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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)

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## AROUND TOWN

### Vintage View River Retreat named first winner of relaunched Small Business Success Award

OneSpartanburg, Inc. recently relaunched their Small Business Success Awards, presented by TD Bank. The monthly award recognizes the achievements and impact local small businesses make in Spartanburg County. Vintage View River Retreat & Adventures is the passion project of two former summer camp professionals with a deep passion for the outdoors, and the organization was proud to name them the November Small Business Success Award Winner. Learn more about this local business at <https://vintageviewvacay.com/>

### Dorman Boys wins the 2024 Cross Country Championship

Dorman boys wins the 2024 Cross Country Championship title! Congratulations to the Dorman High School Boys Cross Country team. They claimed their 8th team title in school history, making them back to back State Champions. Spartanburg School District Six is extremely proud of these student athletes and coaching staff for finishing strong this year.

### For a second straight year, USC Upstate volleyball earns four CSC Academic All-District selections

For Second Straight Year, Volleyball Earns Four CSC Academic All-District Selections  
 Greenwood, Ind. – Adding to a successful 2024 campaign, four Spartans find themselves selected to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team as redshirt senior defensive specialist Caroline Cleveland, senior libero Julia Gladhill, junior right-side hitter Savannah Page, and junior middle blocker Ady O’Grady captured the honors as announced by the organization on December 17.

### PAL Spartanburg receives \$115,000 grant to strengthen the food hub

PAL (Play.Advocate.Live Well) Spartanburg recently announced that it has been awarded a \$115,000 grant from the Reinvestment Fund to support the development of their Food Hub Success Plan. This funding will allow the organization to work with experts to create nine actionable strategies that will help the Hub operate more effectively and get more local food into the Spartanburg community. Read more about the mission of the Food Hub at <https://www.palspartanburg.org/PALS-Food-Hub>

### What you & your business should know in 2025

The annual Outlook Spartanburg conference features economic, legislative, hospitality, and community forecasts for the year ahead. This year's topics include the annual, highly-anticipated Economic Outlook, as well as a series of break-out sessions sure to help you make informed decisions in the year ahead.  
 This event will be held on Friday, January 10, 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Milliken Customer Center, 920 Milliken Road in Spartanburg.  
 Visit <https://www.onespartanburginc.com/outlookspartanburg> for registration information.

### Three Valkyries earn CSC Academic All-District honors

The College Sports Communicators (CSC) announced their annual All-District Teams, naming three Converse University students: Tori Barr '25, Megan Carpenter '26, and Mackenzie Day. All three players will move on to the Academic All-American round of voting.

### 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](http://hollywild.org) for more information.

### The Greatest Love Of All - A Tribute to Whitney Houston coming to Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium

This show is coming to Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium January 12, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information please visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or call the box office at (864) 582-8107 to avoid service charges.



Converse University recently announced a \$50,000 grant awarded by Power:Ed, a philanthropy of SC Student Loan Corporation.

## Converse University receives \$50,000 from Power:Ed to empower first-generation students

Converse University announced the recent award of \$50,000 to fuel its First-Generation program by a grant from Power:Ed, a philanthropy of SC Student Loan Corporation. This resource will be applied to enhancing the student experience for 357 Converse students participating in the First-Generation Program. With a focus on STEAM majors and career readiness, the expansion will provide career-specific immersion experiences, as well as paid student internships on and off campus.  
 “For the First-Generation program, our focus has traditionally been on first year students and supporting them during their transition from high school to college,” said Daphnie Glenn, Director of First Generation Programs and Student Success Initiatives. “The funding from this grant will empower us to help juniors and seniors focus more intentionally on their careers with STEAM-related field

activities, tutors, paid student internships, and career immersion experiences. Helping students learn about their chosen careers will prepare them for future success.”  
 Converse’s First-Generation Program is celebrating its fourth year supporting this talented and promising group of students; the program was founded by a grant from Power:Ed that established the rebranding and structure of the program which began in the 2021-2022 academic year. A first-generation student is someone who is the first in their family to graduate from a four-year institution and has a desire to engage within the college community. The program offers student mentors, social events, and learning opportunities throughout the academic year.  
 “Converse University has built an incredible workforce development program supporting first generation college students, and we are proud to help it grow over the next

two years, enabling these students to boost their awareness and readiness for SC career pathways,” said Power:Ed Executive Director Claire Gibbons.  
 During the 2024-25 fiscal year, Power:Ed will award \$1,000,000 in grants to South Carolina education and career readiness organizations. In this second quarter, Power:Ed has awarded six grants (including this grant to Converse University) totaling \$254,000.  
 “We are thrilled to have support from Power:Ed to create career experiences for our students,” said Rebecca Parrish, Assistant Vice President of Advancement Services, who leads institutional grant-seeking efforts at Converse. “This investment in workforce development enables us to align career paths with Upstate opportunities, highlight local industries of interest, and grow business partnerships for the institution.”

## USC Upstate awarded \$4.9 million grant for humanities internships

The University of South Carolina Upstate has been awarded a \$4.9 million grant from the Mellon Foundation to develop and implement a model internship program in humanities education. This impactful initiative will provide underserved students with exceptional opportunities to engage in rigorous humanities study, hands-on internships, and career exploration, addressing critical gaps in career readiness and fostering social mobility.  
 “We are grateful to the Mellon Foundation for this transformative investment in our university and our students,” said Dr. Bennie L. Harris, Chancellor of USC Upstate. “The generous support will give our students unprecedented study, internship, and career opportunities that cultivate skills in critical thinking, communication, cultural understanding, and self-awareness. They will better understand the world around them, engage with diverse perspectives, and navigate complex societal issues with

empathy and informed reasoning. These activities will position USC Upstate as a national leader in humanities education.”  
 The program aims to increase internship participation among humanities students by up to 600% by the end of the grant period and enhance graduation rates for humanities disciplines by up to 5%. Additionally, it seeks to drive a 15% increase in humanities enrollment during the grant period, with up to 25% growth anticipated within five years.  
 This initiative addresses findings from the 2023 AAC&U survey The Career-Ready Graduate, which revealed that while 80% of employers highly value skills gained from liberal arts disciplines, including the humanities, many students avoid these fields due to perceived career limitations.  
 “Humanities are the foundation for understanding and addressing the world’s most complex challenges,” said Dr. Tanya Boone, Dean of the

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at USC Upstate. “This program emphasizes the importance of humanities education as a pathway to meaningful careers and leadership opportunities. By connecting students with community partners and mentors, we will help them unlock their potential and pursue careers they may have never imagined.”  
 Through partnerships with organizations such as the Chapman Cultural Center, Hub City Roots, Spartanburg County Foundation, and Project R.E.S.T., the program will create new avenues for students to gain real-world experience in humanities fields. Students will develop professional skills while exploring career paths that intersect with social justice, community engagement, and the arts.  
 The grant will enable USC Upstate to redesign curricula across all 13 humanities programs, serving approximately 540 students annually, to include internships for majors and minors.

## Spartanburg Community College leads the way with AI-powered educational innovation

Spartanburg Community College (SCC) recently announced a groundbreaking partnership with AIBODY, becoming only the second institution in the United States to adopt and pilot this transformative technology, a cutting-edge platform that leverages artificial intelligence to transform the learning experience. This partnership aligns with SCC’s commitment to innovation and its mission to provide students with unparalleled opportunities for success in today’s rapidly evolving workforce.  
 “As our world faces extraordinary changes in healthcare and higher education, the Chasers will continually strive to enhance our capacity to introduce new learning technologies that will drive our community’s future growth and prosperity,” said Dr. Michael Mikota, President of Spartanburg Community College. “Our partnership with AIBODY showcases our dedication to leading educational advancements, ensuring that our students are equipped with the skills needed to excel in their careers. Just like our famous mascot, Chaser, we are just beginning to unveil all of the unrealized potential right here in this region of South Carolina. This partnership empowers us to further unleash that potential and showcase it globally.”

The integration of AIBODY into SCC’s School of Nursing will empower students and faculty with tools designed to enhance learning outcomes, streamline coursework, and foster personalized healthcare experiences and training. AIBODY is an advanced artificial intelligence platform designed for educational and healthcare applications. It specializes in creating immersive, interactive learning experiences by simulating human anatomy, physiology, and clinical scenarios. With its highly detailed 3D visualizations and real-time feedback mechanisms, this partnership with AIBODY will help SCC to integrate state-of-the-art technology into its curriculum, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application.  
 By incorporating AI-driven technology, SCC is paving the way for a transformative era in higher education that prioritizes nimbleness and accessibility, addressing gaps often overlooked by traditional higher education institutions.  
 AIBODY also plans to bring their operations to Spartanburg, SC under Palmetto InnovaSphere, a hub for transformative ideas that connects educators and industry leaders to drive economic growth and workforce development.









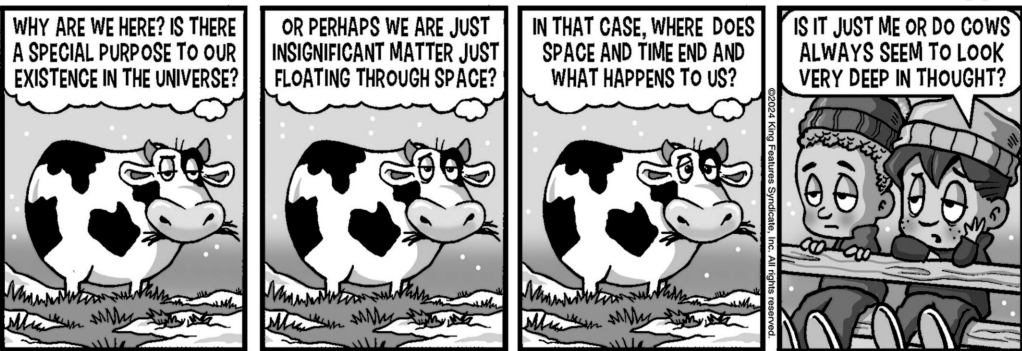




# Comics & Puzzles

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



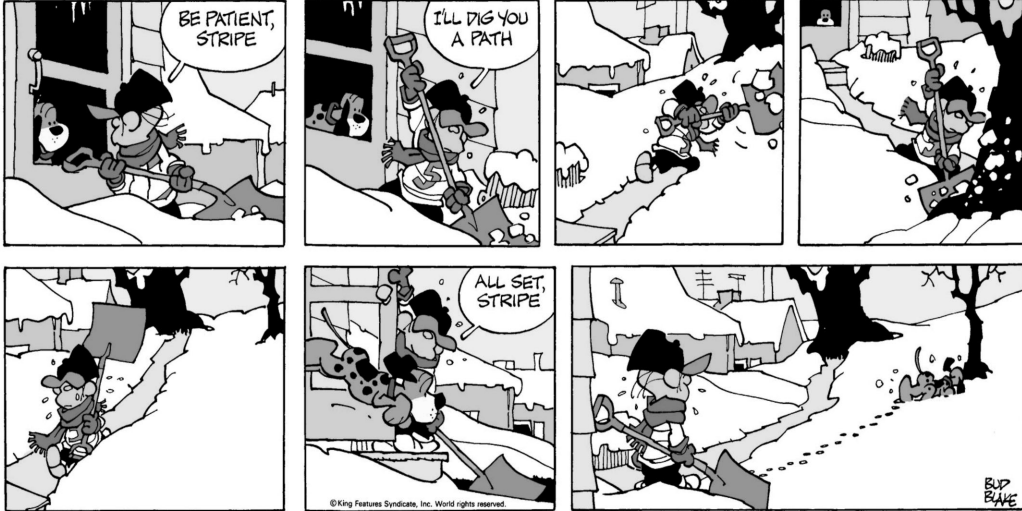
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



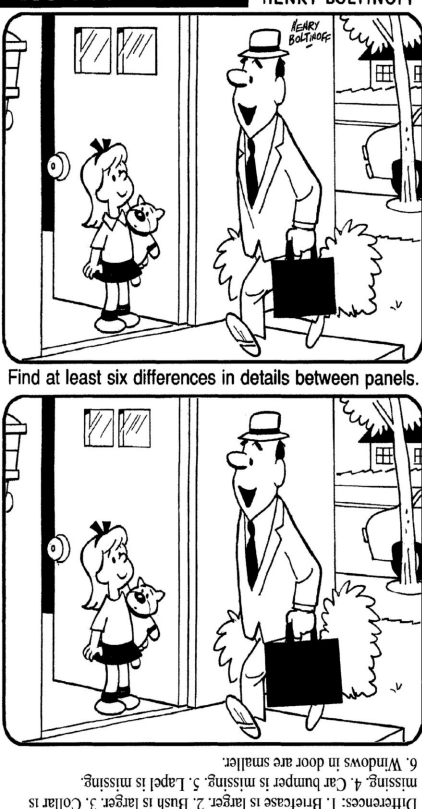
## OLIVE

By Emi Burdge



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



## 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: B equals L

MR M UZDZ NT RMBB LBB  
 NGZY NZYN NXHZY UMG  
 CTC-LEMJME YTBXNMTCY, M'J  
 JZEBLDZ "HLYZY BTLJZJ!"

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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!

- Theft: **SITHE** [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
- Noble: **LARGE** [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
- Phony: **MASH** [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
- Intense: **RANTED** [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

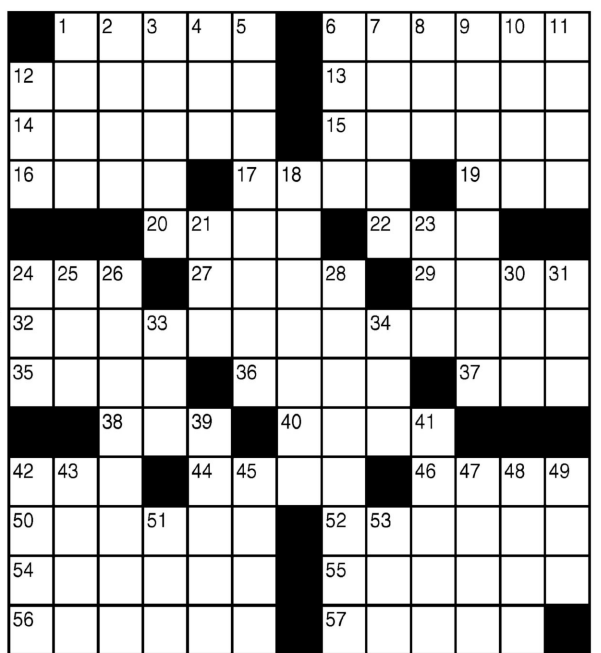
## TODAY'S WORD

\_\_\_\_\_

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Wash thoroughly
- 6 Black Sea port
- 12 Saudi neighbor
- 13 Reacts to a pun
- 14 Baseball's Roberto
- 15 Attack verbally
- 16 - -pedi
- 17 Barrel bottom bit
- 19 - tree
- 20 Use a stun gun
- 22 California's Big -
- 24 Director Brooks
- 27 Campbell of "Scream"
- 29 Eve's guy
- 32 Citrusy flavoring used in baking
- 35 Pedestal part
- 36 Actress de Matteo
- 37 Pro vote
- 38 Decade parts (Abbr.)
- 40 "No seats" signs
- 42 Food additive
- 44 Help a crook
- 46 Like custard
- 50 Venetian marketplace



- 7 Pulls
- 8 Very long time
- 9 The "S" of SNL
- 10 Crisp cookie
- 11 Hammett pooch
- 12 Candied veggie
- 18 Undo
- 21 Director Lee
- 23 Former Mideast gp.
- 24 '60s chic
- 25 Mound stat
- 26 "Bad Romance" singer
- 28 Physical effort
- 30 Super serve
- 31 NYC subway overseer
- 33 Fish-fowl link
- 34 Eastern "way"
- 39 Squelched
- 41 Factions
- 42 Hosp. scans
- 43 Ninny
- 45 Physiques
- 47 Pace
- 48 Neutral color
- 49 QB's gains
- 51 Blue
- 53 "Levitating" singer

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

## WORD LADDERS

Can you go from TRACK to BLAND in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

### TRACK

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### BLAND

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## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- FOOD & DRINK: What kind of cake is named after a British queen?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of the family dog on "The Simpsons"?
- ANATOMY: How long does a human red blood cell exist?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where is New Year's celebrated first each year?
- ADVERTISING: Which company sponsors a 13-foot-long Weinermobile?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many pints are in a quart?
- MOVIES: What is the name of the dance performed in the "Rocky Horror Picture Show"?
- BIOLOGY: What does the term ectothermic mean?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which country has the longest coastline in the world?
- LITERATURE: Who is the author of "The Canterbury Tales"?

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- 1. Victoria Sponge Cake
- 2. Santa's Little Helper
- 3. About 120 days
- 4. The island of Kiribati in the Oceanic nation of Kiribati
- 5. Oscar Mayer
- 6. Two
- 7. The Time Warp
- 8. Coldblooded, when body temperature is regulated by the environment
- 9. Canada
- 10. Geoffrey Chaucer

## MARRIED

Today's Word

- 1. Heist
- 2. Regal
- 3. Sham
- 4. Ardent

## SCRAMBLERS

BLACK, BLANK, BLAND

TRACK, CRACK, CLACK

Answer

### WORD LADDER



Solution time: 21 mins.

## King Crossword

Answers

## CryptoQuip

If I were to fill all these test tubes with non-acidic solutions, I'd declare "Bases loaded!"