

Title: **Haley talks of Trump, Confederate flag**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
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Haley talks of Trump, Confederate flag

BY SEANNA ADCOX
 Associated Press

COLUMBIA

Gov. Nikki Haley said she wishes Donald Trump communicated differently because bad things result from divisive rhetoric, as evidenced by last June's massacre in Charleston.

The Republican governor said divisive speech motivated Dylann Roof to gun down nine black parishioners at historic Emanuel AME Church. Police have said the white 22-year-old charged with

their killings wanted to start a race war.

The Confederate flag Roof brandished in photos had to be removed from the Statehouse grounds, she said, and she supports sending the rebel flag in The Citadel's chapel to a museum too.

Haley said she doesn't think people who support Trump are racist or haters.

"That's a different kind of anger. They're upset with Washington, D.C. They're upset nothing's got done," she said. "The way he communicates that, I wish were different."

Title: **S.C. House members seek lawsuit with feds**
Author:
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S.C. House members seek lawsuit with feds

COLUMBIA

Rep. Mike Pitts is encouraging South Carolina's attorney general to sue the federal government over the Obama administration's directive that public schools allow transgender students to use the restroom of their choice.

Pitts said Thursday his complaint is not specifically about restrooms. The Laurens Republican says the directive is an example of the administration's assault on states' rights under the 10th Amendment.

In a letter, Pitts asked Attorney General Alan Wilson to join a lawsuit from Texas and 10 other states. A similar letter went to Gov. Nikki Haley. Pitts says 54 House Republicans co-signed both.

Haley has said school boards, not state or federal politicians, should make such decisions.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Title: **Officials pass tax cut for military retirees on final day of session**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
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S.C. LEGISLATURE

Officials pass tax cut for military retirees on final day of session

Ethics bills could be dead again

Flurry of bills await Haley's signature

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA

Bills that give military retirees a tax cut, shorten South Carolina's legislative session by three weeks and ban ticket quotas in law enforcement are among the potential laws heading to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk.

The Legislature passed a flurry of bills Thursday in the legislative session's last hours. But ethics reform bills that legislators have called a priority for four years could be dead again.

There's still a chance they could reach consensus on measures that send complaints against legislators to independent investigators and require all officeholders to disclose who

pays them.

Because they made it to panels that try to compromise on the chambers' differing versions of bills, they stay alive for the special session later this month. But legislators may take up little beyond Haley's vetoes then.

MILITARY RETIREES TAX CUT

Legislation touted as enticing working-age veterans who served 20 years in uniform to retire in South Carolina passed with minutes to spare.

The tax benefits would phase in over five years. By 2020, military retirees younger than 65 could deduct \$17,500 of their income earned in the state.

Retirees 65 or older could exempt up to \$30,000. Once fully phased in, the cuts are expected to reduce state revenues by \$18 million.

The House's initial version allowed for bigger benefits sooner, reducing revenues by an estimated \$31 million once fully implemented in three years. But with the 5 p.m. deadline looming, Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, encouraged his colleagues to accept the Senate's changes.

"At this late hour, this is the best we can do," he said. "We want people to retire and relocate here. They're at an age they can contribute to the economy."

Sen. Gerald Malloy had

blocked the bill's passage, saying military retirees already have many benefits the state's

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RETIREES

poor do not. He argued it would be better to expand Medicaid eligibility.

He said he's concerned legislators "continue to pass bills that will end up benefiting some and not others."

But he allowed a vote after senators agreed to the five-year phase-in.

ETHICS REFORM

The House and Senate are still far apart on a bill requiring complaints against legislators to be independently investigated.

Currently, House and Senate ethics committees oversee the campaign filings and handle complaints against their col-

leagues, while the State Ethics Commission oversees all other public officials. Critics, including Haley, equate the arrangement to "the fox guarding the henhouse."

The legislation would revamp the State Ethics Commission and expand its duties to legislators. However, House and Senate ethics panels would still get the final say over their members. The versions differ in who decides whether a legislator likely violated the law and when allegations become public.

Under the House's latest version, the revamped commission would make that determination. A probable cause finding would trigger documents be-

coming publicly available. The appropriate legislative panel would then hold a public hearing.

The Senate wants the commission to issue recommendations to the legislative panels.

House Speaker Pro Tem Tommy Pope, R-York, the bill's

sponsor, said that won't boost confidence in the system.

"Their version will keep the same cloud over us," an obviously frustrated Pope told his colleagues from the podium. "I don't know where we can go, folks. We have given and given and given, but maybe they really want it to die."

Senate Judiciary Chairman

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Larry Martin said he's still optimistic a compromise can pass when the legislature returns June 15. The hang-up is that some senators believe the commission would vote for probable

cause just to embarrass legislators. Martin said he doubts that.

Another ethics bill on life support would require all elected and public officials to report the sources of their private in-

come – but not how much they are paid. Currently, officeholders must report only public income sources, such as legislative pay, on their annual “statement of economic interest.”

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**WE WANT PEOPLE TO
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AGE THEY CAN
CONTRIBUTE TO THE
ECONOMY.**

Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter

Title: **Chamber-linked PAC's radio ad targets Bright**
 Author: AMANDA COYNE THE GREENVILLE NEWS
 Size: 22.32 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Chamber-linked PAC's radio ad targets Bright

AMANDA COYNE
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Sen. Lee Bright is the target of a new radio ad from the S.C. Good Government Committee, a PAC associated with the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

The ad sharply criticizes Bright's voting record, including his recent vote against a \$40 million farm aid package and against the roads bill that is headed to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. The 60-second radio spot is the first of two that will run on Upstate radio stations through the June 14 primary, according to a committee press release.



Lee Bright

"He's trying to hold up roads solutions, voting against our farmers and doing nothing to get more jobs to the Upstate," the ad says. "We need a Senator to lead the way, not get in the way."

Bright, a Republican representing Greenville and Spartanburg counties, is facing three opponents in the June 14 primary and has said he is confident he will be elected to a third term.

The ultra-conservative senator has a penchant for making polarizing statements and filing controver-

sial legislation. In April, Bright filed a bill that would ban the use of restrooms not aligning with a person's sex at birth, which would restrict bathroom access for transgender people.

He was a vocal opponent of the removal of the Confederate battle flag and was one of three senators to vote against the bill that brought it down in 2015.

Bright and the Chamber have not had a warm relationship this election cycle.

The state chamber and multiple local-level chambers criticized Bright after he introduced the so-called bathroom bill, as did Bright's primary opponents.

Title: **Haley backs another senator's primary opponent**
 Author: JAMIE SELF JSELF@THESTATE.COM
 Size: 34.87 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Haley backs another senator's primary opponent

JAMIE SELF

JSELF@THESTATE.COM

Gov. Nikki Haley and a political committee supporting her agenda are backing yet another GOP primary opponent to a longtime state senator.

Haley is expected to endorse Republican Wes Climer, a Rock Hill financial adviser, who is running to unseat state Sen. Wes Hayes of Rock Hill in the June 14 primary.

Haley will campaign with Climer, a former York County GOP chairman, at a barbecue at his home next Thursday at 6 p.m., Climer said Wednesday.

The pro-Haley political group, A Great Day SC, also is running an ad in Hayes' district. The ad accuses Hayes of siding with "liberals" and says voters "can do better" with Climer, 33.

"Wes Climer is a conservative businessman who is leading the fight for term limits, lower taxes and good government reform," Haley said in Climer's campaign release. "If we are going to change the way the Senate works, we are going to have to change senators."

The endorsement pits Haley against Hayes, 63, who has been in the state Senate since 1991 and, previously, was in the state House from 1985 to 1991.

Hayes says he sees himself as an ally to the governor on several issues, adding he is "disap-

pointed" Haley is backing his opponent.

"I've worked closely with the governor, particularly on the roads issues. We were able to pull together, I think, a package

she can support with no tax increase, and I led the effort on that," Hayes said of a Senate plan to spend more money on roads without raising the gas tax.

"I've been working with her on ethics reform," added Hayes, whom Haley praised in her 2014 State of the State address for his work on ethics-related legislation.

Hayes, who chairs the Senate panel tasked with overseeing K-12 spending in the state budget, said he also led the effort to include in the budget a Haley-backed initiative to encourage teachers to move into poor, rural school districts.

Haley adviser Tim Pearson said, "Hayes is a nice man who was elected as a Democrat 30 years ago, and, while he changed parties, he never changed his mind."

Hayes supported a Senate Finance Committee plan to raise the gas tax without any income-tax cut and efforts "to borrow millions of dollars to build fancy new buildings at our universities," Pearson said.

"The governor believes that after three decades of Sen. Hayes in Columbia, it's time for new leadership in York County," added Pearson, who runs the pro-Haley PAC.

The gas-tax hike, which failed, was one of many aimed at fixing the state's roads.

Hayes said he supported the gas-tax hike "mainly to move it forward" out of committee. But the senator also said he supported other Haley goals, including reforming the state Transportation Department.

Having pledged to campaign against lawmakers who have not supported her agenda, Haley is getting involved in other state Senate races.

Haley is endorsing opponents of Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, and Sen. Luke Rankin, R-Horry. The governor also has endorsed a GOP candidate in the primary race to succeed state Sen. Ray Cleary, R-Georgetown, who is not seeking re-election.

If he wins re-election, Hayes said he will not hold Haley's opposition against her.

"I plan to continue to respect the office of the governor, and if she's advocating a strong position for South Carolina, I will be with her."

Title: **GOP lawmakers want bathroom order suit**

Author:

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GOP lawmakers want bathroom order suit

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—Wire reports

Title: **Haley: Divisive talk a problem for Trump**

Author:

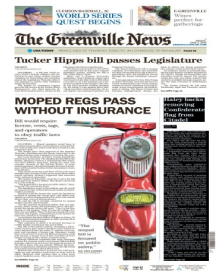
Size: 5.11 column inches

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**Haley: Divisive talk
a problem for Trump**

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says she wishes Donald Trump communicated differently because bad things result from divisive rhetoric, as evidenced by last June's massacre in Charleston. The Republican governor said Thursday that divisive speech motivated Dylann Roof to gun down nine black parishioners at historic Emanuel AME Church. Police have said the white 22-year-old charged with their murders wanted to start a race war. Haley endorsed then-candidate Marco Rubio ahead of South Carolina's primary.

Title: **Haley backs removing Confederate flag from Citadel**
 Author: JAMIE SELF THE STATE
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Haley backs removing Confederate flag from Citadel

JAMIE SELF

THE STATE

COLUMBIA — S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday she would support lawmakers approving the removal of a Confederate flag from a Citadel chapel to a nearby museum.

But Haley said she does not support the state lengthening a federal three-day waiting period to complete background checks before gun purchases.

At the urging of Republican Haley, S.C. legislators removed the Confederate flag from the State House grounds last summer after a self-avowed racist, who had posed with the flag, was charged with slaying nine parishioners of Charleston's Emanuel AME Church.

Subsequently, some legislators have called on the state to close the so-called "Charleston loophole," which allows guns to be purchased if a background check has not been completed in three days.

Flag

Continued from Page 1A

ple, remember all the good and the bad that came out of it, and focus on that," she said. "That's what it is to me.

Haley said South Carolinians learned something

Dylann Roof, accused of shooting and killing nine African-Americans churchgoers in Charleston last June, was able to buy a gun because the three-day waiting period ran out before a background check had been completed accurately. Roof should have been barred from buying a gun because of an undiscovered pending drug charge, federal officials said.

Speaking to reporters Thursday in her office as the anniversary of the Charleston massacre draws near, Haley blamed the federal background-check process for the gun sale, adding expanding the waiting period for background checks would not solve the problem.

"You can expand it multiple days, but if you don't fix the system, ... none of this matters. If I give you six more days, how are you going to prove to me that it's going to fix it?"

Haley was speaking to reporters

ahead of the first anniversary of the June 17 massacre of nine churchgoers in Charleston.

The shootings – and the community's response – prompted Haley to push for the removal of the Confederate flag from the State House grounds, lowered in July.

Speaking at times through tears, Haley said Thursday that not a day goes by that she does not think about what happened on June 17.

Haley said the anniversary, which she will spend in Charleston, is a time to think about the families of the victims, the community and how the state responded in the immediate aftermath.

"What I hope you will do on this (one-) year anniversary (is) remember the families, remember the peo-

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about themselves in the aftermath of the shooting "that they didn't know" – something she credits with bringing down the Confederate flag.

"They all knew that they were a people of faith" and loved their neighbors, she said. "But this was a time that they were actually tested on it.

"They came through showing that that faith and that love that they talk about is real, and it was shown all across the state."

Title: **Tucker Hipps bill passes Legislature**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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Tucker Hipps bill passes Legislature

TIM SMITH

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COLUMBIA — A bill that would require South Carolina colleges and universities to post online student conduct violations by fraternities and sororities passed the Legislature Thursday after it was changed to clarify what violations should be included.

The Senate by unanimous request gave the bill, known as the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act, final approval, almost three months after a version of the bill passed the House unanimously.

The House concurred by a vote of 99-0 with minutes left in this year's regular legislative session, sending the bill to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk.

Hipps was a Clemson University sophomore from Piedmont whose body

was found in Lake Hartwell in 2014 after a pre-dawn run with members of a fraternity to which he had pledged. His family has filed lawsuits seeking damages for the family's loss against three individual members of the fraternity, the local chapter and national fraternity and Clemson University.

The House limited the bill to posting violations of fraternities and sororities but that was broadened to all student organizations after the legislation moved through the Senate Education Committee.

A late amendment by Sen. Tom Young of Aiken Thursday returned the focus to Greek organizations and would require schools to report violations involving al-

cohol, drugs, sexual assault, physical assault or hazing. The House version had included endangerment, threats and harm to others, but Young questioned how schools would define those terms.

No students' names or personal identifying information would be included in the reports, though the fraternities and sororities would be named. The reports would also note any police reports that would be available through requests under the state Freedom of Information Act.

The Senate debated the bill some Wednesday night and Thursday before

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Hipps

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delaying a vote to allow Sen. Mike Fair of Greenville a chance to work on an amendment to address some concerns.

Sen. Brad Hutto, an Orangeburg Democrat and attorney, had warned Wednesday night the bill would provide a goldmine for plaintiffs lawyers because it would show the schools had notice if there was a pattern of misconduct and a future incident resulted in harm.

He took to the floor Thursday to question such postings' value to parents and said it could offer a "black eye" to some institutions.

"You cannot protect college students from what they will do as adults," he said.

Sen. Chip Campsen, a Charleston Republican, noted that some colleges enforce student conduct rules differently, making such postings misleading in some cases.

Young said a University of South Carolina official told him the misconduct information is already available to parents if they ask for it.

Sen. Larry Martin, a Pickens Republican and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, argued that the bill "heightens the commitment of the universities to address" such incidents.

"That's what will be looked at by parents, that's what would be looked at in a subsequent legal matter," he said. "What have you done as a university or spon-

soring organization to address that activity? And if you haven't taken steps to address it maybe you should have your hands slapped. That's what this is all about, giving parents who enroll their children in a four-year institution in this state, knowledge of what has gone on."

The schools would be asked under the bill to file their first reports before the fall semester this year. The initial reports would include all violations in the previous four years, though schools could ask for a one-year waiver for the first year.

The reports, under the bill, must be posted on each school's website "in a prominent location."

The reports must be updated at least twice a year and available to the public 45 days before the start of a semester.

The lawsuits allege that Hipps was forced to walk a narrow railing on the bridge over Lake Hartwell by members of the fraternity.

He died of head injuries that the Oconee County coroner said were consistent with his having hit his head on rip rap rocks in shallow water below.

Fraternity members deny seeing Hipps fall and the university and fraternity deny responsibility for his death.

The Oconee County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from the State Law Enforcement Division, has been unable to find any evidence to bring criminal charges against anyone in the case.

Title: **\$4 billion spending plan for roads heads to Haley**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 35.80 column inches
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



LEGISLATURE

\$4 billion spending plan for roads heads to Haley

BY CASSIE COPE
ccope@thestate.com

Nearly 400 bridges would be replaced

Money is roughly 10 percent of the amount needed, Transportation Department says

Governor would have more control of state agency

COLUMBIA

A \$4 billion spending plan, sent Wednesday to Gov. Nikki Haley, is a start — but not a fix — to repairing South Carolina's crumbling roads, road-repair advocates said.

The plan includes repairing the interchange of Interstates 20 and 26 known as Malfunction Junction in Columbia, replacing nearly 400 bridges and giving the governor more control of the state Transportation Department. It raises roughly 10 percent of the money needed for road repairs.

The proposal approves using about \$200 million a year to borrow, via bonds, for Transportation Department projects through the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank.

The money would come from diverting revenue from some fees collected

by the state Department of Motor Vehicles and the amount raised by the state's sales taxes on vehicles, capped at \$300.

With other Transportation Department money, the bill would yield \$4 billion for road and bridge repairs. Roughly \$40 billion is needed to get the state's transportation system in excellent condition, the Transportation Department and others say.

"We've got so many crumbling roads and bridges in our state," said Bill Ross, executive director of the S.C. Alliance to Fix Our Roads. Some roads and bridges have deteriorated to the point that they have to be replaced completely, which costs more, Ross said.

The road-repair plan is "a great start," said Rep. Gary Simrill, R-York, who sponsored a gas-tax increase to pay for road

repairs that passed the S.C. House in 2015. A higher "gasoline tax is

really the only long-term solution" that is not subject to the ups and downs of the state budget, Simrill said Wednesday.

S.C. Chamber of Commerce president Ted Pitts applauded lawmakers for "allocating resources to begin to bring South Carolina's roads out of the disrepair that has hindered commerce and jeopardized the safety of our citizens for too long."

Still, Pitts, a former chief of staff of Gov. Haley, said his business-advocacy group "will continue the work with our state's leaders to find the long-term solution South Carolinians deserve."

S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, urged Haley to sign the roads proposal. "The people of South Carolina

should not have to wait any longer for their dangerous roads and bridges to be repaired," said Lucas, who lashed out Tuesday at the Senate and Haley over the then-stalled roads bill.

In a statement, Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said the roads bill is "a tremendous starting step toward fixing deficient roads and bridges throughout South Carolina."

The added money could not be used to build any new roads, including building Interstate 73 to Myrtle Beach.

Under the plan, the governor would appoint all eight members of the commission that oversees the Transportation Department. Those appointees would have to be approved by legislators, who now appoint seven of the eight commissioners.