

Title: **Impact of Confederate lag**

Author:

Size: 13.02 square inch

Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Impact of Confederate flag

A short time ago, there was a big hassle concerning the Confederate rebel battle flag flying over the Statehouse grounds in Columbia. I understand some people saw it as a symbol of slavery and racism and wanted to remove the flag. Gov. Nikki Haley agreed along with a majority of legislators. I can assure you that the young men in the Confederate army fighting in the Civil War had no thoughts of a symbol, just wanted to get it over with and come home. I understand. I was an infantry soldier in Korea in the early 1950s. I didn't know why I was there but I was. Just like all the men in my outfit, we wanted to get it over with and come home.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond was a Democrat and ran for president on the Dixiecrat

ticket and carried the South. Later the senator left the Democratic Party and joined the Republican Party as it was more in line with his political beliefs. One of the main planks in the Dixiecrat platform was "segregation yesterday, segregation today and segregation tomorrow." To me, I can't see a dime's worth of difference between segregation and racism. They are like brothers. I realize some time a segregationist – namely Gov. George Wallace of Alabama – was popular with some people.

Thurmond, a segregationist, must be quite popular in South Carolina. He has a school named for him as well as a lake and a highway.

I guess that little flag was somewhat larger than I imagined. Just trying to make sense of things.

Jim McGaughy
Aiken

Title: **South Carolina marks solemn milestone of domestic violence**
 Author: BY MEG KINNARD Associated Press
 Size: 58.74 square inch
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South Carolina marks solemn milestone of domestic violence

BY MEG KINNARD

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — As he has each year since taking office in 2011, Attorney General Alan Wilson is preparing to mark a solemn milestone.

On Thursday, the top prosecutor takes part in the 18th annual Silent Witness ceremony. On the steps of the Statehouse, relatives, friends and advocates holdup life-size silhouettes representing each person killed in South Carolina during the previous year as a result of domestic violence. A bell rings once for each victim.

"Everybody has to own the problem," Wilson recently told The Associated Press. "It's a societal problem, not just a government problem."

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In September, an annual report by the Violence Police Center again ranked South Carolina

worst in the nation for deadly violence against women, with a rate of 2.32 women killed per 100,000 people in 2013. That's more than twice the national average and represents 57 known deaths, compared with 50 a year earlier, according to the study, which uses the latest data available from the FBI for crimes involving one male killing one female.

It marked South Carolina's fourth time atop the list, where the state ranked second last year and has been in the top 10 annually for the last 18 years.

Domestic violence and gun ownership were widely discussed this year by the South Carolina Legislature, which ultimately approved a bill aimed at stemming the state's persistently high rate. The bill signed into law Gov. Nikki Haley increases penalties, gives prosecutors more options

for punishment and also bans some batterers from having guns.

Wilson has said the legislation has helped the state make progress but that more advances are needed. A task force has recommended more changes, like training more 911 operators, improving documentation of the crime scene and adding more shelters.

Throughout South Carolina's 46 counties, prosecutors like Barry Barnette, solicitor for Spartanburg and Cherokee

counties, said the cases are among the most emotionally difficult to handle.

Last month, Michael Lee Larson was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty to shooting his wife to death a day after her birthday in May 2014. Authorities said Larson called 911, confessing that he had killed Mitzi Yvonne Em-

ery Larson. A witness reported seeing the couple argue before the shooting, and a 12-gauge shotgun was found near the woman's body.

In preparing for trial, Barnette met with the victim's family, who told him of a grisly discovery. In Mitzi Larson's Bible, her adult sons said they found their mother's handwritten record detailing each time she'd been abused by her husband, a chilling keepsake Barnette said the likes of which are all too common in such cases.

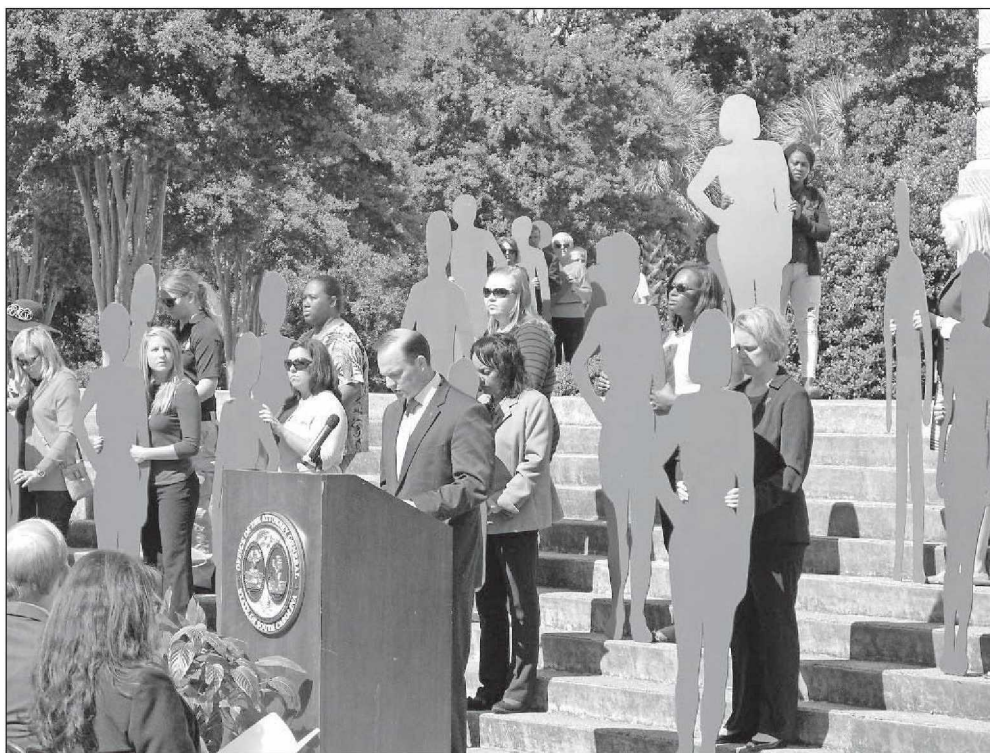
"She basically stayed with him through the abuse," Barnette said of the couple that had been together nearly 30 years.



ONLINE

For an extended version of this story, go to aikenstandard.com

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AP PHOTO/JEFFREY COLLINS, FILE

South Carolina Attorney Gen. Alan Wilson reads off the names of 46 people killed by loved ones in South Carolina in 2013 as volunteers holdup silhouettes representing the victims at the 17th annual Silent Witness Domestic Violence ceremony to honor victims of domestic violence at the South Carolina Statehouse, in Columbia. As he has each year since taking office in 2011, Attorney General Alan Wilson will take part in the 18th annual Silent Witness ceremony on Thursday.

Title: **FEMA continues to assist Horry County flood victims**
 Author: BY MICHAEL SMITH MICHAEL.SMITH@MYHORRYNEWS.COM
 Size: 148.33 square inch
 Conway, SC Circulation: 16000



FEMA continues to assist Horry County flood victims

BY MICHAEL SMITH

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They never thought they'd be glad to see someone from FEMA.

But when an inspector with the Federal Emergency Management Agency contacted them Tuesday, it eased some of the uncertainty that came from losing their home to the recent floods.

"Nobody knows what the process is, what to expect," Carolina Forest resident Leah Hornberger said

Wednesday. "When he called me yesterday, I don't think I've ever been so excited."

Hornberger shares a home with David Campbell in the BelleGrove subdivision of Carolina Forest, where at least a dozen homes suffered from flood damage during torrential rains Oct. 4-5.

More than 15 inches of rain fell in Carolina Forest. Flooding was espe-

cially bad in BelleGrove, where drainage failures at nearby outfalls sent more stormwater gushing into the Carolina Forest community.

Campbell said FEMA's arrival helped answer basic questions, such as whether federal aid will temporarily cover rent and if the home will be repaired or rebuilt.

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FEMA: More than 100 Horry County flood victims seeking aid

Continued from Page A1

"I'm glad he's here and that he came here as fast as he did," Campbell said.

Spell couldn't officially discuss the nature of his work, though he told Campbell and Hornberger he'd personally surveyed about 100 homes in Horry County through Wednesday morning.

The FEMA inspector is one of many in Horry County helping flood victims continue to assess the damage.

Randy Webster, the county's director of emergency management, said more than 2,000 people have registered for federal aid.

At a news conference Wednesday, Webster urged affected residents to notify FEMA. Even flood victims with partial to no flood insurance should contact the federal agency, he said.

"[Not having insurance] has nothing to do with denial or approval. It's all based upon need," Webster said. "So please don't let the fact that you did not have flood insurance prevent you from seeking out help. It's really the opposite."

Webster also said at the news conference that FEMA has opened two disaster recovery centers in Horry

County.

They are the best places to go for anyone seeking FEMA assistance, he said.

One is located at the North Stand Recreation Center at 120 Hwy. 57 S. in Little River, and the other is at the South Strand Recreation Center at 9650 Scipio Lane south of Myrtle Beach.

The centers will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. They will remain open until further notice, according to a statement from Gov. Nikki Haley.

FEMA officials will be on-site at each recovery center to answer questions flood victims may have.

Victims can also apply in person for FEMA assistance, though applying online in advance is still preferred. That can be done at <http://DisasterAssistance.gov>.

Webster said that as of Wednesday, about 2,000 people had registered for FEMA aid.

He didn't have an estimate of how many FEMA representatives were in Horry County, but noted more are on the way.

"Counseling issues, housing needs and other financial help may be offered depending on what your needs are," Webster said.

From Oct. 4-5, between 12 and 24 inches of rain flooded numerous communities in Horry County, flooding more than 320 homes excluding the Conway area.

Webster said county officials are waiting for floodwaters to recede before a more detailed assessment can be done in the Conway area.

Longs saw the most rain at 23.74 inches, followed by North Myrtle Beach at 21.9 inches, according to the National Weather Service in Wilmington, N.C.

A measuring station six inches east from the center of Conway reported 18.81 inches. Rain amounts downtown Conway were not available.

Socastee got 17.8 inches, while most reporting stations in and around Myrtle Beach saw between 15.4 and 17.85 inches. One location seven miles north northwest of the center of Myrtle Beach reported 20.13 inches, the weather service said.

Flooding caused by the torrential rainfall exacerbated when the Waccamaw River crested Thursday at 16.2 feet. Flood stage is 11 feet and major flood stage is 14 feet, the weather service said.

The Waccamaw River as of

Wednesday remained at 15.7 feet, placing it well above major flood stage. Webster said flooding issues will likely persist into next week.

"We're in this for the long haul," he said.

FEMA representatives in the field are all wearing credentials. Webster said anyone questioning the legitimacy of anyone saying they're with FEMA is asked to call emergency management at 843-915-5150.

"If you have not registered with FEMA, please do so," he said. "That really is the starting point to get assistance."

Even if victims receive letters from FEMA denying assistance, Webster said that doesn't mean affected homeowners still can't qualify for some sort of assistance. He said there's an appeals process and alternative programs for folks seeking financial help.

"That's not the end. Please understand there may be additional programs that may be available," Webster said. "We don't want people to miss out on any opportunities that may be available through the FEMA program."

As an alternative, low interest loans are available to businesses, homeowners and renters through the Small

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Business Administration. The SBA announced that as of Tuesday, it was opening a business recovery center at the Conway Chamber of Commerce.

The SBA center will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.



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FEMA inspector Bob Spell (center) catalogs the damage to the home of David Campbell (right) and Leah Hornberger in the BelleGrove subdivision of Carolina Forest as Hornberger takes notes. The BelleGrove home was one of nearly a dozen to experience damage from the Oct. 4 flood.

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Carolina Forest resident Leah Hornberger walks past a pile of drywall and other debris recently removed from her home on BelleGrove Drive that flooded Oct. 4. Hornberger is one of dozens of flood victims seeking FEMA assistance.

Title: **Teach kids how to prevent domestic and sexual violence**
 Author:
 Size: 24.49 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



Teach kids how to prevent domestic and sexual violence

South Carolina has been in the top 10 states for women killed by men for more than 15 years, with a domestic violence rate more than twice the national average. This won't change until we unite as a community to address this costly and deadly problem.



Despite the implication of its name, interpersonal violence isn't a private matter that should only be addressed at home. We must discuss this at school, church and anywhere else people

gather. Domestic and sexual violence are costing our state millions of dollars each year and countless lives.

The best way to stem the tide of violence is to provide young people with primary violence prevention education as recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Our Youth Violence Prevention curriculum helps young people build communication, boundary setting and other relationship skills that prepare them to have healthy friend and dating relationships. They learn to safely intervene as bystanders to end violence much like the anti-smoking campaign worked to dramatically reduce the number of new smokers.

The domestic violence law signed by Gov. Nikki Haley this summer

requires schools to educate students on domestic violence; Erin's Law requires them to provide education on sexual violence for grades K-12. Unfortunately, there's no mechanism to make schools comply, so parents and community members must advocate for youth to receive the appropriate education.

Primary prevention addresses the societal problems that lead to domestic and sexual violence. It is often illustrated with a story of a person standing at a river watching people float by and drown. The person cannot save the hundreds of people who continue to drown, but instead goes upstream and finds where they are falling into the river and builds a bridge. We must serve people impacted by domestic and sexual violence, but it is irresponsible not to go upstream and build a bridge.

Please join us in building the bridge that will end domestic and sexual violence in our community. Make sure your schools or youth groups have invited Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands to implement our curriculum. Talk to the young people in your life about sexual and domestic violence and the important role we all play in ending violence. Don't delay acting; our future depends on you.

- Ginny Waller
 Executive Director, Sexual Trauma
 Services of the Midlands
 Columbia

Title: **Paying for roads after the floods**

Author:

Size: 12.55 square inch

Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



Paying for roads after the floods

For now, a special session of the Legislature to deal with flooding doesn't seem like the best use of public dollars, especially since the state doesn't have estimates on the extent of the problem.

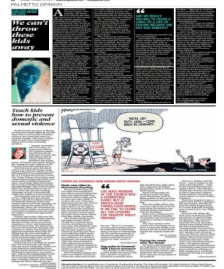
However, dealing with the flood — and its impact on the state's infrastructure — must be the top priority when lawmakers return. This dialogue should also reinforce the need to find a long-term, comprehensive plan to deal with our needs related to roads, bridges and dams.

This issue largely became a political pox for the Legislature this past session with the debate becoming bogged down by certain demands of legislators, as well as S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley.

However, the longer the state waits to make an initial investment in road funding, the greater it will cost to pay for upgrades. This doesn't mean the General Assembly should write a blank check to the state's Department of Transportation. The real trouble with South Carolina's roads isn't wholly a lack of money. Any real effort to address these roads issues must also involve taking a closer look at the bureaucratic structure of the state's Transportation Department. The agency and the current system of prioritization and funding roads projects has been marred by criticisms of little transparency and being generated through a complex formula.

- Aiken Standard

Title: **We can't throw these kids away**
 Author:
 Size: 66.96 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



CINDI ROSS SCOPPE
 ASSOCIATE EDITOR
 THE STATE

We can't throw these kids away

A BRAHAM Lincoln. Thomas Edison. Ben Franklin. Bill Gates. The voice on the message followed each man's name with the meager amount of schooling he completed. The Harvard dropout who turned us into cyborgs looks like a scholastic overachiever alongside his predecessors. Of course they are separated by centuries that have, for better and worse, exponentially increased the need for formal education, and of course that's beside the caller's point.

His point was that while it was "statistically" accurate to say that a better education leads to a better outcome, the many notable exceptions negated my suggestion that South Carolina needs to provide a decent education to all children.

Then his bottom line: When children don't get a good education, it's not the schools' fault — and by extension, it's not the state's fault; it's the children's fault. Children who want an education will get one no matter how bad the school; children who do not want a good education will not get one, no matter how good the school.

Truth be told, there's a lot of truth to that last part; much less, but still a tiny bit, to the first part. But even if we imagine that

there are no shortcomings in our poorest schools, and that the problem is the children instead of the schools, we are left with this reality: We can't wash our hands of the problem.

The "liberal" reason is fairness: When children don't value education, it's often because their parents don't value it. Are

we really willing to doom a child to a life of failure because she has bad parents? For how many generations will we visit the sins of the parents upon the children?

The "conservative" reason is this practical fact: We can't throw those children away. Can't ship them off to another state. The children who don't get a decent education in our state are the ones who will stay here, and they will continue to drag us down.

They will end up with lousy jobs, held afloat by government safety-net programs. Some will become criminals, and we will have to spend more on police and courts and jails to defend ourselves against them. They will raise children who are just like them.

And this takes us back to that argument about Messieurs Lincoln, Edison, Franklin and Gates, which seems so reasonable ... until you take about 10 seconds to think about it.

Then you recall that "statistically" speaking is the only way we can speak of whole populations, particularly when the statistics are so lopsided.

You remember that exceptions are ... exceptions — and that the overwhelming majority of us are not so extraordinary as our Renaissance men. Our society could not have built the technological foundation from which Mr. Gates built so much more if we had relied solely on the few geniuses among us. A good education allows the mediocre — which, statistically speaking, is most of us — to become productive and creative. It allows those who are below-average to be-

come contributing members of our communities.

You realize that Gov. Nikki Haley and the Legislature would not be under court order to provide a decent education to the children in South Carolina's Corridor of Shame if those children had access to the exclusive preparatory school Mr. Gates attended, much less his two years at Harvard.

If I were placing blame for the children who don't work hard enough to overcome the obstacles our state puts in their paths, I'd place it on the parents. It is

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the parents' responsibility to make sure children get the best education they can. But when parents can't or won't instill in their children the value of education, can't or won't insist that they do their homework every night, can't or won't make sure they read books over summer vacation, we as a society have to do that. If not out of altruism, then out of pure self-interest.

We have to teach children to value education. Then we have to make education take, whatever their learning style. And the place we do that is in the public schools.

It is difficult to know how to do that — although it would be much less difficult if we stopped worrying about turf protection and job protections and making sure the right people get lucrative contracts and pursuing our

ideological goals.

It is difficult to get our legislators and our governor to ignore those distractions. But it is their job to do that.

Once we figure out how we need to change the structure and governance and curricula and funding of our schools so that they will deliver a decent education even to the kids who don't want it, the jobs of teachers will become much more difficult. The jobs of everyone who touches education will become more difficult.

But when have Americans said we won't do something just because it's difficult?

Doesn't American exceptionalism flow from our willingness to do the difficult work in order to achieve success?

Aren't we the nation that was inspired to rocket to the moon and defeat the Soviet Union and

become the most prosperous people on the planet after a president reminded us that "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard"?

The sad thing is that as difficult as it will be for our leaders to develop a plan and our teachers to implement it, the hardest part could be convincing ourselves that it's worth doing.

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**“
ARE WE REALLY
WILLING TO DOOM A
CHILD TO A LIFE OF
FAILURE BECAUSE SHE
HAS BAD PARENTS?”**

