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**Title: Rubio to hold rally on Hilton Head****Author:****Size: 11.47 square inch****Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269**

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## Rubio to hold rally on Hilton Head

Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio will make one final stop in Beaufort County today in advance of Saturday's primary.

The U.S. senator from Florida will hold a rally at Signature Flight Support near Hilton Head Airport this afternoon as he crisscrosses South Carolina on a last-minute plane tour. Rubio is expected to speak in the area adjacent to the terminal at 2:15 p.m. after landing, according to a news release.

Doors open at 1:15 p.m., and attendees are asked to park on the streets near Signature Flight Support on Gateway Circle. Tickets for the Hilton Head rally

are available at <http://bit.ly/RubioRally0219> or [marcorubio.com/events](http://marcorubio.com/events).

Rubio trailed New York businessman Donald Trump and Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, in polls released by CNN and Fox News this week but picked up an endorsement from Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday. Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Trey Gowdy have already voiced their support for Rubio in recent weeks. Haley and Scott will accompany Rubio today.

After a short meet-and-greet, Rubio will head out to his next destination. He has also planned stops in Charleston, Clemson, Columbia and Pawleys Island.



Title: **Week in Beaufort shows Jeb Bush stuck in time**  
 Author: BY SCOT LEHIGH The Boston Globe  
 Size: 42.00 square inch  
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## OTHER VIEWPOINTS

# Week in Beaufort shows Jeb Bush stuck in time

BY SCOT LEHIGH

The Boston Globe

### BEAUFORT

South Carolina has always been a firewall for the Bush family. This year, it looks more like a fire extinguisher.

It was hard to avoid that conclusion after attending both Donald Trump and Jeb Bush campaign events here in this beautiful city in the South Carolina Lowcountry.

On Monday evening, a driver, her window rolled down to enjoy the lovely weather, directed this question my way: "Where is all this traffic coming from?"

Simple. Donald Trump was scheduled to speak at the local high school.

Trump's event drew such a crowd that fire and police officials turned people away not just from the performance center where he spoke, but from the 700-plus-capacity auditorium that served as an overflow room.

You couldn't help contrast the numbers Trump attracted with the 200 or so who came out in mid-morning on Wednesday to see Jeb Bush.

Bush was earnest, smart, explanatory and expansive. Too much so for two Bush admirers I spoke with, who left mid-way through.

"I'm bored," one confided.

Leaving later, other long-time Bush supporters said, sadly, that things just weren't coming together for him.

Before the event, retired schoolteacher Paula Butner told me she had deep respect for the Bush family, and particularly George W., but was leaning toward Trump.

"I like how decisive he has been about immigration," she said. Given her affection for the Bush family, was she put off by the way Trump has gone after Bush for the Iraq invasion, saying his administration lied about Iraq possessing weapons of mass destruction?

No. "I think it is just part of the games they play," Butner said of Trump's accusation.

The sense that the Palmetto tide had turned against Jeb was accentuated on Wednesday afternoon, when news broke that Gov. Nikki Haley's highly coveted endorsement would go to Marco Rubio, who is jostling with Bush and Gov. John Kasich of Ohio for the role of establishment alternative.

As for Trump himself, his event broke new

ground in the annals of self-admiration. Fielding softball questions from former South Carolina GOP chairman Van D. Hipp Jr., the candidate shifted voices, the better to boast about his own prescience and prowess.

"Trump was talking about Osama bin Laden a year or two before the World Trade Center came down," he declared.

Of course, Trump's candidacy is all based on the notion that Trump is possessed of unexampled talents, intelligence and abilities. Indeed, as Trump presents it, all problems

can be solved by a president with his intellect, toughness and deal-making prowess.

His pitch comes down to this: Trust me, I can.

Or rather: Trust Trump, he can.

And, talking to his backers, that seems to be enough for them.

"I am sick of politicians. He was a super businessman," said Susan McDowell, a South Carolina retiree. "You're doggone right I'm going to vote for him."

Back to Bush. He actually does have an array of reasonably well-thought-out conservative plans and proposals detailing what

he proposes to do on any number of issues, from college costs to health care for military veterans to the national debt. After he spoke, he spent considerable time answering questions from the audience.

Watching him, I found himself thinking, yet

again, that Bush is a smart, thoughtful, decent guy — but one who is hopelessly stuck in another time.

A time when a potential president had to demonstrate a real understanding of the issues, to offer some realistic plans, to tell people what he would do if elected.

That all seems hopelessly antique in this year's Republican primary process.

Bush had hoped that a strong South Carolina finish could frame this race as Jeb versus Donald, the serious, experienced, conservative governor against the erratic, unpredictable, unpresidential outsider.

Instead, the message seems more likely to be that the state that has shined on his family is now declaring that the Bush era is over — and the Trump odyssey has dawned.

Title: **Carolina primary to have less effect on polls**  
 Author: BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER mschechter@aikenstandard.com  
 Size: 60.76 square inch  
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



# Carolina primary to have less effect on polls

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER  
 mschechter@aikenstandard.com

In the 2012 South Carolina primary, Newt Gingrich, the former Republican Speaker of the House, against all odds defeated then front-runner Mitt Romney to win the South Carolina Republican primary, fielding the question, does the state's primary have an effect on low-polling presidential candidates?

## POLLS

CONTINUED from 1A

around December and beyond Herman Cain appeared to take the lead – there was a lot of fluctuation.”

Oldendick said Gingrich's lead really took force after the Myrtle Beach debate before the primary where the candidate took control, attacking the moderator and the media in the same breath, which garnered the attention of not just the debate audience, but also the state's Republican voters.

That was followed with various campaign stops across the state, including one in Aiken County that brought more than 1,000 people to the USC Aiken Convocation Center.

“What happened in 2012 with Gingrich was a sense that, for the most part, Mitt Romney didn't excite the electorate,”

The answer was yes then, but now, not as much.

“I think that was a one-shot deal, and the difference between this year and 2012, one, there was a lot of volatility in the polls running up to that primary election,” said Robert Oldendick, political science professor and executive director of Institution for

Public Service and Policy Research at the University of South Carolina.

“We had the case where (Rick) Perry was ahead for a while, (Michele) Bachmann took the lead, and then

Please see **POLLS**, Page 12A

said Charles Bierbauer, the dean of the College of Information and Communications at USC and a former political reporter and White House correspondent for CNN.

But in this campaign cycle where one candidate looks to hold, and has held the lead following other primaries, a Gingrich-esque opportunity doesn't appear to have a chance in the Palmetto State.

“(Donald) Trump is leading in the polls, and he has been for an extended period of time,” Oldendick said. “To overturn that, it would have to take some big, disastrous event here. I don't think that's going to happen.”

What appears to be the latest opinion poll out of South Carolina has Donald Trump holding a significant lead, 32 percent, followed by Texas Sen.

Ted Cruz at 19 percent; Florida Sen. Marco Rubio at 15 percent; former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and retired neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson both holding 9 percent; and Ohio Gov. John Kasich with 6 percent Republican support, according to the Fox News poll.

Other polls, including the Bloomberg Politics Poll and Public Policy Polling also have Trump with a significant lead over Cruz.

In Aiken County, only five of six candidates have made campaign stops, leaving Kasich as the only Republican candidate not to stump in Aiken.

Aiken GOP Chairman K.T. Ruthven isn't giving up that an “underdog,” low-polling candidate could catch up with the front-runner, similar to Gingrich four years ago.

“Five candidates have been

in Aiken in the last three days. While I have attended these events, there has been one common theme I have seen is that voters are still weighing their options,” Ruthven said. “I even had one lady call me to get details on early voting. After explaining to her how she can vote absentee in-person, she was very excited to vote, but still needed to pick her candidate.”

With the pile of undecided votes topped with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's Wednesday endorsement, joining support from U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, of Rubio, Oldendick said Rubio could see a bump in the polls from third to second.

“I don't necessarily think he's going to be at the top just based off of an endorsement,

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it's important, but not huge," he said. "Where the endorsement could be beneficial to Rubio is when people look at the endorsement, the people who are undecided at the polls or aren't strong for their candidate could move toward Rubio."

But as in the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary earlier this month, Bier-

bauer said South Carolina on Saturday will do what it's always continued to do – whittle the candidate options to three or four.

"The question to ask is whether Trump can carry his lead across the country," Bierbauer said. "His wins in some places doesn't necessarily get you close to the nomination, it doesn't mean you win."

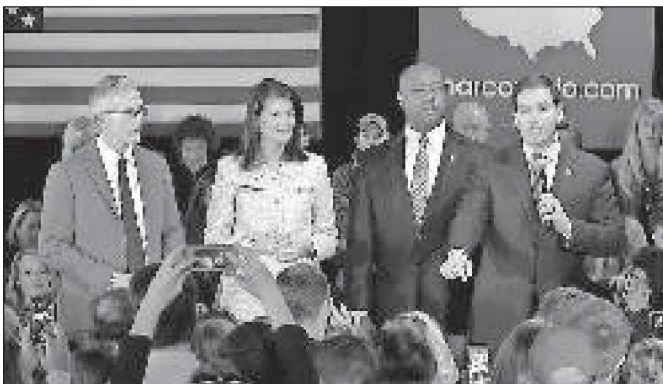
Come Sunday when poll-

sters, pundits and politicians look at the Republican primary turnout, even if candidate's see a percentage up or down, Oldendick said "there will be momentum and the ability to fundraise will show a significant difference."

"Debates and mailers play a major role in courting voters; however, to inspire town halls, meet and greets and one on one contact are a must,"

Ruthven said. "When asked what my prediction (is) for this year, my answer is always the same – anything can happen. Speaker Gingrich didn't have a chance to win South Carolina two weeks out, but he pulled off a big win."

**Maayan Schechter** is the digital news editor with the *Aiken Standard*. Follow her on Twitter @MaayanSchechter.



AP PHOTO/ALEX SANZ

U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., left, Gov. Nikki Haley, R-S.C., and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., campaign with Republican presidential candidate Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, in Greenville on Thursday.



Title: **Osbon endorses Rubio**  
 Author: BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND ccleveland@aikenstandard.com  
 Size: 50.53 square inch  
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# Osbon endorses Rubio

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND

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A day after presidential candidate Marco Rubio landed



**Osbon**

an endorsement from Gov. Nikki Haley, many Aiken County elected officials said they are not planning to make a public endorsement, with some expressing they are still deciding between the dwindling field of candidates.

At least four members of Aiken City and County Councils, however, said they are backing a candidate as of Thursday.

Aiken Mayor Rick Osbon has decided to endorse Rubio and joins five other South Carolina mayors endorsing the Florida senator, Rubio's campaign announced in a press release this week.



**Dewar**

"Marco is a strong voice for a new generation of conservative leaders," Osbon said in the release. "He fully understands the principles this country was founded on and the challenges that our nation now faces around the world. Marco Rubio will usher in a powerful agenda of reforms

that will strengthen our nation inside and out."

Osbon told the *Aiken Standard* he feels endorsements like Haley's could make a difference in the primary, but for him, he feels Rubio is prepared for the position.

## Aiken City Council

Other members of City

Council have yet to publicly endorse a presidential candidate. Council members Steve Homoki, Lessie Price and Philip Merry all said they are not endorsing a candidate at this time.



**Napier**

Council member Reggie Ebner said he has decided not to make an endorsement in the race. "The way I look at it, and the same as the other races, we're fortunate to have multiple candidates to vote for – that's the American way," Ebner said. "I encourage the voters to look at their records, go to their websites and choose the candidate that best fits their needs."

Council member Dick Dewar said he will vote for whoever becomes the Republican nominee but called himself "a Ted Cruz guy."



**Rawls**

chief justice. (Scalia's) death changes the complexity of the race.

Council member Gail Diggs did not respond to requests as of press time Thursday.

## Aiken County Council

County Council members Kathy Rawls and Phil Napier both said they are endorsing New York businessman Donald Trump.

"I just feel like it's time we have someone who will speak up and step up and is not a member of the establishment," Napier said. "I hope if Trump is elected, like Rubio

and Carson, he surrounds himself with people who would make a good team."

Council members Willar Hightower Jr., LaWana McKenzie and Council Chairman



**Hixon**

"He's a conservative, and given Justice (Antonin) Scalia's death, I think he's more likely to appoint a very conservative

Furgieule and Andrew

Siders both have decided not to endorse a candidate.

Council member Sandy Haskell did not respond by press time, and Chuck Smith's office said the Council member was out of town on Thursday.

## Aiken County Legislative Delegation

Reps. Bill Hixon, R-North Augusta, and Chris Corley, R-



**Corley**

Graniteville, have already endorsed Trump and Rep. Bill Clyburn, D-Aiken, is supporting Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. Other members of the delegation have not endorsed a candidate.



**Clyburn**

port Clinton.

The most recent CNN/ORC poll states Republican likely South Carolina voters support Trump and Democratic likely voters sup-

**Christina Cleveland** is a general assignment reporter at the *Aiken Standard*. Follow her on Twitter @ChristinaNCleve.

Title: **Bush argues serious leadership should displace Trump**  
 Author: BY STEPHEN FASTENAU [sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com)  
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# Bush argues serious leadership should displace Trump

BY STEPHEN FASTENAU

[sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com)

Jeb Bush pushed back against Donald Trump on Wednesday in Beaufort, painting the Republican frontrunner as an entertainer unfit to lead.

Bush, struggling in the polls ahead of Saturday's S.C. Republican presidential primary, told a crowd at Beaufort Inn's Tabby Place that serious issues would arise for the next president and would require a serious leader. After the town-hall style event, Bush said he thought Trump's attacks on his brother, former president George W. Bush, during last week's debate could cost Trump on Saturday.

Trump "stepped in it" when he claimed the

former president had advanced knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks and didn't stop them and knew there weren't weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, Jeb Bush said.

"The guy got unhinged in the debate, and his tendency is to double down when he says outrageous things, because somehow he thinks that it helps him," Bush said in an interview with The Beaufort Gazette and The Island Packet after the rally.

The comments come as Bush is working to remain in the conversation for the Republican nomination, efforts that include a buzz-worthy photo of a handgun posted to Bush's Twitter

account this week.

Not long after Bush's Beaufort event, Sen. Marco Rubio earned Gov. Nikki Haley's endorsement. Bush called Rubio a friend but said the senator lacked the necessary foreign policy experience.

George W. Bush was in Charleston earlier in the week to campaign for his brother. Former first lady Barbara Bush is expected to arrive in South Carolina on Thursday night and much of the Bush family will be in town by the end of the week, Jeb Bush said.

## ADDRESSING UNDECEIDED VOTERS

Mat Paulick, a 39-year-old Beaufort resident, arrived at the rally un-

decided.

And his mind still wasn't made up when Bush's staff allowed him to change his baby daughter's dirty diaper aboard the campaign bus.

Paulick wanted to ask Bush how he would unite both parties in Congress to get things done. He wasn't called upon, but was pleased with other Bush answers, when the candidate sought to find common ground with a young woman who is pro-choice and talked to the mother of a lesbian Air Force veteran about gay rights.

"Genuine, honest, friendliness, welcoming — I liked what I saw there,"

**SEE BUSH, 5A**

FROM PAGE 3A

## BUSH

said Paulick, who is torn between Bush and Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Longtime Beaufort resident Norman Morrall said he and a group of friends were still deciding and had seen Rubio and Trump. Morrall, an 82-year-old retired airline pilot, eliminated Trump after his appearance in Beaufort on Tuesday.

"He doesn't go into any detail," Morrall said.

Beaufort resident Andy Kinghorn wrote off Trump as "a disaster" and is deciding between Bush, Rubio and Kasich. He is

afraid the similar candidates might dilute the support.

"I just hope the country will give (Bush) or one of the other serious candidates a chance," Kinghorn said.

## PLAN TO OVERHAUL VA, BUILD UP MILITARY

Bush called for complete reform of the Veterans Administration, which he said is bloated with too many administrators and too few caregivers.

He advocated veterans being given cards and

allowed to go outside of the VA for care, citing horror stories of long wait times for treatment. Bush likened the additional options to school choice in his state while he was Florida governor and said competition will make the VA better.

"It's clear the bureaucracy needs to be challenged and modified and simplified," Bush said. "Everything they do is just mind-numbingly incompetent."

Bush also advocated more military spending.

He said the Army was too small, many Marines don't meet the definition of readiness and that planes are older than their pilots.

## STILL MIFFED BY TRUMP

In going after Trump, Bush said the frontrunner's appeal is that "he is the big horse on stage."

He referenced some of Trump's failed business dealings as evidence of a blemished record. Bush sounded miffed that Trump's campaign wasn't derailed by comments like one last summer, when he

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said Arizona Sen. John McCain wasn't a war hero because he was captured, and later when Trump mocked a New York Times reporter with a

disability. Maybe Trump's attacks on George W. Bush will be enough, Jeb Bush said. "I think he's dropping and we're moving up,"

Bush said. "So we'll see."

*Stephen Fastenau:*  
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Title: **Marco Rubio talks in Aiken; Haley endorses**  
 Author: BY DERREK ASBERRY [dasberry@aikenstandard.com](mailto:dasberry@aikenstandard.com)  
 Size: 101.99 square inch  
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



# Marco Rubio talks in Aiken; Haley endorses Gov. Haley backs 2016 candidate

BY DERREK ASBERRY

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GOP presidential candidate Marco Rubio took the stage in Aiken on Wednesday before a 6 p.m. announcement from Gov. Nikki Haley that she is endorsing the Florida



Haley

Rubio's thoughts on the matter following his comments, but he said he would not comment because the en-

## GALLERY AND VIDEO

See more photos and video from Marco Rubio's appearance in Aiken online at [www.aikenstandard.com](http://www.aikenstandard.com)

## RUBIO

CONTINUED from 1A

was Rubio's attention to detail on local and state issues, including the Savannah River Site's Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility.

President Barack Obama's 2017 budget request calls for the termination of the MOX project, including the SRS facility, which is designed to convert weapons-grade plutonium into commercial nuclear fuel. Obama instead wants to

dorsement had not been confirmed.

In her announcement, Haley, who made her remarks during a rally in Chapin, said she wanted somebody with fight, passion and conviction to be president.

"If we elect Marco Rubio, every day will be a great day in America," Haley said.

Support for Rubio in the Palmetto State has been growing lately. U.S. Sen. Tim Scott also endorsed him earlier this month and U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy endorsed him in December. Both have been campaigning alongside Rubio for weeks.

During his Aiken stop, Rubio reiterated several points he made during his first campaign stop in Aiken in January.

Those points include his promises,

if elected, to "wipe out Obamacare," strengthen the nation's military to prevent the Army and Navy from decreasing to their lowest points in decades, and to prevent Guantanamo prisoners from entering South

Carolina or any other state.

On Obamacare, Rubio said it's important that Republicans nominate a candidate who can beat the health care plan by beating Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders or former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the two candidates seeking the nomination from Democrats.

"If they win, Obamacare becomes permanent," Rubio said.

What differed from January's visit

Please see **RUBIO**, Page 12A

dilute the plutonium at SRS and dispose of it at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, or WIPP, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Tuesday's Last Word in the South GOP forum featured retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who both advocated for the MOX project. Rubio followed suit Wednesday stating that if he's elected, MOX would be fully funded.

"(The federal government) made a promise, spent money

and now it's saying we're not going to give you the rest of the money," Rubio said.

Other locally-based issues GOP candidates have tackled include eminent domain – the right of the government to assume ownership of private property for public use, with payment of compensation.

During his time in Florida's General Assembly, Rubio said he led the effort in passing an eminent domain law to block developers from taking owner-

ship of private property.

Aiken County is entrenched in its own eminent domain issue with Kinder Morgan. The company is seeking to build a 360-mile fuel pipeline that would run from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, through Belton, and then through North Augusta.

The S.C. Senate introduced a bill that would block private, for-profit petroleum pipeline companies from using eminent domain to take private property from residents. That bill re-



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ceived approval from the Senate Judiciary Committee earlier this month. stock among South Carolinians before Saturday's primary.

Rubio's visit to Aiken was one of his many stops in the state this week as he looks to up his **Derrek Asberry** is the SRS beat reporter for the *Aiken Standard*.



STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBOVIC

**GOP presidential candidate Marco Rubio took the stage in Aiken amid media reports that Gov. Nikki Haley was expected to endorse him.**



STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBOVIC

**GOP presidential candidate Marco Rubio spoke about his plans to eliminate Obamacare during his stop in Aiken on Wednesday.**

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STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBOVIC

**GOP presidential candidate Marco Rubio said Wednesday that if elected, he would fully fund the Savannah River Site MOX project.**

Title: **Republican feud escalates; S.C. Gov. Haley backs Rubio**  
 Author: BY SCOTT BAUER AND STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press  
 Size: 59.52 square inch  
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# Republican feud escalates; S.C. Gov. Haley backs Rubio

BY SCOTT BAUER  
AND STEVE PEOPLES  
*Associated Press*

SENECA — A three-way feud among the GOP's leading White House contenders escalated Wednesday, with Republican Ted Cruz daring Donald Trump to sue him and dismissing Marco Rubio's charges of dishonesty just days before South Carolina's high-stakes primary.

Yet it was Rubio who may have scored the day's biggest win as he secured the coveted endorsement of South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. A person with direct knowledge of the governor's decision said she would make it public at Rubio's Wednesday night event in Lexington County. The person was not authorized to publicly discuss the endorsement ahead of the event and spoke on condition of anonymity.

While a major development,

Haley's endorsement did little to quiet the intensifying clash between Cruz, Trump and Rubio over alleged ethical violations in the days leading up to Saturday's South Carolina contest.

The Texas senator has been trying to beat back charges of dishonesty from Trump and Rubio for weeks. He shifted his defense to the next level during an afternoon news conference that highlighted Cruz's extensive legal training.

"You have been threatening frivolous lawsuits for your entire adult life," said Cruz, a Harvard Law School graduate who served as Texas' top lawyer, speaking directly to Trump. "Even in the annals of frivolous lawsuits, this takes the cake."

Trump threatened earlier in the week to bring a defamation lawsuit against Cruz over a television ad that attacks the Republican front-runner's conservative bona fides. Specifically, the ad features footage of the billionaire businessman in a 1999 interview supporting abortion rights. Trump now says he opposes abortion.

Trump's attorney sent Cruz a letter Tuesday charging the ad was "replete with outright lies, false, defamatory and destructive statements" and saying Cruz could be held liable for damages if it's not taken down.

Cruz on Wednesday said a lawsuit against the ad has no chance, and said he would like to take Trump's deposition himself. He also announced plans to run the contested ad

more frequently.

The prospective legal battle marks another extraordinary step in the turbulent 2016 Republican primary season.

Polls suggest Trump continues to hold a big lead in South Carolina and in upcoming states, as Cruz works to rally the Republican Party's most conservative wing and Rubio tries to consolidate mainstream Republicans behind his candidacy. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Ohio Gov. John Kasich continue to battle for a spot at the table, while retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson struggles for relevancy.

Haley's endorsement was a major setback for Bush in particular, who told NBC News on Monday that "she is the probably the most meaningful

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endorsement if there is" one in the state.

Suddenly backed by Haley, Rubio continued his assault against Cruz's campaign tactics. He accused Cruz supporters of using "push polls" and creating a fake Facebook page wrongly claiming that South Carolina Rep. Trey Gowdy had switched his endorsement from the Florida senator to Cruz.

"It's just a pattern of people around his campaign that have continuously done things like that," Rubio said as he campaigned in Mount Pleasant.

Cruz denied being involved with anything untoward and called for anyone with evidence to come forward.

Trump and Rubio are "repeatedly putting forth fabrications with no evidence, no basis whatsoever, just trying

to throw mud and attack," Cruz said. "The insults and the falsehoods and the fabrications have no business in politics. It is incumbent upon all of us to speak the truth."

Meanwhile, Trump again called Cruz a liar making desperate moves to boost his campaign.

"I am pro-life and I do not support taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood as long as

they are performing abortions," Trump said in a statement.

The New York real estate mogul also repeated his threat to bring a lawsuit over Cruz's eligibility to be on the ballot, given that he was born in Canada. Cruz and legal experts have said he is eligible because his mother was a United States citizen at the time of his birth.

"Time will tell, Teddy," Trump said.



AP PHOTO/MATT ROURKE

**Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., speaks during a campaign stop Tuesday in Summerville.**



Title: **Letters To The Editor**  
 Author:  
 Size: 39.21 square inch  
 Georgetown, SC Circulation: 8446



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Supports Ted Cruz

To the editor,

This is an open letter to Gov. Nikki Haley:

As an influential leader, your words can have an enormous impact in our Republican primary. So I am writing you to encourage your endorsement of the only principled constitutionalist in the race, because, quite frankly, this country is out of time.

We don't need a Reagan right now, we need someone better — we need someone even more educated in — and devoted to — the Constitution. For the last hundred years, we've been progressively walking — and now running — away from our founding documents, and we're all suffering for it. So now is the time to reverse the damage and get back to our foundational principles.

More people are aware of this than you might think — look at the rise of the Tea Party despite all the negative media spin, and more recently the neighbor-debating-neighbor caucus results in Iowa.

I will no longer settle for a Republican candidate who doesn't completely believe in the spirit of the Constitution (I have before, and we wound up with John McCain and Mitt Romney, both dismal failures to an awkward-off-the-teleprompter born-and-raised Marxist — the most easily beatable candidate on policy issues and experience in years).

I will not have my name attached to

someone who “will just get it done,” with no history (or even so much as lip-service) to the Constitution. I will not vote for a candidate who supports the blatantly unconstitutional NSA spying of all of us, and justifies it with, “You don't understand, these are different times” or “We're at war, so these things are necessary” attitudes. The ends do not justify the means.

Compromising with progressive Democrats to grant amnesty to those who broke into our country and knowingly violated our laws — I couldn't look my children in the eyes and say, “I voted for him because he's a good speaker and I was told he could beat Hillary.” The idea we need a perfect speaker or the best-looking candidate or the most-liked in D.C. is insane. We're up against the weakest Democrat field in modern history, people are hungry for principled honesty, and real voters are more energized and informed than ever. What we all need is a revolutionary candidate, not someone who will negotiate with progressive liars or compromise constitutional principles to “get things done.”

I will not compromise, because there is simply no time left. I will vote for a constitutionalist with a history of defending the Constitution and a history of doing what he says he's going to do — regardless of which political party's banner he's running under. And if that means a third party (or no vote at all), and if that leads

to a loss in the general election to a progressive Democrat again (because too many people may vote for reasons other than foundational principles), then so be it. But I don't think that will be the case.

I think things have gotten so bad that normal people are fed up and just know the United States is broken. To fix it, I just hope they choose a constitutionalist and not a strongman or yet another principle-compromising Republican in our primary. Please don't be on the wrong side. It's never too late to do what's right and publicly support the most constitutional candidate with a verifiable record — Ted Cruz — and then make sure he follows through with his promises after he's elected. That's what I'll be doing.

*Dan Hannon*

*Murrells Inlet*

## Great photo, great work

To the editor,

I just want to compliment Chris Sokoloski on her great photography skills.

I just read my newspaper and the picture of the two wrestlers was nothing short of magnificent. That is incredible timing to catch the two wrestlers completely upside down and the faces on the spectators is priceless. We are lucky to have such talent for our local paper. Keep up the great work.

*Gordon McNeil*

*Pawleys Island*



Title: **Fire district breaks ground on station**  
 Author: By Anita Crone news@southstrandnews.com  
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# Fire district breaks ground on station

By ANITA CRONE  
 news@southstrandnews.com

With shovels in hand, the members of the Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire District broke ground on Station 4 on Feb. 5, ending what has been nearly an eight-year fight to build its McDowell Shortcut Road station.

The more than 4,000-square-foot building will primarily serve the Prince Creek West-Blackmoor area of the district when it comes online at the end of 2016 or early in 2017.

Joining fire district board of directors personnel at the 4 p.m. event were fire department leadership, officials with Hanco Inc., which won the contract to build the two-bay station, lenders from Conway National Bank, which is providing the financing, members of the Greater Burgess Community Association and the public.

"This has been a long time coming," said MIGCFD board member Al Hitchcock, as he pushed his shovel into the wet ground.

Construction of the station



PHOTOS BY ANITA CRONE/SOUTH STRAND NEWS

**From left, Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire District board members Wesley Gordon, Booty Shelley, Kay Benton and Al Hitchcock dig shovels into the ground Feb. 5 at the site of Station 4 on McDowell Shortcut Road.**

was pushed back from 2008 by the recession and then by a two-year fight to raise the district's millage from 10 mills to 14 mills.

The delay also raised the expected cost for the building, cost the district an anticipated \$500,000 grant from Horry County and resulted in cosmetic alterations to the original plans.

Fire district officials were unwilling to build the station unless they had the finances in place to staff the station

attempted to get a millage increase legislatively, using the same methods it used when the fire district doubled its operating millage from 5 to 10 mills. However, Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed the legislation, saying that the millage would have been a tax increase without a consent of the taxpayers.

A March 17 referendum on the issue passed overwhelmingly, allowing district officials to proceed with plans for the station.

It is expected that the station will have five people on each of three shifts.

Fire officials already are taking applications for fire-fighters/paramedics. It is expected that nine people will be hired.

Once the station is complete, no residence or business within the district will be more than 3.5 miles from a fire station. That should have a positive impact on insurance ratings and costs to homeowners.

The district enjoys an ISO rating of 2, and officials are optimistic that the new station will help lower that to a 1 rating.



**Fire chief Norman Knight looks on at the ceremony.**

and provide equipment – fire trucks and an ambulance.

To that end, the fire district

Title: **Bills would raise state minimum wage**  
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# Bills would raise state minimum wage

## *But S.C. Republicans not likely to let it happen*

By SEANNA ADCOX  
 Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Proposals to raise the minimum wage in South Carolina and repeal an anti-union law have virtually no chance of passing in the Republican-dominated Legislature, but Democrats hope to spark a debate as the nation's attention turns to the first-in-the-South primary state.

Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, who sponsored both bills, said it's time to discuss living wages in a state that ranks 46th in child poverty, 48th in per capita income and last in union membership.

"We keep hearing all these glowing numbers about how great things are," she said of jobs touted by GOP Gov. Nikki Haley. "Yet we get reports that show we're ranking in the bottom.... I don't see why we can't at least start talking about the reality of what it means to work in South Carolina on one hand and still be eligible for assistance on the other."

Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, held a news conference

on the bills recently after a House panel officially adjourned debate on both. A second hearing is not expected.

One bill would set the state's minimum wage at \$10.10 an hour. South Carolina is among 21 states where employers can pay as low as \$7.25 an hour, the federal minimum since 2009.

Proponents call \$10.10 a start. That's the minimal pay for federal contractors, as per President Barack Obama's 2014 executive order.

"We'll continue to fight for \$15" an hour, said Rachel Nelson of Charleston, who makes \$9 an hour at Hardee's after 10 years as a fast food worker.

The mother of three children, ages 8 to 12, told the House panel she'd like to get off of public assistance, but her paychecks make it impossible.

"With my last check, I was only able to pay my light bill," Nelson said. "Trying to keep a

roof over our heads is a constant stresser in my life."

More than 2,600 state employees make less than \$10.10 an hour, or about 4 percent of the state-paid workforce. Just over half of those employees are considered temporary, according to the Department of Administration. It noted the numbers could be higher since public colleges aren't required to send the agency data on temporary workers.

Rep. Todd Atwater, who sits on the subcommittee, contends raising the minimum wage is bad for the economy because it increases products' cost and eliminates entry-level jobs often filled by high school and college students.

"It hurts the workers they're trying to help," said Atwater, R-Lexington.

The answer, he said, is better training, so students graduate from school with skills that enable them to get a higher-paying job.

Cobb-Hunter's other bill

would repeal the state's right-to-work law.

About half of states have such laws, which means unions can't force employees across an entire worksite to pay membership dues as a condition of employment.

Haley, who frequently lambasts unions, considers the state's low union membership an economic development tool. About 41,000 people — or just 2.1 percent of South Carolina's workers — belong to unions, leapfrogging North Carolina in 2015 to rank last nationwide, according to a January report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Seth Holzopfel, with the International Association of Firefighters in Myrtle Beach, said the law should be renamed the "right to work for less" — contending it's made South Carolina a virtual sweatshop — or "right to free-load," as it allows people in a union-covered job to receive benefits without paying dues.