

Inside:

Community Interest: Page 2

Legal Notices: Pages 3 - 8

New facility at USC Health Sciences Campus - Page 2

Export sales for South Carolina topped \$38 billion in 2024 - Page 2

Spartan Weekly

Community news from Spartanburg and the surrounding upstate area
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AROUND TOWN

What to look forward to with**Minor League Baseball back in Spartanburg**

Join OneSpartanburg, Inc. for a sneak peak of the much-anticipated opening season of The Hub City Spartanburgers at Fifth Third Park. They'll be joined by General Manager Tyson Jeffers for updates on the team and what fans can look forward to during the season. Event registrants will be entered into a drawing to win 2 free tickets to a Spartanburgers game! This event will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at OneSpartanburg, Inc. headquarters, 105 N. Pine Street in Spartanburg. Register online at <https://web.onespartanburginc.com/atlas/events/9348/details>.

Mike's Movers named Small Business Success award-winner for February

Mike's Movers, based in Spartanburg and a Power Up Spartanburg participant, brings professionalism, care, and respect to its moves, delivering a stress-free experience during a time that can all-too-often be hectic. For their dedication to growth and success in Spartanburg, Mike's Movers has been recognized as the February Small Business Success Award-winner, presented by TD Bank.

Nothing Bundt Cakes expands with new location in Boiling Springs

Nothing Bundt Cakes Spartanburg is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its second location in Boiling Springs, South Carolina, set to open in early Spring 2025. This expansion marks a significant milestone in the company's mission to spread joy through its signature, delicious Bundt cakes throughout Spartanburg County.

The new Boiling Springs location will offer the same high-quality, made-from-scratch Bundt cakes that Nothing Bundt Cakes is known for. With a wide variety of flavors, including classic favorites like Chocolate Chocolate Chip and Red Velvet, as well as seasonal offerings, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Nothing Bundt Cakes has been delighting cake lovers nationwide with its irresistible Bundt cakes since its founding in 1997. The brand is committed to providing an exceptional cake experience by using only the finest ingredients, creating a product that is as beautiful as it is delicious.

Power Up Spartanburg launches Access to Space program

Recently, Power Up Spartanburg launched an Access to Space program, working with participating small and minority businesses to get set-up in storefront space. PuddN' and owner Sedrick Posey are the first business to secure space with a shop in Downtown Duncan. Power Up also unveiled an updated Loans program, with loans up to \$50,000 available with a 3.99% interest rate, and a new line of credit option.

For more information about this program, please visit <https://www.powerupspartanburg.com/loans>.

SMC's JaiDah Liebert named CAC Offensive Player of the Week

Spartanburg Methodist College sophomore women's basketball JaiDah Liebert scored in double figures en route to Continental Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Offensive Player of the Week honors recently.

Piedmont Area Mensa free testing

Piedmont Area Mensa is offering testing for joining on March 8, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Drury Inn, 10 Carolina Point Pkwy., Greenville, SC 29607.

Test takers are invited to attend the activities of the Mensa Regional Gathering for the rest of the day.

For further info, Testing@Piedmontareamensa.org.

Help PAL Spartanburg build Spartanburg's Wildflower Way Trail & Rainbow Pet Bridge

Wildflower Way is more than just a trail—it's an opportunity for everyone in Spartanburg to connect with nature, move freely, and experience the beauty of the Edward Griffin Preserve. This ADA-accessible paved trail will open up a stunning natural area for families, individuals with mobility challenges, and anyone who loves the outdoors.

To see a map of the Trail, please visit <https://www.palspartanburg.org/wildflower-way>.

This segment of the Daniel Morgan Trail System (The Dan) will also feature Spartanburg's Rainbow Pet Bridge—a beautifully painted bridge where pet owners can honor their beloved companions. The bridge will serve as a place of reflection and remembrance, allowing visitors to clip their pet's collar onto the railing as a heartfelt tribute.

Donate online at https://activeliving.networkforgood.com/projects/244431-wildflower-way-trail-and-the-rainbow-bridge?utm_campaign=dms_email_blast_3849790. Thank you for supporting PAL and helping us build Spartanburg's trails!



Data recently released by the U.S. Department of Commerce confirmed that BMW Manufacturing was the leading automotive exporter in the United States in 2024. Plant Spartanburg exported nearly 225,000 vehicles during the year. *BMW photo*

BMW Plant Spartanburg exports nearly 225,000 vehicles in 2024, with value over \$10 billion

Adapted from information provided by BMW

Spartanburg, S.C. – BMW Manufacturing has confirmed that it was the leading automotive exporter by value in the United States in 2024, according to data released this month by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Plant Spartanburg exported nearly 225,000 BMW Sports Activity Vehicles and Coupes last year with an export value of more than \$10 billion. Moreover, since 2014, the South Carolina plant has exported more than 2.7 million BMWs – about 63 percent of total production – with an export value of more than \$104 billion.

The BMWs assembled at the South Carolina plant were exported primarily through the Port of Charleston, SC, as well as through four additional ports: Brunswick, GA; Jacksonville, FL; Everglades, FL; and Baltimore, MD. Nearly 15,000 BMWs were exported via rail. The top export markets from Plant Spartanburg were Germany, South Korea, China, Canada, and Great Britain.

"Plant Spartanburg has been an important location in our production network for over 30 years and is now the largest BMW Group plant globally," explained Milan Nedeljković, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, Production. "The strong export share of our plant underlines the importance of free trade for the USA. Not only does this benefit our plant, but also the strong supplier network in the region."

"When the first BMW rolled off the assembly line in 1994, it was the beginning of a great legacy for Plant Spartanburg in the United States. Our dedicated associates have assembled nearly seven million BMWs, and because of our export success, millions of customers around the world experience the innovative technology and premium quality of our X vehicles," said Dr. Robert Engelhorn, president and CEO of BMW Manufacturing. "Our achievement as the country's leading auto-

motive exporter demonstrates BMW's trusted partnership with this state and our continued commitment to the United States."

Plant highlights from 2024

The team at BMW Manufacturing assembled 396,117 Sports Activity Vehicles and Coupes last year. As part of that total, more than 57,000 plug-in hybrid electric vehicles were assembled, which made up more than 14 percent of the plant's total volume. Nearly 50 percent of all BMWs sold in the U.S. were assembled at Plant Spartanburg. Other plant highlights from 2024 include:

- Associates successfully launched the fourth-generation BMW X3, boasting greater sporting appeal, visual impact, and versatility than ever. The X3 is one of the best-selling BMWs in America.

- While celebrating the 30th anniversary of Plant Spartanburg, BMW opened its first press shop in North America. The state-of-the-art press shop stamps parts for the BMW X3, including hang-on parts such as the vehicle's four doors, fenders, lift gate, and exterior body sides.

- The expansion of the X3/X4 assembly hall continued as Plant Spartanburg prepares to assemble fully electric vehicles. Construction is complete, and most tooling and equipment has been installed. This assembly hall has increased by nearly 50 percent to more than 2.4 million square feet. The first electric vehicle will be shipped in late 2026, and by 2030, the BMW Group will assemble at least six fully electric models in the U.S.

- Construction started at Plant Woodruff, BMW's new \$700 million high-voltage battery assembly plant. Tooling and equipment are being installed with all work substantially completed by the end of March 2025. Associates at the one million square foot facility will assemble the sixth-generation batteries to supply fully electric vehicles at Plant Spartanburg.

- Construction on a 300,000-square-foot expansion to the main body shop was completed, and an additional 300+ robots have been installed.

- Construction on a new eight-story body shop stacker for vehicle storage was completed.

"South Carolina's position as a stronghold for the United States' automotive industry can be traced directly to BMW's success in our state. The BMW models assembled at Plant Spartanburg are in global demand — shipping to markets around the world," said South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster. "We are proud to have a company as committed to the prosperity of its community, the success of its employees, and the innovation of its industry right here in South Carolina. We look forward to celebrating many more milestones with BMW in the years ahead."

"Over the past decade, much of BMW's global success can be traced to the strength of Plant Spartanburg, where world-class advanced automotive manufacturing, employee upskilling, and research and development are happening in real-time," said Secretary of Commerce Harry M. Lightsey III. "South Carolina is proud of its legacy companies, like BMW, and S.C. Commerce remains a steadfast champion for the success of all businesses, no matter where they fall in their legacy journey. We are proud to be home to one of the most dynamic automotive industries in the nation, thanks to leaders like BMW."

Since 1992, the BMW Group has invested more than \$14.8 billion in its South Carolina operations. BMW Manufacturing is the largest BMW Group plant in the world, assembling more than 1,500 vehicles each day. The plant is an important part of BMW's global production network and plays a critical role in meeting the high demand for BMW Sports Activity Vehicles and Coupes in the U.S. and around the world.



Converse University Writing Center recognized for excellence

The Center Acknowledgement and Recognition of Excellence Program (CARE) has honored Converse University's Writing Center for its commitment to literacy, learning, and writing. This coveted certification was awarded by the Southeastern Writing Center Association (SWCA) in December, and institutions can reapply for recertification after the first five years.

University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs William S. Case is proud to see Converse recognized for its outstanding service and dedication to students in this area. He credits Dr. Jeffrey Howard, Assistant Professor of English and Director of the University Writing Center, for leading this collaborative and nurturing space. "I'm grateful for Dr. Howard's leadership and ability to support and mentor his team and our students," Case said. "He partners with numerous departments on campus to promote student success."

Dr. Howard, while grateful for the accolades, is quick to shine light on his predecessors' hard work as well. "We are building on a foundation of excellence that was laid by The Writing Center directors who came before me, including Dr. Emily Harbin and multiple others," he explained. "Without their contributions, this center would not be what it is today."

The Writing Center at Converse is dedicated to providing academic support for the needs of student writers across the curriculum. Its staff and peer consultants offer assistance to writers of all ability levels with learning prewriting strategies, understanding the writing process, developing a thesis, strengthening the focus of a paper, including supporting details, creating effective introductions, recognizing strengths and needs, identifying and correcting grammatical errors, and more.

According to SWCA, CARE is the only certification by the writing center community for the writing center community. The program certifies writing centers committed to literacy, learning, and writing, and it establishes "professional criteria relevant to diverse local contexts, providing writing centers the opportunity to articulate their unique stories and celebrate their accomplishments."

Dr. Howard was invited to serve as a CARE Reviewer, which involves providing feedback on other institutions' CARE applications.

Around South Carolina

School of Medicine Columbia breaks ground on new facility at USC Health Sciences Campus

The University of South Carolina broke ground on a facility that will redefine the future of health care education and research during a ceremony on February 25 at the site of its new School of Medicine Columbia.

This cutting-edge, 300,000-square-foot-plus medical education and research facility will be part of USC's transformative \$300 million Health Sciences Campus, amid 16 acres in the city of Columbia's reimagined BullStreet District.

Expected to be completed in August 2027, the state-of-the-art medical school will be poised to address the diverse health challenges of the Palmetto State through pioneering education and research endeavors.

"Our university has been planning for this long-awaited project for more than a decade, and we are excited to see construction in progress," USC President Michael Amiridis says. "As the first component of our Health Sciences Campus, the new medical school building highlights USC's commitment to leadership for the next era of innovative health care education and research."

Designed with innova-



A rendering of a hallway inside the new School of Medicine Columbia education and research facility.

tion and collaboration in mind, the facility will feature modern classrooms, medical simulation spaces, a health sciences library, interdisciplinary research labs and a café. Outdoor courtyards and green spaces will provide serene environments for study and connection to foster a vibrant academic community for students, faculty and staff.

USC's School of Medicine Columbia has served the community for nearly 50 years, and this project supports USC's goal to ensure a bright future for health sciences.

With the university's growing needs, USC has prioritized the development of modern health sciences facilities closer to its main campus and clinical partners in Columbia. This move aims to attract top-tier medical students along with world-class faculty and researchers.

"Our mission is to serve the people of South Carolina and beyond through education, research and compassionate care, and we are thrilled to continue this promise in practice soon at the Health Sciences Campus for generations to come," says Dr. Gerald

Harmon, interim dean of the School of Medicine Columbia. "I would like to thank the many leaders who made the project possible, including President Amiridis, Gov. Henry McMaster and our state legislators."

In addition to the study of medicine, educational opportunities at the School of Medicine Columbia also include biomedical sciences, counseling and rehabilitation, genetic counseling, nurse anesthesia and physician assistant programs to address the health care needs of our state, nation and beyond.

USC has partnered with Gilbane, as it leads the planning, design, development and construction. Key Columbia-based partners include architect Boudreaux and Brownstone Design and Construction Group. The Slam Collaborative is the lead design architect, and Greenville-based Restoration 52 is a development consultant.

The realization of the Health Sciences Campus is one of the key goals of USC Next, a 10-year master plan of proposed improvements and capital projects designed to meet

the needs of USC Columbia students, faculty and staff through 2034. The campus will seamlessly integrate with the broader BullStreet District area, contributing to its vibrant, mixed-use community. The area will have a capacity for expansion to meet future demands for health care education and research, ensuring USC remains at the forefront of health care innovation.

Two major components of the Health Sciences Campus and its surrounding areas are on the horizon. An announced neurological care hospital would house the Palmetto State's first standalone comprehensive medical facility dedicated entirely to integrated care of patients with brain and nervous system illnesses, and would be the first of its kind in the Southeast. A Brain Health Center will serve as a hub for delivering exceptional cognitive care through clinical innovation and research. The center, located across Harden Street from USC's new School of Medicine building, will be powered by the latest technology and tools, including new MRI scanners twice as powerful as standard scanners.

Export sales for South Carolina topped \$38 billion last year

Gov. Henry McMaster, the South Carolina Department of Commerce (S.C. Commerce), and South Carolina Ports (SC Ports) announced last week that the state's 2024 export sales totaled \$38 billion, the highest volume since 2019, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The automotive industry led South Carolina's exported goods, with sales more than double that of the next largest industry type (aircraft and aerospace components). The state is the nation's top exporter of both completed passenger vehicles and tires, and is also No. 2 in the export of ball/roller bearings.

South Carolina's top five exported commodities in

2024, by percentage share, were:

1. Completed passenger vehicles
2. Aircraft and parts
3. Machinery and parts (turbojets, turbopropellers, gas turbines, ball and roller bearings, appliances for boilers and pumps)
4. Plastics
5. Rubber (tires)

"South Carolina's business community and workforce continue to produce

top-quality products, and the world has taken notice," McMaster said.

"As the national leader in export sales of passenger vehicles and tires, we are further strengthening our reputation as one of the best states in the country to do business, which will help attract even more capital investment and opportunities for our people."

"Our state remains committed to expanding our

global reach and moving South Carolina-made products across the world, and last year's impressive export sales total reflects this," said Secretary of

Commerce Harry M. Lightsey III. "Supporting international trade is a vital part of our dedication to the success of our companies from launch to legacy,

and we are pleased to see these efforts paying off for the businesses that call South Carolina home."

The Spartan Weekly News, Inc.

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BIBLE TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Acts (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In 1 Kings 20, who besieged and made war against Samaria after gathering his forces? Ben-Hadad, Menahem, Rezin, Omri
3. What king asked for the help of a woman who was a medium? Jehu, Amaziah, Saul, Neco
4. From 1 Samuel 19, whose life was saved when his wife put an image of a man into his bed? Samson, David, Amnon, Cyrus
5. Who was the father of Elkanah? Jeremiah, Philip, Esau, Jeroham
6. From Esther 1, how many days did Ahasuerus' feast last? 2, 4, 7, 10

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Ben-Hadad, 3) Saul, 4) David, 5) Jeroham, 6) Seven

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit WilsonCasey.com or www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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Super Crossword

Answers

1. SABRINA 2. SIEGEL 3. MARIO 4. ASPIRING 5. LAMAR 6. FRED 7. GODMOTHER 8. PUNK 9. STALL 10. AFIC 11. TRK 12. SIES 13. DODL 14. HONORABLE 15. ESTERSON 16. SOUTHERN 17. ITALIAN 18. SIEGEL 19. ORLANDO 20. NAILFILE 21. RIUSITS 22. BIANCHI 23. FIRSTLADY 24. PHIT 25. RICHIE 26. OIS 27. PSY 28. NIVE 29. GOOD 30. HUB 31. KINGOF 32. COUNTRY 33. LIMAPERO 34. NAM 35. TIKEDAVIS 36. PRINCE 37. SPO 38. ROW 39. GOING 40. VOL 41. DIDS 32. SIU 42. AINT 43. EMPRESS 44. OFTHE 45. BLUEIS 46. ETTA 47. GOTTI 48. RICO 49. UNITS 50. AITRIOT 51. LING 52. ALLFOR 53. FATHER 54. PROCK 55. ANDRROLL 56. ILSA 57. TRARE 58. FAD 59. GOD 60. EKTING 61. QUEEN 62. BRAD 63. AIDWAY 64. LIQER 65. UNDIRAPE 66. MOLTIERIE 67. DENISE 68. ESSEINIS 69. SIMEARIED

Super Crossword SONG TITLES

ACROSS

- 1 Teenage witch played by Melissa Joan Hart
- 8 Breakwater embankment
- 15 Nintendo title
- 20 Germ-free zone
- 21 Singer with the 2018 hit "Boo'd Up"
- 22 Put up, as a building
- 23 Patti Smith
- 25 Flat, as cola
- 26 One of the two Pro Bowl gps.
- 27 Rantle
- 28 Notices
- 30 Hero type
- 31 Nina Simone
- 39 Napoli's nation
- 41 Alien-seeking proj.
- 42 City near Disney World
- 43 Manicure tool
- 46 Oxidizes
- 49 Put the kibosh on
- 50 Missy Elliott
- 53 Dir. from Miss. to Mich.
- 56 Pre-CIA gp.
- 57 Ad featuring Smokey Bear, e.g.
- 58 "Science Guy" with multiple Emmys
- 59 Honorable
- 60 Busy airport
- 63 George Strait
- 69 World capital in the Andes
- 74 '60s war zone
- 75 2010-14 Mets plumber
- 76 Britney Spears
- 79 Plane ticket detail
- 80 Large musical disk
- 81 Encyc. unit
- 82 Tosses out of the game, for short
- 85 "Law & Order" spinoff, in brief
- 88 Busy insect
- 89 Bessie Smith
- 97 Plane ticket detail, for short
- 98 Mafioso John
- 99 Narrates
- 100 Running rather quickly
- 104 "This Is Life" journalist
- 106 Totally in favor of
- 107 Chuck Berry
- 112 "Casablanca" woman
- 113 "Dies —" (Latin hymn)
- 114 — Schwarz
- 115 Peculiar
- 118 Just making, with "out"
- 120 Liza Minnelli
- 127 Roaring cat crossbreed
- 128 Remove loose coverings from
- 129 "Tartuffe" playwright
- 130 Thick
- 131 Ancient Jewish ascetics
- 132 Slung mud at
- 13 Thin streets
- 14 "In this way"
- 15 Spanish for "month"
- 16 Skilled crafter in the book, say
- 17 Go further in the book, say
- 18 Apple digital storage service
- 19 Verdi opera
- 24 Mess up
- 29 Hercules player Kevin
- 32 Afflictions
- 33 Natural talent
- 34 Greet loudly
- 35 Architect
- 36 Saarinene
- 36 Double — (Oreo option)
- 37 Wife on "The Addams Family," casually
- 38 Big to-do pieces for lying or sitting
- 39 Lowdown
- 40 Mai — (rum drinks)
- 44 Track circuit
- 45 Mag staffers
- 47 Ex-Yankee
- 48 James Bond genre, in brief
- 51 Ox of Tibet
- 52 "Doggone it!"
- 53 Punishment for a tube watcher
- 54 "Me neither"
- 55 Rival of Ben & Jerry's
- 59 Nibble (on)
- 60 Suspend
- 61 Scanned market ID
- 62 Busy insect
- 64 With one flat, musically
- 65 Brief snooze
- 66 Biotech-created food
- 67 Atop, in verse
- 68 Japanese salad green
- 69 Links gp. for women
- 70 Club for a 69-Down member
- 71 Small fortune
- 72 Letters of invitation?
- 73 American assn.
- 77 Margarine, quaintly
- 78 Adobe Acrobat suffix
- 83 Fourth of a yr.
- 84 That girl in sonnets
- 85 Large yellow bloom, in brief
- 86 Put the kibosh on
- 87 KGB's land
- 89 Paree "to be"
- 90 Native New Zealander
- 91 WWII battle town in France
- 92 Glue — (brand of adhesive in a tube)
- 93 Hog sound
- 94 Tesla auto, e.g.
- 95 String necktie
- 96 Quiet stretch
- 97 Fuel gases
- 100 Off-track
- 101 New film type in the 1920s
- 102 What "@" is
- 103 Rotational force
- 105 Big blunders
- 108 Man-goat deities
- 109 Marsh plants
- 110 Capture
- 111 Campus buildings
- 116 Have the guts
- 117 Made blond, maybe
- 119 Test for college srs.
- 121 Prior to, in sonnets
- 122 Indian flatbread
- 123 Not closed, in verse
- 124 — pah band
- 125 Heady brew
- 126 Day, to Diego

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