

GOVERNMENT JOBS

State workers fare better in downturn

Budget cuts cost agencies thousands of positions, but rate of job losses far worse in private sector

By TIM SMITH
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More than 3,000 state government employees have lost their jobs since 2008, figures obtained by The Greenville News show, but the pri-

vate sector work force fared far worse during the recession.

The 4.9 percent job loss in South Carolina's government sector is still better than the state's double-digit unemployment rate and in contrast to the most recently reported na-

tional figures for state and local government, which show little change in employment between 2008 and 2009.

The number of state employees fell from 64,372 in July 2008 to 61,170 in July 2010, a drop of 3,202 workers, or 4.9 percent, according to data from the State Budget and Control Board.

South Carolina agencies have

shed thousands of jobs as a result of reduced state revenue that has sliced agency budgets by \$2 billion over three years.

Bruce Yandle, dean emeritus of Clemson University's College of Business and Behavioral Science, said the government sector in general has fared far better nationally during the recession than the private sector, in large part because of

federal stimulus spending.

"A significant part of stimulus money was targeted to activities that are a part of state and local government," he said.

South Carolina agencies have so far received almost \$2.7 billion in stimulus funds, according to the state Comptroller General's Office.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIM DOMINICK/TDOMINICK@THESTATE.COM

A pedestrian steps onto the street to thank the Battle of the Bulge veterans as they ride from downtown Columbia to Williams-Brice Stadium Thursday.



COLUMBIANS, FANS CHEER BULGE VETS

By JEFF WILKINSON
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BATTLE OF THE BULGE
COLUMBIA 2010

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A schedule of events, B5

ONLINE

See a photo gallery online at thestate.com.

Demetri "Dee" Paris of Silver Spring, Md., stood on the 50-yard line of Williams-Brice Stadium next to U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, "2001" blaring, fans roaring and Gamecock players flooding the field in what has been called the greatest entrance in sports.

"Wow," said the 95-year-old president of the national Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge organization, who had just tossed the coin to open the game. "I live near the University of Maryland, but it's nothing like this. This is wild!"

His feelings: "Overwhelmed," he said.

Said Graham, "I'll remember this as much as anything I've done in the Senate."

Paris, who served with the 9th Armored Division, is one of nearly 100 veterans of the 40-day battle who are in Columbia for their national conference.

The "bulge" refers to the bulge in the front lines that occurred when German troops launched a massive and unexpected counterattack in the Ardennes forest in Belgium and Luxembourg beginning on Dec. 16, 1944.

On Thursday, the veterans enjoyed a luncheon at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, featuring syndicat-

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A Gamecock fan salutes the World War II veterans.

ABOVE LEFT: Battle of the Bulge veteran Leif Maseng from Columbia rides with other veterans in a procession to USC's football stadium.

ALLEDALE

Stomach bug sickens inmates

All inmates were locked in cells to contain spread

A stomach bug has sickened 82 inmates at Allendale Correctional Institution in Fairfax, but the worst appears to be over, a state prison spokesman said Thursday.

During the wave of gastrointestinal sickness, which began Aug. 25, all 1,232 inmates were locked in their cells to prevent the contagion from spreading. Food and medications were brought to them.

The lockdown ended Wednesday for most inmates, but two inmates who still showed symptoms remained in their cells, said spokesman Josh Gelinas.

Symptoms included diarrhea and cramps, he said. The sickness lasted from 48 to 72 hours for each person.

Before taking action, the Corrections Department consulted with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. DHEC has experts in contagious diseases.

No corrections officers at the medium-security prison were known to have been infected.

Inmates were treated with Kaopectate, Tylenol, Imodium and "lots of fluids," Gelinas said.

Stomach bugs are spread mostly through close contact with other people, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

— John Monk

HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Highway Patrol to blanket state to cut deaths

By ANDY PAPPAS
postandcourier.com

CHARLESTON — The South Carolina Highway Patrol will be out in force this Labor Day weekend in hopes of closing out the 100 Deadly Days of Summer with a record-low number of fatalities.

The patrol will saturate the highways through Monday to monitor incoming and outgoing traffic for the holiday and then hit other roadways in between. Even the administrators will be patrolling the roadways, Cpl. Paul Brouthers said. "There won't be anybody in the office," he said.

The 100 Deadly Days of Summer is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Since Memorial Day weekend, there have been 177 fatalities on S.C. roadways this year. Last year, there were 255 fatalities over the same time span, including nine over the Labor Day weekend, Brouthers said.

Troopers have also seen a decrease in fatalities for the entire year. There were 605 deaths at this point last year;

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEATHS

Juanita Barker, Rock Hill
John Blanton Sr., Easley
Josiah "Buddy" Boneparte, Orangeburg
Annie Brown, Dillon
Peggy Dukes, Orangeburg
Jimmy Gist Sr., Irmo

Lola Goodwin, Columbia
Sammie "Jones" Gregg, Sumter
Hattie Griffin, Columbia
Thelma Haddock, Kingstree
Marie Harper, Dillon
Janie Harris, Winnsboro

Clarence Hart Jr., Columbia
Stephanie Jacobs, North Charleston
Allen Johnson Jr., Cross
Joe "Billy" Jones, Edgefield
Michael Karvelas, Sumter
Kyle Kyzer, Pelion

Col. Wade Padgett Jr., Clemson
Katherine Player, Orangeburg
Ruby Rainwater, Cayce
Ernest Robinson Sr., Columbia

Luther "L.B." Roof Jr., Lexington
Cleo Shealy, Little Mountain
Jerald Shealy, Little Mountain
A. Dell Shuman,

West Columbia
Evelyn Smith, West Columbia
Robin Tolbert, Columbia
Louis Washington Jr., Jamestown
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