

Title: **Santee Cooper needs Netmetering plan**

Author:

Size: 11.31 square inch

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Santee Cooper needs Net metering plan

Last year, Gov. Nikki Haley and our legislators unanimously adopted pro-solar policies so that citizens could compete for new solar jobs and save money. I was proud to fill one of the first jobs created as a result. The great news is that South Carolina is now a model in solar policy because of their leadership.

However, the Grand Strand has not seen the energy savings and jobs yet. If Santee Cooper passes a recently proposed mix of confusing incentives and discriminatory solar fees, that will not change.

I'm hopeful Santee Cooper will instead adopt a net metering policy that allows solar customers to get the credit they deserve for energy they send to the grid.

As Richland County's Republican Executive Committeeman, I strongly believe in the free market. Shouldn't all people in South Carolina get to choose their energy source?

Net metering enables consumers to decide what's best for them. It's already producing results for those who live in Duke and SCE&G territories. Net metering will work for the Grand Strand too.

The writer is senior manager for public policy at Sunrun Inc.

- Tyson Grinstead, Columbia

Title: **Haley: Damage cost from flood unknown**
 Author: Associated Press
 Size: 15.19 square inch
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



Haley: Damage cost from flood unknown

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says her state will rebuild from this month's floods, but she can't know how it will be paid for until the damage estimate is in.

She insists she will keep her promise to repair everything that broke or washed away, but needs to know the bill and how much the Federal Emergency Management Agency will pay before figuring out how the state will find the money.

"We're going to do the assessments. We're going to see what FEMA takes care of. We're going to see what the state needs to do after that. I'm not touching any of the reserve (funds) because we don't have to at this point and time. If that changes, we will deal with that," Haley said Wednesday.

Lawmakers have almost universally praised the governor for her handling of the floods. But some wonder if the infrastructure damage was made worse because roads and bridges aren't being maintained.

Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter thinks the governor can extend the compassion she has for flood victims or the people affected by the church shooting to the poor in South Carolina looking for health care. Under Haley, the state has refused to take federal money to expand Medicaid.

"I think the governor has shown tremendous leadership. I appreciate the fact she recognizes South Carolina can't do this alone and there is a role for the federal government to play," said Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg.

Title: **State revenues on pace for \$260 million surplus by year's end**
 Author: BYCASSIECOPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 39.06 square inch
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



State revenues on pace for \$260 million surplus by year's end

BY CASSIE COPE
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The state had a \$18 million surplus during the first quarter of its fiscal year, a surplus that could grow by another \$47.8 million once timing issues are factored in.

If that growth continues, there could be about \$260 million more in the state's general fund budget for lawmakers to spend when they return to Columbia in January. The surpluses would bring the general fund budget to about \$7.9 billion.

Lawmakers will hear calls to spend the added money to resolve a school equity lawsuit, repair the state's roads and pay for flood damage.

The state's tax revenues are collected mostly from sales, personal income and corporate income taxes.

Those revenues are running well above projected levels, chief economist Frank Rainwater told the state Board of Economic Advisors on Thursday. "We're in a very good growth spurt, and we're feeling very positive about what's going on."

Board chairman Chad Walldorf said the S.C. economy was growing at a steady pace through the spring,

S.C. is in a growth spurt because of added jobs, chief economist says

State's economy should recover quickly from storm as rebuilding starts

South Carolinians' personal income will grow between 4.3 percent and 5.35 percent, economists predict

adding revenues have been exceptionally strong since the summer and continuing into September.

"Although we expect to see some negative impacts to revenues due to the recent floods, once we get past that, we expect the very strong, steady growth to continue," Walldorf said.

The increase in state revenues is driven by more South Carolinians finding good jobs, said Walldorf, who is appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley.

Going forward, there might be a dip in sales tax collections because of the flooding earlier this month, Rainwater said. But he expects the economy to recover fully. "We don't anticipate any negative effects on revenue

because of the storm."

Once money from insurers kicks in to offset losses and rebuilding starts — with residents replacing furniture, carpet and appliances, for example — the state's tax revenues will rebound, Rainwater said.

University of South Carolina economist Joey Von Nessen told the board that he expects economic activity will benefit from a boost in spending because of the flood. However, that burst in spending could mask losses in wealth. For example, flood victims could spend more to make repairs but, to do so, could spend some of their savings.

Five Southeastern economists gave the board their predictions for growth in the state's economy.

The economists predict personal income in the state will grow between 4.3 percent and 5.35 percent during the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. They also predicted employment will grow by from 1.75 percent to 3.1 percent.

The board will consider those estimates as it revises its revenue projections and makes a prediction for next year.

Reach Cope at (803) 771-8657.

Title: **Interim S.C. DOT leader Hall gets job**
Author: COLUMBIA
Size: 9.92 square inch
Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



Interim S.C. DOT leader Hall gets job

COLUMBIA

The interim director of the South Carolina Department of Transportation did such a good job helping rebuild South Carolina roads after this month's massive floods that Gov. Nikki Haley decided to ignore her typical practice of looking for an outsider to run state agencies. Haley announced Wednesday she will ask the state Senate to make 20-year DOT engineer Christy Hall the permanent director of the state's roads agency.

The governor said she offered Hall the job on Sept.

30, but couldn't make the announcement before the massive floods from Oct. 3 to Oct. 5 crippled the road network. Nearly 600 roads and bridges were washed out or damaged. Crews have fixed all but about 150 of them.

Hall will also face challenges that affected the DOT long before the waters started to rise. The state's roads have been crumbling for years, with some estimates saying DOT needs \$500 million extra a year for decades just to get roads to fair condition.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Title: **Dams damaged in storm, flooding**
 Author: By ARIEL GILREATH agilreath@indexjournal.com
 Size: 17.67 square inch
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



■ LOCAL EFFECTS

Dams damaged in storm, flooding

By ARIEL GILREATH

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After major rain and flooding at the beginning of the month, the Department of Health and Environmental Control has ordered 63 dams in South Carolina be fixed or replaced, three of which are in Greenwood County.

The dams were apparently damaged during what Gov. Nikki Haley termed the “1,000 year storm” in the beginning of October that led to flooding across South Carolina.

DHEC said the dams in Greenwood affected by the storm are Town and Country Dam 1 and Town and Country Dam 2, located in the Gatewood community on Gatewood Drive, and the Upper North Lake Dam located on Rocky Creek near Northlake Drive.

Attempts to reach people responsible for maintaining the dams were unsuccessful.

“DHEC remains committed to ensuring public safety and will be aggressive in pursuing all necessary safety measures to make sure that dam owners are making these needed repairs as quickly as possible,” Catherine Heigel, director of DHEC, said in a released statement.

DHEC put each dam into one of three classifications: C1, C2 or C3. According to DHEC’s website, the failure of dams put in category C1 could mean death or serious damage to infrastructure, failure of dams in C2 will not likely result in death but may damage infrastructure and the failure of dams in C3 may result in limited property damage.

Owners of the dams are required to submit a detailed inspection and a plan of action for the dams by Oct. 30 to DHEC.

Title: **Viers gets 3 years in money laundering case**
 Author: Associated Press
 Size: 13.02 square inch
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



■ EX-LEGISLATOR

Viers gets 3 years in money laundering case

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A former South Carolina lawmaker who was once a rising star in the Republican party and was getting noticed by the governor at conservative gatherings is heading to prison for more than three years for money laundering.

Thad Viers' three-year fall from grace hit a new bottom Tuesday as he was sentenced in federal court in Florence to 37 months in prison and ordered to pay back \$875,000.

The 37-year-old attorney helped his client, construction company owner Marlon Weaver, hide assets from an insurance company looking to collect after Weaver failed to fulfill a \$6 million state contract to pave part of Interstate 95, prosecutors said in a news release.

Weaver cooperated with authorities and was sentenced to a year in prison. Viers pleaded guilty in April.

Viers also lied to the IRS and federal agents about what he did with Weaver's assets, authorities said.

Viers served in the state House from 2003 until 2012. He also was a front-runner for South Carolina's new U.S. House seat, created after the 2010 Census.

At a 2011 Charleston gathering sponsored by conservative blog RedState, Gov. Nikki Haley recognized Viers in the crowd and noted his run for Congress.

Title: **BriarcliffeAcresvotes againstoffshoredrilling**
 Author: BY EMILYWEAVER eweaver@thesunnews.com
 Size: 90.05 square inch
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



Briarcliffe Acres votes against offshore drilling

BY EMILY WEAVER

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In a storm of debate over offshore drilling, Briarcliffe Acres surfaced as the latest coastal town to join a united front against seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas off of South Carolina's beaches.

The town council unanimously (minus councilwoman Abby Stewart, who was visiting family on the west coast) passed a resolution Monday joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns in a stance against offshore drilling.

"We understand what damage can ensue from any spill that could happen out there," said Councilman Huston Huffman. "We don't want to take

FROM PAGE 1A

OFFSHORE

resolutions may do little to stop offshore drilling if the project is ultimately approved.

The Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management announced a draft proposed program in January that opened up two planning areas for testing along the coast from the Maryland-Virginia state line to the Georgia-Florida line.

The coast of Virginia was proposed for a potential offshore drilling site five years ago, but plans fizzled in the wake of the disastrous Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Buzz of where the potential rigs will actually go abound among opponents, with doom scenarios mar-

the risk of a spill out there polluting the beaches."

For many the rallying cry against offshore drilling echoes the loss of tourism dollars that could cripple coastal economies. But for Briarcliffe Acres,

a "bedroom community" of about 500, any damage would not just hit a tourist destination, it would hit home.

The resolution had been in the works for a couple of months, Huffman said, but other issues pushed the matter to Monday's agenda.

A news release from the Stop Oil Drilling in the Atlantic Leadership Team on Monday called the vote an "incredible show of unity, and a strong

message," appealing to legislators to "stop Washington from forcing this on South Carolina."

Legislators say the region's

SEE OFFSHORE, 13A

500

Rough population of Briarcliffe Acres

Town council unanimously passes resolution

Briarcliffe Acres joins other 23 coastal towns in S.C.

Drilling opponents worried about destruction of natural environment

have all passed similar resolutions in recent months.

Briarcliffe Acres' action brought all of Horry County's coastal towns on board against offshore drilling, said Jean Marie Neal, a SODA representative.

"The vote today means every coastal municipality in South Carolina has said no to offshore drilling off our beaches," Watkins said in the release.

Myrtle Beach City Council passed a resolution Aug. 11 saying it wanted to protect the beaches from potential oil spills, joining at least 18 other municipalities opposing offshore drilling at the time. The decision was greeted with applause from 100 spectators in the audience.

Opponents say offshore drilling would hurt marine life, pumping into the Atlantic the potential of spills and sound waves that would send sea creatures scurrying. And the risk to the state's high dollar tourism industry makes the idea demand a price too high to pay.

Advocates say the drilling can be done safely and tapping into an oil or natural gas reserve could help the country move away from its dependence on foreign oil, helping in turn with national security. The underwater goldmine would mean more jobs and tax dollars.

"The possible jobs and revenue gained from drilling is miniscule compared

Title: **BriarcliffeAcresvotes againstoffshoredrilling**
 Author: BY EMILYWEAVER eweaver@thesunnews.com
 Size: 90.05 square inch
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238

to the dollars tourists spend in Horry County and the rest of coastal South Carolina,” Watkins said in the release. “Giving our coast to the oil and gas industry simply does not make economic sense.”

A CLOSER LOOK

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has the power to open the Atlantic up for oil leasing with or without any state input, said Congressman Tom Rice.

And the idea that South Carolina would profit from any offshore drilling is not a possibility in federal legislation – yet. Rice said his office is working on a bill that would change that.

The bureau is reviewing if and where oil and gas leases might be issued on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf, but the draft plans call for only one lease to be issued. Plans also include a 50-mile buffer from the coastline. The buffer would keep the operation out of immediate sight from a shoreline, but would also keep any potential revenue gain out of the state’s coffers.

The state would only reap revenue if the operation falls within South Carolina’s coastal territory, which is about three miles from the shoreline.

“There’s a special law that allows the Gulf states to get a revenue share of 37.5 percent,” Rice said, but no law exists for the mid- to south-Atlantic coastal states, which have never been opened to federal oil leases before.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) submitted a bill that provides for revenue sharing for the states, but

the bill also does away with the buffer zone, Rice said.

The congressman added that they are working on a bill now that would keep the 50-mile buffer zone in play, while giving South Carolina a 37.5 percent revenue share.

“We don’t even know what’s out there. We don’t know if there’s gas, if there’s natural gas or if there’s crude oil,” Rice said.

The last time the ocean floor was scanned for potential reserves, the probe was conducted with technology from the 1980s. Technology has changed since then. “There appears to be formations that would likely have some type of reserves,” Rice said, but we “don’t know what or how much.”

Rice has said the issue of offshore drilling needs more review.

“My position has been let’s do the seismic testing,” he said. “Let’s find out what’s out there and then we can make rational decisions.”

Rice said that he also wants to know what can be done to “safeguard our tourism revenue” and that a study could find the reserves aren’t worth the trouble and expense of drilling.

Rice had planned to call a public forum last Wednesday with a professor from Coastal Carolina University, a professor from the University of South Carolina, a representative from the Coastal Conservation League, a public official from Mobile, Ala., and the director of BOEM to address the issue, talk about the process, the time-lines of any project

and when and where along that time-line the public

will have input. The forum was postponed in the wake of the state’s recent historic flooding. Rice said that his office is working on rescheduling the forum.

In the last six weeks, Rice said he has visited oil fields in two states and the offshore drilling rigs in Louisiana to get a closer look at the operations.

“They opened up oil fields off of Alaska like a month or two months ago,” he said. “And the oil companies have pulled out saying it’s not economically feasible.”

The same could happen here, he said.

“It may be that this never becomes feasible to drill off the Atlantic,” he said.

The potential section of Atlantic coastal exploration fell in an area where state governments have been known to support expanded energy development offshore.

Gov. Nikki Haley supports offshore drilling and is a member of the Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition. The coalition operates on a mission to, among other things, “influence a sensible path forward for the development of America’s offshore energy resources.”

Emily Weaver:
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“

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S OUT THERE. WE DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S GAS, IF THERE'S NATURAL GAS OR IF THERE'S CRUDE OIL.

Congressman Tom Rice



Title: **Keeping up with the 'Times'**

Author: By Mark A. Stevens mstevens@southstrandnews.com

Size: 31.0 square inch

Georgetown, SC Circulation: 8446

Keeping up with the 'Times'

By MARK A. STEVENS

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It was another week full of events, happenings and news, and, as usual, the staff of The Georgetown Times was there to keep readers in the know.

In last week's editions of the Times, readers found out about ...

Roads to recovery

Flooding from what Gov. Nikki Haley called a 1,000-year event continued to dominate the news.

Floodwaters trapped residents in Andrews, Dunbar, Oatland and other Georgetown communities.

The National Guard assisted local efforts to help residents escape the rising waters.

Help from churches

Church congregations had boots on the ground in Georgetown last week to help the community following the historic flooding.

Dozens of volunteers met at the Georgetown Church of Christ to help with disaster-relief efforts.

"This is part of our mission," said Debbie Justice, a Georgetown

Church of Christ.

Congratulations!

Luvenia Frasier celebrated her 100th birthday Oct. 15.

Friends and family helped the Georgetown native celebrate with a party at Prince George Healthcare Center.

House calls by boat

Dr. Lizina Green already made housecalls, but during the historic flooding she and her team members from Tidelands Health were assisting patients via boat and sometimes helicopter.

...

Those are some of the stories found in last week's issues of The Georgetown Times.

You can keep up with all the news in Georgetown County by subscribing to the Times.

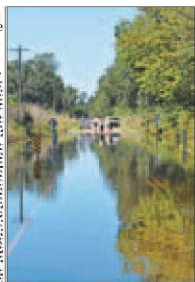
A subscription is only \$39 per year, and that gets you 104 issues per year, plus our special publications like the annual Tidelands magazine and, every Friday, Parade magazine. Call 843-546-4148 for details.



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Roads to recovery

Groups organize to lend a hand



Cut off
Floodwaters trap, isolate Oatland, Dunbar residents

As the water continued to rise, residents in Oatland and Dunbar were cut off from the rest of the community. The National Guard and local volunteers were working to help them escape the rising waters.

Churches coordinate relief efforts



Church congregations had boots on the ground in Georgetown last week to help the community following the historic flooding.

Title: **Roads? Bonuses? A Q&A on SC's flood recovery**
 Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
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Roads? Bonuses? A Q&A on SC's flood recovery

BY JAMIE SELF
 jself@thestate.com

As South Carolina shifts into recovery mode after historic rainfalls and flooding this month, questions are swirling about what the S.C. General Assembly will do to help flood victims and at what cost.

The Buzz has some answers:

Will the S.C. Legislature come back early to address flood damage?

No.

State House Reps. **Rick Quinn**, R-Lexington, and **James Smith**, D-Richland, have called for an emergency session to borrow money for roads and help homeowners with costs of rebuilding not covered by insurance or federal disaster aid.

But state Sen. **Hugh Leatherman**, R-Florence – the leader of the Senate – said Tuesday he does not plan to call senators back to work before January because lawmakers do not yet have clear estimates of the damage. Leatherman appointed a special panel Friday to assess flood damage.

Gov. **Nikki Haley** said Wednesday she does not foresee lawmakers needing an emergency session.

And House Speaker **Jay Lucas**, R-Darlington, said his chamber's state budget-writing committee will hold hearings in coming weeks to determine the impact of the flood and potential costs of the recovery. A spokesperson for the speaker would not say whether Lucas

thinks that work will continue until January, which would rule out an emergency session.

Are state employees' bonuses safe?

Yes, all you people emailing The Buzz!

One-time \$800 bonuses for state employees, who earn less than \$100,000 a year, went out late last week. (Check your bank account). The bonus does not apply to school teachers who are paid by school districts.

Will lawmakers consider relief for homeowners?

Anyone's guess.

Quinn and Smith – the bipartisan House duo – are pushing for aid to homeowners. But Leatherman said using the state budget to assist homeowners victimized by the flood would “have to be looked at very carefully.”

Translation: He's non-committal.

State Sen. **Larry Martin**, R-Pickens, said the state likely can do something for homeowners, but it should not be in the form of grants.

“We want to be as helpful as we can be, and maybe we can set up a specific flood victims program to, maybe, do some low-interest loans,” Martin said. “But I don't see us paying off mortgages on houses or writing a check to a homeowner.”

What other ideas are being discussed?

Borrowing more money for roads.

State Sen. **John Courson**, R-Richland, said a proposal to borrow money for maintenance at state colleges and universities could be expanded to include money for transportation when lawmakers return to work in January.

Leatherman said last week he plans to push that borrowing package for education again next year.

How much federal aid could the state receive?

Perhaps, a lot.

If Hurricane Hugo is any guide, within the first 60 days after that hurricane hammered the state, federal aid had topped \$250 million.

Will the state have to spend money on the recovery?

Yes.

In mid-1990, the S.C. General Assembly agreed to borrow \$31 million to pay costs related to Hugo, which hit the state on Sept. 24, 1989. The money included \$18 million in matching funds for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

BUZZ BITES

● Gov. **Nikki Haley** was in Georgia when the historic rainstorm struck Columbia on Oct. 3-4. Haley left South Carolina for a Republican Governors Association's retreat in Sea Island after giving a media briefing about the threat of flooding at the S.C. Emergency Management Center on Oct. 2, her office said. The retreat

draws large donors to the association. She returned to South Carolina about noon Oct. 4. “Gov. Haley has been working on the flood all day, every day, since before it began,” said Rob Godfrey, Haley's deputy chief of staff.

● A State Ethics Commission hearing into Lt. Gov. **Henry McMaster's** possible excessive campaign contributions, scheduled for Wednesday, has been postponed. The two sides are in settlement negotiations, commission director Herb Hayden said. A final order could be issued within several weeks. McMaster was charged with accepting \$72,700 in improper contributions from 51 donors to pay off debt from his 2010 bid for the GOP nomination for governor.

The Buzz is a look back at the week in politics compiled by reporters at The State.

2016 IN SC

Where the presidential candidates will be this week:

● **Jeb Bush**, Florida's former GOP governor, will join U.S. Sen. **Tim Scott**, R-N. Charleston, for a town-hall meeting at Bishop England High School on Daniel Island at 9 a.m. Saturday.

● Republican **Carly Fiorina** will attend a Greenville County Republican Women's luncheon at the Poinsett Club at noon Thursday. On Friday, the former Hewlett Packard chief executive will speak at the University

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 Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
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of South Carolina-Beaufort's auditorium at 2 p.m. and at Magnolia Hall in Sun City at 4 p.m.

● U.S. Sen. **Lindsey Graham**, a Seneca Republican, will speak to the S.C. Construction Financial Management Association about the threat of radical Islam on Monday at 12:15 p.m. at the Poinsett Club in Greenville.

● U.S. Sen. **Marco Rubio**,

R-Fla., will join S.C. Attorney General **Alan Wilson**, R-Lexington, in West Columbia on Friday for a Conservative Leadership Project presidential forum on legal issues. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. at Brookland Banquet and Conference Center, 1066 Sunset Blvd. Rubio will speak at a Concerned Veterans of America town hall in Greenville at 11 a.m. Saturday.

● Republican **Donald Trump** will hold a rally at the Anderson Civic Center on Monday at 6 p.m.

Staff writers Cassie Cope and Andy Shain contributed. Jamie Self: 803-771-8658, @jamiemself

State employee bonuses are safe

Legislators divided over grants to homeowners

Five Republican presidential candidates visit the Palmetto State this week

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

Author:

Size: 12.55 square inch

Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



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