

Title: **ALSO...**
Author:
Size: 7.75 square inch
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

**ALSO ...**

● Worksman Cycles, a manufacturer of heavy-duty bicycles and tricycles as well as food vending trucks and carts, is establishing operations in Horry County, according to Gov. Nikki Haley's office. The company is investing \$2.5 million in the facility, creating approximately 50 jobs in Conway.

● The U.S. Tobacco Cooperative has taken over the Mullins Marketing Center. The purchase was in the works for several months, said cooperative President Tommy Bunn, and was finalized during the summer. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

● U.S. consumer prices edged down in August, marking the first decline in seven months and fueled by a big drop in gasoline prices. The Labor Department says its consumer price index slipped 0.1 percent in August after a small 0.1 percent rise in July. Gas prices dropped 4.1 percent.

— FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Title: **Agency:USC cangive Haley's officeseason footballtickets**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 27.59 square inch
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Agency: USC can give Haley's office season football tickets

BY CASSIE COPE
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The University of South Carolina is not violating state ethics law by giving Gov. Nikki Haley's office football tickets and a suite, the state Ethics Commission said in an opinion Wednesday.

The university and governor's office requested the opinion after questions were raised about whether the practice was legal.

State law generally prohibits public employees, Cabinet officers or lawmakers from accepting meals, entertainment or transportation from an organization that lobbies the General Assembly.

However, the season tickets are legal because they are a gift from USC to another public office for state-related purposes, commission attorney Michael Burchstead



Haley

said.

Burchstead said the tickets can be donated as long as they are used by the governor's office for state-related business, including economic development or hosting foreign dignitaries, rather than personal use.

Haley, a Clemson University graduate, does not get season tickets from her alma mater, said Butch Bowers, an attorney for Haley.

However, friends of the governor purchase a suite for her at Clemson games, which she discloses as a gift on her statement of economic interest.

Ten donors contributed nearly \$29,000 to pay for the governor's suite at Clemson games in 2014. Eight of those donors contributed to Haley's successful 2014 re-election campaign. Four are school trustees.

Staff writer Andrew Shain contributed. Reach Cope at (803) 771-8657.

Commission won't drop ethics allegations against McMaster

The S.C. Ethics Commission refused Wednesday to dismiss allegations that Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster accepted \$72,700 in improper contributions from 51 donors. McMaster used that money to pay off campaign debt during his unsuccessful 2010 bid for governor.

McMaster will try to settle the allegations against him before his Oct. 21 Ethics Commission hearing, attorney Butch Bowers said.

That resolution could include McMaster reopening his campaign account and raising money to pay back the improper contributions.

The Ethics Commission needs to hold McMaster, a veteran of several statewide races, to the same standards as people who have never run for office or make errors in campaign filings, commission attorney Michael Burchstead said.

To treat McMaster differently would be a troubling precedent, he said. "We don't think he intentionally skirted the law at all."

Title: **S.C. still deadliest state for women**

Author: BY GLENN SMITH and DOUG PARDUE gsmith@postandcourier.com dpardue@postandcourier.com

Size: 127.56 square inch

Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



S.C. still deadliest state for women

Advocates hope reforms will help end
'this ongoing and horrific loss of life'

BY GLENN SMITH
and DOUG PARDUE
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South Carolina has been ranked the deadliest state in the nation for women for the fourth time in 17 years, but experts say new sweeping domestic violence reforms could help stanch the bloodshed and end this ignoble reign.

With 57 women slain in a year's time, South Carolina's murder rate for women killed by men was more than double the national average, according to the latest rankings by the Washington, D.C.-based Violence Policy Center.

Last year, the state was No. 2 in the

nation, a spot now held by Alaska.

Danielle Richardson, a Charleston domestic violence advocate who saw her mother stabbed to death by a long-time boyfriend in 1991, said the latest ranking marked a sad day for South Carolina.

"What ever happened to just loving one another and working things out?" she asked. "Till death do you part" does not mean to kill your mate because you don't want him or her any more."

The rankings are based on national

data from 2013, the latest year for which full figures are available, and do not reflect the impact of domestic reform measures enacted this year in South Carolina.

Among other things, new laws strip abusers of gun rights, strengthen penalties for domestic violence and attempt to reduce the ability of offenders to repeatedly attack their victims.

Please see **DEADLIEST**, Page A6

New laws offer hope as S.C. again ranked deadliest state for women

DEADLIEST, from A1

Those measures came in the wake of The Post and Courier's Pulitzer Prize-winning series, "Till Death Do Us Part," published in August 2014. The series revealed that over the past decade more than 300 women have died in South Carolina at the hands of a man who once loved them. That's about one killing every 12 days.

Sara Barber, executive director of the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, said it is discouraging that South Carolina's murder rate for women has remained "stubbornly high" while the national rate has steeply decreased in recent years. But she is hopeful that the new reforms, along with work by the governor's domestic violence task force, will help reverse this trend in the Palmetto State.

"I hope that the spotlight that has been focused on domestic

violence in the past year has finally given us the chance to create meaningful and effective improvements in intervention, and equally as important, in prevention efforts so that we can positively impact this ongoing and horrific loss of life," she said.

Republican Sen. Larry Martin of Pickens led the charge in the Senate in the last session to combat domestic violence. He said he wasn't surprised by the state's worst-in-the-nation status. But he, too, sees potential for the reforms — particularly the state ban on convicted abusers possessing firearms — to bring about a decline in violence in the years to come.

"That's our hope going forward ... that we'll help bring those death rate statistics down," he said.

Troubling statistics

In 2013, 1,615 women died across the nation at the hands of men, the Violence Policy Center study found.

South Carolina, which last held the top spot two years ago, had a homicide rate nearly 2½ times the nation's rate of about one woman killed per 100,000.

To put things in perspective, sparsely populated Alaska had eight killings in 2013 — about one-seventh the number as South Carolina, the study found.

Among the dead in South Carolina was Zakiya Lawson, a 34-year-old mother of seven who was shot to death at her North Charleston mobile home by a former boyfriend who then turned the gun on himself. Also killed was Dierra Fisher, a 22-year-old pregnant woman who was shot in the head and her body set on fire by her fiancé near a Richland County landfill.

And there was Chandra Fields, 26, shot to death by her boyfriend, who executed her, her parents and two children before he killed himself in her Greenwood home.

The Palmetto State's 2013

death toll was seven higher than the 50 killings recorded in 2012. South Carolina has ranked among the top 10 deadliest states for women every year since 1996, when the Violence Policy Center began tracking homicides.

Becky Callahan, director of Safe Harbor, which runs women's shelters in the Upstate, said the center's report is further evidence the state must continue its efforts to curb domestic violence and ensure the reforms enacted this year are properly enforced.

"It's a call to action that the quicker and deeper we pay attention to this the quicker it will go down," she said.

The Violence Policy Center report includes all women killed by men, but domestic violence drives most of the bloodshed. Some 96 percent of South Carolina victims knew their killers, and 62 percent were slain by current or former husbands or boyfriends, the report stated.

Title: **S.C. still deadliest state for women**

Author: BY GLENN SMITH AND DOUG PARDUE gsmith@postandcourier.com dpardue@postandcourier.com

Size: 127.56 square inch

Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289

Guns remained the weapon of choice. In South Carolina, 60 percent of the killings of women in 2013 were committed with guns, higher than the 53 percent national number. Guns were used in 69 percent of the killings involving intimate partners, the report found.

Better protections

The Violence Policy Center noted that, nationally, the murder rate for women who died at the hands of men has dropped 31 percent since the group began tracking these homicides in 1996. The drop coincided with passage of stronger domestic violence protections, including the federal Violence Against Women Act, which will be 21 years old this year, researchers found.

After years of bypassing domestic violence reform efforts, South Carolina this year passed historic compromise legislation to increase protections for women and penalties for abusers. Kristen Rand of the Violence Policy Center commended the moves and said, "We hope to see other states start to take strong action like South Carolina has taken."

A task force launched by Gov.

Nikki Haley in the wake of The Post and Courier series seeks to build on this momentum and change the culture in South Carolina that tolerates domestic violence. The task force — made up of representatives from most state agencies, law enforcement, advocates and victims — began work in February and is expected to work on the issue for about a year.

Both lawmakers and task force members have called for education programs in the state's public schools to teach children that domestic violence is not an option. The idea is to make it unacceptable and help people learn how to spot domestic violence and report suspicions to authorities.

Attorney General Alan Wilson, one of the state's most active advocates for improvements in domestic violence laws, said the state has taken major steps this year to combat the problem but it can't rest yet.

"While South Carolina is making progress in the fight to end domestic violence, these new statistics are a reminder that more work remains to be done," he said.

Top 10 deadliest states for women

States with the highest murder rates for women killed by men:

1. South Carolina
2. Alaska
3. New Mexico
4. Louisiana
5. Nevada
6. Tennessee (tie)
6. Oklahoma (tie)
8. Vermont
9. Maine
10. Michigan

By the numbers

57

Number of women killed by men in South Carolina in 2013, the latest year for which figures are available

1

South Carolina's ranking among the nation's deadliest states for women

44

Average age of women killed.

60

Percentage of women killed with guns

96

Percentage of women killed by someone they knew

62

Percentage of victims slain by current or former husbands or boyfriends

1,615

Number of women who died across the nation at the hands of men

— Source: "When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2013 Homicide Data," Violence Policy Council



Online

Read The Post and Courier's special investigative report and share your story at postandcourier.com/TillDeath

Title: **S.C. still deadliest state for women**

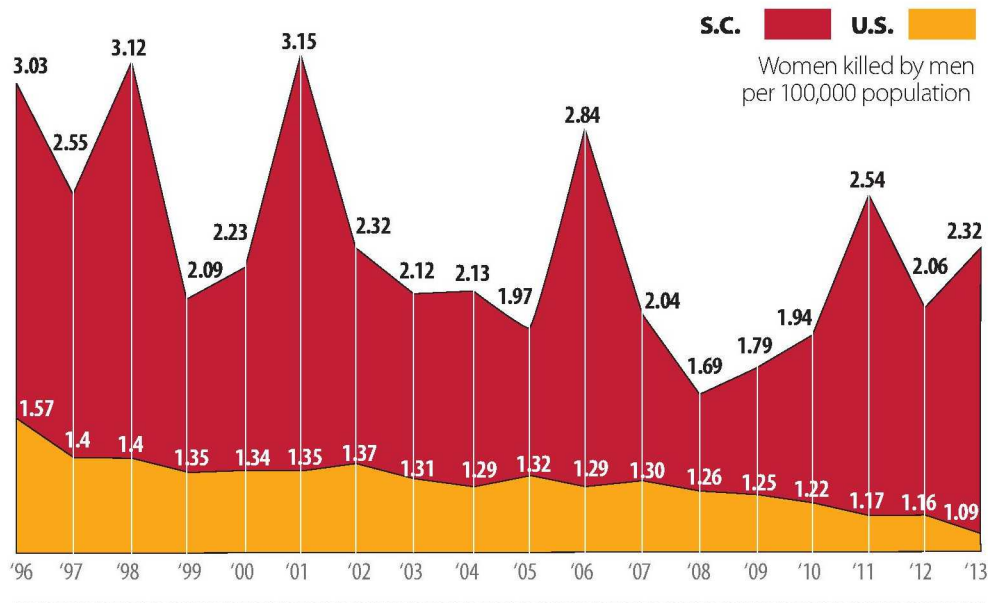
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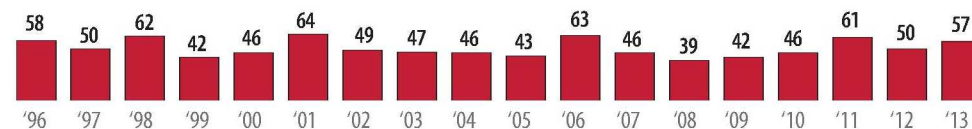
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Worse than the nation

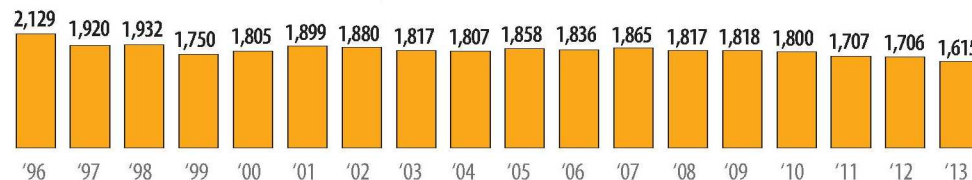
The nation's rate of women killed by men has continued to drop since 1996, but South Carolina's has remained stubbornly high. Latest figures, from 2013, show the Palmetto State had a murder rate for women more than double that of the nation as a whole.



Total women killed by men S.C.



Total women killed by men U.S.



— Source: Violence Policy Council

Title: **Former DHEC chief Templeton to play key role at ports agency**
 Author: BY JOHN P. MCDERMOTT jmcdermott@postandcourier.com
 Size: 35.49 square inch
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



Former DHEC chief Templeton to play key role at ports agency

BY JOHN P. MCDERMOTT
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Catherine Templeton, who formerly ran the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and served in the Haley administration, is taking a job at the State Ports Authority.

The one-time labor lawyer is joining the state maritime agency as senior vice president of external affairs, human resources and legal issues, said Jim Newsome, chief executive officer.

In a related move, Barbara Melvin, who

currently is in charge of external affairs, will join the SPA's terminals and operations division.

The board of directors is expected to approve Templeton's salary and hiring Wednesday.

"She brings very unique qualifications," Newsome said. "She has managed human resources, she is an employment attorney, and she also understands how the state

works in terms of relationships with our stakeholder, which is the state government. She's very, very smart."

Templeton, a Mount Pleasant resident, is listed on LinkedIn as president of the government relations firm Brawley Templeton LLC. According to the profile she provided, the Charleston-based company

Please see **TEMPLETON**, Page B5

Key role for Templeton

TEMPLETON, from B1

specializes "in government and industry projects, increasing operational efficiencies and cost savings."

She said her clients include government and industry customers in Washington, D.C., New York and South Carolina

in the "health care, energy, environment, population health, labor and tax arenas."

She formed the company Jan. 22, about two weeks after she resigned as director of DHEC. She was in that job for about three years.

Previously, she served for a year in Gov. Nikki Haley's

Cabinet as director of the state Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. Before that, she practiced employment law.

South Carolina political watchers have speculated that Templeton may have her eye on running for elected office, possibly as governor.

She has a bachelor's degree

from Wofford and a law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Templeton could not be reached for comment at her home Tuesday.

David Wren of The Post and Courier contributed to this report.



FILE/PAUL ZOELLER/STAFF

Catherine Templeton

County: Charleston

Title: **Deeper harbor, better future**

Author:

Size: 47.43 square inch

Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



Editorials

Deeper harbor, better future

Bigger isn't always better. But when it comes to cargo ships, bigger is the future.

And it's now clear that the port of Charleston will be ready for the next generation of super-sized ships.

Given that the state's port operations generate about \$53 billion a year and affect one in 11 jobs statewide, that's a welcome development.

The Army Corps of Engineers has signed off on permits to deepen the Charleston Harbor from 45 feet to at least 52 feet. That will mean that the largest container ships will be able to call on Charleston, even at low tide.

And that will mean that the port will be in a position to handle more business, benefiting the entire state.

If it stays on schedule, the port's new terminal at the old Navy base in North Charleston will be operating by then. It will be accessible by rail so that some cargo can be loaded on trains without ever having to travel on public roads. That is particularly important since I-26 and portions of I-526 are already inadequate for the traffic that they bear.

But most of the cargo will continue to travel by truck, so S.C. lawmakers still must find a solution to the state's inadequate highways. The state also will have to pay for a new port access road to I-26.

The cost of the dredging project is expected to be \$521 million. It is to be divided between the port and the federal government. State lawmakers planned

ahead and wisely set aside \$341 million to cover the port's share. A top-ranking Corps official said he anticipates no problem securing federal funds.

The deepening project is expected to be completed in 2020, but could have taken five years longer had the approval process not been expedited by the White House at the urging of the State Ports Authority and government leaders.

Indeed, the project has enjoyed wide support from key people from the beginning — as it should have.

In addition to the S.C. Legislature putting aside money for it, Sen. Lindsay Graham, R-S.C., has worked to secure federal support.

And Gov. Nikki Haley said she stressed to President Barack Obama in 2012 how important it was for the approval process to be expedited.

Jim Newsome, SPA chief executive officer, has big plans for the port, which is ranked No. 9 in the country. He wants it to be in the top five.

"There is still plenty to be done," he said.

South Carolina is on the world's map for business and industry development. Volvo recently announced it would make cars here, joining Boeing and Upstate industries like BMW and Michelin. The port is a primary reason the state is attractive to businesses.

Preparing the port to serve ships of the future is key to the state's ongoing economic health.

The remaining challenge for the SPA,



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the Legislature, the S.C. Department of Transportation and local governments will be to handle the additional road activity that will come with this increased prosperity so that it doesn't risk public safety or diminish the quality of residential life.

148 Governor Haley's South Carolina Leaving Children and Working Families Behind



roads to poorly funded schools. While she's speaking about leading "the new south", South

Carolina children and working families are falling further and further behind."

Gov. Nikki Haley

Columbia, SC—The South Carolina Democratic Party Chair Jaime Harrison issued the following statement ahead of Governor Nikki Haley's speech tomorrow in Washington, D.C.

"Today The State issued a shameful report on the current state of school transportation for students across South Carolina. The report found 1,776 bus routes exceed 90 minutes one way, including 953 routes for special-needs students. This means many students, including the very young and those with special needs, spend up to three hours a day on a school bus, missing out on valuable time spent with their families, doing homework, or participating in extracurricular activities. This is a problem across South Carolina, but rural school districts are hit especially hard.

"Time and time again Governor Haley and the Republican-led state legislature have failed to lead on key investments that would bring about long-term growth for South Carolinians. Governor Haley has slashed education funding, failed to fix our deteriorating roads, and refused to expand Medicaid which would give hundreds of thousands access to healthcare. She even exaggerated the number of welfare recipients who found employment under the welfare-to-work program.

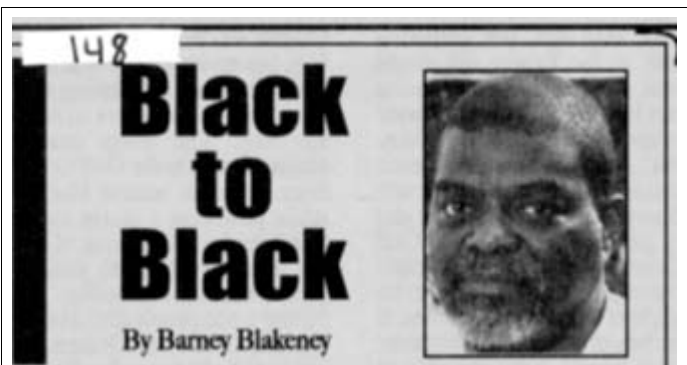
"Tomorrow, Governor Haley travels to Washington, DC to rewrite her record in South Carolina while our children will spend hours traveling on outdated buses and crumbling

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Argument Against Gun Violence Comes A Little Late

Years ago thinking about a career in journalism, I was inspired by the late ABC news anchor, Peter Jennings, who started the first American news bureau in the Middle East. I watched Jennings' broadcasts thinking how cool his job as a foreign correspondent must have been. I also thought about how dangerous it must have been. He worked in an environment in which bullets and bombs were the backdrop.

I soon realized a reporter's work isn't always done from the comfort of some office. I met a guy the other day who said I've never done a day's hard work in my life. Shows how well he knows me. I haven't always been a reporter.

Working this job hasn't been a cake walk either. Some of us have earned the title, 'journalist' because we've been on the front lines in the trenches. Sometimes writing the story is a heck of a lot easier than getting the story.

Anyway, it didn't take me long to lose my infatuation with the glamor of news reporting. Like mail deliverers, a reporter has to get the job done - hot/cold, wet/dry, five minutes/five hours - do whatever it takes to get the story. You'd think an interview at a shopping mall would be a pie assignment. It became deadly for Alison Parker and Adam Ward, the two Roanoke, Va. newsmen killed by a crazed gunman last week.

Getting caught up in a violent situation often is in the back of a reporter's mind, especially those who work in the lion's den or tell stories about stuff some folks don't want to hear. You never know who you'll tick off or how they may come at you. But like many other professions, you can't do the job if you're scared. A little fear is good, it keeps you on point. But if you're afraid of what may come back at you, write a cook book.

Still who'd expect that a young girl and photographer would be gunned down on what most would consider a routine assignment? It wasn't supposed to happen, but it did.

I kind of took the horrific crime in stride however. Heck, it's only been two months since I covered the Emanuel AME Church massacre and that wasn't my first rodeo. I've been working with gruesome stuff since my high school days as an orderly at Charleston County Hospital. It wasn't the madness and tragedy of the Parker/Ward murders that stuck out to me in the story, it was her parents' response. Parkers' parents have vowed to become ardent advocates against gun violence since their daughter's murder.

I really hate having to say this, but the Parkers should have been more vocal against gun violence before their daughter's murder. Maybe she'd still be alive.

I can't imagine those folks' pain and I understand where they're coming from, but speaking out against gun violence after their daughter is killed comes a little after the fact, don't you think? That bugs me almost as much as the parade of relatives who always go on television after the homicide of some Black male talking about how great the guy was.

According to a recent study one in three Americans own a gun. Last year the U.S. ranked first in the number of guns per 100 residents, more than in the war torn countries of Serbia and Iraq. In the U.S. almost anybody can get a gun. I used to think having a gun was good self defense. But nowadays, everybody has one. Being in possession of a gun no longer insures that a person can protect himself. Just a couple of weeks ago three North Charleston guys in an argument

willed guns and left two people dead. How much security did their



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public guns and let the people decide if they want to have guns offer them?

I saw something that said in 2012 259 people used a gun to kill in self defense compared to the approximately 3,000 criminal homicides involving guns. And guess what? Gun ownership is declining. According to another study - in 2004 38 percent of U.S. households reported having at least one gun compared to 32 percent of U.S. Households with a gun now.

Here in South Carolina our government is offering economic incentives to get gun manufacturers to locate in the state. One just moved to Myrtle Beach in January after being lured here by Gov. Nikki Haley. Homegirl won't expand Medicaid, but she's down with the bang bang.

And what do we do? We whoop and holler about nine people killed in a church. We don't vehemently protest a public education system that sends more Black boys to prison than college. We don't demand that our social institutions socialize our kids. We don't demand that our politicians address a police state in which the criminal environments we call communities produce the raw material for the world's most profitable prison industrial complex.

As tragic as are the deaths of Alison Parker, Adam Ward, and yes Vester Flanagan as well, making a commitment to fighting gun violence now seems a bit like closing the barn door after the horse has left the stable. And, ya'll, that horse is running wild.



Volvo Plant Represents Another Missed Opportunity For Black Community

By Barney Blakeney

Local Black folks have been driving Volvo cars for decades. Some prefer the expensive luxury automobiles and view them as status symbols. But when Volvo comes to the Lowcountry this year as the company builds its first U.S. plant near Ridgeville in Berkeley County, there are no guarantees the significant investment Black folks make in the company through their purchases will reap any return benefits.

The auto maker will break ground on its new \$500 million plant later this year that is expected to open in 2018. Initially the company is expected to employ some 2,000 workers in the next decade, ultimately employing about 4,000 workers by 2030.

And while the South Carolina Legislature led by Gov. Nikki Haley is giving.....

see pg 3



The plant, which will be located in Berkeley County, outside of Charleston, will make Volvo models for sale in the United States and for export. Source: Volvo

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Volvo Plant Represents...

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the Chinese-owned company almost \$200 million in tax incentives to build in Berkeley County, neither the S.C. Legislative Black Caucus nor any other Black group has asked the company for incentives to the Black community.

In a recent conversation North Charleston minister Rev. Nelson Rivers, pastor of Charity Missionary Baptist Church and vice president of Stakeholder Relations for the National Action Network said his organization plans to meet with Volvo officials. It's important to do so while the plant's location to the area is in the planning stages, he said.

But by most accounts the local Black community has not organized itself to approach the company expected to have an annual economic impact of about \$5 billion in the state. Charleston Trident Urban League President Otha Meadows said he is unsure if the auto maker is ignoring the Black community intentionally, but he is relatively certain the Black community has made no concerted effort to approach the company with a consensus agenda.

"An issue is we don't have a plat-

form or agenda that lends itself to how they can or should contribute to the African American community," Meadows said Monday. But Volvo's location in the area is part of a larger issue however, Meadows said.

Volvo and other major manufacturers are locating to the area, jobs are being created and workers are flocking to this economic oasis to take advantage of the opportunities. The Black community has to articulate that a percentage of those jobs be reserved for the native workforce, he said. That articulation also should say programs must be developed which enable local work-

ers to participate in the often specialized workforces being created.

Meadows said the roots of those efforts should reach deep into our communities so that more residents have opportunities for employment. Those deep-reaching roots can't stop superficially at technical college level training programs, but also should include contributory tentacles affecting early education and even transportation.

"With the huge tax incentives being provided, there should be mechanisms in place that insure the rising tide indeed raises all boats. We need to get people

into positions where they can

take advantage of training," he said. "I don't think corporations are doing anything intentionally to exclude our community, but there is no plan or agenda for that coming from us. What is our plan to insure those opportunities reach down into our community?"

Volvo is just one economic opportunity in which the Black community has not developed a collective agenda for participation, Meadows said.

"Look at what's happening on upper King Street where billions of dollars in reinvestment is tak-

ing place. Black folks almost are invisible in those projects," Meadows noted. Though he's president of the local urban league, Meadows said he's unaware of any consensus approaches from the Black community.

"These things have gone unaddressed for decades. We must get together and come up with an agenda for these corporations. If we're not knocking at their doors and sitting at the table, everybody else will be promoting their agenda and we'll be working on theirs," he said.



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Upstate Cities Partner With S.C. Attorney General's Office To Launch Domestic Violence Courts

According to the Washington-based Violence Policy Center, South Carolina ranks second in the United States among women murdered by men, a jump of just one spot from prior year statistics that put the Palmetto State at the top of the list.

Those homicides and other criminal domestic violence numbers are unacceptable to officials in the cities of Greer and Simpsonville, which have partnered with the S.C. Attorney General's office to establish domestic violence courts beginning Oct. 8.

The courts will be in session the second Thursday of each month beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Greer and 1:30 p.m. in Simpsonville.

"I'm excited about this opportunity. South Carolina is second in the nation in domestic violence deaths so we're clearly not doing something right," said Henry J. Mims, municipal judge for the City of Greer. "Our first charge is to make sure defendants have fair treatment. That's always foremost. But we have to understand that victims have rights too. And it's more than just a criminal issue. The impacts range from economic loss, the kids, the rest of the families and the community in general. If we can draft good solutions and get away from cookie cutter solutions, we

can make a difference."

The specialty municipal courts will be the first of their kind in the Upstate. Three South Carolina counties, including Greenville, and nine cities in the Midlands and Lowcountry currently have domestic violence courts.

Megan Gresham, an assistant attorney general in the S.C. At-

torney General's office since 2012, will visit both cities monthly to prosecute cases. Gresham travels across South Carolina training court officials, judges, lawyers, police officers and others on CDV issues. She also prosecutes cases involving violence against women, including criminal domestic violence, criminal sexual conduct, harassment, and stalking.

Gresham's services are part of the S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women program established by the S.C. Attorney General's office in 1996 with grant monies provided by the federal Violence Against Women Act – the first national legislation to specifically target criminal domestic violence and other abusive behaviors toward women.

Richard C. Moore, chief judge for the City of Simpsonville, said Gresham's participation is integral to the new court's success.

"The proposal extended by the



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Attorney General's office would result in that office essentially taking over the prosecution of domestic violence cases, whether it be from a plea, bench trial or jury trial standpoint," he said. "It is our belief that having the resources of the Attorney General's office will better enable the City to serve its citizens and their needs as they pertain to this issue, by allowing a single prosecutor deal only with those particular issues in our court rather than grouping them with the other myriad of issues handled by our court system and our city prosecutor on a daily basis."

Both cities will initially participate in a three-month trial period to determine the court's effectiveness, staffing requirements, and demands on police officers.

Kirsten Pressley, court administrator for the City of Greer, had considered implementing a domestic violence court for several years, but realized the city was not yet ready for the specialized

court.

"I've continuously analyzed the numbers, the percentages, the increases, and a few months ago decided that this is really the time for us to be involved in something like this," she said, adding that the victim advocacy

division of the Greer Police Department was generating a similar proposal. "We knew it was the right time so we partnered the court, the police department, the S.C. Attorney General's office and the City of Simpsonville."

Pressley said court and police officials from the two cities recognized the collective benefits of the new court and had everything worked out in an hour.

"This will benefit the entire community," Pressley said. "In one session we can bring together the police officer, a specialized prosecutor, the victim advocate, the victim, witnesses, the defendant, the defense attorney, representatives from batterer treatment programs, and

representatives from domestic violence shelters who provide counseling for the victims of domestic violence."

Earlier this year, South Carolina lawmakers took a tougher stance on criminal domestic violence by passing the Domestic Violence Reform Act. The bill, signed on June 4 by Gov. Nikki Haley, allows for harsher penalties based on the number of times an individual has been charged with domestic violence and the severity of the crime.



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148 Hayley: 'New South' can lead nation in race relations

COLUMBIA (AP) — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley told the National Press Club on Wednesday that the "New South" can lead the nation in race relations and racial advancement.

Haley's speech in Washington, titled "Lessons from the New South," comes amid speculation that she will be in contention next year as a running mate for the Republican presidential nominee.

The national profile of the 43-year-old governor has risen since she called on legislators in June to remove the Confederate flag from Statehouse grounds — prompted by the massacre of nine parishioners in a historic black church in Charleston. The battle flag came down less than three weeks later.

"We still have our problems. There's still a lot more to do. But the New South, in many ways, is a place to look toward, rather than to look away from," Haley will say, according to excerpts of her address.

According to the excerpts, Haley said that residents' nonviolent reaction to the racially fueled massacre showed the world how far South Carolina has come.

Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants, said she would not have won a four-way Republican primary in 2010 and gone on to become the state's first minority governor if South Carolinians were racially intolerant.

"With the grace of the aftermath of the Mother Emanuel church massacre, the world saw South Carolina as we are," she said.

"What I want to tell you is

that we've been that way for some time now — it's just that a lot of people outside of our state never noticed."

She will tout the importance of jobs and education for bringing opportunity to all people.

But for African-Americans particularly, she said, the equality goals of the civil

rights movement remain unfinished. The "New South" can serve as an example to the nation on that, too, she'll say, pointing to the fatal shooting in April of an unarmed black man as he tried to flee from a white North Charleston police officer.

"After the horrendous death of Walter Scott, we didn't have violence," Haley said. "As a state, we came together, black and white, Republican and Democrat."

She'll note that the officer was quickly charged with murder after a bystander came forward with video of the shooting. She'll also tout her signature two months later to a police body-camera law, with Scott's family attending. The law created a grant program to help law enforcement agencies that have state-approved guidelines buy the cameras.

"Some people think that you have to yell and scream in order to make a difference. That's not true," she said. "When the sound is quieter, you can actually hear what someone else is saying."

South Carolina Democratic Party Chair Jaime Harrison said Haley's trying to rewrite her record.

He points a legislative panel's findings, reported Monday, that many students, particularly special-needs students and those in rural schools, spend up to three hours daily on a school bus. The findings come as legislators attempt to craft a response to the state Supreme Court's ruling last fall that South Carolina fails to provide opportunities for poor, rural students. The ruling came on a lawsuit legislators fought for 21 years.

Harrison also notes Haley has refused to expand Medicaid under the federal health care law and opposed efforts to raise the gas tax to fund roadwork.

"Time and time again Gov. Haley and the Republican-led state Legislature have failed to lead on key invest-



ments that would bring about long-term growth for South Carolinians," Harrison said. "While she's speaking about leading the 'New South,' South Carolina children and working families are falling further and further behind."

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Gov. Nikki Haley delivers a speech on "Lessons from the New South" during a luncheon at the National Press Club on Wednesday.