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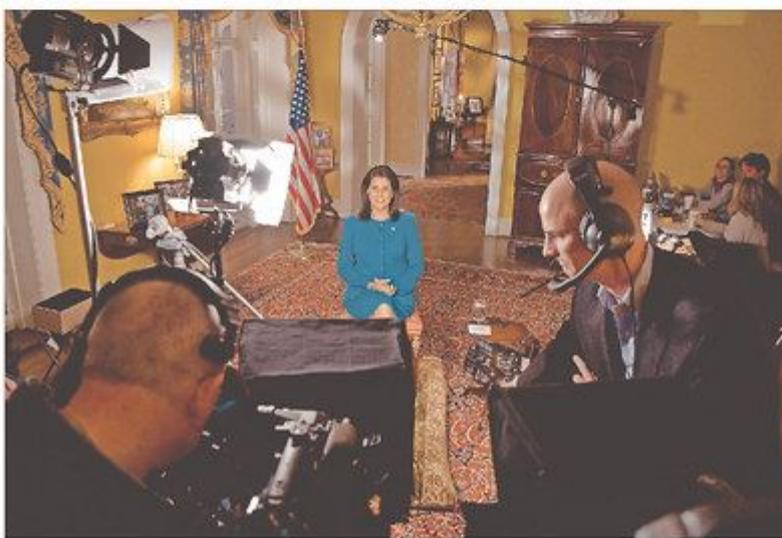
Thursday, January 14, 2016

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Praise, pummeling follow Haley's speech

Republican Party rift on display as Trump, some conservatives slam GOP rebuttal while others admire its 'inclusive, optimistic' message



PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Gov. Nikki Haley prepares to deliver the Republican response to President Barack Obama's 2016 State of the Union address Tuesday.

BY EMMA DUMAİN
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WASHINGTON — Just hours before Gov. Nikki Haley was set to deliver her nationally televised rebuttal to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address, White House press secretary Josh Earnest said he had to hand it to the South Carolina Republican for agreeing to take on the challenge.

"You've got to give her some credit for taking a risk," Earnest told a room full of Washington, D.C.-based regional reporters. He noted how in previous years Republicans "who had national political ambitions didn't face very well in the role."

As reviews of Haley's perfor-

Palmetto Politics

palmettopolitics.com

manence streamed in late Tuesday and into Wednesday, there seemed to be a growing consensus among many Republicans in Washington that Haley's gambit had paid off amid buzz she could get picked for vice president.

"The vision she outlined for our country was inclusive and optimistic, and perhaps most important, it was grounded in reality,"

Please see **HALEY**, Page A7

Critics take issue with Haley's remarks on riots

BY CHRISTINA ELMORE
celmore@postandcourier.com

Critics say Gov. Nikki Haley's comparison of the Emanuel AME Church shooting with riots in Ferguson and Baltimore in her State of the Union rebuttal too easily glosses over the backstories of black men killed at the hands of white police officers.

South Carolina "was struck with shock, pain and fear" after nine people

Please see **COMMENTS**, Page A7

PC Poll
Do you think Gov. Nikki Haley was wrong to have compared public reaction to the Emanuel AME Church shootings with reactions to the incidents in Ferguson and Baltimore? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Manager of Gaillard overhaul sues firms

Blames architectural groups for cost issues

BY DEANE KNICH
dknich@postandcourier.com

The company that managed the renovation and expansion of the Gaillard Center is suing three architectural groups and a project management company, blaming them for delays and driving up the project's cost.

Skanska-Trident had a \$110 million contract with the city of Charleston to build the center, which was supposed to be completed in April 2015 but came in six months late. The city and the company had a type of contract for the project known as a "construction manager at risk," which sets a maximum price for the completion instead of simply going with the lowest bid.

In the suit filed Jan. 8 in circuit court, Skanska-Trident accused David M. Schwarz Architects, Earl Swenson Associates, Evans & Schmidt Architects and The Projects Group of negligence and negligent misrepresentation under restatement of torts. All but The Projects Group also are accused of breach of warranty of plans and specifications.

Skanska-Trident has demanded a jury trial, and has asked for a minimum of \$20 million in damages for each of the three causes of action.

Phone calls requesting comment from the architectural firms and project management company were not returned.

Please see **GAILLARD**, Page A6

Wily killer a menace for pets

IOP residents urged to protect their small animals from coyotes

BY PRENTISS FINDLAY
pfindlay@postandcourier.com

ISLE OF PALMS — Lisa Pansting fears that coyotes attacked her cat Sid, who has been missing for a month.

Some neighbors told her they saw two coyotes in the pre-dawn darkness the day before her yellow-and-white tabby disappeared.

"Allowing our pets to be outside is definitely a concern," she said.

Mike Maughon agrees. An animal control officer recently showed him mangled remains that Maughon identified as his cat. He said that he was told the wounds were consistent with a coyote attack. Coyotes are "natural-born killers," he said.

"My wife and I walk around the island every day. Everybody has a coyote story," he said.

Coyotes have moved into every county in the state and have been reported in urban and suburban areas around the country. In South Carolina, nearly 30,000 are trapped or shot by hunters annually, according to the state Department of Natural Resources.

Please see **COYOTES**, Page A6

Five things to watch as GOP show comes to town

Iowa's impact, global troubles, Trump's behavior among factors

BY SCHUYLER KROPP
skropp@postandcourier.com

South Carolina gets its first big moment in the 2016 political spotlight Thursday night when Fox Business Network comes to town to broadcast the sixth Republican presidential debate of the season.

If the trend holds, viewership will run in the millions. An estimated 24 million watched the August gathering on Fox News that featured the first appear-

Inside

About the debates. **A7**

Guns will be one of the debate topics. **A8**

ance of now-party front-runner Donald Trump.

Thursday's forum from the North Charleston Coliseum will be shown in two segments: an overcard of the main stage

Please see **DEBATE**, Page A7



WAD SWANSON/STAFF

The North Charleston Coliseum has been turned into a TV studio for the GOP presidential debate produced by Fox Business Network.

Inside

BUSINESS

Stocks plunge; S&P 500 is down 10 percent from November peak. **B1**

SPORTS

Clemson stuns Duke; Tide wipes out USC winning streak. **C1**



NATION & WORLD

Iran quickly releases U.S. Navy sailors. **A9**



STATE

Moped regulations pick up speed in S.C. House. **A6**



Mostly sunny. High 60. Low 42. Complete 5-day forecast. **B1D**

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Business — B1 Dear Abby — B7 Outdoors — B4
Classifieds — D1 Editorials — A10 Sports — C1
Comics — B8-9 Local — A2 Television — B7

Charleston Deals today

Brown Dog Deli \$10 for \$20 worth of Brown Dog Deli. See **A2**

WINNING POWERBALL NUMBERS: 4-8-19-27-34; Powerball: 10; Multiplier: 2

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The State

GOVERNOR: BORROW UP TO \$200 MILLION A YEAR

Haley proposes plan to fix blighted rural schools

Recruiting teachers to rural districts, getting internet into students' homes also priorities, Republican says

"If we put them in schools that are safe, they'll know that they're worth more," Haley says of S.C. students

BY JAMIE SELF
jself@thestate.com

Gov. Nikki Haley proposed Wednesday the state borrow up to \$200 million a year to renovate blighted school buildings or build new ones.

In making her proposal, Haley said some S.C. schools are in "horrible condition."

"We're seeing schools with leaky roofs. We're seeing teachers hav-

INSIDE

Editorial: To fix the state's poorest schools, S.C. should follow road map outlined by House task force. **K**

ing to wear rain boots to walk through the rain. We're seeing walls that are molded ... building structures that are not safe," Haley said, announcing her education proposals for the 2016 legislative session. "It is time to deal with

facilities."

The Lexington Republican is making education a focus of her second term.

In 2014, as she was running for a second term, Haley proposed spending more to educate children who live in poverty, on reading programs and on school technology. Those efforts were approved by legislators.

The governor and legislators

SEE SCHOOLS, 7A

**CLEMSON FOOTBALL
REBUILDING
THE DEFENSE**



Kevin Dodd Shaq Lawson

Clemson will be losing starting defensive ends Kevin Dodd and Shaq Lawson as well as both starting safeties to the NFL Draft. **1B**

THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL RACE

WHAT GOP RIVALS MUST DO IN SC DEBATE

With presidential primaries weeks, not months, away, the time has come for GOP candidates to make their moves to gain momentum just before the first voters begin to cast ballots.

A GOP debate Thursday at the North Charleston Coliseum is expected to jump-start the final push.

The Iowa caucus takes place Feb. 1. In South Carolina, which holds the South's first primary on Feb. 20, five candidates have

separated themselves from the field of 12: New York billionaire Donald Trump; U.S. Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida; retired Maryland neurosurgeon Ben Carson; and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Here's what the Top 5-polling Republicans in South Carolina, listed in order of their current ranking, need to do in Thursday's debate:



DONALD TRUMP

Don't get knocked off his pedestal. He will attack others on the stage a bit — when has he not? — but he should save it for his main foes: Cruz and Rubio. Look for an exchange with Cruz over his citizenship. Trump also should take up air time, minimizing his competitors' chances to talk — or criticize him, and avoid getting — or looking — tired by the end of a two-hour debate. Have any details for all those boasts about making America great



TED CRUZ

Go after Trump to make inroads with voters outside Iowa. Show where Trump is weak and vague. Avoid prolonged side debates with Rubio that might give Trump a chance at the high road. Can he articulate positions that might attract voters worried that he's too far to the right? That would help. But, with roughly a dozen Southern and Midwestern states holding their primaries and caucuses before March 15, he might not need to



MARCO RUBIO

Solidify his position as the establishment's choice. It also might be time to ratchet up attacks on the Top 2. The horse race is about to start, and Rubio needs to get closer to the leaders. Show a more realistic approach to foreign relations and the economy, which has started 2016 amid stock market turmoil, as opposed to his main rivals. Avoid fights with those polling behind him — that means Bush in particular. Play the smart, reasonable



BEN CARSON

Stop the free fall. Carson was the race's No. 2 guy for much of the fall. Now, he's in the single-digit club in polls. Bad news? Debates have not been his strong suit. (Not even close.) Carson will need to turn in a dynamic performance, something he thus far has not shown on a televised stage, to work his way back into the race's Top 3. Carson's best hope appears to rest with his grassroots supporters, who flock to his appearances, coming out for



JEB BUSH

Time is running out. Among the early primary states, the campaign's big spender is most competitive in South Carolina — and he's running in fifth. Bush went after Trump at the last debate. He'll probably do so again — bolstered by S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's criticisms this week. Look for more attacks also of his one-time protégé Rubio, the punching bag of ads by the pro-Bush super PAC. Bush needs a stellar performance, showing voters they



**PREP BASKETBALL
WHO'S LEADING
IN SCORING?**

Weekly high school basketball statistics, as well as boys and girls players and teams of the week, **3B**



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SPORTS
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USA TODAY SHRINKING OIL PRICES SQUEEZE OTHER INDUSTRIAL SECTORS **PAGE 1B**

DESTINATION SC

Study: State 2nd-most popular in incoming moves



AMANDA COYNE THE GREENVILLE NEWS

South Carolina remains the second most popular destination for state-to-state moves, according to a new study from United Van Lines. The national moving company analyzed its customers' moving data for its annual National Movers Study. Oregon was the most popular destination for the third consecutive year, but South Carolina was close behind. United Van Lines handled 4,069 moves to and from the Palmetto State, and 2,538 of them — 62.4 percent — were incoming moves. Oregon had an incoming move rate of 69.0 percent.

The growth of industry in South Carolina, and the growth of manufacturing in particular, can be cited as an underlying reason for the state's continued growth, according to Clemson University economics professor Scott Baier.

The state's status as a "right to work" state, meaning employees cannot be required to join a labor union, as well as attractive tax rates, make companies more likely to relocate to South Carolina than other states, Baier said. When large companies like Michelin and Volvo establish operations in South Carolina, it also becomes more attractive for smaller companies that supply the larger ones to move as well.

"It has become beneficial for companies to move here," Baier said.

With those company relocations and expansions

come new jobs, attracting people from other states, including the Northeast and Midwest, both of which saw high rates of departure, according to United Van Lines.

The increase in job location flexibility that has come with easier telecommuting options has also increased people's ability to choose where they give with less regard for where their job is located, Baier said.

"You don't need to come into a brick and mortar office every day to be employed," Baier said. "The Internet has allowed some decoupling of where work is done."

Baier also cited more traditional reasons for South Carolina's continued growth: a warmer climate, lower income taxes and lower housing prices. Between 2010 and 2014, South Carolina's population grew by 4.5 percent, outpacing the national population growth rate of 3.3 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

New Jersey and New York, which saw the highest rates of the departure, have also been ranked the states with the highest tax burden in a Forbes analysis. South Carolina had the ninth lowest tax burden in that analysis. Their population growth was also lower than South Carolina's, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. New York's population grew by 1.9 percent and New Jersey's by 1.7 percent.

"It's not the cheapest in the country, but it's more affordable than other places," Baier said. "Taxes matter. I think people move to avoid taxes."

**House panel
hears DOT
concerns**

Contractors, groups raise multiple points of interest

TIM SMITH
TCSMITH@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

COLUMBIA — Two brothers from Orangeburg complained of contractors not being paid on time and asked for a corruption probe.

Representatives from the Coastal Conservation League and the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce each voiced ideas for reform.

And a state highway commissioner said he wanted to clear up "misconceptions" about the board's actions concerning the proposed Interstate 73.

They all talked to House lawmakers Wednesday as a panel looking at ways to improve the operations of the state Department of Transportation held its final information gathering session.

The public comments on DOT came as senators prepared to return to the issue of road funding and House lawmakers prepared to vote on a DOT restructuring plan that was part of the roads bill passed last year.

A Senate "working group" appointed by Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman has already begun meeting in hopes of finding a compromise on the roads issue.

Lawmakers in both chambers say any plan for increasing road funding

See DOT, Page 4A

**Standardized
test may skip
11th grade**

NATHANIEL CARY
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South Carolina has reached its deadline to award a contract for this spring's 11th-grade standardized tests for English language arts and mathematics, and so far, no contract has been awarded for the tests, which are usually administered over the course of three school days in the spring.

Now, the General Assembly is being asked to allow the state's procurement office to make an emergency procurement in a last-ditch effort to secure a contract with a vendor to administer this year's test.

If that doesn't work, 11th-grade students may not have a standardized test this year, though it's required by state law under Act 200.

It's the latest twist in a saga that's lasted for three years as the state has changed, and re-changed, the assessments given to students.

Wednesday afternoon, Rep. Rita Allison, chair of the House Education and Public Works committee, asked for the House to allow the State Fiscal Ac-

See TEST, Page 4A

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WHAT'S NEW WITH VEHICLES IN 2016?

BUSINESS, 7B



The Beaufort Gazette

THURSDAY, January 14, 2016

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Failed sale stalls waterfront park plans

Proposal for the Whitehall property on Lady's Island included 3.5-acre park, 76 home sites

By **STEPHEN FASTENAU**
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843-706-8182

Plans for a waterfront park across the river from downtown Beaufort have stalled with a failed short-sale deal for the property.

City and Beaufort County leaders supported the idea of a 3.5-acre

park on the outskirts of the Whitehall property on Lady's Island but questioned how to pay for it.

The developers asked the local governments and Beaufort County Open Land Trust for \$3.3 million toward the park in order to complete a short-sale deal to buy the entire 19-acre property.

The remaining property was to be developed as a neighborhood with 76 home sites.

That attempted sale ended this week with no deal. The developers, Dick Stewart and Steve Tully, expect the property to be foreclosed on and marketed nationally by First Chatham Bank.

A representative of the bank working with the property declined comment Wednesday.

"I wish we had done better and had more support," Tully said.

The developers still have the first right to buy the property in exchange for turning over surveys and other site plans they com-

mitted, Stewart wrote in a letter to city and county leaders this month.

The developers had the park property appraised at \$3.8 million, with another \$1.8 million needed in infrastructure.

Please see **PARK** on 7A

Rally for Alex



'I feel awesome': Pep rally pumps up 10-year-old for fight with cancer



Haley tops list of VP choices

The SC governor leaps into the forefront with her address after the president's speech. She is one of the GOP's possible picks.

By **DAVID LIGHTMAN**
McClatchy Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — Nikki Haley for vice president?

Let the runaway speculation begin.

The governor of South Carolina leaped into the forefront of possible 2016 Republican running mates Tuesday with her address following President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech. And she told NBC's Matt Lauer on Wednesday that while she's not campaigning for the job, she would "sit down and talk" with any candidate interested in her.

Still, there are many possibilities:

SEN. ROB PORTMAN OF OHIO

Pros: Experience as White House budget director and U.S. trade representative. In 2010, the 60-year-old Portman easily won election to the Senate in a critical state. He's considered a thoughtful center-right voice.



Haley



Portman



CLEMSON CELEBRATES AFTER DOWNING DUKE

SPORTS, B1



'MARVELOUS WONDERETTES' SURE TO ENTERTAIN

ESCAPE, D1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Thursday, January 14, 2016



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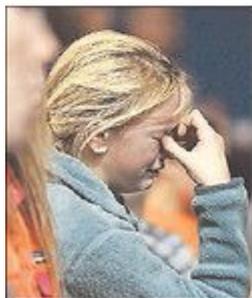
Complete forecast, B6

INSIDE

Powerball

Find Wednesday's winning Powerball numbers on B2.

UPSTATE



Time of sorrow

Students at Greer High School are mourning the death of their classmate Nathan Tyler Moore. Moore, 18, was a senior and member of the varsity basketball team. C1

Unity Week

A BET Networks marketing executive, Vicky Frec, will deliver the keynote address during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration on Monday. C1

SPORTS

Who's staying, who's leaving at Clemson

Clemson running back Wayne Gallman announced Wednesday on his Twitter account he's returning for his redshirt junior season after contemplating an early jump to the NFL. But defensively, safeties Jayron Kearse and T.J. Green along with cornerback Mackensie Alexander and defensive end Kevin Dodd announced they are NFL bound. B1

BUSINESS

MIDDLE EAST



This Nov. 2 image provided by the U.S. Navy shows Riverine Command Boat (RCB) 805 in the Persian Gulf. Iran was holding 10 U.S. Navy sailors and their two boats, similar to the one in this picture, on Tuesday after the boats had mechanical problems and drifted into Iranian waters. The sailors were returned safely on Wednesday. TORREY W. LEE/U.S. NAVY VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran releases Navy sailors unharmed

By Adam Schreck and Ali Akbar Dareini
The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — It turned out to be the international crisis that wasn't.

Less than a day after 10 U.S. Navy sailors were detained in Iran when their boats drifted into Iranian waters, they and their vessels were back safely Wednesday with the American fleet.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry tapped the personal relationship he has formed with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif in the three years of negotiations over Iran's nuclear program, speaking with him at least five times by telephone. Kerry credited the quick resolution to the "critical role diplomacy plays in keeping our country secure and strong."

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter thanked Kerry after the sailors' release and searched the incident in

"Iran and the U.S. have gone a long way in reducing tensions but still have a long way to go in improving their contacts."

— Saeed Leilaz, Iranian political analyst

to neutralize a potential new flashpoint days before it was expected to meet the terms of last summer's nuclear deal, which will give Iran significant relief from painful economic sanctions.

It is likely that Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all matters of state, would have had to approve the release, given the immense political sensitivities.

But the rapid resolution also was a victory for moderate President Hassan Rouhani, who has promoted greater openness with the outside world despite strident opposition from deeply

the U.S. have gone a long way in reducing tensions but still have a long way to go in improving their contacts. It was a big step forward."

The nine men and one woman were detained Tuesday after at least one of their boats suffered mechanical problems off of Farsi Island, an outpost in the middle of the Persian Gulf that has been used as a base for Revolutionary Guard speedboats since the 1980s.

The Americans' small Riverine boats were sailing between Kuwait and Bahrain on a training mission when the U.S. lost contact.

The sailors left the island at 0843 GMT (3:43 a.m. EST) Wednesday aboard their boats, the Navy said. They were picked up by Navy aircraft, and other sailors took control of the vessels for the return voyage to Bahrain, where the U.S. 5th Fleet is based.

Cmdr. Kevin Stephens, a 5th Fleet spokesman, said the priority now would be deter-

POWERBALL JACKPOT

A look at winners, losers in big game

By Scott McFetridge
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — When the largest-ever lottery prize is finally awarded, the winners and losers will extend well beyond the lucky few who hit the jackpot and the multitudes of disappointed ticket buyers. Here's a breakdown of how Powerball affects the players, the public and others.

Winner: Government programs

The biggest Powerball winner is actually state government in the jurisdictions that participate. That's 44 states as well as the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Each jurisdiction spends the money raised through the lottery differently, with the rules determined by state Legislatures. In some states, the money goes directly to education or college scholarships. Elsewhere, it might fund transportation. Some states send it to their general fund, where lawmakers decide how to use it.

The money raised by a state depends on ticket sales, with larger-population states usually generating more money.

Winner: Convenience store owners

Owners of convenience stores and other ticket-selling locations earn a small percentage of each sale, but more important, people often buy something extra when they stop for Powerball tickets.

At the tiny Marketplace shop in downtown Des Moines, owner Anastasia Walsh said her overall sales have been up about 10 percent in recent weeks because of all the Powerball sales.

"I couldn't do anything else. I couldn't even eat," Walsh said. "I couldn't even sit down because I'm constantly standing up. I mean there's people lined up. It's



Morning News

THURSDAY JANUARY 14, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

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High 61, low 35.
DETAILS 2A

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Man of many talents: Joe Stukes dies



Joe Stukes as Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt.

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Joe Stukes was a man of many stories, some his own recollections and others coming from the annals of history. Now, Stukes has become a part of history himself. After an illness, he died Tuesday night.

To many residents of Florence, Stukes was known as "the old college professor," even if they never set foot in a classroom while he was still teaching. Instead, Stukes brought history to life outside of the halls of

MORE INFO

- Visitation is scheduled for Friday. It will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Sloudermire-Dowling Funeral Home, 2402 S. Irbly St. in Florence.
- The funeral will take place Saturday at 11 a.m. at John Calvin Presbyterian Church, 2000 Marsh Ave. in Florence.

educational institutions over the course of his long-running history series at the Florence County Library, during overseas excursions to historical locations and even through a simple conversation.

To Stukes, history was never boring and, because of him, many others began to understand why he felt that way. Stukes, a native of Manning, earned multiple degrees and taught at Erskine College before joining the faculty of the fledgling Francis Marion College.

Fred Carter, president of Francis Marion University, said Stukes left an invaluable mark on the university.

"Joe was a professor of history and the chair of the history department at FMU from 1974-1990," Carter said.

See **STUKES**, Page 3A

Gov. Haley proposes teacher initiatives

The Associated Press

GASTON — Gov. Nikki Haley's education improvement plans include offering students the chance to graduate from college debt-free and providing up to \$200 million annually for school construction.

The Republican governor announced the third year of her education initiatives Wednesday with state Superintendent Molly Spearman at a school in rural Gaston.

Most of it will be included in her 2016-17 budget proposal, which she'll release Friday. The announcement comes as legislators face a June deadline for developing a plan to fix South Carolina's broken education system. In November 2014, the state's high court ruled on a then-21-year-old case that the state fails to provide educational opportunities in poor, rural districts.

But Haley insists her plan has nothing to do with that lawsuit.

See **EDUCATE**, Page 3A

Republicans show mixed sentiments to response

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley captured America's attention Tuesday night after she gave the Republican Party's response to President Obama's final State of the Union address.

Within minutes of her speech Haley was a trending topic online, drawing both criticism and praise from presidential candidates and political pundits alike.



PHOTOS BY JOE PERRY/MORNING NEWS

Wes Sloan, a John Deere representative, talks about hay optimization during a Wednesday afternoon clinic at the 2016 S.C. AgriBiz & Farm Expo at the Florence Civic Center. Sloan is standing in front of a 569 Mega Wide Plus baler and 6105E tractor.

AgriBiz and Farm Expo draws crowd

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com



Wes Sloan of John Deere talks with Ken Hanna of Lake City about hay baling during the first day of the S.C. AgriBiz & Farm Expo at the Florence Civic Center.

FLORENCE — It was only fitting that a ceremonial tractor ride should kick off the 2016 S.C. AgriBiz & Farm Expo at the Florence Civic Center, and after a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, Charles Briggman cranked up his Minneapolis-Moline about 8:45 a.m. and the doors to the Florence Civic Center opened for the fourth annual event.

James Larry of Hartsville wasted no time and chatted with Gene Charville and Jimmy Bryson of Louisville, Kentucky-based Agrifinancial Services as Larry seeks to expand acreage for a community-supported agriculture effort with new avenues of funding for grape farming.

INDEX-JOURNAL

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

What needs to be done in Greenwood County?

Council compiles potential capital projects list for penny tax



STEVE BROWN



TOBY CHAPPELL

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County Council decided on number of projects Wednesday to apply for a possible capital project sales tax, which will likely be placed on November's ballot.

The county will have to apply for each project, which will be compiled for the capital project sales tax commission, made up of City and County Council appointments to represent the county as a whole.

County Council Chairman Steve Brown was not shy about five priority

projects he named during his State of the County address in July: the implementation of the rural fire master plan, a speculative building for industrial and manufacturing recruitment, an advanced manufacturing training facility at Piedmont Technical College, Civic Center recreation complex re-

development and county road improvements.

Council decided to change Civic Center revitalization to county parks and recreation facility renovations to cover any upgrades to facilities.

See **PROJECTS**, page 4A

EDUCATION IN SC

Haley proposes teacher initiatives

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

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NIKKI HALEY

Most of it will be included in her 2016-17 budget proposal, which she'll release Friday. The announcement comes as legislators face a June deadline for developing a plan to fix South Carolina's broken education system. In November 2014, the state's high court ruled on a then-21-year-old case that the state fails to provide educational opportunities in poor, rural districts.

But Haley insists her plan has nothing to do with that lawsuit.

It designates \$15 million for recruiting and retaining teachers in impoverished areas. That includes annual tuition scholarships of up to \$7,500. To get the scholarship for four years, students would have to commit to working eight years in a district with turnover rates exceeding 12 percent. The incentive money would also fund scholarships for teachers and teachers' aides who already work in those districts and want to earn a certification or master's degree.

That part of Haley's proposal puts money behind an idea she first announced last year.

Haley's budget will again put \$29 million toward technology improvements — honoring the third of a three-year commitment.

See **HALEY**, page 4A

Consolidate?

School boards' chairmen say decision should be local

By ARIEL GILREATH
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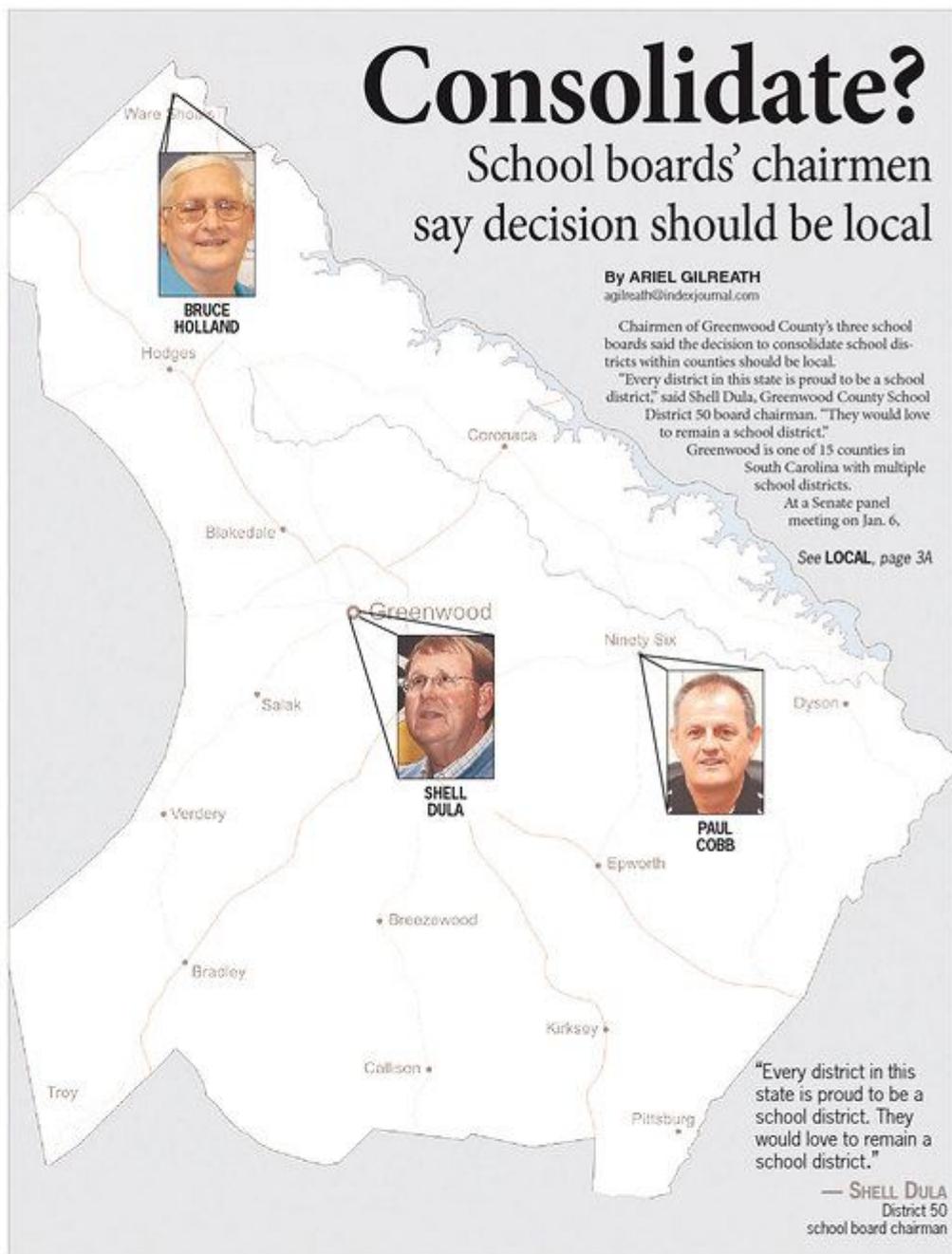
Chairmen of Greenwood County's three school boards said the decision to consolidate school districts within counties should be local.

"Every district in this state is proud to be a school district," said Shell Dula, Greenwood County School District 50 board chairman. "They would love to remain a school district."

Greenwood is one of 15 counties in South Carolina with multiple school districts.

At a Senate panel meeting on Jan. 6.

See **LOCAL**, page 3A



— SHELL DULA
District 50
school board chairman



WHAT'S NEW WITH VEHICLES IN 2016?

BUSINESS, 7B



THE ISLAND PACKET

THURSDAY, January 14, 2016



Hilton Head Island • Bluffton

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Proposed RV park met with opposition

School board member, neighbors fighting changes in Pritchardville neighborhood

By ZACH MURDOCK
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Plans to eventually build a new RV park along Gibbett Road in Bluffton are ranking some neighbors who fear the move will change the heart of their Pritchardville neighborhood.

Surrounded mostly by single-family homes, an RV park could attract a transient, possibly criminal crowd to an otherwise quiet area, argues Beaufort County school board member Evva Anderson, who has lived across from the property on Gibbett Road for 26 years. "If anyone in this room believes

that someone driving an RV is not a pedophile or a criminal — I'm not saying they all are, but pedophiles like to hide out in RV parks and places like that," Anderson told Beaufort County Council on Monday night.

"If anyone in this room believes that someone driving an RV is not a pedophile or a criminal — I'm not saying they all are, but pedophiles like to hide out in RV parks and places like that."

Please see PARK on 7A

Evva Anderson, Beaufort County school board member

Rally for Alex



'I feel awesome': Pep rally pumps up 10-year-old for fight with cancer



Haley tops list of VP choices

The SC governor leaps into the forefront with her address after the president's speech. She is one of the GOP's possible picks.

By DAVID LIGHTMAN
McClatchy Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — Nikki Haley for vice president?

Let the runaway speculation begin.

The governor of South Carolina leaped into the forefront of possible 2016 Republican running mates Tuesday with her address following President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech. And she told NBC's Matt Lauer on Wednesday that while she's not campaigning for the job, she would "sit down and talk" with any candidate interested in her.

Still, there are many possibilities:

SEN. ROB PORTMAN OF OHIO

Pros: Experience as White House budget director and U.S. trade representative. In 2010, the 60-year-old Portman easily won election to the Senate in a critical state. He's considered a thoughtful center-right voice.



Haley



Portman

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