



Title: **Lawsuit tries to stop SC resettlement of refugees**
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Lawsuit tries to stop SC resettlement of refugees

RON BARNETT

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A Richland County man has filed a lawsuit seeking to stop the resettlement of refugees in South Carolina in order to protect the state from “criminals, narco-drug traffickers, terrorists, rapist(s)” and people “hostile to assimilation and the laws of South Carolina.”

The suit names as defendants Gov. Nikki Haley, the state Department of Social Services and two nonprofit agencies that help refugees start new lives in the state.

“The extraordinary and well founded potential for terrorism and other violent crime made possible by this inflow of Refugees from hostile Islamic states was simply not properly addressed in the State Plan,” Walter Brian Bilbro, the plaintiff, says in an affidavit in support of his motion for a temporary injunction or temporary restraining order against the state’s agreement with the federal government to allow refugees to resettle here.

In response to the lawsuit, the governor’s staff referred to a letter she wrote to Secretary of State John Kerry in the aftermath of the Paris terrorist attacks last November in which she asked that no Syrian refugees be allowed to resettle in South Carolina, “until I can be assured that all potential refugees from Syria have no ties to terrorist

organizations.”

Ted Goins, president of Lutheran Services Carolinas, one of the defendants in the suit, said his organization has resettled a total of two Syrian refugees in the state, both in the Midlands.

Another family had been approved but their case was delayed, he said.

“We have not been informed that we will be getting any more,” Goins said.

Jason Lee, of World Relief in Spartanburg, a religious nonprofit that assists in refugee relocation, said his office hadn’t been served with the lawsuit. But he said the organization hasn’t resettled any Syrian refugees in South Carolina and has no plans to bring any in during 2016.

Those are the only two agencies contracted with the federal government to assist in resettling refugees, according to the State Department.

“Lutheran Services Carolinas has received a copy of that legal filing and we are analyzing that suit now,” Goins said. “It appears to be without merit, but we won’t be commenting further until we’ve had time to review it with our legal team.”

DSS spokeswoman Marilyn Matheus said, “The Department of Social Services has been served with the lawsuit regarding the refugee re-

settlement program. Our staff are reviewing the allegations and preparing a responsive pleading.

“We do not have any comment on the lawsuit at this time.”

In his affidavit, Bilbro describes himself as a 46-year-old, 1991 graduate of the University of South Carolina, married, with two young daughters.

“When I found out that agents of the non-profit Lutheran Services couldn’t legally share their religion or Judeo-Christian values or invite the refugees to church...I realized the high degree of negligence and reckless misrepresentations being perpetrated on me as a taxpayer, my family and the Public interest,” he wrote.

“I am bringing this action because I believe this exploitation of my constitutional rights as a citizen and the abuse of my daughters and my wife’s rights are inevitable under the current plan, and therefore must cease immediately before it has reached the horrifying tipping point we are now witnessing in Europe,” he wrote.

The lawsuit, filed by attorney Lauren Martel of Hilton Head, cites two cases filed by Ned Sloan of Greenville in asserting that Bilbro, as an individual, has legal standing to take the issue to court because of its “public importance.”

Title: **Rubio leads rally in prayer for man**
 Author: AMANDA COYNE THE GREENVILLE NEWS
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Rubio leads rally in prayer for man

AMANDA COYNE

THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Sen. Marco Rubio led a campaign rally in prayer after an elderly man collapsed during his speech in Clemson on Friday night.

The presidential candidate was in the middle of the speech when the incident occurred at the Madren Center at Clemson University. The mood at the lakeside pavilion where more than 400 people gathered quickly went from jubilant to stoic when someone called for any doctors present to assist the man, who fainted twice, but regained consciousness and was smiling and laughing with EMS technicians after they arrived.

After praying for the man, Rubio ended the rally but stayed at the pavilion to talk to voters who had come to see him, Gov. Nikki Haley

and Sen. Tim Scott on the eve of the South Carolina primary.

During his speech, Rubio tried to appeal to the college town crowd through football, saying Clemson head football coach Dabo Swinney had a right to pray at football practices, which got the loudest cheers of the night. A non-religious group, Freedom From Religion, has previously threatened to sue Clemson and Swinney over Swinney's prayer during official team events.

"But you guys, when I'm president, I'm not sure I'm going to let him keep dancing," Rubio said.

The large crowd, gathered on a chilly night, was energized, loudly cheering Rubio's stump speech and booing the mention of Dem-

ocratic politicians. One audience member shouted "Traitor!" when Rubio mentioned John Kerry.

Rubio emphasized his campaign message of bringing conservative ideals to people who don't believe in them, noting that he had lived without financial stability and had to pay off large student loans from college and law school.

"The conservative movement has locked itself out to people who think conservatism doesn't help people like them ... when that couldn't be further to the truth," Rubio said. "We're going to take conservatism to people who live paycheck to paycheck because I've lived paycheck to paycheck. I grew up paycheck to paycheck."



/AMANDA COYNE

Sen. Marco Rubio, Gov. Nikki Haley and Sen. Tim Scott.

Title: **SC at least a chance for Kasich to get message out**
 Author: CHRISSIE THOMPSON THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER
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SC at least a chance for Kasich to get message out

CHRISSIE THOMPSON

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

CLEMSON - South Carolina was supposed to be too conservative for John Kasich.

In many ways, it is. Kasich is averaging less than 10 percent in recent polls here and doesn't expect to repeat his New Hampshire runner-up performance when Republicans vote today in the GOP's third nominating contest. Donald Trump is expected to win, and Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio are battling for second place.

But if New Hampshire was the place where Americans first noticed Kasich, South Carolina could be the place where his message finally caught on.

Southern conservatives may oppose Kasich's stances on Medicaid expansion and immigration. But enough of the state's moderates, often retirees, have turned to him recently that today's primary may allow him to knock off a key rival, Jeb Bush. Meanwhile, he's getting national attention for his reluctance to criticize opponents and his broad message of neighborliness, compassionate government and problem solving.

Since finishing second in New Hampshire, Kasich has stayed out of near-shouting matches in a GOP debate and has gotten a chance to share his conversational town-hall style with a national television audience. He has finally cracked the top four in national polls and gained enough name recognition that independents are telling pollsters they would like to vote for him over Democrat Hillary Clinton in the general election.

And then there was the hug.

For months, Kasich has exhorted groups of voters about reaching out to people who are lonely or experiencing pain. This message is his answer to questions on topics that range from gun violence to education to health care for the elderly. Be good neighbors. Take responsibility for making a difference in your community.

Sometimes he brings up his own battle with darkness after his parents died in a collision with a drunken driver. And yes, sometimes Kasich hugs

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Kasich

Continued from Page 3A

the people asking the question.

It can be awkward. But it can also be moving.

The approach attracted a University of Georgia student, later identified as 21-year-old Brett Smith, who drove to Clemson on Thursday for a Kasich town-hall meeting.

Smith told Kasich he had had a rough year or so: A father figure's suicide, his parents' divorced, his father's unemployment.

"I was in a really dark place," Smith said, his voice breaking. "But I found hope. I found it in the Lord and in my friends. And now I've found it in my presidential candidate that I support. And I'd really appreciate one of those hugs you've been talking about."

Kasich had already walked off the stage to approach Smith. They embraced a full 18 seconds, tears in the corners of Kasich's eyes. "The Lord will give you strength," Kasich spoke in Smith's ear.

"We don't have enough people who sit down and cry with that young man," Kasich then told the crowd of 300. "As Americans, let's renew our spirit. Let's care about one another and not be disconnected."

The hug made news-reels and headlines and was an opening topic at the CNN town-hall event later that night. Smith's Facebook posts indicate he is

volunteering for the political action committee supporting Kasich as coordinator at the University of Georgia. A PAC spokeswoman confirmed that, saying he reached out to it less than a week ago.

The mostly moderate voters who pack Kasich's town-hall meetings typically cite his "reasonable" approach to controversial issues, his experience in budgeting and his disinclination to criticize foes. To a one, potential Kasich voters say they are not fazed by his support for Medicaid expansion. Many say they are choosing between Kasich and voting in the Democratic primary.

"As an African-American woman, it's not typical for us to vote Republican," said Clemson student Rianne Bonner, 22, a political science major who is also considering Democrat Bernie Sanders. "Even though (Kasich's) economic policies are very conservative, his social policies are more toward the middle. What he says makes sense."

This is still the state — and the party — where the largest share of voters is supporting Trump. He is expected to win today.

Mulugeta Belachew, a 50-year-old Columbia tax driver, voted for George W. Bush in 2004 and Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. But Belachew, who emigrated from Ethiopia 20 years ago, is voting for

Trump today. "I like his ideas. It's scary for the future if somebody doesn't take action," Belachew said, citing concerns about terrorism. He said he doesn't know anything about Kasich.

And this is still the state — and the party — throwing new momentum behind Rubio. The Florida senator is now locked with Cruz in a battle for second place in South Carolina.

This week, he campaigned with a powerful GOP team. Standing with Gov. Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Trey Gowdy, Rubio said he could unite Republicans. The politicians, who represent four different racial and ethnic backgrounds, sought to show an inclusive GOP.

Still, Kasich's team insists the race has space for both him and Rubio.

For now, Team Kasich is hoping South Carolina voters can weed out Kasich's closest competitor, Bush. Only one of the two Floridians can emerge from the Palmetto State, Rep. Mark Sanford, formerly South Carolina's governor, told reporters ahead of last week's debate in Greenville.

With Bush out, the strategy goes, Kasich could focus on a couple of Northeast wins on Super Tuesday and sweep to prominence by winning Michigan March 8 and Ohio March 15. Ohio polls, the most re-

cent taken last fall, have shown a path for a Kasich victory. In Michigan, recent polls have shown Trump with a double-digit lead, with Kasich contending for second place.

A showdown with Rubio could come at some point, in which Kasich would emphasize his experience, pragmatism and unscripted style. But Rubio faces his own must-win situation March 15: The Florida primary is the same day as Kasich's must-win in Ohio.

Even if Kasich could prevail over Rubio, he'd still have Trump and possibly Cruz to contend with. He's at a significant disadvantage to the anti-establishment candidates. After all, since Iowa first kicked off GOP voting in 1976, no Republican has won the nomination without prevailing in Iowa or New Hampshire. And Trump's likely win in South Carolina could carry even more weight: Only once since 1980 has the Palmetto State failed to tap the eventual GOP nominee.

"If we win in South Carolina, we feel we could run the table," Trump said Thursday.

A reporter shared Trump's words with Kasich in Clemson. Kasich waved her off. "It's a 'long way to Tipperary,' " he called back.

The Greenville News' Amanda Coyne and USA Today's David Jackson contributed.

Title: **GOP field makes last pitches before S.C. vote**
 Author: David Jackson USA TODAY
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GOP field makes last pitches before S.C. vote

Trump says he'll run the table if he wins Saturday's primary

David Jackson

USA TODAY

CHARLESTON, S.C. Republican presidential candidates scrambled across South Carolina on Friday, courting late-deciding voters a day ahead of a pivotal primary.

Donald Trump, looking to follow up last week's win in New Hampshire and leading polls in the Palmetto State, told voters during stops in coastal cities that a win will send him on to the Republican nomination.

"I didn't win the personality contest — who cares?" Trump told backers in Myrtle Beach. "I'll never let you down!"

Trump's rivals — Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush, John Kasich and Ben Carson — all scrounged for support ahead of the first-in-the-South primary.

Cruz, buoyed by a new poll showing him just five points behind Trump, told supporters in Charleston he is putting together the same kind of coalition that won him the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 1.

A new NBC News/*Wall Street Journal*/Marist Poll still gives Trump the lead at 28%, but with the Texas senator narrowing the gap at 23%. They are followed by

Rubio (15%), Bush (13%), and Kasich and Carson (both at 9%).

Trump had a 16-point lead in the same poll a month ago. The New York billionaire has told South Carolina voters that a win in their state will enable him to "run the table" in contests.

Opponents contend there is evidence his support is softening. His rivals say that, after other candidates drop out, they can beat Trump one-on-one.

Saying he is backed by traditional conservatives, evangelicals, Ronald Reagan Democrats and young people, Cruz said he is re-assembling "that old Reagan coalition."

"The people of South Carolina," Cruz said, "they want a conservative as the next president."

Cruz will not be in the state for part of primary day itself — he will fly to Washington to attend the funeral of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Cruz and the other Republican candidates have made Scalia's replacement a major campaign issue.

Rubio, a Florida senator, toured the state with high-profile South Carolina supporters, including

popular Gov. Nikki Haley.

"This election is a generational choice," the 44-year-old Rubio told supporters gathered at a high school gym in North Charleston. "The American Dream is slipping away."

Bush, a former governor of Florida, campaigned in the state with his mother, former first lady Barbara Bush. Mrs. Bush, the wife and mother of previous presidents, described Jeb Bush as "steady. He's honest. He is modest. He is kind, and he is good."

Kasich, the Ohio governor who finished second to Trump in New Hampshire, said he will continue his campaign regardless of how he finishes in South Carolina. He is looking toward Midwest primaries in states such as Michigan and Ohio to boost his campaign.

Joking about his standing in South Carolina, Kasich said his expectations once could fit "in a Volkswagen" — but "clearly we're gonna do better than that; we may be able to put them in a van."

Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, also said he plans to stay in the race until a gaggle of primaries on March 1, mostly in the South.

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ANDREW HARNIK, AP

John Kasich, speaking Friday in Columbia, S.C., says he'll stay in the race regardless of the outcome on Saturday.

Title: **2nd place in SC GOP primary could have heaviest impact**
 Author: RUDOLPH BELL DBELL@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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2nd place in SC GOP primary could have heaviest impact

RUDOLPH BELL

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As the South Carolina Republican Party likes to point out, the winner of the state's first-in-the-South presidential primary has gone on to secure the GOP nomination in every case except one since the primary began in 1980.

This year, however, the primary's significance could lie more in who comes in second than in who takes first.

Not only could the second-place winner go on to secure the nomination, he might also resolve, if elected president, some of the most-pressing conflicts within the party over its future direction.

At least seven polls of South Carolina Republicans out this week point to a victory on Saturday by New York billionaire Donald Trump.

All of them show Trump with more than 30 percent of the vote and double-digit leads on all five of his competitors.

But the same polls show more South Carolina Republicans favor someone besides Trump than favor Trump, which is also the case in national polls.

And as noted pollster Peter Hart observed at Furman University last

week, that indicates Trump could be in real trouble if the non-Trump vote can consolidate before he runs away with the nomination.

So who's in the best position to challenge Trump?

The same seven polls show Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio battling for second place in South Carolina.

For either, a second-place finish in the Palmetto State could be the springboard needed to emerge as the Trump alternative.

Interestingly, Rubio and Cruz have remarkable similarities.

See SECOND, Page 4A

“They both honor the oath that they took to uphold the Constitution. They read the document for what it says rather than what they wish it said. They both understand the need for limited government.”

MIKE LEE

REPUBLICAN U.S. SENATOR FROM UTAH ON SENS. MARCO RUBIO AND TED CRUZ, FOR WHOM HE CAMPAIGNED IN THE UPSTATE ON THURSDAY

Second

Continued from Page 3A

They are both freshmen senators who rode the tea party wave to Washington.

They are both in their mid-40s, obviously intelligent, and the children of Cuban immigrants.

And they are both real conservatives, according to Utah Sen. Mike Lee, who campaigned for both of them in the Upstate Thursday.

Lee, who also rode the tea party wave to Washington, was in Greenville to speak at the Conservative Review candidate forum at the Bon Secours Wellness Arena on Thursday night.

While in town, he campaigned for Rubio at Swamp Rabbit Crossfit in Greenville on Thursday morning and for Cruz in the afternoon at Mutt's BBQ in Easley.

“They both honor the oath that they took to uphold the Constitution,” Lee told *The Greenville News*. “They read the document for what it says rather than what they wish it said. They both understand the need for limited government.”

Asked if he thought Trump was a real conservative, a question Trump's critics have raised, Lee said he had “a lot of questions about what policies he would advocate for as president.”

Both Rubio and Cruz see South Carolina as critical to their political fortunes and have campaigned extensively in the state.

The intensity of their battle is evident by a new tally of political advertising by the Wesleyan Media Project.

It shows Cruz, Rubio and their allies aired 4,904 and 3,882 ads in South Carolina,

respectively, over the past two weeks, more than former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and his super PAC, *USA Today* reported.

Rubio won the endorsement game, picking up what are three of most-important endorsements South Carolina has to offer a GOP presidential candidate — Gov. Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Trey Gowdy.

The Rubio campaign showed its understanding of where the Republican votes in Greenville are when it dispatched him to campaign at Southside Christian School in the Eastside suburbs that have traditionally delivered big numbers for the GOP.

Cruz garnered just one high-level endorsement, Rep. Jeff Duncan.

But Cruz has repeatedly brought

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South Carolina Republicans to their feet with his masterful speechmaking and understanding of the Southern and evangelical cultures.

He's campaigned numerous times up and down South Carolina's Interstate 85 corridor, the state's GOP base, from the Anderson Civic Center to First Baptist of North Spartanburg.

And he brought to South Carolina the ground operation that was credited for his victory over Trump in the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 1.

In a sign of the importance Cruz has placed on South Carolina, he rushed to Greenville to campaign at the TD Convention Center one day after winning in

Iowa and with just a week to go before the New Hampshire primary.

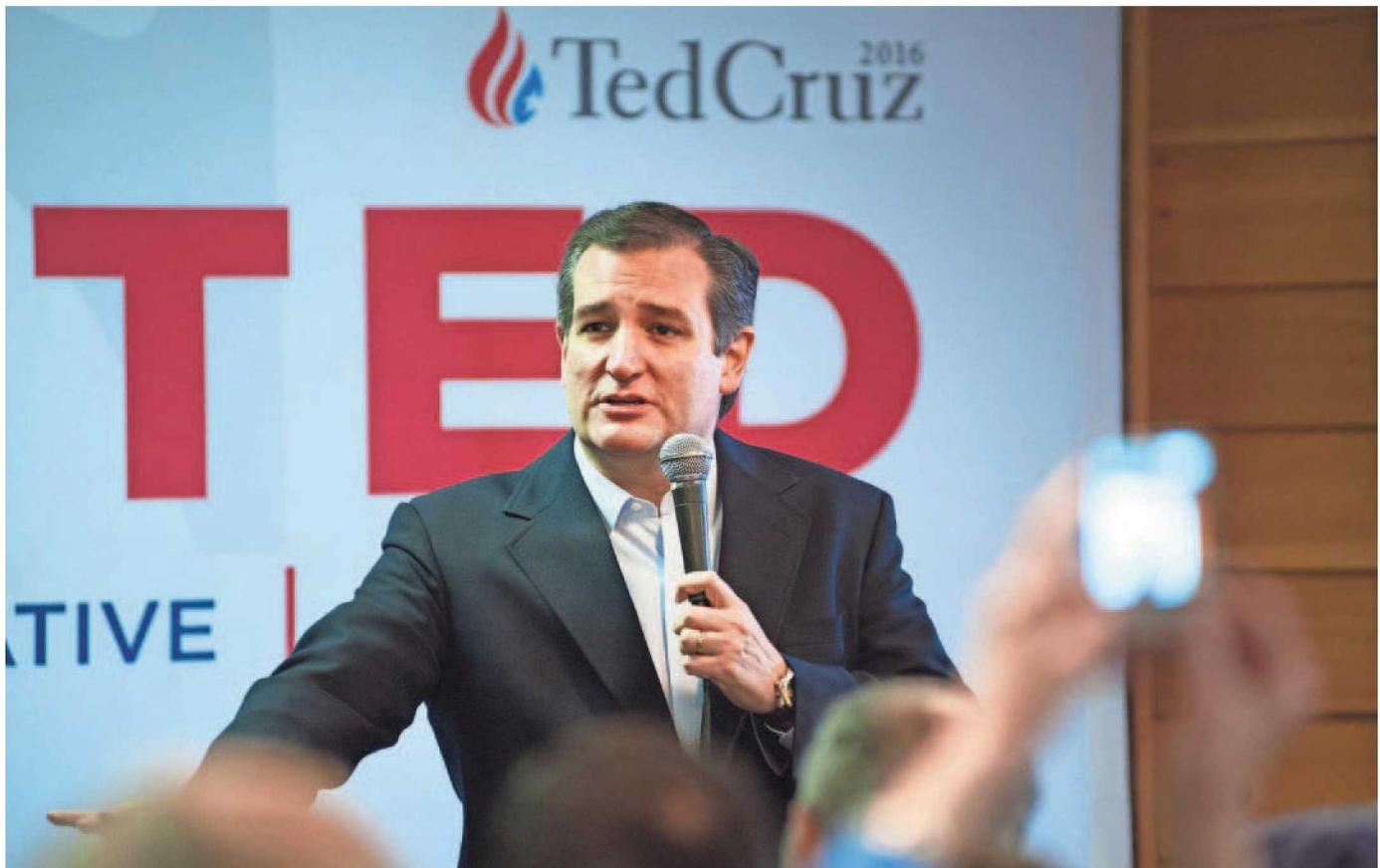
The differences between Cruz and Rubio in many ways mirror the divisions within the GOP. Either could push the party toward his own views if elected president.

» Should the party stand on principle without compromising as Cruz did when he demanded the defunding of Obamacare even at the price of a temporary shutdown of the federal government? Or should the party focus on bipartisan problem-solving to get things done as Rubio tried to do when he worked with Democrats to pass immigration reform?

» What is the proper balance between

security and freedom? Is letting the National Security Agency collect Americans' telephone records in bulk necessary to keep the nation safe from terrorists as Rubio argues? Or is it an infringement of the Fourth Amendment and citizens' private rights as Cruz contends?

» What is the GOP's best path to the White House? Must the party broaden its appeal to younger voters and Hispanics as Rubio says he can do? Or can it still win by running a bold conservative who will re-ignite the Reagan coalition as Cruz says?



Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz speaks during a rally at Mutt's BBQ in Easley on Thursday.

LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF

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PHOTOS BY LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz leaves his campaign bus to go into a rally at Mutt's BBQ in Easley on Thursday.



Betty Hinton of Travelers Rest peeks inside a window Thursday at Mutt's BBQ.

Title: **EDUCATION ISSUES UNITE YOUNG VOTERS**
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★ IIII ELECTION 2016

EDUCATION ISSUES UNITE YOUNG VOTERS

AMANDA COYNE

THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Young voters are worried about their futures under the next president, but what those worries are depends on who you ask. But they tend to agree that one issue is important: college affordability.

"It seems like every year we hear USC and other universities are getting their funding cut, which means students will end up paying more," said Caroline Hendricks, a medical student and Greenville native in her second year at the Medical University of South Carolina. "It's crazy how

See **COLLEGE, Page 8A**

College

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much tuition has increased since our parents were in school, even taking into account inflation."

College affordability has been a centerpiece of both Democratic candidates' campaigns.

Sen. Bernie Sanders has proposed free tuition for all students at public colleges and universities, while former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would make it free only for middle- and working-class students attending public and historically black colleges and universities.

"I know I'm strapped with student debt. We're going to have to face that for the rest of our lives," said Alex Askew, a 30-year-old organizer for Sanders. "It's something we deal with and something we see as a huge issue for us. We want the opportunity to build wealth and see our

★ IIII

WHO'S IN THE UPSTATE?

JEB BUSH

Meet and greet with former first lady Barbara Bush

When: 9:30 a.m. Doors open 8:30 a.m.
 Where: Wade's Restaurant, 1000 N. Pine St. Spartanburg

Meet and greet with Barbara Bush

When: Noon
 Where: The Kroc Community Center, 424 Westfield St., Greenville

Rally with Barbara Bush

When: 6:45 p.m. Doors open 5:45 p.m.
 Where: D.W. Daniel High School, 1819 6 Mile Highway Central

MARCO RUBIO

Clemson Rally with Gov. Nikki Haley and Sen. Tim Scott

When: 7:30 p.m.
 Where: The Madren Conference Center Pavilion, 230 Madren Center Drive Clemson

TED CRUZ

Rally with special guests Ted Cruz and Phil Robertson

When: 8:45 p.m.
 Where: Greenville Marriott, 1 Parkway East Greenville.

INSIDE

Clyburn to endorse Clinton. **Page 11A**

families prosper."

In a visit to Greenville this week, President Bill Clinton detailed his wife Hillary Clinton's plan for college affordability and student loans, which includes a loan repayment program that would tie monthly payments to how much the debtor owes. University of South Carolina junior Jada Williams, a Spartanburg native and Hillary for America fellow, said Hillary Clinton's plan would make her feel secure when she pursues a career in broadcast journalism, which can have low-paying entry-level positions.

"I'm not going to be making a lot of money coming out of college," Williams said.

"I would like the comfort of knowing that I will be able to pay the bills and have money left over to put food in my apartment."

Student loans are an important issue

for some young Republicans as well. Kendall Cole, a 23-year-old nurse who has not decided who she will vote for, completed two bachelor's degrees in five years at Erskine College and Anderson University.

She said she wants to choose a candidate with a strong plan for affordability and loan debt.

Cole was at an Anderson event for Sen. Marco Rubio, where her brother gave the invocation. Rubio has made technical education and life experience credits part of his education plan.

But for others, like Trent Larkins, the public relations director for the Upstate Young Republicans, college affordability is not on their short list of priorities. Immigration policy and national security are the biggest concerns for Larkins, a supporter of Sen. Ted Cruz.

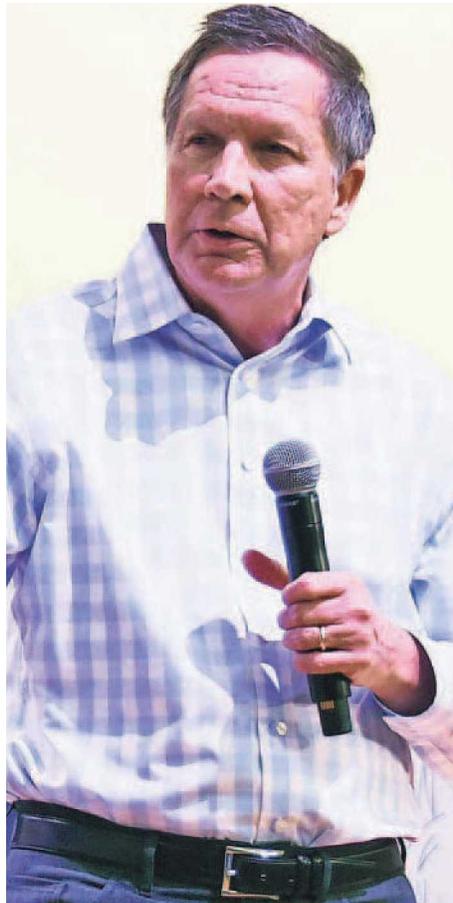
"I'm not for amnesty at all, and neither is Ted Cruz," Larkins said.

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PAUL BROWN

Ohio Gov. John Kasich speaks to a standing-room-only crowd Thursday at Clemson.

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MATT ROURKE/AP

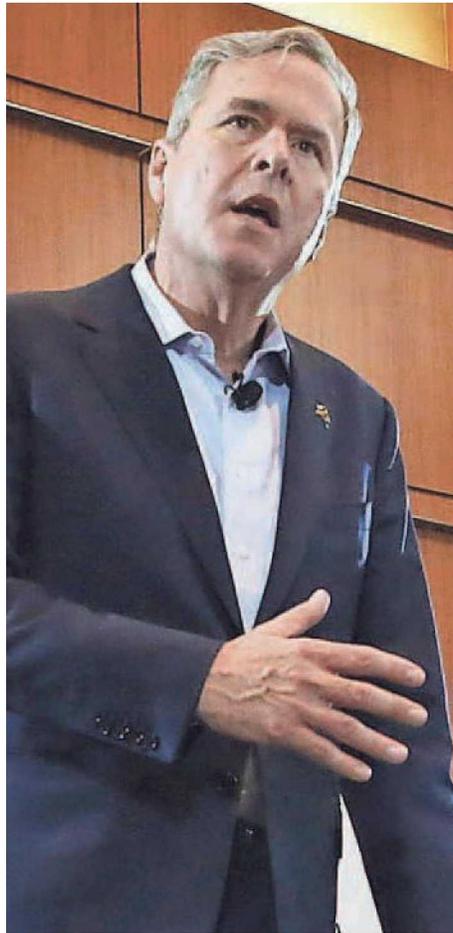
Donald Trump interacts with the crowd during a Thursday stop in North Charleston.

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SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush speaks to an audience of voters Thursday in Columbia.

Title: **Monkey wrench thrown at I-73**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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Monkey wrench thrown at I-73

Davis: US earmarks freed for other uses

TIM SMITH

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COLUMBIA - A state senator filibustering a roads bill says that federal earmarked funds held by the state for Interstate 73 can now be used on other roads.

Sen. Tom Davis, a Beaufort Republican who for a second day held the Senate podium to talk about accountability at the state Department of Transportation, argued that DOT holds millions of dollars in federal earmarked funds that can be used on highway projects different than those the money was received for if the earmarks are 10 years or older.

Davis said the commission's chairman has said that about

\$50 million in federal earmarks and grants received for I-73 is es-crowed by the state Department of Transportation and can only be used on that project.

"That's not true," Davis told the Senate.

He said because of action by Congress late last year, any earmarks at least 10 years old that do not have significant amounts obligated for construction are freed to be used for other purposes.

That totals \$96 million in South Carolina, he said, \$36 million of it earmarked for I-73. Davis said he

learned of the congressional ac-

tion through his own research, not from anything DOT had told him.

"This is an example of what I would submit to you we are not focusing enough on," Davis told the Senate. "The money earmarked for I-73, because of what Congress just passed, is money we can muster to pay for those things."

DOT Chairman Mike Wooten, who lives in Horry County, told *The Greenville News* Thursday it was his understanding that the federal legislation passed last

See ROADS, Page 7A

Roads

Continued from Page 1A

year would not impact the I-73 funds.

"Sen. Davis may be right," he said. "I hope that is not the case. We went up there and worked hard for that money. I would hate to think it could be reallocated to anything else."

A spokesman for DOT said the agency is still awaiting guidance on the issue from the Federal Highway Administration.

Davis said lawmakers need to have a "fair and thorough" statement of what monies on deposit at DOT are available.

"This money for I-73, I would submit to you, that money could be better used maintaining and preserving interstates we already have," he said. "We ought not go ahead and dedicate it to yet another new interstate."

Wooten has said repeatedly that the controversial project, which could cost between \$1 billion and \$2 billion, would not use any state funds. He said it would be paid for with tolls and money raised by Horry County, in addition to the federal funds already received and possible future fed-

eral monies.

The I-73 project would provide a direct interstate route from I-95 to the beach. The agency is still pursuing an environmental permit needed for the road before construction can begin.

Davis, who successfully blocked any consideration of a roads bill last year through a filibuster, said Wednesday he is concerned the Legislature will not pass meaningful restructuring reform for DOT and the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank because lawmakers do not want to loosen control of

the state's transportation agencies.

Gov. Nikki Haley last year told lawmakers she would approve a 10-cent increase in the gas tax but only if lawmakers also scrapped the current method of picking highway commissioners and provided income tax relief.

Senators have struggled since to tie the three issues together into one bill that can win a consensus.

Complicating the debate is about \$1.3 billion in new money this year from budget surpluses.

The Senate broke Thursday afternoon af-



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ter less than three hours in session after Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman said it was difficult to maintain a quorum.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Larry Martin of Pickens, a proponent of DOT reform, said Davis is helping to inform the body of facts

they might not get elsewhere.

“It’s not your typical filibuster,” Martin said. “He’s really got some-

thing important to say. I want him to say it as long as he is inclined to say it because we seem to be learning something new every day that he’s up there.”

Title: **State sets record in exports for sixth consecutive year**
 Author: MICHAEL BURNS MDBURNS@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 70.83 square inch
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State sets record in exports for sixth consecutive year

MICHAEL BURNS

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South Carolina has set a record for total export sales for the sixth consecutive year, according to the state Department of Commerce, with Greer's BMW plant contributing mightily to figures that rank South Carolina as the nation's top exporter of completed passenger motor vehicles and 15th in exports overall.

BMW's stance as the nation's leading automotive exporter was confirmed earlier this month when the company announced that its Greer plant, BMW's largest worldwide, produced \$9.8 billion in export value in 2015.

That gives the state nearly 18-percent of the total U.S. market share.

The state's 2015 export sales totaled \$30.9 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, showing an increase of more than 4-percent over the 2014 total.

"Companies continue to trust the

people of South Carolina to build their products because they make up a workforce that has built a remarkable reputation as one of the best in the world," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "The fact that Team South Carolina has accomplished another record year in export sales proves that our economy is on the move, but with new companies investing in our state all the time, it's clear that we're just getting started."

With more than \$4.4 billion in export sales, China remained South Carolina's top export partner in 2015. Rounding out the top 10 were Germany, Canada, United Kingdom, Mexico, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Belgium and Korean Republic.

"South Carolina companies continue to produce top-quality products, and the world is taking notice," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. "Looking

ahead, the continued growth and development of our international trade footprint is critical as we seek to keep our state and its economy moving forward."

South Carolina's year-over-year 4.2-percent increase led all Southeastern states. Nationwide, only Hawaii, Nevada, Utah and Arizona boasted a larger percentage increase.

The Palmetto State's 2015 growth was boosted by a more than 176-percent increase in the export sales of aircraft. Aircraft and spacecraft accounted for more than \$4 billion in export sales, giving South Carolina approximately 12-percent of the U.S. market share.

For the fifth consecutive year, South Carolina led the nation in the export of tires, comprising more than 28-percent of the nation's tire-export market.

Follow Michael Burns on Twitter @MikeNearGreer

Title: **State sets record in exports for sixth consecutive year**
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FILE
BMW vehicles roll through the assembly line at the automaker's plant in Greer, which produced \$9.8 billion in export value in 2015. The state's 2015 export sales totaled \$30.9 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Title: **Expansion provides parenting help to more poor mothers-to-be**
 Author: SEANNA ADCOX ASSOCIATED PRESS
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Expansion provides parenting help to more poor mothers-to-be

SEANNA ADCOX

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA - More of South Carolina's poor mothers-to-be will get parenting help at home through a \$30 million public-private partnership that aims to reduce pre-term births and child hospitalizations.

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley announced Tuesday the state's collaboration with nonprofits, companies and private donors to increase those helped through the Nurse-Family Partnership, a Denver-based nonprofit that pairs registered nurses with first-time mothers on Medicaid.

The nurses make home visits — typically one or two monthly — from early in a mother's pregnancy through the child's second birthday.

Haley said the voluntary program aims to put babies and their mothers on a successful path, while reducing state costs and the problems that come with generational poverty, including domestic abuse.

"These new moms want to be the best moms they can be, but they need guidance," she said.

More than 1,200 families in South Carolina now receive the one-on-one intervention. As of Dec. 31, nearly 3,700 moms had

collectively received parenting assistance since the program began operating in the state in 2008.

Iantheya Brown, 26, of Columbia, says she's a "super mom" to her 3-year-old son Jameer largely because of the support from her visiting nurse.

"I had fears of becoming a lost soul, a statistic, another young black woman lost in her pain and failed dreams," she said. But through encouragement and goal-setting, she said, she instead earned a speech pathology degree and is pursuing her master's. "Nurse Pam made me feel like I could do anything.

Now I'm giving Jameer that same message."

The state's Medicaid agency hasn't previously been involved with Nurse-Family Partnership. The announcement means 3,200 additional mothers will receive

help over the next four years, said Christian Soura, director of the state Department of Health and Human Services.

The contract calls for his agency to pay \$13 million — about 30 percent of that coming from state taxes — while donors are contributing \$17 million, part of which will pay for the program's evaluation.

The largest donor, The Duke Endowment, has committed to paying \$8 million of that. Four years from now, the state will pay Nurse-Family Partnership a bonus of up to \$7.5 million. Whether state taxes pay that, zero or somewhere in between depends on the demonstrated savings, Soura said.

Roxane White, president and CEO of Nurse-Family Partnership, said the statewide "Pay for Success" initiative is a first for the nonprofit.

Haley said the program is part of her administration's efforts in lifting up rural South Carolina, which ranks fifth-worst in child poverty.

Title: **Haley endorses and campaigns for Rubio**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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Haley endorses and campaigns for Rubio

TIM SMITH

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CHAPIN - Gov. Nikki Haley, courted by GOP presidential contenders for her support, made her choice public Wednesday, emerging on a Lexington County stage to endorse Marco Rubio three days before South Carolina's First-in-the-South presidential preference primary.

Haley told a campaign rally of hundreds that she chose the U.S. senator from Florida because she believes he would make the best president for her children.

"If we elect Marco Rubio, every day will be great day in America," she said, a twist on her catch phrase that every day is a great day in South Carolina.

The endorsement paired two up-and-coming GOP stars of the same age who also are children of immigrants. Haley, the youngest governor in the nation at 44, is the daughter of Indian immigrants and South Carolina's first female and minority governor.

Rubio, who has come in third in a bevy of polls of likely South Carolina voters behind Donald Trump and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, said he was honored by the endorsement.

"I am so honored that she chose to be part of our team

because she embodies for me everything I want the Republican party and the conservative movement to be about," he said.

Opinions were split by attendees whether the endorsement would matter.

Albert and Angel Huff drove from their home in Lugoff to see Rubio, saying they were trying to choose between him and Cruz.

Albert Huff said he didn't like the governor and wasn't sure endorsements made much of a difference. His wife disagreed, saying the endorsement by U.S. Rep. Trey

Gowdy was important for her.

Linda Provence of Irmo, who also was trying to choose between Rubio and Cruz, said she thought Haley's endorsement would help Rubio.

"I like our governor," she said. "I trust her judgement."

Rubio and Haley, along with Haley's husband, emerged together from Rubio's campaign bus at the rally, held beside a warehouse outside Chapin in Lexington County.

The popular governor just Tuesday had said she was undecided on an endorsement, though she ruled out Trump.

At the rally, she explained

that she was in search of a candidate who, as president, would keep her children safe.

"I wanted a president who would have the backs of our military veterans and those in active duty," said Haley, whose husband serves as an officer in the Army National Guard and served in Afghanistan. "I want a president who knows when we fight wars, we win wars."

She said she also wanted a president who would stop pushing federal mandates on states, giving as examples Obamacare and EPA regulations.

Haley also said she was after a president who would deliver a "conscience" to Republicans in Washington, reminding them of balanced budgets, cutting debt, and building reserves.

She thanked "good people" running for the GOP nomination, who she did not name, and their sacrifice and willingness to serve.

"My job was to find a person I thought could do it the best," she said. "I wanted somebody with fight, somebody with passion, somebody with conviction to do the right thing."

And she said she wanted someone who would be hum-

ble enough "to remember he works for all the people."

"I wanted somebody who would go and show my parents that the best decision they ever made for their children was coming to America," she said.

Rubio touched on those points to the audience, talking of his support for national security, veterans, the working class and the immigration story of his parents.

Haley closed the rally by urging attendees to contact 10 people and to go on social media to get people to the polls Saturday.

"I need to make sure we have the highest turnout we've ever had in South Carolina," she said to cheers. "We make presidents. Let's make Marco Rubio the next president of the United States."

Rubio also has been endorsed by U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and Gowdy.

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster has endorsed Trump.

Haley in 2012 endorsed Mitt Romney in the GOP presidential contest, and he became the party's national nominee but was beaten in South Carolina by former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

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GOV. NIKKI HALEY