

Title: **S.C. patients' premiums might quadruple**
 Author: BY LAUREN SAUSSER Isausser@postandcourier.com
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S.C. patients' premiums might quadruple

Future could be 'very scary' if justices decide Obamacare customers ineligible for subsidies

BY LAUREN SAUSSER

Isausser@postandcourier.com

Cathy Keaton's health insurance premium will jump nearly \$400 each month if the U.S. Supreme Court rules that she's ineligible for a federal subsidy to lower the price she pays.

The 63-year-old part-time College of Charleston student said she couldn't afford coverage without the substantial discount she receives.

"It's very scary for me," Keaton said. "If I lose this, it means that I will have to make some really hard decisions until I can get Medicare."

She's not alone. Insurance premiums for thousands of HealthCare.gov customers in South Carolina

could increase by 400 percent if the U.S. Supreme Court rules that they're ineligible for subsidies this summer.

A new analysis by Avalere Health, a national health care company, shows premiums in this state may triple or quadruple, pending the high court's decision in the upcoming King v. Burwell case.

"People wouldn't be able to afford the health care," said Wilma Holman, who works for the Beaufort Black Chamber of Commerce and helped residents sign up for Affordable Care Act coverage during open enrollment.

Palmetto Project, a Mount Pleasant

nonprofit, estimates eight of every 10 customers they helped enroll in coverage qualified for a subsidy this year.

The legal arguments the Supreme Court justices will hear on Wednesday are complex. Affordable Care Act opponents who brought the lawsuit say the law's literal wording only allows the government to pay subsidies in states that have set up their own insurance markets, or exchanges. Most states, including South Carolina, have not. Supporters of the law say such a

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Insurance premiums could quadruple

PREMIUMS, from A1

narrow reading misses its basic intent: to increase Americans' access to health insurance nationwide.

A potential premium increase would hit almost every HealthCare.gov shopper — specifically, the ones who qualify for federal subsidies to reduce the price they pay for insurance. In South Carolina, Department of Insurance data shows more than 195,000 insured people in this state who have enrolled in an Obamacare policy already receive those subsidies.

Avalere Health estimates 7.5 million Americans could face an average 225 percent premium increase if the court decides

subsidies may not be used on HealthCare.gov.

"The federal exchange generally serves low-income populations in red states, so that's where the premium increases would be concentrated," said Avalere Health CEO Dan Mendelson, in the report. "If King prevails, we expect to see virtually all stakeholders aggressively seeking alternatives to ensure continuity of care."

If the court rules in favor of the plaintiffs in this case, residents in Alaska and Mississippi will likely see the highest premium increases, Avalere projects.

Some states will not be affected. Residents in states that

set up their own state-based health insurance marketplaces will continue to qualify for subsidies no matter what the court decides.

"The governor and the Legislature of this state made the decision ... not to establish a state exchange," said Department of Insurance Director Ray Farmer, a member of Gov. Nikki Haley's cabinet. "They thought it was the right decision then. They think it's the right decision now."

Haley's spokeswoman has previously said the governor is sticking by her original decision, even though members of a committee she established to analyze the issue four years ago told The Post and Courier that

they were unaware these subsidies were at stake.

A Gallup poll released this week shows the uninsured rate in the United States dropped from 17.3 percent in 2013 to 13.8 percent at the end of 2014. In South Carolina, the rate dropped from 18.7 percent to 15.4 percent.

The Associated Press contributed to this report. Reach **Lauren Sausser** at 937-5598.

Faith & Values

Sundays in
The Post and Courier



Title: **Army listens to SC citizens on possible Fort Jackson cuts**
 Author: By SUSANNE M. SCHAFER The Associated Press
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Army listens to SC citizens on possible Fort Jackson cuts

By SUSANNE M. SCHAFER

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley reminded an Army delegation Thursday that, as a military spouse, she is part of a community that values Fort Jackson and wants to continue supporting its soldiers in the face of budget cuts that could slash its workforce in half.

"I am a spouse of a soldier that deployed," Haley told the delegation, speaking of her husband, Michael, who deployed for a year to Afghanistan as a member of the South Carolina Army National Guard.

"We want you to understand that Fort Jackson is part of our family," the governor said, arguing that the Army's largest training site is more to the state than a source of jobs and federal financial input.

"There's never a soldier or veteran that we want to be in need," Haley said, leading a series of speakers who touted the community's military-friendly history and the strength of its ties to the 100-year-old installation and its 7,000 soldiers and civilians.

Fort Jackson is the Army's largest training installation. It puts 45,000 soldiers through basic combat training every year, which is more than half of all new Army soldiers and more than 60 percent of its female soldiers.

Each year, another 30,000 attend advanced military training classes or attend military specialty schools on the installation, such as those for chaplains, drill sergeants and military financial or human resource officers.

The economic blow of the potential cuts would amount to a loss of 8,000 jobs in the region around the Columbia-based installation and a loss of \$189 million annually to the local economy, according to a University of South Carolina Moore School of Business study described several times by the Fort Jackson boosters.

Brig. Gen. Roger Cloutier, who led the Army delegation, met Thursday morning with Columbia Mayor Steve Ben-

jamin and others concerned about the cuts.

Opening the Thursday afternoon community "listening session," Cloutier told the hundreds of attendees who filled the pews of a local Baptist church, "Your voices matter. Not a single decision has been made."

The one-star general said he expects the Army to make a decision on the potential cuts in the late spring, with an announcement coming in the early summer. Because of the pressure of the budget cuts, the reductions could begin by Oct. 1, he said.

If the Congressionally approved cuts go ahead as planned, the Army has said it would have to slash troops from 500,000 to 420,000 soldiers and severely shrink installations such as Fort Jackson.

Some supporters argued to the team that, instead of making cuts at Fort Jackson, the Army should consider closing down smaller basic training sites at installations in other states, such as Fort Benning in Georgia, Fort

Leonard Wood in Missouri and Fort Sill in Oklahoma, and bring all basic training organizations to Fort Jackson.

"Making basic combat training the one and only job of the commanding general at Fort Jackson would improve the training and bring it to the highest level possible," said retired Army Col. Kevin Shwedo, the former deputy commander at Fort Jackson and current head of the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles.

Kathy Dent, a Columbia resident who works with nonprofit organizations that support soldiers and their families, said her family was one of the original groups that helped donate land to found the Army installation nearly 100 years ago.

"My message is that Fort Jackson supports this community, and this community supports Fort Jackson," she said. "I know many veterans who have trained at Fort Jackson who come back here to settle down because they loved it during the time they did their training here."

BY THE NUMBERS

45,000

Soldiers who go through basic combat training every year at Fort Jackson

30,000

Soldiers who attend advanced military training classes at Fort Jackson

8,000

Jobs that could be lost in the region if Army budget cuts affect this installation

\$189 MILLION

Potential money that could be lost to the local economy if Army cuts are made

80,000

Soldiers the Army says it will have to cut if the Congressionally approved plan is not changed



Title: **Haley slams S.C. House for borrowing plan**Author: BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN and JEREMY BORDEN croldan@postandcourier.com; jborden@postandcourier.com

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Haley slams S.C. House for borrowing plan

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
and JEREMY BORDEN
croldan@postandcourier.com;
jborden@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley slammed the state's House of Representatives on Wednesday for a borrowing proposal she said would reverse years of fiscal restraint in South Carolina.

Haley specifically called out the chairman of the House's budget-writing committee, Rep. Brian White, R-Anderson, for sponsoring a roughly half-billion dollar bond plan she said underwent little scrutiny.

"That is basically our call to action, it's to go and remind the Chairman of Ways and Means this is South Carolina, this is not (Washington) D.C.," Haley said. "To go let the members of the Ways and Means Committee know that we would appreciate it if they would reverse what just happened."

White said he was disappointed Haley took to a press conference instead of discussing her concerns with him first, adding "it's just politics, I guess."

White also said it was "a little disingenuous" for her to say that the budget-writing process was done in the cover of darkness.

"It's not like this was done secretly," White said.

"I didn't write the budget alone. I didn't write the bond bill alone."

The House's budget-writing panel has proposed an almost \$500 million bond package for new workforce training programs, higher education projects and infrastructure, among others. The plan hasn't hit the House for discussion.

Haley compared the bond bill to taking on irresponsible credit card debt.

She stressed lawmakers should instead pay for projects as money flows in.

But Rep. Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston — one of the sponsors of the bond bill and a member of the Ways and Means Committee — said projects often never get started under the pay-as-you-go model.

Further, Limehouse said he'd vote for the bond package again, because \$50 million would go toward helping pay for a women's and children's hospital at the Medical University of South Carolina.

"I think that's a needed project," Limehouse said. "And we're locking the project in with today's prices. If we waited for 10 years to get the money together, the cost would rise 200 percent."

Rep. Jim Merrill, R-Charleston, added he had a "fundamental disagreement" with Haley's statement.

He noted that this 15-year

bonds package is the first in more than a decade. Like Limehouse, Merrill co-sponsored the bond bill and also is a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

"To compare bonds to a credit card is just not correct," Merrill said.

"Now is the responsible time to invest in infrastructure or we're going to end up the way that we are with the roads."

Haley said her frustration with the bonds bill is not related to White's lack of endorsement for her roads funding proposal, which calls for an income tax reduction combined with a gas tax increase.

White said he does not agree with claims her income tax reduction proposal would deplete the general fund at a time when the state is trying to resolve the financial issues of South Carolina State University, and education in the state's rural areas.

A recent Supreme Court decision said the state had failed to provide minimally adequate education to South Carolina's poorest children.

"We need to wait on having some closure on some of those items before we move forward with depleting the general fund revenues beyond shifting car tax over," White said.

"You've got to look what's

in the best interest of the whole state and its financial viability."

Reach **Cynthia Roldan** at 708-5891.

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Lowcountry appropriations from bonds bill

\$35 million for Aeronautical Training Center at Trident Technical College

\$1.3 million for road improvements at the Technical College of the Lowcountry

\$50 million for MUSC children's hospital

\$3.4 million for lab renovations, Duckett Hall and Library HVAC at The Citadel

\$12 million for the Simons Center for the Arts and for repurposing of the Stern Center at the University of Charleston

\$2 million for African American History Museum

Title: **LPL inancial breaks grouni**
 Author: By John Marks jmarks@fortmilltimes.com
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LPL Financial breaks ground

Company is the latest addition to commercial growth in Fort Mill

By JOHN MARKS
 jmarks@fortmilltimes.com

FORT MILL Thursday was a cold day in Fort Mill, but a bright one for commercial growth as LPL Financial broke ground on its new regional headquarters in the Kingsley North development, off S.C. 160 near Interstate 77.

"This is an actual bright spot for the Fort Mill area," said York County Councilman Michael Johnson. "This is exactly the type of development we need."

The new campus brings together more than 1,000 employees from several Charlotte buildings. The two buildings, which company officials say will be environmentally friendly, will feature an on-site eatery, fitness center and health clinic. It should be complete by late fall 2016.

Last summer, LPL Financial announced the new facility will bring 3,000 jobs. That same day, the Lash Group announced it would bring 2,400 to Kingsley North. A hotel, restaurants and other businesses also are planned for the 600-acre property.

"It's going to be significant," said Fort Mill

Mayor Danny Funderburk. "It'll include the hotel, the restaurants and other businesses to support these major companies."

Mark Casady, chairman and CEO of LPL Financial, said the new Fort Mill facility will be "a great source of pride" for employees and the town.

"This is going to be an incredibly innovating place to do business," he said.

Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday she was excited to welcome the company. She was on hand last summer, on a sticky day in June, with many of the same civic and business leaders present.

"It's cold, and we're just as excited that LPL Financial is calling South Carolina home," she said.

Along with the business investment, the company said it will help by contributing to youth programs and raising financial literacy among the town's and county's youngest residents.

"We all benefit from the fact that this is a new neighborhood partner that's going to be a great

SEE **BUILDING**, PAGE 6B

To learn more

For more information on LPL Financial, visit lpl.com.

BUILDING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

state partner," Haley said.

Town and county leaders say Kingsley North is a key area, while in other parts of town the trend is residential growth. More commercial growth will help the tax base and take some burden of paying for public services off of

residents. County and state business incentives were key to bringing in LPL Financial and the Lash Group, as were local features such as the Anne Springs Close Greenway.

Groundbreaking events show what impact business incentives can have, Johnson said. Large businesses, he

said, in turn bring in supporting ones behind them.

"You feel really good about it," he said. "You feel like you're doing good for the community."

LPL Financial serves \$475 billion in retail assets. The company provides financial advice, technology and services to more than 14,000

independent financial advisers and 700 banks and credit unions. LPL and its affiliates have almost 3,400 employees with main offices in Charlotte, Boston and San Diego.

John Marks : 803-547-2353

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A rendering of the LPL Financial headquarters to be built in the mixed-use development of Kingsley North, off S.C. 160 near Interstate 77.



RENDERINGS FROM LPL FINANCIAL

A rendering of the LPL Financial headquarters campus planned for the Kingsley North development in Fort Mill.

Title: **Divide DHEC into two different agencies**

Author:

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Our view

Divide DHEC into two different agencies

The state Department of Health and Environmental Control has always been a bad marriage. Rather than burdening a new director with the task of running this unmanageable agency, we hope lawmakers will carry through with a proposal to eliminate it and disperse its duties to other state agencies.

Ever since its inception in the early 1970s, DHEC has been neither an effective health department nor the equivalent of a state environmental protection agency. Health experts at the agency are not particularly qualified to make decisions regarding environmental issues, such as designating protected wetlands, while environmental experts are equally unqualified to make decisions about public health issues, such as hospital expansions.

DHEC, which has about 3,500 workers, is one of the state's largest departments. It has a hodgepodge of wide-ranging duties, including issuing pollution discharge permits, monitoring water quality, governing coastal development and regulating tattoo parlors.

The idea of splitting DHEC's duties has been broached before. But the recent hard-nosed questioning in the state Senate of Eleanor Kitzman, a candidate to for head of the agency, has sparked new interest in the proposal.

Senators were tough on Kitzman during the four-

hour confirmation hearing Feb. 19. Some on the panel expressed reservations about Kitzman's qualifications for the post.

Subsequently, Kitzman pulled her name from consideration as director. And a day after that, Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Gaffney, announced that he would introduce a bill next month to eliminate DHEC. Under the plan, DHEC's health work would go to the Department of Health and Human Services, while its environmental oversight would go to either the Department of Natural Resources or Department of Agriculture.

We think the environmental duties are a natural match for either of those departments. But this could be a good opportunity to create a new state Health Department, separate from DSS.

Kitzman, a former state insurance commissioner in South Carolina and Texas, was recommended for the job by Gov. Nikki Haley as a replacement for Catherine Templeton, who resigned in January after four years as director. The DHEC board selected Kitzman as Templeton's successor without seeking other applications.

But agency heads must be confirmed by the Senate, and a number of senators questioned Kitzman's qualifications, suggesting that her appointment had been a political favor from Haley. The governor appoints all of

DHEC's board members.

Questioners were critical of her lack of experience in either health or environmental matters. In addition, she was accused of making conflicting statements to the legislative screening committee.

While Haley defended Kitzman, saying her managerial skills would make her an ideal choice, Kitzman sent a letter to the DHEC board Feb. 22 saying she was dropping out. This would appear to be an ideal moment to abolish DHEC and divide its duties among more appropriate agencies.

The problem with DHEC is not primarily poor management. It's the mismatched, hybrid nature of the department itself.

The oversight of both public health and the state's environment warrant their own agencies. Rather than waste time finding a new director, the Legislature should give serious consideration to Peeler's proposal.

» Online

Your view

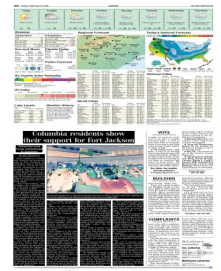
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heraldonline.com/submit-letter

In summary

DHEC should be divided into a state health department and a department to oversee environmental issues.

Title: **Columbia residents show their support for Fort Jackson**
 Author: By Jeff Wilkinson jwilkinson@thestate.com
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Columbia residents show their support for Fort Jackson

Potential cuts
to be announced
in summer

By JEFF WILKINSON
jwilkinson@thestate.com

Army leaders at a listening session on potential cuts at Fort Jackson on Thursday said a decision would be made in late spring, announced in early summer and the outcome would be enforced Oct. 1.

But Brig. Gen. Roger Cloutier Jr., who is conducting 30 listening sessions at bases across the nation, said no decision has yet been made.

"Your voice matters," said Cloutier, who coincidentally will take command of Fort Jackson in May.

A crowd approaching 2,000 gathered at the Shandon Baptist Church on Forest Drive Thursday to show support for Fort Jackson before a panel of U.S. Army officers in town to hear about the effect of potentially deep cuts at the nation's largest training bases.

Gov. Nikki Haley was joined by the leadership of the General Assembly and more than a dozen state lawmakers to proclaim South Carolina as the most military-friendly state in the nation. Members of the congressional delegation supplied recorded remarks.

She urged Army brass to consider not just the economic impact of Fort Jackson on the community when contemplating poten-

tial cuts, but also the state's efforts to support and sustain troops stationed here.

"It's not just about the money," Haley said. "It's not just about the jobs. Those things are important. But it's about the soldiers."

The governor rattled off several pieces of legislation the state has adopted to support troops, from allowing the transfer of professional licenses for service members and their spouses, to keeping property taxes lower on their homes when they are deployed.

"We consider the military to be part of our family," she said.

Many city and county officials as well as business and education leaders highlighted the fort's importance to the community's economy.

"Fort Jackson is a marquee asset for Columbia and a marquee asset for South Carolina," said Boyd Jones, chairman of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, which hosted the event.

Fort Jackson is the military's largest training base, churning out 45,000 new soldiers each year from basic training and it provides advanced training for another 25,000, from chaplains to drill sergeants to

polygraph technicians.

It generates about \$2 billion for the local economy annually, according to a study by the University of South Carolina Moore School of Business.

The Army last year asked 30 of the nation's largest bases to assess the impacts to of deep cuts to their local economies. It directed Maj. Gen. Bradley Becker, Fort Jackson's commander, to assess the impact of losing about half the workforce at the fort, about 3,100 jobs.

The cuts are because of reductions in the military after 13 years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and deeper cuts to both the military and domestic spending mandated by Congress as a result of the 2011 debt ceiling fight, called "the sequester."

U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott, and U.S. Reps. Jim Clyburn and Joe Wilson, who addressed the gathering with taped remarks, all said the sequester should be modified or repealed.

"I'm trying my best to get a better budget," Graham said. "But now is the time, above all others, (for the Army and lawmakers) to make good decisions."

The dignitaries spoke for about an hour and a half. Af-

terward, dozens of members of the public took the microphone, including Iraq War veteran Ramon Guitard, who lost both legs in a roadside bomb attack.

"Fort Jackson stood up for me and my family when we needed it," said Guitard, who now walks on high-tech graphite prosthetic legs. "Now I want to stand up for the fort."

"My dad was stationed here," said Bob Hubble, an example of a resident drawn to Columbia by the post. "I fell in love with Columbia and decided to stay."

"Fort Jackson benefits the whole community," Wanda Taylor said. "We would have a lot to replace without it. Columbia has developed around it."

Ed Murray agrees. "The fort is a very good neighbor and very good for the economy."

No one is certain what will happen at Fort Jackson, Becker has said. And that uncertainty could continue for another year, until Congress decides whether to let \$1.2 trillion in sequester cuts – half to the military, half to domestic spending – kick in.

The sequester would force the Army to shrink to 420,000 soldiers in 2019 from 518,000 today.

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GERRY MELENDEZ - gmelendez@thestate.com

Hundreds gathered at Shandon Baptist Church to show support for Fort Jackson in an Army listening tour about potential cuts of up to 3,100 jobs.

Title: **S.C. State trustees to discuss future of school's president as bill to replace them advances**

Author: BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN croldan@postandcourier.com

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S.C. State trustees to discuss future of school's president as bill to replace them advances

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
croldan@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — South Carolina State University trustees plan to discuss embattled President Thomas Elzey's employment status on Thursday, even as a bill that would replace them continues its fast march through the Senate.

Attorney Ken Childs declined Wednesday to say if the Board of Trustees plans to fire Elzey. On Monday, the trustees voted to place him on paid administrative leave.

Meanwhile, a bill introduced by Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, that would fire the trustees was sent to the full Senate after passing the Senate Education Committee 10-1.

The lone dissenter, Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Hartsville, attempted to delay it with a procedural move by placing what is known as a minority report on the bill. For the bill to come up for a vote, Malloy would either have to remove his objection with the assent of the rest of the Senate, or senators could override his objection on a two-thirds vote, allowing it to come up for discussion and a vote.

The bill would replace the

trustees of the Orangeburg school, the state's only public historically black university, with a five-member board appointed by lawmakers and Gov. Nikki Haley. New trustees would serve through 2018 and have the authority to fire Elzey and hire a replacement.

The House also is considering a proposal that would fire Elzey, but would replace the board with members of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority.

Malloy, though, said he was concerned "lawsuits are going to fly."

"We've got people who were just put on the board just last year," Malloy said after the hearing. "We're not giving those individuals a chance."

Senate Majority Leader Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Gaffney, said he would be in favor of the bill, if it saves the university. But Peeler also stressed it's time for the Legislature to have an "uncomfortable conversation" on how to cut staff at the university because of declining enrollment.

"I want to keep the school open if at all possible," Peeler said. "But if it's beyond help, it's beyond help."

Sen. Darrell Jackson, D-Hopkins, one of the sponsors of the bill, said the changes could ultimately, determine if the school has a future.

"Time is of the essence," Jackson said. "Every week that we drag this on is another week that the school is in limbo."

The school's continuing financial problems, caused in part by enrollment falling below 3,000 students, has left it an estimated \$70 million in debt and in need of loans and bailouts that already total \$18 million.

Elzey, who earns more than \$300,000 a year, has taken the brunt of the blame, but lawmakers have also criticized trustees for being unwilling to cut programs, faculty and staff.

Reach **Cynthia Roldan** at 708-5891.



Online

To read more about the financial problems plaguing the school, go to postandcourier.com/SCState.

Title: **State leaders plan to seek offshore drilling revenue**
 Author: BY BO PETERSEN bopete@postandcourier.com
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State leaders plan to seek offshore drilling revenue

BY BO PETERSEN

bopete@postandcourier.com

As coastal communities weigh whether to support exploring and drilling for fossil fuels offshore, South Carolina's governor and members of its congressional delegation are pushing for a piece of the revenue from federal leasing fees for the work. Part of that money could go to those communities.

Gov. Nikki Haley is among a group of seven governors who have agreed to work out a regional formula to split federal leasing fees if waters off the Southeast are opened.

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory announced the agreement after a recent governor's meeting, according to Bloomberg BNA.

The revenue would come from leasing that takes place outside of state waters, so the states wouldn't be entitled to a share. But Congress passed a bill in 2006 sharing money with four Gulf of Mexico states along oil and gas producing waters. Shares of those funds also are designated to go to coastal governments in those states, to be used for coastal conservation, restoration and hurricane protection.

The governors' agreement would supplant various Congressional bills looking for revenue shares that have been

filed by legislators from individual states. The bills haven't gained traction. They include a bill filed by Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-Laurens, and an amendment offered by Sen. Tim Scott, R-Charleston, to the Keystone Pipeline bill.

The Scott amendment never was voted on, and the bill was just vetoed by President Obama.

"Governor Haley has always been a strong supporter of offshore exploration of oil and gas — it's good for jobs — in a way that preserves our local environment, our ports, and our tourism industry," said Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams.

"Current federal revenue sharing rules do not reflect the state's partnership role in these ventures and the governor supports our federal delegation's efforts, specifically those by U.S. Senator Scott and Congressman Duncan, to keep more of these resources at the state level," she said.

Adams did not immediately respond when asked if Haley would designate shares for coastal communities.

Scott will "continue to advocate for revenue sharing that allows states within the

South Atlantic planning area to receive 37.5% of all revenues from energy production, similar to the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act," said spokesman Sean Conner. Scott supports Haley's efforts, Conner added.

Whether to open the waters at least 50 miles off the coast to exploring and drilling is becoming more contentious in the Lowcountry, as federal regulators begin to hold public hearings on a plan to lease for a five-year period starting in 2017. The leases would end a 30-year ban on the work here.

The issue cuts to the heart of coastal life, where people and interests are divided between exploring for potential economic benefit, or restricting it to protect marine life and a billion-dollar tourism economy.

Coastal communities are beginning to voice their opposition to exploration and drilling. Isle of Palms earlier this week passed one such resolution, joining Edisto Beach, Beaufort and Port Royal among more than 30 communities or organizations from North Carolina to Florida.

The money might appeal to Lowcountry coastal communities struggling to find funding for beach restoration. But Isle of Palms Mayor Dick Cronin said he didn't think the possibility of revenue sharing would affect the communities opposing exploration or drilling.

"It's hard for me to believe we'd have enough revenue (from it) to overwhelm our concerns for coastal preservation or tourism," he said.

The 2006 bill for the Gulf states stipulated as much as \$375 million per year could be shared, but recent revenues have been far less, according to The Washington Post.

Jackie Savitz, Oceana vice president, said even if the Southeast governors reach an agreement, that's no guarantee of success in getting Congress to pass a bill. Recent attempts to cull the revenue shares haven't been successful.

Hamilton Davis, of the Charleston-based Coastal Conservation League, called the governors' move short-sighted.

"The irony is that these southern governors have been willing to push offshore drilling forward without any federal system for revenue sharing in place."

Title: **State leaders plan to seek offshore drilling revenue**
Author: BY BO PETERSEN bopete@postandcourier.com
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**Poll**

Should states receive a portion of the federal licensing fees paid by companies exploring and drilling for fossil fuels off their shores? Go to **postandcourier.com/polls** to vote.

**Haley**

Title: **Carolinas brace for wintry blast**
 Author: By MITCH WEISS and TOM FOREMAN JR.
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Carolinas brace for wintry blast

By MITCH WEISS
 and TOM FOREMAN JR.

The Associated Press

GREENVILLE — Janet Robinson was trying to stay one step ahead of a storm that threatened to dump up to 8 inches of snow across the Carolinas.

So she made a trip late Wednesday morning to a Greenville grocery store and picked up the staples — milk, bread — then grabbed batteries for her flashlights and candles, just in case she lost power.

The store was packed and items were flying off the shelves, she said.

"I guess everyone was watching The

Weather Channel," said Robinson, the 35-year-old mother of two.

Across the Carolinas, people braced for a new storm — just one day after a wintry blast of snow and ice caught much of the region by surprise. Tuesday's storm closed schools and businesses and created treacherous driving conditions that led to hundreds of accidents.

Forecasters said Wednesday's storm threatened to do the same.

In South Carolina, the National Weather Service says up to 8 inches of snow could fall in the Upstate. In North Carolina, up to 8 inches of snow

was expected in the mountains and up to 6 inches of snow across much of the rest of the state.

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory declared a state of emergency. Many parts of North Carolina received 1 to 3 inches of snow on Tuesday, though much of that melted Wednesday during a period of sunshine and above-freezing temperatures.

Please see **WINTRY** on 9A

MORE INSIDE

Other parts of the Southeast get slammed by winter storm — even delaying an execution in Georgia. **9A**

WINTRY

Continued from 1A

Two people died in separate weather-related crashes Tuesday when their cars slid off roads and struck trees.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley issued a state of emergency for 31 counties in South Carolina. The declaration directs state agencies to begin coordinating to respond to any emergencies and to help local governments. It also places some South Carolina National Guard members on duty to help.

Haley said she wanted everyone in the Upstate to leave work or school by 5 p.m. Wednesday, go home and stay there.

Sgt. Michael Baker, spokesman for the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, said they're also urging people to stay off the roads.

"If we get what's anticipated tonight and tomorrow morning, it's going to be very hazardous as far as travel is concerned," he said.

And that's what Robinson was doing — getting out early.

"You never know what's going

to happen. You don't want to be driving in the snow. It's too dangerous," she said.

Just ask John Fletcher. A 19-year-old student at Greenville Tech, he was driving in a shopping center parking lot Tuesday morning when his car slid and narrowly missed hitting a pole. "It was close," he said. If it gets bad, he hopes his classes will be canceled.

Stores in both states were filled with shoppers looking for items to help them get out of a snowy jam.

"The majority of what we have had, heaters, pipe wrap, insulation and stuff like that, is just about sold out. We do have basic insulation, but nothing for frozen pipes or anything like that," said Chris Herrin, assistant manager of a Lowe's Home Improvement Store in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The store sold out of its ice melt, but Herrin said he expected to get at least six pallets worth in the afternoon, which could be between 600 and 800

bags.

Highway transportation crews in both states were treating roads and bridges with sand, salt and brine.

N.C. Department of Transportation Department spokesman Steve Abbott said they're optimistic they'll be able to get most of the main roads cleared quickly — even in the western part of the state where places like Boone have been hard hit.

Abbott had a suggestion for drivers: If the weather is as bad as advertised, don't drive.

"We're urging people to stay off the roads, in part because having people stay off the roads means our plow trucks can get through much faster," he said.

But for many, the snow and ice is starting to get to them.

"It's frustrating. You live in North Carolina so that you don't have to deal with it very often. Seems like last year and this year, it's getting us," said Trent Maner, who moved to Winston-Salem from Charlotte

two years ago.

ANOTHER STORM HITS SOUTHEAST

DELAYED EXECUTION

Georgia delayed the execution of its only female death row inmate because of the approaching winter weather. Kelly Renee Gissendan, 46, had been scheduled to die at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Gissendan was convicted of murder in the February 1997 slaying of her husband. Prosecutors said she plotted with her boyfriend in the killing.

The execution has been rescheduled for Monday.

SLEET FALLS IN ALABAMA

About 55 miles northeast of Birmingham in Etowah County, Josie Hicks fretted about the safety of her 3-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son.

Hicks said the pipes al-

Title: **Carolinas brace for wintry blast**
 Author: By MITCH WEISS and TOM FOREMAN JR.
 Size: 95.01 square inch
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ready were frozen at the family's apartment in Atlanta, and she was worried the power could go out. So with sleet already bouncing off car hoods outside, Nicks made a quick trip to Walmart for milk, bread and other food that didn't have

to be cooked, and 1-gallon jugs of water.

"I wouldn't mind having some snow for the babies to play in but I don't want them to be freezing," said Hicks. "I'm worried about my babies being warm."

BETTER PREPARED

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal said he was very confident in the state's preparations.

Following a January 2014 ice storm that crippled metro Atlanta, Deal convened a task force to make recommendations of how to better prepare. He said Wednesday that state agencies have

ably handled three weather situations in the past 10 days.

"I believe the lesson we are learning even of this morning as we noted the smaller volume of traffic on the interstates is that the public is willing to be a participating partner," he said.



The Associated Press

A North Carolina Department of Transportation mechanical grader clears Route 70 after snow and frozen ice fell Wednesday in Kinston, N.C.

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The Associated Press

Veronique Pope and Kristina Hardy wipe snow from Pope's windshield as snow falls Tuesday in Kinston, N.C.

Title: **Coastal Montessori singers**

Author:

Size: 25.42 square inch

Garden City Beach, SC Circulation: 7500



Coastal Montessori singers



CLAYTON STAIRS/SOUTH STRAND NEWS

Coastal Montessori Charter School students performed three songs about peace and love to open the 20th annual Montessori Educational Programs International conference titled "Hands for Peace" held Feb. 20 at the Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort's Tara Theater. Feb. 22 marked the beginning of Montessori Education Week throughout the state of South Carolina, as proclaimed by Gov. Nikki Haley.