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To:

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Subject: SC Front Pages – Thursday, February 18, 2016

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**SC Front Pages – Thursday, February 18, 2016**

# The Post and Courier

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Thursday, February 18, 2016

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## Rooting for Rubio

With state's Republican primary just days away, Gov. Haley endorses son of immigrants who 'remembers you work for all of the people'



Gov. Nikki Haley endorses presidential hopeful Marco Rubio during a rally Wednesday in Chapin.

GRACE BEAHM/STAFF

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN and SCHUYLER KROPP  
crolfan@postandcourier.com  
skropp@postandcourier.com

CHAPIN — Gov. Nikki Haley's endorsement of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio ahead of Saturday's Republican primary shows there's an effort underway to combine the so-called establishment wing with its emerging youth movement and the growing crop of newcomers the GOP needs to survive.

Speaking to a crowd of at least 1,000, Haley, a daughter of Indian immigrants, and Rubio, whose family came to America from Cuba in the late 1950s, touted how their families achieved the American dream — a dream that had to

be protected. She also highlighted what she was seeking in a candidate. "I wanted somebody humble enough that remembers you work for all of the people," Haley said. "And I wanted somebody that was going to show my parents that the best decision they made for their children was coming to America."

Haley joins U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and Upstate congressman Trey Gowdy as the most visible South Carolina politicians to go with Rubio. Her endorsement is the most critical prize of all, as she is both the elected leader of the Republican Party in the state and an emerging star on the national stage.

Please see **HALEY**, Page A6

### Palmetto Politics

palmettopolitics.com

#### Inside

Bush gets campaign tips in Summerville. **A6**

Rubio makes his case as a party unifier. **A6**

Carson, Rubio, Cruz take stage for CNN town hall. **A7**

In Walterboro, Trump digs in against Mexico and China. **A7**

Carson has eye on Nevada caucuses. **A7**

Clinton-Sanders race in Nevada tightens. **A7**



Cruz Trump

## Cruz in spat with Trump: Go ahead, file the suit

BY MAYA T. PRABHU  
mprabhu@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — Feuding in the Republican presidential primary kicked up a notch Wednesday when Sen. Ted Cruz responded to a cease-and-desist request from Donald Trump's camp asking him to stop airing a TV ad with a blunt call of "file the lawsuit."

Cruz told reporters the letter accused his campaigns of misleading the public in a commercial that includes older footage of Trump saying he is "very pro-choice."

"The letter said this attack ad, as they called it, is not only completely disingenuous but replete with lies, false defamatory and destructive statements and downright fabrications," Cruz said during a press conference in Seneca, according to a CNN video.

Cruz said the letter threatened to sue him if the campaign doesn't remove the ad.

Please see **LAWSUIT**, Page A7

## Pray for Ted Cruz? Weird political calls top list of dirty tricks so far, readers say

BY SCHUYLER KROPP  
skropp@postandcourier.com

Judging by what readers of The Post and Courier have experienced in the presidential campaign of 2016, the phone calls invading your home have been the most offensive.

And it's not just the pre-recorded "robocalls" from candidates or their surrogates that seemingly arrive just as you are sitting down for dinner.

The human-delivered phone messages from campaign volunteers or professional phone banks are just as annoying.

Please see **TRICKS**, Page A6



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE BEAHM/STAFF

Piles of mail fliers are being sent to Lowcountry voters, but it's the phone calls that readers have complained about the most.

## Emanuel visit to be lesson in healing

U.S. lawmakers will make S.C. pilgrimage

BY EMMA DUMAIN and JENNIFER BERRY HAWES  
edumain@postandcourier.com  
jbhawes@postandcourier.com

WASHINGTON — It hasn't been a full year since the shooting at Emanuel AME Church, but nearly three dozen members of the U.S. House and Senate will soon fill the pews at a Sunday morning service to reflect on the legacy of the tragedy.

Their visit in mid-March will close out a three-day tour around South Carolina, designed to teach participating lawmakers some deeper lessons about race relations and racial healing in the Palmetto State and, more broadly, in America.

"Part of it is about exploring the history of the state," said Joan Mooney, president of the Washington-based Faith and Politics Institute, which is sponsoring the event. "But the spirit also led us here through the 2015 murder of nine people of faith at Mother Emanuel. The faith and courage of members of the victims' family and members of the church community ... a whole nation witnessed love and forgiveness, which opens the door to increased understanding."

Please see **EMANUEL**, Page A4

## Fund to help residents of Tent City find homes

Mayor: City's effort with community offers residents 'a hand up'

BY DEANE KNICH  
dknich@postandcourier.com

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg is hoping people who donated to help homeless residents who live in the so-called Tent City will continue to donate to help them move out.

Tecklenburg announced Wednesday that the city was launching the Homeless to Hope Fund, a fundraising effort co-chaired by Charleston-area businesswoman Linda Kerner, Steve Skardon, executive director of the Palmetto Project; and the Rev. Charles Watkins Jr., pastor of Morris Brown AME Church. He also said area churches are gearing up to help.

The money raised will be used for security deposits, utility hookup costs and other things necessary to help the remaining residents of the encampment on Upper Meeting Street near Interstate 26 move into permanent housing. There are no administrative costs, and all of the money raised will go to help homeless people transition to permanent housing.

Please see **TENTS**, Page A4

### Inside

#### LOCAL

Isle of Palms residents don't want to co-exist with coyotes. **A3**



#### CHARLESTON SCENE

Charleston's wedding industry means local musicians have their cake, eat it, too. **E16-18**

Mayor Tecklenburg to pay tribute to great-uncle, a local jazz legend, with Charleston Jazz Orchestra. **E5**

#### SPORTS

NASCAR's biggest losers hopeful of major upset at the Daytona 500. **C1**



Clear, High 59, Low 35. Complete 5-day forecast. **B10**

Bridge — B7 Crossroads — B5-D4 Movies — E12  
Business — B1 Ozu Abby — B7 Obituaries — B4  
Classifieds — D1 Editorials — A10 Sports — C1  
Comics — B5-9 Local — A3 Television — B7

Charleston Deals Today

The Sound of Charleston  
Two tickets for \$30 (valued at \$60). See A2





## RENOVATED SPEEDWAY SET FOR DEBUT

SPORTS, B1



## APPLE, FEDS FIGHT OVER ENCRYPTION

BUSINESS, C4

# Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Thursday, February 18, 2016



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54°/30° 55°/40° 65°/46°

Complete forecast, B8

### UPSTATE



### New faces

Spartanburg's historic downtown clock tower has a new face — four to be exact. C1

### Spartanburg stops

Republican presidential candidates Ted Cruz and Ben Carson stepped up their efforts Wednesday during campaign stops in Spartanburg to chip away at Donald Trump's lead in South Carolina in advance of Saturday's GOP presidential primary. C1

### NATION/WORLD

### Less than full-strength

Is eight enough? The Supreme Court has managed to function effectively at less than its full nine-member strength for two extended periods in the past 50 years. A3



GOP VOTE IS SATURDAY

## Haley backs Rubio in primary

Florida senator hopes presidential bid gets boost from governor's endorsement

By Andrew Shain  
The (Columbia) State

CHAPIN — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Wednesday that she endorsed U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., for



Haley

president because he was best suited to restore Republican principles of limited government and cutting debt.

"I want a president who understands they have to go back to Washington, D.C., and bring a conscious back to our Republicans," Haley, a Republican, told a crowd of hundreds gathered outside a Chapin

warehouse.

Haley said she made the decision as a mother who wants safer, more prosperous nation for her children and as the wife of a combat veteran who wants more support for the military.

The governor did not say why she didn't choose other candidates for Saturday's GOP primary.

"We have good people running for president, and I thank them today for their sacrifice and their

willingness to serve and to honor this great country and make her better," she said. "But my job was to find the person I thought who could do it the best."

"I wanted someone with fight. I wanted somebody with passion. I wanted somebody who has the conviction to do the right thing," she said. "But I wanted somebody humble enough (who) remembers that you work for all the people."

SEE HALEY, A4

### ABUSE CRISIS



## More addicts turning to HEROIN

Counselor Elena Newman, left, listens to a recovering heroin addict during a counseling session at the Forrester Center for Behavioral Health in Spartanburg. Authorities say heroin use is increasing as prescription drugs become harder to get. TIM KIMZEY/TIM.KIMZEY@SHJ.COM

### Drug now easier to get than prescription pills

By Daniel J. Gross  
daniel.gross@shj.com

He's been sober for four

dreamed I would do just to get drugs," said the 22-year-old man, who asked not to be identified. "You wake up and see someone in the mirror you're not used to seeing and you realize, 'That's really me.'"

Heroin use in Spartanburg County is rising, an unin-

off on refills, said Lt. Melissa Hendricks, the chief forensic chemist for the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. So addicts are getting their fix in other ways, she said.

"Because we're cracking down on doctors signing out prescriptions for oxycodone and hydrocodone, (addicts)

16 in 2013, 19 in 2014 and 23 in 2015.

Arrests in the county have been much lower. There were five heroin-related arrests in 2012 and three in 2013, according to the Sheriff's Office. In 2014, there was only one arrest, rising to eight in 2015.



# INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

## REPUBLICANS IN SC

# Haley backs Rubio

By SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has endorsed Marco Rubio, three days ahead of Saturday's first-in-the-South Republican presidential primary.

Haley introduced the Florida senator at an event Wednesday night in Lexington County, saying he's a compassionate fighter who will "show my parents the best decision they ever made for their children was coming to America."

Haley is the South Carolina-born daughter of Indian immigrants and, at 44, the nation's youngest governor.



NIKKI HALEY



MARCO RUBIO

### Related

Want to see the candidates before voting? Find out where on **3A**.

GOP fight gets nasty among top 3 candidates, **5A**.

"I want a president who's going to have the back of our military veterans and those in active duty. I want a president who knows when we fight wars, we win wars," said Haley, whose husband Michael Haley is an officer in the Army National Guard who served in Afghanistan in 2013. "I want a president who understands we have to stop the federal mandates pushed on states like Obamacare and the EPA."

She was also critical of Republicans in Washington, saying the next president must "bring a conscience back" to the GOP on balanced budgets, cutting debt and building reserves.

Haley's endorsement was considered the most coveted among South Carolina politicians. She joins U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Trey Gowdy in endorsing Rubio. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham endorsed Jeb Bush after leaving the crowded Republican presidential field himself.

Speculation that Haley, the state's first female and first minority governor, could be a potential GOP running mate increased after she gave the Republican endorsement to President Barack Obama's

"She embodies everything I want the Republican Party to be about," Rubio said. He noted he and Haley share the backgrounds of many other Americans, as his parents immigrated from Cuba.

"First and foremost, as a mom who wants her children to be safe in this country, who wants her children to have the education and opportunity," Haley said in explaining her choice to several hundred people gathered for the event outside a warehouse in Chapin.

"I want a president who's going to have the back of our military veterans and those in active duty. I want a president who knows when we fight wars, we win wars," said Haley, whose husband Michael Haley is an officer in the Army National Guard who served in Afghanistan in 2013. "I want a president who understands we have to stop the federal mandates pushed on states like Obamacare and the EPA."

# GOP hopeful Carson tours Genetic Center



By COLIN RIDDLE | criddle@indexjournal.com

The first Republican candidate to visit Greenwood this week prior to Saturday's first-in-the-South primary is Dr. Ben Carson.

Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, toured the Greenwood Genetic Center campus Wednesday, speaking with various department heads and staff along the way with his quiet and calm

demeanor.

"Genetics is one of the areas that's going to lead to some incredible solutions for cancer, for autism, potentially even for things like Alzheimer's, and this is the kind of institute that is on the leading edge of that kind of thing," Carson told reporters after his tour.

The Greenwood Genetic Center was founded in 1974 and is a nonprofit

organization focused on the advancement of medical genetics and caring for families impacted by genetic disease and birth defects.

"The nice thing is, they're private and government mixtures, and I think that's a solution that works extremely well," Carson said.

See **CARSON**, page 3A



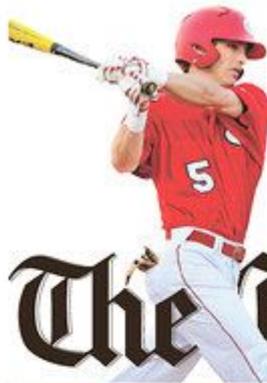
### Online

Video from Carson's visit to the GCC. [indexjournal.com](http://indexjournal.com)

Director of the Greenwood Genetic Center Dr. Steve Skinner, left, walks with Republican presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson during his visit to the center Wednesday.

COLIN RIDDLE | INDEX-JOURNAL





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**USA TODAY** BLOOMBERG FACES LONG ODDS IN INDEPENDENT WHITE HOUSE RUN **PAGE 1B**

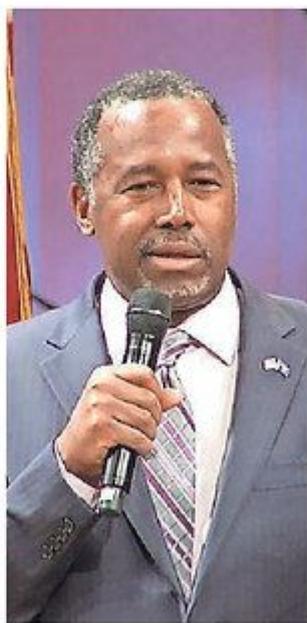
**ELECTION 2016**



**PAUL SANCY/AP**  
Sen. Ted Cruz speaks at the Seneca Family Restaurant on Tuesday in Seneca.



**MICHAEL HOLAHAN/AP**  
Sen. Marco Rubio speaks during a campaign stop Wednesday in Aiken.



**ALEX SANDAP**  
Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson addresses a forum Wednesday in Spartanburg.

**Upstate DSS caseload still high**

Anderson, Oconee numbers 'startling'

**TIM SMITH**  
TCSMITH@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

COLUMBIA - Two years after lawmakers began pushing the state Department of Social Services to lower caseloads concerning abused and neglected children and spent millions to bring in more caseworkers, the numbers remain high for many counties.

And two counties whose caseloads are raising eyebrows the most are in the Upstate.

Taron Davis, who directs child welfare operations for DSS, told a Senate DSS oversight committee Wednesday that caseload numbers are particularly "concerning and startling" in Anderson and Oconee counties.

In fact, she said, an Anderson caseworker currently has the highest caseload in the state, managing 119 children.

Another in Anderson has 92 cases and three others are managing more than 80 children.

Anderson did not have such problems the last time DSS officials briefed senators on caseloads last year.

"It looks like Anderson has gotten worse," said Sen. Tom Young, an Aiken Republican who chairs the oversight committee.

But DSS officials said they are not sure why.

Davis announced the agency had just hired five regional officials who will each oversee county offices and one of those directors will be digging into the high caseloads in Anderson and Oconee counties to identify the problem.

But the two Upstate counties are hardly alone in facing high caseloads.

The agency wants caseworkers to manage no more than 24 children per worker.

See **CASELOAD**, Page 4A

**VOTERS MUST PICK A PRIMARY**

**RUDOLPH BELL**  
DBELL@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

South Carolinians are the first Southerners to vote on who the presidential nominees should be for the Republican and Democratic parties. But they can't make a pick for both parties. They have to choose one or the other.

South Carolina does not require voters to register as Republicans or Democrats as some other states do.

That means if you're a Democrat and you want to vote in the Republi-

See **PRIMARY**, Page 5A

**WHO'S IN THE UPSTATE?**

**Thursday, Feb. 18**  
**CORRECTION: Clemson Town Hall with John Kasich and Tjoh Boyd**  
When: 2:15 p.m. Doors open 1:15 p.m.  
Where: Strom Thurmond Institute - 230 Kappa St. Clemson, SC 29634  
The Greenville News mistakenly reported the date of this event in Wednesday's edition.

**Anderson Town Hall With Rubio**  
When: 12:30pm. Doors open at 11:30am  
Where: Hilton Garden Inn Anderson, 115 Destination Blvd., Anderson.

**Easley Retail Stop with Ted Cruz**  
When: 3 p.m.  
Where: Mutts BBQ, 1020 Powdersville Road, Easley.  
**Conservative Review's Conservative Convention, featuring Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Ben Carson**  
When: 8 p.m.  
Where: Bon Secours Wellness Arena.

**INSIDE**  
Candidates at CNN town hall. **Page 3A**  
Haley endorses Rubio. **Page 6A**  
Cruz spurns Trump's threat. **Page 5A**

**Senate starts roads debate with filibuster**

**TIM SMITH**  
TCSMITH@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

COLUMBIA - The Senate began its long-awaited debate on roads with a filibuster by the same senator who last year killed chances of a vote on a roads bill by staying at the podium.

Sen. Tom Davis, a Beaufort Republican, told his colleagues Wednesday that he is convinced the Senate will not pass meaningful reform of the state Department of Transportation this year, something he asked for last year in his successful filibuster.

His said his aim is to "educate" the

Senate on the need for reform at DOT and the State Infrastructure Bank and is prepared to talk well into the night.

"At some point in time I suspect maybe this General Assembly will decide they have heard enough of me," Davis said when asked if he would block a vote. "But I've got a lot of say."

Davis challenged the Senate to find 24 votes, the number needed to stop his filibuster, whenever senators were ready to vote on a gas tax increase or on a restructuring plan which he predicted would not go far enough.

See **ROADS**, Page 4A

**INSIDE**

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Area news.....3A Classifieds.....5C Obituaries.....8A U.S./World.....1B  
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**Spring football practice:** Analysis of USC and Clemson rosters, 1B



**16-0** USC coach Dawn Staley aiming for perfect SEC season, 5B

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# The State



## COUNTDOWN TO SC

2

Days until S.C. GOP primary

9

Days until S.C. Democratic primary

## SATURDAY

S.C. GOP primary; Nevada Democratic caucuses

- 6

Ted Cruz's net favorability rating among likely voters in the S.C. GOP primary — 42% see him positively, 48% have a negative opinion, according to a Public Policy Poll released Tuesday

- 2

Jeb Bush's favorability — 41% like, 43% dislike

+7

Donald Trump's favorability — 50% like, 43% dislike

+23

John Kasich's favorability — 52% like, 29% dislike

+26

Marco Rubio's favorability — 58% like, 32% dislike

+45

Ben Carson's favorability — 68% like, 23% dislike

70%

## RIVALS FOR MAINSTREAM POSITION

# Rubio emerges as GOP's anti-Trump, anti-Cruz option

**Bolstered by Gov. Haley's endorsement, U.S. senator from Florida vying for mantle of the GOP's mainstream alternative**

**Pressure on Rubio to finish second in S.C.; if he fails, political scientist questions "how long his candidacy can be viable"**

**Avoiding GOP debacle?**

BY JAMIE SELF  
jself@thestate.com

The Republican presidential hopefuls have two days to win support from S.C. voters — and a big question to answer.

Who will be the GOP's anti-Trump, anti-Cruz candidate — promising to unite the party and, more importantly, beat the Democratic nominee in November?



Cruz



Rubio

But with Donald Trump and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas holding first and second in most S.C. polls, seizing the third-place ticket out of South Carolina could be the best hope for Rubio — or another GOP candidate — to remain viable. And third place might not be enough.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida became the most-likely-to-succeed Wednesday, winning the endorsement of S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley.

Saturday's primary could be the last shot for a mainstream

SEE RIVALS, 6A



Thousands of Christian supporters attend the We Stand with God, Pro-Family Rally in August at the South Carolina State House. Speakers included presidential hopefuls Ted Cruz and Rick Perry and U.S. Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina.

SEAN RAY/OGD ONLINE@THESTATE.COM



## SPORTS

Billie Jean King receives local award from tennis community 1B



## THE LONG READ

Scalia left clues about who he'd want to replace him 1C



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# THE ISLAND PACKET

## Coyotes prowl, howl in Beaufort County

As areas such as Bluffton and Hilton Head Island grow, coyote habitats shrink

Sightings are more common in the winter because it is mating season

Making loud noises often scares the critters off

BY LUCAS HIGH  
lhigh@islandpacket.com

At first, Sheri Getsinger thought it was just a lost dog. She saw the animal prowling the side of the road as she pulled onto Bluffton Parkway from Okatie Highway last month.

"I'm a dog lover, so if I see one on the side of the road I'll stop and make sure it gets somewhere safe," Getsinger said.

But as she drove closer, she "realized it wasn't a dog — it was a coyote."

"It was pretty scary," Getsinger said. "He looked pretty sick and mangy."

Getsinger's experience isn't an isolated incident. All around Bluffton and Hilton Head Island, people are reporting coyote sightings.

Katie Vaught saw one near the corner of U.S. 278 and Spanish Wells Road last month.

The animal was "just running across the road," she said.

"I was sure it was going to get hit by a car. But (the coyote) was moving very quickly, it was certainly agile and athletic. It blew my mind."

Pete King, who lives in Hilton Head Plantation, spotted a coyote near his home late last year.

"I was sitting in my office on the second floor and a coyote ran right through the backyard," he said. "I have two little dogs, so I was concerned about it."

## WHY NOW?

While coyotes are typically associated with the Southwest, they have been present in South Carolina for decades. S.C. Department of Natural Resources biologist Jay Butfiloski said earlier this week.

But in "some of the growing and developing areas like Bluffton and Hilton Head, the habitats are shrinking."

## GOP CANDIDATES TAKE ON BEAUFORT COUNTY



JOSEPH MITELMAN jmitelman@islandpacket.com

Ohio governor and Republican presidential candidate John Kasich speaks with Charles Tullius of St. Joseph's/Candler Health System on Wednesday in Old Town Bluffton Promenade.

## VIDEO

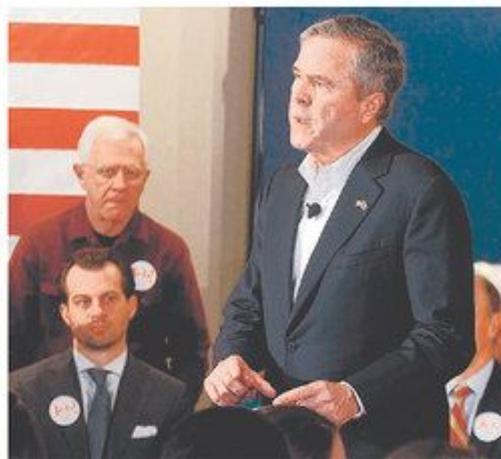
## MORE INSIDE

For coverage of the candidate visits, go to [islandpacket.com](http://islandpacket.com) and [beaufortgazette.com](http://beaufortgazette.com). What did the candidates have to say? See stories on 3A.



JAY KARR jkarr@islandpacket.com

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump returns to Sun City Hilton Head for a second campaign appearance on Wednesday.



DELYNA EARLEY deary@islandpacket.com

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush speaks to the audience during his town hall Wednesday morning at The Beaufort Inn's Tabby Place on Port Republic Street in downtown Beaufort.





# the Sumter ITEM

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## Recording shows Manners aware of arson case

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS  
 adrienne@theitem.com

The second day of the Joseph Manners murder trial started Wednesday morning in Courtroom 3B at the Sumter County Judicial Center, with Judge Jeffery Young presiding.

Manners faces two counts of murder and an arson charge for his alleged involvement in the June 1, 2013, deaths of his grandparents, James and Joann Topper, when their Barnwell Drive house was set on fire.

Assistant Solicitor John Meadors spent most of Wednesday establishing the severity of a blaze and the state that James and Joann Topper were found and Joseph Manners' coherent state of mind after he was arrested.

The photos Meadors showed to the jury were all taken by Julian Blair, a fire and arson investigator with Sumter County Sheriff's Office in 2013, who served as the prosecution's first witness Wednesday.

Blair said Joann Topper's body was found in the kitchen on the ground floor of the house and James Topper's body was later found on the bottom floor of the house, near the stairs.

Based on his findings, Blair determined that the fire started in the room where James Topper's body was found, although the exact point where the fire started could not be confirmed.

Defense Attorney Timothy Griffith asked Blair if it were possible that the fire started on the upper level of the house. Blair said it is possible but based on the photos and his observations, the fire started somewhere in the room on the bottom level.

Agent Brian Wright with South Carolina Law Enforcement Division's arson unit said he did a walk through of the house with his accelerant detection canine on June 5, 2013, during the execution of a search warrant. The dog indicated several spots where an accelerant had been used in the room where James Topper was found.

Capt. Brian Christmas with Sumter Fire Department said when investigators raised James Topper's body there was a "sudden rush of smell suspected to be gasoline."

Later, Dr. Janice Ross, the pathologist in Newberry County who performed the autopsies on James and Joann Topper on June 3, 2013, was brought in as a witness on behalf of the prosecution. She said both James and Joann Topper suffered fourth-degree burns to approximately 80 percent of their bodies.

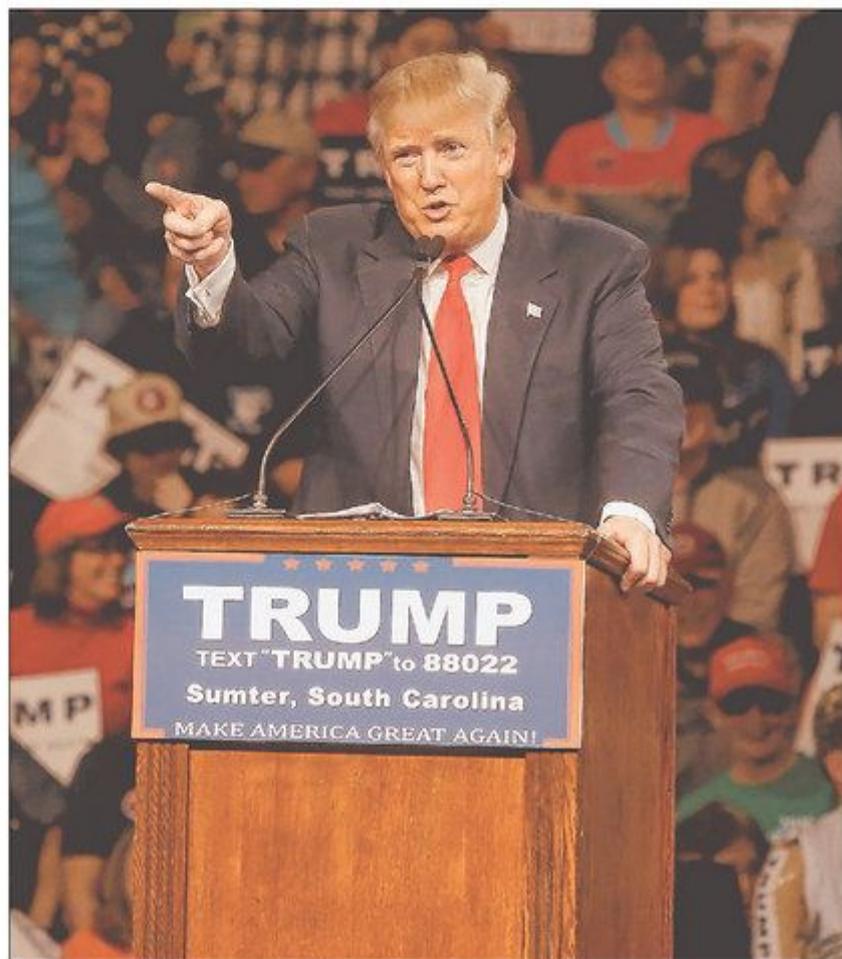
Ross determined that Joann Topper died of

SEE MANNERS, PAGE A10



KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM  
 A photo of the burning structure is part of the evidence against Joseph Manners in his ongoing trial.

# Sumter Trumped



KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Donald Trump points out one of his supporters during his campaign rally at the Sumter County Civic Center on Wednesday.

## Firebrand GOP presidential candidate draws big crowd

BY JIM HILLEY  
 jim@theitem.com

If you are hoping for specific plans on how to beat ISIS, bring back jobs from overseas or stop illegal immigration, you are probably not a Donald Trump fan.

If you believe what this country needs is a president with a forceful personality, oodles of charisma and barrels of self-confidence, you just might be a Trump fan.

A full house at Sumter County Civic Center hung on Trump's every line, often breaking into chants and cheering as he peddled

SEE TRUMP, PAGE A10



KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Chuck Duncan, from Charleston, and Garrett Bowling, from Lexington, who was wearing his Super Trump cape, compare selfies while waiting for Donald Trump to make his appearance at Sumter County Civic Center on Wednesday.

# Mayor: Sumter needs technical high school





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# Morning News

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Plenty of sunshine.  
High 57, low 28.  
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents



DEBORAH SWEARINGEN/MORNING NEWS

Vincent Johnson (left) Wenda Johnson, Patricia Johnson-Holt and Victor Johnson will appear in "Family Feud," along with Marcus Holt (not pictured).

## Local family to compete on 'Family Feud'

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN  
Morning News  
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FLORENCE — Florence "Family Feud" fans, this one is for you.

Find a comfortable seat and a delicious snack tonight and prepare to cheer on the Johnson family of Florence as they compete at 7 p.m.

Patricia Johnson-Holt,

### Want to watch?

Tune into **WWMB/CW21** at 7 p.m. The show is not on the Game Show Network. If you are watching from a different location or a different TV service provider, you must check local listings.

Wenda, competed on the popular game show. Their episode airs today.

"Family Feud," hosted by comedian Steve Harvey, features two families who compete to name the most popular responses to survey questions. The families are competing for cash and prizes.

For the Johnson family, the show was not a challenge. It was just a lot

of fun.

"It was just fun, fun, fun, fun — the beginning to the end," Patricia said, laughing.

The adventure began in 2013, when Marcus's girlfriend, Trina, signed the family up for an audition in Charleston.

"She saw the auditioning in Charleston, and she did

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### Florence County

## Early voting ramping up before GOP primary

BY JOSHUA LLOYD  
Morning News  
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FLORENCE — With the Republican presidential preference primary coming up Saturday, thousands of Florence County voters are heading to the ballot boxes early to cast their vote.

Pee Dee election officials predict that more Republican voters will show up at polling places for South Carolina's primaries — this Saturday is the Republican primary and next Saturday in the Democratic primary.

David Alford, director of Florence County Voter Registration and Election, said more early votes have been cast for the Republican primary as of Wednesday morning.

"Right now we're seeing about two or three Republicans voting early for every one Democrat," Alford said. "But I expect to see at least that number of Democratic voters doing early voting next week before that primary."

He said as of Wednesday afternoon, more than 1,100 votes had been cast for Republican candidates and nearly 800 votes for Democratic candidates.

Officials are expecting a spike in South Carolina Republican primary voting, with turnout numbers potentially similar to what was seen in 2008 when Democratic turnout increased with votes for Barack Obama.

The deadline for mail-in absentee voting ballots has passed, but early voting will remain available through Friday at the Florence County Voter Registration Office on Third Loop Road in Florence.

## Candidates jockey for gains



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio speaks during a campaign stop this week in Summerville.

## Governor Nikki Haley endorses Marco Rubio ahead of GOP primary

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON — Jeb Bush, John Kasich and Marco Rubio are locked in a high-stakes political chess match in South Carolina, strategically moving money and other campaign resources around in a bid to pull ahead in the Republican primary race — or at least keep their campaigns afloat.

Rubio got some support Wednesday with an endorsement from Gov. Nikki Haley.

The governor said she was tasked with identifying the best candidate as she surveyed the crowded GOP field.

"If we elect Marco Rubio, every day will be a great day in America," she said alongside the Florida senator during an evening rally in suburban Columbia.

Haley's endorsement was considered the most coveted among South Carolina politicians. She joins U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Trey Gowdy in

endorsing Rubio.

The candidates' maneuvering comes as some Republican leaders fear Donald Trump or Ted Cruz will begin piling up the delegates needed to secure the nomination before one of the more traditional candidates can concentrate the support of voters turned off by the brash billionaire and fiery Texas senator. Establishment Republicans believe either of those two could jeopardize the party's chances of winning in

November's general election.

"We do need to get the field down to Trump, Cruz and somebody," said Henry Barbour, a Republican National Committee heavyweight from Mississippi. "New Hampshire tried, but it's clear as mud."

Indeed, the only thing that is clear heading into Saturday's South Carolina primary appears to be Trump's grip on the lead. Cruz, the winner of the

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## Online marketing gets new push at SiMT Social Media Listening Center

BY MELISSA ROLLINS

of the newly opened SiMT Social stand their visibility and the start changing up their products "What started me on this trip

Brian Symmes

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