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The Post and Courier

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Tuesday, February 16, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

GOP race showing its ugly side in S.C.

Trump's personal attacks on Bush, Cruz could backfire, observers say



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump (right), accompanied by S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, speaks with members of the media on Monday in Hanahan.

BY ROBERT BEHRE
and SCHUYLER KROPP
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Disgusting! Ugh! Ughing! Weakling!

With just days until Saturday's vote, a new gold standard for angry candidate venom is being set in this year's South Carolina Republican primary.

Rather than being a race about policy and a vision for the nation's future, this normally well-mannered Southern state — which has a history of sinking into ugly politics — is seeing a performance from the rudest of house guests.

Donald Trump took aim again Monday at former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and his brother, former President George W. Bush, criticizing the ex-president's record before and after 9/11. Trump's criticism came just hours before both Bushes spoke at a large rally in North Charleston. Neither Bush addressed Trump's criticisms directly during their rally at the North Charleston Coliseum, opting instead to appear above the fray as they made a pitch to undecided voters in the run up to Saturday's vote.

Inside

Cruz says his assertions on Trump's record 'rattled' the businessman. **Page A5**

Bernie Sanders to return to Midlands, Lowcountry in S.C.

Rubio makes appeal to cross-section of South Carolina voters. **Page A6**



Poll
Is George W. Bush's presidency fair game for Republicans challenging Jeb Bush? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

here, College of Charleston political scientist Gibbs Knotts said Bush might gain from the spotlight, but as it is, as he seeks to rally the party's establishment vote. While Trump has tapped into the anti-Washington, antiestablishment sentiment, he still is seeking to be the nominee of a major political party.

Please see **GOP**, Page A5

Trump in Hanahan calls Gitmo plan 'ridiculous'

Vows to keep enemy combatants there, not in local Navy brig

BY ROBERT BEHRE
rbehre@postandcourier.com

HANAHAN — Republican front-runner Donald Trump on Monday underscored his opposition to shipping enemy combatants from Guantanamo Bay to the nearby Navy brig.

Trump, who talked about the issue during a campaign stop at Hanahan

City Hall, made the point earlier while answering a student question at an East Cooper Republican Club luncheon.

"It's ridiculous that they're moving people into this area. We are totally against it," he said, adding that if any combatants are moved to the U.S. Naval Consolidated Brig at the Naval Weapons Station before he is sworn in "they're going back."

One of President Barack Obama's unfinished campaign promises is to close the controversial Cuban detention center opened to hold suspected terrorists and enemy combatants after 9/11.

Please see **TRUMP**, Page A5



Former President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, came to the Lowcountry on Monday to support his brother, Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush, during a campaign rally at the North Charleston Convention Center.

George W. Bush: Real strength is not 'bluster'

Former president rallies for brother Jeb in N. Charleston

BY SCHUYLER KROPP
skropp@postandcourier.com

Former President George W. Bush came in to right the ship for his brother Jeb's trailing campaign in South Carolina just as front-runner Donald Trump is threatening to run away with Saturday's Republican primary.

Speaking to a crowd of more than 3,000 people at the North Charleston Convention Center, George Bush made the first presidential stump appearance of his post-White House life.

He never mentioned Trump by name but said the stakes are too risky to trust the White House to someone whose words are unpredictable or seeks to divide the country.

Please see **BUSH**, Page A5

Author Conroy battling cancer

Best-selling novelist plans to 'fight it hard'

BY ADAM PARKER
aparker@postandcourier.com

Lowcountry author Pat Conroy has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Conroy is receiving treatment at the MD Anderson Cancer Center affiliate in Jacksonville, Fla., a few hours drive from his home near Beaufort.

Conroy has been coping with health problems for years, including neuropathy, which affects his mobility. The cancer diagnosis comes after two years of intensive physical therapy, exercise and dieting that improved Conroy's health noticeably.

His publisher Doubleday confirmed the cancer diagnosis, issuing a statement to the media.



Conroy

Please see **CONROY**, Page A6

Choosing justice no easy task for Obama

Has chance for lasting impact, faces battle

BY KATHLEEN HENNESSEY
and MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For most presidents, choosing a Supreme Court nominee is a puzzle. For President Barack Obama, the chance to pick a successor to Justice Antonin Scalia is more like a Gordian Knot.

As the White House carries out a rare election-year search for a nominee, the president's lawyers and top advisers are sorting through a tangled web of political, legal and personal factors.

A smart pick and nomination strategy could determine whether Obama gets to reshape the highest court for the next generation.

Please see **SCALIA**, Page A6

Inside



ENTERTAINMENT
Taylor Swift wins album of the year at Grammys. **B4**

SPORTS

No. 3 South Carolina women outlast No. 24 Tennessee, **C1**

YOUR HEALTH

Record number in S.C. sign up for Obamacare plans. **D1**



Partly cloudy.
High 67, Low 45.
Complete 5-day
forecast, **B8**

Bridge...B7
Business...B1
Classifieds...C5
Comics...B6,7
Crosstown...B6, C8
Editorials...A10
Festivals...B5
Obituaries...B2
Sports...C1
Sudoku...B5
Television...B4
Your Health...D1

Charleston Deals
Candy Shop Vintage
Half off custom jewelry.
See **A2**



CLEMSON BASKETBALL, 1C TIGERS EYE SOLID FINISH



LIFESTYLE, 1D Heart Ball seeks to raise \$800K

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 16, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY A SLEW OF NATIONS FIGHTING IN SYRIA'S CIVIL WAR PAGE 1B

Police offer to fix man's teeth

Sides may finalize
agreement in case

ROMANDO DIXON
RDIXON@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Greenville police and a man who suffered a chipped tooth and lost another after an arrest are close to finalizing an agreement to settle a dispute.

Chief Ken Miller said he offered to fix Jaquan Williams' teeth if he agreed not to sue the city in connection with an arrest Dec. 15.

Williams, 21, said he lost a front tooth and another was chipped after he was taken to the ground while handcuffed in the parking lot of a gas station on Haywood Road. He was charged with possession of less than an ounce of marijuana and resisting arrest. Williams said

the marijuana did not belong to him and became upset when an officer told him he would be charged.

Williams said he agreed to enter a drug and alcohol diversion program in connection with the marijuana charge. If he successfully completes the classes, the charge will be expunged from his record, Williams and Miller said. The resisting arrest charge will be dismissed when Williams signs the agreement with the city, according to Williams and Miller.

Miller said he offered to fix Williams' teeth because Williams had no insurance and couldn't afford to pay for it. Miller said his officer didn't intend to knock out Williams' teeth. Williams said he has to receive another estimate Feb. 23 on the dental work, then e-mail Miller.

"When you have a situation like that, and it's unfortunate, you just try to do what you can to try and find a way to deal with it in an appropriate way, and I felt like that was an appropriate way," Miller said.

City police have continued to investigate the arrest internally. The State Law Enforcement Division also is conducting a separate criminal investigation.

Bruce Wilson, founder of Fighting Injustice Together, brought the controversial arrest to light on social media. Wilson said he is glad that Williams will have an opportunity to clear his record and have his teeth fixed.

"We think the agreement that has been reached, it benefits both parties."

Williams said he will use the ordeal as a learning experience. In the December arrest,



Jaquan Williams, 21, of Greenville, is pictured in a photo taken the night of his arrest and provided by the Greenville police.



PROVIDED/GREENVILLE POLICE

Williams said he was riding as a passenger with someone he barely knew. A marijuana blunt was found in a passenger door panel.

"I had to go through a lot of stuff," Williams said. "And at the end of the day, I'm just get-

ting what I had before, but I'm also losing money and time by doing this class."

Staff writer Romando Dixon covers crime for The Greenville News. Follow this story and others through his Facebook page, Romando The Reporter.



Donald Trump speaks at a rally at the TD Convention Center on Monday. In regard to last Saturday's GOP debate at the Peace Center, Trump said, "The room was stacked with all people that were all (Jeb) Bush people, and also (Marco) Rubio people."

Trump: Debate audience stacked; RNC denies charge

Candidate claims it's 3rd time it's happened

RUDOLPH BELL
RBELL@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The New York billionaire — apparently trying to explain

director, said out of 1,600 available tickets for the debate about 300 went to grassroots activists and elected officials and 600 were divided equally between the candidates.

Matt Moore, chairman of the state GOP, said in reaction to Trump's claim that "every-one is entitled to their own opinion. I know the facts."

Passion lived up to state heritage

Gallery filled center
with boos, cheers

AMANDA COYNE
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Before Saturday night's Republican presidential debate at the Peace Center, Rep. Mark Sanford predicted there would be "some sharp elbows."

What he and others probably didn't count on is some of those sharp elbows coming from the audience.

The crowd of 1,600 booed and cheered through Saturday night's political brawl at the Peace Center, leading some to question: Is this the bare-knuckled South Carolina politics we've been waiting for?

"What you have to understand is that South Carolina politics has always been rough and tumble," said Chad Groover, chairman of the Greenville County Republican Party, who attended the debate. "We shouldn't expect it to be anything different than that. Our people are passionate about issues, they are passionate about positions, and they're also unwilling to put up with lies and distortions."

Debate moderator John Dickerson had also encouraged the audience to participate in the debate, Groover said.

"The implication was clear: It's OK to agree or disagree with a point a politician makes from the audience," Groover said.

While some have said the vo-

USC women
beat Vols,
claim third
straight
regular-
season SEC
title, 1B



**Clarke
Schmidt**
confident
in new role
as
Gamecocks'
ace, 1B

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16 2016

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VOL. 125TH, No. 364
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TODAY: PARTLY CLOUDY, RAIN EARLY H: 63 L: 37
YESTERDAY: H: 39 L: 35 PRECIP: (as of 5 p.m.) 0.09"
FORECAST: 8C

The State



SC PEOPLE
PAT CONROY
FACING CANCER
Famed novelist
announces diag-
nosis on his
Facebook page, 3A

SUSPECT AIDED PROSECUTORS IN METTS CASE

Restaurateur faces murder charge in man's slaying

BY GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN
AND JOHN MONK
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jmonk@thestate.com

Greg Leon, the owner of several Mexican restaurants in South Carolina, has been charged with killing a man at a Lexington commuter parking lot Sunday night, according to arrest warrants. "I shot my wife's lover," Leon said on a recorded 911 line, according to the warrants.

Lovers' triangle? Warrant quotes Leon: "I shot my wife's lover"

Leon was instrumental in sending former Lexington County sheriff to federal prison

Accused is longtime Mexican restaurant owner who has had brushes with law before

Police charged Leon with murder in the killing of Arturo Pereyra Bravo at the somewhat secluded lot at 110 Riverchase Way in the town of Lexington. Bravo was killed about 8:30 p.m., according to

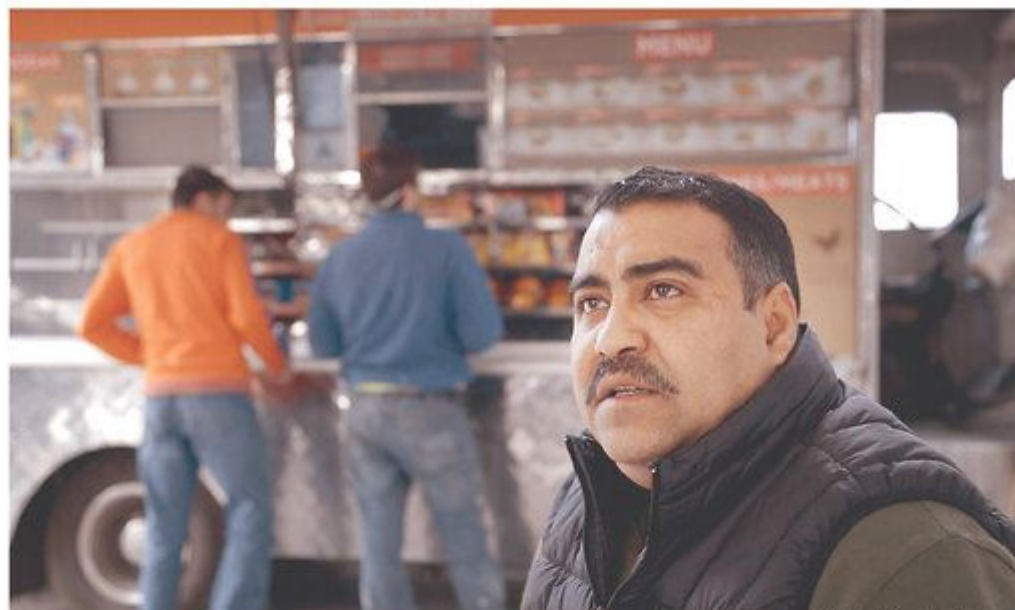
the warrants. Leon not only notified police on the 911 line of the shooting, he surrendered to Lexington police later Sunday night. One of his attorneys, Eric Bland, was with him

when he surrendered. The Valentine's Day shooting was captured on a video surveillance camera at the parking lot, a warrant said. The site is just off I-20, about one-third of a mile from U.S. 378.

A warrant in the case identified the shooting victim as Bravo. As of late Monday afternoon, the Lexington County coroner's office had not officially identified the dead man.

SEE LEON, 2A

2016 ELECTIONS



Juan Rivera owns and runs Tacos Nayarit on Decker Boulevard. "The majority of Republicans are against us," he said. "I would tell them to stop deportation and to stop tearing apart families." Rivera, who has been in the U.S. for 20 years, says without Hispanics, the country would suffer.



KEY NUMBERS

4
Days until SC GOP primary

11
Days until S.C. Democratic primary

SATURDAY
S.C. GOP primary; Nevada Democratic caucuses

+ 17
Donald Trump's lead over U.S. Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida in the S.C. GOP primary, according to a new poll released late Monday; see Page 6A

Republican race stirs uneasiness

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

TUESDAY, February 16, 2016

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GOP presidential candidate Texas Sen. Ted Cruz poses for pictures with supporters during his stop at the USC Aiken Convocation Center in Aiken on Monday.

Cruz talks Scalia, conservative values

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

Conservatives in the Aiken area said Monday they support Texas Sen. Ted Cruz's call to repeal the health care law and protect the Constitution during the GOP presidential candidate's campaign stop at the USC Aiken Convocation Center.

But Cruz will need much more help to win the nomination based on Sunday polling data. Opinion polls show that among South Carolinians, Cruz is 22 points behind front-runner Donald Trump.

In his first visit to Aiken since April, Cruz was joined by conservative television/radio personality Glenn Beck, who endorsed Cruz earlier this year and spoke about the senator's family values and constitutional knowledge before Cruz took the stage.

On constitutional rights, Cruz linked his stance to the passing of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who died this weekend at the age of 79. After speaking fondly of Scalia, Cruz said the late Justice's replacement should be a constitutionalist and a conservative—an identical sentiment he shared in Greenville at the GOP debate Saturday.

In June, the high court ruled to legalize gay marriage and to uphold subsidies under Obamacare. Both received a "may" vote from Scalia,



GOP presidential hopeful Texas Sen. Ted Cruz speaks to reporters before his rally at the USC Aiken Convocation Center in Aiken on Monday.

which has been supported by Cruz. "One more liberal justice, and our religious liberty will be stripped away," Cruz said.

His view on the issue received a standing ovation from those in attendance, including Angela Sinfelt who attended the event with her 7-month-old son, Gideon. En route to saying Cruz can count on her vote, Sinfelt said the senator's desire to defend the Constitution resonated with her.

"He talked about all of the things I'm concerned about and I'm



ONLINE
See more photos from this event online at aikenstandard.com

Please see **CRUZ**, Page 14A

Carson, Bush to headline forum

Trump, Rubio to hold rallies

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

Some details on who will attend today's "The Last Word in the South" presidential forum were still up in the air Monday evening after press time, but several GOP candidates and/or

those who endorsed them are expected to visit the area throughout the week.

Aiken GOP Chairman K.T. Ruthven said Monday that retired neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush are still the only two

Republican candidates expected to take the stage at the forum, but that other candidates will be represented by those who have endorsed them. Doors will open for "The Last Word in the South" at 5:30 p.m. at the USC Aiken Convocation Center, 375 Robert M. Bell Parkway.

To purchase tickets, visit bit.ly/1Pzcr0u. If the link malfunctions, visit eventbrite.com, type, "The Last Word in the South" in the search bar and click on the event.

The only tickets available are

Please see **FORUM**, Page 14A

Want to go?

WHAT: "Last Word in the South" GOP presidential forum

WHEN: 5:30 to 10 p.m. today

WHERE: USC Aiken Convocation Center

COST: \$750 for general admission, \$25 for premium floor seats, \$50 for VIP front floor seats, active military personnel and students get in free with ID

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit bit.ly/1Pzcr0u to purchase tickets



Bush



Bush



Trump



Rubio

WHAT: Donald Trump rally

WHEN: 2 p.m. today

WHERE: Riverview Park Activities Center, 100 Riverview Park Drive, North Augusta

COST: Free

WHAT: Marco Rubio town hall

WHEN: 1:45 p.m. Wednesday

WHERE: H. Odell Weeks Activities Center, 1700 Whiskey Road

COST: Free



The South Carolina Republican primary is Saturday. Pictured, from left, are Ohio Gov. John Kasich, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, businessman Donald Trump, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and retired neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson.

AREA DEATHS

Deacon Jesse Craig, Aiken
E.J. Lindsay, New Ellenton
Eloise J. Semko, Ohio
Kathy Turner Leach, Aiken
Ollie Williams Herron, Aiken
Vance Justice Sr., Gloverville
Willie Robinson, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Results in key cases could change

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Supreme Court abhors even numbers. But that's just what the court will have to deal with, perhaps for many months, after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Eight justices will decide what to do, creating the prospect of 4-4 ties.

Here are some questions and answers about the prospects of filling the vacancy left by the death of its

makes a nomination?

At Any nominee would first face the Senate Judiciary Committee, which would hold confirmation hearings and then vote on whether to send the selection to the full Senate. An Obama nominee would have a hard time even getting a favorable vote to get out of the committee, where Republicans



Scalia

candidate Ted Cruz of Texas, Jeff Sessions of Alabama, David Vitter of Louisiana and Mike Lee of Utah. The committee chairman, Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said within

COMING WEDNESDAY



First edition honors

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016

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New bills have little chance of passing

Legislation would raise minimum wage, repeal right to work law

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

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

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

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

Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, held a news conference on the bills last week after a House panel officially adjourned debate on both. A second hearing is not expected.



AT THE STATEHOUSE
Associated Press

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

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

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

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

"With my last check, I was only able to pay my light bill," Nelson said. "Trying to keep a roof over our heads is a constant stresser in my life."

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

See **BILLS**, page 4A

STOPPING BY



Heidi Cruz, right, wife of Republican presidential candidate and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, visits with students at Lander University on the campaign trail Monday in Greenwood.

Wife of GOP candidate Ted Cruz campaigns in Greenwood

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

In the lead up to the South Carolina Republican presidential primary Saturday and on the heels of an intense debate in Greenville this past weekend, GOP presidential hopeful

and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz's wife Heidi Cruz spoke with Lander University students and the Greenwood Republican Women on Monday.

Republican candidates and their families have hit the state after the close of the New Hampshire primaries last week to start

campaigning in anticipation of the first-in-the-South primaries start Saturday. The Democrats will vote Feb. 27.

Heidi Cruz spent about 45 minutes Monday morning meeting with college students and sharing her husband's campaign message, while also touching on

some personal notes about the man she met 16 years ago on George W. Bush's presidential campaign.

She then had lunch with the Greenwood Republican Women at Montague's Restaurant.

See **CRUZ**, page 4A

WARE SHOALS

Schools to get \$50K less than intended

By ARIEL GILREATH
agilreath@indexjournal.com

WARE SHOALS — Because of a change in weighted pupil units, Greenwood County School District 51 will receive about \$50,000 less than the district thought from state funds, Superintendent Fay Sprouse said at a board meeting Monday night.

The change in weighted pupil units has affected each of South Carolina's school districts, with the amount of funds received per unit being reduced from \$2,220 to \$2,172.

"I didn't budget based on what the state numbers were — I usually budget a little bit below, so our impact wasn't quite as much as it would have been," Sprouse said. "I use conservative estimates in budgeting."

Last week the Department of Education sent an email out to superintendents that said they would correlate the low ACT test scores for students in grades third through eighth with last year's PASS test scored to reduce the academic assistance funds being doled out to the lowest performing districts.

With this change, the Department of Education expects the actual weighted per pupil cost to be \$2,190.

Sprouse said before the email was sent out last week, the district was looking at a loss of about \$60,000 rather than \$50,000.

Abbeville County School District said last month it was expecting a loss of about \$293,000 because of the funding change.

In other business:

— Kathy Coleman, president of the South Carolina School Boards Association, presented the OSD

VITA offers tax help for qualifying tax payers

By MARY KATE MCGOWAN
mmcgowan@indexjournal.com

Greenwood and Abbeville Counties president and CEO, said the VITA



USC DEFEATS LADY VOLS ON THE ROAD

SPORTS, B1



ANOTHER LEAN YEAR LIKELY FOR BRAVES

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Tuesday, February 16, 2016



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TODAY **WED** **THU**

57°/35° 56°/30° 55°/31°

Complete forecast, B6

SPORTS

UNCG rallies past Wofford

UNC Greensboro overcame an eight-point halftime deficit to beat Wofford 65-61 on Monday night in Southern Conference basketball action in Greensboro, N.C. **B1**

UPSTATE



Carson visit

During a stop in Spartanburg Monday night, Dr. Ben Carson hoped to gain the support of some Upstate evangelical voters ahead of Saturday's Republican presidential primary. **C1**

Inman mayor to challenge Reese

Inman Mayor Cornelius Huff said Monday he will run as a Republican against Democratic state Sen. Glenn Reese for the S.C. Senate District 11 seat. **C1**

Longshot legislation

Proposals to raise the minimum wage in South Carolina and repeal an anti-union law have virtually no chance of passing in the Republican-dominated Legislature, but Democrats hope to spark a debate as the nation's attention turns to the first-in-the-South primary state. **C1**

NATION/WORLD

SCALIA SUCCESSOR

Obama faces political puzzle

By Kathleen Hennessey and Mark Sherman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For most presidents, choosing a Supreme Court nominee is a puzzle. For President Barack Obama, the chance to pick a successor to Justice Antonin Scalia is more like a Gordian Knot.

As the White House carries out a rare election-year search for a nominee, the president's lawyers and top advisers are sorting through a tangled web of political, legal and personal factors.

A smart pick and nomination strategy could determine whether Obama gets to reshape

the highest court for the next generation. The wrong pick could cede that opportunity to his successor.

Democrats view this as a moment decades in the making. Recent Republican presidents have gotten more chances to fill seats, tilting the court in to the right.

"The Supreme Court has not reflected where the American people have been on issues," said Gregory Craig, who served as White House counsel early in Obama's first term. "This is the first opportunity in many, many years to bring the court more in line with the American people."

SEE PUZZLE, A5



A group from "People for the American Way" gather with signs in front of the U.S. Supreme Court Monday in Washington as they call for Congress to give fair consideration to any nomination put forth by President Barack Obama to fill the seat of Antonin Scalia. CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAZARDOUS ROADS

Troopers respond to nearly 200 crashes because of icy conditions

Spartanburg County schools on normal schedule today

By Zach Fox
zach.fox@shj.com

S.C. Highway Patrol troopers responded to nearly 200 crashes due to icy conditions on Upstate roads Monday evening.

Numerous crashes were reported in Spartanburg, Greenville and Anderson counties Monday evening as ice began to form on wet roads. The winter weather threat caused the National Weather Service to extend a freezing rain advisory until midnight Tuesday.

Doug Outlaw, meteorologist at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, said conditions on area roads would worsen until about midnight Tuesday when a warm front pushed through the area.

"The cold air is holding on a bit longer than first expected.



Spartanburg Police officers block traffic after ice began accumulating on the bridge on Drayton Road on Monday evening. Icy conditions were reported across the Upstate, officials said, causing numerous accidents. TIM KIMZEY/TIM.KIMZEY@SHJ.COM

the Upstate should be above freezing by midnight. It's just a matter of how much freezing rain is going to occur before the temp rises above freezing."

The warmer temperatures

pushed in from the west.

Schools across Spartanburg County announced they would be on a normal schedule Tuesday due to the anticipated clearing.

"The ice is predicted to

don't think this will be an issue in the morning," said Doug Bryson, director of the Spartanburg County Office of Emergency Management, in a post on the agency's Facebook page on Monday night.

the Sumter ITEM

POLITICS

Republican campaign talk gets nastier

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

75 cents

A4



Capt. Robert Pitts makes a point at a panel discussion on the problem of racial segregation in Christian congregations Saturday at Jehovah's Missionary Baptist Church as the Rev. Angela Marshall looks on.

Panel says church racial divide rooted in culture

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

The Christian community, particularly in the South, has long been vexed by the problem of segregated congregations. A diverse group of ministers at a panel discussion at Je-

hovah Missionary Baptist Church on Saturday said finding a solution will have to include attracting more young people to a life of faith based on the Christian concept of unconditional love.

The Rev. Nathaniel Brock of Mulberry Baptist Church and the Rev.

Todd Solberg of Christ Community Church led the discussion, which was moderated by the Rev. Napoleon Bradford, education minister at Jehovah's Missionary.

Additional panelists were Capt.

SEE CHURCHES, PAGE A7

2nd-year SHS teacher wins free tuition for master's program



Adrian Wilkins reacts as South Carolina Teacher of the Year Suzanne Koty of Sumter High School surprises him Monday by telling him he will receive a Teaching It Forward scholarship for a tuition-free master's degree program. As the teacher of the year, Koty could select one teacher in the state for the scholarship, and she picked Wilkins.

Teacher of the Year awards 23-year-old with scholarship for degree program

BY KONSTANTIN VENEROWSKY
konstantin@theitem.com

Suzanne Koty, 2016 South Carolina Teacher of the Year, surprised Sumter High School teacher Adrian Wilkins on Monday with an opportunity to pursue a tuition-free master's degree.

Wilkins, 23, a second-year teacher, said he was honored to receive the scholarship. He teaches English III to

"It's definitely a surprise to say the least. Grad school has always been a major goal for me since I started teaching. In fact, I was just thinking about it this morning."

ADRIAN WILKINS

Winner of free tuition for master's degree program

11th-grade students at the school.

"I am speechless," Wilkins said. "It's definitely a surprise to say the least. Grad school has always been a major goal for me since I started teaching. In fact, I was just thinking about it

this morning."

University of Phoenix presents every state teacher of the year across the nation with a Teaching It Forward scholarship to award to a teacher of his or her choice in his or her state. These scholarships give the teach-

ers of the year the opportunity to "teach forward" their award by providing individuals from their communities with full-tuition scholarships toward a degree. The scholarship recipient can choose either the school's on-campus program or online program and select a major of his or her choice. Wilkins will be eligible to start working on his degree in August, Koty said.

"I selected Adrian Wilkins for the scholarship because he has shown remarkable growth in his first two years of teaching," Koty said. "He builds meaningful relationships with students, which is the foundation of good teaching."

Koty, who is also an English teacher at Sumter High School, said she wanted to help Wilkins continue to develop his practice of teaching so that he can have a lasting impact on today's youth.

"Adrian is a positive role model to his students," she said. "With there being a national shortage of African-American males in the classroom, this scholarship may be a catalyst to further his career in education."

Wilkins is a native of Moncks Corner and a graduate of Berkeley High School. He received a degree in English education from Francis

SEE TUITION, PAGE A7



AT THE GRAMMYS Kendrick Lamar shines, Adele's performance plagued by sound problems, **Page 2A**

Morning News

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2016

The Voice of the Pee Dee

**TODAY'S
WEATHER**

Occasional morning rain;
warmer day.
High 66 Low 38.
DETAILS 2A

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75 cents

Proposed legislation could affect workers

Bills would raise minimum wage and repeal right to work law

BY SEANNA ADCOX
The Associated Press

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

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

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

Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, held a news conference on the bills last week after a House panel officially adjourned debate on both. A second hearing is not expected.

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

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

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

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

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

GOP PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY CAMPAIGN TRAIL



Presidential candidate Marco Rubio talks to the press Monday before speaking at the FMU Performing Arts Center in Florence.

Rubio high on Gov. Haley, aims to prove his experience

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — At a presidential primary campaign rally in Florence, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, said South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley — widely considered a

MORE ONLINE

» See a photo gallery and a video at scnw.com.

rising star in the Republican Party — is more than qualified for a spot as his potential running mate. Rubio said he met

Haley as she was making her first bid for governor and he was making his first run at a U.S. senator's seat.

"We were both big underdogs, so I've always been a huge fan of her

See RUBIO, Page 3A

Cruz touts conservative values



Ted Cruz talks to a crowd during a political rally Monday at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology Center on the campus of Florence-Darlington Technical College.

Candidate highlights his record of defending religious freedom, upholding Constitution

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — At a campaign rally Monday evening in Florence, GOP presidential candidate and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz reinforced his record on defending religious freedom and upholding the Constitution in front of the nation's highest court.

Cruz said the next president should appoint a Supreme Court justice who will follow in the footsteps of the recently deceased Justice Antonin Scalia or current Justice Clarence Thomas.

"They have a proven record of years standing for the Constitution, standing for conservative principles," Cruz said. "If you live 50 years of your life and you've never written or said anything to prove you're conservative, you aren't."

He said Scalia's death has created a turning point for America that will be decided by the outcome of the 2016 presidential election.

"His vacancy underscores just how important this election is," Cruz said. "We have right now, unfortunately, an activist-out-of-control Supreme Court. As radical as this Supreme Court is, we are one justice away from a radical, left-wing court the likes of which this country has never seen."



ABOVE: Ted Cruz takes photos with fans after speaking Monday in Florence.



LOCAL

Trump, Rubio
come calling on
county's voters 3A



BUSINESS

Prices soaring on
our home, sweet
homes 9A



TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16 2016

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Rain showers
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RICHARD SHEDD AP

Author Pat Conroy says he has pancreatic cancer but promises he will fight the disease hard and finish a novel he owes his fans.

LOWCOUNTRY AUTHOR

Conroy fighting pancreatic cancer

Announced news on his Facebook page Monday

Will receive treatment at MD Anderson Cancer Center

Says he owes readers a novel, plans to deliver

BY STEPHEN FASTENAU
sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com

Beaufort author Pat Conroy, who brought the Lowcountry to life with the lyricism of his best-selling novels, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, he announced on his Facebook page Monday.

The 70-year-old writer will receive treatment at MD Anderson Cancer Center and plans to continue work on his next book.

"I intend to fight it hard," Conroy posted. "...I am grateful

to all my beloved readers, my friends and my family for their prayers. I owe you a novel and I intend to deliver it."

Attempts to reach Conroy were unsuccessful Monday. His personal executive assistant, Maggie Schein, declined comment.

"The Conroy family asks for privacy at this time as Pat fights this challenging illness with the same spirit of courage that has forged his writing career," Conroy's publisher, Doubleday, said in a statement. "Pat and his family are enormously grateful to all of his readers for their

prayers and good wishes."

Conroy's novels depict his adopted hometown and his troubled family life. Among his books that have been made into movies were "The Great Santini" and "The Prince of Tides."

Conroy had recently embraced a more healthy lifestyle after 40 years "becoming an expert on how to be unhealthy," he told The Beaufort Gazette and The Island Packet last year. He quit drinking, opened a fitness studio in Port Royal and adheres to a diet set by a nutritionist.

The changes followed warnings from Conroy's doctor when the writer, by his account, was near death three years ago.

"I'm doing it because there are four or five books I'd like to write before I meet with Jesus of Nazareth — as my mother promised me — on the day of my

untimely death, or reconcile myself to a long stretch of nothingness as my non-believing friends insist," Conroy wrote on his website last year.

At an event at USCB Center for the Arts last year on Mother's Day, Conroy told the audience that one of his earliest memories was watching from his high chair as his father, Donald, beat his mother, Peggy. It was his mother who later told Conroy she was raising him to be a southern writer.

"I worshiped my mom so much, so that's what I did," Conroy said.

Conroy celebrated his 70th birthday in October. The occasion was part of a weekend-long literary festival in Beaufort.

Among the presenters was Katherine Clark, who collaborated with Conroy on a forthcoming oral biography, and Catherine Seltzer, who wrote "Understanding Pat Conroy" and is working on a Conroy biography of her own.

Conroy is editor-at-large of Story River Books, a University of South Carolina Press imprint publishing southern fiction. Beaufort is central to Conroy's body of work, USC Press director Jonathan Haupt told The

SEE CONROY, 8A



LOCAL

OYSTER FACTORY REVAMP BEGINS

If you think you like the place now, just wait until the renovations are done. 3A



LOCAL

LOCAL DOGS STRUT STUFF

Our two area competitors, a greyhound and a Spanish water dog, win best of breed at Westminster. 3A



SPORTS

LOOKING AHEAD FOR PANTHERS

For Carolina to be successful in 2016, these 5 areas must be addressed. 1B

THE LINK

Connecting Chesterfield County, One Week At A Time

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Tuesday, February 16, 2016

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Homeowner holds burglar at gunpoint

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

A series of break-ins on Cedar Creek Road around the Chesterfield County line near Hartsville were wrapped up Jan. 20 with the arrest of 48-year-old Douglas Alex Jones Jr., who was recently released from prison after an eight-year stint for drug and burglary charges.

Deputy Grant Polson was dispatched to Cedar Creek Road around 9 p.m. Jan. 20

in reference to a break-in where Jones was being held at gunpoint by a homeowner.

According to a Chesterfield County Sheriff's Department incident report, the homeowners had been contacted by a friend who had seen Jones walking around their property. After receiving the call, the male homeowner reportedly exited his residence allegedly to find Jones walking down his driveway with a weed trimmer he had just stolen from

the homeowner's garage.

The homeowner confronted Jones about the theft while his wife called 911. Jones allegedly became confrontational, at which point the homeowner reportedly pointed a handgun in his direction, causing Jones to flee from the scene.

According to a separate CCSD incident report, as Polson was responding to the initial break-in at 3102 Cedar Creek Road, he was alerted of another possible

break-in about a quarter-mile away at 3465 Cedar Creek Road.

The report states Polson responded to 3465 Cedar Creek Road to find a burglar alarm had been activated, and lights were turned on in the house. The victims also noticed a dog belonging to Jones lingering near the rear of their home and said Jones had broken into their home in the past. According to both reports, Jones resides at a nearby residence, 3450 Cedar

Creek Road.

According to the second incident report, as Polson was on site at 3465 Cedar Creek Road, a friend of the homeowners went to Jones' residence at 3450 Cedar Creek Road and began beating on the door with a 12-gauge shotgun. Polson left 3465 Cedar Creek Road to instruct the friend to leave Jones' home. He also checked the home to ensure Jones was not present.

After leaving the home,

Polson was contacted by one of Jones' family members who informed the deputy of Jones' whereabouts. The family member also apologized to the victims.

Jones was reportedly arrested without incident and transported to the Chesterfield County Detention Center on charges of second-degree assault and battery, petit larceny and multiple charges of burglary/breaking and entering.

Reed sentenced to 20 years in death of friend during wreck

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

Fourth Circuit Solicitor Will Rogers announced defendant Adam Bradley Reed pleaded guilty last Tuesday to hit and run/leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death.

At General Sessions Court in Chesterfield, Judge Roger

Henderson sentenced Reed to 20 years for the July 2009 incident.

Reed's friend, Christopher Davis, was killed when the vehicle Reed was driving wrecked on County Line Road outside McBee in Chesterfield County. Alcohol was a factor in the wreck.

Although Reed admitted Davis was still alive after the accident, Reed fled the scene and did not seek treatment for Davis.

Before Reed was arrested, he attempted to get family

members to help him flee the state. After giving conflicting accounts, Reed ultimately confessed to his role in the death.

Reed faced a maximum sentence of 25 years. Solicitor Rogers said he hopes this will serve as a cautionary tale for those who drink and drive. The offense is violent, and Reed will not be eligible for parole.

Fourth Circuit Assistant Solicitor Adam Ford worked with Fourth Circuit Solicitor Will Rogers in the prosecution of this case.



Reed

High-speed chase ends in arrest

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

Four vehicles were damaged, including the 2015 Dodge Durango of Cheraw Police Chief Keith Thomas, as result of a high-speed chase last Tuesday that started behind KFC on Highway 9 in Cheraw and ended in a ditch on Cattle Ridge Road outside Cheraw town limits.

The chase was initiated around 2:15 p.m. after Officer Calvin Wyatt attempted to stop a 1981 Chevy Caprice reportedly outfitted with stolen tags.

The Caprice sped away from Wyatt after Wyatt attempted a routine traffic stop on a service road behind KFC in Cheraw, almost resulting in a collision on S.C. Highway 9. Other members of the Cheraw Police Department joined the pursuit as the Caprice led them



Leak

down Claremont Road onto W. Market Street Extension, weaving around traffic in the left and right lanes at speeds reaching 120 miles per hour. The Caprice then turned onto Cattle Ridge Road, traveling in the left lane until Thomas attempted to pass it on the right-hand side.

Thomas said he attempted to make the pass to warn oncoming traffic that could be endangered due to the Caprice's being in the left lane going into a blind curve on Cattle Ridge Road. The Caprice swerved at Thomas as he attempted to make the right-side pass, however, causing Thomas to pass the vehicle in the grass on the left-hand side of the road.

After Thomas was around the vehicle, the Caprice struck the Durango in the rear of the vehicle. It also made contact with a red Toyota pick-up truck traveling in the left lane as the truck ran off the road to avoid a head-on collision.

As the chase continued up Cattle Ridge Road, the Caprice attempted to pass Thomas as Thomas was try-

ing to force it to slow down. Contact was also made with a Lincoln trying to avoid being wrapped up in the chase.

As the Caprice rounded Thomas, Thomas used his vehicle to spin the Caprice, forcing it into a ditch. The driver of the Caprice and two passengers were then apprehended by authorities without further incident.

The driver of the Caprice was identified as 23-year-old James Leak of 103 Raley St. in Cheraw, who was found to have outstanding warrants for arrest. Following his apprehension around 10 minutes after the chase began, Leak was also charged with possession of stolen vehicle plates, driving with a suspended license and failure to stop for blue lights. One of Leak's relatives was also ticketed for allowing use of an uninsured vehicle.

The two passengers in the vehicle were briefly detained by police and then released into the custody of their parents with no charges made.



Paul Van Guilder presents a donation of \$10,000 to the Cheraw Booster Club and Athletic Department for its new weight room.

Cheraw High receives \$10,000 donation for weight room

JANE PIGG
Publisher of The Link

Cheraw High School's athletic program received a \$10,000 donation from Paul Van Guilder for its new weight room Feb. 11.

Van Guilder, who is originally from Fair Haven, Vt., retired to Cheraw in 2007. He and his late wife, Delores, worked as machinists at General Electric for 28 years, re-

turning to Vermont winters.

"My sister started looking for economical places to retire. I think she had a book. She found Cheraw. We came to visit, really liked the area, bought a house and stayed," said Van Guilder. "After I lost Delores to an aggressive cancer last October, I needed something to do. I never knew a thing about the program until I got introduced to them by Booster Club Treas-

urer Bob Harkness with them. I think everyone in the community should take a look at what's going on at Cheraw High School and how the Booster Club is helping the kids."

"On behalf of Cheraw High School, I'd like to thank Mr. Paul for his very generous donation for our weight room. I can't say how much we need that in progressing forward, not only for our football program, but for all of our ath-

Chesterfield Town Council approves water and sewer line insurance

REBECCA ROLLINS
Staff Reporter

Chesterfield Town Council voted unanimously to approve a contract with The National League of Cities Service Line Warranty Program to offer services to the residents of Chesterfield.

The National League of Cities Service Line Warranty Program is administered by Utility Service Partners Inc. and is an affordable home protection solution that allows residents to save thousands of dollars on the cost of repairing broken or leaking sewer and water

lines. For a low monthly fee, the service comes with no deductibles or service fees and is also no cost to the city to participate. The service offers a fully staffed hotline for residents at all times to file a claim. All work would

See Chesterfield, 3

School board fully engages budget prep

ROBERT MONNIE
Staff Reporter

Although the General Assembly is still in the early stages of its state budget planning for 2016-17, the Chesterfield County School Board is fully engaged in the preparation of next year's financial plan for the 16 schools and 7,400 students

three hours in a work session Jan. 25 to review pertinent information and the general fund budget of the past few years, in addition to early budget projections for 2016-17.

District Superintendent Dr. Harrison Goodwin also presented an update at this session concerning a \$3.5 million technology and

partially funded by a 3.5 mill increase passed 8-1 by the board last April and is expected to raise \$700,000.

The lion's share of the funding for the \$2.4 million two-year technology upgrade, \$1.67 million or 70 percent, is sourced from expected state revenues of \$720,000 and federal revenues of \$900,000. To make

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