

The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

WWW.GAMECOCK.SC.EDU

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

City approves USC crosswalk plan

BY JOHN HUIETT AND BRANDON LARRABEE
THE GAMECOCK

A plan to build crosswalks linking parts of Wheat Street and a parking lot near the Coliseum to the Strom Thurmond Fitness and Wellness Center won final approval Wednesday from the Columbia City Council.

The council also gave approval in concept to a series of streetscaping plans affecting Green, Bull, Blossom and Sumter streets.

One of the crosswalks, which will run parallel to Wheat Street, is intended to allow students living in Bates, South Quad

and East Quad to access the Fitness and Wellness Center without crossing Assembly Street, according to William Hubbard, chairman of the board of trustees. The other crosswalk will serve the same purpose for students parked at the lot on the corner of Park and Blossom.

Hubbard said the University is seeking funding for the \$4 million project from the state department of transportation.

"We are optimistic that the state department of transportation, through the assistance of John Hardy ... will supply the funding," Hubbard said. Hardy is the member of SCDOT from the Columbia area.

"All signs point to approval," Hub-

bard said. He said the university is proceeding with the plans, as well as changes to the Fitness and Wellness Center plans, under the assumption that the funding will be approved.

The streetscaping plan would have two phases, according to Hubbard. The first phase of the plan would deal with the Blossom Street Corridor between Lincoln and Pickens streets; Sumter Street; and might involve some work on Greene Street.

Hubbard said the board wanted to lower speeds on Sumter Street between Blossom and Pendleton streets and add more green space between Sumter and the sidewalks running along that road.

"That will promote student safety," he said.

The board's plan also calls for narrowing the street and removing some of Sumter's parking spaces.

Other changes to campus could include keeping Greene Street open during some of the hours it is currently closed.

"If we can slow traffic enough, we may be able to keep it open during some of the hours it is still closed," Hubbard said.

The second phase of the board proposal would involve similar work on Wheat Street and would also place a sidewalk on that road between Pickens and Assembly. Work would also be done on



"We're excited about the opportunity to do something from the start that will get students from the Wellness Center to class safely."

Jerry Brewer
Director of Student Life

Pendleton Street.

Hubbard said the board had already approved about \$1 million for the Sumter Street plan, but would have to find addi-

tional funding for the other streetscaping plans. Those plans will total \$4-5 million.

CROSSWALKS SEE PAGE 2

State examines school bus brakes

BY BETSY BAUGH
THE GAMECOCK

The State Department of Education mechanics last week inspected 56 school buses designed to carry students with disabilities that were part of a nationwide manufacturer's recall.

North Carolina-based Thomas Built Buses informed the State Department of Education on Wednesday, Sept. 6 that the 15-seat buses had to be inspected for possible problems with their anti-lock braking systems.

Immediately after receiving the official recall notice, Superintendent of Education Inez Tenenbaum instructed mechanics at the Department of Education's regional maintenance shops to inspect the braking systems on these buses.

"We have confidence that these buses are safe, but obviously we're not going to take any chances where the safety of children is concerned," Tenenbaum said.

Tenenbaum asked Thomas Built to

transmit instructions to the State Department of Education immediately so the agency's mechanics could do the inspections that day.

The inspections began early in the morning and Tenenbaum authorized overtime pay so that the inspections would be sure to be complete as soon as possible.

Jim Foster, the education department's director of public information, said the inspections were at a time when children would not be inconvenienced, adding that, by last Thursday, the buses were all inspected and the children could get to school safely.

"We did the recall and maintenance when the children were in school and not in need of the buses," Foster said. "Thanks to the fast and wonderful work of our maintenance we were able to get the kids to and from school."

Gov. Hodges praised the education department for their swift response to the recall.

BUSES SEE PAGE 6

OFFICE PROVIDES FREE SHUTTLE



Amy Goulding THE GAMECOCK

The office of Alcohol and Drug Programs will provide a free shuttle to the Great Gamecock Tailgate Party. The bus will transport students from campus to the party, then return to campus after the football game.

Those interested can catch the shuttle at three stops: Russell House, the Capstone area, or Bates House at 12:30 and 1:30. From there, the shuttle goes to the Gamecock Tailgate party located at 1125 Rosewood Drive. The bus will drop students off after the game at the same three pick-up locations.

The shuttle, made possible by a grant from South Carolina Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, will run only on game days.

The bus is scheduled to operate for the Homecoming game (September 23rd), and the games on the 14th and 28th of October. Additional dates may be added, depending on driver availability.

Students can find times of pick-up listed in the Gamecock or posted around campus. For additional information, contact the Office of Alcohol and Drug Programs at 777-7130.



Amy Goulding THE GAMECOCK

Andy Thomas talks on his radio show with a USC and Columbia College student.

Local radio show hosts teen forum

Program addresses teen issues

BY RICHARD BARNES
THE GAMECOCK

Remember when you were in high school? Ever recall having something to say, but not being comfortable saying it?

A new venture from a Columbia-based radio talk show hopes to solve that problem. The Andy Thomas Show's Teen Forum, which premiered on Wednesday, hopes to provide an environment in which teenagers can discuss their opinions, with other teenagers and adults.

The forum airs every other Wednesday from 4-5 p.m. on nine radio stations throughout the state. Each show will focus on a different issue and has a new panel of teens from across the state. Kayce Simmons, a Florence native, and a 16-year-old freshman at Columbia College produce the forum.

Simmons feels that, because it will address issues that affect today's teenagers, the forum will "allow communication between teens and their parents and teachers." She hopes it will provide a new arena

for the discussion of all issues.

The show first aired on Wednesday, Sept. 13. Two USC students - Byron David, freshman, political science and John Simpson, freshman, Computer Science - were members of a five-person panel addressing teen sex and abstinence. Other members of the panel included students from Columbia College and Allen University.

Future topics will include school

opportunity to address big issues. The issues discussed should impact everyone at some time," Simpson said.

The Teen Forum idea is the brainchild of Andy Thomas, who serves as its host.

"The original concept was conceived seven to eight years ago and was tried at another station in Columbia," he said. "We're trying to begin to show teens that they can be articulate and that they can express their ideas."

Thomas's idea appears to be succeeding. David said after the program that he felt "like we impacted teens out there; maybe contacted a teen that might have been about to make a bad decision."

The Andy Thomas Show airs in Columbia on WTGH 620AM and via the Internet.

Teens are selected for the panel based on numerous factors, but diversity is given considerable importance. Those interested in positions on the Teen Forum panel should direct inquiries to the Andy Thomas Show at 255-8013 or on the web at www.the-andythomasshow.com.

The university desk can be reached at gamecockdesk@hotmail.com.

Street repaving delayed

BY JOHN BAILEY
THE GAMECOCK

The city of Columbia has been resurfacing several streets in an effort to improve driving conditions around the city.

Blossom, Harden and Lee Streets are just a few of the streets being repaved in part of a month-long project that is addressing some of the streets in need of renovation.

"The roads are being repaved as a result of the standard wear and tear that the streets receive from steady, and sometimes heavy, city traffic," said Assistant Superintendent of Streets Lee Honeycutt.

According to Honeycutt, recent rainstorms delayed the repaving for several days.

Honeycutt said the city expects the work on Harden and Heyward Streets to be done within a week. Work on Blossom and Coleman Streets will also be completed shortly, Honeycutt said.

Honeycutt said the roads currently being worked on remain safe to drive on, and he doesn't expect too many traffic delays or detours.

"It's been a real pain," said Tom Kelaher, a resident of Queen Street, which runs perpendicular to Lee Street.

"They close off part of the street, and now I have to drive a few extra blocks just to get home. When the street is open, it's almost too bumpy to drive on."

Residents on Harden Street actually received notices advising them not to park on the street during the roadwork.

The notice also stated that the construction would be finished by Sept. 5, while the renovations are still in progress.

"The rain threw a wrench into everything," Honeycutt said.

"You can't resurface in the rain. We expect to be finished with the work on Harden by the end of next week."

"Completing the work depends on having clear weather," Honeycutt said. "I just want them to finish soon," Kelaher said.

"I'm tired of having to drive around the block to get to my house on the way home from classes."

The city/state desk can be reached at gamecockcitydesk@hotmail.com.

WEATHER

INSIDE

QUOTE OF THE DAY

DATEBOOK



FRIDAY
85 F
57 F



SATURDAY
78 F
48 F



Goalposts for sale on eBay.

PAGE 10

"The only sources that are worth a damn are the confidential sources."

Jack Anderson
Syndicated columnist, 1998

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER
15

- Parent's Weekend
- USC Wellness Week
- Hispanic Heritage Month Begins
- Student Organization Registration Deadline
- Volleyball Carolina Tournament

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER
16

- Parent's Weekend
- Football vs. Eastern Michigan, 7 p.m.
- USC Wellness Week
- Volleyball Carolina Tournament