

SEAT

from page 1

and the hiring of new teachers. She also stressed the importance of education.

"Education is key," she said. "It's very important that every child is able to learn. We need a well-trained and educated citizenry for South Carolina."

Hammond said Spence's approach to education would be to continue to give schools as much local control as possible.

"The best way to raise money for schools is on the local level," Hammond said.

The current crisis in the Middle East and a bill that would invigorate the peace process and condemn the encouragement of

violence and terrorism there was also a hot topic with the crowd.

Although Hammond said he didn't know Spence's view on that specific bill, he assured the audience that "Congressman Spence is doing everything he can to stop the bloodshed in the Middle East."

Frederick said she would support the bill, and "would work to rebuild the trust between all the countries involved."

Although asked to comment on their personal feelings about the lottery, Hammond and Frederick refused.

Frederick ran unsuccessfully against Spence in the fall of 1997. Spence has served in Congress since 1971.

The city/state desk can be reached at gamecockcitydesk@hotmail.com.

SHOTS

from page 1

last year there were four, raising the question of whether there will be enough flu shots when the orders arrive.

"That is less of a concern for us," Carnesale said. "It's important to put this in perspective."

She said the delay should not cause people to worry, as the state's flu season starts later compared to other states. According to Carnesale, South Carolina flu season reaches its peak during January and February, when most flu cases are reported. She also said that improvements in vaccine manufacturing have made it possible for the vaccine to become effective after only two weeks, as opposed to six.

"Our schedule is more flexible, so we can afford this delay," she said.

In addition to flu shots, Carnesale said there are good flu medications available as well as preventative practices that can be used to avoid the flu bug.

"It is important to realize that the severity of the upcoming winter flu season is unknown and cannot be predicted," said a spokesperson for the CDC in Atlanta.

Suggested preventative tips released by the TSHC and the CDC include eating properly, getting plenty of sleep, maintaining fitness and avoiding getting "run down."

Hill said students should be on the lookout for announcements of flu shot arrivals. The shots will be given Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The university desk can be reached at gamecockdesk@hotmail.com.

Morals, money at heart of lottery debate

BY JIM DAVENPORT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAXVILLE, S.C. (AP)—In the sandy hills along Interstate 95, where South Carolina's closely watched lottery referendum will likely turn, both sides are urging voters to make the right moral choice. Churches want to strike a blow against gambling. Gov. Jim Hodges believes voters have a moral obligation to improve education in a state that consistently ranks at the bottom of the nation, and he sees the lottery as the way to bankroll it.

Some swing voters here are reasoning that a lottery may be a small vice to pay to improve the state's lagging schools. "What's a dollar a week?" asked Cecile Haley, who sells peach cider and Confederate flags along with the gas at a service station in Santee. "We've got a lot of money going across state lines to lotteries. The school system definitely needs some help."

Hodges, a Democrat who benefited from millions of gambling industry dollars in his 1998 election, has long lamented the \$115 million a year South Carolinians spend across the border on Georgia lottery tickets.

That money has helped Georgia pump \$4 billion into its public schools since 1993 and pay for its successful Hope scholarship program, which gives every high school student with a B average free tuition to state colleges and universities.

"Come on, South Carolina, don't ru-

in it for us by getting your own lottery," a fictional Georgia convenience store owner named Bubba says in pro-lottery ads.

"Just remember, here in Georgia we luuv South Carolinians buying our lottery tickets," he says.

If voters decide Nov. 7 to lift a constitutional ban on the games, Hodges plans to spend \$105 million a year in lottery money for college scholarships, \$40 million for public school technology upgrades and about \$5 million for teacher training.

Republicans contend much of what Hodges wants can be paid for without a lottery.

Whether South Carolina becomes the 38th state with a lottery could depend on a swath of land stretching from the state's Pee Dee to the Midlands along I-95.

It is an area sandwiched between the Republican and religiously conservative Upstate, which is almost sure to vote against a lottery, and the more live-and-let-live Lowcountry, which is more likely to be for it.

It's also an area where 70 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, less than third of them head to college and their average SAT score of 875 is 100 points below the state's last-in-the-nation average.

It boils down to towns like Paxville, and people like Scott Merriweather and Wade McLeod.

"I'm totally against it," McLeod declared as he leans against his truck.

"You've got your morality reasons first," he said, adding that he also doesn't

care much for one state competing against another for gambling dollars.

Merriweather figures people who want to gamble are going to do it somewhere. He admits he sometimes plays lotteries in Georgia and Florida.

"Why not? You ain't going to hell for it," he said.

Senate Majority Leader John Land, a Manning Democrat and one of Hodges' biggest lottery supporters, figures the Upstate will go so heavily anti-lottery that voters here and in the Lowcountry must approve it by a 70 percent margin.

But Hodges has reason to be worried. Another first-term Democratic governor, Don Siegelman of Alabama, saw his lottery plans go down to defeat in October amid heavy religious opposition.

And there is evidence of a changing mood in South Carolina, which through years of polling has been heavily pro-lottery. A recent Mason-Dixon poll found 48 percent of registered voters questioned supported a lottery and 41 percent opposed it, a narrower margin than before.

Eleven percent of the 625 registered voters remained undecided with less than a month to go to the election. The poll had a 4 percent margin of error.

Kevin Geddings, who runs the South Carolina Education Lottery Coalition for Hodges, said he expected the polls to tighten before the vote.

He believes for the lottery to win it must turn out large numbers of black voters and earn 70 percent of their votes. That makes the nine Pee Dee and Low-

country counties that have black voting majorities critical.

Yet leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, who supported Hodges two years ago, oppose a lottery. So does the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The NAACP, still angry the Confederate flag was moved from atop the Statehouse but not off the grounds, said this month that it can't trust legislators to get lottery money to poor, largely black school districts.

AME leaders also say Hodges tried to meddle in church affairs after the governor called meetings with various religious leaders earlier this year to try and get them to back down.

At an anti-gambling meeting in Sumter one evening, former Republican Gov. David Beasley reminds about 75 people of his 1998 defeat. "I gave up my career fighting for what I believe to be right: standing against the gambling industry," he said.

But the parking lot also is filling at 76 Bingo near Sumter Air Force Base a couple of miles away. Bingo has been legal here for years.

Mickey Gale, taking a smoke break before a \$1,500 jackpot game, says he won't vote for the lottery or anything else in November because he just doesn't vote. But if there's a lottery, "I'll buy tickets," he says.

"Whatever the people want to do with their money, they worked for it, let them do it."

BOARD

from page 1

to 2002.

"It would be unfair to be as active if you're not chairman," he said, adding that he would support Whittle as chairman. "I don't want to interfere with his goals and his efforts, but I'll be there to support him in every way I can."

Campus improvements like new residence halls, the graduate science research center, the groundbreaking

for the Strom Thurmond Fitness and Wellness Center and the adoption of the board's plan to build crosswalks leading to the fitness and wellness center are among the accomplishments Hubbard said made the job gratifying. Hubbard also cited the raising of \$300 million through the bicentennial campaign, despite critics who doubted the university could reach the initial \$200 million goal, as one of his fondest memories.

"All of these things are accomplishments that really give me the greatest amount of satisfaction," Hubbard said.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed it," Hubbard said of his time as chairman. "I've really enjoyed the contact with students. I've really enjoyed the contact with faculty."

The board also agreed to a list of 24 goals at the meeting. The list covers eight areas: values, resources, students, faculty, campus, athletics, service and public awareness. They include achieving an endowment of \$600 million, achieving an average SAT score of 1175 for incoming freshmen, increasing Honors College enrollment to 1,200 "while maintaining or improving current academic

quality," making USC one of the top five undergraduate programs in the South and being annually ranked in the top 25 "in all sports."

"I think we have a real road map in place," Hubbard said of the goals, which he said were of equal importance.

"We did not number them," Hubbard said. "We're going to try to effect progress in all of these areas."

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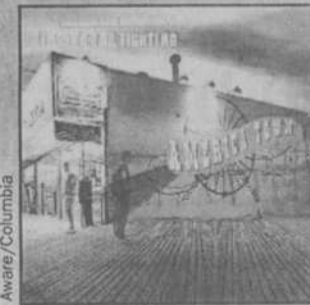
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