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Subject: Clips - Sunday, March 6, 2016

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## Clips – Sunday, March 6, 2016

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**Politico:** Excerpts from Biden's Gridiron Dinner speech

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/03/biden-gridiron-dinner-speech-transcript-220316>

And Donald Trump.

Vice President Joe Biden on Saturday addressed Washington's press corps at the Gridiron Club's annual dinner. The transcript was provided by the White House. Donald Trump has attacked every person of color – except John Boehner. And he has demonstrated that he has a very difficult time when he has to deal with bright women of authority, like Megyn Kelly and Governor Nikki Haley. Can't you picture it? Can't you picture his reaction watching Hillary take the oath of office? It's going to be worth the price of admission.

**Wall Street Journal:** Joe Biden and VP Wannabees Find Humor in Wild Political Year

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/joe-biden-and-vp-wannabees-find-humor-in-wild-political-year-1457274273>

Gerald F. Seib

The Gridiron Club is an organization of Washington journalists, and its annual dinner brings together politicians, cabinet members, diplomats and business figures for skits, music and humorous speeches. Speakers for the evening were Vice President Joe Biden and three politicians discussed as possible successors to him as vice president: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina and Housing Secretary Julián Castro and his twin brother, Rep. Joaquin Castro, on the Democratic side. Mr. Biden warned his potential successors of the limits of vice presidential power, saying at one point that they would be able to witness a great American tradition—"the peaceful transfer of powerlessness."

**Note:** For her part, Ms. Haley took a swipe at Vermont. Sen. Bernie Sanders and his socialist leanings and frequent bashing of Wall Street. She noted the popularity of the movie "The Big Short," which portrays Wall Street financial operators as greedy and disreputable—"or, as Bernie Sanders called it, the feel-good movie of the year."

**Washington Times:** Biden jokes about GOP candidates, Supreme Court vacancy

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/mar/6/biden-jokes-about-gop-candidates-supreme-court-vac/>

Dave Boyer

Vice President Joseph R. Biden couldn't resist taking shots at the Republican presidential candidates Saturday night in a monologue at the annual Gridiron Dinner in Washington. Referring to Republican front-runner Donald Trump, Mr. Biden said he "has attacked every person of color — except [former House Speaker] John Boehner." "He has demonstrated that he has a very difficult time when he has to deal with bright women of authority, like Megyn Kelly and [South Carolina] Governor Nikki Haley," the vice president said of Mr. Trump. "Can't you picture his reaction watching Hillary [Clinton] take the oath of office? It's going to be worth the price of admission."

**The State:** BUZZ: Who will pro-Haley group target?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article64256277.html>

Andy Shain

Goldfinch appears to be the first target of a new, pro-Haley political organization raising money to oust some Republican senators and influence some other senate races. Candidates backed by a separate pro-Haley group won one out of two Senate races in 2012. The group spent nearly \$400,000 in the races. Goldfinch is expected to join at least two other Republican senators in getting attention from the group called A Great Day SC, named after one of the governor's catchphrases. Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, and Senate Ethics Committee Chairman Luke Rankin, R-Horry, are considered likely targets of A Great Day, which can accept unlimited contributions as a tax-exempt group. Both have irked Haley by stalling her longtime efforts to make over the rules that govern lawmakers, including adding outside review of ethics complaints against lawmakers.

**Note:** "This is a guy who voted for the largest tax increase in South Carolina history," Pearson said. "He has said it's a non-starter to reform the Department of Transportation. It's an open seat. Hopefully there will be an opportunity to get someone that she believes will take the state further, and she does not think Rep. Goldfinch is that person." Pearson would not discuss other candidates that A Great Day might target, but Leatherman and Rankin are considered Haley's biggest foes in the Senate.

**Times and Democrat:** Haley to be honored at Claflin tea

[http://thetandd.com/news/article\\_5c12fb3c-bb17-5929-95b9-b13c2080bd64.html](http://thetandd.com/news/article_5c12fb3c-bb17-5929-95b9-b13c2080bd64.html)

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley will be honored during the 10th anniversary of The First Lady's Hats and Gloves Scholarship Tea at Claflin University on March 22. The program will be held at Tullis Arena in the Jonas T. Kennedy Health and Physical Education Building. Haley will be presented the First Lady's Visionary Award for her accomplishments as South Carolina's first female governor and for her exemplary and transformational leadership. The award was established to recognize outstanding women in leadership positions who are making an influential and significant impact throughout the state.

**Note:** "We see Gov. Haley as a Dreamweaver — a very special person who is shaping the future of South Carolina, Claflin First Lady Alice Carson Tisdale said. "She showed exceptional courage and leadership last year when she faced some tremendous challenges. Gov. Haley had to make some difficult choices, and she placed the welfare of the people of this state ahead of partisan politics. She showed why she is a visionary leader."

**The Week:** The kiss of death for the 2016 GOP candidates? A governor's endorsement.

<http://www.theweek.com/speedreads/610845/kiss-death-2016-gop-candidates-governors-endorsement>

Kimberly Alters

In yet another indicator of the Republican establishment's slipping grip on its party, almost every GOP candidate that was endorsed by a governor has so far lost his or her state. The pattern began with the nation's first contest in Iowa on Feb. 1, when Ted Cruz bested Donald Trump and the rest of the field — much to the chagrin of Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, who actively discouraged Iowans from voting for Cruz. Ahead of the South Carolina primary on Feb. 20, Gov. Nikki Haley threw her much-coveted support behind Marco Rubio — only to see Donald Trump win all 50 of the Palmetto State's delegates.

**Pat Conroy News:**

**Post and Courier:** Funeral mass Tuesday for Pat Conroy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160306/PC16/160309570>

Staff Reports

The Beaufort Gazette reported Sunday that a funeral mass for acclaimed Lowcountry author Pat Conroy will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 70 Lady's Island Drive, on Lady's Island, S.C. Conroy, the author of "The Great Santini," "The Lords of Discipline" and "The

Prince of Tides” and eight other books, passed away shortly after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He died at 7:43 p.m. Friday, surrounded by loved ones and family.

**Post and Courier:** Charleston mayor John Tecklenburg eulogizes Conroy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160305/PC16/160309600>

Staff Reports

Charleston Mayor John J. Tecklenburg on Saturday paid tribute to Lowcountry author Pat Conroy’s life and work, which he said touched “our lives and our hearts so deeply.” Conroy, who died Friday night after a battle with pancreatic cancer, used Charleston as the setting of many of his novels. A funeral mass will be held Tuesday at Saint Peter’s Catholic Church in Beaufort with a private burial afterward.

**Beaufort Gazette:** Pat Conroy remembered as friend to Beaufort bookstores, authors

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article64222807.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Conroy was a friend of independent booksellers and fellow authors, McIntosh said. In addition to book signings in his stores following new releases, Conroy would sign an additional 500 to 1,000 copies to sell in the store. Conroy connected with each customer at a signing. McIntosh liked to sit and listen as people — many school teachers — told Conroy how his words affected them. “People come to this store from all over the world,” McIntosh said. “And they all know Pat Conroy.”

**Island Packet:** Model for ‘Prince of Tides’ tiger lived in Columbia

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article64238912.html>

Staff Reports

Happy the Tiger lived in Columbia, South Carolina, at an Esso gas station and car wash, Pat Conroy told the Philadelphia Daily News in 1986. Happy was the model for the tiger that is one of the heroes of Conroy’s novel, “The Prince of Tides,” about “family neuroses and Southern grotesques” that spent more than a year on the New York Times bestseller list. “I used to see Happy the Tiger at the gas station in Columbia when I was a kid,” Conroy told The Daily News, innocently. “Happy was there about eight years. And then the Humane Society got pissed off ’cause poor Happy’s in this cage at a car wash. So they made the gas station guy put Happy in the zoo.”

**S.C. General Assembly News:**

**Post and Courier:** Funding for domestic violence prosecutors stalls while effort to end permanent alimony moves on

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160306/PC1603/160309672>

Maya T. Prabhu

One bill in the House would shorten the period of time for paying alimony. It is moving quickly through committees. The other bill would fund additional prosecutors for domestic violence, but the state House panel did not include that money in its draft of the budget. The change in alimony comes at the flick of a pen while the additional prosecutors require the state to spend millions of dollars.

**Note:** “I think that anything that costs money has a harder time getting through the Legislature,” said Sen. Katrina Shealy, R-Lexington. “I think we don’t get (certain) issues brought to the table as much because of a male-dominated body — women’s issues, children’s issues are not even brought up as often. I think that that’s a problem.”

**Note:** For example, there are bills working their way through both the House and the Senate to create task forces across the state dedicated to collecting and streamlining domestic violence data, but funding Gov. Nikki Haley’s initiative for more prosecutors in criminal domestic violence cases is being neglected. Haley included the money in her recommended budget earlier this year because South Carolina is one of three states where police officers prosecute domestic violence cases in court.

**Post and Courier:** Woman’s battle to get children back may help other domestic violence victims

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160305/PC16/160309660>

Doug Pardue

Domestic violence advocates call what happened to Jones a legal and bureaucratic nightmare that overwhelms far too many women who seek help out of abusive relationships in South Carolina, a state with the nation's highest rate of women killed in domestic violence. Her story has resonated all the way to the state capitol, prompting stunned lawmakers to consider upgrading the way social workers are trained and supervised.

**Times and Democrat:** \$400M road plan falls short, lawmakers say

[http://thetandd.com/news/local/article\\_0d44fb78-d483-5f74-9bad-35efac2a9bef.html](http://thetandd.com/news/local/article_0d44fb78-d483-5f74-9bad-35efac2a9bef.html)

Gene Zaleski

A Senate plan to fix South Carolina's roads without a tax increase does not go far enough in addressing the state's needs, local lawmakers say. Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, said plan is only a patch which "kicks the bucket down the road." "I don't think that is the way we ought to go and do it," he said. Some lawmakers hoped for a gas tax increase to pay for roads. Senate Republicans instead developed a plan that provides \$400 million a year from the state's general fund on top of the \$481 million provided by the current gas tax.

**Note:** Lawmakers are also considering giving Gov. Nikki Haley the authority to pick all eight South Carolina Department of Transportation commissioners: one from each Congressional District and one at-large. The commission would then pick the SCDOT secretary.

### **S.C. Political News:**

**Greenville News:** SC landfills already accepting coal ash

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/environment/2016/03/05/sc-landfills-already-accepting-coal-ash/80608400/>

Rick Brundrett

Thousands of tons of coal ash are buried annually in unlined landfills in South Carolina, even as the federal government is now requiring new landfills to have liners to protect groundwater from ash contamination, a Greenville News' investigation has found. There are 12 Class 2 landfills in the state that are allowed to accept coal ash and nine are unlined, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). Not all of them accepted coal ash last year.

**Note:** On Wednesday, Gov. Nikki Haley signed a law aimed at prohibiting out-of-state coal ash from being dumped in Class 2 landfills in South Carolina. The law excludes electric utilities that generate their own coal ash and bury it in DHEC-approved landfills under their control.

**The State:** Seafood, beaches and oil: Peaceful county at odds over drilling plan

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article64318717.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Howell and local seafood dealer Rick Baughmann were in deep discussion about oil drilling along the South Atlantic coast. Georgetown County has as much at risk as any community in the region if the government opens the coast to oil and gas drilling, said Howell and Baughmann, who are leading the charge locally to stop the federal government's plan. "Once we open that up, it is there forever," Howell said as she went over a report she'd written about the dangers of offshore drilling. "As long as they find enough oil and gas to produce, they will always be out there. It makes me furious."

**Post and Courier:** 'I'm not gonna shut up': Lindsey Graham reflects on his presidential bid and what comes next

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160305/PC1603/160309788>

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham can't walk down a Capitol Hill hallway without being blocked by a mob of reporters, all desperate for the South Carolina Republican's latest zinger on Donald Trump and the GOP presidential field. Unless he's in a rush, Graham is always willing to oblige, sometimes holding

court for up to 10 minutes at a time as journalists in the congressional press corps cycle in and out of the gaggle. "I'm not gonna shut up," Graham said in a recent interview with The Post and Courier in his office on Capitol Hill. "If someone says something as our nominee that I think I can't live with or agree with I'll say so. I want to be supportive, but I'm not going to abandon who I am."

**Times and Democrat:** S.C. facing its own big test on high court

[http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/article\\_9afd7f8a-0d36-5bb3-b654-4e02c0579bc2.html](http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/article_9afd7f8a-0d36-5bb3-b654-4e02c0579bc2.html)

Jenny Spears

While the focus of debate about the judicial system is on Washington and the U.S. Supreme Court in the wake of the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, South Carolina has its own battle brewing. In South Carolina, the issue is Don Beatty, the South Carolina State University alumnus who is the longest-serving associate justice on the state Supreme Court. If precedent is followed, Beatty is in line to become chief justice when the Legislature votes in May. He would be the second African-American in modern times to hold the position. But Beatty's ascendance is in doubt. Legislative leaders are making no secret of their desire to find a candidate more in tune with the conservative leanings of the Republican-run General Assembly. And there is also the matter of Beatty's nomination by President Barack Obama to a seat on the federal bench.

**Greenville News:** Congress probes former Greenville Secret Service agent's actions

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/03/05/congress-probes-former-greenville-secret-service-agents-actions/80604400/>

Tim Smith

Seated at the dining room table of her father's Greenwood home, tears welling in her eyes, Kristen Miles Anderson described the night she says she was coerced into having sex with a U.S. Secret Service agent investigating her as a suspect in a bank embezzlement. It's been almost six years to the day since that night at the U.S. Secret Service office in Greenville. Anderson long ago pleaded guilty to embezzling about \$90,000 and served 10 months of a 15-month sentence at a federal prison in West Virginia. A judge citing legal grounds in January threw out her lawsuit filed in 2012 against the agent, the federal government and others. A federal grand jury investigation spawned by her allegations went no where. However the U.S. House Committee on Oversight investigating wrongdoing among the Secret Service is now interested in her story. Last month the panel asked the inspector general for Homeland Security for a copy of its investigation report.

**Opinion / Editorial Roundup:**

**Post and Courier:** Give gun reforms a fighting chance

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160306/PC1002/160309578>

Editorial

The simple truth is that South Carolina needs practical reforms of gun laws, as does the nation. After all, it was an atrocity right here in Charleston that revealed a serious flaw in the existing requirements for background checks, which are part of federal policy. South Carolina perpetually has one of the nation's highest rates of gun violence, to the extent that someone is shot to death in the state every 14 hours. That is simply unacceptable. There are ways to reduce that shocking toll without infringing on the rights of South Carolina's many law-abiding gun owners. That should be the Legislature's goal, rather than actively working against needed reforms.

**Post and Courier:** State Senate's road-funding fix still full of potholes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160306/PC1002/160309582>

Editorial

Gov. Nikki Haley heartily congratulated the Senate's Republican leadership. Using social media the governor proclaimed the general funding plan "exactly what we need in South Carolina." "Bring it home!" she exclaimed. Our governor is consistent and probably most enthused that the Senate plan avoids any fuel tax increase. But to be clear, the plan exciting the governor and others is a scheme of

prescribed mediocrity. It would dedicate \$400 million in general fund revenues annually to finance a mere third of funding needed to reverse the crumbling of state roads and bridges, and without any increase in the state's 16.75 cents per gallon fuel tax.

**Post and Courier:** Equal alimony treatment

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160306/PC1002/160309590>

Letter

Women want to be equal in many parts of society, but when it comes to S.C. Family Court issues some women want to receive different treatment than men. Divorce settlements regarding retirement savings and Social Security rules will not leave them without retirement options. In 2016 alimony should only be temporary, for men and women.

**Post and Courier:** Joyce Curnell's senseless death

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160306/PC1002/160309588>

Letter

I read the Feb. 25 article on the death of Joyce Curnell in the Charleston County Jail and I am horrified. I never met this woman, but her death contradicts everything I know of justice, everything I know of the ways God asks us to behave in this world.

**Post and Courier:** Who will Sanford support?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160306/PC1002/160309587>

Letter

It was noted in your March 2 edition that our 1st District Rep. Mark Sanford, does not intend to support Donald Trump if he is the GOP nominee. The 1st District GOP voters may have a field day with this decision. The question that begs for an answer is: Does Sanford prefer the Democrat nominee or will he stay home on Election Day?

**Post and Courier:** Independent candidates deserve a presidential chance

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160306/PC1002/160309580>

Editorial

The prospect of a White House run by former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has reignited a critical debate about whether it's possible for an independent to be elected president of the United States. Consider this paradox: Two of the leading 2016 presidential candidates — Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders — have no history of loyalty to either major party. Yet both decided to run in the party primaries — Trump as a Republican, Sanders as a Democrat — while pledging to support their party's winner should they not win the nomination. That these two very different candidates came to similar conclusions helps illustrate why there is so much dissatisfaction with our nation's political system. Ideally, independents would be able to compete in state primary elections at the same time as those for the two major parties. It would be great if Bloomberg decided to run and give the American voter a nonpartisan choice for president in 2016. But what about 2020 and beyond? We think serious and compelling independent candidates would be willing to run for president if they could count on a fair fight between them and the major party nominees.

**South Carolina News:**

**The State:** Unclear when broken SC roads over dams will be fixed

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article64326877.html>

Cassie Cope

The flooding washed out hundreds of roads across South Carolina, the majority of which have been reopened. But it is unknown when 23 S.C. roads, including 11 in Richland County, over failed privately owned dams will reopen. More than 14,000 drivers in Richland County have to find new routes because of broken roads over failed dams. Dam owners, in many cases homeowners

associations, are grappling with how to raise money to make repairs.

**Associated Press:** Study will determine how much water in SC river basins  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fIKMuHJv](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fIKMuHJv)

South Carolina officials want a better idea of how much water is in the state's river basins at any one time. And state agencies are working with Clemson University and a private contractor to do just that. The Post and Courier reports (<http://bit.ly/1Ti0hMk>) the idea is to come up with a computer model showing how much water is in a river basin and what would happen if various amounts of water are taken out. Such information could help regulators in everything from managing water during a drought to deciding whether to issue water-use permits.

**Post and Courier:** A drop to drink; state to assess river basin water supply  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160305/PC16/160309678>

Bo Peterson

Now state agencies are working with Clemson University and a private contractor to develop a computer model to judge how much water is in a given river basin at any given point and time, and what might happen to that supply as various amounts of water are taken out. It could provide solid data for everything from drought management to deciding water-use permits. It's a first of its kind in the state, and maybe the most significant thing to come out of the North Carolina dispute. It could help decide future water disputes, such as the recent Walther potato farm controversy on the upper Edisto River.

**Note:** "We have very limited scientific information as to how much water we have," said Ken Rentiers, S.C. Department of Natural Resources deputy director of land, water and conservation. The model "will give us sound science to provide reliable information to decision makers."

**Post and Courier:** Push for charter takeover of failing schools comes to South Carolina  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160306/PC16/160309726>

Paul Bowers

Here's one idea to turn around perennially failing public schools in South Carolina: Lump the lowest-performing schools into a newly formed statewide district, loosen up the rules to allow for experimentation, and entrust the schools' management to private companies and nonprofit organizations. The idea is picking up steam in Palmetto State education circles. Well-connected insiders from Charleston philanthropists to state education leaders have started pondering the creation of just such a "turnaround district." No state legislator has introduced a bill to create a turnaround district in South Carolina, although some have traveled to Tennessee with representatives of StudentsFirst South Carolina, a lobbying organization, to see a similar plan in action at inner-city Memphis schools as part of that state's Achievement School District.

## Local News:

**The State:** Utility finds lead in three water systems  
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article60563066.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Elevated levels of lead, a heavy metal that can cause brain and kidney damage, showed up recently in drinking water supplied by a private utility to three communities in suburban Columbia and York County. Officials think the lead corroded off of pipes that serve homes in the three subdivisions. The amount of lead in water was up to four times above the federal standard. Collectively, the three water systems serve about 3,500 customers, with the River Hills system having the majority of the customers. "We know the presence of lead in drinking water at any level can be a concern," Carolina Water president Rick Durham said in a statement. "As a public water provider, we have a responsibility to protect our customers."

**Sun News:** Cherry Grove property owners may dredge on city's permit

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/opinion/editorials/article64353117.html>

#### Editorial

Dredging the silted canals in Cherry Grove has been a long, frustrating preliminary process, but the important cleaning is scheduled to begin later this year. And some property owners' ruffled feathers may be smoothed by legislation moving through the S.C. General Assembly. The legislation, introduced by state Sen. Greg Hembree of Little River, will allow property owners on the canals to dredge from their property to the main city-dredged channel using the city's permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This saves property owners the hassle and expense of obtaining their own permit. At week's end, Hembree's bill, already approved by the Senate, was approved by the House with a minor technical change and returned to the Senate, which is expected to give the final nod this week. The South Carolina Supreme Court ruled that the state owns the center of the canals, but that had no bearing on paying for the dredging. Years prior, the Corps of Engineers made clear it would not foot the bill. The state or federal government should not dredge canals in an entirely residential area; dredging is the responsibility of the property owners directly affected.

**Sun News:** Conway leaders talk Grainger site purchase with Santee Cooper

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article64228802.html>

Charles D. Perry

Santee Cooper wants to convert the former Grainger plant into an industrial site, but Conway officials may have other plans. City leaders on Friday asked Santee Cooper representatives if the state-run utility would be willing to sell the 12-acre property that sits beside U.S. 501 and for 50 years held the 300-foot smokestacks of the coal-fired Grainger Generating Station. The discussion was the first between the council and the utility since Grainger's smokestacks were destroyed Feb. 7. Crews are in the final stages of hauling off the remnants of the power plant, and that tract should be a grassy field by the end of June.

**Associated Press:** \$100M Chinese cultural center planned for beach

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RwJRLNAR](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RwJRLNAR)

Chinese investors are eyeing Myrtle Beach for a \$100 million cultural center similar to Disney's Epcot Center in Florida. Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus and Myrtle Beach Mayor John Rhodes told local media outlets Friday that investors will be coming to the area next month to settle on a site for the project. Three locations are being considered, architects are already drawing up plans and the complex could open as soon as the fall of 2017. Initial plans call for a building shaped like a lantern as well as restaurants and shows with Chinese entertainers. There are also plans for classes on cooking, paper cutting, and calligraphy. The investors hope to attract both domestic and Chinese visitors. Myrtle Beach is the center of South Carolina's \$19 billion tourism industry.

**The State:** Tickets moving fast for Columbia's new minor league baseball team

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article64252392.html>

Roddie Burris

The Columbia Fireflies, the city's new minor league baseball team, say they will be swinging for a sellout at the home opener April 14. Spirit Communications Park has a spectator capacity of up to 10,000 people, but a fixed-seat capacity of about 5,000 people, team officials said. The new park, under construction near Bull Street, is 90 percent sold-out for the Fireflies' 7:05 p.m. home opener against the Greenville Drive.

**Note:** "Thus far, ticket sales have been great," said Brad Shank, Columbia Fireflies vice president. "When we first went on sale at 9 a.m. last Friday, the volume of calls in both online and over the phone was overwhelming – we had so many people calling in."

**Post and Courier:** When it comes to education, we can't dismiss any possibility for improvement

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160306/PC16/160309667>

Brian Hicks

Six of the eight worst high schools in the state, based on ACT scores, are in Charleston County. Last

year, only 9 of 544 high school seniors at those schools were deemed college-ready, based on those scores. The schools are failing far too many of our children, and it is a frustratingly chronic problem. "People are ready to do something about it," says Bratton Riley, who is part of a group called Movement for Effective Schools. This week, Riley, Ted Legasey, Anita Zucker and a lot of other concerned locals are bringing in experts from around the country to talk about school district models that are working elsewhere — Louisiana and Washington, D.C., among them.

**Times and Democrat:** Bridge replacement to begin March 14

[http://thetandd.com/news/article\\_aa22825a-8647-5073-9fbe-74c39c5259fb.html](http://thetandd.com/news/article_aa22825a-8647-5073-9fbe-74c39c5259fb.html)

The South Carolina Department of Transportation plans to replace the bridge on Kearsae Road (S-5-19) in Bamberg County. Work is scheduled to begin Monday, March 14. Barring any unforeseen delays, the bridge is estimated to reopen to traffic on May 2.

**Times and Democrat:** Official: Roads key in tourism state

Celia Brown and Lia Grabowski

The deterioration of South Carolina's highway system has angered drivers, mobilized coalitions of business and safety advocates, and concentrated the minds of lawmakers debating what to do and how quickly to it. "There are roads that are uneven, there's poor infrastructure, roads without shoulders," said Steve Phillips, the traffic safety manager and spokesman for AAA Carolinas. "South Carolina is a tourism state. We have to put our best safety on our roadways." Most visitors to South Carolina's tourist destinations like Myrtle Beach travel by car. Tourists, businesses and locals are all affected by the crumbling road conditions rampant across South Carolina.

**Herald Journal:** York Co. housing freeze? Other local governments have experience

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article64325037.html>

Bristow Marchant

A York County Council proposal that could come up for discussion as early as Monday would stop all new housing construction in some of the fastest-growing portions of the county. After long-simmering complaints from residents in the Fort Mill and Lake Wylie areas about overdevelopment, traffic jams and crowded schools, the proposal would stop the county from issuing any new housing plats for the Fort Mill and Bethel townships until the county can set criteria for how new development will affect public facilities, such as roads and utility systems.

**Herald Journal:** Tiny House for Homeless construction underway in Rock Hill

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article64238247.html>

Hannah Strong

Dale Dove is trying to eliminate the problem of homelessness - beginning with one tiny house. Founder of Renew Our Community, a homeless service located in the heart of Rock Hill, Dove and other volunteers have started building a "tiny house" they hope will be the first of many to provide inexpensive shelter for those currently living on the streets. "Right now we are just trying to build a prototype," Dove said. "We have the interior design layout and we are trying to make decisions about what's functional, what's energy efficient, what's cost effective and what's livable."

**WLTX:** Teen Organizes Gun Violence Awareness Rally in Honor of Cousin

<http://www.wltx.com/news/teen-organizes-gun-violence-awareness-rally-in-honor-of-cousin/70089468>

Mary Sturgill

Last July, four people were gunned down, execution style, in Holly Hill. Two of them were children. Another child did survive. But family and friends are still trying to heal. One teen who was affected by the death of a loved one in that shooting is trying to make a difference. On Saturday, she organized and held a rally to raise awareness about gun violence. Nearly 100 people of the small community attended the rally. Clark says through that pain, the message is simple: "Stop the gun violence." Clark says she plans to organize more of these rallies when she goes to college next year.

## National News:

**Associated Press:** Former first lady Nancy Reagan dies at 94 in California

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:403221d7acd34568b5ad992f6ca90358>

Christopher Weber

Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president — and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease — has died. She was 94. The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio told The Associated Press.

**Associated Press:** Latest votes deliver anything but clarity in GOP race

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:c951f3ce70d44811b9a3b3188401d9d1>

Nancy Benac and Jill Colvin

Offering anything but clarity, Republicans delivered a split verdict between Donald Trump and Ted Cruz in the latest round of presidential voting, offering fresh evidence of the turmoil still roiling the GOP after 19 states have had their say. Democrats also split their votes on Saturday, with Hillary Clinton picking up a victory in Louisiana's primary while Bernie Sanders grabbed caucus wins in Nebraska and Kansas. The state tally sheets so far: 12 wins for Trump; six for Cruz and one for Rubio. For the Democrats, 11 for Clinton and seven for Sanders. Trump and Clinton hold the edge in the more-important delegate count.

**Note:** South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, also appearing on NBC, said Cruz "has made the best case thus far that he can be the alternative to Trump." Graham, who ended his own White House bid earlier this year, said Rubio and Ohio Gov. John Kasich "have got to decide among themselves" whether they can be a realistic alternative to front-runner Trump.

**Associated Press:** Trump calls on Rubio to drop out of presidential race

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:35a7c4b17b7b470b94ebf3f4a6f43fc8>

Jill Colvin

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump on Saturday called on rival Marco Rubio to drop out of the White House race after the billionaire businessman won in Louisiana and Kentucky — and the Florida senator ended yet another election night with no wins. "Marco has to get out of the race. Has to," Trump said at a news conference at his golf club in West Palm Beach, Florida, where dozens of friends and club members mixed in with reporters covering his campaign.

**Note:** "Trump's history as a con artist is being exposed," said spokesman Alex Conant. "Trump knows that Marco has the momentum in Florida and is afraid because he knows losing those 99 delegates to Marco will be a turning point in this race."

**Associated Press:** Divide growing between Florida governor, other Republicans

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:7c06b5f74b844b089a96aa95871b6202>

Gary Fineout

Since charging into office some five years ago, Florida Gov. Rick Scott has routinely had an awkward relationship with the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature and other GOP officials. Now, Scott is being handed a string of defeats that could render his final 2 1/2 years in office nearly irrelevant. They could also serve as a reminder that there are limits to how much sway a multi-millionaire businessman used to his own way can have over politicians used to compromise and deal-making.

**Associated Press:** Peyton Manning to retire after 18 NFL seasons

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:6179885f82d548878bda8d37001412a1>

Arnie Stapleton

Peyton Manning surveyed the landscape of his brilliant career and called one last audible. He's retiring a champion. He called Elway, team president Joe Ellis and coach Gary Kubiak on Saturday night and told them he's decided to retire, a person with knowledge of the decision told The

Associated Press.

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