said. "I'm not sure it violates anything, but it pushes up against it."

"When you come on the board, we ask you to set those political connections aside," he said. "We have them ask what impact that activity might have on the public's interpretation

of an election. They need to try not to engage in that type of behavior and say to themselves 'I will put my political leanings secondary to my duty on the elections board.'"

Reached Tuesday, Clifford said he did not recall sending the email. After The Island Packet provided him with a copy, he said he did not have time to review it but would read it and likely issue a comment today.

**Please see EMAIL on 5A**

## EMAIL

Continued from 3A

Although the email Clifford sent was not an ethical or legal violation, Beaufort County Democratic Party chairman Blaine Lotz said the email "was clearly crossing the line" and called for a public apology from Clifford and a promise to refrain from political party activity in the future.

"I don't accept that from them that this is not a problem," he said. "He's telling people how to get more Republicans in office. It's worse than managing a political campaign. It's how to build up the Republican Party, and it's unacceptable."

In his email, Clifford urged local Republicans to become

committeemen or presidents at local precincts, as only eight of 27 local precincts had one. He cited data that showed only 41 percent of registered Republicans on Hilton Head Island voted in the 2012 presidential election. He said he would contact known Republicans in his neighborhood and help them either cast an absentee ballot or get to the polls.

In the closing paragraph of the email, Clifford said the party needed "to go beyond our S.C. borders to help others," including using the Hilton Head Island Republican Club to make phone calls to help Republican candidates in other states.

Whitmire said the election commission urges board

members to remove themselves from political party activity while they serve in the position to ensure the public has confidence in the outcome of elections. However, since the process is almost entirely political — the local legislative delegation nominates board members, typically people they know from political activity, and the governor confirms them — it can be difficult for the board member to completely remove themselves, Whitmire said.

"It's unrealistic to expect them to never be involved in the party," he said. "They can attend the meetings, but they should not be beating the bushes and getting involved. Once their time is

done on the board, they can get involved again."

Lotz said if a Democratic board member had been caught sending partisan emails, there would have been a public backlash and a request for their removal from the board. He added it was unrealistic to expect or even ask for Clifford's removal from the board, since it would require Republican Gov. Nikki Haley to make that change.

"Had a Democrat on the board done this, they would be making a ruckus," he said. "I don't want any ruckus. I just don't want him to send these emails."

Follow reporter Matt McNab at [twitter.com/IPBG\\_Matt](https://twitter.com/IPBG_Matt).

Title: **S.C. abortion clinics could face higher costs**  
 Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com  
 Size: 33.32 square inch  
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



## PLANNED PARENTHOOD

# S.C. abortion clinics could face higher costs

BY JAMIE SELF

jself@thestate.com

An S.C. House investigation into the state's three abortion clinics is drawing to a close without any findings of criminal activity, lawmakers said Tuesday.

However, those clinics could pay higher fees as the state's health department tries to cover its costs to inspect the facilities.

The clinics now pay a base fee of \$350 plus \$25 for each procedure room for inspections. Follow-up inspections cost \$200 plus \$25 for each procedure room.

The fees that the clinics pay fall short of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's costs to perform those inspections by more than \$1,400, Shelly Kelly, the agency's health-regulation director, told a panel of state representatives Tuesday. Kelly added the agency is reviewing those fees.

Last year, DHEC's Bureau of Health Facilities Licensing updated the fees that it charges facilities — from tattoo parlors and adult day-care centers to hospitals and nursing homes — for health inspections. Generally, those fees cover the agency's inspection costs, a

DHEC spokesman said.

But Kelly said Tuesday that DHEC has hired a new nurse and increased the number of patient charts that it reviews in its inspections of abortion clinics, increasing the cost of those inspections.

Those changes came in response to a state legislative audit that said DHEC had failed to inspect abortion clinics consistently.

That audit led Republican lawmakers to request the House panel probe the state's abortion clinics.

Also driving the lawmakers' concerns were accusations by an anti-abortion group that Planned Parenthood illegally was selling fetal tissue donated after abortions. The nonprofit healthcare provider denied those claims, adding its one S.C. clinic does not allow tissue donation.

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley also called on DHEC to inspect the clinics — for the first time in five years. The inspections resulted in violations, \$10,250 in fines and the temporary suspension of two clinics' licenses. However, all three clinics remain open, having taken steps to resolve the violations.

State Rep. Gary Clary, the Pickens Republican who chairs the House panel, said Tuesday its work should wrap up next month with a summary of what was learned in its hearings. After the report is complete, committee members can recommend policy changes. Clary said the panel's review was thorough and has led to improvements in the inspection process.

Democratic representatives complained the now-three-month probe achieved little besides debunking claims the abortion providers are breaking the law. Noting no allegations of criminal activity were uncovered, state Rep. James Smith, D-Richland, criticized lawmakers who asked for the investigation, accusing them of playing politics.

"Words matter," Smith said. "As members of the General Assembly, when we say things, it matters."

"You're entitled to your own opinion, but you're not entitled to your own facts," said Smith, adding "fear-mongering" drove the probe, which has shown allegations of criminal activity are "absolutely devoid of any credit or value whatsoever."



Title: **S.C.'s share of \$1.2 billion in flood damage is \$114 million**  
 Author: BY JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press  
 Size: 27.74 square inch  
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



## FLOODING

# S.C.'s share of \$1.2 billion in flood damage is \$114 million

**Haley says state won't need to borrow any money**

**Governor will ask lawmakers to use part of a predicted revenue increase to pay the bills**

BY JEFFREY COLLINS  
 Associated Press  
 COLUMBIA

South Carolina taxpayers will need to pay at least \$114 million for the state's share of damage caused by October's massive flooding, which has a price tag topping \$1 billion, the governor said Tuesday.

Gov. Nikki Haley said the state won't need to borrow any money, and she will ask lawmakers to use part of a predicted increase of more than \$1 billion in revenue to pay the bills.

The estimates released at a news conference Tuesday include the state's obligations for

damaged roads, houses and other infrastructure like the Columbia Canal, which was damaged and left the state's largest city without clean water for more than a week.

The governor also said there have been \$181 million in insurance claims to private companies, and the federal government plans on paying about \$500 million to help with roads, individual damage claims and assistance to government agencies. Add in the estimated \$375 million in direct damage to agriculture, and the total bill for flood damage is around \$1.2 billion.

The floods happened after up to 2 feet of rain fell over a few days in early October. The worst flooding extended from Columbia east and south to the coast. Nineteen people died in South Carolina and more than 540 roads and bridges were closed. Less than 70 bridges and roads are currently closed, and officials said 26 of them can't be fixed now because they run over damaged dams with undecided futures.

Haley said the delay in reporting damage numbers was necessary.

"It's the accountant in me. You never guess num-

bers. It's the worst thing you can ever do. When you guess numbers, you make mistakes," Haley said.

The governor has two requests of the federal government. She is asking the state's congressional delegation to obtain \$140 million to help repair private homes. The flood, made worse by dams breaking in the Columbia area, affected many people without flood insurance.

Haley is also asking the U.S. Department of Agriculture to accelerate its payments to South Carolina farmers.

Title: **State's economy on solid ground**  
 Author: BY RODDIE BURRIS [rburris@thestate.com](mailto:rburris@thestate.com)  
 Size: 72.07 square inch  
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA REPORT

# State's economy on solid ground

Seventh year of economic growth predicted for 2016

Personal income, job creation and wages grew last year; are on solid footing for next year

State, region has been one of the hottest markets in the world, USC experts say

BY RODDIE BURRIS  
[rburris@thestate.com](mailto:rburris@thestate.com)

COLUMBIA

South Carolina's economy is the strongest it has been in at least 20 years — eclipsing even its heady, prerecession performances — and stands on solid ground for 2016, USC economists said Tuesday.

More jobs with higher wages are being created at the same time workers are seeing higher wages in the current jobs, the economists said. It's the first time both indicators have risen since the recession.

That economic cycle, which fuels consumer spending, is predicted to continue into 2016, said Doug Woodward, research division director at the USC Darla Moore School of Business.

"In 28 years of forecasting our state's economy, rarely have I seen our economy in such good shape and on such steady footing," Woodward said Tuesday during a preliminary briefing on the state's

economic outlook for 2016. A more detailed analysis will be presented during USC's 35th annual Economic Outlook Conference at the Moore busi-

ness school.

"By July 2016, we predict the (S.C.) economy will enter its seventh year of economic growth. It's taken a while, but most of the state now is better off than it was a decade ago — by quite a bit."

Woodward said the South Carolina economy has been strong and resilient, even in the face of a historic rainstorm in October. He said 2015 has been the best year of the long, post-2009 recovery and expansion.

Because of advanced manufacturing in the state's automotive and aerospace clusters, South Carolina and the southeastern U.S. have become one of the world's fastest-growing markets, according to Joseph Von Nessen, USC research economist and co-author of the state economy forecast.

The southern U.S. has a higher economic growth rate than the national average, Von Nessen noted, and South Carolina has both benefitted from that advantage and created its own footprint.

For the first time since the recession, Von Nessen

said:

- South Carolina's economic growth rate significantly exceeds the prerecession economic growth rate between 2002-2007.

The state's overall employment growth rate this year was 2.8 percent, up from 2.3 percent in previous expansion years, Von Nessen said. The growth has been spread across most industries in the state and most regions, he said.

- New jobs that pay significantly higher than the state's average wage have been created at the same time the pay at existing S.C. jobs have increased significantly.

"That is causing more people to be able to 'feel' the expansion," Von Nessen said. While previous average wage gains had been caused mainly by the unemployed landing jobs during the recovery, longer-term employees are now seeing wage gains too, he said.

Professional services jobs such as in engineering, computer software design and legal services have seen significant wage growth in 2015 for the first

time since the recession, Von Nessen said.

Overall, South Carolina is beginning to see a greater demand for workers, Von Nessen noted, just as the Federal Reserve Board is poised to possibly raise some interest rates in a few weeks.

Personal income in South Carolina is expected to grow by 4.9 percent in 2016, Von Nessen said, up from 4.6 percent this year. U.S. personal income growth averaged about 4 percent in 2015, and South Carolina has consistently beaten the national average, he said.

- Retail employment growth is expected to remain strong in 2016, Von Nessen said. Increases in consumer spending caused by more discretionary income is the main cause of increased hiring in the retail sector, the USC economists said.

Retail employment growth in South Carolina doubled in October from the same month in 2014, to 4.5 percent, Von Nessen said. In Columbia, retail job growth improved 4.3 percent, though Greenville led the state at

Title: **State's economy on solid ground**  
 Author: BY RODDIE BURRIS [rburris@thestate.com](mailto:rburris@thestate.com)  
 Size: 72.07 square inch  
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688

6.2 percent in October.

But while the state's economy may be resilient, it was impacted by the October floods.

Arden Korn at Little Lambs & Ivy, a baby and children's store on Devine Street, was having a banner year in 2015. She estimated her sales were up 12 percent over 2014.

As the economy improved, she said more people felt secure enough to have children, and

grandparents felt more willing to spend more on their grandchildren.

"But in October after the flood hit, people just didn't shop, and understandably so - a lot of our customers were affected by the flood," said Korn, who has owned the Devine Street store since 2007 and had a shop in Memphis, Tenn., for two decades before that. People who didn't lose anything in the flood felt

guilty and then didn't go shopping, Korn said.

Von Nessen said those figures are backed up by the increase in the number of people working in retail in South Carolina.

Meanwhile, the number of homes constructed in 2015 exceeded the number of remodeled homes for the first time in the economic recovery, Von Nessen said.



Herald file

Gov. Nikki Haley, right, and Red Ventures CEO Ric Elias talk with John and Leila Long of Rock Hill in November. The Longs sold the Indian Land property Red Ventures is developing to expand its campus in northern Lancaster County.

Title: **Mom asks Haley to watch video**  
 Author: RON BARNETT RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM  
 Size: 30.22 square inch  
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



# Mom asks Haley to watch video

RON BARNETT

RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Writing as "one South Carolina mother to another," Angie Hammond sent Gov. Nikki Haley a heartfelt plea to show the same compassion she has shown in other tragedies in the state this year and "take appropriate action" against the Seneca police officer who shot and killed her son, Zachary.

"As governor, you've been very vocal and tearful about senseless and tragic uses of excessive deadly force, such as in North Charleston and at the church in Charleston," Angie Hammond wrote in an open letter to the governor. "Does his life not matter just because of

his past mistakes?"

Zachary Hammond, 19, was shot by Lt. Mark Tiller in an attempted drug bust in the parking lot of a Hardee's restaurant in Seneca on July 26.

Tenth Circuit Solicitor Chrisy Adams in October decided not to bring charges against Tiller. A dash cam video released by the State Law Enforcement Division showed Tiller running up to Hammond's car as he tried to drive away and shooting into the driver's side window when he refused to stop.

Tiller said he thought Hammond was trying to run over

him. Adams said the legal standards weren't met to bring criminal charges, but federal authorities are conducting a separate investigation.

Angie Hammond asked the governor to please sit down with her and watch the video. "See if you can tell me and the citizens of this state that in your heart, you believe that my son's life, even with mistakes, didn't matter. I want to see you tearful and choked up about this citizen of your state whose life was also cut short by excessive deadly force."

**See HALEY, Page 6A**

## Haley

Continued from Page 3A

Haley's press secretary, Chaney Adams, said, "The governor will honor Mrs. Hammond's request. Our office is in the process of reaching out to Mrs. Hammond to schedule a time."

Angie Hammond drew similarities between her son's case and the case of a

North Charleston police officer who was seen on video shooting a suspect as he ran away from him.

"Both suspects were unarmed and fleeing. Both were shot from behind and killed. Both officers said they shot in self-defense," she wrote.

"The officer in North Charleston

was charged with murder; the officer in Seneca was not and even inexplicably (was) placed on paid administrative leave."

Seneca city officials have said Tiller will remain on administrative leave until the completion of the federal probes.



PROVIDED

Zachary Hammond was shot and killed by a Seneca police officer on July 26.



Title: **Haley: Flood's pricetag is \$1.4 billion**  
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM  
 Size: 79.20 square inch  
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



# Haley: Flood's pricetag is \$1.4 billion

State taxpayers' portion is  
\$114 million for recovery

**TIM SMITH**

TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

COLUMBIA - The estimated cost from October's flooding could exceed \$1.4 billion, according to new figures released by Gov. Nikki Haley and previously disclosed numbers by other officials.

Haley said Tuesday the state's share of those costs will be about \$114 million, which she said could be paid for by growth in state revenues.

However, she is asking members of the state's congressional delegation to find \$140 million to help pay for restoration of an estimated 2,600 units of damaged housing for low- and moderate-income families.

"What we want to do is get people back on their feet," she said.

The flooding in October killed 17 people in South Carolina, forced the closure of 541 roads and bridges and sent thousands fleeing from their homes.

The \$1.4 billion number includes the \$114 million needed from state coffers as

the state's share in flood repairs mostly covered by federal aid, almost \$600 million in agricultural losses, \$181 million in private insurance claims, \$82 million in loans from the federal Small Business Administration, \$140 million for housing and \$367 million in payments to public agencies and individuals by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Haley said repairs to the state's infrastructure

**See FLOOD, Page 4A**

## Flood

Continued from Page 1A

structure total about \$136 million, with about \$49 million of that not covered by federal aid.

Lawmakers had predicted higher road and bridge repair costs and were surprised by Tuesday's numbers.

The new numbers could halt efforts by legislators to consider borrowing hundreds of millions of dollars next year using a bond bill.

"From a conservative standpoint, if the need is not there, or not as great, and the governor is telling us it's not as great as once thought, and we have over \$1 billion in surplus money, it just doesn't make sense to borrow the money," said Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler of Gaffney, who also chairs a joint legislative committee studying the idea of a bond bill.

State economists recently predicted that the state will have more than \$1 billion in additional revenue to consider when lawmakers return to work

next January and start work on a new budget.

Haley also said Tuesday she sees no need for lawmakers to borrow money for flood costs.

She said the state currently is on "solid ground" financially, with full reserves and more than \$1 billion in additional revenue for next year.

"We're going to continue to stay on solid ground because we don't know what next year will bring," she said.

Rep. Gary Simrill, a Rock Hill Republican who last year chaired a House committee that drafted a road-funding plan, said he was pleasantly surprised at the repair costs for roads and bridges.

"Based on how horrific the floods were for roads, for that to be the price tag I think is good news," he said. "Certainly this is something that can be handled in the normal constraints of budgeting."

Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Larry Grooms, who had pre-

dicted the repair costs for roads would be lower than some had forecast, said he was pleased by the repair bill.

But he said those costs do not include future repairs because of unseen damage or accelerated road deterioration.

"This doesn't include the shortening of the life-cycle of the asphalt," he said. "The ground got wet under a lot of roads and it shifted. I think you're going to see some structural issues to the foundations of these roadways. You're going to see some cracks develop and if you have an ice event, it's going to accelerate the deterioration of the asphalt."

Those costs will not be covered by federal storm aid, he said.

Both he and Simrill agree that just because the flood repair costs did not balloon does not remove the need for infrastructure improvements, estimated before the flood at between \$400 million

and \$1.4 billion a year.

Haley said the \$300 million in projected public agency payments by FEMA include \$36.9 mil-

lion for repairs to roads and bridges not eligible for federal highway aid, \$37 million in response costs for the National Guard, \$50 million to repair the Columbia Canal and \$40.7 million for parks and beaches.

She said she expects Tuesday's numbers not to increase much, though the estimates for repairs to the Columbia Canal could change. City officials have estimated those repairs at \$90 million or more.

Haley said 90,265 people have thus far applied to FEMA for aid. Haley has asked for the FEMA application deadline to be extended to Jan. 3.

She said while many farmers and individuals in the state were under insured or uninsured, the state cannot be responsible for those decisions.



Title: **Haley: Flood's pricetag is \$1.4 billion**  
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM  
 Size: 79.20 square inch  
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473

"That's what happened in the 1,000-year flood, a lot of people were under-insured," she said. "What we can't do is make up for them being under-insured. We can't go and start paying for homes and all those things. What we can do is do what's in our means and that is dealing with FEMA and having them help with disaster situations."

The state also requested the U.S. agriculture secretary to expedite the handling process for aid to farmers, Haley said, and has asked the U.S. Corps of Engineers to speed up its process for handling repairs to beaches.

"We're doing what we can within our means," she said. "But at the same time we have to look at there is insurance for a reason."

Also Tuesday, econo-

mists with the University of South Carolina Darla Moore School of Business said the economic impact from the floods will be similar to that from Hurricane Hugo.

The 1989 storm left \$6.5 billion in damages throughout the state. The economists did not estimate damage costs but said both storms left the state with short-term lost wages, property damage and some expenses that would be compensated, eventually providing an economic stimulus to the state.

The flood damage figures released Tuesday are mostly for compensated costs, that is expenses that are paid for in part or in total by government agencies or through insurers.

USC economist Joseph Von Nessen noted that in any natural disaster there

also are a number of uncompensated costs, such as unpaid damages, lost wages, lost business revenue or lost wealth.

He said the payments by insurers and government agencies likely will stimulate construction and retail spending next year, countering the initial economic blow.

"That will generate more jobs and more personal income for South Carolinians," he said. "But we have to balance that against the uncompensated losses, the wealth losses, spending money out of savings to repair, or just not repairing the damages at all. There will be a wealth loss that is not going to be captured by the dollars we see coming in and generating that stimulus as part of the repair efforts."

Von Nessen and USC

economist Doug Woodward predict the state will see a good economic year even without the stimulus from flood repairs.

Von Nessen said the Upstate and Greenville did well this year, leading the state with job growth, particularly retail jobs, and residential building permits.

"This year we've seen more broad-based growth in professional services that Greenville has taken advantage of," he said. "On the flip side, very little damage from the flood. So in both cases, Greenville has come out ahead as the leader. And I think going forward, advanced manufacturing is still a major driver for growth in the state so Greenville is going to continue to take advantage of that next year."



MYKAL MCELDOWNEY/STAFF

**Sandy Roberts wades through the floodwaters to help pick up trash Oct. 5.**