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Spartan Weekly

Community news from Spartanburg and the surrounding upstate area
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AROUND TOWN

Dorman Girls Volleyball team wins State Championship

Sweet 16! Yes, This is the 16th Championship won by Coach Paula Kirkland and the girl's volleyball program at Dorman! The Lady Cavs defeated Wando 3-1 to win their back to back 5A-D1 title as 2024 Champs. Spartanburg School District 6 is extremely proud of them for all of their hard work and success!

Spartanburg's trails are safe and clear!

Play.Advocate.Live Well Spartanburg recently announced that all of the Dan trails are now safe to explore and free of major debris following the recent hurricane. This tremendous accomplishment was made possible through four Saturday cleanup events, several Trail Stewardship Tuesday efforts, and the dedication of partners, trail staff, and 100 PAL volunteers who worked tirelessly to restore our community's trails.

From clearing fallen trees to tidying up pathways, these amazing volunteers and partners ensured our trails remain a safe and welcoming space for everyone.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed their time and energy! Come take a walk and enjoy the beauty of these trails—now clearer than ever!

Trez Capital provides \$12 million loan for self-storage facility in Duncan

The Dallas-based office of Trez Capital announced the closing of a \$12 million loan to Greenville-based Streams Development to develop a 952-unit state-of-the-art self-storage facility in Duncan. The project, located at the northwest corner of Highway 290 and Shoals Road, spans 130,000 square feet with a net rentable square footage of 101,650.

The property will feature climate-controlled units, a state-of-the-art security system that includes keypad entry and an exterior surveillance system.

The storage facility is set to open in December 2025.

Hollywild Animal Preserve's Magic of Lights now open

Hollywild Animal Preserve's drive-through light display 'Magic of Lights' is now open.

Magic of Lights is a drive-through holiday lights experience featuring holiday scenes and characters of the season using the latest LED technology and digital animations. Experience Magic of Lights from the comfort and safety of your own car as you wind through the sparkling path in the Preserve. Be sure to stop by Santa's Village and the Enchanted Deer Forest, a live animal deer forest, for extra holiday magic! Kids 2 and under are free!

Magic of Lights is open now through January 4, 2025, beginning each night at 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person. Visit hollywild.org for more information.

Create a new holiday tradition by giving blood

As holiday celebrations continue into December, the American Red Cross encourages donors to keep the blood supply top of mind by giving blood this month. Type O negative blood donors and those giving platelets are especially urged to give now to help ensure patients can continue to receive the care they need in the coming weeks.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Spartanburg County include:

Duncan: January 2, 2025: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., AFL, 110 Hidden Lake Circle.

Spartanburg: December 30, 2024: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., SAM-Chapman Cultural Center, 200 East St. John Street.

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) for more information.

DSS can help you build a quality workforce

The SCDSS Division of Employment Services works to support business owners who hire SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program participants entering the workforce. When you hire their customers, you become eligible for a variety of benefits, incentives and supports designed to meet your specific needs. Hiring through DSS Employment Services programs provides businesses and new employees a promising future. They assist with tax credit opportunities for employers, workforce consultants statewide, vocational assessments, pre-screened job referrals, background screening, and ongoing assistance. Visit <https://dss.sc.gov/assistance-programs/employer-services-and-workforce-development/> for more information.



Imagining Spartanburg

Information courtesy of Wofford News Services

Early in their first semester at Wofford College, Sydney Heslop '28, Maura Jackson '28, Carlee Mason '28 and Grant Owen '28 walked into the Robert Hett Chapman III Center for Philanthropy unsure of what to expect. They had been given the assignment by Dr. Alysa Handelsman of getting to know Spartanburg and some of its leaders, and the Spartanburg County Foundation seemed like a good place to start.

"When we walked in, Troy Hanna, the president and CEO of the Spartanburg County Foundation, just happened to be walking out of a meeting. We talked for 20 minutes," says Owen, a native of Setauket, New York, who plans to major in finance at Wofford.

The time with Hanna made an impression on the Wofford students, but it also made an impression on Hanna, who, along with others from the SCF, surprised the student a few weeks later with a "Just Because" ambush philanthropy grant. The students were given the grant with the expectation that they identify and donate the money to a local nonprofit.

"My 'Imagining Spartanburg' liberal arts seminar students have loved volunteering all semester with the 15 elementary school students at Prince Hall Apartments. They form part of an after-school program, Determined Minds, that USC Upstate and Wofford lead in collaboration with Spartanburg Housing," says Handelsman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology. Because of this relationship, the students decided to give the grant to Housing360, Spartanburg Housing's nonprofit affiliate organization. The funds will purchase healthy snacks and other supplies for the Determined Minds after-school program.

The grant motivated the class to do even more. Handelsman's students raised funds to hold a holiday party for the Determined Minds students and their families that included crafts, activities, pizza and a visit from Santa. Each student also left with a



Wofford students recently secured Spartanburg County Foundation grant for Housing360. Wofford College photo

bag of gifts and surprises based on wish-lists they created.

Wofford students divided up responsibilities to ensure the party's success. Owen, who helped start a food pantry at his home church in New York, was in charge of fundraising.

"The grant inspired others to give so we could make a greater impact," he says.

Heslop, a native of Summerville, S.C., who plans to major in business economics and government, managed crafts.

"I spent my Thanksgiving break on Pinterest," says Heslop, who has a long history of supporting community initiatives in Summerville. "I knew we had a tight budget, so I worked to find inexpensive but fun options. ... I have learned so much already in this course. A fact that stood out to me is that only 4% of people born into poverty are able to escape it in their adult life. When Dr. Handelsman asked us to guess the statistic, I guessed upwards of 60%. This course has been eye-opening."

Mason, who grew up in Spartanburg, says the class has shown her a side of the community she's never experienced.

"I am learning more about my hometown than I have in the past," she says. "My curiosity and desire to study and do more have increased because of my deeper understanding."

Hanna and his colleagues at SCF are impressed. "We are appreciative of the Wofford students' decision and their thought process and due diligence in awarding this grant," he says. "Housing360 participated in the Spartanburg County Foundation's Non-profit Capacity Building Boot Camp this year to learn about building Housing360 to support Spartanburg Housing. We're excited that the students in Dr. Handelsman's class continue to make an impact on

the students in Determined Minds through Housing360."

Handelsman's students also have spent time at Carver Middle School, Mary H. Wright Elementary and Cleveland Academy of Leadership. They have worked at The Bridge, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church and the Bethlehem Center. They have attended City Council and Northside and Una-Saxon-Arcadia neighborhood association meetings. Students also received Cradle-To-Career training from the Spartanburg Academic Movement, attended the THRIVE Conference on Childhood Resilience and volunteered with the 50+ program at Dr. T.K. Gregg and CC Woodson Community Center. They shadowed those involved in affordable housing development, and they worked at the Urban Farm ... oh, and they attended class.

Callie Henline '23, service coordinator for Spartanburg Housing's Family Self-Sufficiency Program, understands exactly why the "Imagining Spartanburg" class and community engagement opportunities are important. She was part of Handelsman's Community Sustainability Seminar. The Imagining Spartanburg course is a stepping-stone for students who will eventually register for a more intensive community-engagement experience.

"I'm from North Carolina, and I chose to stay in Spartanburg after graduation and join this community because of the experience I had in one of Dr. Handelsman's community sustainability classes," she says. As a student, Henline directed Chef's Club at Mary H. Wright Elementary School. "I'm so grateful that I had the opportunity to learn beyond Wofford's campus in the greater Spartanburg community. That's something I still enjoy in my work with Spartanburg Housing."



Converse celebrates the season with annual Festival of Lessons & Carols

On Thursday, December 5, 2024, Converse and Spartanburg came together for a joyful holiday evening at the Festival of Lessons and Carols held in Twichell Auditorium. This annual event, organized by the Office of Spiritual Life at Converse, has become a favorite holiday tradition for both the university and the local community.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols included performances by the Converse Chorus, Spartanburg Festival Chorus, and Converse Wind Ensemble. They performed traditional Christmas carols and hymns, inviting the audience to sing along, while Converse students read parts of the Biblical Christmas story. It was a beautiful way to celebrate the season.

"Lessons and Carols is a beloved Converse Christmas tradition that propels us into the season of Advent with joyful anticipation," said University Chaplain and Director of Community Engagement Reverend Eliza Smith DeBevoise. "I am grateful to have the chance to work with such wonderful students, community members, and colleagues annually to create something beautiful and reverent for our Converse family and Spartanburg more broadly. Bringing others to campus, whether it be community members in the Spartanburg Master Chorale or the middle school handbell choir from Eddlemon Adventist Christian Academy, sparks a spirit of connectivity and welcome that makes me proud to be a Valkyrie!"

The front campus was decorated with glowing luminaries on the chilly night, creating a warm, festive atmosphere. These luminaries were sponsored by members of the Converse community to honor or remember loved ones. The money raised from the luminaries goes to the Converse Student Benevolence Fund, which helps students in emergencies by covering basic needs like food and housing.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols has grown into a cherished event that brings our community together during the holiday season. Its combination of music, scripture, and tradition has created a meaningful way to acknowledge the holiday season. At Converse, this annual event not only spreads joy but also supports students in need, making it a truly special experience for everyone involved.

Around South Carolina

Cherokee County school leader named S.C. Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year

Columbia - The South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) has named Mrs. Tessie Bridges the 2025 South Carolina Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year. Mrs. Bridges is an assistant principal at Grassy Pond Elementary in the Cherokee County School District.

“We are excited to recognize Mrs. Tessie Bridges as the South Carolina Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year,” said Dr. Quincie Moore, Executive Director of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators. “Mrs. Bridges puts in a tremendous amount of effort to engage her students and serve as an instructional leader to sup-

port the teachers at Grassy Pond. She took the lead implementing the AVID program in her school, and the impact of this work can already be seen. When our committee informed us of her selection as AP of the year, it impacted me personally—I served as Tessie’s principal when she was a high school student, and even then, I could see her potential as a leader.”

Superintendent of Cherokee County Schools Dr. Thomas White added, “She exemplifies ‘service before self’ and ‘excellence in all you do.’ She is compassionate and courageous. That’s why students, parents, and her colleagues love her so much. She represents the best of



Tessie Bridges

all of us. This recognition as SCASA’s Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year is well-deserved. I’m so happy for her, Grassy Pond Elementary and Cherokee County

Schools Executive Director of Student Services Mrs. Bessie Westmoreland continued, “Mrs. Bridges is a bright star in educational leadership. She understands the importance of a child’s

academic, physical, and emotional health as the foundation for success. Mrs. Bridges does not take her responsibility to children lightly; she cherishes each child as her own. We are honored and fortunate to have Mrs. Bridges as part of the Cherokee County School District.”

Mrs. Bridges was selected from an outstanding field of administrator candidates by a veteran panel of judges. The other finalist for 2025 South Carolina Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year was Mrs. Jacqueline Pollard, assistant principal at Doby’s Bridge Elementary School in York School District 4 (Fort Mill). The criteria used in the selection of this award are set

by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. The state sponsors are Horace Mann and Herff Jones.

SCASA, the professional organization for school leaders in South Carolina, has more than 5,500 members. From professional development opportunities and research to publications and legislative advocacy, SCASA’s focus is to support school leaders in providing the best possible education for South Carolina’s young people. As a state affiliate of three national associations for school leaders, SCASA also works on the national level.

Governor announces first director of the Office of Statewide Workforce Development

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster on December 9 announced his appointment of Rebecca Battle-Bryant, Ph.D., as the first director of the Office of Statewide Workforce Development (OSWD) housed within the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW).

The position, created by the Statewide Education and Workforce Development Act, signed into law by McMaster in 2023, is tasked with coordinating, aligning, and directing workforce efforts across South Carolina.

State officials said the goal of the OSWD is to implement the projects of the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development to maximize available resources and create a customer-centric workforce development system that is accessible, effective, and easy to navigate.

Battle-Bryant has held numerous leadership positions in workforce development, including vice president of Human Resources and Workforce Development for the United Infrastructure Group and assistant executive director for the Workforce and Economic

Development Division at DEW.

“As South Carolina continues to break economic development records and attract tens of thousands of new jobs—many in innovative industries—there has never been a more critical time to streamline and optimize our workforce development efforts,” McMaster said.

He added, “Dr. Rebecca Battle-Bryant’s extensive experience with South Carolina’s workforce programs will build upon our nationally recognized success and ensure our workforce is prepared to meet

the demands of the future.”

A graduate of Auburn University, Battle-Bryant earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a focus on Marketing and Sales and a Master of Business Administration.

She completed a doctorate in Higher Education Administration at the University of South Carolina in 2009.

She is also a certified economic developer, Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Certified Professional, DISC coach/consultant, authorized SHRM Recertification

Credit Provider, and published author.

“Workforce Development has been a passion of mine for the last twenty-five years, as I have sought to leverage my experience and knowledge in private industry, education, and government to simplify making connections between prospective employees and employers in South Carolina,” Battle-Bryant said in a statement.

She added, “I am humbled and inspired to be asked to serve as the

Director of the Office of Statewide Workforce Development to lead South Carolina’s workforce development efforts.”

She is president and owner of Battle Plan Consulting, LLC, a full-service consulting firm specializing in human resources, workforce development, and public outreach.

She has previously served as director of Webster University’s Columbia Metropolitan Campus, associate vice

president of Corporate Training and Economic Development at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, and held leadership roles at SCANA/South Carolina Electric & Gas Company over a 13-year tenure.

Battle-Bryant lives in Summerton, S.C., with her husband, Drayton, and their daughter.

The appointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

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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? Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah
3. From Matthew 1:18, when Mary became pregnant, she and Joseph were ...? Married, Engaged, Just friends, Strangers
4. In Luke 2:8-11, how did the shepherds learn of Christ’s birth? Magi informed, Joseph announcement, Mighty wind, Angel appearance
5. Where did the wise men go first when they arrived in the Holy Land? Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron
6. What does the Bible record as to when Jesus was born? Late September, Dec. 25, March 17, Does not

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

“Test Your Bible Knowledge,” a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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Super Crossword CLEAR COMMUNICATION

ACROSS

- 1 NATO has a special one for spelling
- 9 Architectural wings
- 13 Provo people
- 20 In a lying, faceup position
- 21 Sticky stuff
- 22 Kind of energy
- 23 Moniker for novelist Ernest
- 25 Dig up
- 26 Apt. overseer
- 27 Yoko of music and art
- 28 Singer Waters
- 30 Puente of mambo
- 31 Road coater
- 34 Weed B- —
- 36 Marriott, e.g.
- 39 Doesn’t lack
- 42 Often-dried fruit
- 44 Diarist Anaïs
- 46 “Caveman diet”
- 47 Messy roommate on “The Odd Couple”
- 51 Dune locale
- 56 Chicago hub
- 57 Dot on some transit maps
- 59 Gave a coil
- 60 Suffer ruin
- 62 Admonish
- 65 “Hello” singer
- 66 Cast off skin
- 68 1992 Guns N’ Roses hit
- 70 Extermination target
- 73 Civil rights icon Parks
- 76 Hoagies
- 77 Extermination targets
- 78 Method of measuring ocean depth
- 83 Boy actor in 1937’s “Elephant Boy”
- 85 Raccoon kin
- 86 Alluring attributes
- 89 “No doubt!”
- 93 Trig topics
- 95 Dependent
- 97 — ground missile
- 98 Barely beats
- 101 Doing certain ballroom moves
- 103 Spanish bar appetizers
- 105 Born, to Luc
- 106 Plant pouch
- 107 — Zedong
- 108 Very thin material for book pages
- 113 Steelers’ gp.
- 115 Mu — pork
- 117 Normandy city
- 118 Doctrine
- 120 Internet ID
- 122 Symbol of innocence
- 126 One revising something
- 129 Portrayer of Jax Teller on “Sons of Anarchy”
- 133 Act as arbiter
- 134 Symbol of innocence
- 135 Brazil’s largest city
- 136 Soul
- 137 Amply skilled
- 138 Apt word spelled out by the first letters of eight answers in this puzzle
- 5 Le Duc — (1992-97 president of Vietnam)
- 6 Nectar lover
- 7 Sailors’ saint
- 8 Knotting up
- 9 Ovum
- 10 Actor Rob
- 11 Averse (to)
- 12 Whale’s half-rise out of the water
- 13 Island guitar
- 14 “Sn” element
- 15 Suffix with prop-
- 16 Shrubland
- 17 Sunny lobbies
- 18 Mafia’s Frank
- 19 “Danke —”
- 24 Around 12 p.m.
- 29 Greek H’s
- 32 In a new way
- 33 Backboard attachment
- 35 Sentra maker
- 37 Grasslands
- 38 Actor sharing top billing
- 39 Backboard attachment
- 40 Tennis’ Arthur
- 41 Injury vestige
- 43 Yak it up
- 45 “That’s false!”
- 48 Pupil of Plato
- 49 French noble
- 50 Rule for homework time, perhaps
- 52 Operated by water under pressure
- 53 Brand of fat substitute
- 54 Ignited anew
- 55 Blissful sites
- 58 Bakery buys
- 61 Hoagie
- 63 Coll. in Dallas
- 64 Wanes
- 67 Football’s flute
- 69 Hollywood’s Morales
- 70 Praline bit
- 71 Cut-rate, in adspeak
- 72 Thick carpets
- 74 Show filmed at 30 Rock
- 75 Hebrew month
- 79 Daytime nap
- 80 “How — Your Mother”
- 81 Pitcher Ryan
- 82 African nation whose capital is Conakry
- 84 Boil briefly
- 87 Very angry
- 88 —Caps
- 90 Hat edge
- 91 Italian peak
- 92 African nation whose capital is Lomé
- 94 Lava or Dial
- 96 NFL scores
- 99 Stymied
- 100 Sticky stuff substitute
- 102 Some small batteries
- 104 Japanese green tea
- 108 “Veni,” translated
- 109 Monikers
- 110 Skillful feats
- 111 Navel type
- 112 Fixed-up building
- 114 Brittle
- 116 Arm bones
- 119 Like giraffes
- 121 Emmy winner
- 123 “Sometimes you feel like —”
- 124 African nation whose capital is Bamako
- 125 Coll. hotshot
- 127 Football’s Marino
- 128 Lister’s abbr.
- 130 Caviar source
- 131 “Yoo —!”
- 132 1995-2006 TV channel

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Super Crossword

Answers

ALPHABET, BILLS, OITAHANSI, SUPTIMELY, GOOP, KINEITIC, PAIAPAE, INGWAY, DWARTHI, SUPTI, ONIC, ETHHEL, TITIO, HIAS, FIGH, ANGIN, HOTELICHA, IN, OSGAR, MADISON, SEASHORE, OHARE, BUSSTOP, STYLLIED, PIERIS, CHASTIS, S, ADIELE, SHIED, NOVEMBER, BRAIN, I, PEIST, ROSA, SUBS, ANTSI, ECHOSOUNDING, AADU, GOATT, GILAMOURS, TILLBEIT, ANGLIES, BELLIANT, ATIRTO, HOISE, SCUT, LANGRANGING, TIAPIA, NIEE, SJAC, MAIO, GAREN, CRIS, MUR, AMBAND, AMENDER, CHARLIE, HUNNAM, MEDIATIE, HIALO, SAIOPIAULO, EISSENCE, ABILE, PHONETIC

