

2016

The Daily Gamecock, Thursday, February 18, 2016

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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Weekender

Thursday, February 18, 2016

Baseball set to host Albany in 2016 season kickoff

PG 12

Student Government election results

PG 9

Deckle Edge: Columbia's new literary festival

PG 15

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Jeffery Davis | Weekender

dailygamecock.com

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Briefing



— Presidential candidate Donald Trump gives his opinion on Sen. Lindsey Graham during a campaign appearance in Bluffton, South Carolina.

Courtesy of MCT Campus

“She always said, ‘I don’t know why the good Lord keeps me around.’”

— Janey Andrews comments on the death of her mother, Helen Ida Wheat, who was the third-oldest person in the United States, at 113 years old.



“If you’re looking for the perfect cat yawn or dance move to express exactly how you feel, just click the new GIF button.”

— Twitter releases a new feature that allows users to search for GIFs by keyword and use them alongside tweets or direct messages.

“To my knowledge, this is the oldest homicide case we have ever solved.”

— First Assistant Prosecutor Marc C. LeMieux discusses the resolution of New Jersey homicide case from 1965 that dealt with the murder of 18-year-old Mary Agnes Klinky.



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WIDENER READY TO START

Marion McCurry
@MCFLURRY711

Junior Taylor Widener has recently been named the Sunday starter for the Gamecock baseball team. He rounds out the starting rotation and will try to offer guidance to a young pitching staff and help get the program back on track after a disappointing 2015 season. I sat down with him to discuss the upcoming series and the composition of this year's team.

It was a sunny Tuesday at Founders Park, just past 2 p.m., and the team was about to start practice. The temperature was above 50 degrees for the first time in three days, and it smelled like baseball. Players were trickling in from the batting cages while the first basemen practiced blocking up errant throws under the watchful eyes of Coach Holbrook.

South Carolina could be a program in mourning. Last season, the team went 32-25 and had a losing record in conference play, going 13-17 in the SEC. The season culminated with the team missing out on postseason play for the first time since 1999, and the days of back-to-back national championships in 2010 and 2011 had never felt farther away.

Instead, the mood was jovial. The team is flush with talent from incoming junior college transfers as well as a stellar freshman class that seems blissfully unaware of last season's struggles.

"I think last year was just kind of a fluke for us," Widener said. "We had a few guys that were kind of a little out of it



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

last year, and it might have cost us our season last year, and so this year I think it's definitely going to be different." Widener would know. His first season in Columbia, the Gamecocks hosted a regional in the postseason. The next, his team missed out on a regional entirely, giving him experience on both ends of the spectrum.

"We're going to improve from last year, there's no doubt," Widener said. Widener has made 40 appearances in his two seasons at USC, predominantly coming out of the bullpen. He had been tagged by many, including myself, as the leading candidate to anchor the Gamecock back line, but in a somewhat

unexpected move, Coach Holbrook announced on Monday that Widener would be the starting pitcher for Sunday's game.

So opening day will have to wait an extra 48 hours for Widener. "I'm just ready to start playing again," he said, eager to get the taste of last season out of his mouth. He is ready to improve upon his totals last season in which he pitched 32 innings, struck out 44 batters and earned nine saves. He could be next in the long line of relief pitchers who have successfully transitioned to starting for South Carolina, a list that includes former stars like Jack Wynkoop and Michael Roth.

"I like starting just because that gives me time to use all my pitches," he said. He will need to have command of multiple pitches if he wants to provide some much-needed stability to a young starting staff for the Gamecocks. It is something he worked on this past offseason. "Part of the game is hitting your spots, so I definitely needed to work on it."

Widener is the lone upperclassman of the three starting pitchers for this weekend with sophomore Clarke Schmidt taking the hill on Friday and true freshman Braden Webb starting on Saturday. He is now being counted on to close out not just a game, but

the entire weekend series.

The Gamecocks took a step backward last season and have a young roster this year, but do not think for a second that their goal has changed. When I asked what the team wants to accomplish this year, Widener did not hesitate. "Just the old team goal: Make it to Omaha."

He did not laugh, and it was not a joke. At South Carolina, Omaha is the expectation, and that is where players who come here expect to go. It's a new year with a new team, but with the same old mindset. Don't call it rebuilding, and don't even ask about not making the postseason. It's Omaha or bust for Widener and the Gamecocks, and that is the way it should be.

Dom Thompson-Williams shows potential to be next Gamecock star



Courtesy of Gamecocks Online

Bobby Balboni
@ROB_BALBONI

Most baseball programs build their recruiting classes around highly ranked high school seniors who sign with them instead of turning pro, but South Carolina has always had a knack for mining the junior college ranks. Players like L.B. Dantzler, Elliott Caldwell and Steve Pearce all joined the South Carolina program as junior college transfers and turned into stars during their time in Columbia. New Gamecock outfielder Dom

Thompson-Williams from Iowa Western Community College looks to carry on that tradition.

Thompson-Williams hit over .400 in both seasons at Iowa Western and was rated the No. 35 junior college prospect by Perfect Game. Thompson-Williams emphasized that Coach Holbrook's staff made a priority in targeting him.

"I had other looks out of JUCO, but, you know, none of them really wanted me as much as here," he said. "When I came here, I've

seen the best facilities in the country and the coaching staff and the past history. It all came together and made my decision pretty easy."

Thompson-Williams has a beautiful natural swing from the left side and is an explosive athlete, but he still anticipates the challenge he will face in his transition to hit SEC pitching.

"That's kind of the reason why I came here. I wanted to play in the best conference in the world," he said.

Thompson-Williams has a football background, and

it's easy to tell by looking at him. He was a standout wide receiver and initially signed to play football at Iowa Western. In addition to the physicality his football career gives him, Thompson-Williams sees the crossover between the two sports while in the outfield and on the bases, saying that it translates to "running to go catch a ball in the outfield and ... making a quick cut to second, and just trying to get a good jump."

On his approach at the plate, Thompson-Williams

tries to keep it simple. "I am just looking to find the barrel," he said.

South Carolina has really focused on revamping their outfield since last season and Coach Holbrook will have plenty of options when filling out his lineup card, but Thompson-Williams looks like he will play a big role for the Gamecocks in 2016. He has all the natural tools and the work ethic to become a special player if he can make the transition to SEC play.

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New CrossFit gym attracts students



Tori Richman | Weekender



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Tori Richman
@THEGAMECOCK

CrossFit Iron Mary's recently opened its third location, a 12,000-square-foot facility less than a mile and a half from campus across from Founders Park Baseball Stadium.

The gym's owner, Donald "D.K." Kidwell, describes CrossFit as "functional fitness that gets your body into position for doing the uncommon commonly well and incorporating your body into all-around fitness."

CrossFit incorporates functional training, strength training and high-intensive interval training through group workouts. Iron Mary's offers a variety of programs, including endurance training, beginner's

programs, sports training and a kid's program.

For Ali LaDuca, third-year computer information systems student, the group workouts provide support and companionship that she hasn't found elsewhere.

"Though I've had my share of workout partners at any regular fitness facility, the encouragement the CrossFit community contributes is incomparable," LaDuca said.

Iron Mary's proximity to campus is not only advantageous for the business but for students as well. Kidwell's "pro-student" gym offers a student and military discount that will give students access to any of the gym's three locations. First-year broadcast journalism student Taryn McLees finds that of the gym's

amenities, the gym's flexible times have helped her the most.

"(They) have early and late classes so that people can make time to go before or after their school day starts," McLees said. "I get up at 5:30 a.m. and go to the gym before my classes. I'm finding that I'm a morning person."

Iron Mary's has partnered with USC to offer a PEDU 100 class that teaches the foundations of CrossFit for credit hours. LaDuca finds that this course "acts as an introductory course, making it perfect for beginners or any students interested in trying out CrossFit."

Along with the gym's involvement with students, Iron Mary's gym hosts events and competitions that benefit those in the community.

These events include the Police Olympics in March, which honors the police force, and the Clash of the Amazons in June. Kidwell hopes that with the new location, the gym will break into the market of college students.

"(I want) to be the best in Columbia," Kidwell said when asked of his goal for the gym. LaDuca and McLees think that CrossFit has already made an impact on their lives.

"CrossFit reiterates the importance of being proud [of] yourself and your successes no matter how small those feats may seem," LaDuca said.

SG election results: Parks, Byars to appear on presidential runoff ballot; Lordo, Rogers win races

Emily Barber
@EMILYRISA

The first round of Student Government executive elections closed Wednesday afternoon.

Third-year finance student Michael Parks and third-year political science student Trey Byars will be on the ballot for the presidential runoff next week. Ross Lordo, second-year public health

student and current president pro tempore of student senate, will serve as student body vice president next year. Third-year business student Stinson Rogers will take over the position of treasurer.

The runoff for student body president will be held next Tuesday and Wednesday. The new executive members will be inaugurated on March 16.

Tradeversity app facilitates student trade on campus

Emily Grace Mewborne
@EMI_LOO

Tradeversity is an app that allows University of South Carolina students to sell and buy goods and services right on campus, without the inconvenience of shipping costs or the dangers of meeting up with strangers. The app is available on iOS and Android.

"Tradeversity is essentially a place for USC students to buy, sell, trade and also we just introduced rentals and services," Tyler Diaz, second-year computer information systems and Tradeversity employee, said. "We're just making it easier on (students) to buy and sell within their community."

The app is powered by USC students for USC students. University of South Carolina alumni Mike Meyers and his brother, Evan Meyers, co-founded the company right here on campus.

"We're actually working with students," Mike Meyers said. "The reason why we power the company as

a student company is because we want to build something that's relevant to our customers and our users."

Diaz said the member profiles are used as an accountability method to ensure the safety of all buyers and sellers. By communicating through the app, members interact to sell or buy goods and services from other USC students.

"The big thing that we're going for is that you have your marketplace right here on campus," Mike Meyers said. "Why can't you meet right outside of Russell House? You know who you're dealing with and there's transparency."

The app stands out among other selling platforms such as e-Bay and Craigslist because it serves as a safer and more practical platform to buy and sell from.

"We noticed that a lot of students aren't comfortable selling on Craigslist," Diaz said. "Facebook posts get bumped down, and E-bay takes a huge chunk (of

your earnings)."

Tradeversity is free for students with a ".edu" email address, and Mike Meyers stresses the importance of safety among students.

"We're really pushing for a safer way for students to make more money and to save money," Mike Meyers said. "And so safety is definitely the big thing that we're going for and it's really the key driver between all of us working together and that common vision."

While the safety and convenience of the app proves outstanding amongst other platforms, the impact it makes on students goes further than extra pocket change.

"What we're really trying to do is help students make more money, and also save money, because we've all been there," Mike Meyers said. "It's a student company, but it's also a legitimate company. Students are powering it, but we have payroll. We have real investors that are involved. It's no longer a

student project."


Fourth-year marketing student Vincent Felix said he makes iPhone cases in his apartment, and with the Tradeversity app he can personally deliver them to other students on campus. He said the app has been a great resource for his business.

"My experience using Tradeversity has been great," Felix said. "Tradeversity has bridged that gap for us to connect with students here and is also helping us achieve our mission."

Tradeversity is in the process of expanding to other campuses. The app has already reached five other college campuses, including Virginia Tech and Clemson. At campuses that Tradeversity has not reached, students are having trouble getting the app to let their emails register. Mike Meyers hopes that they will soon be able to reach these campuses. He said their goal is to reach 15 to 20 other campuses by the end of this year.

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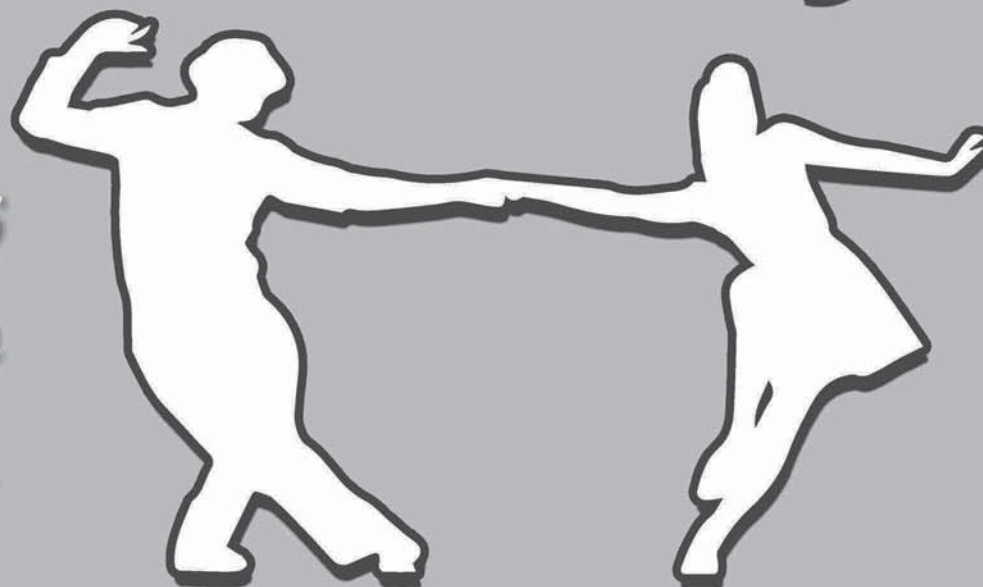
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Around the Horn: Breaking d

Infield

Startin

Claudia Chakamian
@TDG_SPORTS

South Carolina has some holes to fill in its infield after losing Kyle Martin and Max Schrock, but it might have found those replacements in the new class.

Senior shortstop Marcus Mooney will again captain the infield. Mooney will be looking to improve his average and give the Gamecocks a hitting boost this season. He hit .213 in 34 games last season with one home run. Mooney struggled a little last season but has shown previously to have the power and skills to excel on this team.

Freshman L.T. Tolbert is a natural shortstop but will likely see some playing time at second base this season with Mooney penciled in at short. Tolbert was ranked No. 43 incoming freshman by Perfect Game. Tolbert might also see time in the outfield to get his bat in the lineup.

Sophomore Alex Destino will be returning to give the Gamecocks some versatility. Destino was primarily the designated hitter in 2015 and had a few appearances pitching from the bullpen,

but he will take over at first base this year. He hit .251 last season with 35 RBI, six doubles and six home runs. Destino will be taking over for Martin at first and can potentially provide the same amount of power there that Martin had in previous years.

The infield will also have the experience of DC Arendas for one more season. He hit .215 his junior year with 21 RBI, six doubles and three home runs. Arendas has the experience in second, third and shortstop, so he is versatile in the infield and can play where needed.

Sophomore Hunter Taylor will lead the way behind the plate this year. Taylor hit .238 his freshman year with 15 RBI, two doubles and two home runs.

Freshman Chris Cullen will be one to watch this year behind the plate. Cullen was ranked the No. 172 best high school prospect by Perfect Game.

Sophomore John Jones can also help at catcher. He hit .340 his freshman year at State College of Florida with 37 RBI, 23 doubles and two home runs.

The key for South Carolina to have a successful season is to have more power and consistent at-bats. They have the talented rookies and experienced veterans that should mix well for a strong season ahead.

Chris Slade
@WWW

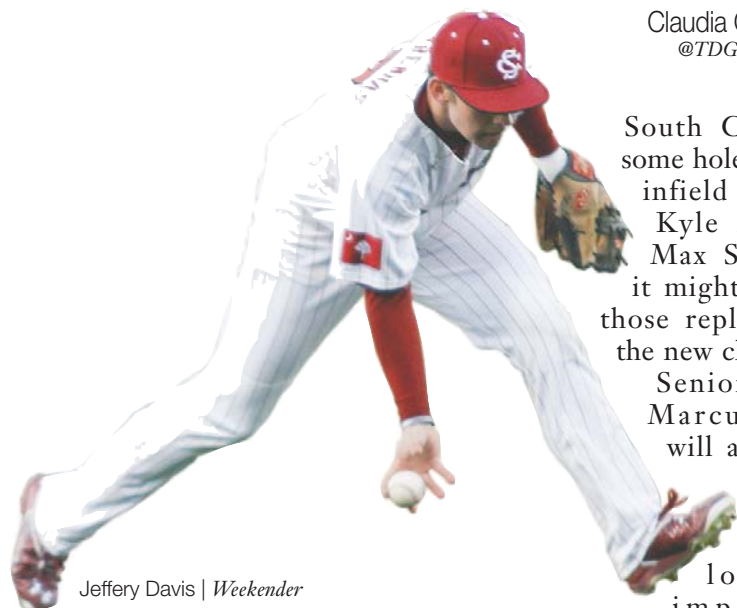
Leading up to the Gamecocks' weekend against Albany, there's healthy competition among pitchers to earn a spot in the weekend rotation. Throughout the fall, it was thought that Clarke Schmidt would start the first game of season. On Monday, coach Bob Holbrook officially announced that not only would Schmidt start the first game, but that freshman Braden Webb and junior Taylor Widener would join him in the opening series weekend rotation.

Clarke Schmidt takes over as the night starter for the Gamecocks after spending his freshman season as the Sunday starter. He'll have big things to fill as last year's Friday night starter. Crowe, isn't expected to pitch in 2016 due to being in recovery from Tommy John surgery.

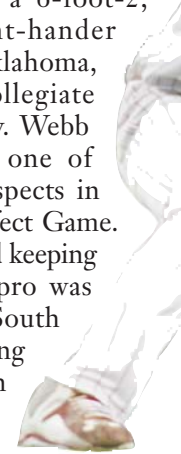
In 2015, Schmidt had a 4.81 ERA and 55 strikeouts in 58 innings.

Baseball America recently ranked Schmidt the No. 7 prospect on the 2016 SEC prospect rankings for the MLB draft. Coach Holbrook has given good reports of Schmidt throughout the fall and expects big things from the sophomore right-hander in 2016.

Braden Webb, a 6-foot-2, 195-pound, right-hander from Owasso, Oklahoma, will make his collegiate debut on Saturday. Webb was regarded as one of the top prep prospects in Oklahoma by Perfect Game. Landing Webb and keeping him from going pro was a big break for South Carolina. After being selected in the 38th round in the 2015 MLB draft by



Jeffery Davis | Weekender



down the positions

Starting pitching

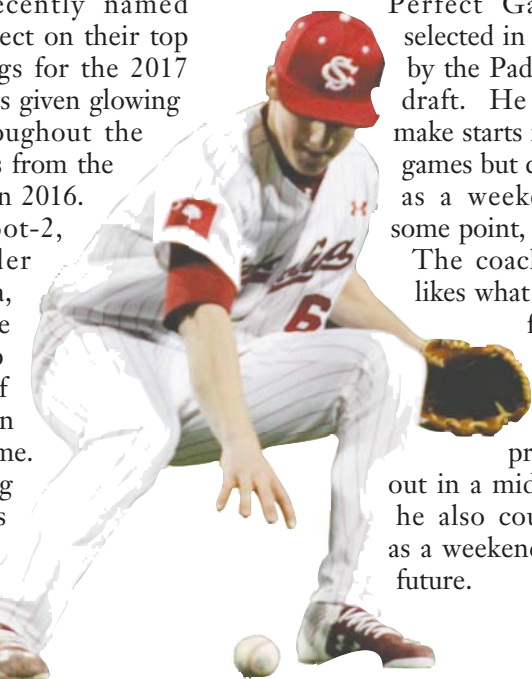
the Indians, Webb ended up honoring his commitment. He is expected to make a big impact as a freshman and could potentially be a Friday night starter down the road for the Gamecocks.

Live-armed junior Widener will transition to the rotation this year after pitching mostly as the closer in the bullpen last season. Widener had a strong summer for the Lexington Blowfish in the Coastal Plain League. Baseball America named him the No. 2 prospect in the league at the end of the summer, which gave him plenty of momentum heading into the 2016 season. Widener will take the ball Sunday versus Albany to round out the weekend rotation.

Adam Hill is another member of the Gamecocks' talented freshmen class who made a favorable impression in the fall. Hill is a lanky 6-foot-5, 180-pound, right-handed pitcher from Anderson, South Carolina, and pitched at T.L. Hannah High School last spring. He was named a top 10 high school prospect in the state by

Perfect Game and was selected in the 39th round by the Padres in the 2015 draft. He is expected to make starts in the midweek games but could get a look as a weekend starter at some point, too.

The coaching staff also likes what they have seen from crafty junior left-hander Josh Reagan. He is projected to start out in a midweek role, but he also could get a look as a weekend starter in the future.



Jeffrey Davis | Weekender

Outfield

Claudia Chakamian
@TDG_SPORTS

Coach Chad Holbrook will have a hard time shuffling a deep group of highly athletic outfielders into three spots when making out his lineup card.

Junior Gene Cone will provide the outfield with some prior experience. Cone had the fourth-highest average at the end of last season and has the highest of those returning this year. He hit .257 in 2015 with 55 hits, four doubles, two triples and two home runs.

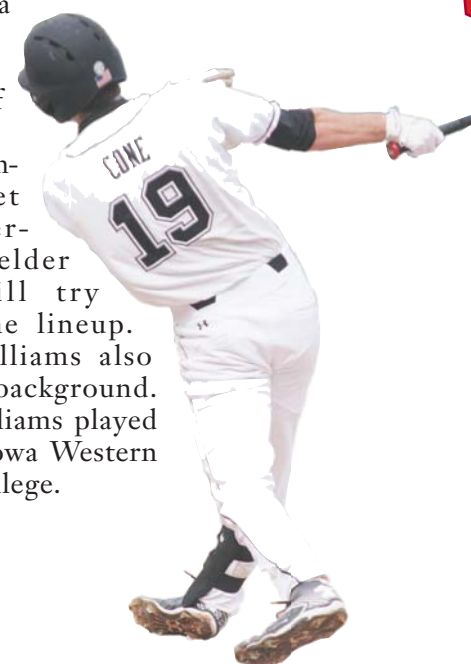
The biggest thing to watch for is this year's freshman class. South Carolina has the No. 2 recruiting class in the nation this year by Collegiate Baseball. The class has 19 players, eight of whom were selected in the 2015 MLB Draft but wanted to attend college first. After losing some pretty major players at the end of last year, picking up some of these impressive newcomers could really make a difference for the Gamecocks.

Freshman Danny Blair will be one of those to look for in the outfield this season. Blair was ranked No. 143 high school prospect and No. 30 best high school

outfielder in the nation by Perfect Game. He is expected to be a big bat and give the Gamecocks some desperate help in the hitting department.

Freshman Brandon McIlwain is also expected to be a huge powerhouse for South Carolina. McIlwain made headlines by enrolling early at South Carolina to play both baseball and football. He's already shown his powerful bat when he hit two homers in a Garnet-Black scrimmage at the end of January.

Dom Thompson-Williams is yet another hyper-athletic outfielder Holbrook will try to get into the lineup. Thompson-Williams also has a football background. Thompson-Williams played last season at Iowa Western Community College.



Sarah Stone | Weekender

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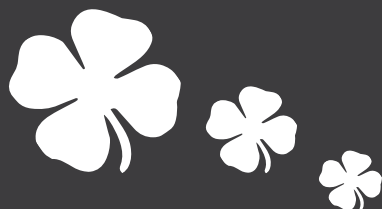
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New literary festival continues where S.C. Book Festival left off

Alondra De La Rosa
@TDG_ARTS

Deckle Edge Literary Festival caters to all with readings, signings, panels and workshops from various authors, bringing a unique experience to Columbia.

From Friday through Sunday, the Deckle Edge Literary Festival will take place all around downtown Columbia. The opening party will be held Friday at 7 p.m. at the Columbia Museum of Art. Entrance to this event is 10 dollars and will include performances by Stefanie Santana, She Returns from War and a Banned Books Burlesque show. There will be readings, signings,

panels and workshops up and down Main Street on Saturday and Sunday.

“There should literally be something for everyone,” Annie Boiter-Jolley, the co-chairperson of the event, said. “Everyone should be able to find at least one reading or panel that they can get excited about.”

Organizers began planning Deckle Edge in early September when the Humanities Council stated it would no longer host its annual literary event.

“A group of us got together and decided that we couldn’t let Columbia go a year without a festival,” Boiter-Jolley said.

Organizers want to expose South Carolina writers while still striking a balance with writers from other parts of the world. This allows attendees the opportunity to hear from and meet writers they otherwise would not have a chance to, but to also highlight the talent present within the state.

“We really want it to be Columbia’s festival,” Boiter-Jolley said. “Columbia’s a major player in this festival, and I think that’ll set us apart ... from what other festivals have done in the past here.”

Many of the events in the festival are being held along the 1500-1600 section of Main Street and will show off historical places and landmarks

around the city.

For students, Deckle Edge will provide a multitude of opportunities to workshop a variety of different writing styles and a diverse and substantial amount of literary works from authors of all genres.

Deckle Edge seeks to continue bringing Columbia a literary festival for years to come. This weekend organizers plan to provide an optimal experience for those in attendance while also noting improvements that can be made for the future.

The Deckle Edge Literary Festival will be a weekend of fun, literary-focused events for everyone in Columbia to enjoy.

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Road tripping

Asheville, NC

Grace Batton
@TDG_ARTS

A charming kind of quirkiness instantly engulfs visitors who make the drive to the small mountain town in North Carolina. With the kind of charm that makes you wonder when the soonest date you can move there is, Asheville is a surprisingly modern yet naturally down-to-earth playground for artists, visitors and residents alike.

Situated near North Carolina's irresistibly gorgeous Blue Ridge Mountains, this town is the soil of mountaineer roots and the largest city in Western North Carolina. Asheville has a booming economy and continues to grow every day, adding new restaurants, art venues, stores and homes.

Just a two and a half hour drive from Columbia, Asheville is a splendid place to go for a weekend getaway. If you're into winter

sports, this is the place to be, with ski lodges like Wolf Ridge and Cataloochee less than an hour drive up the mountain.

If you're looking for some shops to browse or coffee shops to relax in, this mountain town is ideal. With shops ranging as mod as Urban Outfitters and as natural as Enter the Earth rock shop, visitors will not be bored with the diverse selection of stores.

When it comes to selections of coffee shops, Asheville has everywhere else beat. Stop by Double D's Coffee and Desserts and find out just how comfy a double-decker bus turned coffee shop can be. In classic vintage form, with a little shabby-chic accenting, Double D's offers customers delicious coffee and bakery treats. Find reprieve from the chilly mountain air on the top floor of the bus, where there are benches with small tables for guests

to sit.

If you want somewhere a tad roomier to chill for the afternoon, visit Green Sage Cafe. Offering an assortment of local organic breakfast foods and sandwiches for lunch, Green Sage is one of the more modern coffee cafes downtown. Green isn't just a name, it's a way of business for the cafe, with solar thermal panels installed on the roof.

When lunch rolls around after a morning out on the town or your drive up the mountain, park a plate at the Bier Garden, a laid back pub with the largest drink menu you may have ever seen — over 200 beers are offered. Delicious fare is served at old wooden tables where you can watch the latest news on huge flat screens. Bier Garden has menu specials going on every day of the week and never disappoints.

On weekends, visitors are sure to find local street musicians jamming

out on their instruments. Many street performers have a folk or bluegrass influence, playing out their pleasant melodies on banjos and guitars for those who pass by to enjoy. For a historic perspective of Asheville, visitors can schedule a tour of the legendary Biltmore Estate, an enormous, elegant historical home complete with its own village and winery, first opened in 1895 by George Vanderbilt. For guests who wish to enjoy this beautiful property for more than a day visit, the Biltmore offers overnight stays at the Estate. Located at 1 Lodge St. in Asheville, the Biltmore is the largest family home in America.

Whether you're coming for an adventurous weekend or a romantic getaway, Asheville is one of the finest cities to visit.



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Projecting the SEC all-league team

Bobby Balboni
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The SEC is the one of the nation's premier conferences for college baseball. Over the past seven years, the league has produced four NCAA champions. Some of the most exciting prospects in college baseball populate the rosters in the conference. Here is a look at some of the top players to watch in 2016.

Catcher: J.J. Schwarz, Sophomore, Florida

Schwarz should split time behind the dish with teammate Mike Rivera for the Gators this spring, but his bat is so special that he will be the designated hitter even when he doesn't catch. Schwarz was the co-winner of the 2015 Louisville Slugger Freshman of the Year Award, slugging .629 on the year. He connected for four homeruns in a single game against Stetson

last spring, breaking a school record.

First Base: Alex Destino, Sophomore, South Carolina

The production hasn't necessarily matched the potential to this point, but Destino did show glimpses of his elite raw power during his freshman campaign. Destino made strides improving his approach this summer playing in the Coastal Plain League and will look to take a step forward to become one of the top left-handed hitters in the SEC this season.

Second Base: Rick Nomura, Senior, Arkansas

Nomura is a seasoned veteran for the Razorbacks who provides solid offensive and defensive production at second base. Last season the Hawaii native hit .298 and reached base at a .370 clip while playing a key role in his team's journey to Omaha.

Third Base: Nick Senzel, Junior, Tennessee

Senzel is one of the best pure hitters in the country and improved his stock this summer in the prestigious Cape Cod League. Senzel hit .364 on the Cape and was named the league's MVP and top prospect. He will likely be a first-round pick in the 2016 draft if he stays healthy and continues to produce.

Shortstop: Errol Robinson, Junior, Ole Miss

Robinson doesn't have much in the way of power, but he does everything else well. He is an exceptional defender with deep range to both sides. His line-drive stroke helped him lead Ole Miss with 62 hits in 2015.

Outfield: Nick Banks, Junior, Texas A&M

Banks anchors a loaded Texas A&M lineup and is one of the premier position players in the country. As

a sophomore, he slashed .364/.450/.536. Banks was selected to the Collegiate National Team where he hit .386 this past summer.

Outfield: Buddy Reed, Junior, Florida

Reed's graceful actions in centerfield make professional scouts drool. He is an elite athlete and a former high school hockey star that has transformed into a five-tool player on the diamond. Reed also spent the summer playing for Team USA and is considered one of the top players in the 2016 MLB draft class.

Outfield: Bryan Reynolds, Junior, Vanderbilt

Reynolds played a key role in getting Vanderbilt to the National Championship in each of the past two seasons. As a sophomore, he hit .318 and stole 17 bases in 19 attempts. He is a switch-hitter with gap power from both sides of the plate.

Starting Pitcher: A.J. Puk, Junior, Florida

Puk's teammate Logan Shore put up better stats in terms of run prevention last year, but when he is locked in, Puk is one of the most dominating pitchers in the country. The 6-foot-7 southpaw fanned 104 batters in just 78 frames during his sophomore season. During the postseason, he posted a 1.54 ERA in four starts. Puk's fastball registers in the mid-90s and he enters the season as one of the candidates for No. 1 overall pick in the draft.

Relief Pitcher: Zach Jackson, Junior, Arkansas

Jackson gives the Razorbacks an elite closer in high-leverage situations. Last season he recorded a 2.10 ERA and notched nine saves. If needed, he could also slide into the rotation, but his power arm certainly gives his team an advantage late in games.



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Courtesy of MCT Campus

Ben Carson

Birthdate: Sept. 18, 1951

Home state: Maryland

National polling average: 8.4 percent
(Huffington Post)

South Carolina polling average: 5.3 percent
(Huffington Post)

Odds of winning Republican nomination: Zero percent (Predictwise)

Director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University (1985-2013)

Awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom (2008)

Awarded 67 honorary doctorates

Student Endorsement

I am a Ben Carson supporter. Most people, upon hearing this, assume that I have no knowledge of political issues, and I'm jumping on the next best bandwagon after Trump. They apparently haven't yet realized the second-best bandwagon seems to be Cruz as of late. The truth is, I did my research, and Ben Carson is the candidate that I share the most political views with.

Ben Carson believes that the government should stay out of healthcare. He believes that we need to increase our border security and stop accepting refugees

from Syria. There are measures we need to take to keep our country safe, and so far America is failing at that. Free college is not worth increasing taxes for people that worked for their money and happen to have earned more than the rest of us.

Welfare recipients should be required to work and take drug tests in order to receive government assistance. Planned Parenthood should be shut down. It isn't doing our country any good, and the government should not fund any place that performs abortions. The Affordable Care Act, also known as

"Obamacare," was a mistake that should be eliminated. Gun control is not a serious problem in our country. Global warming is a natural occurrence, and there isn't anything the government can do to stop it. These are the issues that are important in my political opinion.

Saying that, there are a few things that I disagree with Dr. Carson about. I believe that the government needs to keep up with the changing times in our society. Marijuana should be legalized, and same-sex marriage is a big part of the world we live in. I believe that background checks

should be performed on anyone trying to purchase a gun and that people on the government "no-fly" list should be banned from buying them.

If the government believes you are too dangerous to board a plane, you are too dangerous to buy a gun. I also believe that space travel should hold off until we decrease our national debt. Dr. Carson disagrees with many of these stances. The thing about it is that he is the candidate who has the best views on what matters in our country.

Dr. Carson's intelligence and education would bring

a new analytical light to the presidency. I believe he would look at a situation from many angles and points of view and decide from there what is best for our country, no matter what the backlash. This is what we need from our next president. Someone who will not be influenced by the senate and big contributors is important in this time. This is why I support Ben Carson as the next president of the United States.

— *Brittany Feldbake, third-year psychology student*

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A most Supreme waste of a vote

“My name is Vermin Supreme and I am running for President of America.” Vermin Supreme, the boot-as-a-hat-wearing, toothbrush-wielding “friendly fascist,” wants you to “help take back America into the Future.” His plan is quite simple: build a pony-based economy by providing all Americans with free ponies, improving national dental health through a compulsory teeth-brushing law and promising to go back in time to kill Adolf Hitler. He is also the only candidate to have a zombie preparedness plan.

Evidently enough, Mr. Supreme is not a serious candidate, at least in the sense that he seeks election. His purpose is to make a buffoonery of American politics, to expose the corruption and stupidity of the American political campaign.

Over his almost 30-year career, Supreme has made it his mission to mock the election process by promising voters a ridiculous agenda, which he has admitted are all promises he does not plan to keep.

Supreme spends most of his campaigning harassing other candidates. Most recently, during the weeks preceding the New Hampshire primary,

Vermin Supreme mainly addressed the Republican field. He attacked Chris Christie for supposedly being anti-pony and asked Ted Cruz if he supported the fluoridation of water used in waterboarding torture.

Supreme, running as a Democrat, placed fourth in the New Hampshire primary and received more votes than Republican Jim Gilmore, and almost half as many as Democrat Martin O’Malley.

But at this point you must ask why, then, do I endorse a prankster for president?

In this election, the average voter does not have many choices. In the Republican field remain mostly inadequate or unelectable candidates. The Democratic nomination is seemingly rigged in favor of the Hillary Clinton.

In the case of either party, the candidates are accountable to their biggest donors. The Republicans may try to intimidate you by propping up national security threats and the Democrats may promise entitlements, but the difference is just in how the candidates convince you to vote for them. You as the voter are not a candidate’s priority once they are elected.

Why not cast a write-in vote for one of the most consistent candidates to ever run for office? Supreme has been committed to his platform for years, and even though he admits he will not follow through on his promises, at least he says it openly. I think an America with clean teeth and ponies for all is just what we are missing.

A vote for Vermin Supreme is a waste of a vote, but that is the point. If you are fed up with the political atmosphere in the United States, I urge you to write in Vermin Supreme on the ballot.

With his absolutely bizarre appearance and his equally nonsensical platform and slogan, Supreme seeks to exaggerate and expose the broken promises and lies the electorate is fed by our leaders. Supreme’s candidacy brings awareness to the issue that candidates’ promises for change often yield but one result: The candidates’ election. The promises to the electorate are forgotten, but the major donors are always remembered.

—Morgan Markwood,
first-year international
relations student



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Vermin Supreme

Birthdate: 62 years ago

Home state: Beneath him

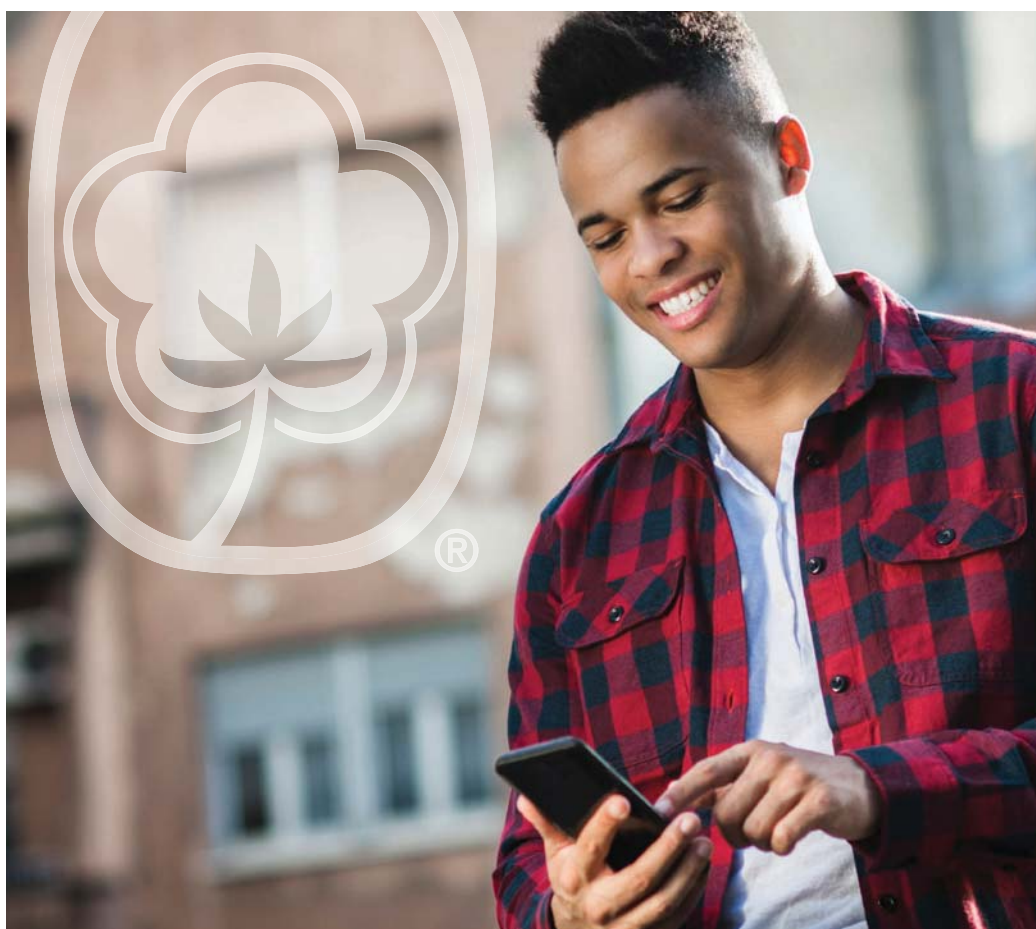
Chances of winning Democratic nomination: None

Turned Randall Terry gay

Ran for mayor of Baltimore (1987)

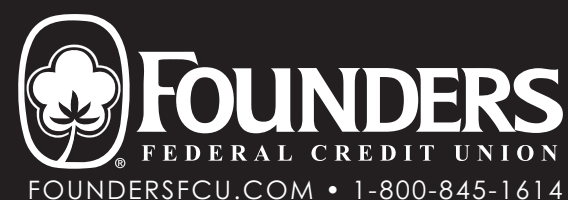
Maybe a wizard?

Alleged to be in pocket of Big Pony



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2/18/16

			8			5		
4				2				
	7					3	2	
6		3		7				1
		2		5		8		
				4		2		6
	3	6					9	
				9				3
		8			5	6		

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

For solutions to today's puzzle, go to dailygamecock.com or download our app!

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Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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ACROSS

- 1 It comes from goats
- 7 Old hand
- 10 Margery of nursery rhyme
- 13 Reason to be at sea?
- 14 Leak slowly
- 15 Pub choice
- 16 Colorful freshwater fish
- 17 1994 Schwarzenegger film
- 19 Organized group of female monarchs?
- 21 Waterskiing challenges
- 24 Role for Ronny
- 25 Blood ___
- 26 Blood system letters
- 27 Pelion neighbor
- 29 Vulpine critter
- 30 Ingredient in a concrete
- American flag?
- 33 Overwhelming amount
- 35 Feel a strong desire (for)
- 36 Former German chancellor
- Adenauer
- 39 Fancy carp
- 40 Plastic leg bone?
- 43 Mooch
- 45 "Cows of Our Planet" cartoonist
- 47 Mesozoic, e.g.
- 48 Old folk song composer, often: Abbr.
- 50 Bread often served with ghee
- 51 Hat material
- 53 Line of hunky monarchs?
- 56 Catholic recitation phrase
- 57 Poker variety ... and what the four longest across answers do?
- 61 Chess components
- 62 Parker array
- 63 Restless feeling
- 64 Hill occupant
- 65 Anti-aging treatment target
- 66 Named

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12	
13							14				15			
16							17				18			
			19			20								
21	22	23				24				25				
26					27				28		29			
30			31	32					33	34				
35									36			37	38	
		39				40	41	42						
43	44			45	46						47			
48			49		50				51	52				
53				54					55					
56									57			58	59	60
61					62				63					
64					65				66					

DOWN

- 1 Ran into
- 2 1992 U2 song
- 3 Popular song
- 4 Correspond
- 5 Mosque VIPs
- 6 Gravelly sound
- 7 Don't give up
- 8 Practices one of the environmental three R's
- 9 Barrel-conscious gp.
- 10 Jersey owner, maybe
- 11 Syria's most populous city
- 12 Thomas Hardy setting
- 14 Squish
- 18 Nephew of Abraham
- 20 Dull repetition
- 21 Cola ___
- 22 Help in a heist
- 23 Ideal time to snap?
- 27 Bovary title: Abbr.
- 28 Starting from
- 31 HUN neighbor, to the IOC
- 32 Baleful
- 34 Capt.'s course
- 36 Knowledge

For solutions to today's puzzle, go to dailygamecock.com or download our app!

- 37 Mystique
- 38 Billiards backspin
- 40 Wearing a lot
- 41 Yoga class regimen
- 42 Hawaiian coffee-growing region
- 43 Grand ___
- 44 Spotty
- 46 Lead singer of the Irish pop/rock group The Corrs
- 49 Where many vets served
- 51 Peach pit
- 52 "House of Payne" creator ___
- Perry
- 54 Snoozes
- 55 Turned (off)
- 58 Sire's mate
- 59 Legal closing?
- 60 Club ___



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