Planning your road trip getaway

PG 5

Staying safe on campus

PG 8

Club hockey team seeking tournament berth

PG 10
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Carolina Productions
Weekend Movies

This Weekend:

The Peanuts Movie
6 p.m.

The Walk
9 p.m.

Movies will show Friday - Sunday in the RH Theater

**The Walk will have a matinee showing Sunday at 2 p.m.**
Briefing

“I will not pay to be poisoned ... I will not pay for my kids to have lead in their blood.”

— Flint, Michigan, resident Takeisha Major has continued to receive water bills from the city after it became clear that the water is contaminated.

“Susan was an amazing educator. She had a remarkable way of making everyone she came in contact with feel valued and important ... She had a passion for children that is unmatched.”

— Lawrence Township School Board in Indiana released a statement after the death of Susan Jordan, principal of Amy Beverland Elementary School, who pushed students out of the way of a moving bus.

“If Donald is afraid to defend his record, it speaks volumes.”

— Presidential hopeful Sen. Ted Cruz responded after his fellow candidate Donald Trump announced his refusal to participate in the upcoming Fox News-Google GOP debate.

“Baby, we got him, and we hope you’re resting in heaven good.”

— Bernice Stagg, mother of the deceased Texas resident Rita Stalton, learned that Stalton’s murderer and ex-boyfriend, Damon James, was killed in South Carolina.
Carolina After Dark Presents:

**MIDNIGHT MOVIES**

This Week:

**Friday,**

January 29th

**Midnight**

**RH Theater**
While Athens, Georgia, home of the Bulldogs, is a popular weekend hangout at a mere two-and-a-half-hour drive out of Columbia, the North Georgia mountains host a wide variety of equally interesting towns to take up your weekends.

I have spent eight summers (and counting) at a sleep-away camp at the edge of the Appalachian Mountains, surrounded by picturesque views and winding roads. Helen, Georgia, is the town next door to the camp, so many weekends and day trips were spent wandering in and out of cafés and tubing down the natural lazy river.

Founded as a logging town, the city started to decline in the mid-1960s until a plan to turn Helen into a replica of a Bavarian Alpine village saved the town and created a well-off tourist industry.

What to do:
Anna Ruby Falls is a part of the Chattahoochee National Forest and a great place to spend the day hiking; the Raven Cliff Falls, about 11 miles down the road, offers an easy hiking trail with a beautiful double waterfall at the end. The Cool River Tubing company is easily a highlight of every summer trip I take to Helen — open throughout the summer, it only costs $5 to rent a tube and float down the Chattahoochee River for a couple of hours.

Woody’s Mountain Bikes offers trails, tours and bike rentals through the mountains. Prices start at $50 but include helmets, gear and a shuttle ride.

A landmark in the area, the Cabbage Patch Kids Babyland General Hospital is bizarre yet intriguing place to experience for an afternoon. The once-popular toy brand has its headquarters in Cleveland, Georgia, about a 15-minute drive from Helen. At the “hospital,” you can witness the “birth” of the doll and adopt one to bring home.

From September through October, Helen hosts a pretty wild Oktoberfest. Other attractions include the Folk Pottery Museum and the fun-for-all-ages Helen Alpine Mini Golf Village in the heart of Helen.

Where to shop:
Founded in 1973, Betty’s Country Store is pretty much a required visit when in the area. Carrying everything from bright T-shirts and handmade cards to local produce and a fresh bakery, there is nothing you can’t get at Betty’s. If anything, it’s nice to just sit outside the store on one of the many rocking chairs and take in the mountain view.

The Historic Nacoochee Village has a ton of small, local shops — the Nacoochee Village Antique Mall has hundreds of unique vintage items, the Nora Mill General Store is the best place to pick up souvenirs and post cards and Jumpin’ Goat Coffee Roasters sells the perfect cup of locally roasted coffee.

A trip to Helen is not complete without wandering around the Christmas Shoppe, a store dedicated to the Christmas spirit. The Walmart right outside city limits is nothing special, but the parking lot, hands down, has the most magnificent views out of any Walmart parking lot in the southeast.

Where to eat:
Bigg Daddys Restaurant and Tavern is loud and inviting, with over 100 bottled house beers, live music every Friday and Saturday night and 50-cent wings every Wednesday. Cimmi’s Café has amazing biscuits, Bodensee Restaurant features classic German dishes and Mully's Nacoochee Grill is a great place for a more upscale dinner with amazing views from the back porch.

For dessert, there is definitely no shortage of ice cream shops, but Homemade Ice Cream, Gifts and More is the best. The Hansel and Gretel Candy Kitchen has endless rows of candy, but their homemade fudge is the highlight.

Where to stay:
The Unicoi Lodge Cabins have both large and small cabins to rent with looming hills and flowing creeks in the backyard. Just six miles down the road, the Sautee Inn is the bed-and-breakfast of your dreams. If you are looking to set up a tent and sleep under the stars, Jenny’s Creek Campground has plenty of nearby creeks and hiking trails.
Recently, in Trump news, we have heard about how he has forfeited his place on the debate stage, joked about testing the loyalty of his followers by shooting someone and been endorsed by none other than the original far-right nonsense factory, Sarah Palin. He has accrued a genuinely hilarious slew of endorsements, actually. Rounding out the pack are none other than Kim Jong Un and Vladimir Putin, everyone’s favorite crazed foreign leaders.

Since his announcement in June 2015, Trump has been a non-stop generator of easy jokes for late-night comedy shows and much bewilderment on the part of his fellow candidates and the Americans not voting for him.

Most people are in agreement that Trump should not be president. But as the primaries loom and people dread his nomination, which seems inevitable to some at this point, I think it’s worthwhile to remind the American people that there are definitely worse options.

Take the not-quite-frontrunner, Ted Cruz.

If, somehow, we had a general election tomorrow between Trump and Cruz, I would vote Trump faster than you could point out that I’d be doing so in tandem with America’s elderly racists.

Cruz, who has been described by SNL as the candidate most voters would like to throw a beer at, is universally disliked by everyone from Congress to his old college roommate. For a good reason. Regardless of what he’s actually saying, he comes off as rude, slimy and condescending, which are qualities we don’t want in a top diplomat.

Now Trump, who is arrogant, impulsive and blustering, might not be a much better choice on the surface. However, he at least is not blustering when he cites his own business experience and mastery of the Art of the Deal, which might help him in diplomacy in a way that Ted Cruz’s famed debating skills might not.

For any liberals or moderates considering the two and threatening to move to Canada should Trump become president, think about Cruz’ extreme conservatism and consider whether you wouldn’t prefer Trump’s occasionally liberal views. For better or for worse, Trump has certain issues he just doesn’t care about and others he’s downright reasonable on.

His right-wing-nut views get play with the media because he makes them attractively insane, but they by no means constitute his entire repertoire of opinions.

And if Trump looks more racist, it may only be that Cruz prefers to quietly piggyback off the controversy the Donald produces rather than make his own.

Furthermore, consider this: Trump’s most off-the-border-wall ideas will never come to pass. Cruz’ bloodthirsty approach to foreign policy, on the other hand, is not so sure to fail.

When faced with a choice between a rich jerk who can’t keep his mouth shut and as John Boehner put it, a “jack--?” with extremist views on every issue he has been lucky enough to trip over on his way to a presidential campaign, I can only hope that Republican primary voters jump on the campaign bus for Jerk 2016.
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Campus safety: What you should know

USC is generally a safe campus. Many students are comfortable walking back to their cars, homes and residence halls at night. Even so, it is always best to be cautious and prepared should you be put in a dangerous situation. Here are nine ways to stay safe and feel secure on campus.

Pay attention to your surroundings. Trust your instincts about what feels safe and what doesn’t. Be aware of the people around you, especially those who might be approaching you. If possible, keep your distance from any person or situation that makes you uncomfortable.

### USC’s campus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Rate Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rates of motor vehicle theft and dating violence</td>
<td>Increased from 2013 to 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports of stalking</td>
<td>Decreased slightly from 2013 to 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rates of burglary and aggravated assault</td>
<td>Dropped dramatically from 2011 to 2014.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### General statistics

- **Male Students** are 4.5% more likely to be victimized than non-student males of the same age.
- One out of 10 victims thinks his or her situation is not important enough to report to the police.
- 20% of sexual assault victims on college campuses go to the police.
- Students are the perpetrators in about 80 percent of on-campus crimes.
- It is estimated that between one-fifth and one-fourth of women in college experience sexual assault.

Graphic by: Jessica Blahut and Greer Schneider
Don’t walk alone at night. Organizations such as Walk Home Cocky, Carolina Cab and Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity provide free escort services to all students walking to their cars or homes on or near campus. If you have to walk alone, walk quickly, alertly and confidently.

Let someone, such as a roommate, know when you are walking to or from campus. Tell them when you arrive at your destination. If something sidetracks you, whether dangerous or not, someone will know to check on you. You can also call someone to talk to until you reach your destination.

Carry mace or pepper spray, and have it easily available whenever you are in a potentially dangerous situation. Get it ready to spray if someone you don’t know starts approaching you.

Take a self-defense class or attend a self-defense workshop sponsored by Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention and Prevention (SAVIP). These programs often address safety basics as well as physical maneuvers of self-defense.

Have a reliable plan for transportation when you go out, whether it’s in Five Points or somewhere you will be consuming alcohol. Stay with people you know, and designate one or two friends in your group to make sure the rest don’t get overly inebriated. If you notice that you or anyone you’re with has been drugged, get to a safe place immediately.

Report all incidents to USCPD or the Columbia Police Department. An overwhelming majority of attacks, especially sexual assaults, go unreported because students think they don’t have a case or think it isn’t important. But getting help if you have been attacked also ensures that you have access to any necessary medical attention.

Utilize the services provided through the Thompson Student Health Center. SAVIP provides numerous services for victims of sexual violence, including legal guidance and accompaniment through any medical procedures. The health center can also test for sexually transmitted diseases and infections.

Get to know campus. Know which areas are less populated at night and which areas will still have people walking around late at night. Stick to places you’re familiar with, preferably those with buildings you could duck into if you feel threatened.

— Compiled by Emily Barber and Madeleine Vath
This season has been a bumpy one for USC hockey. Currently, they are 6-11-0 in American Collegiate Hockey Association play (2-3 in Southeastern College Hockey Conference), but they have had to cancel seven games due to natural events such as flooding and snow. They lost a handful of key players to injury, and another two unexpectedly left the team. Despite all the difficulties, Head Coach Allan Sirois, who has 14 years of professional hockey experience, says his team has been playing relatively well. “The season has progressed pretty well considering some of the challenges that we faced,” he said. “We are on a bad streak right now ... but we are not playing bad, just losing all the games by a goal or two. We had a really hard schedule, almost all the teams that we play are ranked.”

In 2014, it was a loss to Miami in the regional finals. In 2015, it was another loss to the Hurricanes in the regional tournament. But this year, in order to even get into the regional tournament, they must win their last two home games Friday and Saturday against UNC-Wilmington.

South Carolina plays in the Southeastern College Hockey Conference, which has 10 out of the 14 typical SEC teams. The Southeastern College Hockey Conference belongs to the American Collegiate Hockey Association in the Division South Region. From each of the American Collegiate Hockey Association regions, the top two teams will continue on to play in the national tournament. Then, teams ranked three through 10 will have to claw their way past one another in a two-game mini-tournament. The two teams standing at the end of the mini-tournament will also go to the national stage.

Right now, USC Hockey is sitting at 11th place. To move into 10th place and a spot in the regional tournament, they need to pull out victories on Friday and Saturday. The Gamecocks were scheduled to play Wilmington twice back in October, but those games had to be canceled due to the 1000-year storm that affected much of the Carolinas.

The team has been on a bit of losing streak coming into this weekend. They have lost to Florida 7-6, South Florida 4-3 in overtime, Florida Gulf Coast 6-0 and Central Florida 3-0, and, most recently, they dropped two to Kennesaw State. However, senior and team captain Eric Patterson is looking forward to the upcoming games with a silver lining. “No matter who you are you always want to do better than you’re doing, same goes for our season this year,” he said. “There are positives and negatives you can take away from each week, but now we’re just focusing on our next games and trying to learn from our mistakes.”

In order for South Carolina to pull out the wins this weekend, they need to play solid, fundamental hockey. “The keys to win this weekend will be to play very well into our own zone, shoot the puck every chance you get, play simple, reduce the turnovers and be very [disciplined],” Sirois said.

Patterson echoed his coach’s call for tighter team play. “The keys for UNCW are going to be not beat ourselves and decrease the amount of penalties we usually get,” he said. “Other than that I think we’re a tough gritty team and so are they so it should be a good hockey game.”

The games against Wilmington are at 9 p.m. Friday and 8:15 p.m. Saturday at Plex Indoor Sports in Irmo. Entrance fees are $7 for adults and $4 for students. SGTV will have a live stream of the game.

— Drew Mueller, senior sports writer
The AP Top 25 rankings came out again this Monday, and, to no one's surprise, the Kentucky Wildcats still sit comfortably within them.

At 15-4, this Kentucky team is struggling. At the start of the season, the Wildcats were ranked second in the nation. They had key players returning from last year's nearly undefeated team and, as usual, an elite crop of youngsters coming in for their season of college glory before they skipped off to the big leagues. And, after a "huge" win against Duke, many were led to believe that this was going to be yet another year in which Kentucky dominates college basketball. The only problem is, many still do.

No matter how many awful losses this Kentucky team racks up (which to this point is all four, as every loss has been to an unranked opponent) or how few quality wins they have (one and a half as of now, since that "huge" win at Duke isn't quite as impressive anymore), the media can't seem to get it through their heads that Kentucky isn't that good this year.

The voters for the AP Top 25 seem blinded by the potential for greatness that this Wildcats team is said to have, which, in their defense, is there. Tyler Ulis is one of the premier point guards in college basketball, Jamal Murray is one of the purest scorers and Marcus Lee is able to fill a stat sheet on any given night. There's no denying any of that. But beyond the first week or two of rankings, you can't (or at least shouldn't) rank a team based on what they can do, or how good they could be.

It's time for reality to finally sink into the minds of the media and everyone who follows or is involved with college basketball: As of right now, at this very moment, this Kentucky team is not deserving of a Top-25 ranking. It's time for everyone to see past their Hall of Fame coach that paces the sidelines. It's time to see past the seemingly infinite amount of future first-rounders on this team. It's time to see past the name "Kentucky" and all the history and greatness associated with it.

It's time to see this team for what they really are and to (not) rank them accordingly.
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On Tuesday, Donald Trump announced that he will not participate in Thursday’s Republican debate. This means that the debate may actually have some political discourse or intelligent discussion, although that’s not guaranteed. By skipping the debate, Trump makes an appeal to his voter base but leaves himself vulnerable. During a tight Iowa race, this could be the move that paves the way to a Ted Cruz victory.

Trump and Cruz are deadlocked in a stiff competition for the Iowa caucus, but Cruz will be the only candidate on the national stage. The Trump and Cruz show was the star of the last Republican debate, and they effectively kept one another in check. Without that check and balance, Cruz has an advantage.

By forfeiting his spot, Trump is giving Cruz a premier opportunity to talk directly to the Iowan people just three days before the caucus. While Cruz won’t be the only candidate on the stage, he is still the best debater in the field. Trump’s absence leaves a vacuum — a vacuum Cruz is ready to fill.

While Trump is hosting a fundraiser event for a few hundred in Iowa, Cruz will be in the living room of every Iowan with a TV. This won’t win Cruz the caucus, but it won’t hurt. Some say that Trump is rewriting the rules of politics, and this may be true. If Trump is able to win Iowa without this final debate, it would only further his momentum. Still, the move makes the Trump campaign vulnerable before their most important test to date.

Without Iowa, the rest of the primaries are certain to be a dogfight for the Trump campaign. It was going to be tough no matter what, but Trump has utilized many of his resources for a victory in Iowa.

We will know the winner of the Iowa caucus on Monday night. Until then, everything is simply speculation. The debate stage will seem a little quieter without Trump’s cadence. Most frightening of all, Cruz will have the opportunity to make a move and, just maybe, steal a victory.

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