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# Spartan Weekly

Community news from Spartanburg and the surrounding upstate area  
Visit us online at [www.spartanweeklyonline.com](http://www.spartanweeklyonline.com)

## AROUND TOWN

### National real estate company buys Cedar Springs Crossing in Spartanburg

Legacy Commercial Property of Brentwood, Tennessee recently purchased several properties including Cedar Springs Crossing in Spartanburg. The company has plans to invest and improve the property. Cedar Springs Crossing was built in 2000 at the intersection of Cedar Springs Road and Southport Road in Spartanburg.

"With Spartanburg projected to see 2.7% growth over the next five years, the market presents substantial development opportunities," the company stated. "Currently 15% vacant, the center features a diverse mix of national and local tenants, including Subway, Bargain Hunt and Happy Nails."

### Gold Star Financial named January Small Business Success Awardee

Gold Star Financial and owner Ebony Smith offer a transparent, professional approach to tax and financial services, customized to meet clients' unique needs. Ebony works to help others with integrity, making sure clients aren't being led astray. OneSpartanburg, Inc. recently awarded Gold Star Financial as the Small Business Success Award winner for January, presented by TD Bank.

### Spartanburg Elementary School selected as finalist for Palmetto's Finest Awards

Columbia - A Spartanburg County elementary school is among the finalists for the 2025 Palmetto's Finest Awards. This selection comes after extensive evaluations by a committee of fellow educators and previous Palmetto's Finest winners. The application process includes elements on student achievement, instructional programs, professional learning communities, and school culture.

Fairforest Elementary School in Spartanburg School District 6 was selected as a finalist.

Each school will have the opportunity to celebrate with their local community, as the winners will be announced through a live stream, via South Carolina ETV, to each finalist school on April 30, 2025.

### Caffeinated Conversations on February 21

Join OneSpartanburg, Inc. for a special, legislative-focused edition of Caffeinated Conversations featuring U.S. Representative Ralph Norman of District 5. Rep. Norman will provide updates on his district, his legislative priorities heading into the new year, and will answer constituent questions on Friday, February 21, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. at OneSpartanburg, Inc. headquarters, 105 North Pine Street, Spartanburg. Register online at <https://web.onespartanburginc.com/atlas/events/9353/details>

### Hope Center for Children to host Winter Gala

Hope Center For Children is hosting its Winter Gala: An Evening in the Enchanted Forest on February 22 at Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium. Ticket sales for the formal fundraiser support the organization's mission of building healthy families and protecting children in the area from abuse and neglect.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit <https://hopecfcc.org/winter-gala/>

### Hub City Press to publish Joe Bond's debut novel *Hope House*

Hub City Press recently announced that it will publish Joe Bond's debut novel *Hope House* in spring 2026.

Mr. Bond says, "So many of the boys in my novel are searching for a home, and I can't think of a better one for them than Hub City Press. This is a team that champions the unsung by publishing great literature. I'm humbled to work with them."

He began working on *Hope House* after his story "Damico" won the Masters Review Short Story Award. He lives in New Orleans.

### South Carolina State Fair opens applications for 2025 college scholarships

Columbia - The South Carolina State Fair, a self-supporting 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, recently announced the opening of applications for its 28th annual Ride of Your Life Scholarship program. Each year, this initiative allocates \$500,000 in college scholarships to high school seniors across South Carolina. Applications are open until March 15, 2025 and can be submitted online at [scstatefair.org/scholarships](http://scstatefair.org/scholarships).

Scholarship applications must be completed online at <https://www.scstatefair.org/scholarships> by March 15, 2025. Scholarship award recipients will be notified in mid-May of their award status. This year's S.C. State Fair will take place October 8 - 19, 2025.

## David N. Edwards Jr. to retire from the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport District

Adapted from information courtesy of OneSpartanburg, Inc.

The Greenville-Spartanburg Airport District recently announced that President and CEO David N. Edwards Jr., A.A.E. will retire on January 9, 2026, after 16 years of leading Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport (GSP) and 38 years of leadership in the aviation industry.

Edwards has served as the President and CEO of the GSP Airport District since July 2009. He began his career in aviation with the Dade County Aviation Department in Miami, FL. His distinguished career includes serving as the Airport Director for the Asheville Regional Airport, the Executive Director of the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority, and holding leadership positions with the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority.

Throughout his career, Edwards has been actively involved in community and industry organizations. He is past Chairman of the Board for Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA), a former Board of Director for ACI World, and a past Chairman of the Small Airports Committee for ACI-NA. He has served as President of the North Carolina Airports Association and is a past President of the Southeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). He has also served on Boards of the Greer Development Corporation, Gibbs Cancer Center, Upstate SC Alliance, Greenville Chamber, VisitGreenville-SC, and One Spartanburg. He is an Accredited Airport Executive by AAAE.

During Edwards' tenure, GSP has been recognized as a leader among airports for its achievements in customer service, technology implementation, innovation, and financial stability. During his leadership at GSP, Edwards led efforts to achieve the following:

- Increased revenues for the Airport District from \$18.9 million to \$72.2 million.
- Increased annual pas-



David N. Edwards, Jr.

senger enplanement activity from 636,987 to 1,447,797.

- Positioned GSP as a top 25 cargo airport in the U.S. based on international trade value and volume.

- Achieved the greatest number of airlines and the most nonstop destinations in the history of the airport. Edwards lured Southwest Airlines, Avelo Airlines, Breeze Airways among others while launching the airport's first nonstop service to the West Coast.

- Implemented over \$400 million in infrastructure investments including the Wingspan terminal modernization project, the expansion of cargo facilities, the addition of new public parking lots, significant roadway improvements, a new fuel farm, Facilities buildings, corporate hangars, airfield improvements, rental car facilities and the expansion of the GSP International Logistics Park.

- Established several new airport business models including the formation of Cerulean Aviation to manage the general aviation terminal (FBO), cargo operations and commercial fueling. Edwards transitioned much of the airport's food and beverage services to a management contract allowing for more input into daily operations and improved customer service.

- Increased Airport District staffing from 85 full-time employees to 240 and positioned GSP as a top 50 employer in South

Carolina.

- Recognized for efforts to establish GSP as the Best Airport in North America for three of the last four years according to its customers.

"Dave has dedicated 16 years and countless hours to GSP, and his achievements will not be forgotten. He has assembled a dedicated team of aviation professionals and has been an exceptional leader for the Airport District. Together, we have navigated numerous challenges, celebrated countless successes and worked diligently to enhance the travel experience for all who pass through our facility. Dave has laid a solid foundation for the future of our organization," said Minor Shaw, Chair for the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport Commission.

Reflecting on this career at GSP, Edwards said, "I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished during my tenure. From the expansion of our terminal complex and other facilities to the implementation of innovative technology and business practices, we have positioned GSP as a key player in the aviation industry. I am confident that GSP will continue to achieve great things in the future."

The GSP Airport Commission has established a succession plan and process, and it will execute that plan in advance of Edwards' departure in January 2026.

## GSP International Airport unveils new play area for young travelers

Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport (GSP) recently announced the grand opening of GSPlay, a vibrant and interactive play area designed to entertain and engage young travelers. Developed in partnership with local toy company Plus-Plus USA and The Children's Museum of the Upstate (TCMU), GSPlay promises to provide a fun-filled space for families to explore, play, and create before taking off to their next destination.

GSPlay features a creative design that incorporates colorful elements and engaging activities. The play area showcases the singular Plus-Plus shape in bright, cloud-filled surroundings, providing children with opportunities for imaginative play and exploration.

"We are thrilled to introduce GSPlay as the newest addition to our award-winning customer experience program at GSP," said Dave Edwards, President and CEO of the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport. "This innovative play area is part of our commitment to creating a family-friendly environment that enhances the overall travel experience for our passengers."

One highlight of GSPlay is the interactive map, where children can use Plus-Plus pieces to mark their next destination. The map serves as a fun and educational way for children to engage with geography and travel.

"We are grateful for the chance to partner with GSP and TCMU to provide this creative space for families," commented Ryan Hamilton, CEO of Plus-Plus USA. "Being born in Greenville and flying out of GSP since I was a child myself, it's especially gratifying to have a chance to be a part of the continued growth of our local airport."

In addition to the interactive map, GSPlay will feature a scavenger hunt encouraging further discovery within the play area, as well as giant Plus-Plus pieces that are found exclusively at GSPlay and TCMU.

"It's truly special to contribute to such a thoughtfully designed space for fun, learning, and play at GSP," said Lauren Luneckas, CEO of The Children's Museum of the Upstate. "GSPlay captures the vibrancy that playfulness brings, creating a welcoming environment for young families and ensuring children know they are valued travelers."

GSPlay represents a collaborative effort between GSP International Airport, Plus-Plus, and TCMU, reflecting a shared commitment to supporting families and creating memorable experiences.

## Spartanburg-based Mobile Communications America acquires SafetyCom

Mobile Communications America, Inc., the Spartanburg-based provider of wireless communication solutions, announced the acquisition of SafetyCom, Inc., a mass notification warning system provider based in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Financial terms weren't disclosed.

For 28 years, SafetyCom has been a provider of

Whelen Mass Notification systems across the Southwest. For nearly half that time, SafetyCom has partnered exclusively with RapidWarn/MCA to deliver advanced software control systems to its customers.

"Our discussions about joining MCA quickly revealed a shared commitment to excellence," said David Miller, CEO of

SafetyCom. "By combining our strengths, we can further enhance the customer experience and exceed expectations moving forward."

Vince Foody, CEO of MCA, stated about SafetyCom, "Their strong customer relationships, strategic partnership with Whelen, and service-first culture align perfectly with our growth strategy."

# Around South Carolina

## Lockheed Martin delivers first Greenville-made F-16 Block 70 jet to Bulgaria

Greenville - Lockheed Martin recently announced the delivery of the first F-16 Block 70 jet to Bulgaria, marking a major step forward in the country's efforts to modernize its air force.

The delivery was celebrated in a ceremony in Greenville, South Carolina, attended by Bulgaria's Minister of Defence, Atanas Zapryanov, alongside American and Bulgarian leaders. F-16s are built by the Lockheed Martin team in Greenville. Bulgaria has ordered 16 total aircraft.

"The F-16 will help the Bulgarian Air Force stay ahead of threats in the region and play a key role in the allied peacekeeping mission in Europe and around the world," said



Lockheed Martin recently announced the delivery of the first F-16 Block 70 jet to Bulgaria. F-16s are built in Greenville. Lockheed Martin photo

Mike Shoemaker, vice president and general manager – Integrated Fighter Group. "The F-16 has proven its air dominance time and again, and the Block 70 version will give the Bulgarian Air Force a

highly capable, combat-proven aircraft."

Lockheed Martin has a backlog of 117 F-16 Block 70/72 jets to be produced in Greenville, with 23 already delivered for international partners. The F-16 program supports more than 46,000 American jobs, making it a vital part of the country's industrial base.

Lockheed Martin is a global defense technology company driving innovation and advancing scientific discovery. Our all-domain mission solutions and 21st Century Security® vision accelerate the delivery of transformative technologies to ensure those we serve always stay ahead of ready. More information at Lockheedmartin.com.

## South Carolina Senate confirms Tom Mullikin, Ph.D., J.D. as SCDNR director

The South Carolina Senate confirmed Thomas S. (Tom) Mullikin, Ph.D., J.D., as director of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) in a unanimous vote Wednesday, February 5. He was then sworn into office by Senate President Thomas C. Alexander.

Mullikin assumes the top post at SCDNR, serving as the agency's chief administrator at the direction of the seven-member Natural Resources Board. He replaces Robert H. Boyles Jr., who has retired after more than 30 years of service to the agency.

"Serving our state as the Director of the Department of Natural Resources for one of the most beautiful places on earth is the honor of a lifetime," Mullikin said. "I grew up hunting, fishing, hiking and diving across the Palmetto State. Our hunters and anglers were the original conservationists, and we will work together with incredible state leaders and great professionals in SCDNR to ensure that we protect these natural resources for future generations."

Mullikin served as chairman of the South Carolina Floodwater Commission, to which he was appointed by Gov. Henry McMaster. He is a seasoned environ-



Thomas S. Mullikin, center, is sworn in as SCDNR director by Senate President Thomas C. Alexander on Wednesday, February 5. Mullikin was joined by Gov. Henry McMaster, from left, and his wife, Virginia Ann. He is a native of Camden, South Carolina, where he and his wife reside. They have four children and five grandchildren. Mullikin retired as major general/commander of the S.C. State Guard.

mental attorney who has studied environmental issues worldwide. In addition, he has a joint appointment as a research professor at the University of South Carolina and Coastal Carolina University's School of Coastal Environment. An avid outdoorsman, he has logged certified scuba dives in every ocean on Earth and has summited more than 20 mountains including

"Dr. Mullikin is the right person at the right time to lead the next chapter at SCDNR," Board Chairman Norman Pulliam said. "The Board is grateful to the Senate for confirming his appointment and grateful to Director Boyles for his years of service and leadership. We look forward to working with Dr. Mullikin to further the agency's mission to be the principal advocate for and steward of the natural resources of our great state."

In addition to his environmental and outdoor

experiences, Mullikin is a decorated retired senior military officer, having served with the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps, U.S. Army Reserve, where he was the international legal officer and assistant staff judge advocate attached to an element of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. Mullikin retired as major general/commander of the S.C. State Guard.

Mullikin is a native of Camden, where he and his wife, Virginia Ann, reside. They have four children and five grandchildren.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is a South Carolina state agency charged with regulating hunting, fishing, boating, duck stamp orders, and the conservation efforts of the state government. It is directed by seven-member Board of Directors. The board or governor may appoint citizens advisory panels to provide recommendations on agency programs.

### BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Jeremiah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What's the finish to this Proverbs 14:23 verse: "In all labor there is ...?" Profit, Righteousness, Grace, Rewarding
3. At whose well did Jesus meet the Samaritan woman? Joshua's, Jonah's, Jacob's, Judas'
4. From Revelation 21, how many gates does the New Jerusalem have? 1, 4, 12, 16
5. Who was king during Zechariah's time of prophecy? David, Dantel, Darius, Saul
6. How long did Aaron's followers mourn him? 3 days, 13 days, 30 days, 3 months

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Profit, 3) Jacob's, 4) Twelve, 5) Darius, 6) 30 days

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com).

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### Super Crossword

Answers

1. DOG 2. TREATS 3. ZORRIO 4. HJUSTI 5. EARNE DRUN 6. OREAD 7. HASTIO 8. WHATTI 9. SIA 10. GONNAME 11. ELVIEIS 12. YUIN 13. NETS 14. LITED 15. SWATSAIT 16. G 17. T 18. T 19. T 20. T 21. T 22. T 23. T 24. T 25. T 26. T 27. T 28. T 29. T 30. T 31. T 32. T 33. T 34. T 35. T 36. T 37. T 38. T 39. T 40. T 41. T 42. T 43. T 44. T 45. T 46. T 47. T 48. T 49. T 50. T 51. T 52. T 53. T 54. T 55. T 56. T 57. T 58. T 59. T 60. T 61. T 62. T 63. T 64. T 65. T 66. T 67. T 68. T 69. T 70. T 71. T 72. T 73. T 74. T 75. T 76. T 77. T 78. T 79. T 80. T 81. T 82. T 83. T 84. T 85. T 86. T 87. T 88. T 89. T 90. T 91. T 92. T 93. T 94. T 95. T 96. T 97. T 98. T 99. T 100. T 101. T 102. T 103. T 104. T 105. T 106. T 107. T 108. T 109. T 110. T 111. T 112. T 113. T 114. T 115. T 116. T 117. T 118. T 119. T 120. T 121. T 122. T 123. T 124. T 125. T

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### Super Crossword

TYKES IN THE SADDLE

**ACROSS**

- 1 Milk-Bone products
- 10 Legendary masked swordsman
- 15 "Getting out of it is not possible for me"
- 20 Stat for a baseball pitcher
- 21 Mountain nymph of Greek myth
- 22 Can't get out of it
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 25 Santa's little helpers
- 26 "Delicious!"
- 27 Insect snares
- 28 Told fibs
- 29 Attempts to hit, as a fly
- 31 Hair fixative
- 32 Ryder Cup org.
- 33 Manipulator
- 34 Prefix with angle
- 35 Felt concern
- 38 Riddle, part 2
- 43 Supreme Norse deity
- 44 California vineyard valley
- 45 Joust verbally
- 46 Words before "dream" or "be different"
- 47 Jazz pianist Allison
- 48 Loft
- 50 In a very uncordial way
- 52 City in Iowa
- 53 Riddle, part 3
- 57 Not docile
- 58 Serpentine fish
- 59 Above, in poetry
- 60 Gabrielle of volleyball
- 64 Vietnamese New Year
- 65 Grad's gala
- 68 Flop
- 70 Indian royal
- 72 Camera — (Cannes award)
- 73 Wear down
- 75 Actor DeLuise
- 77 Space
- 79 Big city in Ontario
- 81 Riddle, part 4
- 86 Utah winter vacation spot
- 89 From Tehran or Tabriz
- 90 Ladle, e.g.
- 91 Concerning
- 92 Iris coverer
- 94 With 108- Down, "Piece of cake!"
- 96 Memorable periods
- 97 Squint
- 98 End of the riddle
- 101 Cottage cheese bits
- 102 Hit the slopes
- 103 Alternatives to coffees
- 104 Part of LAPD
- 105 Perp catcher
- 106 Like fishes without appendages
- 108 Casino fixture
- 110 Holier-than- —
- 112 Rock's Reed
- 115 Make irate
- 116 Riddle's answer
- 120 Crouch down
- 121 Fill with panic
- 122 Vacant elected positions
- 123 1,000-kilo metric unit
- 124 Conical tent
- 125 Analyzed to detect the presence of
- 1 Like a wet lawn at dawn
- 2 Waikiki locale
- 3 Protein unit
- 4 Blasting stuff
- 5 Kept in check
- 6 1950s Ford
- 7 "I smell —!"
- 8 Yanks
- 9 — cone
- 10 Astrological diagrams
- 11 Writer Sarah Jewett
- 12 Scan or skim
- 13 Aries animal
- 14 Ukraine port
- 15 "Tell me about it!"
- 16 Ale grain
- 17 Generalized rivalry situation
- 18 Zinc — (cosmetics ingredient)
- 19 Brand of tortilla chips
- 24 Gymnast Korbut
- 30 Competitor of McDonald's and Burger King
- 31 Big Swiss city
- 32 Extol
- 33 Toward a stream's source
- 35 Calculate
- 36 Ornament hanger, e.g.
- 37 Italian rice dish
- 38 Lot in life
- 39 Makes the decision
- 40 Sheriff Andy Taylor's boy
- 41 PC shortcut code
- 42 Barter
- 44 Consumer advocate
- 49 Signaled, as an actor
- 51 Pre-euro Italian money
- 54 Bank of China Tower architect
- 55 Power connectors
- 56 One of the Muses
- 61 He played Santa in "Elf"
- 62 Recolled in fear
- 63 Blackboard clearers
- 66 Baltic Sea feeder
- 67 Tile designs
- 69 Blocks up
- 71 — Hopkins University
- 74 Clog-clearing brand
- 76 Year division
- 78 Writing assignments
- 80 Cause to stumble
- 82 Keaton and Sawyer
- 83 Not yet final, in law
- 84 Folk stories
- 85 Bank offering code
- 86 Gets on it right away
- 87 Investigate
- 88 Checking the fit of
- 93 One of the Muses
- 95 1984 comedy starring Steve Martin and Lily Tomlin
- 99 React to with a quick breath
- 100 Inflict upon
- 101 Mecl division
- 105 Tally up
- 107 Boxer Spinks
- 108 See
- 94-Across
- 109 Apollo's instrument
- 110 Variety
- 111 Gardening tools
- 112 Bread unit
- 113 Film director
- 114 Khrushchev's fed.
- 117 Corrida cheer
- 118 Decay
- 119 Actor Danson

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