

Title: **Haley applauds vote to defund Guantanamo transfers**
 Author:
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Haley applauds vote to defund Guantanamo transfers

COLUMBIA (AP) — Some of South Carolina's top Republicans are heralding a U.S. House vote Thursday to temporarily halt the transfer of more detainees from the prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

It's no surprise the state's Republicans support a measure that would bar the federal government from spending money on prisoner transfers. Along

with locations in Colorado and Kansas, a Naval brig 15 miles from Charleston is among possible transfer sites already surveyed by a Defense Department team — a possibility that has elicited concerns from officials including Gov. Nikki Haley about security and economic development threats.

"Moving terrorists from a secure facility outside of the United States to

Charleston or releasing them back onto the battlefield is a risk the people of South Carolina aren't willing to take," Haley said in a statement released Thursday. She thanked the state's House Republicans for working with her "on what is a critical national security issue."

SEE **GITMO**, PAGE A4

GITMO FROM PAGE A1

This spring, Haley criticized the federal government for keeping her in the dark about plans calling for the possible transfer of detainees to South Carolina, telling a U.S. House panel she has heard no details about what she says could be detrimental for her state.

Last year, she and Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback wrote to Defense Secretary Ash Carter that they would not "be part of any illegal and ill-advised action by this Administration, especially when that action relates to importing terrorists into our states." They threat-

ened to sue if necessary.

Thursday's bill — which the White House has already said that President Obama will veto — also gives Republicans an election year issue in Democrats' opposition to keeping open Guantanamo Bay, which currently houses about 60 detainees.

Title: **D45 curriculum team aims for academic success**
 Author: JONATHAN VICKERY Managing Editor jonathan.vickery@morris.com
 Size: 82.46 column inches
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D45 curriculum team aims for academic success

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Barnwell District 45's two curriculum leaders are looking to put plans and initiatives in place which add up to academic success for all students.

Dr. Rachel Wall and Kelly Shealy bring more than 50 years of education experience to the curriculum department. Wall, who has more than 15 years of experience, became the district's curriculum director last fall. Shealy, who has taught math at Barnwell High for 37 years, was hired over the summer as the curriculum support coach.

"We have worked really hard the last four years to have balanced programs," said Wall of ensuring there is consistency in what is taught from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

One major change is the impact of the new statewide 10-point grading system for high school students, although District 45 and many others implemented the new system across all grade levels.

"We will be aligning and adjusting rigor," said Wall, who has been the district's director of curriculum since last year. This means tweaking our assessments and analyzing our instructional practices.

While some people have said the change from a seven-point system will result in students not having the same level of results, Wall and Shealy disagree.

"Evaluating and adjusting our level of rigor and

expectations for instruction and assessments is essential

as we work to adequately prepare our students to be college and/or career ready prior to leaving our high school. Our expectations have to heighten. It is definitely going to up our game," said Wall of how they will modify instruction and tweak assessments.

Shealy said students will still have the "same percent of mastery" of the curriculum.

Although Wall and Shealy both have backgrounds as math teachers, they know the importance of reading and writing. There is a strong focus on implementing consistent reading instruction and assessment practices in all grades. As a whole, the district is working towards systematically identifying student weaknesses so that effective remediation with tiered interventions will assist students in making reading gains, they said.

"Reading is the foundation for life's success. It is the heartbeat of education," said Shealy, who continues to teach one class of Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus in addition to her new district-level job.

A major part of what Wall and Shealy do is working with teachers to keep them updated on curriculum changes and the most effective ways to reach students. In addition to classroom visits, the district's curriculum team of teachers will soon begin meeting as a group and then share what they learn with all teachers at their respective schools.

Having primarily worked with high school teachers during her career in District 45, Shealy is excited about supporting teachers at all four schools. "I have the opportunity to see how the curriculum connects from grade to grade. We have some awesome teachers in Barnwell 45, and as I listen to their ideas and watch them instruct, it is quite obvious how much they care about our district's children," she said.

Wall, Shealy and Assistant Superintendent Crissie Stapleton, who was curriculum director before being promoted last year, also meet monthly with the principals for training.

"Our administrators are instructional leaders," said Wall.

"We have some awesome principals," said Shealy. "We are very blessed."

One new resource the curriculum team is excited about this year are the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment kits for the middle and high schools that identify students' reading levels. These kits have been used for several years in the primary and elementary schools. These assessments assist teachers in identifying those students who are not reading on grade level due to problems with fluency and comprehension. Following the assessments, the students can be put into small groups and receive extra assistance to get on track. Funding for the kits, which

are being used at the middle and high schools, was provided by Gov. Nikki Haley's Original Six Foundation.

"These kits provide a very clear plan of what the deficits are. You get a roadmap of what you need to do in

order to move kids through appropriately," said Wall. "They are very effective."

Shealy said implementing the assessment kits in the upper grades along with the use of thinking maps and consistency with instructional expectations district-wide helps to acclimate students to what needs to take place. "We want every child to be successful," said Shealy.

The district also uses iStation software in the computer labs at the primary and elementary schools to help remediate reading and math issues and extend upon students' strengths.

All schools have reading plans as part of South Carolina's Read to Succeed law that provide consistency. "It makes sure we talk the same talk" across grades, said Wall.

Other literacy initiatives include implementing a strong word development component across all grade levels including ACT Words of the Day and a new vocabulary program at Barnwell High.

Implementing science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEM/STEAM) at all four schools is also important because many careers require those types of skills. The district is expanding their focus and

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seeking ways to provide additional opportunities for students in these areas.

Barnwell Primary has STEM Fridays, to "whet the appetites of students" through various projects using plants, colors, patterns and other topics, said Shealy. Other initiatives

include STEM activities at Barnwell Elementary, a new STEM lab at Guinyard-Butler Middle School and Project Lead the Way at

Barnwell High. The high school just added a third PLTW course, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, to the course offerings. All of these are "standard driven and focused on meeting the needs of the children," said Wall.

Superintendent Jay Grissom and Assistant Superintendent Crissie Stapleton work diligently to provide a strong network of partners who offer guidance regarding the direction of

the instructional programs, said Wall. This includes the Southern Carolina Alliance and the Barnwell County Career Center.

"We want to prepare our students to meet the needs of our community," said Wall.

"It is important our students have an opportunity to see what is out there," said Shealy of students experiencing a taste of possible future careers.

STEM also goes along with the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate the state

developed as part of the 21st Century Learner initiative.

Overall, the goal of the instructional program is to provide consistent instructional and assessment practices in all grade levels in a safe and nurturing environment.

"We want to ensure our students leave our schools fully prepared according to the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate to be successful on which ever path they choose," said Wall.



Kelly Shealy and Dr. Rachel Wall are Barnwell District 45's curriculum leaders.

Title: **High court should keep holding state accountable on education funding**

Author:

Size: 48.67 column inches

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High court should keep holding state accountable on education funding

In a state where public education has been underfunded by about \$4 billion since 2010, lawyers for the General Assembly and Gov. Nikki Haley essentially say they've done enough to comply with a state Supreme Court order to do more for poor school districts.

Yeah, right.

More than two decades ago, a handful of poor school districts brought suit against the state seeking more equitable education funding. Referred to as the Abbeville case, the lawsuit wound its way through a too-slow judicial process until late 2015 when the state Supreme Court finally ordered the General Assembly and school districts come up with a way to pay for the state's failure to provide adequate public education opportunities, especially in poor, rural districts. The court said it would provide oversight on the case until the state got its act together.



Andy Brack

Earlier this year, House lawmakers introduced a package of bills to move things along. By the end of the session, four bills passed, but two of them called for studies. Bottom line: the General Assembly nibbled around the edges, desperately trying to avoid what it really needs to do — pump millions of dollars into public education to create better school buildings, bolster teachers, offer expanded classes and more. In other words, they need to dramatically and comprehensively reform public education and its funding— not just in poor areas, but everywhere — so our students will be ready for the rapidly-changing workplace of the 21st century.

If you think state lawmakers truly value public education, look at their record on funding. Since 2010, the state legislature has shortchanged public education by an estimated \$3,914,417,921.00. Here's how: Every year, lawmakers get a figure of what the "base student cost" should be based on a formula that is law. But when it comes to budget time, lawmakers creatively "determine" what the formula should be, which allows them to lower the base student cost and steer mandated education dollars to politically-expedient priorities.

In 2010 as the state's finances swayed in the Great Recession, lawmakers cut the base student cost from the formula of \$2,687 per student to \$2,334, which resulted in \$244 million in underfunding based on the law. The next year, things were tighter as the formula (\$2,720) was cut to \$1,630, which led to a \$757 million shortfall. Only in the current 2017 budget has the base student cost returned to the level that was appropriated in 2010. This year, schools are still left with an underfunded gap of \$422 million.

On Aug. 25, the state's lawyers filed a motion seeking to get the Supreme Court off the legislature's back on school funding. They admitted more work needed to be done, but added that the state

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has been "acting in good faith to implement a remedy for the Court's concerns and that the rationale for the reservation of continuing jurisdiction is no longer applicable."

Hogwash. If anything, the high court's jurisdiction is needed more — to hold the General Assembly's feet to the fire to actually do something, not keep saying "trust us" or "we're getting to it."

Lawyers for the poor districts agreed, noting in a Sept. 6 response: "The record of this litigation has established that, without judicial oversight, the General Assembly will not attack the systemic education problems plaguing the plaintiff districts and address the educational crisis facing their children. History has shown that without court intervention, these children will have no relief, and the constitutional violations identified in Abbeville II will continue unabated."

Bernadette R. Hampton, president of the S.C. Education Association, added this week: "Our children cannot wait any longer for the inadequacies in the state's public school system to be addressed. It is essential that our children's future be given its rightful priority."

Legislatures across the nation are being put on the hot seat over equitable school funding. Just witness how a Connecticut judge this month excoriated its legislature for not funding poorer inner-city schools adequately.

The writing has been on the wall for South Carolina leaders for years that the day was coming to fund schools appropriately. It's time to stop playing legal games and do the work.

Title: **The politics of trickle down neglect in S.C.**
 Author: By PHIL NOBLE Guest column
 Size: 63.55 column inches
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The politics of trickle down neglect in S.C.

By PHIL NOBLE

Guest column

The true test of political leadership is about making the hard, long-term and right decision instead of the easy, short-term and wrong decision.

Said differently, do our political leaders genuinely work to solve problems or do they just kick the can down the road?

Unfortunately for our state, kicking the can down the road has been the unofficial sport of the Statehouse crowd for nearly a generation. Can-kicking results from politicians who refuse to look down the road further than the next election.

For too many, making tough decisions is just not in their nature.

The irony is that most politicians face few serious challenges to re-election. In some election years, more than 90 percent of incumbents who seek re-election win.

Their campaign fundraising is easy in that they have a couple of fundraisers in Columbia and the special interest groups ante up. The vast majority of funds raised by most members of the legislature is from Statehouse special interest folks and not their constituents back home.

And, once they build up a big war chest, they are less likely to be challenged either in a primary or a general election.

So let's talk specifics, what does this can-kicking look like in concrete terms?

First is education

I don't think there is anyone in this state who would stand up and say "South Carolina has good schools." The simple truth is our schools are failing.

Yes, there are some good schools (even great schools) and yes there are a lot of dedicated teachers (some are great teachers) and yes many of our school buildings are new and modern (some are great) – but overall our state's schools are failing our children.

There are a multitude of reasons why the schools are failing, but the principle reason is simply long-term neglect. Back when Richard Riley was governor from 1978-86, South Carolina was known as one

of the leading education reform states in the country.

People came from far and wide to study what we were doing. (Full Disclosure: I served as president of the S.C. New Democrats



NOBLE

and Riley was our founder). But, since then our governors have generally seemed to just care less and less about education – not all, but most.

During the recent recession, South Carolina's legislators cut both K-12 and higher education spending by a greater percentage than any state in the union. And, just this week when Gov. Haley said there would be a budget shortfall of \$200 million, she proposed to cut education spending by \$100 million.

Now a lot of our education problems won't be solved by money alone, but ask any teacher who reaches into their pocket each month (and most do) to buy needed schools supplies for their students if they support these cuts.

Schools don't deteriorate in a few years and test scores don't fall over night – it's about long-term neglect.

Second is roads

Let me put this succinctly, we have among the worst roads in the country. A recent study found "throughout South Carolina, 46 percent of major roads and highways are in poor condition, a significant increase from 2008 when 32 percent of the state's major roads were rated in poor condition.

"Twenty percent of

South Carolina's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete ... (this) costs each S.C. driver as much as \$1,250 per year ... or \$3 billion statewide."

And yet the legislature refuses to support sensible solutions like raising the gas tax to fix the roads – our gas tax is among the lowest in the country.

And, the problem with roads is not just one of money. Most objective observers would say that the

Department of Transportation should be renamed the Department of Corruption – and it's been that way for a very long time.

Roads don't deteriorate in a few years and systemic corruption does not develop overnight – it's about long-term neglect.

Third is pension

There are today 558,000 former state employees, teachers and police officers who depend on their state retirement to put food on the table, buy their medicines and sustain them in their daily life.

And, their pension fund is \$20 billion in the hole – and the hole is getting deeper. Just last year alone, the hole got \$1.4 billion deeper.

Several years back, an analysis found that we were paying exorbitant

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fees to fund managers to manage the money, among the highest of any state, and they gave us about the lowest return on investment of any state. This can largely be explained in one word: corruption.

Sen. Kevin Bryan, chairman of a new committee charged with figuring out what to do, called the unfunded pensions “the

state’s biggest problem of the decade.”

Pension funds don’t deteriorate in a few years and deficits don’t grow overnight – it’s about long-term neglect.

When Bryan says pensions are the state’s biggest problem of the decade, he’s right – and he’s wrong. Yes, pensions are the big-

gest problem – and education and roads are the biggest problem as well.

We have three huge “problems of the decade” – and we have to solve them all at once.

So, back to my opening line – the true test of political leadership is about making the hard, long-term and right decision instead of the easy, short-term and

wrong decision.

Our political leaders have failed this test – and the question is what will they do now?

Phil Noble is president of S.C. New Democrats and writes a weekly column for the S.C. Press Association. E-mail him at phil@philnoble.com

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Author:

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The Columbia World
Affairs Council has
announced South Caroli-
na Governor **Nikki R.
Haley** will receive the
2016 Global Vision Award.



**Governor
Nikki R. Haley**

Title: **Candidates, supporters at Dems' Georgetown rally**
 Author: By Max Hrenda mhrenda@southstrandnews.com
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Candidates, supporters at Dems' Georgetown rally

By MAX HRENDA

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As the S.C. Democratic Party began its statewide campaign to register voters and excite its base, its first stop was made in Georgetown this weekend.

On Saturday, Sept. 24, the Georgetown County Democratic Party hosted a district-wide event for all the eight counties of Congressional District 7 to hear platforms and discuss issues with federal, state and local officials and candidates.

Titled "Enough is Enough," the event served as a forum to discuss party members' views on how Republican control of South Carolina has contributed to statewide problems. Former state Rep. Vida Miller opened the event by criticizing several of the state's shortcomings that have occurred or persisted through a Republican-controlled Senate and House of Representatives, as well as the governor's office.

"We have a governor who brags about incentives to Boeing and Volvo for job creation, but she refuses Medicaid expansion, which would have created thousands of jobs and brought billions of dollars into our local economy," Miller said. "I've had enough of that kind of thinking."

In addition to discussing lo-

cal issues, the forum focused on supporting Hillary Clinton, the party's nominee for the presidency. State party Vice Chair Kaye Koonce addressed the body, saying she chose to go into politics after meeting Clinton when she was first lady of Arkansas.

"I have known Hillary Clinton since I was in my 20s," Koonce said. "I met her when I was first down in law school. ... She was funny, she was genuine and she was so impressive. ... I've been waiting since 1982 to vote for Hillary Clinton, and I'm so glad I have the opportunity to do that this year."

Along with discussing at-large issues, those in attendance had a chance to meet and hear from candidates for federal office.

Thomas Dixon, who is running for Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott's seat, said he would work with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders to ensure Democratic Party platforms like funding Planned Parenthood, prison reform and wage increases pass the Senate.

"All of these different areas the Republicans have fought against, myself and Sen. Sanders are getting ready to go to the mat with it," Dixon said, "and we're going to win."

Dixon was joined by Mal

Hyman, a 30-year Coker College professor who is seeking U.S. Rep. Tom Rice's seat as the District 7 representative in the U.S. House. As he has throughout his campaign, Hyman referenced congressional Republican efforts to block President Barack Obama's efforts to increase spending toward early childhood education. Hyman cited studies, like one from the National Conference of State Legislatures, that indicate those investments yield greater economic rewards by creating a more capable workforce, which leads to higher levels of employment and more participation.

"A dollar invested yields about \$7 in return," Hyman said. "If you're in business and you don't make that investment, you shouldn't be in business, and if you're in government and you don't make that investment, you shouldn't be in government."

In addition to candidates for federal office, several local Democrats also made appearances at the event, including: Darryel Carr, who is running for sheriff; Chelice Cox Waites, who is running for treasurer; Lillie Jean Johnson, running to retain her seat on County Council; Everett Carolina,

running for the District 3 seat on County Council; and Rhonda Green, who is running for the nonpartisan District 4 seat on the Georgetown County Board of Education. Though he was absent from Saturday's meeting, one of Green's opponents, Randy Walker, was represented by his cousin and campaign manager Don Giliard.

Also in attendance was Tonia Aiken-Taylor, a Moncks Corner councilwoman seeking the District 100 seat in the state House of Representatives.

Although the event represented the first rallying cry for the state's Democratic Party, local party Chairman Dedric Bonds said he was most pleased the timing of the event allowed more time to encourage residents to register to vote.

"It was significant in that sense of trying to press the urgency to get folks registered," Bonds said. "The good thing is the Democratic Party for the county is not the only agency working on that behalf. It's good we were able to kick that off and let other organizations know the Democratic Party of Georgetown County is willing to facilitate getting folks registered to vote."

Title: **Candidates, supporters at Dems' Georgetown rally**
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MAX HREND/SOUTH STRAND NEWS

Democratic candidates for office gather at the conclusion of Saturday's rally. From left are Mal Hyman, Lillie Jean Johnson, Chelice Cox Waites, Rhonda Green, Everett Carolina, Darryel Carr, Tonia Aiken-Taylor, state Sen. Ronnie Sabb and Thomas Dixon.

Title: **Changing Senate rules? Try regulating mopeds**
 Author:
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■ WHAT OTHERS SAY

Changing Senate rules? Try regulating mopeds

Depending on which senator is talking about the S.C. Senate rules, they hinder progress or are good for the Senate as a deliberative body and protect the rights of the minority.

"Senate rules are the biggest single problem in making progress," said Greg Hembree of Little River.

He alludes to the inglorious demise of legislation that would have placed mopeds under state traffic laws like other motor vehicles, including motorcycles. Mopeds and their operators remain totally unregulated in South Carolina; neither the two-wheelers nor their drivers are required to have licenses.

The General Assembly passed reasonable reform but Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed the legislation, claiming it would be wrong to require moped operators to wear reflective vests and to require that riders under age 21 wear helmets. The House overrode the veto, but one senator, Gerald Malloy of Hartsville, blocked a vote to override by delaying action. It was late and everyone was tired and ready to leave. Soon there was no quorum and no vote.

"It was terribly frustrating," Hembree said after the legislature adjourned, sans moped reform. "I want everybody to remember how this feels," Hembree told his fellow Republicans, to have come so close and be hamstrung by a single member of the Senate. Hembree remains determined to work again in the upcoming session of the General Assembly for moped regulation. "Passing laws is not supposed to be easy," Malloy says.

Both Hembree and Malloy are on a special committee named by Senate President Pro Tem-

pore Hugh Leatherman to study senate rules. Sen. Luke Rankin of Myrtle Beach also is on the committee. Other members include Majority Leader Shane Massey of Edgefield, Minority Leader Nikki Setzler of West Columbia and Ronnie Cromer of Prosperity who has been chairman of the Rules Committee.

Hembree and Malloy also share assignment to another special committee on guns. Malloy, a Democrat, is chairman of the guns committee, which recently had a public hearing in Greenville, the first of four.

Malloy's view of the Senate rules differ considerably from Hembree's. "The Senate rules are very, very good rules," Malloy says. "The minority deserves an opportunity to be heard. The Senate rules are there to protect the minority." Republicans have held the Senate majority since 2001. Malloy says the rules are based on Thomas Jefferson's rules of order. "Every senator should have a right to stop or start" deliberations and so forth. "The Senate is the deliberate body."

On the moped reform legislation, Malloy says his objection was to the requirement for protective vests. "I missed it" when the Senate approved the House version of the moped legislation that went to the governor. Malloy acknowledges that on the override attempt he "used the Senate rules to say 'present'."

As to changing the rules, Malloy says, "I think there's always room for improvement." That's not slamming shut the door, but it suggests change is far more difficult than regulating mopeds.

— Sept. 15, *The Sun News of Myrtle Beach*

The following is the opinion of the newspaper represented and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Index-Journal.

Title: **City looks ahead after ULI recommendation**
 Author: By Max Hrenda mhrenda@southstrandnews.com
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City looks ahead after ULI recommendation

By MAX HRENDA

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After receiving the results from a panel of experts from the Urban Land Institute, Georgetown officials are beginning to examine how to work toward the goal of redeveloping the land containing the ArcelorMittal steel mill.

On Friday, Sept. 23, the ULI panel advised the city to remove the steel mill and, in its stead, install mixed use residential and commercial structures, extend the Harborwalk to the Port of Georgetown, and extend streets from the West End neighborhood across Fraser Street.

Comprised of 10 of experts in the fields of real estate, planning, transportation, environment, art, economic development and more, the volunteer ULI panel made its presentation after spending six days in Georgetown. During that time, panelists toured the steel mill site, as well as the surrounding area in parts such as the

West End neighborhood and the Historic District. Also during that time, the panel spoke with more than 100 citizens to not only learn their thoughts on the potential redevelopment, but also to learn about the city's history and modern demographics.

"These panelists all worked incredibly hard," said Tee Miller, Georgetown's director for economic development. "Everyone I talked to was really impressed with how professional they were and how much work they were putting in to learn as much as they could about the mill and the city."

City Councilman Ed Kimbrough, who was a participant in a community focus group that met with the panelists during their visit, echoed Miller's sentiment, adding he was impressed not only with the panel's interest in public input, but also with the public's

interest in providing that input.

"We had such an enthusiastic group," Kimbrough said. "It was a great input session; it was hard to talk about all of it in an hour. But it was great to see our citizens so enthusiastic about this."

Once those interviews had concluded, the panel spent two days reviewing all the material before making its presentation Sept. 23 at Winyah Auditorium. During that presentation, the panel addressed Georgetown's history — in particular, discussing the role slavery played in creating both the city and what was referred to as a "permanent underclass" — as well as its assets — such as its museums, artists and waterfront — as well as its detriments — like high levels of poverty and limited employment opportunities. To address those detriments, the

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City looks ahead after ULI recommendation

FROM PAGE 1A

panel recommended that the city rebrand itself to tout its history, its assets and its waterfront to develop its economy from within. Additionally, however, the panelists recommended that the city move away from the steel mill in developing that economy.

"That wasn't a surprise," Miller said. "It didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the county has plenty of in-

dustrial sites. I was thinking it could be more of a town center-type area, a development that would include a lot of things."

The ULI recommendation ultimately did just that. In place of the steel mill, the panel recommended the construction of a town square at the intersection of Fraser and Front streets. Panelists also suggested building businesses and housing structures throughout the property, as well as expanding roads into the

area to improve access to the waterfront. The panel estimated the development, in its entirety, could take up to 20 years to reach fruition and would, and should, involve the community, as a whole, not just city and county government.

The panel's recommendations fell in line with several policies that have been discussed by the city since the ArcelorMittal mill closed its doors in August of 2015. Over the last several months, the city's Planning

Commission and the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments have updated the city's future land use el-

ement map to change from heavy industrial to mixed-use residential and commercial zoning. Still, the recommendation to move away from the steel mill — and the potential economic impact that could result from recruiting another industrial entity — has drawn criticism from some elected officials.

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For the last several years, state Rep. Carl Anderson, D-103, has tried to garner funds to pay for the dredging of the Port of Georgetown. Anderson has said he hopes the dredging could attract big business to the area, along with potential federal oversight and maintenance, which occurs when a port moves more than 1 million tons of freight in a year.

The ULI panel dismissed the prospect of dredging the port, however. Adviser John Banka said the panel decided against industrial use after reviewing feasibility studies regarding the possible dredging of the port.

"The feasibility studies to justify the expenditure don't seem to think that that's a good expenditure of money," Banka said. "At the very beginning, our opinion was to cross out that industrial use."

In an interview with Times staff, Anderson said he thought dismissing the dredging was a mistake, but added he had not yet reviewed the proposal in its entirety.

"I feel like the panel was totally wrong," Anderson said. "... We're still dealing with that. Every now and then I have a word with Gov. (Nikki) Haley and letting her know we need to Port of

Georgetown dredged."

In a separate interview, state Sen. Ronnie Sabb agreed that the prospect of dredging the port should remain in the conversation, adding he, too, had not reviewed the ULI proposal in its entirety.

"I think that we're prematurely abandoning the dredging and I'm not pleased about it," Sabb said. "I believe we need to look long term rather than short term. All of the long term indications are that it will bring jobs to the area, that it is an economic engine to the area and it will open up new instances of opportunity."

Miller, however, disagreed with Anderson and Sabb's assessments, saying he and the ULI panel had close discussion with the state Ports Authority.

"The cost of dredging the port has gone up to \$60 million and that doesn't include maintenance," Miller said. "This is really just a matter of pronouncing it dead. I understand that, politically, people in Georgetown see this as a panacea that's going to lead us out, but everyone I've talked to and everyone the panel talked to ... said it's pretty much at the end."

While some local officials lamented the recommendation on the port, others said

they were disappointed with the proposal, in general. City Councilman Sheldon Butts said he expected the panel to offer more guidance in how to reach the 20-year goal.

"I think they painted the spectrum with a large brush, rather than a small one," Butts said. "What Georgetown needs is a small brush. We are a small and unique city. I just don't think we got that perspective from the study, which leaves the city and the people in limbo."

Kimbrough said he, too, thought the presentation would offer more specifics, but added he also thought the presentation was more of a suggestion on how the community, itself, should proceed.

"I tend to agree with that, but I'm not sure that was the purpose of their trip," Kimbrough said. "It's up to the community to be specific on how to proceed and where to start. They've given us some ideas to move forward."

Kimbrough added he thought the next logical step would be to discuss acquiring the mill from ArcelorMittal. While Miller said that remains a priority, he added he was taking that step along with several others, including acquiring

grants to assess potential environmental damage from brownfields at the mill site and creating an arts and culture district.

Although they had different interpretations of the plan, Miller, Kimbrough, Butts, Anderson and Sabb all lauded the panel for sparking the level of community involvement and interest that it did.

The plan, in its entirety, is available for viewing online by clicking on the "ULI Report Presentation" link at cityofgeorgetownsc.com/uli/.

Title: **City looks ahead after ULI recommendation**
 Author: By Max Hrenda mhrenda@southstrandnews.com
 Size: 152.36 column inches
 Georgetown, SC Circulation: 8446



PROVIDED

The Urban Land Institute conceptual drawing illustrates the proposed uses for the steel mill site, which included mixed use residential and commercial districts, a university/residential hotel, a waterfront park and a 'Georgetown Commons' area.

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MAX HRENDASOUTH STRAND NEWS

ULI panelist Ken Kay discusses the advisors' recommended modifications for the ArcelorMittal steel mill site.

Title: **Official use of SC plane questioned**
 Author: BY JERRY BELLUNE JenvBellurie@yahoo.com
 Size: 40.61 column inches
 Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



Official use of SC plane questioned

BY JERRY BELLUNE

JerryBellune@yahoo.com

Are you as skeptical as most taxpayers are?

That's entirely human and based on the illegal, often criminal acts of a few public officials who taint the 95% who try to serve the public.

Here's a little story that illustrates that not all is amiss in our state government.

An article came to our attention recently about the use of state-owned aircraft.

"Most taxpayers agree that use of state-owned aircraft should only be used for trips of high importance," the article read.

"Yet records reveal that South Carolina's state plane is routinely used by mid-level state personnel for arguably non-essential purposes.

"As one might expect, the governor is by far the most common user of the state plane," the article read.

"The necessity of flying from Columbia to Charleston

to attend the Volvo Car Open may be debated, but that use of the plane would strike most readers as at least defensible."

Adjutant General travel

The article questioned two trips made by Adjutant Gen. Robert Livingston of West Columbia.

On April 27-28, 2016, Julian Milligan flew first from Columbia to Miami to pick up Livingston, then back to Columbia to pick up more passengers and then to Columbus, Indiana.

Trip costs: \$8,200.

We asked the general's office about this.

Lt. Col. Cynthia King replied, "The state plane is available for use by the Adjutant General in an official capacity as a constitutionally elected officer and agency head of the South Carolina Military Department."

She wrote that on April 26, Livingston was attending U.S. Southern Command Adjutant

'It's historic to have one of our own from the S.C. Air National Guard attain this level of command in the Air Force. We were not contacted to provide these facts before this was published.'

Lt. Col. Cynthia King
S.C. Army National Guard

General Planning meeting.

On April 27, Maj. Julian Milligan, Livingston's assistant, flew to Miami to pick up and prepare his boss for

National Guard Bureau cyber training at Camp Atterbury. Due to limited space, Milligan would not be able to go with him to Indiana.

On April 27, Livingston and eight others flew to Indiana for the training.

Another flight

The article also questioned Livingston's flight to Maryland for a promotion ceremony for Lt. Gen. Robert Williams. Cost: \$4,340.

Lt. Col. King replied that Livingston was representing the state as Gov. Nikki Haley was unable to attend.

Lt. Gen. Williams previously served in South Carolina in the Air National Guard and commander of the 169th Fighter Wing.

"It's historic to have one of our own from the S.C. Air National Guard attain this level of command in the Air Force," she replied.

"We were not contacted to provide these facts before this was published."

Title: **Global group will honor Gov. Haley with award**

Author:

Size: 19.68 column inches

Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



Global group will honor Gov. Haley with award

Special to the Chronicle

Gov. Nikki Haley will receive the 2016 Global Vision Award.

The Columbia World Affairs Council will honor the Lexington resident at a gala at the Columbia Marriott Wednesday, Nov. 30.

"Gov. Haley has been an outstanding leader in connecting South Carolina to the global economy," said Board

Chair Bob Coble.

"Her record for recruiting investment into South Carolina from the world is second to none."



Haley

Haley and her family live in Lexington although they have been living at the Governor's Mansion in Columbia during her two terms.

She is the first female and Indian-American governor, a Clemson University graduate and represented Lexington County in the House of Representatives.

Since 2011, the state has announced more than 80,000 jobs in 45 of 46 counties, and South Carolina's unemployment rate has hit a 15 year record low.

Coble praised her for deftly

and compassionately dealing with the shootings at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, the removal of the Confederate flag from the State House grounds and leadership in the floods last October.

More than 1,200 international firms have facilities in South Carolina, employing more than 100,000 people, the state Department of Commerce reported.