

Title: **Gov. Haley: Changes being made to fight domestic violence**
 Author: BY MEG KINNARD Associated Press
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Gov. Haley: Changes being made to fight domestic violence

BY MEG KINNARD
 Associated Press

COLUMBIA

Progress is being made in South Carolina's fight against domestic violence, but more time is needed to study the problem and come up with ways to combat it, Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday.

At a Statehouse news conference, Haley told reporters she has signed three new executive orders pertaining to the issue, which was a major topic during last year's legislative session. One would give the South Carolina Domestic Violence Task Force more time to continue finding ways to fight the problem.

Nationwide, South Carolina consistently ranks among the worst states per capita in women killed by men. A year ago, Haley created the task force to come up with systemic, cultural changes to combat the problem.

In August, the panel issued dozens of recommendations, including training more 911 operators, improving documentation of the crime scene and increasing the number of shelters statewide.

Another order would direct Cabinet agencies to change human resources policies to provide more guidance on how to handle employees who may be affected by abuse, such as providing them with leave

and available resources.

The third order requires Cabinet agencies that regularly screen people for benefits and other assistance to look for domestic violence signs.

In the session that ended last summer, legislators passed a law that increased penalties for domestic violence convictions and gave prosecutors more options for punishment.

On Thursday, flanked by prosecutors from across the state and other members of the task force, Haley said the panel is "going too good to stop" and needs more time past the Dec. 31, 2015, deadline originally set up in her order that created it.

Haley also said that her executive budget for the

coming year would allocate funding to help combat the problem, including about \$19 million to fund new prosecutors to handle domestic violence cases, many of which are now prosecuted by law enforcement officers, who are often going up against privately funded attorneys on the defense side.

Several professional licensing boards in the state have committed to include domestic violence training in their continuing education courses, Haley said.



Title: **Haley setting her own agenda in State of the Union response**
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com
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Haley setting her own agenda in State of the Union response

BY ANDREW SHAIN
 ashain@thestate.com

Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday she plans to address the challenges in South Carolina and the nation that she thinks are the most important in her Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address next week.

Haley declined to reveal details of what she plans to say, except to repeat that she is giving an "address" to the nation rather a "response" to Obama.

"I certainly am not one to compete against the president or try to imply that I could be," Haley told reporters. "I just wanted to take this as an opportunity to express the challenges that I think we have seen in our state but also in our country and the solutions ... and the opportunities that can be there.

"This will be very much just an address that allows me to talk to the country in a way that I think talks

about things that I believe are important."

Haley, the first South Carolinian to deliver the State of the Union response since the political counterpoints were started in 1966, said she will write the address with the help of her staff. She said the Republican leaders in Congress, who chose her for the speech, will have no input in the address, which will air Tuesday after the president's address.

"They have given us the leeway to do this," she said. "I have my process as we do speeches. I know what I think I know, what I feel."

Haley's selection to deliver the response has led to speculation about her political future, including how she could help the GOP in a presidential election year.

The nationally televised speech bolstered chatter the Lexington Republican is a possible vice presidential pick. Haley is coming off a year where she gained national attention for her

handling of the Charleston church slayings, including her successful call for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the State House grounds.

Haley brushed off vice presidential speculation Thursday, saying she planned to be at the State House in a year to tout the successes of her efforts to curb criminal domestic violence, an initiative she announced Thursday. "We have got a lot more things to do," said Haley, who gave a prime-time speech during the 2012 Republican National Convention.

Haley's selection is seen as part of the Republican Party's attempts to win over female voters, who will have a chance to elect the first female president if Hillary Clinton is the Democratic nominee. Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants, also helps address a GOP weakness — diversity.

The nation's youngest governor called such talk a "waste of time" Thursday. "I've never gotten into the

speculation of what people think or feel, or why people make decisions," Haley said.

Democratic leaders said they don't expect Haley to share a complete picture of South Carolina in her address, citing the lack of money to repair roads and aid poor, rural schools.

"(W)hat they certainly won't hear about is the despair that has plagued our state as a result of her leadership," S.C. Democratic Party chairman Jaime Harrison said. "While she's smiling in front of the cameras, normal people in our state are struggling just to get by."

Haley said she was invited to deliver the response by House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., during the first week of December — weeks before learning the obligation will cause her to miss her alma mater, Clemson University, playing for the national college football championship in Arizona Monday.

"It is going absolutely to kill me to not be at the national championship, but my heart will be in Arizona," she said.

Title: **Seafood market's future cloudy**
 Author: By STEPHEN FASTENAU sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com 843-706-8182
 Size: 52.08 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



IN PORT ROYAL

Seafood market's future cloudy

Town envisions new facility with \$1.8M windfall, but legal questions linger

By STEPHEN FASTENAU

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Just before Christmas, Port Royal finance manager Chris Canaday walked into Town Hall with a check made out to the town for \$1.8 million.

The insurance settlement from the seafood market fire had finally arrived, but the windfall brought questions about who controls the money and about plans to rebuild. The property is owned by the S.C.

Ports Authority, but the town was required to hold insurance on the buildings through a licensing agreement.

The town is seeking answers about what it might be entitled to for costs incurred to establish a temporary seafood operation in an adjacent building. The money — a check from the state Insurance Reserve Fund for damage to the mar-

ket and an adjacent warehouse — is now in an escrow account.

Town manager Van Willis said it's likely the money will eventually be turned over to the Ports Authority.

The question would then turn to plans to rebuild.

According to a development

Please see MARKET on 4A

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MARKET

Continued from 3A

agreement between the town and Ports Authority, the town will receive the seafood market in a property swap when the port property sells.

Willis said he has asked the town's attorney for advice on Port Royal's leverage in the matter.

Ports Authority spokeswoman Erin Dhand passed questions from The Beaufort Gazette/The Island Packet about the proceeds and buildings to agency attorneys, who did not immediately respond late Wednesday afternoon.

After a decade of failed dealings, sale of the port property was recently turned over to the Department of Administration's General Services division for auction.

The town wants answers as to which entity to talk to about the seafood market.

The large settlement and clean slate is a chance for the town to build a state-of-the-art seafood processing facility, Willis said.

Port Royal has leased the

docks and market operation from the Ports Authority. Operating the docks has been a financial drain for the town much of that time, a burden town officials say is necessary to maintain an iconic part of Port Royal's character and history.

"There is an opportunity there to create something special," Willis said.

EFFECT ON THE SALE

The most recent potential buyers said not knowing the amount of the insurance settlement played a part in not closing the deal.

Palmetto Alliance, the development group that made a \$15.42 million bid on the property last summer, terminated its contract with the S.C. Ports Authority on Dec. 11, the deadline to complete due diligence.

At the time, Ports Authority attorney Neil Robinson said the sellers didn't know the settlement amount and would have turned over the rights to the money at closing.

The Ports Authority al-

lowed the potential buyers to cut from the deal a residential area viewed as overpriced. That, along with the \$1.8 million in insurance proceeds, would have made closing a breeze, said Whit Suber, who worked as a consultant to the potential buyers on the deal. He said the group was within \$300,000 of closing.

"It would be disingenuous for me to say if (the settlement) was 300 grand, we would have closed," Suber said. "But I can assure you, at \$1.8 million, it would have no longer been a head-scratcher."

MOVING FORWARD

Willis said Wednesday that Gov. Nikki Haley's office has been responsive on the issue of the port sale, that the impending auction is on the radar and the process is moving forward.

The town has asked to ensure the law is followed regarding a required new appraisal, that the appraiser have knowledge of closed industrial sites and the process account for environmental

and structural concerns.

State law does not include a timetable for conducting the appraisal.

A lawsuit against the Ports Authority and town of Port Royal related to a former railroad line right-of-way could affect the schedule. Willis told town council he expects the town will be removed from the suit, that it doesn't own the property and has not signed any agreements related to the property.

When the topic of the port was raised Wednesday at a luncheon for the local legislative delegation and later during a town council workshop, the consensus was relief that the process was out of Ports Authority hands.

But when someone asked council whether the Ports Authority still had a hand in the sale, no one affirmed that.

"Nothing would surprise us," councilwoman Mary Beth Gray-Heyward said.

Follow reporter Stephen Fastenau at twitter.com/IPBG_Stephen.

Title: **Governor speaks on domestic violence**
 Author: The Associated Press
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Governor speaks on domestic violence

The Associated Press

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Title: **Senator: Roads plan could pass next month**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE AND JAMIE SELF ccope@thestate.com, jself@thestate.com
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THE 2016 LEGISLATURE

Senator: Roads plan could pass next month

With Transportation Department reform on the table, roads plan could pass by mid-February, says Senate roads-plan critic

.....
Senator filibustered gas-tax increase last session

Other senators not as optimistic, but expect roads plan to pass this session

BY CASSIE COPE
 AND JAMIE SELF

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 jself@thestate.com

The S.C. senator who last year blocked a proposal to increase gas taxes to fix the state's crumbling roads said Thursday he expects a road repair plan to pass the Senate by mid-February.

A bill to increase the state's gas tax is among the first issues the state Senate will take up when lawmakers return to Columbia on Tuesday.

"There's going to be a lot more appetite in the Senate this year for reforms," said state Sen.

Tom Davis, R-Beaufort. Davis filibustered the last three weeks of the 2015 session, arguing state budget surpluses and existing revenues should be used to pay for road repair needs.

Davis, who has advocated for giving control of the state Transportation Department to the governor, said Thursday

the Senate likely will pass a road-repair bill quickly because other senators now agree that agency needs to be reformed.

Davis said senators need to show taxpayers the state is spending wisely the money available for roads and deserves more. If senators properly allocate money and additional money is needed, "at that point and time, I've got no problem voting for a gas tax increase," he added.

Other lawmakers were not as optimistic as Davis on the timeline. Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee, said he expects senators to approve a road-repair plan by the June end of session.

Passing a proposal could take time, allowing senators to work out a deal on how to reform the Transportation Department, how much to cut

state income taxes, and how much to increase the

SEE FIXING ROADS, 5A

House speaker promises 'substantial progress' on education this year, **5A**

2016's key legislative dates

Jan. 12: First day of session

March 30: Filing deadline for primary races for all seats in the Legislature

May 1: Crossover deadline for bills that have not passed either the House or

Senate to be considered this year

June 2: Last day of session

“THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT MORE APPETITE IN THE SENATE THIS YEAR FOR REFORMS.

Sen. Tom Davis

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FROM PAGE 1A

FIXING ROADS

gas tax and other driving fees. However, Democrats likely will fight a large income tax cut, which Republican Gov. Nikki Haley has demanded as part of a roads deal.

Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, said the argument that an income tax cut will make South Carolina more attractive to businesses is a fallacy. "It would be a radical tax policy to give that much money back to the most well-to-do in this state, and to the point that it's a competition (among states for new industries) — Boeing, Volvo, BMW, the

tire companies — they're all here. They didn't look at our 7 percent (state income tax rate) and go somewhere else."

When fully enacted, the roads-and-tax-cut plan put forward by Senate Republicans would save the state's highest-earning taxpayers — those who make more than \$2 million in taxable income — an average of \$62,066 a year, according to projections by the state Revenue and Fiscal Affairs office.

Meanwhile, 1.1 million S.C. residents would not get any tax cut because they do not earn enough

to pay income taxes. That includes the working poor and some retirees, who would pay higher gas taxes and fees related to driving a vehicle.

If lawmakers try to enact a tax plan that heavily favors the wealthiest taxpayers, "then we're not going to pass anything,"

Hutto said.

Lawmakers also speculated on whether the March 30 deadline to file for the June primaries would impede passing a roads bill.

State Sen. Thomas McElveen, D-Sumter, said pressure from the business community will force

lawmakers to act early.

But Hutto said some lawmakers will be reluctant to vote to raise the gas tax before they know whether they will face primary opposition.

Senate Republican leader Peeler said voting for a road-repair proposal could cut both ways on Election Day.

"People will vote against you if you vote for a gas-tax increase, and they'll vote against you if you don't fix their roads."

*Cassie Cope: 803-771-8657, @cassielcope
 Jamie Self: 803-771-8658, @jamiemself*



Davis

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FILE PHOTOGRAPH The State

This year, will the Legislature deliver a plan to fix the state's battered roads?

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 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com
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Haley setting own agenda in State of Union response

National address is a chance to share what she thinks is important, Republican says

Haley says she is writing the address with her staff

Brushes off comments she was selected because she is a minority woman

BY ANDREW SHAIN
ashain@thestate.com

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Haley declined to reveal details of what she plans to say, except to repeat that she is giving an "address" to the nation rather than a "response" to Obama.

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Haley's selection is seen as part of the Republican

SEE HALEY, 7A

FROM PAGE 3A

HALEY

Party's attempts to win over female voters, who will have a chance to elect the first female president if Hillary Clinton is the Democratic nominee. Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants, also helps address a GOP weakness — diversity.

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championship in Arizona Monday. “It is going absolutely to kill me to not be at the national championship, but my heart will be in Arizona,” she said.

Haley unveils anti-domestic violence measures

Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday she wants to spend \$19 million to add 144 prosecutors and three judges to cut the waiting time for trials in criminal domestic violence cases.

The additional money, which Haley is including in her proposed state budget for next year, also ends the practice of police officers sometimes prosecuting domestic-violence cases. Those officers can be at a disadvantage when going against defense attorneys, Haley said.

The governor also signed executive orders that require the state’s 17 Cabinet agencies to adopt policies for aiding employees with domestic-violence issues; mandate that 11 state agencies screen clients for risks of domestic violence; and extend the deadline for work by her 135-member domestic-violence task force.

— ANDREW SHAIN



Gov. Nikki Haley

Title: **Abbeville state senator dies at 77**
 Author: Staff and Wirereports
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Abbeville state senator dies at 77

Staff and Wire reports

State Sen. Billy O'Dell, R-Abbeville, died Thursday at 77.

Greenwood County Coroner Sonny Cox said his office responded a little before 11 a.m. to the lawmaker's home, where he was pronounced dead. Cox said the cause of death is thought to be related to a heart condition.

Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee, called for a moment of silence in announcing O'Dell's death at a State House meeting.

"When I think of Sen. O'Dell, I think of his support for The Citadel and his great love of

South Carolina," Peeler said later. "He brought a calmness to the Senate. He was very reasoned. He didn't talk much, but when he did, we listened."

Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, called O'Dell an "exceptional man."

"He was a consensus

SEE O'DELL, 7A

FROM PAGE 3A

O'DELL

builder and reached across party lines," Leatherman said. "The Senate will sorely miss his voice and his leadership."

O'Dell graduated from The Citadel in 1960 and was CEO of the O'Dell Corp., a mop, broom and dust-mop manufacturing company started by his father. O'Dell was a member of the Senate for 26 years and chaired its General Committee. He also sat on the Senate's budget-writing panel.

Gov. Nikki Haley said of O'Dell, "He made South

Carolina a better place."

U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-Laurens, said O'Dell was "a passionate public servant who cared deeply

about our state and its people." O'Dell had been vice chairman of the Ware Shoals School District 51, president of the Ware Shoals Chamber of Commerce, a director of the S.C. Chamber of Commerce and president of the Ware Shoals Community Foundation.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
AND ANDREW SHAIN
CONTRIBUTED



Billy O'Dell

Title: **The OneSCFund awards grants to nonprofits for flood recovery**
 Author: BY AVERY G. WILKS awilks@thestate.com
 Size: 17.82 square inch
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



The One SC Fund awards grants to nonprofits for flood recovery

BY AVERY G. WILKS
awilks@thestate.com

The One SC Flood Relief Fund has awarded its first round of grants, totaling \$500,000, to support more than a dozen nonprofits working on recovery from the historic flooding Oct. 4.

The 13 nonprofits that received grant money are based in hard-hit areas across South Carolina.

The nonprofits' projects

range from mold remediation to complete home rebuilding, according to a news release from the Central Carolina Community Foundation, which runs the fund and accepts donations at www.onescfund.org.

"We've asked the people of South Carolina to step up, and what we've seen so far is the best in our state – but there's more work to

be done," Gov. Nikki Haley said in the release. "If you were blessed and did not have damage to your home, if you were blessed and able to get back into a safe place, pay it forward. Give whatever you can to support the One SC Flood Relief Fund."

Nonprofit organizations can apply for the second round of grants until 6 p.m. on Friday.

Four ways to give

1. Online at www.onescfund.org
2. Via text message, by texting ONESC to 33923
3. Sending checks made payable to Central Carolina Community Foundation-One SC to Central Carolina Community Foundation-One SC, 2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 213, Columbia, SC 29204
4. Calling Jenni Meyer at (803) 873-2050, ext. 325

Title: **One SC Fund awards grants to nonprofits for flood recovery**
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The 13 nonprofits that received grant money are based in hard-hit areas across South Carolina.

The recipients in Richland County include Central South Carolina Habitat for Humanity, Home Works of America, St. Bernard Project, United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries and United Way of the Midlands.

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Title: **Relocating? SC looms as 2nd-most-popular choice**
 Author: BY AMANDA COYNE The Greenville News
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Relocating? SC looms as 2nd-most-popular choice

BY AMANDA COYNE
The Greenville News

South Carolina remains the second-most-popular destination for state-to-state moves, according to a new study from United Van Lines.

The national moving company analyzed its customers' moving data for its annual National Movers Study. Oregon was the most popular destination for the third consecutive year, but South Carolina was close behind. United Van Lines handled 4,069 moves to and from the Palmetto State, and 2,538 of them (62.4 percent) were incoming moves. Oregon had an incoming move rate of 69.0 percent.

The growth of industry in South Carolina, and the growth of manufacturing in particular, can be cited as an underlying reason for the state's continued growth, according to Clemson University economics professor Scott Baier.

The state's status as a "right to work" state, meaning employees cannot be required to join a labor union, as well as



FILE PHOTO The State

Volvo CEO Lex Kerssemakers and Gov. Nikki Haley sign the deal for the automaker to build a plant in S.C. Big projects like this make S.C. a more attractive choice.

attractive tax rates make companies more likely to relocate to South Carolina than other states, Baier said. When large companies like Michelin and Volvo establish operations in South Carolina, it also becomes more attractive for smaller companies that supply the larger ones to move as well.

With those company relocations and expansions come new jobs, attracting people from other states, including the Northeast and Midwest, both of which saw high rates of departure, according to United Van Lines.

The increase in job location flexibility that has come with easier tele-

commuting options has also increased people's ability to choose where they live with less regard for where their job is located, Baier said.

"You don't need to come into a brick-and-mortar office every day to be employed," Baier said.

Baier also cited more traditional reasons for South Carolina's continued growth: a warmer climate, lower income taxes and lower housing prices. Between 2010 and 2014, South Carolina's population grew by 4.5 percent, outpacing the national population growth rate of 3.3 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.