



The Morning
News
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The Index-Journal of Greenwood on a state domestic violence statute

South Carolina's perpetual ranking in the top 10 nationally when it comes to domestic violence is tragic enough. Now, not only does the state frequently hit the No. 1 and No. 2 spots in the ranking, it also fails to adequately protect domestic violence victims who are in same-sex relationships.

A woman who tried to get a protective order against her former fiancée, also a woman, was denied the order because the relationship seems to run counter to the state's domestic violence law, which defines household members as a spouse, former spouse, people with a child in common or men and women who are living or have lived together. Nothing in the law stipulates unmarried, same-sex couples.

The matter has rolled up the ladder and in the state's Supreme Court, where, it is hoped, the high court will determine what can be done because the state's domestic violence law appears to be wholly unconstitutional as it — unintentionally, perhaps — discriminates against same-sex couples. While same-sex couples are now legally recognized after last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling, the clear waters get a bit murky when it comes to domestic violence cases, thanks to the law's language.

A solution exists involving our language. As an Associated Press story noted last week, the Ohio Supreme Court adopted gender-neutral references in family court cases. Similarly, California and Massachusetts changed the language in their laws to ensure that the laws protect all couples.

South Carolina appears to be taking genuine steps in addressing the ever-present domestic violence mark it bears so boldly and vividly. Gov. Nikki Haley's task force and lawmakers are, thankfully, taking the issue seriously. It is a statewide problem that will require statewide work, from law enforcement through the judicial system where domestic violence criminals land.

While that is good, it is not good enough, as made evident by this woman's case, and the cases like hers that most surely will follow. We hope and trust lawmakers and the state's high court will work in concert to address this wrinkle, which is leaving some state residents unprotected by laws that are supposed to be written to protect all residents.

The playground saying that "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me" don't ring true in this case. Domestic violence hurts enough people already. Let's not allow words in our state's laws to cause further hurt.



Angela Pruitt (right) the Abbeville County First Steps executive director, was the speaker for the April 7 meeting of the Abbeville Rotary Club. Among her listeners was club president-elect Susan Stone (left). (Staff photo by Henry E. Green)

First Steps seeks to ensure foundation

By Henry E. Green

The whole purpose of First Steps is to ensure that preschool children are ready for first grade, Abbeville County First Steps executive director Angela Pruitt will tell you.

This might not seem at first like such a tall order to fill, but Pruitt has a background in social work, and she has seen that some home environments are more conducive than others to helping children learn.

Home life can be full of challenges for a young person. "When they come to school, how are they going to be ready to learn?" she asked.

First Steps wants to make sure that a parent can be a child's first teacher. This early childhood education initiative, Pruitt told Abbeville Rotarians recently, was launched in 1999 by former Governor Jim Hodges.

It is statewide in scope,

and today Abbeville County First Steps serves 15 families, helping adults become better parents through parent education visits.

Abbeville County First Steps has a parent educator who works with families, and Pruitt works with a 22-member board whose members volunteer their time. A number of agencies and walks of life are represented on the board.

Faced with diminishing state funding, Abbeville County First Steps collaborates with Greenwood County First Steps on a number of programs, as well as with an organization called the Social Change Initiative.

Abbeville County First Steps collaborated with Greenwood County First Steps as well as Lander University and the Social Change Initiative to present an early childhood education conference at Lander recently.

Abbeville County First Steps has collaborated with such organizations as Rotary, which has provided First Steps with a number of grants.

"Rotary has been great to us," she said.

Lander University has also been supportive. Members of a Lander class observe First Steps home visits as part of their curriculum.

Abbeville County Adult Education is a collaborator as well with First Steps, which has a holiday tradition in Abbeville.

"At Christmas time we go door to door and hand out books," Pruitt told Rotarians.

A child's eyes will open wide at the sight of a new book, and there are few experiences that are more rewarding.

Abbeville County First Steps has also started having anger management classes for adults, in the

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...interest of providing home environments that are conducive to well-adjusted kids.

So what lies ahead for First Steps?

Pruitt said that Governor Nikki Haley wants to put First Steps statewide under an organization called the Children's Trust.

"Right now it's up to the legislature," said Pruitt.

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Title: **Gov. Haley named to Time's 100 most influential list**
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Gov. Haley named to Time's 100 most influential list

After she rose to national prominence with her handling of a series of tragedies last year, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People on Thursday.

Under the headline "She rises to the challenge," one of her allies, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-Seneca, wrote about how well Haley handled a tumultuous 2015.

"Whether dealing with the hate-filled shootings of the Charleston Nine at Mother Emanuel AME Church, the removal of the Confederate battle flag flying over statehouse grounds, the police shooting of Walter Scott or a 1,000-year flood, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley led with determination, grace and compassion," Graham wrote. "From shaking up the system to providing kindness and understanding to the individuals and families affected by these tragedies, she put a face on South Carolina that we were all extremely proud of."

"It is during challenging times when you really learn the mettle of a leader, and in the case of Nikki Haley, she excelled to the lasting benefit of our state."

The Lexington Republican was listed between Jin Lique, president of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.

Haley, the nation's youngest governor, also was named to Fortune magazine's 50 greatest world leaders in March.

— FROM THE (COLUMBIA) STATE

Title: **Haley's office receives domestic-violence pledge from Lott**

Author:

Size: 12.24 square inch

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Haley's office receives domestic-violence pledge from Lott

Gov. Nikki Haley's office now has a signed anti-domestic violence pledge from all 46 sheriffs in South Carolina.

The governor accused Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott during a news conference Wednesday of being the only one of the state's 46 sheriffs not to sign her pledge. Lott said he told the governor's office Tuesday he agreed to sign onto the plan to improve officer response to domestic-violence calls and planned to submit the pledge on Thursday.

On Thursday afternoon, governor's office spokesman Rob Godfrey tweeted a photo of Lott's signed pledge. "Finally in receipt of the 46th pledge. All it took was a little nudge from @nikkihaley," Godfrey tweeted.

Haley said Wednesday that if Lott did turn in the pledge, it would only be because it's an election year. Lott denied that, saying domestic violence has long been a priority for his department. "We should be worrying about our state leading the nation in domestic violence-related deaths," Lott said. "Politics has nothing to do with this. If that's being said about me (with regard to the election), I guess that's being said of the other 45 sheriffs that signed it also."

— GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN

Title: **A tale of two Haleys: National and local**
 Author: BY JAMIE SELF jself@thestate.com
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**TIME: HALEY AMONG
100 MOST INFLUENTIAL**

A tale of two Haleys: National and local

BY JAMIE SELF

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S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's inclusion in Time's 100 most influential people, released Thursday, burnished her reputation as a star in the national Republican firmament.

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HALEY

that we were all extremely proud of," U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-Seneca, wrote in Time.

"Whether dealing with the hate-filled shootings of the Charleston Nine at Mother Emanuel AME Church, the removal of the Confederate battle flag flying over State House grounds, the police shooting of Walter Scott or a 1,000-year flood ... Haley led with determination, grace and compassion."

Haley, the S.C. version, inspires more ambivalence.

As governor, Haley has forged partnerships with Democrats and education advocates to develop and pass education reforms. But she also has confronted lawmakers - including members of her own party, which controls the Legislature - and other

Haley's leadership during last year's turmoil catapulted her into the national spotlight and into Time's ranks, alongside U.S. presidential candidates and world leaders.

That's Haley, the national version.

The Lexington Republican is a leader who "put a face on South Carolina

SEE HALEY, 7A

officials when they dare to stray from her agenda.

During a news conference Wednesday, for example, Haley called out Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott, a Democrat, for not signing her anti-domestic violence pledge. Lott doesn't "seem to think any rules apply to him," Haley said.

Lott said he had planned to sign the pledge, which he did Thursday.

A Haley aide tweeted Thursday that her office had received Lott's pledge.

Haley also has butted heads with Republican leaders in the state House and Senate over roads spending and ethics reform.

Earlier this year, Haley drew a rebuke from House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, and other

legislators for telling a group of real estate agents they would need a "good shower" after visiting the State House.

Those "middle-school comments" threatened to "poison the well," Lucas said from the House floor.

After a Senate maneuver stalled a proposal to require lawmakers to disclose their sources of income, Haley ripped a Democratic state senator. "There is no good excuse," she wrote on Facebook.

"Bless her heart," responded state Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington, earlier this month. "It seems to me that Gov. Hypocrite Haley has a bad case of short-term memory loss. It was not too long ago that the Ethics Committee in the S.C. House of Representatives white-washed hearings on Rep.

Nikki Haley for her failure to disclose her own income."

Haley accused another lawmaker of spreading a rumor that one of her Cabinet directors was an atheist. The senator was on a panel investigating the Department of Social Services, which reports directly to the governor.

That lawmaker, state Sen. Katrina Shealy, R-Lexington, said Thursday Haley's "national image is great, and she's done a lot of good things in South Carolina," making the state "come off looking really, really good."

But from issuing letter grades to lawmakers during her first term to calling them out publicly for not supporting her agenda, Haley's aggressive style sometimes "backfires on her," Shealy said, adding "you can feel the tension."

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Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
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But, Shealy added,
“People don’t seem to
care what she does to us
(legislators) because a lot
of people out there don’t
like us. But they like her.”

HALEY ACCUSED ONE LAWMAKER

OF SPREADING A RUMOR THAT ONE OF HER CABINET DIRECTORS WAS AN ATHEIST.



Gov. Nikki Haley

Title: **Gov. Haley, Sheriff Lott spar over domestic violence pledge**
 Author: BY GLENLUKE FLANAGAN gflanagan@thestate.com
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Gov. Haley, Sheriff Lott spar over domestic violence pledge

BY GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN
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Gov. Nikki Haley accused Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott on Wednesday of being the only S.C. sheriff not to sign on to her anti-domestic violence pledge — a claim Lott disputes.

Lott said he told the governor's office on Tuesday he agreed to sign onto a plan to improve officer

response to domestic-violence calls and planned to submit the pledge on Thursday. Lott appeared in an ad for Haley's 2014 Democratic gubernatorial foe Vincent Sheheen, where the sheriff was critical of the governor's administration handling the deaths of children whose families had con-

tact with the S.C. Department of Social Services.

"It's a shame politics is being interjected into public safety," Lott said.

Haley, a Lexington Republican, held a news conference Wednesday to announce that 45 of the state's 46 sheriffs agreed to require deputies file incident reports and con-

duct checks for warrants

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FEUD

for every domestic violence call. Her office released the signed pledges from the 45 sheriffs.

Asked about Lott's absence from the list of sheriffs backing the pledge, Haley said, "There is one sheriff in the state of South Carolina that does not seem to think any rules apply to him. It's unfortunate Sheriff Lott was the only one that did not sign the pledge."

The governor then crit-

icized the Richland County Sheriff's Department for investigating its own officer-involved shootings, instead of having the State Law Enforcement Division investigate as other agencies do. Lott has said he turned to in-house probes starting in 2014 because he feels his department has the investigative expertise, a competent crime lab and the public trust to conduct proper investigations of its own deputies.

Lott said he could not attend the news conference Wednesday because he was committed to attending other events, including addressing pastors in Blythewood and attending a funeral for the wife of one of his captains.

"I helped her domestic violence task force by having meetings with them and helping them develop the plan," Lott said. "Everything that plan recommends, we've been

doing."

Haley said, if Lott does sign the pledge, "It's only going to be because of an election year."

Lott is facing a challenger in the Democratic primary.

Staff writers Andrew Shain and Cassie Cope contributed.

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Haley



Lott

Title: **Gov. Nikki Haley named to Time's 100 Most Influential list**
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com
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Gov. Nikki Haley named to Time's 100 Most Influential list

BY ANDREW SHAIN
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After she rose to national prominence with her handling of a series of tragedies last year, Gov. Nikki Haley was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential Peo-

ple on Thursday.

Under the headline "She rises to the challenge," one of her allies, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, wrote about how well Haley handled a tumultuous 2015.

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Mother Emanuel AME Church, the removal of the Confederate battle flag flying over statehouse grounds, the police shooting of Walter Scott or a 1,000-year flood, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley led with determination, grace and compassion," Graham wrote.

"From shaking up the system to providing kindness and understanding to the individuals and families affected by these tragedies, she put a face on South Carolina that we were all extremely proud of.

"It is during challenging times when you really learn the mettle of a leader, and in the case of Nikki Haley, she excelled to the lasting benefit of our state."

Title: **On new market (again), new money, point made**
 Author:
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■ THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

On new market (again), new money, point made

We've hit on it once this week already, but forgive us for our excitement as we again laud Greenwood's Uptown Market and give it a big thumbs up. Actually, the market is a result of those who deserve the thumbs up. Thank you, Greenwood City Council, for your willingness to explore the great possibilities of the market facility and all it could possibly be. And thank you for then taking a vision, putting your support behind it and making it happen.

Thumbs up also to those involved in the project. That includes Velux, which provided the wonderful skylights. It includes Fujifilm Manufacturing, sponsor of the splash pad installed by Genco Pools. Davis and Floyd, in conjunction with Furman Architects, earn a thumbs up as well, along with all who were involved in any way — large and small — in bringing this facility up from the ground.

To borrow from Gov. Nikki Haley, Thursday was truly a great day in Greenwood, South Carolina, with the official opening of Uptown Market. And many more great days lie ahead as a result.

Thumbs up to the U.S. Treasury for its decision to put Harriet Tubman on the front of the \$20 bill and move Andrew Jackson to the flip side. The choice is a good one. Equally good was the decision to keep the first Treasury secretary on the front of the \$10 bill and shake things up on the back with an image commemorating a 1913 suffragette march. Our paper currency and coinage have gone through some changes in recent years, but those changes have rarely included women who have had a significant impact on the nation. Presidents are not

the only ones to have their faces printed on paper, stamped on coins and it's about time women got more recognition. Of course, one has to wonder how long we'll be using coins and paper currency. But for now, it's good to see some of these changes being made.

We hope state Rep. Mia McLeod has succeeded in raising her point before other lawmakers and that she will soon pull out her bill that would put a 24-hour waiting requirement on men before they can buy meds for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. In pre-filing her legislation, McLeod acknowledged her bill wouldn't stand, but said she was pushing it as a means of drawing attention to a male- and GOP-dominated Legislature forces a female into a 24-hour waiting period before she can obtain an abortion.

The parallel between the medical procedure and the use of pharmaceuticals to treat ED might be questionable, but McLeod drew the best one she could. Her bill would also require patients get counseling on celibacy as a life choice and get a notarized statement from their sex partner saying the medicine is needed. But McLeod's bill will not make it onto the governor's desk for a signature and there are larger concerns that warrant rising to the top of lawmakers' to-do list. Infrastructure, ethics reform are but a couple that come to mind.

We suspect McLeod's message has been sufficiently heard and we'd like to think this won't be debated for more than four hours so lawmakers can get down to the business of real state business. We give her a rather limp thumbs up for raising awareness of women's issues and a slight thumbs down for tying up valuable time in the Statehouse.

Title: **Manufacturers make pitch to youth to fill labor pipeline**
 Author: RUDOLPH BELL DBELL@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 76.88 square inch
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Manufacturers make pitch to youth to fill labor pipeline

RUDOLPH BELL

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With factory jobs more plentiful than they used to be, the labor supply has tightened for South Carolina's manufacturers.

The situation has them reaching out to youths in an effort to maximize their chances of finding enough future employees.

The approach was on display Thursday at the TD Convention Center during the second and final day of the South Carolina Manufacturing Conference and Expo.

Manufacturers set up booths on a concrete floor and mingled with hundreds of high school students at a job fair.

Charles Bayles, quality manager for the Mack Molding plastic parts factory in Inman, said he made sure to be honest with the students about the nature of some factory jobs.

"I don't glamorize it," Bayles said. "I let them know there are some jobs that are going to be in hot areas of the plant."

At the same time, he said, there are other jobs in climate-controlled areas.

Bayles said Mack Molding recently invited middle school students for a factory tour.

"We have Spartanburg High scheduled to come in," he said. "We're always looking for local talent."

Entry-level operators at the company are initially on the payroll of a contract labor company and make \$10 an hour. If they perform well, they eventually go onto the Mack Molding payroll and get a raise to \$12.35 an hour.

As of March, more than 237,000

South Carolinians worked in manufacturing, about 14 percent more than at the start of 2011, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Lewis Gossett, president of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance, said members of the group are offering "good jobs with great pay and great benefits that will literally change the lives of families all over South Carolina. We just need to show that they're there and what they're all about."

During a panel discussion at Thursday's conference, Gossett said the evolution of South Carolina's work force explains why some parents have a negative perception of factory work that they pass on to their children.

South Carolinians "came from the fields into the factories, and we didn't want our kids to go back into the fields," Gossett said.

"Then we went from the factories to graduate schools, and professional schools, and white-collar jobs, and we didn't want our kids to go back to the factories. But now the factories are the place where it's happening."

The manufacturers alliance earlier this month rolled out a marketing campaign to encourage young people to go into manufacturing.

Called South Carolina Future Makers, the campaign includes videos of Gov. Nikki Haley talking to young workers about jobs they landed at companies such as BMW, Bridgestone and Boeing.

In addition, the manufacturers alliance is urging its members to make use of a social media platform created by

StemPremier, a Mount Pleasant company, that enables students, schools and employers to communicate with and learn about each other.

The realities of today's labor market led at least one company at the job fair to raise wages.

Julie French, human resources director at BKI, which makes commercial food service equipment in Simpsonville, said labor competition drove the company to hike entry-level production wages from \$10 an hour to \$11 an hour.

Manufacturers didn't feel any wage pressure during the Great Recession and its aftermath, she said.

But now that more companies are hiring, "you have to be competitive," French said.

She said BKI was having trouble finding welders with the right skills to make its stainless steel fryers, ovens, rotisseries and hot deli cases until it struck up a partnership with the Greenville Tech welding department two years ago. A student who was at the job fair, 17-year-old Gage Enfinger of Seneca, a junior at Daniel High School, said he's planning to go to college and get an engineering degree. He wasn't sure if he'd end up in manufacturing.

"It's just whatever offer I can get," Enfinger said.

Other employers at the job fair included Nucor, Pierburg, Magna, Lockheed Martin, General Electric, Giti Tire, Hartness International and Sage Automotive Interiors.

The two-day manufacturing conference was organized by SC Biz News, publisher of business journals in Greenville, Columbia and Charleston.

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RUDOLPH BELL

A panel of experts discussed manufacturers' workforce needs at the TD Convention Center Thursday for the South Carolina Manufacturing Conference and Expo. Left to right, Cheryl Stanton, Jimmie Williamson and Lewis Gossett.

Title: **Citadel to allow cadets to have guns in cars**
Author:
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Citadel to allow cadets to have guns in cars

CHARLESTON - Bowing to cadet pressure, The Citadel will allow cadets with concealed weapons permits to keep their personal guns in their cars. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports that the military college's Board of Visitors last weekend voted to suspend its code of regulations and recognize state law that allows all state permit carriers to keep their weapons locked in their vehicles. The move comes in the wake of a cadet last month publicly asking South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley during a visit to use her influence to get the policy changed. Cadet Austin Lee told the governor that more than 1,100 cadets had signed a petition supporting the shift. —AP