The police presence was not taken lightly at this year's Carolina Cup, South Carolina's 83rd annual outdoor party. About 250 police officers were inside of the Springdale Race Course in Camden, South Carolina, on Saturday, according to The State. Another 70 were located outside the race grounds, patrolling the roads for DUIs and accidents.

There were upwards of 40 undercover officers located inside the racetrack, as well. In an effort to deter underage drinking, Carolina Cup received its biggest police presence compared to the Cups in years past.

When the final buzzer sounded, the South Carolina players and coaches jumped and hugged each other, happy as ever. Emotions were running high Sunday afternoon, and for good reason. Top-seeded South Carolina defeated second-seeded Florida State 80-74 in the Elite Eight, clinching a spot in the Final Four for the first time in school history.

The Gamecocks had junior shooting guard Tiffany Mitchell to thank for that. When the game was on the line, Mitchell, who Gamecock head coach Dawn Staley has called South Carolina's "Superwoman," stepped up.

That's nothing new, though. From day one, Mitchell has established herself as the go-to player on a team full of skill and talent. She lived up to that role on Sunday, scoring a season-high tying 21 points. With the Gamecocks and Florida State knotted up in the final few minutes, it was Mitchell who scored the next seven points for South Carolina. Her dagger of a three-pointer with just over one minute remaining put the Gamecocks ahead by five points and South Carolina would hold on from that point on.

"It's just great to finally take this program to a Final Four," Mitchell said after the win. "It's really fun to be able to enjoy this moment with our team."

With the game coming down to the wire, there was no doubt in Staley's mind that Mitchell would make an impact.

"She hit big buckets for us," Staley said. "I had no doubt where the ball was going even though Alaina..."
Columbia became the second-largest metropolitan area in SC after the population reached and surpassed 800,000 in 2014, according to the United States Census Bureau estimates released last Thursday.

From July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2014, an additional 8,000 people moved to Columbia, raising the population by 1 percent from 792,421 to 800,491.

Even though the Columbia metro area is second to the tri-city area of Greenville, Anderson and Mauldin, the city of Columbia is the largest in the state, with 333,538 residents. — James Stewart, Assistant News Editor

Football team kicks off first spring scrimmage with optimistic results

The Gamecocks returned to the gridiron last Saturday, where they proceeded to make their first 14 passes of the preseason, signaling a positive start to 2015.

“We wanted all the quarterbacks to get to pitch it around a bit,” head coach Steve Spurrier said. “I wanted each of them to get at least ten throws, so it was pretty good practice for the quarterbacks.”

“Everybody, I think, played well on offense,” junior quarterback Perry Orth said. “It was a good day.”

Orth led the passers with 80 yards while completing seven of his nine attempts. Complementing Orth were redshirt quarterbacks Connor Mitch and Michael Scarnecchia, who completed six of eleven passes totaling 74 yards and an interception and nine of twelve passes totaling 52 yards, respectively.

“This was, I think, some good work for all of them,” Spurrier said.

— James Stewart, Assistant News Editor

Out of the Darkness Walk surpasses donation goal of $5,000

On Sunday afternoon, walkers flooded outside Russell House in order to participate in the USC Out of the Darkness Campus Walk, where they surpassed the $5,000 donation goal.

The walk’s main goal is to raise awareness and funds to continue new research, create new educational programs, advocate for public policies and also support the survivors of suicide.

According to the AFSP website, the organization has been able to set the goal to reduce the annual suicide rate by 20 percent by 2021.

“Every year suicide claims more lives than war, murder, and natural disasters combined, and yet suicide prevention doesn’t get anywhere near the funding given to other leading causes of death,” according to the AFSP website. “It’s up to Walkers like us to make a difference.”

— James Stewart, Assistant News Editor

Columbia population exceeds 800,000, according to census

Corrections

If you find an error in today’s edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. Email editor@dailygamecock.com and we will print the correction in our next issue.
Coates was having a pretty good second half. But Tiffany Mitchell is the person we want. We want the ball in her hands when we need a basket."

Sophomore center Alaina Coates, who was named the Greensboro Regional’s Most Outstanding Player, continued her good play and scored 12 of her 14 points in the second half as the two teams went back-and-forth.

Coming off the bench, freshman point guard Bianca Cuevas also played very well, scoring nine points in 11 minutes to help South Carolina snap out of a funk in the first half.

Although South Carolina struggled early on, Staley was never worried. "I just felt we were in a good place, even though we were down," Staley said. "It was familiar territory, so we didn’t panic. We just had to let the game settle in."

Having survived against Florida State, South Carolina is now one week away from playing in the Final Four in Tampa Bay. The Gamecocks aren’t content with where they are right now and plan on playing even better down in Florida.

"I’ll tell you this," Staley said, "we are not just going to show up and just be happy to be there."
Sam Breazeale

Bacon lovers go ham when food festival hits Columbia

The America Loves Bacon festival made a stop in Columbia last Saturday, bringing live music, cooking demonstrations and greasy novelty food items that put the State Fair to shame.

The festival took place in Carolina Walk Park and lasted the entire afternoon. DuBuard bacon fans could pay extra to receive VIP items that put the State Fair and greasy novelty food cooking demonstrations to shame.

Bacon festival left no doubt: South Carolina loves bacon.

Katie Cole

Chesney revives Cola fan base

Kenny Chesney is no stranger to Columbia.

Chesney brought The Big Revival tour when he came back to Colonial Life Arena Saturday for the seventh time since the venue opened. The smash hit for country music lovers and Columbia natives alike.

It had been a year since Chesney had hosted, and Columbia was one of the first stops on The Big Revival.

And while Taylor Swift didn’t make of the first stops on The Big Revival.

Kenny Chesney’s concerts are famous for letting fans get crazy, and whether it was an older couple wearing cowboy hats and drinking Captain Morgan or the group of college students wriggling down Bad Light, every concertgoer made it a point to never let party stop.

After all, when songs like “Beer in Mexico” or “No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems” are playing, it’s almost natural to relax and let out all the worries of the week slide out of mind, if only for a few hours.

Chesney didn’t stop at just two or three hit songs. With a library as vast as his, just to play his top-10 or 15 songs would be doing him no justice. Taking the stage at around 8:30 p.m., Chesney played late into the night and made sure no hit song was left untouched. Even the casual fan knew several songs played.

Chesney’s presence at Colonial Life was the perfect kickoff to the start of the summer season. Though temperatures stayed low and it seemed as though summer is another world away, Chesney brought it all on stage and transformed Colonial Life into a beachfront haven.

With people in pirate costumes, songs about summer and the dancing and jovial attitudes displayed by the fans, Chesney proved that, no matter where he is, he’ll bring the party.

“Don’t Like Shit, I Don’t Go Outside”

Release Date: March 23

Artist: Earl Sweatshirt

Label: Columbia Records

Duration: 30 minutes

Morgan Smith

Chicago rock band Earl Sweatshirt (right) has been shockingly heartfelt.

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Six out of the seven Gamecocks that competed took home All-American honors.

Glasen as All-Americans are junior Marwan El Kamash and sophomore Kevin Leithold. They, along with Peribonio and Mahmoud, placed in the 800 freestyle relay. It is the third consecutive year that the Gamecocks have earned All-America honors in that event.

BASEBALL PAGE
Heading into next week’s showdown with 19-11 Mississippi State. Before the trip to face the Bulldogs in Starkville, Gamecocks will head to Charlotte to face the Bulldogs from The Citadel (14-12) on Tuesday.

BASEBALL PAGE

Women’s Basketball:
Next Sunday

SANDSTORM
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After South Carolina's historic victory over Florida State on Sunday, a thrilling win put USC basketball back in the NCAA Tournament. "Basketball fans are #TampaBayBound to meet their next opponent in the Final Four."

Now, the central question is this: Will USC's Gamecocks fans make the trip? Statistically, the Gamecocks have far lower attendance numbers than their Southeastern Conference counterparts. On average, 12,293 people showed up to see USC basketball. The unheard-of number in collegiate basketball was 3,074. After South Carolina's historic win over Florida State, the Gamecocks were one win away from the Final Four, hosted in Tampa Bay. And that's a real problem. But today, I have to ask a question. "What good could coming this act onto the table. What good could being uncomfortable with someone's personal beliefs do?"

As women at USC conduct research, teach courses, and head departments, oversee facilities, and control the resources needed for all the initiatives that make the university what it is today, we have a unique opportunity to change the narrative. When Stately first came to USC in 2008, the average home crowd was around 2,000-1,000 people. The record crowd was 4,000.

And as attendance grew, so did the USC's control of the court. Far from it being possible to make pronouncements about how students should spend their time, but having a large, engaged community is one of the reasons that the women's basketball program is performing better than ever. We urge that students consider putting the game as a priority for themselves and the women who are playing this weekend. And that's a real problem.

Nick Vogt
Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), passed by Indiana lawmakers last law, has caused a massive amount of controversy. The bill was recently enacted to claim that the institution of the news is misunderstood. It's incredibly disappointing that even in the modern United States, we still have governmental leaders who have utter disregard for equality. Leaping in feet first, this decision is not an accident but has more control over their operations in a generally good thing. Yet opening the door for discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is unacceptable. It is not simply a matter of state with a RFRA law (not to mention the Federal RFRA), and these laws have generally not resulted in positive change against the undue burden on the LGBT community. But I still call on us to question the underlying basis of a law that, if applied morally, has little effect on the status quo yet opens a back door to legal protection for immunological discrimination.

From a political and economic standpoint, Governor Mike Pence has made a huge mistake, both as a humanitarian and as a politician. Pence has dealt Indiana a huge blow, as many businesses and organizations have mulled over the possible pronouncements about how students should spend their time, but having a large, engaged community is one of the reasons that the women's basketball program is performing better than ever. We urge that students consider putting the game as a priority for themselves and the women who are playing this weekend. And that's a real problem.

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Aries

Good news comes from the back of your zodiac. This is the most fun option. Look outside habitual routines. Keep standing for love, even in the face of breakdowns. Show respect, especially when others do not. Add some passion to the game.

Taurus

Financial sands are shifting. Get input from family, but don't look to them for financial support. Discover hidden treasures buried in your own house. Clear out clutter. Create a more beautiful space by selling unwanted stuff.

Gemini

Get creative with your team. A friend leads you to the perfect partner. Forge plans, contracts and agreements. Write the intended outcomes and post publicly. Streamline your routine to minimize chaos and clutter. Share the process.

Cancer

There's work coming in. You may have more than expected. Work can result in profit and a rise in status alongside your arrogance. Listen to your partner's advice. Follow your heart, despite obstacles.

Leo

You can get what you want. Persevere by teaming up with the rest of your crew and pitch to emphasize the brand. Creative ideas blossom. Take charge, and get organized.

Virgo

You're most productive behind closed doors. Focus on nurturing relationships and achieving new goals. Bring your presence and where you're going. Aim for financial, mental, physical and spiritual growth.

Libra

Nurture your friendships through partnerships by spending time together. Hold meetings. Expect some change and separation with differing priorities and personal directions. Share your appreciation in real time.

Scorpio

Short-term prospects could seem lean, but the long-term outlook is bright. Revise your resume to include recent accomplishments. Polish up your presentation and it could raise profits. Upgrade in style and appearance pay off more than their cost.

Sagittarius

Learn as you go. Handle details meticulously. Fix up the fun side of the job. You're making a good impression. Dress in your work environment. Get feedback and reflect on how it is positive. Revise your approach.

Capricorn

You find more room in the budget by tracking meticulously. Your actions now pay off later. A partner has good ideas. Collaborate to get more done with less. Provide straight facts in a confrontation. Balance intensity with peace.

Aquarius

Strengthen bonds with old partnerships, and forge new ones. Spend time together. Talk about what you love, and re-commit to common goals. Choose the next direction of your collaboration. A relative's relative solves a big problem.

Pisces

Set your course toward optimistic work goals. Make long term plans that include more of what you love. Accept cooperation enthusiastically. Invest in success. Try a new style. Produce powerful results and impress clients. Demand growth.

Ad

Do you have an e-reader? Did you know you can subscribe to The Daily Gamecock online or on our app and be entered to win a Samsung Galaxy Tab® 4? Visit www.dailygamecock.com or download our app! Meet with an attorney for a FREE consultation. Current USC students can schedule appointments on Monday, Wednesday April 1st or Thursday April 2nd between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm or after 3:00 pm at 803-777-6611 or email hawkinslawsc@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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BSA, 1800 sq ft, full kitchen, all Internet ready, new USC/SC. Available at Call 803-422-0714. Email haslavey@yahoo.com

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Customer service/Sales Associate
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Flea Frenzy Seeking Experienced Seminarians and Pastoral Residents. Apply in person daily at 7120 South from Dunbar Center. beside Blue-Ash.

SALES ASSOCIATE
Sales Associate seeks full-time associate at a children’s toy store in the area. Duties will include evenings & weekends to assist customers with purchases, price, merchandise, and display new merchandise. Answer phone calls, run cash register, and gift wrap. Must have enjoy working with children & families. Experience a plus. Come and visit the Columbia area this weekend.

Email shadowby洒@yahoocom

New hiring for summer

Are you looking for cases or experience? Student Media is now hiring for a summer intern. Training will begin the first week in June. You will be self-sufficient, flexible, and open to feedback on your gain valuable experience in editing advertising copy, account management and creative production. Interested? Email your resume to bennett@usc.edu.

Crossword

Editored by Wayne Robitaille

SUDOKU

By the Mepham Group

For solutions to today’s puzzle, go to
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Monday, March 30, 2015

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1:30PM or 7PM PT

300

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Junior left-hander Vince Fiori relieved Schmidt but allowed both runners to score to even the score at 6-6. From there, freshman right-hander Brandon Murray went to work, pitching into the seventh to earn the win, pitching into the seventh to earn the win.

Murray has become a weapon out of the bullpen for the Gamecocks as they try to bounce back from their series loss to Georgia, something needed to change for No. 7 South Carolina, now 5-4 in the SEC, has struggled to earn its first save of the season. Martin's third inning home run, a solo shot, gave the offense a much-needed spark. Taylor and Stokes both had two RBIs apiece, while Scolamiero gave the offense a spark. Taylor and Stokes both had two RBIs apiece, while Scolamiero gave the offense a spark.

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