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To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Friday, February 19, 2016

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The Post and Courier

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Friday, February 19, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Rubio-Haley new 'face' of Republican Party?

Governor's endorsement amid rumors she could land on GOP ticket shines light on 2 rising stars, may broaden appeal of conservatives



GRACE BEHNS/STAFF

Gov. Nikki Haley's endorsement of presidential hopeful Marco Rubio on Wednesday in Chapin helped boost Rubio's campaign ahead of Saturday's South Carolina Republican primary. Rubio and the governor, who is mentioned as a possible vice presidential pick, may infuse new life and energy into a party seen as appealing to a very narrow demographic.

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
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SPARTANBURG — Gov. Nikki Haley's endorsement of presidential hopeful Marco Rubio has breathed new life into the GOP wing hoping to attract new, young and minority voters, and has some wondering about their possible future together.

Both Rubio and Haley have long been viewed as rising stars in the Republican Party, and Haley has been mentioned as a possible vice presidential pick for the party's ultimate nominee.

After weeks of speculation, Haley took a risk and endorsed Rubio at a campaign rally Wednesday in Chapin. And as children of immigrants who achieved the American dream, both 44-year-olds are often referred to by voters and pundits as the party's future.

Haley downplayed that notion Thursday, saying that it was a

Please see **PARTY**, Page A5

pc Gallery
To see more photos of the candidates in S.C., go to postandcourier.com/galleries.



BRAD MITCHELL/STAFF

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump acknowledges supporters Thursday after an event on Kiawah Island.

Trump criticizes pope for saying he's 'not a Christian'

BY DEANNA PAN
dpn@postandcourier.com

KIAWAH ISLAND — Pope Francis injected himself into the final days of the South Carolina Republican primary by suggesting front-runner Donald Trump is "not a Christian" because of his push to build a wall on the Mexican border.

Trump fired back that the spiritual leader for the world's 1.2 billion

Roman Catholics was out of line. "For a religious leader to question a person's faith is disgraceful," Trump told a room full of supporters at Turtle Point Golf Club. "I am proud to be a Christian and as president, I will not allow Christianity to be consistently attacked and weakened, unlike what is happening now with our current president."

Please see **TRUMP**, Page A6

Palmetto Politics
palmettopolitics.com

Inside

Brian Hicks: Good riddance to the circus. **A2**

Trump talks Boeing, China and unions. **A6**

Keith Summey goes with Trump while son Elliott goes with Rubio. **A6**

Superdelegates help Clinton expand her lead. **A6**

Kasich rallies by saying he can best beat Clinton. **A7**

Clyburn to endorse Clinton on Friday. **A7**

Barbara Bush could have been Jeb's "most powerful weapon." **A7**

Polling place changes, what voters need to know. **A7**

Candidates take stage for CNN town hall. **A8**

The Post and Courier editorial board endorses Kasich. **A12**

Criminal justice reforms in works

Charleston County responds to challenge

BY CHRISTINA ELMORE
celmore@postandcourier.com

Charleston County officials on Thursday unveiled a three-year plan to improve the local criminal justice system by reducing over incarceration and streamlining court proceedings.

The county's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council created the multi-pronged initiative after analyzing data provided by local law enforcement, the 9th Circuit Solicitor's Office and other agencies.

The council submitted its plan to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in response to a challenge from the organization that encouraged the nation to change the way it viewed and used jails.

Charleston County is seeking a \$3.4 million grant from the foundation to fund the personnel and other resources needed to move forward with its initiative.

Please see **JUSTICE**, Page A8

Panel plans to defend role of aquarium, zoo exhibits

Experts to weigh in at Charleston event

BY BO PETERSEN
bpeter@postandcourier.com

It used to be not so unusual to find a deer, bear or panther penned in a country backyard as a curiosity. Traveling circuses featured huge animals such as elephants or giraffes. Zoos and aquariums were little more than cages and tanks.

Times have changed. Today, "wild animal" exhibits are criticized as inhumane and struggle to maintain an audience. People flock to rescue and sanctuary efforts. Reintroduction to the wild is the sought-after ideal. The larger accredited zoos and aquariums themselves are evolving, becoming more habitat-oriented in exhibits and using captive animals to educate about conservation of the species.

Please see **EXHIBITS**, Page A5

Inside



NATION & WORLD

Pope: Contraception OK for women threatened by Zika virus. **A10**

LOCAL

Displaced Joseph Floyd Manor residents going home after Red Cross help. **A3**

SPORTS

Dale Earnhardt, Kyle Busch capture Can-Am Duels. **C1**

Saturday's S.C. primary forecast: A record GOP turnout

BY ROBERT BEHRE
rbehre@postandcourier.com

Six candidates still in the race. Mixed results from the nation's first caucus and primary. A ton of money spent. All the ingredients are in the pot for a record turnout in South Carolina's GOP presidential primary.

"That is a defining story of this election cycle," said state Republican Party Chairman Matt Moore. "The interest and engagement in this election are through the roof."

Moore predicted total turnout Saturday could reach 650,000, which would shatter the 2012 record by almost 50,000 votes.

The early absentee voting already has broken records.

As of Thursday, South Carolina had issued 53,129 absentee ballots in the GOP primary and already had 45,672 returned, according to the State Election Commission.

Please see **TURNOUT**, Page A6

Previous Republican presidential turnouts

Year	Turnout	Percent turnout
2008	445,499	18 percent
2012	603,770	22 percent

—Source: State Election Commission



Sunny.
High 66, Low 44.
Complete 5-day
forecast, **B10**

Bridge B9
Business B1
Classifieds B1
Comics B9-9
Crownards B12
Dear Abby B7
Editorials A12
Local A2
Movies B7
Obituaries B4
Sports C1
Television B6

Charleston Deals today

Charleston Performing Arts Center \$45 for two general admission tickets to "Dream Girls." See **A2**



Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, February 19, 2016



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TODAY SAT SUN
56°/42° 63°/47° 68°/53°
Complete forecast, B8

SPORTS



Another title for USC women

Tiffany Mitchell scored 19 points as South Carolina wrapped up a third straight SEC regular-season women's basketball title with a 61-51 victory over Georgia on Thursday night. **B1**

UPSTATE

Distribution change?

Spartanburg County could soon change the way it distributes tax revenue from economic development to school districts. **C1**



Roller derby season returns

Spartanburg's roller derby team, the Spartanburg Deadly Dolls, will have their first local bout, or match, at 7 p.m. Saturday at Skate Palace. **C1**

FAITH & FAMILY

Family history

Genealogy workshops are proving to be very popular among members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. **D1**

NATION & WORLD

ELECTION 2016

Trump rallies voters in Gaffney

BY THE NUMBERS

Trump still leading in SC poll. **C4**

Donald Trump addresses the crowd in Gaffney on Thursday. ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.

GOP presidential candidate voices familiar themes

By Chris Lavender | chris.lavender@shj.com

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump rallied voters with familiar campaign themes as he campaigned in the Upstate Thursday.

Trump is crisscrossing the state in advance of Saturday's South Carolina Republican presidential primary. He held a campaign rally at

SEE TRUMP, A5

“

“South Carolina folks have been amazing. Get out and vote. It's so important. We have a tremendous number of problems to solve in America.”

Donald Trump

Rubio joined by Haley, Scott on campaign swing

By Allison M. Roberts | allison.roberts@shj.com

Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio brought along some prominent South Carolina supporters as he campaigned in the Upstate Thursday.

Gov. Nikki Haley, who endorsed the Florida senator Wednesday, and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott accompanied Rubio to a meet-and-greet at The Beacon Drive-In in Spartanburg in advance of Saturday's state Republican primary.

“

“(Haley) is someone who is highly respected in the state. Her opinion is valued by the voters here who

LANE CLOSURES

Work to begin on I-85

\$51M project should be complete by late 2017

By Chris Lavender
chris.lavender@shj.com

Drivers traveling a 12-mile stretch of Interstate 85 in Spartanburg County will face lane closures beginning Friday night as reconstruction work begins on that portion of the highway.

Dennis Garber, assistant district instruction engineer for the South Carolina Department of Transportation, said Sloan Construction will restructure and pave a section of interstate in each direction between mile markers 56 and 68. Mile marker 56 is located near Highway 14 and mile marker 68 is located near Highway 129.

The \$51 million restructuring and paving project is scheduled to be completed by late 2017, according to Casey Schwager, area construction manager for Sloan.

An earlier plan to resurface that section of the interstate was scrapped last year after crews found the road was too deteriorated to proceed. Garber said the project was rebid in September, with a contract awarded to Sloan in October.

Schwager said there will be single-lane closures during the day and double-lane closures during the night beginning on Friday and lasting through Sunday. After Sunday, Sloan will conduct the work solely during the nighttime hours with single-lane closures in both northbound and southbound directions.

“Anybody traveling in the area should expect minor delays,” Schwager said.

Sloan will begin the rehab work in the left lane of the interstate in both directions. Schwager said work crews will go five inches below the road's asphalt surface to do the rehab work before it's paved.

— Follow Chris Lavender on Twitter @LavenderSHJ

SC SUPREME COURT

Historic battle shapes up for



SPORTS BORN TO BE A TIGER



BUSINESS State sets export record

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

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FEBRUARY 19, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM



USA TODAY

TRUMP GETS INTO VERBAL BATTLE WITH POPE FRANCIS PAGE 1B

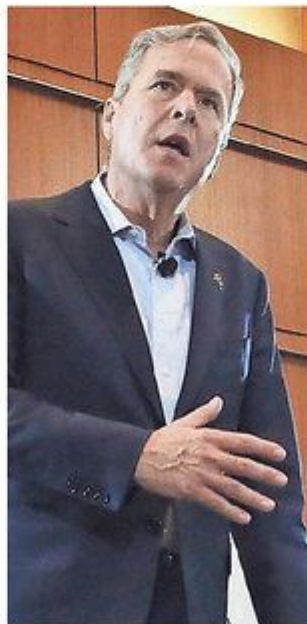
★ ELECTION 2016



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



MATT ROUCHE/AP
Donald Trump interacts with the crowd during a Thursday stop in North Charleston.



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES
Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush speaks to an audience of voters Thursday in Columbia.

Monkey wrench thrown at I-73

Davis: US earmarks freed for other uses

TIM SMITH

TSMITH@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

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 action 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

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



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

See ROADS, Page 7A

Judge hears arguments in coal ash dispute

RON BARNETT

RBARNETT@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The company that wants to build a landfill for coal ash near Liberty used "deceit, fraud, misrepresentation" and "bare-faced lies" to get state approval to bring in coal ash without Pickens County's knowledge, an attorney for the county told a circuit judge Thursday.

INSIDE

Senate gives key approval to a bill to limit coal ash disposal in the state. Page 3A

and may have a decision by the middle of next week.

MRR says it needs to have the matter resolved before it can bid on a coal ash disposal contract. The company provided no further details about the MRR



Opening Day

- USC and Clemson newcomers who could be impact players.
- **USC's goal:** Make it back to the NCAA Tournament.
- **Gamecocks guide:** How to watch on TV, schedule and roster.

Pages 1-3B



TRACY GLANTZ tglantz@theestate.com

USC women clinch outright SEC regular-season title with win against Georgia, 1B

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\$1.00

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TODAY: SUNNY HI 60 LO 43
YESTERDAY: HI 59 LO 30 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.00"
FORECAST: 10C

The State

THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Record turnout expected for SC's Republican primary

Record GOP turnout?

A snapshot of turnout in recent S.C. GOP presidential primaries:

2012: 582,547, or 21.3 percent of 2.7 million registered voters

2008: 438,481, or 19.5 percent of 2.2 million registered voters

2000: 565,991, or 26.5 percent of 2.1 million registered voters

Note: No GOP primary was held in 2004

Source: State Election Commission

Trump lighting a fire under both his allies and foes

BY TIM FLACH
tflach@theestate.com

A combative contest among six challengers is expected to produce a record voter turnout in Saturday's GOP presidential primary.

As of midday Thursday, about 38,000 absentee ballots had been cast in the GOP contest. That exceeds the 35,595 absentee ballots cast in 2008 — a record total that included both

the Democratic and Republican presidential primaries.

The turnout record for the GOP primary was set in 2012 — at 583,000 votes. However, voters who want to cast ballots for or against GOP front-runner Donald Trump are expected to exceed that total.

Elections officials in Lexington County, a Republican bellwether, expect 20,000 more votes to be cast Saturday than during the 2012 primary.

The outcome of Saturday's

primary is expected to winnow the number of GOP candidates — now six — but stop short of clearing the way for a political coronation as it has done in the past.

"I don't necessarily think South Carolina is going to decide the nominee, but we'll help sort out the field," Furman University political analyst Danielle Vinson said.

The question likely to be de-

SEE TURNOUT, 6A



COUNTDOWN TO SC

1

Day until Saturday's S.C. GOP primary

8

Days until the Feb. 27 S.C. Democratic primary

SATURDAY

S.C. GOP primary; Nevada Democratic caucuses

FEB. 23

Nevada GOP caucuses

FEB. 27

S.C. Democratic primary



Former S.C. Gov. David Beasley appeared as a guest with Craig Melvin during his MSNBC show.

TRACY GLANTZ tglantz@theestate.com

SC Rep. Clyburn to endorse Clinton in primary

BY JAMIE SELF
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U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn will endorse Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton in the state's presidential primary, a Clinton campaign aide told The State on Thursday night.

The endorsement will come at 11 a.m. Friday at Columbia's Allen University, a source close to Clyburn also confirmed.

The en-





McCormick plays for next round spot

Sports, 1B

INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Local officials endorse candidates

Republican lawmakers weigh options ahead of Saturday primary

By COLIN RIDDLE
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As the first-in-the-South Republican primary approaches, a number of state leaders have announced endorsements of candidates in the past week, while local leaders are still weighing their options.

CRAIG GAGNON

"You want to be thoughtful, and you want to pick the right guy," said state Rep. Craig Gagnon, R-Abbeville, who jokingly

shared he was endorsing "Mr. Unclicked."



MIKE PITTS

Many representing the Lakelands on the state level are in the same boat.

State Rep. Mike Pitts, R-Laurens, said he narrowed his decision down to U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz from Texas and U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio from Florida, who join reality TV star and businessman Donald Trump as the top three candidates in national polls.

Cruz recently received the

endorsement of U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, who represents South Carolina's 3rd Congressional District.

Rubio was endorsed by South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday and has held onto another from South Carolina's junior U.S. Sen.

Tim Scott. The state's senior U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham has endorsed Jeb Bush, who has been near the bottom of polls with retired neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson and Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster endorsed Trump last month, a notion Pitts said he will not offer.

Pitts said he has met with Trump numerous times and does not think his business tactics will make him an effective leader in government.

"They get so impatient with the system of government that they make some serious mistakes," Pitts said. "I really question his sincerity of being in the race, because Trump does a lot of talking, but he doesn't say much."

2016 Elections

Read about the candidate news of the day on 5A

He added Trump has a tendency to make rash decisions, which could hurt international relations if he got to the White House.

"Trump can do the job, but he's not going to walk in the door with a good understanding of government," Pitts said.

Pitts said Trump is resonating with voters because the majority of people are afraid of and angry at the federal government.

See **ENDORSE**, page 4A

BANK ROBBED



ABOVE: An afternoon robbery Thursday at South State Bank left Greenwood police searching for a male suspect. **BELOW:** Greenwood County sheriff's deputies assisted police by bringing out a dog team to search for the suspect in the robbery at South State Bank.

Police search for man suspected of robbery

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

on charges of armed robbery and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.



GREENWOOD SHERIFF

Former deputy, Naval officer announces bid

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

A former Greenwood County sheriff's deputy with years of military service and who worked with the Secret Service has announced he is running for sheriff.

Arnie Fisher, 41, is a Greenwood native with three children attending schools in Greenwood County School District 50 and a daughter in college in New England.



ARNIE FISHER

When he graduated from Greenwood High School at age 18, he joined the Navy on his journey to becoming a law enforcement officer. He is now retired from the Navy and is a full-time student at Piedmont Technical College, pursuing his associate degree in business.

"I wanted to be a police officer since I was in third grade," he said. "I saw military service as the quickest route to become one."

He said he's received more than 20 years of leadership experience, starting as a section leader in the brig of the USS George Washington. He also worked as a dog handler in the Middle East, the Philippines and Japan, and worked as kennel master in Abu Ghraib prison, where he wrote and enforced a canine policy in response to allegations of canine abuse.

He worked directly with the Secret Service as an officer in charge of explosives detecting dogs, and worked in uniform patrol with the Greenwood

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Morning News

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Abundant sunshine.
High 56, low 38
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Underground Railroad onstage at PAC



"Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad" is a drama with music based on Sarah Bradford's "Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman."

Students from Florence Christian School chat with their teachers while waiting for the PAC children's series on black history to begin.



Students learn about Harriet Tubman

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Hundreds of elementary school students from schools across the Pee Dee gathered Thursday at

the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center for two showings of "Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad," a music-infused drama based on Sarah Bradford's "Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman."

See **TUBMAN**, Page 4A

Duke Energy Foundation donates \$25,000 to support children's series

From staff reports

FLORENCE — Between the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. performances of "Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad," the Duke Energy Foundation donated \$25,000 to Francis Marion University in support of the Performing Arts Center's annual children's series.

"Seeing all these children walk in, this makes me real excited and real pleased that Duke Energy is able to be a part of the children's series here at the Performing Arts Center," said Mindy Taylor, government and community relations manager for Duke Energy in Florence.

See **DUKE**, Page 4A

Florence County Pension fund has \$49M deficit

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — A budget audit report presented at the Florence County Council meeting Thursday showed a \$49.6 million deficit for Florence County, due to underfunding estimates in the state pension system.

Auditors said this isn't a negative reflection on Florence County's budget handling, but rather a shortfall at a state level.

Council Vice Chairman Kent Caudle said the deficit shows as unfunded potential for state employee retirements, including state agencies, higher education, school districts and local government.

This means if everyone lived the expected lifespan, the state projects that there isn't enough funding to handle pension payouts.

"We (Florence County) have lived up to our obligation, and have been sending that money to them," Caudle said. "It isn't that we haven't funded that \$49 million, which would be almost 25 years' worth of funding. The returns have not come in as the state anticipated them to, but they still have the obligation to pay up for retirements."

He said Florence County pays about \$2 million each year into the state retirement system.

Auditors said the deficit is not exclusive to Florence County and doesn't reflect negatively on the county's bond rating.

Florence County Finance Director Kevin Yokim said the county's

See **DEFICIT**, Page 3A

Jeb Bush visits Pee Dee State Farmers Market

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Following a town hall meeting Thursday morning at the Pee Dee State Farmers Market, presi-

lina), Bush said, "Trump's pretty far ahead. I don't know how people are going to make that final decision."

Bush said he will continue to work hard until the end. Thursday's stop was the former Florida governor's



Presidential candidate Jeb Bush speaks to supporters after his town hall meeting at the Pee Dee State Farmers Market in Florence on Thursday.

Who to choose?

Some Pee Dee voters undecided ahead of presidential primaries

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — With South

Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Dr. Ben Carson, a retired Florida neurosurgeon; U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas; Ohio Gov. John Kasich; U.S. Sen.

NATION

Pope vs. Trump:
Un-Christian
to build border
walls? 6A



BUSINESS

New-look
Hudson's ready
to go after
renovation 7B



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19 2016

75¢

VOLUME 46, No. 50
STAY CONNECTED ISLANDPACKET.COMFACEBOOK.COM/ISLANDPACKET
TWITTER.COM/ISLANDPACKETHILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTONMostly sunny
58°/46° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET



Metro Creative

BEAUFORT COUNTY REPUBLICANS

What is GOP's track record in primaries?

County voted for eventual nominee in last 5 out of 7 GOP primary elections without a Republican incumbent

Local popular vote has differed from the state winner half the time

Conservative fiscal, military issues central to win Beaufort County

BY ERIN HEFFERNAN
cheffernan@islandpacket.com

S.C. Republicans like to say the state's first-in-the-South primary is the gold standard for picking Republican nominees, with

all but one of the state winners becoming the eventual nominee since 1980. The exception was Newt Gingrich in 2012.

But Beaufort County has its own presidential primary tradition. County voters have favored the eventual nominee five times out of seven elections

without a Republican incumbent with voters tending to favor fiscal conservatives and candidates focused on military issues, according to the state's politicians.

Local voters at times stand out from the rest of the state. In three of the last six GOP primaries without a Republican incumbent, the candidate that won South Carolina failed to win Beaufort County.

THE GREAT SOUTH CAROLINA POLITICAL DIVIDE

One reason South Carolina may be so accurate in predic-

ting the Republican nominee is that there are multiple Republican constituencies concentrated in different parts of the state, experts say.

The classic divide categorizes the Upstate voter as more motivated by social issues, while the Lowcountry is dominated by fiscal conservatives, said former Republican political consultant David Woodard, who is now a political science professor at Clemson University.

"The difference is more than geography," Woodard said. "There's a different culture, a different background and it occasionally shows up in an election."

A Feb. 12 presidential primary poll from Opinion Savvy showed that likely Republican voters in the Lowcountry tend

SEE TRACK, 7A

➔ MORE INSIDE

Liz Farrell: Republicans look forward to the day after the primary. 7A

BUSH, KASICH FIND LOWCOUNTRY FRIENDS

Both former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Ohio Gov. John Kasich did relatively well in Beaufort and Jasper counties, compared with their low showings in the rest



LOCAL

LEE JEAN MAKES CUT ON 'IDOL'

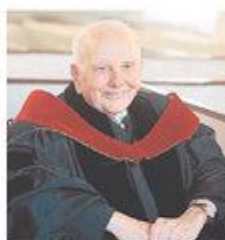
Bluffton teenager advances into the top 14 after a duet Thursday night with past contestant Chris Daughtry, 3A



SPORTS

BACK IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

Lowcountry driver Gus Dean is back behind the wheel again racing Super Late Models in Smyrna, Fla. 1B



LOCAL

PASTOR STILLED ROILING WATERS

The late George Jones

Beaufort County donors pay into presidential race



HISTORY

Lost settlement found

Archaeologist unearths Spanish pottery from early Pensacola site A5

Delinquent tax sale C1

Fathers coalition opening in Sumter

BY JACK OSTEEN
jack@theitem.com

"A father is a man who expects his children to be as good as he meant to be."

This was just one of the many messages brought to a room full of more than 50 community leaders Wednesday at University of South Carolina Sumter at what some think is one of Sumter, Lee and Clarendon counties' most important new initiatives.

The Midlands Fatherhood Coalition, which helps non-custodial dads become responsible fathers to their children, is opening an office in Sumter in connection with a plan by the state Department of Social Services to expand such services statewide. This will be the 13th office in South Carolina.

During the last few years, DSS has embraced the approach taken by Midlands Family Coalition and its affiliated programs. Traditionally, enforcing child support was about finding "deadbeat dads" and sending them to jail, where they couldn't help their kids or anyone else. The program hopes to turn those dads' lives — and those of the children — around completely by getting them jobs and teaching them better parenting skills.

SEE FATHERS, PAGE A6

FATHERHOOD COALITION FACTS

- Served 13,477 fathers since 2001;
- Affected more than 22,900 children;
- Saved more than \$15 million in incarceration costs since 2006;
- Collected \$1.1 million in child support since 2012;
- 36 percent of fathers helped don't have a GED or high school diploma; and
- Average age of fathers served is 33.

7 Types of Poverty

1. Spiritual poverty: A lack of the commonality between God and man where there is no hunger or thirst for righteousness; also a togetherness/brotherhood plays an important role in this type.
2. Mental poverty: Lack of thinking, which is resultant of lack of access to education and knowledge.
3. Bodily poverty: Lack of proper physical health and access to healthy living conditions.
4. Societal poverty: Lack of social connectivity.
5. Cultural poverty: Lack of coming together in a society. No collaborative activities taking place which leads to disconnect between people.
6. Economic poverty: Lack of monetary demands for providing themselves with basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. Please note that money needed for only the mentioned attributes falls under this category.
7. Political/systems poverty: Lack of understanding of how systems work.
— The Midlands Fatherhood Coalition

Manners guilty



KETH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Joseph Manners was on trial for the deaths of his grandparents. He was found guilty of murder and arson on Thursday.

Man will serve 2 consecutive life terms for murder plus 30 years for arson

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
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Joseph Manners was sentenced to two life sentences and 30 years, to be served consecutively, on Thursday afternoon after he was convicted for a 2013 arson and murder of his grandparents, James and Joann Topper.

Manners was convicted of setting fire to his grandparents' house on Barnwell Drive on June 1, 2013, killing the couple.

Circuit Judge Jeffrey Young said he has presided over many trials, but this murder trial was the most horrific. He said the acts involved are beyond his comprehension.

He called Manners an unrepentant, cold-hearted murderer who cremated two people whom he said loved him.

Young sentenced Manners to spend the "balance of his natural life" in South Carolina Department of Corrections facilities for both counts of murder and 30 years for first-degree arson. It is the court's

intention that Manners never walks as a free man, he said.

Before the jury, consisting of four women and eight men, presented its unanimous guilty verdicts to the court, Assistant Solicitor John Meadors brought in a 10th and final witness, Joseph Powell, an arson and explosives analyst with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office.

Meadors introduced Powell as an expert in petroleum accelerants. Powell said he found gasoline present in three of the fire debris samples collected from the Toppers' house in June 2013.

Meadors later pointed out that the three samples had been collected near James Topper's body; one sample was taken from part of the underwear that was found partially undamaged under his body.

Defense Attorney Timothy Griffith asked Powell if ethanol from alcoholic beverages was found in the debris samples. Powell said he looked for ethanol in the samples because it is a type of petroleum, but none was found.

Griffith asked if any debris samples were taken from a storage space under the stairs, where alcoholic beverages could have been stored. Powell said, "no."

Manners refused to testify during the trial, as was his right provided by the fifth amendment of the U.S. Constitution, according to Young.

During closing arguments, Griffith asked the jury to consider every piece of evidence presented by both sides.

The defense attorney presented the two consent forms signed by Manners — one with an uneven signature that Manners signed after being read his Miranda rights in a hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, on June 3, 2013, and the other signed about a month later with a leveled signature.

Griffith asked the jury to consider whether his client was capable of understanding what was being said during his interview with Sgt. Jennifer Mitsch with Cincinnati

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