A famously heated Saturday

Klansmen, critics in Columbia:
A famously heated Saturday

The KKK and NSM were met with force and opposition during their rally outside of the South Carolina Statehouse in Saturday. Protesters overwhelmed the hate groups in both numbers and voice and ultimately forced them to leave early and even cause one Klansman to crash his car.

The Loyalty Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, based in North Carolina, and the National Socialist Movement organized the rally in response to the removal of the Confederate flag from lamppost grounds on July 10.

The flag was removed in response to the church shooting in Charleston carried out by white supremacist Dylann Roof. Roof has since been arrested and indicted.

“Dylann Roof. Roof has since been carried out by white supremacist to the church shooting in Charleston,” Cruz said. “Obviously Confederate flag.

Major Joe Cruz thought that the protesters offered a more accurate account of something, and I think more powerful than the hate groups are all the regular people who come out here and are just in complete opposition. There are plenty of people protesting who are coming at it with the completely wrong ideas, but I think it’s more powerful to see everyone who comes out here to promote love and community in whatever way they can.”

However, Cruz also believes that despite the removal of the flag, not much has been accomplished in terms of addressing racism.

“A flag is just a representation of something, and I think taking down the flag was symbolic of some progress, but if people are as passionate about addressing the wage gap for example, as they were about lowering the flag, I think we’d see more progress,” Cruz said. “I think it’s a sign of what we need to only be controversial is now unacceptable. I’m a South Carolina native, and I think it means a lot to me to see the progress and the power of people in my home state.”

At first, most of the rally consisted of Klansmen shouting various phrases like “White power!” and altering the posters in Nazi style. Four of the Klansmen, dressed in military-style uniforms bearing the logos of the Nazi SS, proceeded to hold up a racist flag before starting a water battle.

However, over the course of the rally, as the summer heat bore down on Columbia, things started to escalate.

One black man was detained and arrested by police for allegedly flashing gang signs and attempting to rush the police escort to get to the Klanmen.

Several of the Confederate flags being waved by Klansmen were seized by protesters, who tore them to pieces, handed them to the crowd. Another group of protesters,

James Stewart

The University of South Carolina announced on Thursday morning that South Carolina Supreme Court Justice Jean Toal, the first woman to serve on the state’s highest court, will be the commencement speaker for USC graduates on August 8.

Toal returned to Columbia, having graduated from Dreher High School in 1961 before receiving a bachelor’s degree in philosophy at Agnes Scott College and in 1968 a J.D. degree from the USC School of Law.

After completing law school, the SC Chief Justice practiced as an associate with the Haynsworth Law Firm in Greenville, and then as an associate and partner with Baker, Baker, Barwick, Rovnon, Toal and Bender in Columbia.

When Toal was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1968, women comprised less than 5% of the licensed attorneys in South Carolina. During her time practicing law and serving as a magistrate and judge, that number has risen to almost 20 percent.

From 1974, she was elected to serve in the SC House of Representatives, later becoming the first woman to chair the House Rules Committee. In 1988, Toal was elected to the SC Supreme Court after 20 years of practicing law and 13 years serving in the House of Representatives. Two years later, she was elected Chief Justice and again re-elected in 2004 and 2016.

With 27 years on the SC Supreme Court under her belt, LL has written opinions on a wide range of civil and criminal issues. She has also successfully pushed for the integration of technology initiatives into the eight levels of courts in South Carolina through the Judicial Automation Project.

Toal has led South Carolina into a new era of civic education. She was instrumental in launching Civics in SC, a web-based educational program about civics, and supported the use of “Justice Case Files,” a graphic novel series that teaches students how to read the courts.

Additionally, the South Carolina Judiciary has implemented three state educational civics programs under Toal’s leadership: The Class Action program, which brings students to the state Supreme Court to hear oral arguments, The Case of the Month program, which streams videos of entire Supreme Court cases for students to study and the SC Supreme Court Institute, held to help middle and high school history teachers bring law to life for their students.

Having served the state for a good number of years, will serve as chief justice for the remainder of 2015 when she reaches the mandatory retirement age of 72. Toal will be succeeded by current SC Supreme Court Associate Justice Costa Pleicones, who was elected unanimously on May 27. Pleicones is also looking at a short run as chief justice, as he turns 72 in February 2016.

As a dear supporter of education and the ways to keep an interesting for students, Chief Justice Toal will address 1,256 USC graduates from all eight campuses at 10 a.m. on August 8 in the Colonial Life Arena.

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No prison time for S.C. State corruption defendants

Four men have avoided prison sentences for their alleged involvement in the kickback scheme that brought the corruption at SC State to light, according to WIS. Lance Wright, Tony Williams and Phillip Mims were each sentenced to three months in a halfway house followed by three years probation in a federal court on Tuesday.

The former SC State chief of police, Michael Bartley, was sentenced to three years probation and 100 hours community service.

A fifth defendant, Florida businessman Richard Zahn, has yet to be sentenced.

— James Stewart, News Editor

Flags flying half-staff in S.C. to honor Chattanooga military victims

The American and South Carolina flags will remain at half-staff on government buildings until Saturday, in order to honor the victims of the shooting in Chattanooga, Tennessee, last week, according to WLTX.

The order, which came from President Obama, is in response to the deaths of four Marines and one Navy sailor who were killed five days ago.

Gov. Haley has asked the public to pray for the families of the “heroes we lost in Chattanooga.”

— James Stewart, News Editor

Lindsey Graham’s phone number revealed by Donald Trump

Senator Lindsey Graham is changing his cell phone number after GOP candidate rival Donald Trump shared it publicly during a speech in Bluffton, according to The State.

Trump’s sharing of the phone number came in response to Graham referring to Trump as a “jackass” in several of his interviews.

As a side effect of the sharing of his number, it seems as though Senator Graham will be joining the rest of 2015 by finally purchasing a smartphone to replace his current flip phone.

— James Stewart, News Editor
One North Carolina man named Josh, who asked to be identified only by his first name, witnessed the car wreck.

"At some point people got past the police line and started attacking the KKK, and some of them attacked back," Josh said. "The cops were overwhelmed and didn't really do anything at first. Towards the end, when they were trying to get them out of the garage, people surrounded it and one of the NSM guys got scared and tried to run with people in his car. When they got close to his car, he accidentally drove into a streetlight in front of him and knocked it down. His airbag went off and everyone rushed the car and made fun of him. It was one of the greatest, funniest things I've ever seen."

At the end of Saturday after the rally, it seemed that despite the mixed opinions on the nature of the flag removal, one thing was certain—hate was not welcome in Columbia that day.

One of the flags in gas and proceeded to light it on fire.

One protester, who asked to remain anonymous due to his job, felt disappointed at the government's decision to remove the flag when they did.

"I was sort of out here to see what the KKK's agenda was going to be," the protester said. A lot of people fly the flag for Southern heritage, but this act right here is pretty much exactly what people believe — that it's completely connected. I get the reason why they did it, but the timing of it in regards to the shooting, attached it permanently. They should've never rushed anything with such an angry public."

Ultimately, the authorities decided to end the rally an hour early and begin escorting the Klansmen to their vehicles, parked in a garage near the Colonial Life Arena, after it became clear that the crowd would not be able to remain peaceful for much longer.

As the Klansmen exited the Statehouse grounds, the situation began to unravel even more.

During the march down the hill, rocks were thrown and several fights broke out. In one incident, a white man was arrested by the police after pulling a knife out in response to being hit with a rock.

Once the Klansmen arrived at the garage, police cordoned off the road for the convoy of Klan-cars to depart from Columbia.

Of the cars that the Klansmen left the rally in, there were only two or three that had South Carolina license plates. The rest were from Illinois, Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky and North Carolina.

U:

During the hasty departure, one car being driven by one of the leading rally organizers took a turn too sharply and crashed into a lamppost on the corner of Lincoln and Senate Streets.

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Columbia
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(M/Th) 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

July 27-30
(M/Th) 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Summer
July 20-23
(M/Th) 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Algonquin
July 27-30
(M/Th) 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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August 3-6
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PMCPROPERTY GROUP
Trainwreck movie crashes into theaters

Amy Schumer and Bill Hader star in the new comedy “Trainwreck,” directed by Judd Apatow, about a promiscuous journalist who finally falls in love.

Morgan Smith

If you have yet to encounter Amy Schumer’s unintelligent humor and honesty, Trainwreck may be your perfect debut into your life.

Trainwreck tells the story of a magazine writer, Amy (Amy Schumer), who has been taught since childhood that monogamy isn’t realistic. She continues this way, but now avoiding what she believes to be the reality of living a committed life. Eventually, she meets the “perfect man” who makes her question all of her previous values.

This may seem like a typical chick flick where a girl meets a charming man who makes her question her life as she knows it. However, Schumer is not your typical chick.

Schumer has absolutely no filter. She always tells the truth about what it is like to be smart, hilarious and single and doesn’t back down about her promiscuous sexuality.

“Trainwreck” was written by Schumer herself and is basically a movie version of her own image. In the Amy movie, she hasn’t quite discovered how she wants to live her real life. Amy we have gotten to know through Comedy Central.

Trainwreck has a similar plot to a lot of Schumer’s stand-up comedy shows and scenes she does on her own show, “Inside Amy Schumer,” which she also created, writes and stars in. She keeps her provocative mindset and dirty jokes as the butt of Trainwreck, but also shows us a side to Amy Schumer we didn’t know existed.

Trainwreck follows the modern model of a romantic comedy, but then away from the trope of a normal romantic comedy by offering the honesty that we are familiar with from Schumer. Instead of focusing on the relationship between Amy and Aaron like most romantic comedies do, Trainwreck focuses on the lessons Amy learns from the relationship.

The film doesn’t justify Amy’s honest behavior but, instead, shows us that everyone is capable of being loved and can make positive changes in their lives. We watch as Amy learns to stop emotionally abusing herself and let others into her life.

Trainwreck also defies the laws of romantic comedy by providing strange celebrations with supporting roles such as LeBron James, John Cena and Daniel Radcliffe. Schumer understands she needs to let other actors shine and contribute to the beauty of the film. Not only is Schumer gut-busting hilarious in the films, she isn’t too bad as an actor. She is no stranger to acting, which she so often does on Comedy Central.

Listeners swept away by psychedelic “Currents”

Kylie Solar

If you’re looking for new music to get into before the summer ends, look no further than psychedelic rock. Tame Impala’s latest album “Currents” will submerge you completely in the genre, but it doesn’t feel like it’s an end all.

Called a “soundtrack to life’s turbulent times,” the album’sdownsizing singer Kevin Parker’s talent as well as the fact his genuine excitement and fact his genuine excitement and happiness with making music.

An adventurous track list, “Currents” laced with classic psychedelic synthesizer as well as steady percussion and thoughtful words are sometimes incredibly simple, and yet the listener will be unable to put the album down. Each story told and idea expressed throughout the album. “New Person, Same Old Me,” a “soundtrack to life’s turbulent times,” the album’s downsizing singer Kevin Parker’s talent as well as the fact his genuine excitement and happiness with making music.

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Towards the end of the album, The age strays slightly from pure ‘70s funk to more ‘80s rock. A more experimental track, “Blonde” almost like it should have been a ‘70s funk song. “Let It Happen,” the album’s first song, is a long intro that fades easily from steady percussion to brass and organ melody. A thought comes to mind during this song that rings true for the rest of ‘Currents’ even when the vocals sound sad. The messages that Parker are conveying are mostly positive. The words are sometimes incredibly simple, and yet the listener will be entranced by the power of Tame Impala’s infectious music.

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Aries
Go for fun, with the Sun in Leo for the next month. Love is in the air. Your task is changing for the better. Plan your moves before initiating. Reaffirm your commitment, and ensure financial support. Taurus
Create a game plan. For the next month, with the Sun in Leo, family comes first. Strengthen your bonds. Together, you can make money. Share tasks. Launch activities tomorrow. Test your impact and authority. Provide excellent service and evidence threatens to work against you. Capricorn
Financial planning is favored for the next four weeks. Work towards your goals. Prioritize expenses and investments. New evidence threatens to work against you. Libra
Your wit and cleverness attract new business. Cash flow looks positive, with a possible career advance. Consider the long haul. Talk it over. Your team is especially hot over the next month. Participate in a public conversation.
Scorpio
Take charge this month, with the Sun in Leo. Rise and rise. New business has you trying out and getting ready. Poor performance and confidence, with the Sun in your sign. Take advantage. Shines a light
Sagittarius
Exploration beckons for the next four weeks under the Sun. Expand your territory in person. Manage finances and home plans. Listen to your elders. Make a future plan and craft the itinerary. Strengthen distant bonds.
Capricorn
Financial planning is favored for the next four weeks. Work towards your goals. Prioritize expenses and investments. New evidence threatens to work against you.
Aquarius
Partnership is the key to success over the next four weeks, with the Sun in Leo. Collaborate, negotiate mutually beneficial terms and amplify your reach. Make sure it works for your family. Listen when your elders speak. Tune in.

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Drew Mueller
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SEC Media Days spotlight three Gamecocks

Three Gamecocks continue to rack up the presser accolades. Redsirh senior Brandon Shell and juniors Pharoh Cooper and Elliott Fry have been recognized by the SEC Media Days — a conference for members of the media to chat about the upcoming SEC football slate — in Birmingham, Alabama, as top of their positions in the conference. Shell, a Goose Creek, South Carolina native, earned a spot as a third-team offensive tackle after starting every game last two seasons. The versatile Pharoh Cooper made three different positions: first-team all-purpose back and second-team for both wide receiver and return specialist. The team leader in total points last season, Elliott Fry, was named the season-team placekicker. At the event, South Carolina was picked to finish fourth in the SEC Eastern Division.

ITA recognizes 9 men’s and women’s tennis players

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association announced its All-Academic Team Thursday, and nine Gamecocks on both the men’s and women’s team were recognized. For the men’s team, freshman Wood Benton from Spartanburg, South Carolina, and Thomas Marymont from Monroe, Louisiana, made their first appearance on the list. Senior Kyle Koeh had his name posted for the fourth year in a row — the only Gamecock to ever be selected four times. On the women’s side, sophomore Harley Burg, seniors Caroline Daily and Brigit Field, junior Ximena Silva Luna, and graduates Elizane Lechemia and Alex Martin all earned the All-Academic honor. Both squads earned ITA All-Academic Team for the 2014-2015 year by posting a cumulative GPA of 3.2 for the full season. To earn individual honors, a player must achieve a 3.5 GPA.

Men’s basketball reaches out to fans with “8K in 8 Days” campaign

South Carolina men’s basketball team began their “8K in 8 Days” campaign, a community outreach event to come into contact with 8,000 fans over eight days, Friday. One of the highlights of the campaign so far was Frank Martin and select members of his team putting on a camp at Richland County Sheriff Department’s Character Camp on Monday. Sophomore Marcus Stromman and incoming freshman TeMarcus Blanton were some of the players to come to lead the campers through drills. The initiative will come to a close Friday, July 24.

Parks Benson
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Alaina Coates and A’ja Wilson are working on their basketball fundamentals as they compete in The Pan American games in Toronto and the FIBA U19 tournament in Russia, respectively.

Coates, a University of South Carolina junior, shined in the semifinal game against Cuba where she grabbed 15 rebounds, eight of which came in the fourth quarter, helping the Americans edge the Cubans out in the fourth quarter, helping the Americans to a 63-62 victory, head coach Dawn Staley and her squad remain perfect in Group B play and will advance out of group play and into the Round of 16.

Against China, Wilson, who tallied her first double-double of the tournament, paced the Americans early in the game, finishing the first half with 17 points and eight rebounds. She concluded the tournament with an average of 11 points per game and 10 rebounds.

Across the pond, South Carolina freshman A’ja Wilson continued her strong play at the FIBA U19 tournament, as USA advanced to the final four of the tournament, paced the Americans early in the game, finishing the first half with 17 points and eight rebounds. She concluded the tournament with an average of 11 points per game and 10 rebounds.

A’ja Wilson and Alaina Coates earned spots on the USA team for Pan-Am and FIBA U19 teams after their hot play from the NCAA Women’s March Madness tournament.

Football, tennis, men’s basketball spotlighting

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