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Foundation has large city footprint

USC arm owns big chunks of Columbia property

Sarah Ellis, Manny Correa,
Kyle Heck & Caitlyn McGuire
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Stop for a moment and look around Columbia. There's a good chance USC has its stamp on something nearby — even some properties you may not expect.

Some tennis courts on Blossom Street. An empty field near USC's baseball stadium. A portion of a downtown condominium project. A child development center. They're among the tens of millions of dollars in investments by the USC Development Foundation.

The foundation's job is to acquire and manage property for the university's benefit. It is among five foundations of the university such as: the Educational Foundation, Alumni Association, Business Partnership Foundation and the South Carolina Research Foundation.

"Our whole reason to be here is to support the university," said Russell Meekins, who took over as executive director of USC Foundations in January. He had been director of the educational foundation and chief financial officer of the foundations. "We're separate, so we aren't subject to some of the governmental regulations that the university has as a state agency."

Putting your eggs in the real estate basket

Real estate accounted for 41 percent, or more than \$30.6 million, of the development foundation's nearly \$67 million in assets at the end of June 2012, according to its most recent independent audit and IRS Form 990.

"It's all about not putting your eggs in one basket," and real estate helps lessen volatility while diversifying income, said William Jarvis, managing director of the Commonfund Institute, which studies and reports on investment behaviors.

But while property rents can provide constant cash flow, real estate often can't be bought or sold quickly, he said.

The foundation made almost \$3 million from all its investments in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, according to its tax form.

That income includes rent from properties like the more than six acres of high ground and 20 acres of flood plain at Blossom and Williams streets next to USC's baseball stadium. A foundation-controlled company, Williams At Blossom LLC, owns the land. USC paid the foundation more than \$86,000 in rent in fiscal year 2012 to use the land for baseball parking. But when Carolina Stadium is empty, so is the lot.

Real estate investments can also involve risks, like The Inn at USC. The foundation owns 80 percent of USC Hotel Associates LLC, which runs the Pendleton Street hotel. For its share, the foundation lost \$423,488 from the investment last year, according to its tax form.

In 2009, the foundation wrote off more than \$4.2 million it invested through another subsidiary in the Adesso condos on Main Street as sales slowed in the recession. The foundation owns 49 percent of the project, one of the first in the university's Innovista district.

Shaping the community's character
The foundation invested in Adesso in 2006 to control the quality and aesthetics of a prime property adjacent to campus, and the loss was just the result of bad timing, Meekins said.

"It was a bad investment," Meekins said. "Yes, we wanted to make money. We didn't want to lose money; let me put it that way. But our main goal was to control the property and get our money



Two world-class musicians will accompany the USC Symphony Orchestra Nov. 12.

MIX

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SPORTS

Men's soccer will take on Old Dominion in its final game of the regular season.

VIEWPOINTS

Editorial Board:
The Library is not the sole source of gang violence in Five Points.

5

WEATHER

Thursday



High 76°
Low 40°



High 64°
Low 37°

Lott points finger at Library



Andy Levine / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott called The Library in Five Points "a very dangerous place" that attracts gang members.

Owners refute accusations, say they're not harboring gangs

Sarah Ellis
SELLIS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott called for the closure of The Library bar in Five Points Monday after accusing the bar of harboring and catering to members of a particular gang.

The bar's owners refuted the notion that their business is dangerous and criticized law enforcement for knowing about gang activity and not taking enough efforts to remove it.

In a news conference Monday, Lott said the sheriff's department conducted overt and covert operations in Five Points last weekend surveying and targeting gang activity.

Lott said the sheriff's department has identified one particular gang that has claimed its territory in the Five Points area, with its "central location" at The Library. Members of the gang are "catered to" at the Harden Street bar, he said, where officers have identified individuals wearing their gang colors inside the club.

"They need to close," Lott said. "They are a sore spot in the Five Points area. I'm going to place a lot of blame on them for the gang members and violent criminals that we've got that are coming to the Five Points area for that

LIBRARY • 3



Photo illustration by Nick Nalbone / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Students share off-the-wall stories about missing school IDs

Natalie Pita
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

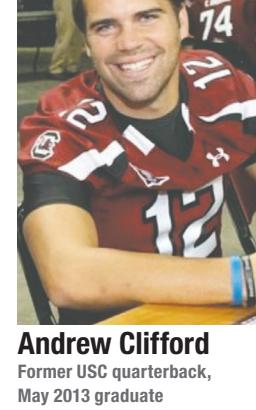
Although many of the students who go through the CarolinaCard Office to pay the \$35 replacement fee for a new card lose it in ordinary ways, the employees in the office have heard some crazy stories.

The most common time for students to lose their CarolinaCards is after a home football game, but many students also frequent the office after breaks. Employees say it's typical to see repeat offenders in the office.

Most of the time students do not know where they left their card, but many students have dropped their card down elevator shafts. The office has even had a Clemson student call to say they had found a CarolinaCard.

The CarolinaCard Office charges \$25 for damaged cards. The most common way for students to damage their cards is by chewing on it, employees said. Because of special technology in the card, the CarolinaCard usually does not work if a student has been chewing on it. Many students also come in with CarolinaCards that dogs have chewed holes in.

The CarolinaCard Office picks up any cards that the library, dining halls and similar areas have found and calls students who have lost their cards. Employees said they are also careful to look for students using a CarolinaCard that is not their own, an offense for which the bookstore has prosecuted individuals in the past.



Andrew Clifford
Former USC quarterback,
May 2013 graduate

"So I accidentally left my CarolinaCard at the Russell House upstairs at the register after buying Chick-fil-A. Turns out that the lady working the register held onto the card and used it every time she had friends go through the line and spent all of the money on the card within a couple of days."



Emma Thompson
Second-year theater student

"I decided to stay in with my best friend to watch Disney movies, only to both get food poisoning. I decided to go home to recover, only to discover my car was stolen. So when the cops showed up around 3 a.m., I'm sure they assumed the worst. ... (The cops) found my car a few hours later, trashed, wrecked and in a ditch. The missing contents: a stuffed animal, broken GPS and my CarolinaCard."

CARDS • 4



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IN BRIEF

Gang member arrested after yearlong effort

Columbia police arrested a gang member as part of a gang activity investigation, The State reported.

According to a press release, Marvin Nigel McCoy, 23, is out on a \$30,000 bond after being charged with armed robbery and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime. McCoy is currently under house arrest and is under a judge's order to wear a GPS monitoring device.

McCoy was arrested after an armed robbery investigation spanning a year and involving multiple police agencies, the release stated. McCoy is accused of being involved in an armed robbery last summer, at a bank on the 300 block of Bush River Road. McCoy has been accused, along with codefendants Shawn Bethea, 23, and Kerry Taylor, 19, of stealing several thousand dollars.

The release said McCoy and additional gang members including Bethea, Taylor and Jeffery Curry, 22, have been incriminated by the state grand jury. The cases are being prosecuted by the South Carolina Attorney General's Office.

— Emily Ready, Asst. Copy Desk Chief

Final 300 Blockbuster rental locations to close

According to The State, Dish Network Corp. is closing down the 300 remaining Blockbuster locations in the United States, three of which are located in the Midlands area. Blockbuster's DVD-by-mail service is also ceasing next month.

About 2,800 people who work in Blockbuster's stores and DVD distribution centers will lose their jobs.

Blockbuster closed thousands of stores but still ended up in bankruptcy court three years ago. Dish Network purchased Blockbuster to attempt to challenge Netflix and make a profit but failed.

The three Midlands Blockbuster stores are:

— 7249 St. Andrews Road in the Irmo area, closing Dec. 15.

— 2301 Augusta Road, West Columbia, closing Dec. 15.

— 4450 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, exact closing date not set, but it will close some time in the next two months.

— Emily Ready, Asst. Copy Desk Chief

4 teens accused of stealing pit bull puppies

Four teenagers have been accused of stealing seven pit bull puppies in Rock Hill on Monday, The State reported.

Two witnesses who live next door to the victim said several people were around the house while the victim's dogs were loose, according to a Rock Hill Police report. The victim, a 22-year-old man, said four men were at his house, one wearing camouflage pants, two others in dark clothing and the fourth pretending to speak with someone at the house, but no one was home.

According to the report, one of the suspects was found by police on Cedar Grove Lane, and two others were revealed to be students at Rock Hill High. Those students were not present at school Monday when the police went to find them.

Police have not located the stolen puppies, which according to the victim are worth about \$2,100. The suspects are described as teens, ranging from age 16 to 19. No charges have been filed.

— Emily Ready, Asst. Copy Desk Chief

Senate strips SG codes to 'bare bones'

Amendments must be passed by Nov. 20 to take effect for next cycle

Amanda Coyne

ACOYNE@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Student Government's election codes have been stripped to "bare bones" in their newly proposed form, Student Body Vice President Ryan Wilkerson said.

Amendments to the bill will revise the codes and will be proposed in the coming weeks. The new codes were introduced at Wednesday night's senate meeting.

Most amendments are expected to concern elections violations, elections fraud and apportionment, the process which determines how

many senators are chosen from each school.

All amendments will be accepted as "hostile," Bailey said, which means they will automatically go to a period of debate before senators vote by roll call whether or not to accept them.

"We can discuss it as a senate and vote as a senate to decide what goes in here," said Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Stuart Wilkerson, the bill's primary sponsor.

The codes should be passed by Nov. 20 in order to be put into effect for the coming election cycle, Wilkerson said.

Wilkerson also introduced a bill to amend the finance codes that passed unanimously last week. The amendments focus largely on the language in the codes, he said.

"They are sound in the intent, but the wording was not quite there," Wilkerson said.

Senate filling again

Sen. Dennzon Winley was sworn into student senate Wednesday night, filling an empty seat in the College of Education's delegation. Empty seats remain in the delegations from the Darla Moore School of Business, College of Engineering and Computing and the Arnold School of Public Health. All three seats are expected to be filled by next week.

Bailey and Senate Powers and Responsibilities Committee Chair Emmalee Smith are in the process of interviewing candidates for senate finance committee chair and business school senator, respectively, after the resignation of Sen. Ashley Farr,

a third-year finance student. There is a "huge backlog" of applications submitted by business school students, but interviews for the seat should conclude soon, Bailey said.

Improving homecoming

Student Body President Chase Mizzell asked senators to give feedback on USC's Homecoming, saying there was much room for growth.

Mizzell asked university leaders, including President Harris Pastides and Athletics Director Ray Tanner, to "watch Homecoming with a very observant and constructive eye" about a week before the annual festivities and look for potential improvements.

DD

FOUNDATION • Continued from 1

back. And we didn't get our money back."

The condos are now sold out, Meekins said, though many sold at sharply reduced prices, and he said the foundation is pleased with the property's character.

Adesso represents the foundation's goal to "responsibly develop" land surrounding the university in a diverse and urban environment, Meekins said.

That's why the foundation sits on properties like the former Gamecock women's tennis courts on Blossom Street, which the foundation acquired in a trade of properties with the university in 2008, as well as a number of undeveloped residential lots in the Wheeler Hill neighborhood the foundation began acquiring in the late 1960s, he said.

Wheeler Hill was once a lower-income African-American neighborhood. The area has now been largely gentrified. The foundation bought many of the properties as part of the city's urban renewal movement.

The foundation is waiting for the right development opportunity for those properties to best serve the

university's needs, Meekins said.

"We're not your typical developers where we're going to sell our souls for every penny we can possibly squeeze out of a plan," he said. "We want to be good neighbors. We want to do what's right for the university and for the neighborhood, too."

But the foundation's holdings do take some properties off the city's tax rolls. The foundation pays taxes on about two-thirds of its properties with a bill totaling about \$300,000 a year, Meekins said. The other third of its holdings — like a soccer field next to Thirsty Fellow in the Vista, some parking lots and some buildings used for research — are tax exempt, he said.

Meekins' goal for the foundation is transparency.

"We don't want people to think we are a slush fund," he said. "That's what people automatically think, that we are here to overrun rules and regulations, and we're not. We're a charity designed to help the university as much as we can."

Editor's note: This story originally appeared on datelinecarolina.org.

DD

Practice SAFE SEX

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The Daily Gamecock on



LIBRARY • Cont. from 1

one location."

The Library has been targeted as the source of a number of violent crimes in the Five Points area, including an incident in February when police say several men ran out of the bar before one of them fired several bullets toward the intersection of Greene and Harden streets.

But violence that happens on the streets outside the bar is not The Library's responsibility, said Anne Kershner, one of the bar's owners.

"We're not law enforcement. It's not our job to know gang signs," she said. "Nothing has happened in our building. That's what's most important ... There's no shootings and stabbings and gang crap in our building."

Kershner, who owns the bar with her husband, Justin, said she and her husband "know nothing about gangs and certainly aren't harboring gang activity." But hearing Lott say that "he knows gang people have been in our bar" and has done nothing to remove them sickens and frightens her, she said.

"You are putting my husband's life at risk. You just said you know they're here. Oh my God, come get them," Kershner said. "They aren't coming and getting them out and putting them in jail. How dare you expose my family to that danger? That makes me sick to

my stomach."

The Kershners, who are white, said their bar has been unfairly targeted as a gang hot spot simply because its patrons are predominantly black and because security personnel do not racially discriminate at the door.

Anne Kershner called The Library's situation "an unfair racist battle."

"Do we shut down? Do we turn black people away when they walk up to the door?" she said. "Do we say, 'I can't let you in. You're black. If you have a problem with it, call the city'?"

Security at The Library is strict, the Kershners said, and all patrons are carded and patted down for weapons and must adhere to a dress code.

Lott described the bar as "a very dangerous place" and warned Five Points goers to "be careful."

The Kershners, though, said there is nothing to be afraid of at their bar and people should not be intimidated to walk by their door.

"We're a dance club, and if you want to come dance, come on," Justin Kershner said.

Lott has not been in contact with The Library's owners, and the Kershners said the Columbia Police Department has been unresponsive to recent questions about how they could make their bar any safer than it is.

DG



@thegamecock

CJC redesigns Carolinian Creed



Kamila Melko / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Carolinian Creed and Diversity Day was celebrated Wednesday with Greene Street giveaways and Carolina Judicial Council's announcement of an updated design for the Creed.

Adopted in 1989, the Creed is a five-pronged proclamation of personal standards to be upheld by the USC community.

"It's a set of community values that we all want to live by," said Sam Tang, a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Conduct and adviser to CJC's Creed committee. "The only reason it's become such a big part of the university's life is it's something we can all do every day."

— Compiled by Sarah Ellis,
Assistant News Editor

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CARDS • Continued from 1

"I've lost my Carolina Card twice, both times having it confiscated and immediately replaced by the employees at the Carolina Card Office. Once I had gone to the office because my bar code wasn't scanning, and another time to discuss meal plan. The first-time person mentioned that since my hair and beard had grown out, I didn't look like the picture on my card, so she retook my picture and gave me a new card. A few months later, I had cut off 8 inches of my hair and shaved my beard, when I strolled into the office to change my meal plan. At that time, a different woman noticed that my picture was drastically different from my current appearance, and I told her what happened last time I was in the CCO. So, she thought it would be a good idea for me to get yet another CarolinaCard with a new picture."

— James Armstrong, fourth-year political science student

"I ended up losing my CarolinaCard right as I was going into Williams-Brice. After going through the entire security line, it was only minutes from kickoff and I didn't have time to look for it. So I did the first thing I could think of — I started crying hysterically. The security officer must've felt bad for me, because he finally just let me in saying I could figure it out on Monday. My CarolinaCard was in my apartment the whole time."

— Jessica Debiase, fourth-year nursing student

"I was coming back from a vacation with my friends and I was really tired, and I left my wallet and CarolinaCard in a sketchy gas station in Georgia. I never got my wallet or CarolinaCard back."

— Lizzie Utset, first-year international studies student

GET caught reading

The Daily Gamecock



Each day, @TDGDeals will tweet photos of 2 Daily Gamecock readers caught in the act. The photo with the most retweets each Friday at 3:00 will win a \$25 gift certificate to Yoghut!

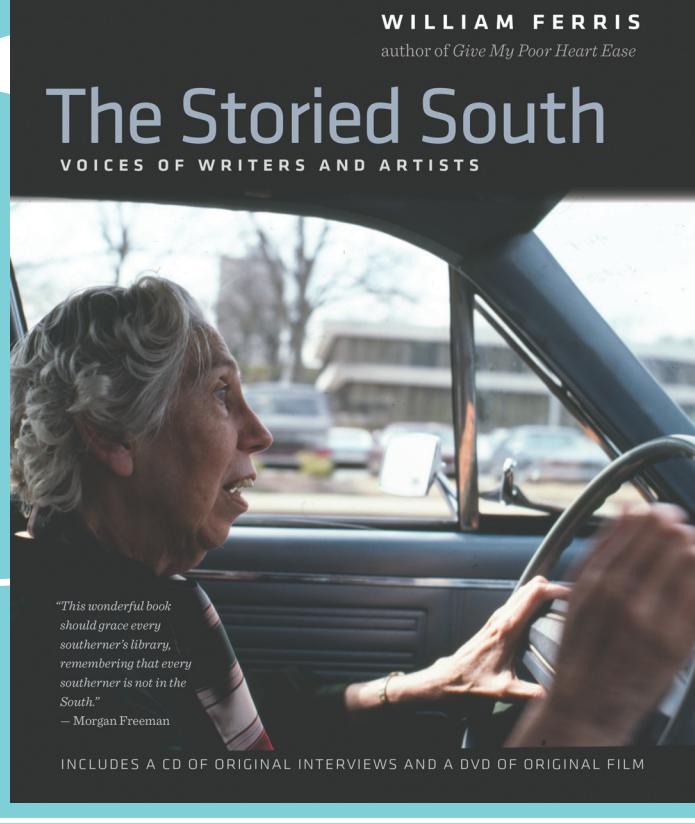
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ISSUE

Sheriff Lott accused The Library of harboring gangs.

OUR STANCE

One club isn't the reason for all of Five Points' troubles.

In a rather bizarre news conference held yesterday, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott accused one particular club — The Library — of being the epicenter of Five Points' gang problems.

Suggesting that a single establishment propagates the entirety of Five Points' gang activity seems outlandish to us.

For starters, The Library is owned by a family more ordinary than you might expect. Of course, there may be something Sheriff Lott and his team knows that we don't, perhaps a gang connection in the management below the owners, but even that seems like a stretch. The Library, like most every other bar, enforces a dress code — a practice suggested by shooting victim Martha Childress' family themselves. One can assume that the dress code weeds out gang members, but what do gang members even look like anyway? The Library's management doesn't seem to know either, despite inquiring with the police multiple times for

help in suppressing any suspicious activity. By the sounds of that, we want more transparency regarding Lott's information before a family's livelihood is compromised by an erroneous witch-hunt ignited by Lott's response when asked what needs to be done about the situation: that The Library needs to close.

Pathos aside, how do we know Sheriff Lott and his team aren't mixing up correlation and causation, a mistake that can be all too easy to make when dissecting the Five Points nightlife. Sure, The Library may let in people of suspicious character, but what bar doesn't? It's no secret that Five Points is surrounded by

"How do we know Sheriff Lott and his team aren't mixing up correlation and causation, a mistake that can be all too easy to make when dissecting the Five Points nightlife. Sure, The Library may let in suspicious people, but what bar doesn't?"

some dangerous neighborhoods, so traffic from them is practically inevitable, at least for now. Furthermore, since The Library is located in the middle of Five Points, the bar may just be a victim of poor circumstances.

It's also worth pondering whether The Library's closure would ultimately hinder gang activity much. Who is to say the gangs won't find another establishment to frequent? To reiterate, the extremity of Lott's words suggest that there may be a link we're unaware of, but until then, we don't want the Five Points community damaged even more, especially by the police of all people. We aren't the professional crime fighters here, and we know that. Five Points has presented a Gordian knot that will take time to resolve, that much is clear, but we can't let the police's handling of the conflict create more victims than there already are. While there may be more layers to this recent revelation than meet the eye, until the police level with us regarding their knowledge, we're not sure we can take their findings in good faith when a family's livelihood is at stake.

thinks it's a good use of our tax dollars to hunt down people critical of his practices.

Monday's Crime Blotter in this paper included what I must assume is the first ever nonviolent assault, since Columbia PD has "arrested all of the violent offenders in Five Points." There were also 5 larcenies, 2 vandalism/destructions of property, an indecent exposure, and an ATM fraud. All of those are crimes with victims — victims whose lives have been impacted by crime. Ideally, Columbia police would be proactive and try to stop these crimes from happening in the first place. Now that it's too late for that, I'd at least hope that they would invest their capital into apprehending those responsible so that the victims can move on with their lives.

Apparently advocating on Facebook that Columbia police protect and serve innocent people rather than harass and threaten stoners is enough for them to try and hunt you down. I wonder what doing the same in a newspaper with thousands of readers will get them to do?



Conductor Dai Zhonghui, Cellist Jiapeng Nie to play Nov. 12

Belvin Olasov

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As guest conductor Dai Zhonghui discussed musical arrangements for his upcoming concert, he spoke in melodies, sounding out in song how he wants the various arrangements to work out. It's just one of many ways that the conductor demonstrates his mastery of the music.

Dai Zhonghui is the guest conductor for the upcoming University of South Carolina Symphony concert, debuting Nov. 12 at the Koger Center. He joined the faculty of the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing in 2002 and has conducted and given classes all over the world, and this concert marks his first collaboration with the USC Symphony Orchestra.

"In the beginning I was thinking over all of Tchaikovsky's music, but finally I changed the idea into one of Brahms' overture. I like that piece," Dai said.

The concert highlights the work of Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, including Variations on a Rococo Theme, op. 33 and Symphony No. 4, op. 36 in F minor.

"My first choice always is Tchaikovsky, because he wrote beautiful melodies, and I think the pieces you hear are always very touching, very passionate," Dai said.

Tchaikovsky was one of the very first professional Russian composers, and his compositions were regarded as bold and revolutionary in his time.

"The Tchaikovsky music always gives people more energy. I think people will love to hear more Tchaikovsky, especially the cello concerto," he said, grinning. "Oh, that's one of the best!"

Variations on a Rococo Theme, op. 33 is an unusually cello-centric piece for Tchaikovsky, and the USC Symphony is bringing in another guest, cellist Jiapeng Nie, to help perform it.

Nie, who studied in his native China, currently performs in Germany but is a special guest for the upcoming concert.

"It's my favorite cello work," Nie said



Photos courtesy of Jeffrey Day

Cellist Jiapeng Nie of China will help play a cello concerto by Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

of Variations on a Rococo Theme. "I've played it so many times together with different orchestras."

"He came from a musical family," Dai said of Nie. "His father and mother were my schoolmates. We've known each other for a long time, but this is [our] first time playing music together."

"I am really looking forward to the concert," Dai said, enthusiastically. "This is the first time I am working with (the) USC Symphony. I like the students; I like all the players. I think the concert is going to be good."

DG



Courtesy of Whiskey Diablo

Left to right: bassist Jonathan Grey, drummer Brian Widlowski, vocalist and guitarist Patrick Blake and pianist Whitt Algar make up Whiskey Diablo, a part-country, part-rock 'n' roll band from Charleston, which will play Tin Roof Nov. 9.

Whiskey Diablo to play Tin Roof

Charleston-based band to perform Nov. 9

Caitlyn McGuire

MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Charleston band Whiskey Diablo is a whole lot more than just a little bit of country and a little bit of rock 'n' roll. They're a little bit of jazz, punk and blues, too.

"We didn't set out to be any one genre," singer and guitarist Patrick Blake said.

The mixed-genre band, which will be playing at the Tin Roof Nov. 9, formed in 2011 after Blake's original band faded. Drummer Brian Widlowski, bassist Jonathan Grey and pianist and organist Whitt Algar joined the raspy-voiced frontman in Charleston to create the band, which has toured much of the Southeast.

Whiskey Diablo has already formed a strong following in South Carolina and Blake said

their biggest accomplishment is just getting the band off the ground.

"It's nice to make it work and do this full time," Blake said. The singer has previously done everything from truck driving to working in a law office to selling tea and coffee.

Blake has now replaced an array of odd jobs with performing constantly and writing music to perfect their unique sound.

"In the past I've primarily written, but recently we've all contributed," he said. "It's more fun that way, with more people, and it gives us room to expand."

The band's audiences range from 20-year-old rockers to middle-aged country fans and include everyone in between.

"We're playing a 65-year-old's birthday soon," Blake said. "I guess you're never too old to rock."

As a band who likes to keep it interesting and its performances fresh, they listen to a wide array

of music for inspiration. Blake and the band currently have been listening to the contrasting artists Wayne Hancock, Motorhead and most surprisingly, Yo-Yo Ma.

"Listening to the same music all the time is kind of like eating the same kind of cereal every day," Blake said. "It gets stale."

After their performances this weekend in Charlotte, Columbia and Charleston, Whiskey Diablo will continue to plan its upcoming tour, which will be in areas like Florida, Georgia and Alabama. The tour will lead up to their next album, which will include only a handful of songs from the nearly 40 they will have written.

Until then, audiences can enjoy the music from their debut album, "Wail and Serenade," as well as attend their numerous shows.

"Everyone should bring their dancing shoes, drink up and have fun," Blake said about Saturday's Columbia performance.

African Children's Choir to visit Cola

Charity group raises money for African education

Madeline Wrenn

MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

As a college student, it's really easy to get caught up in the overwhelming amount of responsibility that comes with living away from home. It's easy to take for granted the opportunities that college students have, especially when things get stressful. For many in the world, the opportunity to receive any type of education is far out of reach and they will never get the opportunity to learn material that USC students do.

Fortunately, there are programs and people that dedicate their lives to providing those opportunities for children that would otherwise never have them.

The African Children's Choir is one of these organizations. The choir takes the talents of young children from different parts of Africa and uses it to raise money for providing new educational opportunities for them, as well as other children and families in Africa.

The choir is coming to both Irmo and Columbia in November. The choir performed for Queen Elizabeth II, the Pentagon and the United Nations.

When the choir began in 1984, there were no other choirs like it, and it set the trend for future children's

choirs. Three African Children's Choirs are currently on tour; one in the United Kingdom and two touring the American Southeast, but all offer the same benefits for the children. Sarah Lidstone, North American choir operations manager, said the best thing about the choir is the impact it has on the children.

"We go into a situation where children don't have many opportunities, and we change their life," Lidstone said.

Having helped over 100,000 children through relief and education programs, the African Children's Choir's impact is apparent. It doesn't just affect the children in the choir either. Lidstone said that one thing she would want the public to know for sure about the choir is that it helps more than just the children you see at the concerts, but also the children's families back in Africa as well as other children that need the same help.

It's easy to get involved with the African Children's Choir, and with the choir coming to Columbia on Nov. 10, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.

"The choir is always accepting creative ways to offer donations. Whatever people can do, we would accept," Lidstone said.

Things like bake sales and giving the proceeds to

Saudi family film stunning, powerful



Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

A young Saudi girl yearns for a bicycle in this uplifting film set in a repressive country.

Al-Mansour first Saudi female to direct feature-length work

Jonathan Winchell
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

"Wadjda" NOW IN THEATERS

★★★★★

Director: Haifaa Al-Mansour

Starring: Waad Mohammed, Reem Abdullah, Ahd, Abdullrahman Al Gohani

Rating: PG for thematic elements, brief mild language and smoking

"Wadjda" is the first feature film shot entirely in Saudi Arabia and is the first feature-length film made by a female Saudi director. Haifaa Al-Mansour wrote and directed her narrative film debut with beautiful simplicity and realism.

Wadjda (Waad Mohammed) is an 10-year old Saudi girl who lives with her

mother (Reem Abdullah). Her father is loving but rarely comes home because he is considering taking a second wife. Wadjda has a habit of getting in trouble at school and breaking rules. She frequently finds herself in the office of the headmistresses, Ms. Hussa (Ahd), who is strict but realistic. She is teaching the young females about what is expected of them in the deeply repressive society. All the women must cover their head when they are out in public, and they cannot drive.

One day Wadjda sees a bicycle which seems to be floating in the air (it is tied atop a van), and she instantly wants to buy it. She makes money at school by selling bracelets and cassette mixtapes, but she has to raise more money in order to buy the bicycle of her dreams. When her school offers a Koran-reciting contest with a cash prize, she becomes determined to win the competition even though she has never been very successful at recitation.

Although the country in which the film is set treats women horribly, the film is uplifting and life-affirming. The women are not equal, but they are portrayed as strong-willed and independent when men are not around. Wadjda is a cunning young girl

WADJDA • 8

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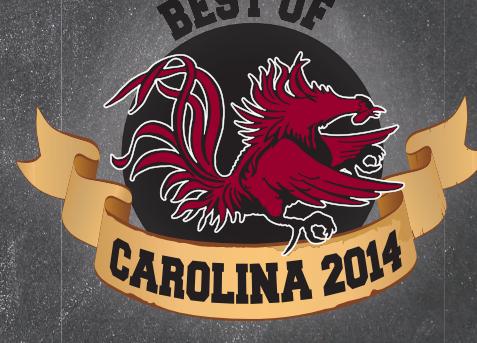


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COLLEGE HUMOR LIVE

WADJDA • Cont. from 7

who quietly rebels against her surroundings. She does not even seem to grasp why she is doing anything wrong. Her mother tells her that women are not supposed to ride bicycles, but she wants one because her male friend Abdullah (Abdullah Al Gohani) does. The treatment of women in the country is decidedly different from the United States, but life is similar in many ways. The father plays video games on a widescreen television, one male character had braces, and there is a sleek, modern shopping mall that Wadjda and her mother visit. The country's sexist politics might be stuck in the Middle Ages, but the people's lifestyles are surprisingly current.

Waad Mohammed gives such an assured performance that it does not seem like she is acting. She is charming, funny and adorable but not in the cloying way that bad child actors often

are.

Al-Mansour writes and directs each scene with an intimacy and emotion that makes the audience completely invested in the story and the characters. Seeing the world through Wadjda's eyes shows a perspective of clarity and innocence. The struggles and inequality of the adult female characters are shown and their relationship with Wadjda is a key part of the story, but focusing the film on a young female shines a bright light on a culture that is stuck in the dark past.

"Wadjda" is a small miracle of a film with enormous power. Al-Mansour had to secretly film some of the scenes from a van in order not to be caught. Her determination for five years to make this film is commendable if not heroic. This film, one of the year's very best, should be seen by everyone who is old enough to read subtitles.

DG



Photo courtesy of The African Children's Choir

The African Children's Choir has performed for Queen Elizabeth II and the United Nations.

CHOIR • Continued from 6

the choir, hosting the choir for a concert or even sponsoring a child are all ways to help the organization. For more information on the choirs, visit africanchildrenschoir.com to see how you can help, the choir's tour dates

and success stories. The choir will be in the area Nov. 10 at the Union United Methodist Church at 10:30 a.m. and at Christian Life Assembly at 6:30 p.m. Admittance is free, but donations are accepted.

DG

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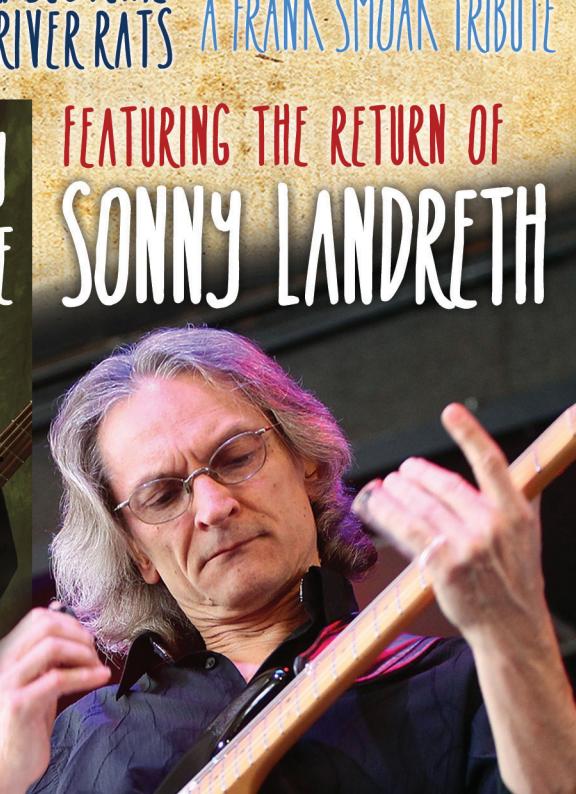
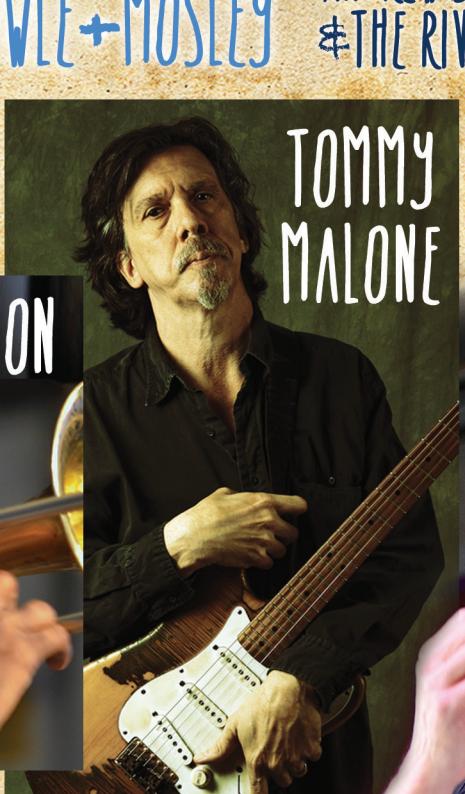
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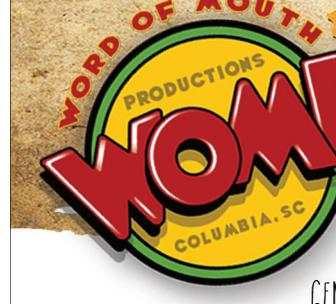


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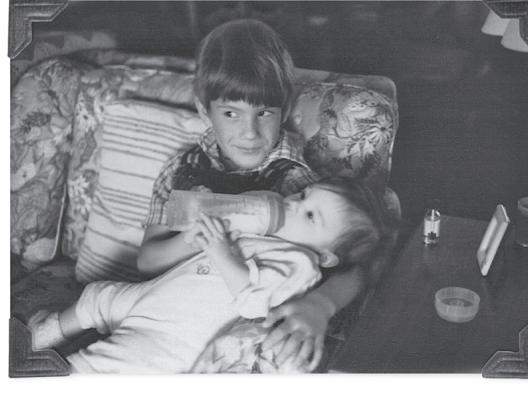
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HOROSCOPES**Aries**

Gather up as much as you can and share. As you look for the next opportunity, listen to your subconscious desires and make a significant move. Don't waste a cent. Answers come now.

Taurus

Review the long range view and adjust as needed. Don't spend all your loot on your friends. No need for loud voices. Get lost in a good story. Test your theory and learn something useful. All's well that ends well.

Gemini

Activities at home demand review. Don't brag, or you'll stir up discontent. Make travel plans. Passion drives your argument. The deadline is fast approaching. For about four months with Jupiter retrograde, study the competition.

Cancer

Your team is hot. Reinvent your partnership by aligning on a renewed mission. Harvest the energy for long-term results. A big change in your workplace is underway. Take advantage of conditions.

Leo

Solicit ideas from imaginative experts, keep your objective in mind and gain respect. Listen to your conscience, and consider all the consequences. You may be tempted to raid your piggy bank. Thrifty buying works now.

Virgo

For next few months, practice, practice, practice. And don't give up, even when emotions are in turmoil. Get rid of excess baggage and take action. You're an inspiration to others. Establish the rules.

Libra

Startling revelations occur about now. You want to jump for joy. And you're exceptionally attractive now. Your characters come alive imaginatively. Talk about the future. Blessings on your home. Not a good time to go out.

Scorpio

It could get messy. Embrace the dirt and gain power to do something about it. Don't be afraid to revive old topics of discussion. At the end, compromise is achieved. Develop physical and psychological strength.

Sagittarius

Your willingness to see things differently opens up new income opportunities. Re-evaluate valuables. And save more than you spend, with only a little effort on your part. Impress others with your good habits.

Capricorn

You're on top of your game. However, it's a good idea to get advice from another professional to figure out a difficult problem. Phone call provides insight. Persuade with words and actions. Have a backup plan.

Aquarius

You're looking very good, even if you don't quite see it. Believe you can succeed. Work from behind the scenes suits you well now. Inexpensive entertainment is best. Think over any new investment. Do the math.

Pisces

Keep digging and find a valuable clue. Dress up. Aim high. Push. Invest in your equipment, but leave your savings alone. Explain again, patiently.

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Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

11/07/13

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6 Like some angry email, wisely

7 Honey beverages

8 Shut out

9 Spice aftershave

10 Yucatán resort

11 Sharp as a tack

12 Most abject

15 It's verboten

17 Mates for bucks

18 Didn't exactly

answer, as a question

21 Advertisement

22 Hawaii's Bay

23 Birthstone after sapphire

24 Pond plant

25 It may be proper

31 Org. for Bucs and Jags

32 Biblical mount

33 Biol., e.g.

35 False start?

36 Wheelchair access

37 Bluesman Redding

38 "Man, that hurts!"

39 Asian bread

40 Old red states?: Abbr.

43 Something to step on while driving

44 "Bye"

45 "Little Women" author

47 Leader's exhortation

48 Danish seaport

49 Had too much, briefly

52 Gogo's pal, in "Waiting for Godot"

53 Sailing, say

54 "Awake and Sing!" playwright

58 Souse's syndrome

59 Party bowful

60 "All the news that's fit to print" initials

61 Prohibitionist

62 Jazz combo horn

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Sudoku

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Olivia Barthel / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Jeffrey Torda said his two goals came from his teammates creating chances.

SOCER • Continued from 12

one of those top-two teams when they upset New Mexico in an overtime thriller last month.

As South Carolina prepares for its shot at the Monarchs, coach Mark Berson is highly optimistic about his team's chances because of its recent run of success.

"All year, this team has battled and fought," Berson said, "We've got some big wins over some top teams in the conference and that's helped us a lot. The guys are playing very, very well so we'll head into this game and the rest of the season and see what we can make of it."

In South Carolina's last time out, an impressive individual performance from sophomore Jeffrey Torda boosted the Gamecocks to the 4-3 win. The midfielder scored South Carolina's first goal of the match, then buried the equalizer in the 85th minute with the Gamecocks down 2-3. Torda's outing Sunday earned him

the honor of AgSouth Player of the Week.

"I just go out there and help the team wherever I can," Torda said, "We did a good job of creating opportunities and executing on those chances. I was just fortunate enough to find the net when I did."

According to Berson, the Gamecocks will need to continue its hot streak on Saturday against the Monarchs, who only have two conference losses on the season.

"Old Dominion is a team that is very well balanced," Berson said, "From top to bottom they really don't have too many weaknesses, which is why they're one of the top teams in the league with us. It's going to be a challenge for us, a big game for sure. But like I said our team has played extremely well especially in big games, so we'll line up against them on Saturday and see what happens."

DG

Quarles to leave for NFL

Junior leads Gamecocks in sacks, tackles-for-loss

Danny Garrison

DGARRISON@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Junior defensive tackle Kelcy Quarles had decided to forgo his senior season at South Carolina, and will enter the NFL Draft after this season, The State reported Wednesday.

Quarles' father Buddy announced that his son made the decision after speaking with his coaches and agreeing that entering the draft was in the defensive tackle's best interest.

Quarles has had a breakout year in his junior season, leading the Gamecocks in both sacks (seven) and tackles-for-loss (eleven), and he has the fourth-best sack total in the SEC.

The Hodges, S.C., native has

benefited from the extra attention defensive line teammate Jadeveon Clowney has received this season, allowing Quarles to take on less blockers, but Buddy hopes his son will be selected somewhere in the first three rounds of the draft.

Quarles has been told by coach Steve Spurrier that he will be honored alongside the team's seniors before Nov. 30's clash with Clemson at Williams-Brice Stadium.

While the announcement was made Wednesday, Quarles discussed a possible foray into the NFL after practice earlier in the week.

"You hear stuff about that and you just have to stay humble," Quarles said. "Stay grounded and stay rooted in what you are doing and just keep playing football."

DG

Women's soccer advances to semifinals

Third-seeded South Carolina earned a measure of revenge yesterday by blowing out sixth-seeded Georgia 4-0 to advance to the semifinals of the SEC tournament.

The Bulldogs served the Gamecocks its first loss of the season back in September, breaking a 7-0-1 start to the season.

Seniors Danielle Au and Gabrielle Gilbert both scored in the first half of Wednesday's quarterfinal matchup, and two underclassmen followed suit as sophomore Coryn Bajema and freshman Daija Griffin both found the net in the second

period. Bajema's 67th-minute score was her first of the season.

The Gamecocks will take on second-seeded Texas A&M in the tournament semifinals Friday after the Aggies jumped 10th-seeded Auburn 1-0 Wednesday.

Friday's game will be available for a national audience on ESPN3.

— Compiled by Danny Garrison, Assistant Sports Editor

VOLLEYBALL • Continued from 12

According to Swanson, the Gamecocks' mentality will dictate how well they perform against the next two opponents. Swanson said that if South Carolina plays at a high level and challenges its opponent, it will be able to compete.

"If we don't play with consistency

and we walk into their gym and we give them the feeling that we're just a wounded animal in there and they're going to be able to have their way with us, then they will," Swanson said.

DG

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Men's soccer looks to finish strong



Olivia Barthel / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Sophomore midfielder Jeffrey Torda was named AgSouth player of the week for his two-goal performance in Sunday's upset victory over then 10th-ranked UAB.

South Carolina takes on Old Dominion in regular season finale

Patrick Ingraham
SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Hoping to finish the season out strong, the South Carolina men's soccer team will face Old

Dominion Saturday in its regular season finale.

After an up-and-down start to the season, the Gamecocks have put themselves in a position to be one of the top teams in C-USA heading into the conference tournament.

South Carolina is fresh off a 4-3 upset of No. 10 UAB and the team has only lost once in its last 11 matches.

Currently standing at 4-1-3 in the conference, the Gamecocks are only behind New Mexico and Old Dominion in the standings.

Saturday will serve as a chance for South Carolina to cement its place in the top tier of C-USA, as the Gamecocks have already beaten

SOCER • 11

Gamecocks travel to challenge Kentucky, Georgia

Swanson: Players well rested after five-day break

David Roberts
SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

After a win over Coastal Carolina and five days of rest, the South Carolina volleyball team is fresh and ready for arguably the toughest stretch of games on its schedule.

The Gamecocks (12-11, 3-7 SEC) will travel to Lexington, Ky., Friday where they will look to avenge their October loss to No. 20 Kentucky (16-6, 8-3 SEC). South Carolina will then travel to Georgia to take on the Bulldogs (17-7, 7-5 SEC).

Coming off a five-game thriller at home against Coastal Carolina, coach Scott Swanson decided to give his team the weekend off in order to ensure his squad would be healthy enough to challenge Kentucky and Georgia.

"We felt that giving them time off was more valuable than showing them the same video over again," Swanson said. "We got a much-needed break in the last five days, which I think is bound to help us. You know, our knees are going to feel a little bit better. We're probably more mentally rested."

South Carolina's five days to recover mentally and physically came after a brutal conference schedule that seemingly got the best of the team. The losses to Mississippi State and Tennessee left the youthful Gamecocks scratching their heads. After seeing his squad come within mere points of dropping a home match to the Chanticleers, Swanson made the call to rest his players.

"I think it's very good because a lot of us have been playing tired, sick and sore," freshman outside hitter KoKo Atoa-Williams said. "So, it's a good resting period. Five days was just the right amount. This week is

definitely going to be a good week for us. Now that we're all ready and physically there, we can just work on our mental game."

The Gamecocks faced Kentucky earlier this season when the then-15th-ranked Wildcats visited Columbia, sweeping South Carolina 3-0. Losses to Georgia and Missouri have relegated Kentucky to the third spot in the SEC standings, behind Missouri and Florida. The Gamecocks currently sit behind LSU at No. 9.

Although Kentucky has established its place among the elites of the SEC, South Carolina found some success against the Wildcats in the matchup earlier this season. Despite being swept 3-0, the Gamecocks held leads late in the second and third sets, but allowed them to slip away in the waning minutes.

Swanson acknowledged that his team was competitive at times against Kentucky, but did not play well overall. The coach noted that they will try different approaches in an effort to throw off Kentucky.

"We're going to have to take more risks with our serve and hit the balls off their hands instead of driving the ball into the court," Swanson said. "We have to do some different, special things to beat these teams."

Georgia presents a new challenge for the Gamecocks, as the Bulldogs own a 10-1 mark at home this season. Georgia has rebounded from a three-game losing streak by winning three out of its last four, including an impressive 3-2 victory over Kentucky.

Similar to the Wildcats, Georgia beat South Carolina handily in three sets. South Carolina was able to force the third set past the 25th point, but after seeing a 25-25 tie, the Bulldogs took the next two points as well as the match.



Jeffrey Davis / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Freshman outside hitter KoKo Atoa-Williams said that the five days off the team was given by coach Scott Swanson was just the right amount of time to recuperate.

VOLLEYBALL • 11