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Spartan Weekly

A NEW Spartan Weekly News online experience is set to debut in 2026.... coming SOON!!!

AROUND TOWN

Petoskey Plastics celebrated by winning Veteran Business of the Year at the 2025 NVBDC Nationals in Spartanburg

DETROIT, MI - The National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC) recently recognized Petoskey Plastics as an NVBDC Certified Success and celebrates their achievement as the 2025 Veteran Business of the Year, awarded at the NVBDC Nationals conference in Spartanburg, South Carolina. This marks the company's second time earning this distinguished honor, having first received the Veteran Business of the Year Award in 2023.

The National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC) is the nation's leading third-party authority for certifying veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

SMC women's soccer places three on CSC Academic All-District Team

SPARTANBURG, S.C. - The College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Teams for women's soccer across all three NCAA divisions and the NAIA were announced recently, and Spartanburg Methodist College earned three selections. Juniors Addie Hawkins and CJ Hawkins, along with sophomore Caroline Taylor, were recognized for their academic and athletic achievements.

All three student-athletes played pivotal roles in leading SMC to the AAC Women's Soccer Tournament in the program's first year of conference membership.

Wofford College study abroad program honored

Wofford College's study abroad program was listed among the most active in the nation according to the Institute for International Education's 2025 Open Doors report.

The report, released Monday, Nov. 17, ranked Wofford No. 2 in the nation for short-term study abroad participation among baccalaureate colleges through its robust January Interim program.

Wofford also ranked No. 6 for total number of undergraduate students who participated in study abroad programs for academic credit and No. 9 among baccalaureate colleges for the percentage of students who studied abroad for academic credit.

The Open Doors Report is an annual publication that offers an overview of the U.S. international education exchange.

Professional Pours on December 11

Get ready for the final Professional Pours of 2025 at the new Rigsby's Classic Rock Café. Check out this new space in Downtown Spartanburg and grow your network as we head toward 2026 on Thursday, December 11, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Rigsby's Classic Rock Café located at 106 W. Broad St. in Spartanburg. Register online at <https://web.onespartanburginc.com/atlas/events/9505/details>.

What lawmakers plan to focus on in 2026

As 2025 nears its end, our December Voice of Business Brunch, presented by Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, will feature local lawmakers discussing important updates from this past session and what some of their priorities will be in 2026 as they head back to Columbia. This edition of 'Voice of Business Brunch' will take place on Monday, December 15, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at The Piedmont Club, 361 E. Main St., Spartanburg.

Register for this event online at <https://web.onespartanburginc.com/atlas/events/9504/details>.

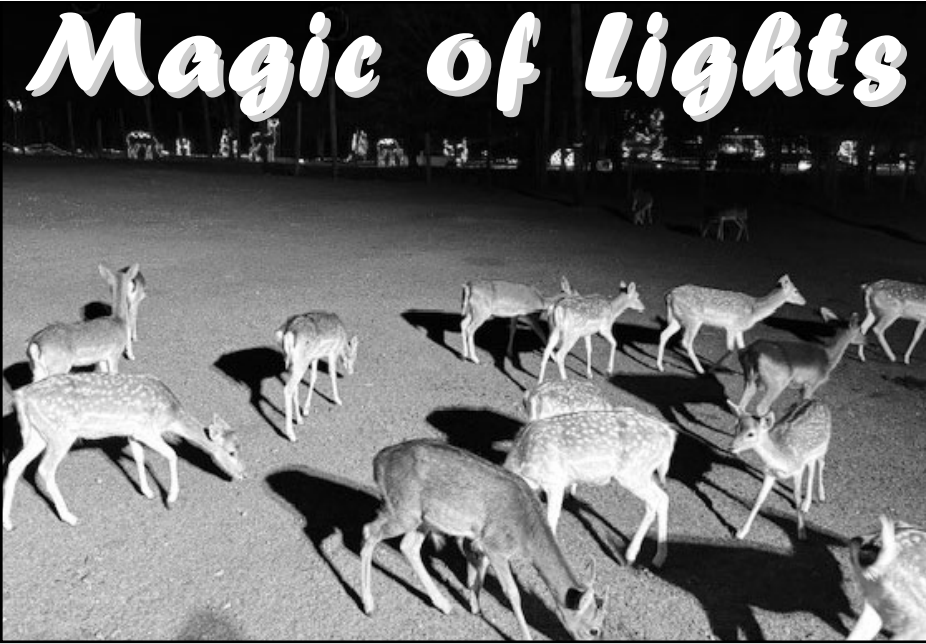
Spartanburg Water holds ribbon cutting for new Lake Blalock Nature Trail

SPARTANBURG — Spartanburg Water recently celebrated the opening of its new Lake Blalock Nature Trail with a ribbon cutting on November 14.

The 2.1-mile trail winds through Lake Blalock Park at 1925 Sandy Ford Road in Chesnee. The park is open to the public at no cost, and permits are available for fishing and watercraft.

Spartanburg Water CEO Guy Boyle said the project grew out of recovery efforts after Hurricane Helene left significant damage across the property.

"Hurricane Helene caused extensive damage and tree loss to our Lake Blalock Park," Boyle said. "But with this negative impact, we were able to create a positive one for our community, using the newly created open spaces to construct a nature trail that all ages can enjoy in any season."



Friendly deer stop by to be fed by visitors at the Magic of Lights benefit presented by Hollywild Animal Preserve. Drive through nearly two miles of decorations, millions of lights and visit the Deer Forest and Santa's Village through January 3, 2026 at 2325 Hampton Road, Wellford, South Carolina. Photo by Ginger Dailey

Spartanburg encouraged to shop local with SpartanBucks and Holiday Sip & Shop

By Melissa Rhine, Spartan Weekly News staff writer

As the holiday season settles in, Spartanburg is once again celebrating the strength, charm and unity of its local business community. This year, residents can support the businesses that give our city its character through two major initiatives: the SpartanBucks e-gift card program and the upcoming Holiday Sip & Shop event in Downtown Spartanburg.

SpartanBucks—powered through OneSpartanburg Inc.—continues to grow as one of the most popular ways to keep holiday spending local. The digital gift card can be redeemed at a wide range of Spartanburg retailers, restaurants and experiences, making it a simple, community-focused option for anyone checking off their holiday list.

For Makenna Tschetter, Director of Marketing at OneSpartanburg, the impact is both practical and personal. "I love SpartanBucks because it supports our incredible local businesses and makes gift-giving effortless," she said. "It truly checks all the boxes." Buyers choose an amount, send the card via email or text, or print it for hand

delivery. For businesses, SpartanBucks keeps dollars circulating locally, strengthening the economic heartbeat of the region.

Makenna says Spartanburg's small-business community sets itself apart in meaningful ways. "Our small businesses genuinely support one another, and you can find a thoughtful gift for anyone," she said. "That sense of unity is what makes Spartanburg special."

That unity is also on full display at Downtown Spartanburg's Holiday Sip & Shop, returning Thursday, December 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. After a strong turnout at previous events, downtown retailers are gearing up once again for an evening filled with holiday cheer. Shoppers can browse stores, enjoy seasonal drinks, listen to festive entertainment and check off last-minute gifts at shops including Armoire, Market on Main, The Lemon Peel, Two Doors Down, The Local Hiker, and many others.

For Makenna, the Sip & Shop captures the energy of a community that loves to show up for its neighbors. She recalls one moment in particular: "Walking into Market on Main and seeing it packed—like weaving through a joyful maze—perfectly captured how our

community shows up to shop local."

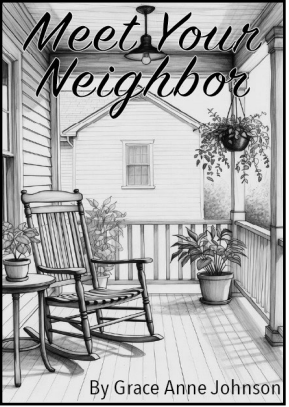
Supporting local is more than an initiative—it's a way of preserving Spartanburg's character. "Downtown Spartanburg's charm comes from its small businesses," Makenna said. "I love finding unique, personal gifts and keeping my dollars in the community."

With both SpartanBucks and the Holiday Sip & Shop, residents have easy ways to support their favorite shops and discover new ones. Makenna says the timing couldn't be better. "SpartanBucks is the ultimate 'I-don't-know-what-to-get' gift—versatile, easy, and always appreciated. It makes you the MVP of holiday giving."

As the city continues its upward momentum, these programs highlight what Spartanburg does best: rally around the businesses and people who make this place feel like home. Whether you're purchasing a SpartanBucks gift card, strolling downtown with friends or simply choosing a local shop over a big-box store, every effort keeps the spirit of Spartanburg thriving.

This season, Spartanburg invites the community to shop local, celebrate together and support the heart of the city—its people.

A heart for students, a gift for connection: meet Ashley Hairr



Meet Your Neighbor is a weekly feature by Spartan Weekly News staff writer Grace Anne Johnson. If you'd like to be featured, or know someone that would be a great candidate to be featured, please

email us at sprtnwkly@aol.com or call 864.574.1360. ***

Everything that Ashley Hairr touches centers around one thing — connection.

The Director of Counseling and College Guidance at Oakbrook Preparatory School, Hairr says that when she first came to Oakbrook seven years ago, the school was new to offering mental health resources for students. A licensed marriage and family therapist, she built Oakbrook's program from the ground up.

Now, the program is thriving, and Hairr shares that every day looks different. She holds regular individual sessions for mental health with students, and has organized group sessions and parent trainings in addition to crafting social-emotional learning curriculum.

While Oakbrook is home to students K3-12th grade, Hairr predominantly works with the high school students. In addition to counseling, she spends her Wednesdays in the classroom as a part of the College Connect program.

Continued on Page 2

GSP opens new parking garage and consolidated rental car facility

Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport (GSP) recently celebrated the opening of Parking Garage C and the consolidated rental car facility, delivering new infrastructure designed to support continued passenger growth and enhance customer experience. The \$97 million project opens as the airport prepares for a busy holiday travel season and completes a record-setting 2025.

Parking Garage C, located adjacent to the terminal building, provides 750 new public parking spaces and 750 ready-return rental car spaces. The public parking area features Park Assist technology, allowing customers to quickly locate available spaces. The consolidated rental car facility brings all rental car operations under one roof and includes a modern transaction lobby, reserved spaces for premium rental car customer pick-ups, and quick drop off, fueling and car wash capabilities.

"With more than three million passengers traveling through GSP over the past year, this facility will help us better serve our customers and prepare for continued growth in 2026," said GSP's President and CEO Dave Edwards. "Opening Garage C allows us to provide an unprecedented level of service while providing the convenience, efficiency, and amenities our community expects."

Parking Garage C is part of planned improvements designed to increase capacity and enhance the flow of airport traffic. Over the past four years, GSP has added new surface parking lots, redesigned the terminal roadway system, and implemented improvements to support long-term growth.

GSP would like to recognize its project partners for their contributions. LS3P led the design for Garage C and the consolidated rental car facility. Brasfield and Gorrie served as Construction Manager and oversaw the successful delivery of the project.

Brasfield and Gorrie Vice President and Division Manager Ben Barfield said:

"Delivering this facility safely and efficiently while the airport remained fully operational was a true team effort. From complex concrete pours to the seamless integration of car wash and fuel systems, our crews brought skill and dedication to every phase. We are proud to have worked alongside GSP and our project partners to deliver a facility that enhances the traveler experience and supports continued growth in the Upstate, and we look forward to a strong, long-standing relationship."

Spartanburg County news

Spartanburg School District 7 breaks ground on new Jesse Boyd Elementary

Courtesy of information provided by Spartanburg School District 7
Edited by Bobby Dailey Jr.

SPARTANBURG — Spartanburg School District 7 leaders, families and community members gathered Nov. 24 for a ceremonial groundbreaking on the new Jesse Boyd Elementary School, marking a long-anticipated step toward expanded learning space and early-childhood services.

Under clear autumn skies at the construction site on Webber Road, district officials lifted shovels to celebrate not only a new school building but what they described as an investment in future generations. The facility will include the district’s second Little Vikings Employee Childcare Center.

Board Chair Clay Mahaffey said the timing of the event underscored the district’s gratitude for community support.

“This is a day of thanksgiving as we take an important step forward for educa-



Members of the 5th grade Jesse Boyd Elementary School choir and Principal Jonathan Duvall at the groundbreaking event on November 24. *Spartanburg School District 7 photo*

tion in Spartanburg,” Superintendent Jeff Stevens called the day “a proud and historic moment” for District 7.

“As our shovels turn this earth today, District 7 turns the page to an exciting new chapter,” Stevens said. “Thank you for believing in this vision and helping bring it to life.”

The ceremony drew several guests connected to the school’s history, including Boyd Scott, grandson of namesake Jesse Boyd, and

his wife, Nancy. Former principals Meredith Rose, Margaret Peach and Bob Grant also attended.

Principal Jonathan Duvall said the school’s legacy — spanning nearly 60 years — will carry into the new building, which is expected to

open in 2027.

“Our school is a jewel, and soon it will shine even brighter in a home designed for modern teaching and learning,” Duvall said. “It’s the people who make a building feel like home, and that family spirit will move

with us.”

PTO President Kinsey Blackwell, a third-generation Jesse Boyd parent, and student body president Ben Hoyle shared their hopes for the project. Representatives from McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture and Harper General Contractors outlined design plans intended to support collaboration, creativity and performance.

In a highlight of the event, the fifth-grade choir, directed by music teacher Racer Odom, performed the school’s new alma mater — a piece written last year through a schoolwide collaboration.

District leaders and members of the school community then joined for the ceremonial turning of the soil, closing the event on a note of unity and anticipation.

“Here’s to a school that will nurture minds, strengthen community and inspire generations to come,” Stevens said. “Your commitment to District 7’s children is abundantly clear.”

From campus to community: Ashley Hairr is creating connections everywhere she goes

Continued from Page 1

During this time, her students learn time management, leadership, and begin planning their futures.

A tight-knit community, Hairr says that graduation season has become extra special the longer she’s been with Oakbrook. Classes are small — only 25 or 30 students — and bearing witness to each student’s growth over the years is one of her favorite parts of her job.

“Our graduation is really sentimental and emotional because we really highlight each individual student,” she shares. “Now that I’ve been here for so long and have become a bigger part of the graduations, I love getting to look back at pictures from when the students were younger and say, ‘Oh, I remember you.’”

“We’re a family here,” she says. “I love watching them grow and change and figure out what they want to do, and to get to keep up with them afterwards. We create such good connections with [our students] that they often come back

or keep us in the loop about what comes next.”

In addition to her work at Oakbrook, Hairr has been a key part of building a rich, vibrant community of therapists in South Carolina through the power of social media — an accomplishment for which she was recently awarded the Mental Health Community Advocate of the Year Award by the Mental Health of America’s Spartanburg chapter.

She received the award alongside her friend Meg Chapman in recognition of



Ashley Hairr

the Facebook community the two women first began building in 2016. The group, Upstate Therapist Connect, first started

shortly after the friends earned their Master’s Degrees from Converse University.

Their goal was to create a space in which South Carolina mental health professionals could connect, collaborate, and support each other. An out-of-state friend from school had mentioned being involved in a similar group, and Hairr and Chapman craved that kind of community in the Upstate. “We realized Spartanburg didn’t have anything like that,” Hairr

says, “so we decided on a whim to try to create one of our own and see what happened.”

Today, the Facebook Group boasts 2,500 members, averaging 5,000 posts each year. It’s become a priceless resource for those working in mental health to build professional relationships, learn from each other, and connect their clients with other professionals.

“It’s cool to watch people have that resource to reach out to,” Hairr shares. “Now, I log on and see all

these people I don’t even know. I used to know everyone by name. It’s grown so much.”

Whether online or in the classroom, one thing is certain: Hairr’s heart for the Spartanburg community will continue to make the Upstate a kinder, brighter place, one session or post at a time.

Know someone who should be featured? Nominate them via email at sprtnwklly@aol.com.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Immanuel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which Old Testament prophet said the most about the birth of Christ?
3. From Matthew 1:18, when Mary became pregnant, she and Joseph were ...?
4. In Luke 2:8-11, how did the shepherds learn of Christ's birth?
5. Where did the wise men go first when they arrived in the Holy Land?
6. What does the Bible record as to when Jesus was born?

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Isaiah, 3) Engaged, 4) Angel appearance, 5) Jerusalem, 6) Does not

More than 1,200 brand-new trivia questions in Wilson Casey's latest book "Quest for Bible Knowledge" available in bookstores and online.

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Taking care of you takes care of everyone.

Love,
Your Mind

P.S. Find mental health resources
LoveYourMindToday.org

HUNTSMAN MENTAL HEALTH
ROBERTSON

The Spartan Weekly News, Inc.

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Hours vary Monday through Thursday. If no one is at the office, please call, leave a message and we will return your call in a timely manner. Offices are closed Friday through Sunday, as well as observed holidays.

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Email: bobby@spartanweeklyonline.com

Super Crossword

Answers

WATIS REI PISA SAMS PAIDE
OROE RIXE OWAL TALLIA
WALITERPISTION TAMARINS
TICIT PEA CALORICINTAIKE
WUPOU THOGE BARK
ESSIAN EITH QUI PHOEIBE
DYLAN WAXIGY LINDER
MYMIS DEARW GUSTING
BEIP DEBUGS MYST OTTO
BASEBOARD RADIATOR
ASTIRG ADRIAN POTTAIS
WEIGHTLIFTING BELT
ASITIA ISSA OLEARY INDI
SPHARPEN MENTAL HEALTH
SECURITY CAM SOST TANK
TATITOO SHY RIN SLOPE
LAIPOTOR AHA JET INJECTION
ONION DIP UNDER THE HOOD
LAUREATE NINE URN SLUE
ASSISSEID EARNINGS REIS

Super Crossword

MECHANICS OF SOLVING

ACROSS

1 Has a snooze
5 Workout unit
8 Anti-DUI ad, maybe
11 "The Maltese Falcon" hero
19 Conical-bore woodwind
20 Log chopper
21 Possess
22 Former airline to Rome
23 Composer of the 1938 ballet "The Incredible Flutist"
26 Squirrel-sized monkeys
27 Super-cold
28 Podded plant
29 What a dieter may reduce
31 Pressure-reducing elastic
34 Mork's home planet
35 German city
36 Ordinal suffix
37 Yvette's "yes"
38 "Gremlins" actress Cates
44 Folk great
47 Edison's phonograph medium
49 Writer Rand
52 Prefix with treat or trust

DOWN

1 Not at all, quaintly
2 Ancient calculator
3 Corals, e.g.
4 Workout unit
5 Less ordinary
6 Brit living in America, e.g.
7 Architect I.M.
8 Soil-enriching compound
9 Very muscular, in modern lingo
10 Year, to Nero
11 Like
12 "Weekend Update" reports
13 "Alas and —"
14 "Bosch" actress Rogers
15 Component
16 Et — (plus others)
17 Rinky —
18 Relieve
24 Person for whom a thing is named
25 Kilt wearer
30 Butter-and-flour mixture
32 Crosswalk user, for short
33 Coop female
37 Tree of Illinois
38 Largest dwarf planet
39 — and hers
40 Aware of
41 Revise text
42 Crooked
43 Therefore
45 Venice beach resort
46 Totally lost
47 "That — close call!"
48 Former Royals manager Ned
49 "Mamma Mia" group
50 In-favor votes
51 Chick's home
53 Indian religion founder
54 White heron
57 For each
59 Talks big
60 Ticked off
61 Crimean resort port
64 Curtsy, e.g.
65 How often the sun rises
66 Fix, as a fight
71 Osaka sash
72 Festival shelter
73 Actor Alan
74 River of myth
76 "Old MacDonald" letters
77 Lacks entity
78 Impend, as a deadline
79 Investments for later yrs.
80 Songwriter Laura
81 Helper. Abbr.
82 Old New York ballpark
83 Diplomacy
84 In — (mired)
89 Expert
90 Large inlet
92 Actor Lorne
95 Like a slingshot or a wishbone
96 Schmoose
97 Singer DIFranco
98 Pampering, for short
101 Cowboy doing a roundup, say
102 Eye affliction
104 Peter of "Becket"
105 Spongellike
106 Wears away
107 Grab — (eat fast)
108 Actress Elfman
109 Hot rod fuel
110 Long — (winter undies)
111 Singer Falana
112 Santa — (hot winds)
113 Name of 12 popes
114 Ripped
115 Small bills
116 Sidewalk smooches, e.g., for short
117 Melody
122 Leg it
123 Prez after FDR

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Legal Notices

TO THE DEFENDANT(S) MIHAL CHIOSAC; AND ELENA CHIOSAC ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action, copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve copy of your answer upon the undersigned at their offices, 1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 407, Columbia, SC 29204 or P.O. Box 2065, Columbia, SC 29202, within thirty (30) days after service hereof upon you, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint, and judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that should you fail to Answer the foregoing Summons, the Plaintiff will move for a general Order of Reference of this cause to the Master in Equity for Spartanburg County, which Order shall, pursuant to Rule 53(e) of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, specifically provide that the said Master in Equity is authorized and empowered to enter a final judgment in this cause.

TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND/OR MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES AND/OR TO PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY:

YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem to represent said minor(s) within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment will be made by the Plaintiff(s) herein.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Complaint in the above entitled action was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Spartanburg County on November 14, 2025.

SCOTT AND CORLEY, P.A.
By: /s/ Angelia J. Grant
Ronald C. Scott (rons@scottandcorley.com), SC Bar #4996
Reginald P. Corley (reggiec@scottandcorley.com), SC Bar #69453
Angelia J. Grant (angig@scottandcorley.com), SC Bar #78334
Allison E. Heffernan (allisonh@scottandcorley.com), SC Bar #68530
H. Guyton Murrell (guytonm@scottandcorley.com), SC Bar #64134
Jordan D. Beumer (jordanb@scottandcorley.com), SC Bar #104074
ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF
1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 407
Columbia, South Carolina 29204
Phone: 803-252-3340
12-11, 18, 25

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
Case No.: 2025-CP-42-05515
Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Indenture Trustee of CIM Trust 2023-R3, Plaintiff,

vs.
Ruby L. Blakey a/k/a Ruby Blakey a/k/a Ruby L. Fooks a/k/a Ruby Laverne Blakey a/k/a Ruby Lavern Fooks a/k/a Ruby Lavern Blakey, as Personal Representative and Legal Heir or Devisee of the Estate of Barbara G. Fooks a/k/a Barbara Jean Fooks a/k/a Barbara Jean Grogan Fooks a/k/a Barbara Fooks, Deceased; Anton Shamal Fooks a/k/a Anton S. Fooks a/k/a Anton Fooks, as Legal Heir or Devisee of the Estate of Barbara G. Fooks a/k/a Barbara Jean Fooks a/k/a Barbara Jean Grogan Fooks a/k/a Barbara Fooks a/k/a Barbara Grogan Fooks, Deceased; et. al., Defendant(s)

Summons and Notice of Filing of Complaint
TO THE DEFENDANT ANTON SHAMAL FOOKS A/K/A ANTON S. FOOKS A/K/A ANTON FOOKS, AS LEGAL HEIR OR DEVISEE OF THE ESTATE OF BARBARA G. FOOKS A/K/A BARBARA JEAN FOOKS A/K/A BARBARA JEAN GROGAN FOOKS A/K/A BARBARA FOOKS, DECEASED ABOVE NAMED:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action, copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve copy of your answer upon the undersigned at their offices, 1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 407, Columbia, SC 29204 or P.O. Box 2065, Columbia, SC 29202, within thirty (30) days after service hereof upon you, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint, and judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

YOU WILL ALSO TAKE NOTICE that should you fail to Answer the foregoing Summons, the Plaintiff will move for a general Order of Reference of this cause to the Master in Equity for Spartanburg County, which Order shall, pursuant to Rule 53(e) of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, specifically provide that the said Master in Equity is authorized and empowered to enter a final judgment in this cause.

TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND/OR MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDES AND/OR TO PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY:
YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem to represent said minor(s) within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment will be made by the Plaintiff(s) herein.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Complaint in the above entitled

action was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Spartanburg County on October 28, 2025.

SCOTT AND CORLEY, P.A.
By: /s/ Angelia J. Grant
Ronald C. Scott (rons@scottandcorley.com), SC Bar #4996
Reginald P. Corley (reggiec@scottandcorley.com), SC Bar #69453
Angelia J. Grant (angig@scottandcorley.com), SC Bar #78334
Allison E. Heffernan (allisonh@scottandcorley.com), SC Bar #68530
H. Guyton Murrell (guytonm@scottandcorley.com), SC Bar #64134
Jordan D. Beumer (jordanb@scottandcorley.com), SC Bar #104074
ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF
1800 St. Julian Place, Suite 407
Columbia, South Carolina 29204
Phone: 803-252-3340
12-11, 18, 25

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
Case No.: 2025-CP-42-04569
Emma Alvarez, Plaintiff,

vs.
Thomas Frank Ruston, Robert H. Ruston, Peoples National Fund, Inc, RusticRuins, LLC, City of Woodruff and all persons, known or unknown, claiming any right, title, interest of lien against the property located at 606 Branch Street, Woodruff, South Carolina bearing Spartanburg County Tax Map No. 4-32-02-06.00, Defendants.

Summons

TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend by answering the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer on the subscribers at 291 S. Pine St., Spartanburg, South Carolina, 29302, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to do so judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated: September 5, 2025
TALLEY LAW FIRM, P.A.
/s/ Scott F. Talley
Scott F. Talley, Esquire
South Carolina Bar No. 70364
291 S. Pine Street
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302
Phone: 864-595-2966
Attorneys for Plaintiff

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
Case No.: 2025-CP-42-04569
Emma Alvarez, Plaintiff,

vs.
Thomas Frank Ruston, Robert H. Ruston, Peoples National Fund, Inc, RusticRuins, LLC, City of Woodruff and all persons, known or unknown, claiming any right, title, interest of lien against the property located at 606 Branch Street, Woodruff, South Carolina bearing Spartanburg County Tax Map No. 4-32-02-06.00, Defendants.

Lis Pendens

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an action will be commenced in this Court upon the filing of a Complaint by the Plaintiff against the above-named Defendant(s) to the properties described as follows:

All that certain tract or parcel of land in the County of Spartanburg, State of South Carolina, being shown and designated as Lot 119 on the certain plat entitled "Plat No. 3, Subdivision For Mills Mill #2" made by Gooch and Taylor, Surveyors, dated April 4, 1955 and recorded in Plat Book 32 at Page 312 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Spartanburg County, South Carolina. For a more complete and accurate description, reference is hereby made to the aforesaid plat.

This being the same property conveyed to Emma Alvarez, by Quitclaim Deed of Jose Manuel Rodriguez Cateura dated July 17, 2025 and recorded July 22, 2025 in Deed Book 152-Z, Page 376 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Spartanburg County, South Carolina. Tax Map No. 4-32-02-060.00
Property Address: 606 Branch Street, Woodruff, SC
Dated: September 5, 2025
Spartanburg, South Carolina
TALLEY LAW FIRM, P.A.
/s/ Scott F. Talley
Scott F. Talley, Esquire
South Carolina Bar No. 70364
291 S. Pine Street
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302
Phone: 864-595-2966
Attorneys for Plaintiff
12-11, 18, 25

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Case No.: 2024-CP-42-04790
Jacqueline A. Bobo, Petitioner,

vs.

Elmore Q. Bobo, Jane V. Bobo Bank-head, Adolphus E. Bobo, The Estate of Carrie Nell Bobo Rice, James Rice Jr., Denise Rice, Theresa Rice Dogan, Teresa Rice Howell, Grantland Elmore Rice, Tina Rene Rice, Estate of George William Bobo Sr., Estate of Valda Joyce Bobo Doster James, George William Bobo Jr., Eric Tobias Bobo, Jerome Ashley Bobo, Kaneshia Bobo Foster, Estate of Joe Venson Bobo, Karen Ann Bobo, Estate of Dion Bobo, Ashli Camille Bobo, Estate of Johny B. Bobo, Sean A. Bobo, Gerald Bobo, Kevin L. Bobo, Estate of Raymond Osborne Bobo Sr., Kimberly Breedlove Parker, Rondrea LeRai Bobo II, and Raymond Osborne Bobo, and all unknown heirs of any named or unnamed Defendants and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate interest or lien upon the real estate herein, Defendants.

Summons and Notice (Quiet Title Action)

TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Petition in this

action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to said Petition on the subscriber at 600 Union Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306 or to Post Office Box 3144, Spartanburg, SC 29304 within thirty (30) days from the service hereof, exclusive of the date of service; and if you fail to reply to the Petition within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.
Dated: November 30, 2025
s/ Hattie E. Boyce
HATTIE E. BOYCE
Attorney for the Plaintiff
Post Office Box 3144
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29304
Phone: (864) 596-9925
Fax: (864) 591-1275
Email: hattieboyceclaw@gmail.com
12-11, 18, 25

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG
IN THE PROBATE COURT
Case No.: 2023-ES-42-1515

IN RE: Alice Lula Mae Jones, deceased
Etolia McMillian, Petitioner,

vs.
Joseph Jones, Inez Kee, Edward Jones, Albert Clarence Jones and Minnie Woods, Respondents.

Notice to Show Cause

TO: JOSEPH JONES, INEZ KEE, EDWARD JONES, ALBERT CLARENCE JONES, AND MINNIE WOODS, RESPONDENTS.

Upon reading and considering the Petition of Richard H. Rhodes, Attorney for the Personal Representative, Etolia McMillian:

IT IS ORDERED that you, JOSEPH JONES, INEZ KEE, EDWARD JONES, ALBERT CLARENCE JONES, AND MINNIE WOODS, or the PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR HEIRS OR DEVISEES OF JOSEPH JONES, INEZ KEE, EDWARD JONES, ALBERT CLARENCE JONES, AND MINNIE WOODS, do in your proper person appear before me on the 5th day of February, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., at the Spartanburg County Probate Courtroom, County Judicial Center, 180 Magnolia Street, Spartanburg, SC, there and then to show cause why the Personal Representatives of the Estate of Alice Lula Mae Jones should not be Ordered to distribute the estate as if JOSEPH JONES, INEZ KEE, EDWARD JONES, ALBERT CLARENCE JONES, AND MINNIE WOODS have predeceased Alice Lula Mae Jones.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this notice shall be published once per week for (3) consecutive weeks in The Spartan Weekly in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.
Date: December 4, 2025
s/ Ponda A. Caldwell
PONDA A. CALDWELL
Judge, Probate Court for Spartanburg County, S.C.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG
IN THE PROBATE COURT
Case No.: 2023-ES-42-1515

Etolia McMillian, Petitioner,

vs.
Joseph Jones, Inez Kee, Edward Jones, Albert Clarence Jones and Minnie Woods, Respondents.

Summons

TO THE RESPONDENTS ABOVE NAMED:

You are hereby summoned and required to answer the Petition/Complaint in this action, of which a copy is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Petition/Complaint on the subscribers at their office, 260 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC within thirty (30) days after the service hereon, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Petition/Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Petitioner/Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Petition/Complaint.
Dated: November 26, 2025
Burts, Turner & Rhodes
Attorneys for the Petitioner
260 North Church Street
Spartanburg, SC 29306
Phone: (864) 585-8166
By: s/ Richard H. Rhodes
RICHARD H. RHODES
12-11, 18, 25

LEGAL NOTICE

2024 Force Bahama vip moped
VIN# LLOTCAPX7RY480538
Byrd Towing 4854 Chesnee Hwy
Chesnee SC 29323 864-578-8862
\$1816.00 due. \$45 a day storage fee
byrdtowing@yahoo.com
12-11, 18, 25

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
Case No.: 2025-CP-42-05971

Simon M. Noone, Plaintiff, vs.
Kathy A. Helms, Defendant.

SUMMONS To the Defendants above named in this action: You are hereby summoned and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is hereby served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint on the subscriber at their office in 409 Magnolia Street, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 29303-2196 within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, Judgment by Default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. You will also take notice that the Plaintiff will move for an Order of Reference or that the Court may issue a general Order of Reference of this action to a master/special master/special referee, pursuant to Rule 53, South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure. s/ Paul A. McKee, III, 409 Magnolia St. Spartanburg, SC 29303864-573-5149864-285-0999 fax Attorney for Plaintiff.

NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the Complaint in the above-referenced action was filed in the Spartanburg County Court of Common Pleas on

November 24, 2025. s/ Paul A. McKee, III, 409 Magnolia St. Spartanburg, SC 29303864-573-5149864-285-0999 fax Attorney for Plaintiff.

LIS PENDENS Notice is hereby given that an action has been commenced or is about to be commenced by the above-named Plaintiff against the above-named Defendant(s) for an Order quieting title to real property against all Defendants, including all other persons unknown, claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real property described as follows: All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land situate, lying and being in the State of South Carolina, County of Spartanburg being shown and designated as Lots 3A and Lot 3B, as shown on a plat made for T. L. Case, prepared by W. N. Willis, dated September 22, 1952, and recorded in the Land Records for Spartanburg County in Plat Book 34, Page 553. Further reference is made to plat prepared for Frank Helms and Kathy A. Helms, prepared by James V. Gregory, PLS, dated October 23, 1991 and recorded November 14, 1991 in Plat Book 114 at Page 601 in the Land Records for Spartanburg County. See said plat(s) and record(s) thereof for a more complete and particular description. Reference is made to that 20' road easement as shown on a plat of survey for Frank Helms and Kathy A. Helms by James V. Gregory, dated October 23, 1991 and recorded in Plat Book 114, Page 601; A 20' road easement as shown on a plat of survey for Agnes C. Page by Neil R. Phillips, RLS dated April 25, 1975 and recorded in Plat Book 75, Page 224; And a 20' roadway as shown on a plat for TL Case by WN Willis, Engrs. Dated September 22, 1952 and recorded in Plat Book 34, Page 553, in the Office of Register of Deeds for Spartanburg County. This being the same property conveyed to Simon M. Noone by deed of Jeffrey H. Smith recorded in Deed Book 148-J, Page 240 on September 24, 2024 in the Office of Register of Deeds for Spartanburg County. 129 Case Road, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 29307 3-21-00-026.01 s/ Paul A. McKee, III, 409 Magnolia St. Spartanburg, SC 29303864-573-5149864-285-0999 fax Attorney for Plaintiff. 12-11, 18, 25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Spartanburg County, the address of which is 180 Magnolia Street, Room 4113, Spartanburg, SC 29306, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.) or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statement on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Judy Ann Holifield
Date of Death: July 20, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201361
Personal Representative:
Michael Holifield
13 Poplar Street
Startex, SC 29377
11-27, 12-4, 11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Estate: H. Cullen Reed Jr.
AKA Homer Cullen Reed Jr.
Date of Death: October 21, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201993
Personal Representative:
H. Cullen Reed III
369 Twin Oaks Drive
Spartanburg, SC 29306
Atty: Alan M. Tewkesbury Jr.
Post Office Drawer 5587
Spartanburg, SC 29304
11-27, 12-4, 11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Estate: Eddie H. Caldwell
Date of Death: October 13, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201891
Personal Representative:
Carrol E. Caldwell
3018 Elmhurst Drive
Boiling Springs, SC 29316
11-27, 12-4, 11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Estate: Linda M. Henderson
Date of Death: August 23, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201603
Personal Representative:
Brandon Lee Henderson
1421 Ballenger Road
Wellford, SC 29385
11-27, 12-4, 11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Estate: Jennings Willard Abel
Date of Death: April 26, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201017
Personal Representative:
Angel Smith
217 California Avenue
Chesnee, SC 29323
11-27, 12-4, 11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Estate: Richard G. Moore
Date of Death: August 31, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201639
Personal Representative:
Katherine F. Hardcastle
113 Trout Court
Spartanburg, SC 29302
11-27, 12-4, 11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Estate: Leroy Reid Jr.
Date of Death: July 14, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201620
Personal Representative:
LaToya Copeland-Reid
238 Harell Drive
Spartanburg, SC 29307
11-27, 12-4, 11

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Estate: Aubrey G. Hayden
Date of Death: May 21, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201623
Personal Representative:
Linda J. Hayden
1808 Rosalyn Dew Drive
Lyman, SC 29365
11-27, 12-4, 11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Estate: Charles F. Lester
Date of Death: January 21, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201230
Personal Representative:
Virginia Jeter Lester
136 Cannon Street
Woodruff, SC 29388
11-27, 12-4, 11

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Estate: Voula K. Singer
Date of Death: August 7, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201753
Personal Representatives:
Nicole S. Singer
1886 Old Charlotte Road
Spartanburg, SC 29307 AND
George B. Singer
5216 E. Harvey Way
Long Beach, CA 90808
Atty: Gary W. Poliakoff
Post Office Box 1571
Spartanburg, SC 29304
11-27, 12-4, 11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Estate: Harry G. Miller
Date of Death: September 1, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201629
Personal Representative:
Mary F. Miller
107 Candler Place
Spartanburg, SC 29302
11-27, 12-4, 11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Estate: Sherry Ann Wheeler
AKA Sherry Ann Grant Wheeler
Date of Death: September 4, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201621
Personal Representative:
Christina L. Wheeler
102 Picadilly Street
Taylors, SC 29687
11-27, 12-4, 11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

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Legal Notices

indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Michael Gregory Easler
Date of Death: July 25, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201659
Personal Representative:
Johnnie T. Easler
756 Three Wood Lane
Woodruff, SC 29388
12-11, 18, 25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES
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Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.) or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statement on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Donald E. O'Shields
Date of Death: September 8, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201675
Personal Representatives:
Debra O'Shields Galloway
2801 Walnut Grove Road
Roebuck, SC 29376 AND
Lisa F. O. Allen
15 Maxwell Farm Drive
Simpsonville, SC 29681
Atty: S. Allan Hill
819 East North Street

Greenville, SC 29601
12-11, 18, 25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES
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Estate: Kenneth Dean Nix
Date of Death: October 13, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4202082
Personal Representative:
Julia A. Nix
222 Oakview Farms Road
Woodruff, SC 29388
Atty: Virginia H. Wood
Post Office Box 891
Spartanburg, SC 29304-0891
12-11, 18, 25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES
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to be presented in written statement on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Judith G. Taylor
Date of Death: September 20, 2025
Case Number: 2025ES4201764
Personal Representative:
LouEllen T. Speer
221 4th Street
Union, SC 29379
12-11, 18, 25

LEGAL NOTICE 2025ES4202081
The Will of Gordon DePoint, was delivered to me and filed November 24, 2025. No proceedings for the probate of said Will have begun.
HON. PONDA A. CALDWELL
Judge, Probate Court for

Spartanburg County, S.C.
12-11, 18, 25

LEGAL NOTICE 2025ES4201937
The Will of James Henry Luethje, was delivered to me and filed October 28, 2025. No proceedings for the probate of said Will have begun.
HON. PONDA A. CALDWELL
Judge, Probate Court for
Spartanburg County, S.C.
12-11, 18, 25

LEGAL NOTICE 2025ES4202104
The Will of Gerry Thomas Nix, was delivered to me and filed December 3, 2025. No proceedings for the probate of said Will have begun.
HON. PONDA A. CALDWELL
Judge, Probate Court for
Spartanburg County, S.C.
12-11, 18, 25

Studying abroad in STEM becomes more accessible

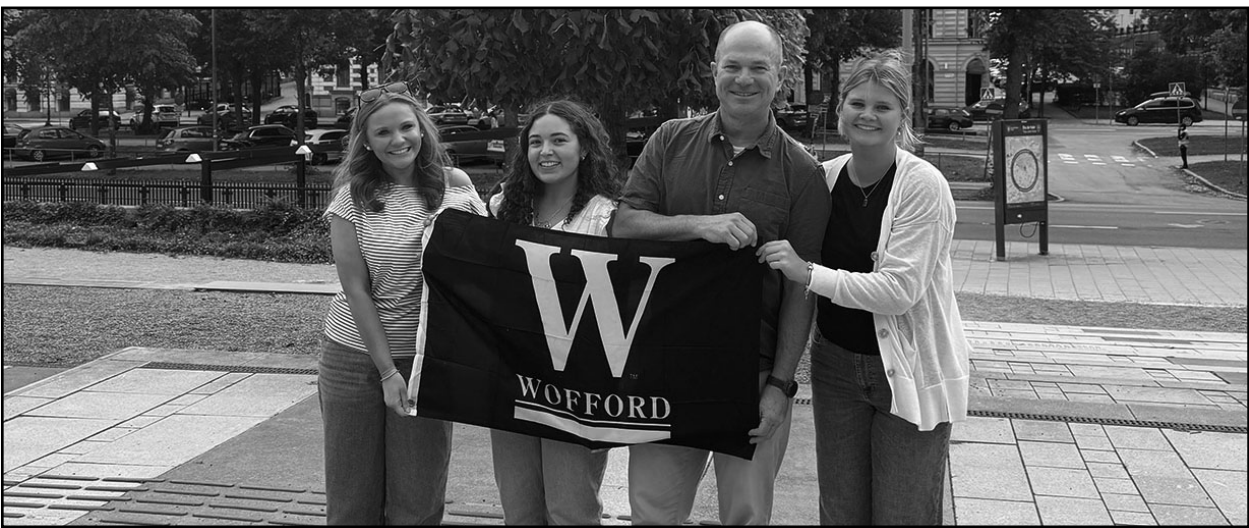
Information provided by Wofford News Services, edited by Bobby Dailey for The Spartan Weekly

A Wofford College physics professor is working to show science and engineering students that spending a semester abroad is more doable than they may think.

Dr. Mackay Salley, a 1995 Wofford graduate and professor of physics, spent his fall sabbatical in Stockholm teaching thermodynamics and fluid mechanics through DIS Study Abroad in Scandinavia. The courses, common in physics and engineering programs, can be difficult to find at the right level in traditional study-abroad offerings.

Salley said DIS is expanding its STEM curriculum at the Stockholm site to give students a realistic way to earn major credit overseas.

“Over the years, DIS has had requests from STEM students saying, ‘We would love to study abroad, but our schedule’s so packed that we can’t take a semester off,’” Salley said. “So



Dr. Mackey Salley '95 (center right) met with Wofford students Emily Dahl '27, Sophia Senior '27 and Gracie Andrews '27 in Stockholm, where they shared a traditional Swedish fika (coffee break). Wofford College photo

DIS has pushed for the Stockholm branch to offer courses like the ones I’m teaching that would be really difficult for a study abroad student to get anywhere else.”

Amy Lancaster, a 2001 Wofford graduate and dean of international programs, said DIS Stockholm stands out because students enroll in a core course and then connect with research happening in the region. The program offers semester-long and summer tracks in engineering, technology, neuroscience, biomedicine and other fields.

“The experiences are so unique. Nowhere else are study abroad participants going to be able to study polar biology or ice cores in the ice ages,” she said.

Lancaster said many students mistakenly believe STEM majors cannot study abroad outside Wofford’s January Interim term. While biology and psychology students often participate in semester-long programs, she said others — especially those on pre-health tracks — feel pressure to remain on campus for required courses and MCAT preparation.

“We encourage students to come see us,” Lancaster said. “We are eager to help them understand that it’s quite feasible for them to spend a semester abroad, and graduate programs are encouraging such experiences.”

Pre-health students do not have to limit their study-abroad plans to health-specific programs, she added.

Strom Thurmond III, a junior biology major and chemistry minor on the pre-medicine track, spent fall 2024 in Cairns, Australia, with SIT Study

Abroad. He studied ecology and human impacts on the wet tropics bioregion and the Great Barrier Reef. He also swam in the Coral Sea, hiked through rainforest terrain and spent time with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities — all while earning credits that counted toward his major.

“I honestly feel like it put me ahead in some ways, because I left with a lab and a lecture credit,” Thurmond said. “It transferred to my major. Now, I have something awesome to talk about in my medical

school applications. I got to do research. Those experiences are invaluable.”

Lancaster, who advises several of Wofford’s study-abroad partners, said programs worldwide are expanding their STEM offerings, often seeking input from Wofford faculty. In addition to DIS, Wofford now promotes opportunities such as clinical observation internships in Santiago, Chile; sea turtle and marine mammal research in Croatia; and environmental studies research assistantships in Freiburg, Germany.

She hopes faculty-led experiences like Salley’s will help STEM majors see what is possible.

“It’s great to have a faculty member like Dr. Salley who can come back and talk about how feasible it is and speak from firsthand experience,” she said. “We’re also really fortunate that the biology faculty and the pre-med advisors are incredibly supportive and encouraging, because medical schools are looking for these kinds of experiences for their applicants.”

‘True love’ in for pricey holiday shopping season according to data

(StatePoint) True Love is at it again this holiday season – and paying more than ever. According to PNC’s Christmas Price Index (CPI), the final price tag to buy all of the gifts in the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” comes to \$51,476.12 this year, headlined by drastic increases in the price of gold and the famed partridge’s Pear Tree.

For more than 40 years, PNC has tracked the price of the birds, entertainers, and other gifts that comprise the classic holiday song as part of its Christmas Price Index, a light-hearted take on the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Consumer Price Index. Fulfilling True Love’s shopping list will cost 4.5% more in 2025 than it did in 2024, outpacing the BLS index,

which rose 3% from October 2024 to October 2025.

“This year’s index reflects pressures from a tight labor market and lingering global economic uncertainties,” said Amanda Agati, chief investment officer of PNC’s Asset Management Group. “However, tariffs are not a driver at all because True Love’s shopping list only includes domestically produced goods and services.”

Highlights from this year’s index:

- **The gold standard**
For two years the price of The Five Gold Rings stayed flat, but that brief run of stability is over. The rings jumped by 32.5% – the biggest increase in the CPI this year. That’s an actual annual price increase of more than \$400,

reflecting a surge in gold prices overall. Inflation, expected Federal Reserve interest rate cuts, and a declining U.S. dollar have pushed investors to precious metals in 2025.

Overall, just more than half the gifts rose in price in 2025. Aside from gold, the biggest movers were the Partridge and the Pear Tree, and the Ten Lords-a-Leaping. For the former, the overall 13.5% increase is entirely attributable to the Pear Tree, reflecting increases in the price of labor, land and fertilizer and also serving as a proxy for U.S. housing costs.

The Ten Lords-a-Leaping have consistently grown in price over the life of the index – aside from 2020 pandemic restrictions on live entertain-

ment. The lords remained the highest priced overall gift in the index at \$15,579.65 and are a reflection of the growing cost of performers. The four entertainment-related gifts all increased in price in 2025, with the aggregate price increasing by 5.4%.

- **Status quo for birds**
Aside from the Six Geese-a-Laying, which rose by 3.3% this season, the other four gifts consisting entirely of birds cost the same as they did in 2024.

Historically, the bird gifts are some of the most consistently priced in the CPI, with both the Four Calling Birds and the Seven Swans-a-Swimming remaining unchanged for more than a decade. The Swans – formerly the most expensive gift in

the index are only roughly \$5 more than they were in 1984. Despite their consistency, their elevated total price of \$13,125 has historically inflated the index, leading to a “core index,” which measures growth in the CPI independent of the Swans. This year that grew by 6.1%.

- **Online shopping relief**
Trekking from store to store for all these goods can be cumbersome, but it’s ultimately cheaper than fulfilling True Love’s list online for \$55,748.05 – shipping and packaging all those birds is expensive.
- **Getting technical**
If you’ve ever heard or sung “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” you know the verses repeat after each gift is introduced. If you’re feeling

traditional and wanted to buy all the gifts as the verses repeat, you’ll pay the “True Cost of Christmas,” which is \$218,542.98 in 2025.

PNC’s Christmas Price Index is now in its 42nd year. Visit the PNC Christmas Price Index website for more information and interactive charts.

“With the Fed’s recent focus on looser monetary policy, it will be interesting to see where the CPI shakes out in 2026,” says Agati. “Will we get the gift of substantially lower inflation, or will still-elevated inflation be the proverbial lump of coal in shoppers’ and investors’ stockings? It all depends on whether the purple haze of policy uncertainty dissipates in the new year.”



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COPAYS AND DEDUCTIBLES MAY APPLY

Comics & Puzzles

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



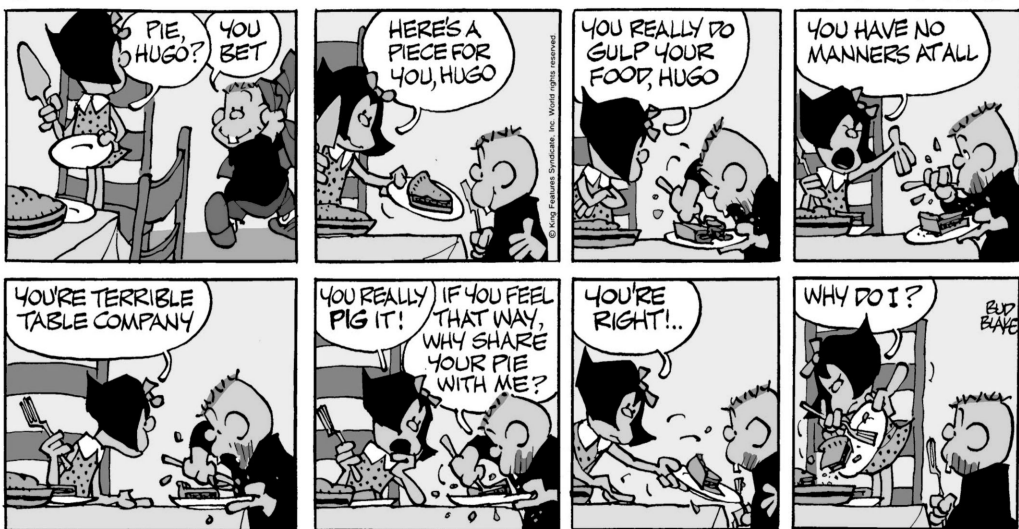
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: E equals B

MAITZOCPGQ OEGSC O

WPZAWTL GZ TOMLESV CJOC

NZAWAZR ORIAQMPQV RSZWOIAR:

PC'R OQ SNJPTT EAACTA.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

God TIDEY
Fold PLATE
Rouse WEAKO
Hint LIMPY

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Touse
- 5 Resistance unit
- 8 Prego rival
- 12 Bickering
- 13 Zodiac animal
- 14 Pub orders
- 15 Tabula —
- 16 Sheer fabrics
- 18 Santiago resident
- 20 Playful sea critter
- 21 Mormon church, for short
- 22 Top card
- 23 Army bigwigs
- 26 Scolding
- 30 "Humbug!"
- 31 Cooking fuel
- 32 French pronoun
- 33 Upbeat
- 36 Rose protector
- 38 Weeding tool
- 39 Spanish gold
- 40 Parlor pieces
- 43 Bar exercises
- 47 Trailblazing congresswoman
- 49 Shirley —
- 50 Power co. supply
- 50 Suffix for million
- 51 "Levitating" singer Lipa

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19			20			
			21			22				
23	24	25		26			27	28	29	
30				31			32			
33			34	35			36	37		
			38			39				
40	41	42		43			44	45	46	
47				48			49			
50				51			52			
53				54			55			

- 52 Poet Teasdale
- 53 Rolling stone's lack
- 54 Lair
- 55 Threaded fastener
- 9 Oodles
- 10 Hereditary unit
- 11 Cold War initials
- 17 Central points
- 19 Asner and Harris
- 22 Sounds of relief
- 23 Telly network
- 24 Fan's cry
- 25 Sashimi fish
- 26 Automobile
- 27 "As I see it," in a text
- 28 Fish-fowl insert
- 29 Tom Collins liquor
- 31 "My word!"
- 34 Stages
- 35 Ritzy
- 36 Part of TNT
- 37 Truthful
- 39 "Holy cow!"
- 40 Con job
- 41 Columbus' home
- 42 Evergreens
- 43 Crossword hint
- 44 — Bator
- 45 Lima's land
- 46 "Shoo!"
- 48 Quirky

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Weekly SUDOKU

6	8		3		1	7		5
					9		8	
					3	1	4	
8		1	9					
	3				5	7		
	2	5	7		3	1	6	9
	4		2	3				7
3		7	1		5	8		
2			6	7	4	9		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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FiveSpot™

Enthusiasm

S	O	U	N	D

- Large body of water
- Soak
- A nit that was not picked
- What you're trying to do
- Obscures
- Breathing

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden. See more at www.sproutspuzzle.com

02540

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What is the name of the bloodhound featured on the sitcom "The Beverly Hillbillies"?
- HISTORY: Which Chinese dynasty mostly built the Great Wall?
- MOVIES: Which 2003 movie is about juveniles who are sentenced to work at a desert camp?
- MUSIC: Which famous song begins with the line, "Hello darkness, my old friend..."?
- ANATOMY: What's another name for the patella?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Chile?
- FOOD & DRINK: Who perfected the Champagne method?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the national flowers of Japan?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Love in the Time of Cholera"?
- SCIENCE: Which wire is usually the main "hot" one in electrical work?

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PAYDAY

Today's Word

3. Awake; 4. imply

SCRAMBLERS

E	V	I	A
S	L	E	V
E	V	L	O
E	S	U	L
E	S	U	O
D	N	O	S

Solution

2	5	8	6	7	4	9	3	1
3	6	7	1	9	5	8	4	2
1	4	9	2	3	8	6	5	7
4	2	5	7	8	3	1	6	9
6	3	6	4	1	2	5	7	8
8	7	1	9	5	6	4	2	3
5	6	3	8	9	7	3	1	4
7	1	3	5	4	6	2	9	8
6	4	3	2	1	7	9	5	

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

It's an uphill beetle.

Declaration about a

freely or ladybug that

in two-wire circuits

10. Black, although red also can be hot

9. Gabriel Garcia Marquez

8. The cherry blossom and the chry

7. A Benedictine monk named Dom

6. Santacapo

5. Kneecap

4. "The Sound of Silence" by Simon &

3. "Holes"

2. The Ming dynasty

1. Duke

Trivia Answers

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.