A University of South Carolina presidential election that was expected to be a bit of a snoozer turned into a close race and nail-biter as second-year management science student Donnie Iorio narrowly defeated second-year economics student Chris Sumpter, receiving 50.2 percent of the vote, and third-year criminal justice student Chris Sumpter, who got 49.9 percent.

In the vice presidential race, third-year management science student Donnie Iorio narrowly defeated second-year economics student David Leggett, winning by just six votes.

Richardson beat out third-year political science student Jasmine Briggs, who received 16.7 percent of the vote, and third-year criminal justice student Chris Sumpter, who got 16.5 percent.

In the senatorial race, two referendum votes were expected to be printed at least one week before the vote. Both questions pertained to the student senate: one to allow for proxy senators and another to allow senators at large. The student senate needed to send the text of the referendums to The Daily Gamecock to be printed at least one week before the vote. The student senate also needed to properly file for both the senatorial and presidential races; instead, he only filed to run for president.

Richardson was elected student body president, with 66.5 percent of the vote, after the results were announced and laying out her campaign for hundreds of students, Richardson was elected student body president, with 66.5 percent of the vote. She was astounded.

“I'm shocked, to be honest with you, and really humbled,” she said. “I'm really thankful that the student body I guess believes in me.”

Richardson said that what she was most looking forward to was getting a full night’s sleep Wednesday night. After nearly three weeks of speaking at club meetings, table at Greene Street and laying out her campaign for hundreds of students, Richardson was elected student body president, with 66.5 percent of the vote. She was astounded.

“I'm shocked, to be honest with you, and really humbled,” she said. “I'm really thankful that the student body I guess believes in me.”

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In the vice presidential race, third-year management science student Donnie Iorio narrowly defeated second-year economics student David Leggett, winning by just six votes.

Third-year business economics student Ryan Harman took the treasurer election, beating out Natalie Hayman, third-year business student and student senate finance committee chair Hageman did not file to return to senate next year.

“They're a great bunch. It's going to be a cool dynamic,” Richardson said. “I'm really honored and excited, and I just can't wait.”

Voter turnout made a slight increase this year, rising 1.5 percent to 4,610 votes, up from last year's 4,375. Since the 2012 elections, turnout has increased 50.2 percent, according to Elections Commissioner William O’Shields.

And for the first time in Student Government history, there were no election violations filed during the campaign, O’Shields said. "Candidates were very friendly toward one another," O’Shields said. "They were working together in order to show how great Student Government really is, versus trying to get at each other.”

Two referendum votes were expected to appear on this year's ballot, but they did not because of last week's class cancellations. Both questions pertained to the student senate: one to allow for proxy senators and another to allow senators at large. The student senate needed to send the text of the referendums to The Daily Gamecock to be printed at least one week before the vote. Sumpter had planned to also file for a senate seat in the College of Arts and Sciences in a fallback case he was defeated in the presidential race. However, his name did not appear on the ballot.

“I filed for senate, and I completed the application like the commission instructed me to,” he said. “And they sent out a ballot that I did not get that was supposed to be verified.”

Sumpter said when he found out about the issue on election day, when he didn't see his name on the ballot. According to O’Shields, Sumpter did not properly file for both the senatorial and presidential races, instead, he only filed to run for president.

“Per the codes, you’re supposed to fill the meals and lay out your campaign for hundreds of students, Richardson was elected student body president, with 66.5 percent of the vote. She was astounded.

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Three years after a murder at the Harbison Boulevard Olive Garden, a 22-year-old Columbia man has been sentenced to life in prison with the help of some rap lyrics, The State reported.

Gonzales "Snoop" Wardlaw was found guilty of murdering 21-year-old Thomas T. Hoefer, who was shot in the chest with a .22-caliber handgun and died on the way to the hospital.

Wardlaw was tried for the shooting after rap lyrics with references to the incident were found in his home. The lyrics had phrases like "hit 'em in his chest" and "caught 'em at da Olive Garden."

Wardlaw admitted that the lyrics were his in his testimony but said he was acting in self defense when he shot Hoefer. Hoefer’s family asked for the maximum sentence.

—Hannah Jeffrey, News Editor

Firearm bill struck down in state senate committee

A bill that would have allowed South Carolinians to carry firearms, concealed or not and with or without a permit, was nixed by the state Senate’s Judiciary Committee Tuesday, The State reported.

State Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, sponsored the bill, which would have allowed felons convicted of "possession or use of a weapon of mass destruction, causing death" to carry firearms without training or permits.

After debating for more than an hour, the committee voted the bill down by a 17-4 vote, effectively killing it for the rest of the year.

Bright said he would amend the bill to make it exclude people who committed those crimes in exchange for the bill’s passage, but that compromise was also denied.

Gov. Nikki Haley said last week that she was in support of Bright’s bill and would sign it if it made it to her desk.

—Hannah Jeffrey, News Editor

ELECTION • Continued from 1

Two different filing forms for senate and executive, and he only filled out the filing form for executive," O’Shields said. "We weren’t able to put him on the ballot."

Leggett was also unsure of his future in SG after hearing the results.

"I will certainly continue in Student Government, but I haven’t figured out what role yet," he said. "The decision to run this year was the decision to run this year and nothing more than that."

But Richardson’s, Iorio’s and Harman’s paths are certain. They will be inaugurated on Mar. 19.

“I’m really excited about making some really sizable impacts on this campus,” Richardson said with tears in her eyes. “I can’t wait to step in the first day in the office.”

—Hannah Jeffrey, News Editor

Columbia man pleads guilty in Childress case

Michael Juan Smith, the 21-year-old Columbia man accused of shooting and paralyzing first-year business student Martha Childress, pleaded guilty to a federal gun charge Wednesday, according to The State.

Michael Smith faces up to 10 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to one count of being a felon in possession of a weapon. Smith was on probation when Childress was shot in October.

Childress was not in court Wednesday, but she is expected to be in court when Smith receives his sentence several months from now.

Smith is being held on several state charges, including aggravated assault and battery and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime.

Though they are state charges, authorities used federal gun laws to prosecute Smith.

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Murder victim sentenced with help from rap lyrics

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he would one day figure out what he wanted to fight for.

“Toward making a list,” he said. “Hours went by, and I realized I needed to make a choice.” He said he closed his eyes and drew a circle on a paper that would hold all of his ideas. When he opened his eyes, “ending discrimination and injustice” was circled.

“I didn’t know how it was going to happen,” Jealous said. “But it was clear what I wanted to focus on.”

Jealous’ grandfather held words of wisdom that also helped him work towards his dream, he said.

“When you’re focused, on fire and committed, something starts to glow,” Jealous quoted. “Having the courage to commit to something still more often than not be rewarded.”

His journey led him to Mississippi. He joked that if you were an African American from outside Mississippi, Mississippi was not the place you wanted to be.

“Every place is afraid of someplace else,” he said.

His calling was to be a voice for young students, he said, as he watched the state try to turn universities into prisons. Jealous prepared himself for an opposition, he said, against everything the country stood for and believed in.

“If you act in spite of your fears and you do it enough, one day, someone may call you a coward, and they just might be right,” Jealous said. “And you should be proud.”

JEALOUS • Continued from 1
A recent number of students came out to vote this week.

The response to this year’s election season has been greater than ever before. The number of students who voted was up 10.2 percent from two years ago, including a (slight) increase of students who voted is up a number of opinion pieces to appear in this statement, part of scripture in one of my English religion so openly. When the topic is naturally assumed that most myself in the minority. Over here a week and getting to be in the religion — I went to Sunday school considered this to be a bold is done online. That paints a about 19,000 (over 80 percent) larger trend.

wasn’t a fluke, but a part of a that the surge in voters last year was significant in part to candidates’ ability to campaign, voted, which is no mean feat. the video of the discussion. Some of the various disputes about religion is considered to be a bold or insuffi cient ways of explaining the world, how it works, the works of science, religious beliefs to cross off their crusading

What’s evident in these

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

What was evident in these

THE DAILY GAMECOCK is a student publication that encourages students to voice opinions and offers a platform for students to express their thoughts on various viewpoints on the status of religion beliefs in modern society. As the events of recent updates started appearing on my timeline and feeding into the political conversation, it's natural to assume that most people have never been to church, at home, non-believers and will continue to be a part of our society.

I am not an atheist and I do not believe in the only true religion. As an atheist, I have no belief that there is a higher power, the billions of religions all too often take it for granted what does the Bible say about the valiant horse and science and we will never have a veritable religious crusade to engage in a way that is more focused on the number of religious scholars.

I believe it's possible for every religion that humans that the Jehovah's Witnesses standing on their territory, there's probably a believer somewhere singing because they are being subject to some other narrative, the scientific impossibility of the origin of life. When I see that religion beliefs and I mean by that to mean that they are incorrect in the face of the world. This does not mean that they are wrong in the world, immoral, irrational or irredeemable.

Everybody has a different version of the truth, and we cannot attack one another to get answers for our own questions. Religious beliefs are a part of our culture, and it is our right to question and challenge them. Religion is a complex issue, and it is important to have open and honest conversations about it.

I have the right to stay true to my beliefs and to continue to discuss religion in a way that is respectful and productive. Religion is a personal choice, and it is important to respect others’ beliefs and to engage in meaningful conversations about it.

The longer the United States waits to withdraw its support (even though we are now supporting the U.S. military), the more difficult it will be for us to do so. If we do not withdraw our support now, history will remember us not as backing down, but as failing to act in the best interests of our country.

It’s still early, but now is the best time to keep our options open and to consider the potential for peace in Vietnam. This time on Russia’s doorstep.

Student body election sees higher voter turnout

Atheists’ attacks on religion unnecessary

Everyone’s worldview deserves respect

Atheists’ attacks on religion unnecessary

I am an atheist. I’m not afraid to be a bold atheist in the current social climate. I have been raised up in a scientifically minded family, God was never a subject of discussion in my family or at home. It’s naturally assumed that most people have never been to church, at home, non-believers and will continue to be a part of our society.

I believe it’s possible for every religion that humans that the Jehovah's Witnesses standing on their territory, there’s probably a believer somewhere singing because they are being subject to some other narrative, the scientific impossibility of the origin of life. When I see that religion beliefs and I mean by that to mean that they are incorrect in the face of the world. This does not mean that they are wrong in the world, immoral, irrational or irredeemable.

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US’s meddling in foreign wars has bad track record

Political unrest abounds in an Eastern Bloc nation as Russia moves to control the pro-Western government in two key cities in the streets. The nation’s government is doing all it can to calm the protests, successively resorting to deadly force. Russia fully backs the standing government and its actions, while the U.S. and the West condemn its use of force against the protesters. As tensions mount, Russia finds themselves in a worse position as the pro-Western group is far from defeated.

On Tuesday night in Kiev, Ukraine, 26 people were killed as clashes between protesters and riot police erupted. But that’s only the tip of the iceberg.

This is not the height of the Cold War, but are, the Soviet Union has been dead long since the readers of this paper have been alive. Why, then, are we still trying to apply the domino theory to an "enemy" that has clearly shown they do not want to take their own country over? haven’t we learned anything from our last 60 years of foreign policy? The more we back a green movement in Ukraine, the better the response. There’s a reason why we haven’t moved in the way we did in the past. This isn’t a case of "if we don’t act now, it will be too late later." We must act quickly and decisively.

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MAST GENERAL STORE
Surfer Blood may use a surf rock sound, but their music is anything but breezy.

Sunglasses, surfboard, guitar and bass with lead singer John Paul Pitts' smooth vocals, Surfer Blood is no stranger to tapping into that dark light and everywhere in between.

"It's an energetic mixture, which is what brought a strong crowd out to New Brookland Tavern Wednesday night to hear them play. Some even sang along, and Pitts said "singing people sing the words to your song," is the best part of touring."

"We've had bearded 40-year-old men singing the words to "Swim," and last night, we saw some 18-year-old drunk girls saying the words to "Anchorage" and "Drinking Problem," Pitts said Wednesday. "I think finding people who relate to your music who you wouldn't necessarily expect to is kind of the fun part of seeing who... you can reach through what hopefully emotionally charged music."

In the five years since its debut single "Swim" came out, Surfer Blood has been developing as artists. Initially, the band's success was the transition. We were a band who were playing shows in Florida for pretty much our friends, because no one was going to our shows," Pitts said. "There's a lot of emotion in the music that is hopefully emotionally charged music."

"Swim" was signed with Warner Bros. Records, and the golden opportunities, it's also led to some changes, which were most clear in the production of their second album, "Psychos."

In the five years since its debut single "Swim" came out, Surfer Blood has been developing as artists. Initially, the band's success was the transition.

"We would draw 10 people and make no money, which were most clear in the production of their second album, "Psychos."

At that point, the band was signed with Warner Bros. Records. The experience was difference from the one they had making debut album "Astro Coast."

"Each album was really different from the last," Pitts said. "I mean, I think it always kind of should be."

"It's different from anything we've done," Pitts said. "I think it's really important to take care of strangers," Renfro said. "It's good for you as a person, and it shows your character."

"With that mentality, it's almost a shame that Saloon is so packed, because Renfro doesn't have as much time to talk to customers. However, on Saturdays and slower nights, Renfro said, he enjoys that the mix of college students, and Saloon has perfected how to handle the large crowds they get week to week.

However, at Saloon, these deals are available on Fridays, too. The bar since 2005, Saloon hosts karaoke and a DJ on Thursday and Friday nights. It was the first bar to pair up with the company Bar Athletes to host events like beer pong and corn hole tournaments on Saturday nights.

Renfro has witnessed karaoke experiences that range from women singing Miranda Lambert to groups of college men singing along to the Backstreet Boys or Shania Twain.

The Thursday night Five Points scene isn't complete without a trip to Saloon and not being to more. The allure of dollar Bud Lights is like candy to college students, and Saloon has perfected how to handle the large crowds they get week to week. However, at Saloon, these deals are available on Fridays, too. The bar Renfro has witnessed karaoke experiences that range from women singing Miranda Lambert to groups of college men singing along to the Backstreet Boys or Shania Twain.

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"With such a sudden and eventful rise to prominence — Pitts was just a fresh-faced 23-year-old "when "Swim" came out, he had some mistakes and restrictions that they're relieved to be free from," Renfro himself has appeared on the stage. "I don't want to make an appearance and that the windows will be open so we can see the springtime weather.

With new ownership and renovations underway, Saloon has a lot to look forward to. As for Renfro, amid all the hustle and bustle, he still says whiskey is his favorite drink, both to consume and serve. Coyle admits he's a little more "I like water and beer," he said, "as long as both are cold."

Surfer Blood tears up Columbia

Frontman John Paul Pitts croons to Thomas Fekete's bouncy backing guitar at indie rock group Surfer Blood's New Brookland Tavern show Wednesday night.

Flaunt magazine asked Surfer Blood's John Paul Pitts to fill out a "flaunt"-ed questionnaire, and the result was a little better than expected.

"I think you can compare our style to something like the Yeah Yeah Yeahs,'" Pitts said. "But there is a difference. Instead of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs' big factor in his decision to buy, and he said that it is undergoing a variety of renovations right now to repair ace and snow damage from the past few weeks and to prepare for St. Patrick's Day. In addition to preparing their stock for the big day, Renfro said that their DJ will probably be making an appearance and that the windows will be open so we can see the springtime weather.

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Bar plans to be destination for more than dollar brews

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Bar aims to be destination for more than dollar brews
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Gemin IS

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Cancer

For the next two days, you score big with creative output. Practice. Improve. Having fun has no value. More money coming in. You have lots of external support. Provide love. Your credit rating is going up. Invest in your business.

Leo

Enforce household rules today and tomorrow. It’s a great time with practice. Accept compliments gracefully. Get into practical domestic tasks. Clean your workshop, and de-clutter. Learn from an engineering type. Play with long-range plans.

Virgo

You can learn what you need today and tomorrow. Allow your dreams to run wild. You’re sharp as a tack. Articulate your vision, pre-enumerate communications, and get the word out. It travels farther than expected.

Libra

Focus on finances for a few days. It can be quite lucrative. Use your ideas and find new ways to monetize them. Your inspiration to others. Make long-term plans and do.

Scorpio

You’re becoming more confident. Resist a far-fetched scheme in favor of a practical solution. Use what you have to achieve a dream. Travel intrigue. Inspire, rather than assume. Practice.

Sagittarius


Capricorn

It could get emotional over two or three days. Travel. Travel’s favored, too, despite strong feelings. Continue with your planning. Accept more assignments. Extra paperwork leads to extra profits. The action is behind the scenes.

Career matters claim your attention today and tomorrow. Commitment and assuming more responsibility brings peace of mind. Your actions carry over more than imagined. Keep the goal to the mind. Lock up on provisions for the future.

Pisces

Rebellions flare up. Advance your own agenda with perfect timing. You’re in the groove. By now you should know how much you can spend. Keep cash drained away. Have through private connections. Trust love.

Crossword

Complete your 2014-15 FAFSA, including any follow up, to get started. Visit fafsa.ed.gov to get started.

SEE YOU AT MASS 2014

TOMORROW

BAHAMAS SPRING BREAK

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Men’s golf begins drive to SEC championship

The South Carolina men’s golf team will kick off its spring season on Friday at the Bayou City Collegiate Championship tournament in Humble, Texas, where the team will face off against 14 other schools, including No. 2 Texas, the 2012 national champions.

After coming just two strokes short of defeating last year’s NCAA and SEC champion Alabama at the SEC championship, the Gamecocks are hungry to get a new season started.

Coming off of that somewhat unexpected second-place finish Smith in the SEC tournament last year and after finishing in the top two in three of the four tournaments they participated in during the fall, the team entered the Golf World/Nike Collegiate Championship tournament in Humble, Texas, where the team will face off against 14 other schools, including No. 2 Texas, the 2012 national champions.

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