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Beach Times
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148 City Council makes exception to use of tents on the beach

By Pat Dowling

During the February 1 North Myrtle Beach City Council meeting, City Council passed second (final) reading of an ordinance that provides an exception to the prohibition against the use of tents on the beach between May 15 and Sept. 15 by allowing "baby tents" to be placed on the beach during that time frame to provide shade only for "persons 18 months of age or under." The ordinance also specifies that a baby tent may not be "larger than 31 inches in height by 31.5 inches in width by 38 inches in depth."

City Council passed second reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 20, Land Development Regulations, which exempts subdivisions of three lots or less from having to meet the Existing Adjacent Streetscapes regulation.

When it was created and approved in 2009, the regulation was intended to affect larger, major subdivisions, which have a greater impact on the community. Staff did not intend for small property owners to be saddled with unreasonable costs to improve the areas along their properties with sidewalks and street trees when applying for small-lot subdivisions. Additionally, to ensure that no one takes advantage of the exemption, the regulation enacts a retroactive installation or payment requirement for street trees and sidewalks for anyone subdividing four or more lots from

the same parent tract of land within a 24 month period. (During discussion of the ordinance, some City Council members indicated that in the near future they may want to consider extending the 24 month period to 36 months.)

City Council passed second reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 20, Land Development Regulations, of the city code. The ordinance changes the makeup of the 50 foot right-of-way cross section, which includes measured dimensions for a travel lane, curb and gutter, tree lawn and sidewalk. By adjusting the dimensions of the components that make up the 50 foot right-of-way cross section, more room is now available for public utility crews to make water meter repairs without having to disturb private property.

City Council passed first reading of an ordinance to annex and zone one lot located adjacent to the Parkway Group PDD (PDD), which is located west of the Intracoastal Waterway. Baird Stewart, authorized agent for L-Star Communities and NGD Property I/II, LLC, has petitioned the city for annexation of about 60.69 acres of property adjacent to the Waterway Hills section of the PDD. The parcel is currently within unincorporated Horry County. The petition also reflects the requested city zoning district of Planned Development District (PDD) by joining with the existing Park-

way Group PDD.

The property is contiguous to the corporate boundary of the city and is zoned Commercial Forest Agriculture under Horry County's jurisdiction. The property is vacant and unimproved. Surrounding land uses are vacant and a former golf course.

City Council passed first reading of an ordinance for a major amendment to the Parkway Group Planned Development District (PDD) to allow changes to the previously approved phase known as the Waterway Hills Tract and to add a newly annexed area known as the Wilson Chestnut Tract. The area is referred to as "Grande Dunes North" in the PDD, which is located west of the Intracoastal Waterway.

The proposed amendment reduces the previously approved density for the property from a maximum of 2,500 residential dwelling units to 858 units over a total combined area of 241.46 acres, a 65 percent reduction in housing density.

Grande Dunes North would be a private, gated neighborhood with private roadways using a guard at the entrance gate. The development would be constructed in six phases. Phase I would be the Entrance Parkway and Grande Dunes Connection, Community Amenity and 119 residential units. Phase II would be north of Phase I along the Intra-

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coastal Waterway. Phase III and Phase V would be north of the Entrance Parkway and Phases IV and VI would be located south of the Entrance Parkway.

Second reading of the proposed ordinance will occur after an associated Development Agreement has been finalized.

City Council passed first reading of an ordinance to amend the Parkway Group Planned Development District (PDD) to allow changes to the previously approved residential tracts known as Seashore Farms and L.L. Chestnut, referred to as "Waterside" in the PDD.

The Waterside development would be constructed in 10 phases. Phase I is the most complete and plans have been provided to the city for review. Phases II through X

will require further review and amendments prior to construction.

Phase I of Waterside includes three proposed neighborhoods— Pinnacle Ridge, Copper Creek and Copper Meadow. When completed, Pinnacle Ridge and Copper Creek will offer a variety of housing options, such as detached single-family homes, neighborhood commercial areas and attached single-family and multifamily homes. These neighborhoods would be connected by roadways and multi-purpose paths.

Second reading of the proposed ordinance will occur after an associated Development Agreement has been finalized.

City Council passed first reading of an ordinance to rescind the city's current code sections regarding the type of information pawnbrokers within the city are required to maintain and electroni-

cally transfer to the city. The language that will replace the rescinded code sections is the same language used in the Horry County Code of Ordinances regarding pawnbrokers and is more comprehensive than the city's original requirements. If the proposed ordinance passes second reading, the primary change will be that pawnbrokers will have to photograph not only the item being pawned but also the person who is pawning the item and transmit the same to the Public Safety Department.

City Council passed a motion to appoint Hunter Platt to the North Myrtle Beach Planning Commission.

City Council passed a resolution in support of the development and implementation of a Little River Neck Road and Cherry Grove Marsh Watershed Management Plan. The Little River Neck and Cherry Grove areas drain to extensive

beach renourishment in recognition of the importance of South Carolina beaches to the state's tourism economy.

Hurricane Joaquin demonstrated the value of maintaining well-nourished, wide beaches with healthy dune systems in preventing extensive damage to critical infrastructure. In addition to storm protection, successful renourishment projects over the last 40 years have sustained the city's beachfront by restoring the ecological riches, economic opportunity and quality of life for residents and visitors. City Council believes that \$40 million from a new revenue source for state funded beach maintenance is a forward-looking investment.

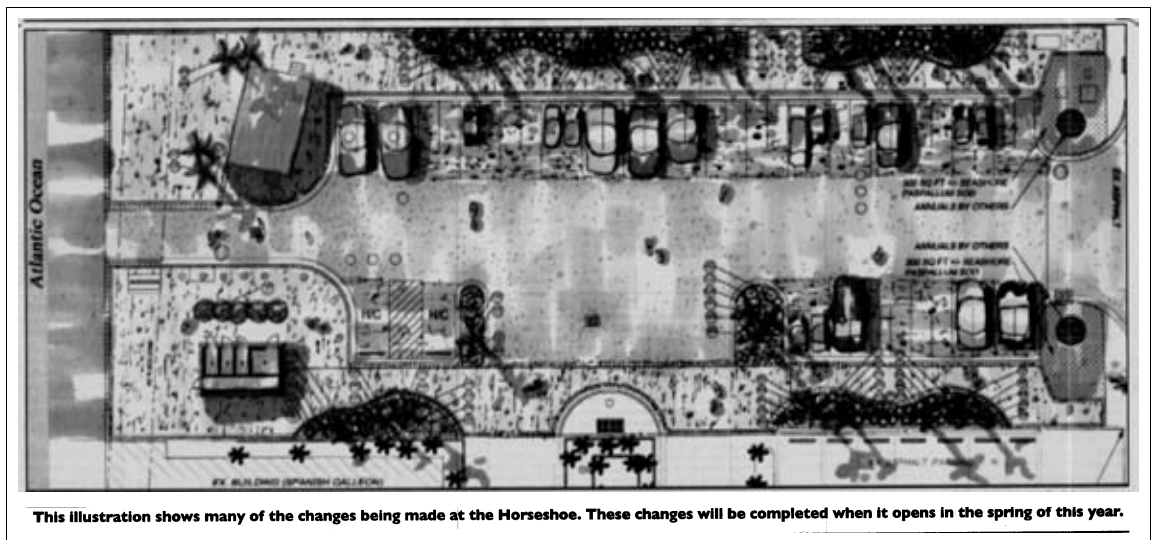
According to a 2013 Department of Natural Resources study, the value added to South Carolina's economy from coastal tourism amounts to about \$3.5 billion annually

and supports 81,000 jobs. The same study shows that in 2013 the state collected about \$55 million from the two percent accommodations tax, with the four coastal counties of Horry, Beaufort, Charleston and Georgetown contributing \$45 million or 88 percent of that total.

City Council passed motions to issue a special event permit for the 28th Annual North Myrtle Beach St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival, which will be held March 12 on Main Street. The parade begins at 9 a.m. and the festival runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The rain or shine event draws about 30,000 people annually. The festival offers two stages of live music and a children's area with rides and amusements. Approximately 150 vendors will offer arts and crafts, food and more. For more information, visit www.stpatsnmb.com.

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Red Ventures broke ground Nov. 4, 2015, for its fourth facility, RV4, which includes three connected buildings on its Indian Land campus. From left are Joel Martinez, Red Ventures' executive vice president of human capital, Lancaster County Council Chairman Bob Bundy, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, and Red Ventures employees Chanda Schwartz and Eric Bristley. The firm is among the state's top 10 for economic development in 2015.

FILE PHOTO

S.C. business recruitment tops \$4.2 billion in 2015

Commerce records 150 projects, 17,280 jobs recruited

From release

COLUMBIA – Two Lancaster County businesses helped South Carolina post another solid business recruitment year in 2015, with capital investment recruited to the state topping \$4 billion.

Red Ventures, headquartered in Indian Land, made the state's top 10 lists in both job creation and capital investment. With the groundbreaking of its fourth building, RV4, in April, the Internet marketing firm announced an investment of \$90 million and the creation of 1,500 more jobs.

Movement Mortgage, which will soon open its headquarters in Indian Land's Bailes Ridge Business Park, made the top 10 list in job creation with

650 jobs.

From January to December 2015, the state won 150 economic development projects, totaling \$4.21 billion in capital investment and 17,280 jobs by new and expanding businesses.

Reflecting South Carolina's position as a manufacturing stronghold, the manufacturing sector comprised 56 percent of the new jobs, with 9,680 manufacturing jobs recruited in 2015. The sector accounted for \$3.6 billion in capital investment recruited, representing 86 percent of the annual total.

While maintaining its position as a leader in manufacturing, South Carolina also continued to diversify its economy. Service-sector projects, including warehouse

and distribution operations, comprised 44 percent of jobs recruited last year. Illustrating this diversity, projects by service-related firms Red Ventures and Movement Mortgage, Amazon, Dollar Tree and Moneypenny accounted for five of the top 10 announcements of 2015, when ranked by number of jobs. The state also successfully recruited projects in the processing and research and development categories.

"While South Carolina continues to be a leader in the manufacturing renaissance, our economy truly is thriving in multiple sectors," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. "Cultivating a healthy, diverse economy in all communities across South Carolina is critical."



In an effort to bring economic development to communities of all sizes, the state's rural areas remained a priority. In 2015, the state recruited 5,038 jobs to counties with Tier III or IV designations, comprising 29 percent of jobs being added to South Carolina's economy.

While the location of new companies to the state led in both investment and job recruitment in 2014, existing industry expansions represented the majority in both

categories in 2015. Existing companies committed to creating 9,800 new jobs, accounting for 57 percent of last year's recruited total. Meanwhile, capital investments planned by existing industry constituted 59 percent (\$2.48 billion) of the annual recruitment results.

"The success of existing industry in our state is paramount and allows us to build on our global reputation as an ideal location to do business," Hitt said.

International investment again represented an important part of the state's business recruitment, with 56 percent of capital investment recruited last year and 37 percent of new jobs tied to companies headquartered in foreign countries.

Firms based in Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Japan represented the top contributors to foreign direct investment in South Carolina in 2015.

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Local Festival reaches 5th year with new direction

Special Report

The 5th Annual South Carolina Heritage and Humanities Festival, set for Saturday, February 20 at 11 a.m. at the Eutawville Community Center is predicted to reach a new high attendance this year and only the first 200 attendees will have seats inside the facility.

"This year, additional seats will be placed outside for the overflow to enjoy the festival," said Byron Brown, founder and coordinator. "The Festival has grown in scope and capacity. I would hate to move the festival outside of Eutawville. It seems imminent, however, for future years."

The theme for this year's Festival is "Stand Up and Be Counted: A Call to Serve Humanity!" The keynote speaker will be Virginia Delegate Michael T. Futrell.

The Master of Ceremonies will be Miss South Carolina Pageant Judge and Actor, Mr. B. J. Sumpter.

Festival Event Activities: **The Charleston Church** **Massacre Candlelight** **Memorial**

In memory of the nine church members who were shot to death on June 17, 2015 at the hands of a coward whose intention was to increase the racial divides in South Carolina but failed at it when the Honorable Nikki Haley ordered that the Confederate Flag be lowered from the State House. Rev. Larry Simmons, Pastor of Laurel Hills Missionary Baptist Church of Fayetteville, North Carolina will conduct the candlelight service.

A Little History about a Little Town: Eutawville

Mr. Herbert Sellers will share historical facts and his memories of Eutawville when he was a little boy growing up in the rural area. Mrs. Mary Ellis Jenkins will give a brief talk about the history of South Carolina.

Smiling Faces, **Beautiful Places**

Mr. Arthur McClendon, a history teacher from Colleton

County School District will narrate describing South Carolina's 46 Counties from a variety of perspectives.

Cultural Musical **Performances**

Dr. Morris Ravenell, Superintendent of Dorchester County Public Schools District Four, will conduct a musical performance playing his guitar with spirit and tenacity to electrify a crowd. JJ Dae, a rising music star from Greenville, S.C. will be explosive in his musical message to the audience. When different becomes hard to come by in the music industry every artist must define what sets themselves apart from the norm. Whether lyrical genius or a vocal Sinatra, JJ Dae embodies the evolution of music from Southern soul to new age alternative with hints of urban grit.

Gospel Singing and Spirituals

Great singing will be sung by Eutawville's gifted Mrs. Alice Blanchard, St. George's Mrs. Viola Felder, St. Matthew's Mr. John Govan, Cross's Mr. Allen D. Taste, Jr., and Holly Hill's Glenn Reben and Family. The Town of Eutawville's Mayor, Mr. Jefferson Johnson will offer a gospel spiritual as he sings to the citizens.

Youth Oratorical Contest
Elementary, middle and high school students from across the state of South Carolina will be competing for the top prize in the Byron S. Brown Oratorical Contest. For the first time ever, the festival will be offering monetary rewards for the winners. First place winner will receive \$75, second place winner will receive \$50 and third place winner will receive \$25. Judges will be combination of a business professional from Columbia, a superintendent, a principal and two educators from Dorchester 4, Orangeburg 3, Orangeburg 5 and Lexington 2 County Public Schools. Students will tackle the question: "What Does it Mean to Serve Humanity?"

Poetry, Dancing and **Dramatic Monologues**

Mrs. Vernell Jenkins and

Ms. Anita Gethers will excite the crowd by reading inspiring poems. Seven year old Daniel Brown and six year old sister, Hannah Brown will perform a dance. Dr. Becky Kennedy of Bowman, and Ms. Reva Footman of Cross, S.C. will each do a dramatic monologue.

Serving Humanity **Educational Seminars:**

Serving Humanity in Hospice Care—Rev. Ken Hay, Orangeburg, SC

Serving Humanity with Financial Services—Mr. Leroy Reginald Brown, Clinton, Maryland

Serving Humanity in the United States Navy—Petty Officer Brake, Orangeburg, SC

Serving Humanity in the Peace Corp—Mr. Marvin Goodly, Columbia, SC

Serving Humanity in Life Insurance—Mrs. Rita Spann, Charleston, SC

Serving Humanity in Law Enforcement Restoring Trust and Respect—Sheriff Leroy Ravenell, Santee, SC

Fun, Vendors, Navy **Recruitment and** **Refreshment**

The audience will have lots of fun receiving door prizes and gifts. Vendors will be on site. Members of The United States Navy Recruitment Office will be present to speak to students, parents and interested individuals about enrolling eligible citizens in the U.S. Navy. Refreshment will be available.

The Festival will begin with prayer by Evangelist Janie Graham of Eutawville, scriptures by Pastor Jimmy Bradley of Holly Hill and will close out with prayer and benediction by Pastor Samuel Middleton of Goose Creek, S.C.

"The 5th Annual South Carolina Heritage and Humanities Festival promises to be a great delight and a better and more informed one than the previous four successful Festivals," says Brown. "Due to the fire marshal's regulations, I'm nervous about the crowd and am praying for favorable weather so that the overflow of

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people will have comfortable listening and viewing of the event from outside.”

“In serving humanity, it is my hope that when the day is over, everyone in attendance will walk away ignited and inspired to live a better life,” expressed Brown.

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148 Peeler chastises fellow senators

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A month into the legislative session, state senators are no closer to finding a way to fix South Carolina's crumbling roads, but they spent hours Thursday arguing over their inability to officially debate the issue.

Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler criticized his colleagues for "dilly-dallying" on the public's top priority.

"I have absolutely lost my patience when it comes to this infrastructure debate that we are not having," said Peeler, R-Gaffney. "It's past time. Every day, there are more potholes in my area."

A bill that raises roughly \$800 million additionally yearly for roadwork through increases in gas taxes, vehicle sales taxes and license fees is in special debate status on the Senate calendar, where it's been since the session ended last year amid a filibuster that blocked a vote.

"We've been dilly-dallying and slow-walking for four weeks. ... Everything's blocked by this bill in interrupted debate," Peeler said. "Our calendar's swelling like it's got a peanut allergy, and nothing's getting done."

His comments prompted a debate for more than two hours on what's blocking progress.

Peeler said whatever the Senate passes must provide revenue, relief, and reform.

That's because Gov. Nikki Haley has pledged to veto any legislation that increases gas taxes unless it also drastically cuts income taxes and restructures the Department of Transportation.

Democrats argue it's folly to link the three issues in one bill.

"We can debate income tax reform, but let's get the roads fixed. Tying them together will prolong it tremendously," said Sen.

Creighton Coleman, D-Winnsboro.

Despite the discussion, floor debate won't start until Feb. 16 at the earliest.

In meetings next week, the Senate Finance Committee will hear from leaders of the DOT and the state Infrastructure Bank.

Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said he wants senators to hear from the agencies before floor debate, when potentially inaccurate information will be tossed about.

Sen. Shane Massey, who doesn't sit on the Finance Committee, said whatever's discussed in that committee won't matter. It just means the Senate won't accomplish anything next week either, he said.

"It's all going to be rehashed completely on the floor," said Massey, R-Edgefield. "Y'all are wasting my time, and I'm ticked off about it."

148 You just try to deport Gov. Haley

So, Donald Trump apologist Ann Coulter says. "Trump should deport Nikki Haley." Well, madam, just go ahead and try it. We've got a National Guard and we're not afraid to use it.

Our Gov. Haley was picked by right-thinking Republicans to deliver the GOP response to President Obama's brilliant, and final, State of the Union address. Haley disagreed with just about everything the President had to say.

He said stuff like America is already a great country - don't buy into fear-mongers who say "America must become great again." We're great now - if you don't think so, go live somewhere else.

Gov. Haley won't let the Medicaid expansion part of the Affordable Care Act come into South Carolina. She has shown she would rather stand with her GOP cronies than with poor people in South Carolina who need health insurance. OK, we've come to live with that.

She told President Obama not to bring Syrian refugees to come to live in South Carolina. She's right in step with a majority of Laurens County Council who told President Obama not to allow Syrian

refugees to live in Waterloo.

OK, we've come to live with that.

But when Gov. Haley said - on national TV!! Yikes!! - that America should allow all legal immigrants to come into America, Trump called her soft. The Republican presidential front-runner likes his women well-toned. Soft on immigration simply won't do - give immigration lip service, but really what he and his ilk are saying is, No Immigration.

America is turning into a country less and less white. That scares Trump every night when he tries to sleep - no matter where he is in the country running for president, he flies home to sleep in his own bed.

He's flying down here. Our South Carolina Republicans are going to make him the winner of their presidential primary this month.

Once Trump wins the First in the South presidential primary and New Hampshire, there is nothing that will stop him from winning the Republican nomination to be President of the United States.

I am going to my polling place at New Prospect Baptist Church that Saturday in February, just to cast my vote for

Donald Trump. All right-thinking independents like me should do the same thing - heck, some of y'all Democrats come along and join us.

Trump as the nominee is just what the Republican Party deserves.

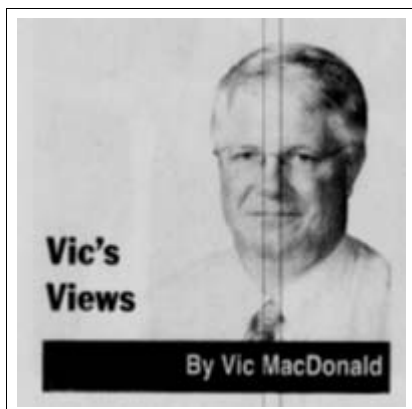
He is the best choice out of their field to be the President of the United States. He is the only Republican presidential candidate NOT to buy a Powerball ticket - he's already got \$1.6 Billion, what does he want with another billion?

It would just bring a lot of "long lost relatives" out of the backwoods to ask him for a handout. Go to work, he would tell them. Unemployment in the United States is 5 percent (thanks, President Obama!) but ZF can't find enough good people to build their transmissions. Kraft Foods can't find enough good people to cut the heads off turkeys. Jobs are out there for the taking.

You just have to be willing to work hard, and legal. Oh, drat, there's that word again.

(Vic MacDonald is editor of The Clinton Chronicle. Reach him at 833-1900 or sports@clintonchronicle.net.)

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S.C. Editorial Roundup

148 The Post and Courier of Charleston on gun violence in the state

It should have been evident to any South Carolinian even before Gov. Nikki Haley made it the central theme of her State of the State address Jan. 20: South Carolina has emerged as a different state after last year.

In 2015, gun violence in South Carolina drew international attention. In June, nine people were slain during a Bible study at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church with a gun that the suspects should not have been allowed to buy.

The death of the Emanuel Nine led to the governor calling for, and the Legislature approving, the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the front of the Statehouse. That was a truly significant achievement, though one that should have happened years sooner.

But lawmakers cannot rest on their laurels. The toll of South Carolina's gun violence extends far beyond a single, terrible tragedy. And there are simple, needed legislative measures that could greatly reduce the chance that the state's most violent or unstable residents get their hands on deadly weapons.

As reported in an investigative package of stories, "S.C. confronts gun violence," at least 34 bills in the General Assembly address crucial weaknesses in the state's gun laws.

Several pieces of legislation specifically focus on eliminating the so-called Charleston loophole that allowed Emanuel AME massacre suspect Dylann Roof to purchase that gun.

Roof should have been barred from buying a firearm after a felony drug charge was made against him a few months before he bought the gun. But a communications mix-up between state and federal agencies failed to raise red flags before the three-day-maximum background check waiting period expired.

Eliminating that three-day maximum and requiring a completed process for all gun purchases is an obvious step to ensure that background checks serve their intended purpose. And it has overwhelming backing from S.C. residents.

A Winthrop University poll in October found that 80 percent of South Carolinians surveyed support requiring gun buyers to wait until a background check is completed before taking possession of the firearm, even if it takes longer than the current three-day-maximum waiting period.

Other bills currently on the table would add tiered penalties for multiple gun offenses, require gun buyers to register new weapons with the State Law Enforcement Division, add assault weapons to the list of firearms banned by the state, and require gun owners and dealers to immediately report thefts to law enforcement, among other proposals.

Those ideas warrant discussion. Strengthening the state's background check laws should be a legislative priority.

But while the killing of the Emanuel Nine was a horrendous outlier in the scale of its violence, gun deaths are all too common in our state. In 2014, the last year for which statistics are available, more than 700 South Carolinians lost their lives to guns.

Nearly two-thirds of those deaths were suicides. That tragic statistic also reveals the importance of making better access to mental health care a priority in addition to — not instead of — serious gun reforms.

Bills to close loopholes or subject more gun sales to background checks do not erode the rights of law-abiding gun owners. Bills to strengthen penalties for illegal gun possession or require stolen guns to be reported to law enforcement do not flout the Second Amendment's protection of the freedom to bear arms.

Rather, they will help protect South Carolinians from both



horrific atrocities like the Emanuel shooting and from the less visible losses that impact families across the state each day.

There has never been a more appropriate time to address gun violence in South Carolina. State lawmakers must seize this opportunity.

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Difficult Data Collection

New domestic violence gun law in state hard to track in court

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina lawmakers passed a law last year banning some people convicted of domestic violence from owning guns.

But the state's antiquated court records system could prevent advocates from tracking how it is working.

Last year, Democrats and Republicans came together to pass the law giving a lifetime gun ban for the worst abusers and an automatic three- or 10-year ban in other serious cases.

But in the least serious, third-degree domestic violence cases, whether someone convicted of the crime can keep or buy guns is left up to the judge. Advocates fighting domestic violence want to know how often a judge rules to take away guns, but is struggling to collect data, said Sara Barber, executive director of the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

"We can't tell how well the law is working if we can't tell how judges are using their discretion," Barber said.

A domestic violence task force created by Gov. Nikki Haley determined that 62 percent of domestic violence cases in South Carolina end with a not guilty verdict. But the database is so disjointed that it is impossible to know if the defendants in those cases were found not guilty, accepted a plea bargain to a lesser charge or the charges were dropped. It is also difficult to sort the data by a criminal charge without a defendant's name.

"When the governor signs a bill, it isn't over," Barber said. "A lot of times, implementation is the tougher part."

Solicitor Duffie Stone, who prosecutes criminal cases for six Lowcountry counties, said the new law provides prosecutors with another tool that can solve the reporting problems — all cases can be tried in General Sessions Court,

the highest trial level court, with a much better system to track records, instead of by a lower-level magistrate.

"It also sends a message to the offender to be tried in the same court as a murderer or rapist, instead of where someone went 55 (mph) in a 35," Stone said.

Advocates said overall the 2015 law is a big step in a state that has long ignored a dangerous problem. FBI data shows 230 people have died in domestic violence shootings in South Carolina from 2006 to 2015. Only five other states reported more deaths, and four of them have twice the population of South Carolina.

The law did more than ban guns. It also increased penalties for repeat domestic violence offenders based on the severity of the attack, the number of prior offenses and other factors, like whether the victim was strangled, is pregnant or was abused with children nearby.

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148 Q&A with Donald Trump

GOP frontrunner vows to bring middle-class jobs back from China

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Before his campaign rally in Florence on Friday, Donald Trump sat down with a Morning News reporter and a Post and Courier reporter to discuss campaign topics and the economy.

Morning News: A lot of South Carolinians are worried about the middle class shrinking. What will you do to stop that?

Donald Trump: We have a tax program, as you see has been put in ... The middle class, middle income is absolutely being decimated in our country. My tax plan lowers taxes for them substantially, lowers taxes for businesses and gets rid of regulations. We're going to take care of the middle class. The middle class is almost like the forgotten class. They take care of people at the low end and the high end, and they've forgotten about the people in the middle.

MN: You've spoken a lot about jobs going to China. What will you do to reverse that?

T: We're bringing back jobs. China's killing us because China is taking our jobs. When you talk about middle class, those are the jobs they're taking — those factory jobs. We're going to be tough on trade. We'll have of the best business people in the world negotiating real trade deals, not this nonsense.

Post and Courier: I'm

curious on your strategy for South Carolina for the coming weeks.

Trump: I think it's a similar strategy. You know the theme is Make America Great Again. It's very strong on the borders, very strong on the Second Amendment. We're talking about trade deals where we make great deals instead of horrible deals. We're getting rid of Obamacare; it's a disaster. We're going to replace it ... It's very much the same theme I've been having because honestly it doesn't change.

PC: I want to address the elephant in the room, which is Iowa. Any thought on that?

T: I thought it was very unfair to Ben Carson, who is a good guy and a friend of mine. Had those votes stayed with Ben Carson, the results would have been different. He (Cruz) said Ben dropped out of the race and as you know, those votes went to Cruz ... If that hadn't happened, Trump would have won and I don't think people have forgotten. I thought it was very unfair to Ben Carson.

PC: There are rumors swirling that Gov. Nikki Haley will endorse in the next week. Any thoughts on that?

T: Well, I don't think she'll endorse me. I've given her a lot of campaign contributions but she obviously won't be endorsing me and that's fine ... she said my million and millions of followers were angry. I

say we are angry because our government is being incompetently run. She can endorse whoever she wants but I don't think it'll be me.

MN: Of the remaining Republican candidates, would you consider any as a potential running mate?

T: I don't like to think too much in terms of running mate. I'm somebody that's always gotten the deal closed. I want to win and be successful in that way and then think about it. We've had some very good people. There were 17 total starting off, and some are gone. We'll see what happens. I don't want to talk too much about a running mate until we close the deal.

PC: Any thoughts on your attempt to address the African-American vote in the Republican Party?

T: In the polls I'm doing better than anybody in the Republican Party primaries with African-Americans. We've got 25 percent ... people say if you get 25 percent you win the election. I think I'll do fantastically with African-Americans. So many great friendships, such a great relationship. Also, they know I'm going to bring jobs back from China and all these other places that have stolen our jobs.

MN: Have you ever considered growing a beard?

T: I might have to copy you. That's a great beard, it looks good. I'll have to consider that.



Bill would help flood victims sooner

By REP. TODD RUTHERFORD

Guest editorial

The damage left by last October's 1,000-year flood has caused an unprecedented \$12 billion in damages to our state and left thousands with destroyed or damaged homes, as well as significant damages to local businesses.

We haven't witnessed anything similar since the devastation caused by Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

Some 96,829 South Carolinians have registered for FEMA disaster aid, with \$74M being approved.

However, disaster relief continues well beyond the initial weeks and months after the storm strikes, and a large number of flood victims report that while the aid from FEMA was helpful, it wasn't enough to cover the cost for damages sustained.

Many South Carolinians are still displaced from their homes, or living in severely damaged homes, even after receiving federal aid.

The flood wreaked havoc on 24 counties across the state, ranging from counties in the Pee Dee to the Lowcountry to the Midlands. The floodwaters did not discriminate and neither should the state of South Carolina when it comes to recovery relief efforts.

The recovery process will be a long, painful and expensive process for many families and individuals across the state. Leaders in Columbia have a responsibility to ensure that impacted communities get back on their feet and are able to make a full recovery.

Immediate help

I have pre-filed a bill solely focused on helping

families and individuals fully recover from the damages left by the flood.

My bill allocates immediate funds through a supplemental appropriation to the FY 2015-2016 budget, and would designate more than \$320 million in aid for families and individuals living in counties impacted by the storm.

These funds are in the Contingency Reserve Fund, and 2015-16 unobligated projected surplus revenue that has been certified by the Board of Economic Advisors.

To be clear, the state has surplus revenue sitting in a bank account right now that we can use to help flood victims immediately.

In accordance with Section 25-1-440 of the 1976 Code, the governor has the authority to make financial grants up to \$16,000 per family or individual to assist with disaster-related needs once the president of the United States has declared a county or community a disaster area.

Haley won't budge

On Oct. 5, 2015, President Obama signed a disaster declaration for the state of South Carolina and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts.

Put simply, the governor now has the authority to make financial grants to flood victims. My bill gives her the money to send aid now.

In addition, my legislation speeds up the recovery process and helps plug gaps existing between what flood victims may have received in federal aid and insurance coverage, which many victims have reported as being not enough.

Thus far, Governor Haley has refused to spend any state surplus money to

help families and individuals recover.

Burden on charities

Instead, she has decided to rely solely on charities and existing federal relief.

While I applaud the state's private sector for their efforts to helping in the recovery process, the private sector alone cannot fully address the billions of dollars in damages we face throughout the state.

Furthermore, the impact of the flood stands to impact future charitable contributions because those that traditionally give now have to focus their attention on their homes or businesses. How can state leaders ignore the thousands of people in our state that FEMA could not help enough?

If the General Assembly decides to use state money to help flood victims through another means, those funds would not be available until the new fiscal year that begins July 1. I believe that is entirely too long for flood victims to wait. My bill provides immediate help, using funds already available in existing budget appropriations.

I strongly encourage everyone living in counties designated as disaster areas to call Governor Haley's office at (803) 734-2100 and urge her to support H. 4569.

Tell Governor Haley to do her duty and provide immediate recovery aid that is sorely needed by many across the state.

The storm is not over for thousands of South Carolinians. It is time we call and tell the governor to send help now.

Rep. Todd Rutherford is House Democratic Caucus leader. E-mail him at Trutherford.dem@gmail.com

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PAWLEYS ISLAND
South end
beach repair
will start Mar. 1

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

The town of Pawleys Island will pay \$665 an hour for a contractor to push up sand on the island's narrow south end to rebuild a dune damaged by storms in October. Work is scheduled to start March 1.

Town Council awarded a contract this week to Goodson Construction of Darlington. It has a \$100,000 cap before the firm has to check with the town about further scraping.

The work has to be done at low tide and be completed by the end of March to avoid sea turtle nesting season. The town hopes to have permits to do sand scraping in other parts of the island. Depending on time and tide, that could be done at the \$665 hourly rate next month, Administrator Ryan Fabbri said.

"This is a wonderful thing for the property owners," Mayor Bill Otis said. "It's a scary thing down there."

The council also approved a contract with Beam and Associates to lobby the legislature for a share of \$40 million Gov. Nikki Haley put in her budget for beach nourishment. The town wants \$3 million.

Pawleys Island will split the \$42,000 fee with Edisto Beach, which wants \$5 million in state beach nourishment funds.