Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin highlighted development in his 2016 State of the City address.

Mayor addresses flood, growth in State of the City

Emily Barber

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin detailed several ways in which Columbia has improved in the five and a half years he has been mayor in his 2016 State of the City address Tuesday evening.

Benjamin described several aspects of the mayor's job that were new to him when he took office in 2010. The mayor had to deal with the aftermath of the 2015 floods.

"I was out there every day in the neighborhoods simply washed away by rushing waters," Benjamin said. "A disaster like that simply washed away by rushing waters."

Benjamin talked about the devastation in October. He recalled some of the shocking statistics. 16 inches of rain fell on Forest Drive in the first day, over 500 roads were closed due to damage, and 45 dams in the area failed.

"I saw a world-class city become a city of heroes," he said. "And I want to take this moment to say ‘Thank you,’" Benjamin said.

The tone of the speech turned hopeful as Benjamin went on to describe the aftermath of the flood as a time "to turn disaster into opportunity and innovation." This is a time to rebuild infrastructure to be more pedestrian- and bike-friendly and to beautify major roads into and within the city, he said.

Benjamin intends to establish nonprofits in partnership with the private sector to expand housing options for veterans, the first police force in South Carolina that will be fully equipped with body-cams.

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Despite recent headlines about shifting momentum in Iowa and New Hampshire, both Democratic and Republican front-runners Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump still show comfortable leads in the upcoming South Carolina primaries.

According to the most recent state polling numbers from RealClearPolitics, Clinton maintains a 3-point lead over Sen. Ted Cruz. In comparison, Clinton is ahead of Sanders by just 0.6 points in Iowa and is losing to Sanders in New Hampshire by 14.7 points.

On the Republican side in South Carolina, Trump is ahead by 16.5 points and he is followed most closely by Sen. Ted Cruz. Trump’s lead over Cruz is just 5.7 points in Iowa, though he is ahead of Cruz by 39.2 points in New Hampshire.

The South Carolina Republican primary will be held on Feb. 20, and the South Carolina Democratic primary will be held on Feb. 27. Both are open primaries.

Emily Grace Newhouse

The USC Career Center will hold the S.E.T. Fair and the Career Fest at the Columbia Metropolitan Center on Wednesday from noon to 4 p.m. The events are open to all students and will feature over 11,000 job listings across the state, and over 11,000 job seekers are currently available.

"Internships and co-ops are vital for college student success," White said. "Many employers will not consider students without at least two internships or co-ops on their resume upon graduation."

Internships prove a valuable avenue for students and can be what makes or breaks a student's future career. They can dictate not only job acceptance but also future opportunities in other important aspects of a student's future career.

"Students who have completed an internship or co-op are statistically more likely to receive a full-time offer faster than those who haven't," White said. "And students who have completed an internship or co-op are statistically more likely to receive a full-time offer faster than those who haven't held an internship or co-op position."

Students who are interested in finding internships are encouraged to make an appointment with White or one of her Career Center counselors at their offices on the fifth floor of the Thomas Cooper Library.

The USC Career Center has an unparalleled education team that focuses solely on creating for USC students the best possible career experiences.

On top of face-to-face appointments, the Career Center also offers several online and one-of-a-kind resources for finding jobs and internships. According to White, some of the tools available to students include: JobHiva, the Career Center’s online integrated job search resource center; Career Shift, an internship and job search tool that students can access for free via the Career Center website; and the opportunity to attend the Career Center’s job fairs, such as the S.E.T. Fair and the Career Fest, that occur each semester.

Students will find that internship experience is more than just a perk on a resume. White tells employers to use the fact that the student is well rounded and experienced, internships also help students with their own personal career plans.

"In addition to the benefits of having those positions on a resume, internships allow students the chance to try out different industries and job sectors to see if it’s the right fit before applying for full-time positions after graduation," White said.

According to Simpson, four-year public relations student, internships allow students the many benefits of an internship experience.

"Like most college students, I was confused when it came to doing, and internships gave me perspective on what I enjoyed and eventually what I was passionate about."

See the rest at dailygamecock.com

Clinton, Trump maintain SC leads

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—Compiled by Mary Ramsey
Legendary “Godfather” actor dies at 94

Alec Vigoda, best known for his portrayal of Tessio in “The Godfather,” has died at the age of 94, The New York Times reports. Vigoda’s daughter, Carol Vigoda Farber, told The Associated Press that her father died Tuesday morning in her home in New Jersey.

Ironically, Vigoda was famous for having been fatally shot dead by a People magazine in 1982. In addition to his role in “The Godfather,” Vigoda also famously portrayed Detective Phil Fish in the sitcom “Barney Miller.”

— Compiled by Mary Ramsey, News Editor

Cleveland police officers fired for fatal 2012 incident

CNN reports that Cleveland police officers Wilfredo Diaz, Brian Sabolik, Erin O’Donnell, Michael Farley, Chris Ereg and Michael Bedo have been fired for their involvement in a 2012 car chase that left two civilians dead. The six officers fired 117 bullets into a car following the chase, killing Timothy Russell and Malissa Williams. Brelo was previously indicted then acquitted on charges of manslaughter and felonious assault over the incident. Detective Steven Loomis of the Cleveland Police Patrolmen’s Association has said publicly that his organization is working to get the officers reinstated.

— Compiled by Mary Ramsey, News Editor

Suspect identified in shooting near Dorn VA Medical Center

A man killed in an incident with various law enforcement agencies near the Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center on Monday has been identified as Texas murder suspect Damon James. The State reports. James, 42, died of what is being called a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Cleveland police officers were working in conjunction with U.S. marshals and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division to serve a warrant for James’ arrest in connection with the 2014 murder of James’ girlfriend in Texas.

— Compiled by Mary Ramsey, News Editor

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— Compiled by Mary Ramsey, News Editor
Notable artists, albums for 2016 Grammy Awards

The 58th annual Grammy Awards, with host LL Cool J and featured performers Justin Bieber, Carrie Underwood and Pitbull, will air live from the Los Angeles Staples Center on Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. on CBS.

The predictions for some of the categories are as follows:

**Album of the Year:**

"Beauty Behind the Madness" by Abel Tesfaye, also known as the Weeknd.

"Random Access Memories" by Daft Punk.

"The Pinkprint" by Nicki Minaj.

"Beauty Behind the Madness" by Abel Tesfaye, also known as the Weeknd.

"Random Access Memories" by Daft Punk.

**Best New Artist**

Justin Bieber.

The Weeknd.

Nicki Minaj.

The Weeknd.

The Weeknd.

What song or artist do you think will win the big award of Album of the Year? Let us know in the comments!

**Song of the Year**

"Thinking Out Loud" by Ed Sheeran.

"Where Is the Love?" by Bruno Mars.

"Hello" by Adele.

"My Church" by Maren Morris.

"Hello" by Adele.

**Record of the Year**

"Hello" by Adele.

"Breaking Up With My Baby" by John Legend.

"My Church" by Maren Morris.

"Hello" by Adele.

"Hello" by Adele.

**Best Country Song**

"Girl Crush" by Little Big Town.

"Put It All on Me" by Chris Stapleton and Justin Timberlake.

"Love Me Like You Used To" by Eric Church.

"Taxes" by Billy Currington.

"Put It All on Me" by Chris Stapleton and Justin Timberlake.

**Best Country Album**

"World Come Down" by Dolly Parton.

"Little Big Town" by Little Big Town.

"Traveller" by Chris Stapleton.

"Iklectik" by Sturgill Simpson.

"Traveller" by Chris Stapleton.

**Best Pop Vocal Album**

"25" by Adele.

"Beauty Behind the Madness" by Abel Tesfaye, also known as the Weeknd.

"Random Access Memories" by Daft Punk.

"The Pinkprint" by Nicki Minaj.

"Random Access Memories" by Daft Punk.

**Best Rock Album**

"Hypnotic Stare" by The Flaming Lips.

"The Idler Wheel..." by My Morning Jacket.

"Wings of the Moon" by Wayne Sermon.

"In the Night" by The Killers.

"The Idler Wheel..." by My Morning Jacket.

**Best Alternative Music Album**

"Moth Diaries" by Andrew Bird.

"The Idler Wheel..." by My Morning Jacket.

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"Moth Diaries" by Andrew Bird.

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**Best Dance/ELECTRONIC ALBUM**

"Beauty Behind the Madness" by Abel Tesfaye, also known as the Weeknd.

"Random Access Memories" by Daft Punk.

"The Pinkprint" by Nicki Minaj.

"Random Access Memories" by Daft Punk.

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**Best Latin Pop Album**

"El Vínculo" by Gloria Estefan.

"La Vida Loca" by Maluma.

"Pa' Ti" by Yandel.

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"Pa' Ti" by Yandel.

**Best Rap Album**

"The Pinkprint" by Nicki Minaj.

"Traveller" by Chris Stapleton.

"Swimming After Cassettes" by Future.

"Waves of Future" by Future.

"Swimming After Cassettes" by Future.

**Best Rap/Sung Collaboration**

"We Can't Stop" by M.I.A.

"It's On Again" by Future.

"We Can't Stop" by M.I.A.

"It's On Again" by Future.

"We Can't Stop" by M.I.A.
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- USB/Duplex outlets
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While Americans suffer under the skyrocketing costs of prescription drug treatments, pharmaceutical companies continue to offer their CEOs egregious salaries, which are then supplemented by stock option grants and cash bonuses.

The rapid increase in drug prices — 10% annually and cash bonuses.

They were charged with price fixing, and the government of price gouging, and were found guilty of that crime.

The cancer drug Gleevec rings in at $29,000-35,000 per year in most western European countries, a cost that is still unaffordable for most people. However, the price in America is much higher — about $200,000. This is not the only case of an international price gap, which can be seen with various other drugs such as Tecavix, Tildy, Humira, Neurim and Gyntela.

The case with which pharmaceutical companies can exploit doctors and patients arises from flaws within our own healthcare system. Abroad, there are fewer private insurance companies with which to negotiate. By law, our government-run healthcare systems cannot negotiate drug prices.

However, this system is detrimental to both patients and the nation. Medicare's inability to negotiate prices with the makers means the individual have to spend more out of pocket and increases the amount of the federal budget that must be dedicated to healthcare. Also, there is no room for change in the pharmaceutical industry to be held accountable for equitable distribution of a drug. The Food and Drug Administration must ensure that the medications work, but there is no registry like the CDC's. It's a healthcare system, to most generate the necessary trust that we can trust that they will be treated honestly. The cancer drug Gleevec rings in at $29,000-35,000 per year in most western European countries, a cost that is still unaffordable for most people. However, the price in America is much higher — about $200,000. This is not the only case of an international price gap, which can be seen with various other drugs such as Tecavix, Tildy, Humira, Neurim and Gyntela.

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Panthers emerge as Super Bowl favorites

Ajaic Patel
sports@gamecocklife.com

Perfection is not a word that should be thrown around liberally, especially when it pertains to NFL franchises. If any team this season has met perfection, it has got to be the Carolina Panthers. From a 15-1 regular season record to their dominant postseason run, their season has been nearly flawless. Their 49-15 victory over the Arizona Cardinals in the NFC Championship Game reinforces that.

The Cardinals looked downright sloppy for a majority of the game, with quarterback Carson Palmer having arguably one of the worst performances of his sporadic career. The Panthers still won on their own merits despite Arizona's woeful performance. Although experts expected the surging Cardinals to give the Panthers a run for their money, Carolina controlled the game from the very first snap. That is just what the Panthers do — they defy expectations. This unorthodox defiance enabled them to land a berth in Super Bowl 50 against the Denver Broncos.

The Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos are the antithesis of one another offensively. Denver's quarterback Peyton Manning is an experienced but aging quarterback. His once-legendary skill set has eroded since his neck injury, and he now relies mostly on his elite play-calling ability. The Panthers have a young, charismatic quarterback who drives their diverse offense. Both defenses are exceptional. Still, based on their most recent performances, Carolina holds a clear advantage in terms of their momentum and youthful energy. The Broncos narrowly escaped a New England comeback, but managed to stop the Patriots' attempt for a two-point conversion in the end of the game.

The Panthers look eerily similar to the 2013 Seattle Seahawks team that annihilated Manning and the Broncos in Super Bowl 48 just two short seasons ago. Manning will once again be facing a youthful, more dynamic team. Manning has years of experience, three Super Bowl appearances and a championship under his belt, but the Panthers have something more. It is not something you could see on a stat sheet or a resume. There is something special brewing in their organization, and it has been a long time coming.

The Panthers revel in their inexperience, their whole brand of play is new and exciting. The team feeds off Newton's youthful energy. The Broncos, despite scoring just 10 points, have something more. It is not something you could see on a stat sheet or a resume. There is something special brewing in their organization, and it has been a long time coming.

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