

Title: **City to raze condemned Greenwood home**
 Author: By ADAM BENSON abenson@indexjournal.com
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City to raze condemned Greenwood home

By ADAM BENSON

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A Singleton Street home that was condemned by city officials months ago is the latest target for removal in Greenwood's continued push to rid neighborhoods of blighted properties.

Razing the 114 Singleton St. property – located across from the Tabernacle Baptist Church – will cost \$4,500 to come from community development funds. It follows a June vote by the City Council to spend \$25,000 for the removal of six other dilapidated homes.

"This is an ongoing effort by the city to eliminate blighted structures, which tend to be a nuisance in their respective neighborhoods and attract unwanted activity," said

Julie Wilke, assistant city manager. "Their removal is one small step toward improving the visual appeal and safety of Greenwood neighborhoods."

City Council member Linda Edwards, whose Ward 2 includes Singleton Street – has been a vocal proponent of blight removal. She said the Singleton Street home is owned by a woman who now lives in a nursing home and can't keep up with taxes and upkeep.

Property records show the house, built in 1925, has been owned by Mamie Martin since 1971.

Edwards said clearing up eyesores is a quality-of-life issue, and several people in the Singleton Street neighborhood reached out to her about the

house.

"You have people living in them and you don't know what's going on the property when everything is growing up over the house like that," she said.

The city is also working on large-scale blight removal as well. Last month, Gov. Nikki Haley wrote a letter to Greenwood officials that said they won \$500,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds to convert the Mineral Court Apartments into 15 single-family homes in partnership with the Greenwood Area Habitat for Humanity.

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HOME

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The CDBG grant request comes on the heels of an \$825,000 federal award to Greenwood to rehabilitate 30

properties in the North Edgefield area.

Contact staff writer Adam Benson at 864-943-5650 or on Twitter @ABensonIJ.

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ADAM BENSON | INDEX-JOURNAL

This 114 Singleton Street home will be torn down by city officials as part of Greenwood's ongoing efforts to remove blighted properties.

Title: **People keep coming to state**
 Author: AMANDA COYNE THE GREENVILLE NEWS
 Size: 23.40 column inches
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People keep coming to state

Work, family are primary reasons

AMANDA COYNE
 THE GREENVILLE NEWS

South Carolina's population is growing at an approximate rate of 500,000 people every 10 years, driven in part by out-of-state transplants making the Palmetto State their new home.

In April 2010, South Carolina's population was 4,625,364, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In July of this year, it was already nearing 5 million, at an estimate of 4,961,119. Between 2015 and 2016, the Palmetto State gained nearly more than 66,000 new residents, according to Census data, making it the 10th fastest-growing state in the country.

Among all moves, whether in

the same state or to a new one, housing was the primary reason for nearly half, according to a 2014 Census Bureau report. Nearly all others moved for employment reasons (19.4 percent) or family reasons (30.3 percent). Moves based on family or employment are often what drive people to new states,, said Jerry Mitchell, a research associate professor of geography at the University of South Carolina.

Two coastal counties, Beaufort and Horry, have the lowest proportions of native born South Carolinians: under 30 percent in Beaufort and under 40 percent in Horry, Mitchell said. The homes of Hilton Head Island and Myrtle Beach are popular retirement destinations, but it's not just retirees migrating across state lines to these counties, Mitchell said.

"The obvious answer is retire-

ment, but those retirees also need services," Mitchell said. "They need servers for restaurants, people to mow the grass ... high end and low end workers are responding to that as well."

Population growth in South Carolina has also occurred during a time of employment growth; in November, more South Carolinians were employed than ever before, Gov. Nikki Haley said. That has led to the "suburbanization" of South Carolina's biggest cities, including Greenville, as well as Rock Hill and Fort Mill, suburbs of Charlotte, Mitchell said.

While weather and "Southern hospitality" are often cited as reasons outsiders move, Mitchell notes that most come from nearby states like Georgia and North Carolina, so work or family may be more realistic reasons.

Title: **Bright: No regrets six months after**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 90.36 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Bright: No regrets six months after loss

Controversial

lawmaker knew
 battle was uphill

TIM SMITH

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COLUMBIA - For Lee Bright, the situation appeared beyond daunting.

The headline-grabbing arch conservative from Spartanburg County faced a trio of opponents in his primary battle to win a third term in the Senate. The State Chamber of Commerce also opposed his re-election.

His proposals to require transgender people to use the bathroom for their sex at birth, his push for anti-abortion legislation and support of the Confederate flag had collected a

basketful of political enemies.

And then, during the final weeks of the legislative session, with his daughters' graduation and the primary vote on the horizon, he decided to postpone surgery to remove his gall bladder, leaving him sick and in pain.

Weeks later he lost in a runoff with former Rep. Scott Talley.

But Bright, 46, insists today he has no regrets.

"I knew I had collected so many enemies that winning that re-election was going to be really hard," he told *The*

Greenville News, "so I thought, 'You've got to live like this is it, like you're never coming back.' That's how I did it."

Shed of his Statehouse obligations, Bright sells insurance, is filling in for a talk-radio host and is pondering a brighter future for conservatives in Washington with the election of Donald Trump. He is not as hopeful of the South Carolina Senate.

"We've taken some strides in the House but obviously, I'm

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No regrets

Continued from Page 1A

a little biased, but I think we took a step back in the Senate," he said of his defeat. "The reformers lost one and I'm not sure we gained. But I like to give people a chance and see how they do."

Bright's path to the Statehouse was filled with obstacles and challenges, starting with high school when doctors discovered he had cancer and removed some of his colon and lymph nodes, he said.

In 1999, at the age of 29, Bright won a seat on a Spartanburg County school board, a seat he kept until moving to the Statehouse.

He decided in 2004 to run for the state Senate, challenging incumbent John Hawkins, who won the race by a narrow margin.

Four years later, with Hawkins not running, Bright ran again and won, this time with the support of Hawkins and then-Gov. Mark Sanford.

"I felt like it was a miracle to get in there to begin with," Bright said. "When you don't pull any punches and you don't have much of a filter, that is not your typical person who wins elections."

Over the next seven years, Bright made his presence known in the Senate with provocative statements and proposals.

The states' rights advocate once quipped that "if at first you don't secede, try again" and proposed creating a study committee for the state to create its own currency. He railed against welfare programs, arguing if people are able-bodied and don't work, "they shouldn't eat."

He championed legislation that aligned with his conservative values but did not pass, including bills aimed at protecting fetuses at conception, bills to exempt South Carolina-made guns from federal regulation and to allow gun owners to carry guns without a state permit, as well as legislation to instruct students on the use of firearms.

He voted against state budgets and against the lowering of the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds following the shooting deaths of nine African-Americans by a white supremacist at a Charleston Church.

"It didn't take any courage to take it

down," he said, "especially in my district, it took courage to keep it up."

In 2013, Bright announced he would run against incumbent U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, arguing the Republican was not conservative enough.

"He caves on judges," he said at the time. "He caves on energy policy and he criticizes those who are trying to turn things around."

Graham won the primary, with Bright taking a distant second place.

In 2015, with pressure mounting for lawmakers to improve the state's roads and a proposal waiting for debate to raise the state's gas tax, Bright went to the well of the Senate and filibustered, holding out for an amendment that would send more than \$200 million to county transportation committees. The gas tax effort failed, earning the ire of the state chamber.

In 2016, Bright proposed legislation to register and track refugees, after some, including Gov. Nikki Haley, opposed efforts to bring Syrian refugees into the state, arguing that background checks were inadequate.

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But his bathroom bill gained more attention, prompting packed hearings at which both proponents and opponents of the bill voiced their opinions.

Critics argued the bill was a waste of time and energy and pointed to the negative fallout in North Carolina after lawmakers there passed a similar law.

Haley said she thought the bill unnecessary, as did state chamber officials. The bill never made it out of committee. Bright today says he has no regrets about the legislation.

"One of these men that likes to dress up like women and go into the women's bathroom, they rape somebody in South Carolina, that's unfortunate," he told *The News*. "And the Legislature ought to be held accountable. Something like that happens, then people will do something."

Bright said during his runoff, a voter called him up and asked him whether he supported the bathroom bill. He told the man he was the bill's sponsor.

"People were confused about the issue," he said. "People legitimately thought I was on the other side of the issue. It's a matter of voters have to be

more informed. They have got to pay closer attention."

By then, Bright said, he had been targeted for opposition by the establishment because of his stance on the gas tax, the flag and the bathroom bill.

Rep. Tommy Stringer of Greenville supported Bright's re-election.

"Sometimes courage demands the sacrifice of the very office that you hold if you stand against the prevailing winds of expediency," Stringer posted on his blog earlier this year. "Lee Bright has consistently made this stand, this stonewall against the powers that control our state capitol, against their collusion with groups that would enrich themselves at the expense of the common citizen, against their cynical promises of conservative reform to advance their own political careers, against their ready abandonment of the very ideals that have sustained our republic since its founding."

By late April, Bright said pain and sickness led him to see a doctor and consider surgery to remove his gallbladder. But doctors were unsure of doing laparoscopic surgery because of his prior cancer procedures, he said,

and Bright said he did not want to be sidelined for one daughter's college graduation, his other daughter's high school graduation and his primary race.

"Being in constant pain is no way to run a re-election campaign," he said. "Probably if I had it to do it all over again I would have had that surgery."

The issue arose again in September, he said, when he hesitated because of a daughter's upcoming wedding. The surgeon told him if he didn't have the surgery then, he would definitely miss the wedding with another major attack. The surgery was successful, he said.

Bright's trucking business failed in 2008, due in part, he said, to a wave of bad debt. He subsequently started an independent insurance business and sells insurance today. He says he still believes hard work can produce success.

"I'm a very big believer in providence and everything happens for a reason," he said. "A lot of people ask me what's next? I don't know what's next. I'm going to try and make a living. I'm going to try and make a difference."



MYKAL MCELDOWNEY/STAFF/FILE

Lee Bright, who lost his bid to stay as a state senator, said he has no regrets.

Title: **New UN chief urges New Year's resolution 'to put peace first'**
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LEADERSHIP CHANGE

New UN chief urges New Year's resolution 'to put peace first'

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS

Antonio Guterres took the reins of the United Nations on New Year's Day, promising to be a "bridge-builder" but facing an antagonistic incoming U.S. administration led by Donald Trump who thinks the world body's 193 member states do nothing except talk and have a good time.

The former Portuguese prime minister and U.N. refugee chief told reporters after being sworn in as secretary-general on Dec. 12 that he will engage all governments – "and, of course, also with the next government of the United States" – and show his willingness to cooperate on "the enormous challenges that we'll be facing together."

But Trump, with his "America First" agenda, has shown little interest in multilateralism, which Guterres says is "the cornerstone" of the United Nations.

So as Guterres begins his five-year term facing conflicts from Syria and Yemen to South Sudan and Libya and global crises from terrorism to climate change, U.S. support for the United Nations remains a question mark.

And it matters because the U.S. is a veto-wielding member of the U.N. Security Council and pays 22 percent of the U.N.'s regular budget and 25 percent of its peace-

keeping budget.

Immediately after the United States allowed the Security Council to condemn Israeli settlements in the West Bank on Dec. 23 in a stunning rupture with past practice, Trump warned in a tweet: "As to the U.N., things will be different after Jan. 20th," when he takes office.

Trump followed up three days later with another tweet questioning its effectiveness. "The United Nations has such great potential but right now it is just a

club for people to get together, talk and have a good time. So sad!"

John Bolton, a conservative Republican and former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said in an interview with The Associated Press that Guterres would be well advised "especially given the incoming Trump administration" to follow the model of his predecessor, Ban Ki-moon, and do what member governments want.

If he tries to follow what Ban's predecessor, Kofi Annan, did as secretary-general and try to be the world's top diplomat and what some called "a secular pope," Bolton said, "I think especially in the Trump administration, he would run into big trouble very quickly."

Guterres has made clear that his top priority will be preventing crises and promoting peace.

In the first minute after taking over as U.N. chief on Sunday, Guterres issued an "Appeal for Peace." He urged all people in the world to make a shared New Year's resolution: "Let us resolve to put peace first."

"Let us make 2017 a year in which we all – citizens, governments, leaders – strive to overcome our differences," the new secretary-general said.

He has said there is enormous difficulty in solving conflicts, a lack of "capacity" in the international community to prevent conflicts, and the need to develop "the diplomacy for peace," which he plans to focus on.

Guterres has said he will also strive to deal with the inequalities that globalization and technological progress have helped deepen, creating joblessness and despair especially among youth.

"Today's paradox is that despite greater connectivity, societies are becoming more fragmented. More and more people live within their own bubbles, unable to appreciate their links with the whole human family," he said after his swearing-in.

Guterres said the values enshrined in the U.N. Charter that should define the world that today's children inherit – peace, justice, respect, human rights, tolerance and solidarity – are threatened, "most often by fear."

"Our duty to the peoples we serve is to work together to move from fear of each other, to trust in each other, trust in the values that bind us, and trust in the institutions that serve and protect us," he said. "My contribu-

tion to the United Nations will be aimed at inspiring that trust."

Guterres won the U.N.'s top job after receiving high marks from almost every diplomat for his performance in the first-ever question-and-answer sessions in the General Assembly for the 13 candidates vying to replace Ban, whose second five-year term ends at midnight on Dec. 31.

In an interview during his campaign with three journalists, Guterres said the role of secretary-general should be "an honest broker, a consensus builder" who engages as much as possible, in many circumstances discreetly.

"It's not just to have a personal agenda, because it would be regrettable or ineffective, or to appear in

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the limelight. No. On the contrary, it's to act with humility to try to create the conditions for member states that are the crucial actors in any process to be able to come together and to overcome their differences," he said.

Whether the Trump administration will join Guterres and U.N. efforts to tackle what he sees as "a multiplication of new con-

flicts" and the myriad problems on the global agenda remains to be seen.

Trump's choice as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley who is the governor of South Carolina, has a reputation as a conciliator, which could be very useful especially in dealing with the Security Council and the four other permanent veto-wielding

members – Russia, China, Britain and France, all of whom have their own national agendas.

But she will be taking instructions from the president.

Richard Grenell, who served as U.S. spokesman at the U.N. during President George W. Bush's administration and has been working with Trump's transition team, downplayed the prospect that Trump will with-

draw from or even disregard the United Nations.

He said in an AP interview earlier this month that Trump is talking about reforming the U.N. and other international organizations so "they live up to their ideals."

Guterres also wants to reform the United Nations to make it "nimble, efficient and effective."



SETH WENIG AP

Antonio Guterres of Portugal is the new Secretary-General of the United Nations, replacing Ban Ki-moon of South Korea.

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GOVERNMENT

Democrats plan to target 8 Trump Cabinet picks

BY ED O'KEEFE

Washington Post

WASHINGTON

Democratic senators plan to aggressively target eight of Donald Trump's Cabinet nominees in the coming weeks and are pushing to stretch their confirmation votes into March – an unprecedented break with Senate tradition.

Such delays would upend Republican hopes of quickly holding hearings and confirming most of Trump's top picks on Inauguration Day. But Democrats, hamstrung by their minority status, are determined to slow-walk Trump's picks unless they start disclosing reams of personal financial data they've withheld so far, according to senior aides.

Incoming Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., has told Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., that Democrats will hone in especially on Rex Tillerson, Trump's choice for secretary of state; Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., Trump's choice for attorney general; Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-S.C., tapped to lead the Office of Management and Budget; and Betsy DeVos, set to serve as education secretary.

There's also Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., Trump's pick to lead the Department of Health and Human Services and oversee changes to Obamacare, who is set to be attacked by Democrats for

his support for privatizing Medicare. Andrew Puzder, a restaurant executive set to serve as labor secretary, will face scrutiny for past comments on the minimum wage, among other policies. Steve Mnuchin, a former Goldman Sachs partner set to serve as treasury secretary, and Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, Trump's pick to lead the EPA, will also be the focus of Democratic attacks, aides said.

"President-elect Trump is attempting to fill his rigged Cabinet with nominees that would break key campaign promises and have made billions off the industries they'd be tasked with regulating," Schumer said in a statement Sunday confirming his caucus's plans. "Any attempt by Republicans to have a series of rushed, truncated hearings before Inauguration Day and before the Congress and public have adequate information on all of them is something Democrats will vehemently resist. If Republicans think they can quickly jam through a whole slate of nominees without a fair hearing process, they're sorely mistaken."

Absent from the Democratic hit list are retired Marine Gen. James Mattis, set to serve as defense secretary; South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who Trump has

nominated to serve as ambassador to the United Nations; and John Kelly, a former Marine general and Trump's selection to lead the Department of Homeland Security, signaling that all three should expect little trouble from Democrats.

Senate confirmation hearings are scheduled to begin

next week, when the Judiciary Committee is set to hold two days of hearings with Sessions, and the Foreign Relations Committee is scheduled to hold a one day, two-part hearing with Tillerson.

But Schumer has told McConnell that he wants at least two days of hearings for each of these eight nominees, including at least one panel made up of witnesses that can speak to the pick's past record, aides said. At each hearing, members of the committee would get at least 10 minutes to ask questions, with no limits on multiple rounds of questions, if requested.

Democrats also want hearings for each of these eight nominees to be held on separate weeks, with no more than two Cabinet picks sitting for a hearing in the same week. That would mean that Tillerson and Mattis's hearings could happen in the same week, but not the hearings for Price and Mulvaney, aides said.

That's already not set to

happen and Republicans have scoffed at Schumer's proposal, noting that the New York senator went along in 2009 when the

Senate unanimously confirmed seven of President Obama's Cabinet nominees on Inauguration Day and five more later that week.

"It's curious that they'd (Democrats) object to treating the incoming president's nominees with the same courtesy and seriousness with which the Senate acted on President Obama's nominees," Antonia Ferrier, a McConnell spokeswoman, said in an email. "Our committees and chairmen are fully capable of reviewing the incoming Cabinet nominations with the same rules and procedures as the same committees did with President Obama's nominations."

Despite early vows to cooperate with Trump and his new government, Democrats have been troubled by a lack of personal disclosure by Cabinet choices that they say mirrors Trump's refusal to disclose personal financial information during the presidential campaign. Tillerson angered Democrats this month when he told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that he stood ready to provide only "tax return information" for himself and his wife for the previous three years. That means it's possible Tillerson

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isn't willing to provide complete tax returns - a break with past nominees.

The "unprecedented" personal wealth of Trump's nominees warrants the delays, one senior Democratic aide said.

One other potential stumbling block: Nominees are required to obtain certification from the Office of Government Ethics before a confirmation vote, something most Obama-era picks had achieved before their confirmation hearings. So far, Democrats say, most Trump picks haven't done so.

"If they want to get confirmed by Inauguration Day, that timeline doesn't work," the aide said. "Obviously if you're worth billions, it takes a lot longer."

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EVAN VUCCI AP

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer says Democrats will scrutinize Trump nominees. Confirmation could go into March.

Title: **McMaster, if he's incumbent, rewrites the race**
 Author: BY MEG KINNARD The Associated Press
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THE GOVERNOR'S RACE 2018

McMaster, if he's incumbent, rewrites the race

BY MEG KINNARD
 The Associated Press

The South Carolina 2018 governor's race was supposed to be wide open, with the departure of popular Republican Nikki Haley, term-limited from seeking a third run.

Now, with Haley's potential early departure pending her confirmation as U.N. ambassador, a space has been created for current Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster - who will step in if Haley's confirmed - to run as an incumbent next year.

The Democratic side remains clear, with a few names tossed around but no candidate commitments. But with the state's politics trending more and more conservative over the past decade or more, attention is focused on the potential pool of candidates who will vie for the Republican nomination.

McMaster is getting a lot of attention, but will he get some GOP company on primary ballots?



Davis



Hutto



McGill



Pope



Scott



Smith



Templeton



Wilson

THE INCUMBENT

McMaster, 69, is a veteran of politics, both as a candidate but also a party leader helping shape the process. Serving as U.S. Attorney under President Ronald Reagan, McMaster also led South Carolina's GOP and was the

state's attorney general for eight years.

He sought the state's top office in 2010, when he finished third in a four-way Republican primary ultimately won by Haley. He backed Haley and led her transition efforts, as well as an ethics

committee she created to make reform recommendations.

Haley was re-elected in 2014, and McMaster was elected separately as lieutenant governor. Starting in 2018, governor and

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FROM PAGE 3A

GOVERNOR

lieutenant governor will be elected on the same ticket, so McMaster could have the opportunity to pick his No. 2.

A member of South Carolina's GOP establishment, McMaster went outside those boundaries early last year when he became the nation's first statewide officeholder to back Donald Trump for president. The move stunned political observers, but McMaster's support never wavered, despite Democrats' calls to withdraw it.

The move has now seemingly paid off, with Trump's nomination of Haley clearing McMaster's pathway to the governor's office, a post he's always wanted.

He's said little so far about what he'll do as governor, but McMaster has told The Associated Press in several interviews since Trump's election he'll do whatever he can to support the new president on the state's behalf.

THE OUTSIDER

Although she's never sought elected office, Catherine Templeton is no stranger to politics. The labor lawyer and union-fighting specialist was mentioned as a possible candidate for U.S. labor secretary after she was summoned to Trump

Tower for a meeting with the president-elect.

Templeton has earned a reputation in South Carolina for having a no-nonsense approach to getting things done. She ran the state's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation early in Haley's first term, cutting out redundancies and streamlining the agency. Haley played up Templeton's union-fighting background and ability to keep unions out of the new Boeing Inc. assembly plant in North Charleston. After a lawsuit over comments Haley made about the duo's ability to "fight the unions" at Boeing, the International Association of Machinists ultimately canceled a vote to certify the union.

Templeton served Haley a second time, directing South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control, the state's largest agency. As Ebola concerns swirled in late 2014, Templeton said her agency needed the ability to send simultaneous health alerts to hospitals on the front lines of identifying a potential outbreak. The director even tested the state's abilities, showing up at two Charleston hospitals and saying she was suffering from the flu, in an attempt to see if hospitals

were ready to tackle identifying an unknown outbreak.

Templeton has said she's exploring a gubernatorial bid but has made no official announcement.

THE PROSECUTOR

As a solicitor in the 1990s, Tommy Pope launched to nationwide fame for his case against Susan Smith, the Union County mother who killed her two sons by rolling her car into a lake.

Pope pursued the death penalty against Smith, who was ultimately sentenced to life in prison.

Voters picked Pope to represent Rock Hill in the state House in 2010 and now, recently re-elected for a fourth term, he serves as House speaker pro tem.

During last year's legislative session, Pope was chief sponsor of an ultimately successful ethics bill pushed by Haley.

Pope was the first Republican to officially say he'd run for governor after Haley's time was up, announcing in 2014 he'd make a run for the state's top slot.

THE OTHERS

Many other Republicans have already been mentioned as potential 2018 gubernatorial hopefuls, including Attorney Gener-

al Alan Wilson and state Sen. Tom Davis, a libertarian-leaning state senator recently elected to a third term representing some of South Carolina's coastal areas.

Yancey McGill, who briefly served as lieutenant governor, has previously said he'll run next year. Tim Scott, a widely popular black Republican who just won his first full term in the U.S. Senate, recently said he hasn't ruled out a bid. U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney had been considered a potential candidate until his recent nomination to serve as Trump's director of the Office of Management and Budget.

As for the Democrats, the only apparent certainty is that two-time nominee Vincent Sheheen won't be making a third gubernatorial bid. State lawmakers Brad Hutto and James Smith are mentioned as potential candidates, although neither has committed to running.

AS FOR DEMOCRATS, THE ONLY APPARENT CERTAINTY IS VINCENT SHEHEEN WON'T BE MAKING A THIRD BID FOR GOVERNOR.

Title: **Governor race set to have incumbent in 2018**
 Author: BY MEGKINNARD Associated Press
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Governor race set to have incumbent in 2018

BY MEG KINNARD

Associated Press

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FROM PAGE 3A

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THE OTHERS

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McMaster



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 Author: BY DAVIDTHACKHAM dthackham@heraldonline.com
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FEDERAL LAW

REAL ID law won't affect Catawba Nuclear Station workers in York Co.

BY DAVID THACKHAM

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YORK

Workers at the Catawba Nuclear Station in York will be largely unaffected by a federal law restricting people's access to certain buildings if they don't have an acceptable form of identification.

Starting Jan. 30, 2017, South Carolina IDs and driver's licenses will no longer be accepted for entry into federal buildings,

nuclear power plants and military bases.

Instead, visitors must provide additional proof of identification, including passports and military IDs.

But Catawba Nuclear Station

employees will be able to access their site without problems, according to Chris Rimel, South Carolina Communications Manager for Duke Energy.

"We know them," Rimel said. "In some cases, we've known them for years. Our workforce understands all of the very stringent requirements to gain access into a nuclear plant."

The issue is the REAL ID federal mandate, which restricts certain circumstances in which federal agencies can accept state-issued ID cards for official purposes.

REAL ID was established by

Congress in 2005 based on recommendations following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Members of the 9/11 Commission spoke out about the need to develop a single, uniform identification system. By having a consistent level of identity verification at the state and federal level, terrorists would be less likely to replicate them, they argued.

The terrorists who attacked on 9/11 used driver's licenses issued in Florida and Virginia as identification to board airplanes

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, 8A

IDENTIFICATION

that they hijacked and crashed into the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

While nuclear station employees won't have to change their routine, any visitor to the station will have to present an alternate and valid form of ID. The Catawba power plant is between S.C. 274 and the Catawba River, within miles of York County residents.

State-issued IDs are never the sole data point to admit someone to the nuclear plant, Rimel said. Nuclear power plant workers have employee badges issued after an extensive background check and psychological testing.

"There's a vast differ-

ence in checking between visitors and employees," Rimel said. "There's a process we go by in which people would go into a nuclear station, as compared to those who would enter the World of Energy (in Seneca)."

South Carolina is one of nine states that have refused to make their identification cards and driver's licenses compliant with the law. Pennsylvania and South Carolina legislatures have passed laws prohibiting the state from participating in the act.

So far, 24 states, as well as Washington, D.C., have made their licenses compliant. Fifteen other states have received extensions through 2018. However,

noncompliant states will soon need either a passport or a permanent residence card to be allowed access to enter certain buildings.

The act also affects air travel. Residents in Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Washington will need another form of identification to present to the Transportation Security Administration at airports effective Jan. 22, 2018.

While the law does not compel states to change their process or standards for ID cards, it does require that federal organizations reject any IDs from non-compliant

states, including domestic air travel.

Opponents of the act fear a "national database" of personal information. S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, then a member of the state House of Representatives, and then-state Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-Indian Land) voted for the law prohibiting the state from entering the REAL ID statute.

Rimel said visitors are generally known and screened prior to their arrival on a site. They'll typically be approved by a nuclear plant employee who has undergone required screening, and escorted while inside the protected area of the facility.

The REAL ID act, which

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was passed with bipartisan support, requires broadened basic information included on ID cards, a “common machine-readable technology,” and anti-fraud measures for the people issuing IDs.

South Carolina military commanders recently told Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster that the state’s non-compliance would cause them headaches.

Unless the federal government grants an extension to the state, like it has done for the past five years, delivery people and workers without U.S. Department of Defense identification will have to

show a second form of acceptable identification to gain entry into Columbia’s Fort Jackson or Sumter’s Shaw Air Force Base.

So far, the state has

been able to secure extensions by convincing homeland security officials that it has instituted comparable security features on driver’s licenses, including holograms and bar codes.

Since October 2010, South Carolina has issued driver’s licenses that meet or exceed the new federal standard. The problem is the new licenses aren’t hooked into a digital data-

base that also meets the standards.

Now, however, federal officials are laying down the rule of law on South Carolina and eight other states.

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GARY O'BRIEN Charlotte Observer file photo

Duke Energy's Catawba Nuclear Station at Lake Wylie.

Title: **Governor's race in 2018 suddenly gets an incumbent**
 Author: MEG KINNARD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
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Governor's race in 2018 suddenly gets an incumbent

Haley's move opens door
to ex-prosecutor McMaster

MEG KINNARD

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina 2018 governor's race was supposed to be wide open, with the departure of popular Republican Nikki Haley, term-limited from seeking a third run.

Now, with Haley's potential early departure pending her confirmation as U.N. ambassador, a space has been created for current Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster — who will step in if Haley's confirmed — to run as an incumbent next year.

The Democratic side remains clear, with a few names tossed around but no candidate commitments.

But with the state's politics trending more and more conservative over the

past decade or more, attention is focused on the potential pool of candidates who will vie for the Republican nomination. McMaster is getting a lot of attention, but will he get some GOP company on primary ballots?

THE INCUMBENT

McMaster, 69, is a veteran of politics, both as a candidate but also a party leader helping shape the process.

Serving as U.S. Attorney under President Ronald Reagan, McMaster also led South Carolina's GOP and was the state's attorney general for eight years.

He sought the state's office in 2010, **See 2018, Page 4A**

when he finished third in a four-way Republican primary ultimately won by Haley.

He backed Haley and led her transition efforts, as well as an ethics committee she created to make reform recommendations.

Haley was re-elected in 2014, and McMaster was elected separately as lieutenant governor.

Starting in 2018, governor and lieutenant governor will be elected on the same ticket, so McMaster could have the opportunity to pick his No. 2.

2018

Continued from Page 3A

A member of South Carolina's GOP establishment, McMaster went outside those boundaries early last year when he became the nation's first statewide officeholder to back Donald Trump for president.

The move stunned political observers, but McMaster's support never wavered, despite Democrats' calls to withdraw it.

The move has now seemingly paid off, with Trump's nomination of Haley clearing McMaster's pathway to the governor's office, a post he's always wanted.

He's said little so far about what he'll do as governor, but McMaster has told The Associated Press in several interviews since Trump's election he'll do whatever he can to support the new president on the state's behalf.

THE OUTSIDER

Although she's never sought elected office, Catherine Templeton is no stranger to politics.

The labor lawyer and union-fighting specialist was mentioned as a possible candidate for U.S. labor secretary after she was summoned to Trump Tower for a meeting with the president-elect.

Templeton has earned a reputation in South Carolina for having a no-nonsense approach to getting things done.

She ran the state's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation early in Haley's first term, cutting out redundancies and streamlining the agency.

Haley played up Templeton's union-fighting background and ability to keep unions out of the new Boeing Inc. assembly plant in North

Charleston.

After a lawsuit over comments Haley made about the duo's ability to "fight the unions" at Boeing, the International Association of Machinists ultimately canceled a vote to certify the union.

Templeton served Haley a second time, directing South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control, the state's largest agency.

As Ebola concerns swirled in late 2014, Templeton said her agency needed the ability to send simultaneous health alerts to hospitals on the front lines of identifying a potential outbreak. The director herself even tested the state's abilities, showing up at two Charleston hospitals and said she was suffering from the flu, in an attempt to see if hospitals

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Among them:

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Associated Press
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SEE GOVERNOR, 4A

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