Your Trusted Source for Local News and Information **FREE • Vol. 3 - No. 3**

March 2025

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Windhaven Commercial District: First Buildings Near Completion



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The first phase of the Windhaven General Commercial and Mixed-Use District is making visible progress, with the first commercial building standing and work continuing to complete the exterior and begin interior development. The newly constructed building consists of eight storefronts that will soon be available for businesses that align with the district's vision for a walkable, connected commercial hub.

A Modern, Pedestrian-Friendly Design

The Windhaven development is designed around the "village concept", ensuring commercial businesses are easily accessible via landscaped pedestrian walkways. The newly constructed building exemplifies this approach with a variety of architectural styles and colors, providing a visually engaging streetscape.

Key Features of the First Building:

Mixed architectural elements: A combination of brick and siding facades in neutral and earthy tones, including blue, green, white, and brown.

Pedestrian-friendly storefronts: Large glass windows and doors allow for natural light and a welcoming atmosphere for future tenants.

Covered walkways and awnings: Some storefronts feature a white awning with Tyvek wrap still visible, signaling ongoing construction.

Exterior finishing in progress: Construction crews are working on wooden columns, decorative lighting, and signage placement.

Future Tenants: What's Possible?

While the developer has yet to confirm specific businesses, The Sun reviewed the site standards to identify potential tenants based on the district's permitted uses. The GC/MU District allows for a mix of retail, dining, entertainment, and professional services, meaning a wide variety of businesses could soon call Windhaven home.

Potential tenants might include:

Cafés or bakeries: A coffee shop, bakery, or bookstore café would align well with the pedestrian-friendly design. Retail stores: Clothing boutiques, home décor shops, or specialty gift stores could occupy some of the storefronts. Restaurants: With drive-through options permitted, a casual dining spot, local brewpub, or fast-casual eatery could be in the works.

Health and wellness services: A medical office, pharmacy, or fitness studio may also be a good fit.

Entertainment spaces: The district allows for commercial recreation, so a small movie theater, arcade, or family entertainment center could be possibilities.

What's Next?

As construction continues, the next phase will likely focus on interior build-outs, paving the way for businesses to move in. The development's vision includes walkable pathways, shared parking, and a lively commercial hub that serves both residents and visitors. There are an additional three building sites on the property for similar buildings, but they have not been started to date.

The Sun has reached out to the developer for details on upcoming tenants but has not yet received a response. Stay tuned for updates as Windhaven moves closer to becoming a key commercial destination in the area.



INSIDE



FMSD Ranked Best School District in South Carolina



Tega Cay Author Ian Miller, 23, Publishes Page 6 **First Novel**



Sixteen Fort Mill **Student-Athletes Sign Letters of Intent** Page 7



FMHS Wrestling Wins Third Straight State Championship Page 7



Your Local, Hometown Chiropractor



1188 Stonecrest Blvd **Ste 102** Tega Cay



Dr. David Hall

Tega Cay Sun Publishers Launch Liberty Media **Group to Expand Free Local News Coverage**



Patrick Byrne, Editor

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Tega Cay, S.C. - The publishers of the Tega Cay Sun, Thomas Hyslip and Patrick Byrne, have announced the formation of Liberty Media Group that will oversee both the Tega Cay Sun and their latest venture, YoCo News.

"We started the Tega Cay Sun to provide free local news to the residents of Tega Cay and Fort Mill. The support we've received from the community has been incredible," said Hyslip. "It's been so great, in fact, that we decided to offer the same free service to the residents of York and Lancaster counties."

Launched in June 2023, the Tega Cay Sun has grown rapidly, reaching 73k unique website visitors every month. This online success is mirrored in their strong social media presence, with 2000 Facebook followers and an average of 20k engagements (likes, comments, shares) per month, demonstrating active community interaction. The publication is available both online and in a monthly print edition distributed throughout Tega Cay and Fort Mill. Their NewsBreak presence has also contributed significantly to their reach, garnering over 400k views per month.

Building on that success, YoCo News debuted in December 2024, already drawing over 34k unique website visitors every month. YoCo News has also quickly built a substantial Facebook following, with over 420k views per month, signaling strong early interest across York and Lancaster counties. Currently an online-only publication, a print edition is set to launch in early Spring 2025, providing free local news to residents across York and Lancaster counties.

Byrne emphasized the importance of keeping local news accessible. "We feel the paywall model, where you ask people to pay to read local news, is both outdated and unfair. Local news should be free and available to anyone who wants to read it. We're excited to expand beyond Tega Cay and offer this service to a larger number of people."

Both newspapers sustain their free model through affordable advertising partnerships with local businesses, allowing them to deliver hyper-local reporting without subscription fees.

For more information, visit TegaCaySun.com and YoCoNews.com.

Tega Cay Ranked One of South Carolina's Best **Retirement Towns**

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Tega Cay has been ranked as one of the top retirement destinations in South Carolina by World Atlas, highlighting the town's strong safety record, recreational opportunities, and access to quality healthcare.

Located on the shores of Lake Wylie, Tega Cay is known for its scenic beauty and tight-knit community. The town offers retirees a safe and active lifestyle, with plenty of outdoor activities, social events, and proximity to medical facilities.

Safety is one of the most important factors for retirees, and Tega Cay ranks among the safest places in America. The town has received an "A" grade from CrimeGrade.org and has not recorded a homicide in the past decade, according to FBI crime statistics.

For those who love the outdoors, Tega Cay offers parks, golf, and lakefront

Tega Cay Golf Club features a 27-hole course, perfect for retirees who enjoy

The town also has a community center, tennis courts, and boat access for water lovers.

The median home price in Tega Cay is around \$512,000, making it a more affordable retirement destination compared to some coastal areas. Many retirees choose Tega Cay for its low crime rate, community-oriented atmosphere, and access to outdoor activities.

In addition to Tega Cay, World Atlas ranked the following towns as the best places to retire in South Carolina:

Murrells Inlet Garden City Hilton Head Island Little River Surfside Beach North Myrtle Beach Aiken Tega Cay



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Tega Cay Sun



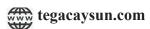
Want to advertise in the Tega Cav Sun?

Contact Patrick Byrne patrickbyrne@tegacaysun.com (704) 904-8067

Online: tegacaysun.com/shop Media Kits available upon request



facebook.com/tegacaysun



THE BEST DAM FOOD FESTIVAL!

Saturday, May 10th | 2PM-10PM | Catawba Park, Tega Cay



Mark your calendars for May 10th and prepare for an EXPLOSION of flavor and sound at Tega Cay's HOTTEST event! The Best Dam Food Festival returns to the stunning Catawba Park with MORE FOOD, MORE MUSIC, and MORE FUN than ever before!

HEADLINER: 84 - THE ULTIMATE VAN HALEN EXPERIENCE! Feel the RUSH as '84 ROCKS the night with mind-blowing Van Halen hits from '78 to '84! This isn't just a tribute—it's a time machine! "Dave, Eddie, Michael, and Alex" will BLOW YOUR MIND with the most authentic Van Halen experience on the East Coast!

THE ENTERTAINERS - 4:15PM Get ready to GROOVE with these Beach Music legends! 40+ years of Southern musical tradition comes alive with hits like "Living For The Summer" and their #1 smash "Thank Goodness She Cheated!"

KYLE DILLS Kicking off the evening, this Rock Hill native brings electrifying country vibes that will have you stomping your boots and raising your glasses!

COME HUNGRY, LEAVE HAPPY! Your taste buds will EXPLODE with delight as local vendors serve up everything from mouthwatering fish and tacos to perfect pizza and juicy burgers!

DON'T MISS THIS! Bring family, friends, and your appetite for the BEST. DAM. TIME. EVER!

Special thanks to our media partner The Tega Cay Sun

Saint Patrick's Day Events Model A Brewing



March 15th - Kickoff Event

Puppy Adoption Event- Starts at 1pm Live Music by Cam Heigler – 6 PM - 9 PM

Special Irish Menu Green Beer

2 New Irish Beers Released!

March 17th - St. Patrick's Day Party

The Green Beer Keeps Flowing!
Bagpipes with Scott the Piper – 5:30
PM - 7:30 PM
Come shake your shamrocks!
Don't miss out on this legendary St.

Paddy's Day Bash!

The SC Shore Club

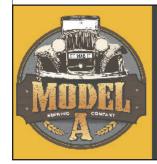


Get ready to go green this St. Patrick's Day at The Shore Club on Saturday, March 15th. The popular restaurant is offering a festive lineup of Irish-inspired food, drinks, and live music to keep the holiday spirit alive.

Starting at 1 PM, guests can enjoy a variety of special menu items, including a Corned Beef & Cabbage Plate (\$13), Guinness Stew, and Irish Nachos (\$8). Drink specials will also be available, featuring \$5 Jameson's shots and \$3 green draft beers.

The celebration continues into the evening with live music from The Parks Brothers, performing from 4 PM to 7 PM.

The Shore Club, located at 15083 Molokai Dr., Tega Cay, encourages guests to reserve a table in advance by calling 803-630-0540.



MODEL A BREWING

WEEKLY EVENTS

DR. TOM'S TRIVIA TUESDAY, 6:30PM

BINGO WITH SHANE THURSDAY, 6:30PM



UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

MAR

3TH

Planning Commission- will meet at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers.

MAR

10TH

Storm Water Committee- will meet at 6:30pm in the Hearth Room.

MAR

17TH

City Council Meeting- at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers.

MAR

24TH

Economic Development Commission-will meet at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers.

TUE.

Weekly

Dr. Tom's Trivia - 6:30pm at Model A Brewing..

THUR.

Weekly

Bingo with Shane - 6:30pm at Model A Brewing..

WED-SAT. Weekly

Live Music - Live music four nights a week at the SC Shore Club

Saturdays Bi-Weekly

Tega Cay Lions Club - 2nd and 4th Satruday of the month, the Tega Cay Lions Club meets in the lower level of the Glennon Center. More information available at https://tegacaylions.wixsite.com/tegacaylions

Last WED. Monthly

Tega Cay Good Life Club -Meets the last Wednesday of each month at the Glennon Center. More information available at https://tcgoodlifeclub.wixsite.com/tcglc



Public Notices

We now offer public notices IAW 15-29-80 S.C. Code Ann. (1976). If you are legally required to provide public notice, please contact us and we will assist you with meeting your requirements.

Fort Mill Ranked Among Top 10 Most Desirable Suburbs to Move to in 2025

Thomas Hylsip, Editor



According to MoveBuddha.com recent analysis, Fort Mill, South Carolina, has been ranked as the 8th most soughtafter suburb in the United States for 2025. This ranking is based on the ratio of inbound to outbound move searches, with Fort Mill exhibiting a 1.67 move in-to-out ratio, indicating a strong interest from prospective residents.

Fort Mill's appeal can be attributed to its proximity to Charlotte, North Carolina, offering residents a blend of small-town charm and convenient access to urban amenities. The town is known for its quality schools, family-friendly environment, and a variety of recreational activities, making it an attractive destination for those looking to relocate.

The top 10 suburbs in MoveBuddha's 2025 rankings are (move in-to-out ratio):

Summerville, SC – 3.54 Meridian, ID – 2.50 St. Augustine, FL – 2.00 Vancouver, WA – 1.99 Frisco, TX – 1.82 Tempe, AZ – 1.69 Saint Paul, MN – 1.67 Fort Mill, SC – 1.67 Clermont, FL – 1.66 Cary, NC – 1.62



Fort Mill Announces Progress on New Town Hall Facilities and Move-in Date

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



The Town of Fort Mill has provided an update on its new Town Hall facilities following a comprehensive facilities study completed in 2023. In May 2024, the town acquired the buildings at 123 and 205 North White Street, formerly housing the Springs Executive Office and the Springs Research and Development Center. These properties are strategically located adjacent to the Town's Amphitheater, Walter Y. Elisha Park, Veterans Park, and Main Street.

Since the acquisition, the town has undertaken maintenance, upgrades, and renovations to the facilities. A subset of nonpublic-facing administrative employees is scheduled to relocate to the new Town Hall on February 20, 2025. The Police Department staff will follow, moving into the facility on March 28, 2025.

Due to ongoing remodeling, all publicfacing town services will continue to operate from the Fort Mill Town Hall Annex at 200 Tom Hall Street throughout the next year. Residents should visit this location for services including:

- -Building permits
- -Planning and Zoning needs
- -Utility payments
- -Court payments

The first Fort Mill Town Council meeting at 205 North White Street is tentatively scheduled for March 24, 2025, pending construction progress. Municipal Court will hold its final session at 112 Confederate Street on March 19, 2025, with no court dates in April during the transition. Court sessions are set to resume at the new Town Hall on May 14, 2025.

The town is under contract to sell the buildings at 112 Confederate Street and 200 Tom Hall Street.

LEGO® Lovers Rejoice: Bricks & Minifigs® Coming to Downtown Fort Mill

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Bricks & Minifigs®, the Fort Mill and surrounding area one-stop shop to buy, sell, and trade all things LEGO®, is coming to beautiful historic downtown Fort Mill.

Bricks & Minifigs® is the largest franchised toy store of its kind specializing in the buying, selling and trading of new and used LEGO® sets, bulk bricks, and minifigures ("minifigs"). The store will be located at 219-221 Main Street, Suite 102 and is the first store opened by franchisees David and Tara Hipp, residents of the Fort Mill/Rock Hill area. They plan to open their doors for business around the 1st week of May

In addition, Bricks & Minifigs will provide an event space for birthday parties or special LEGO® themed events like after-school robotics clubs, "Make-and-Take" events, Brick Derby races, and more. The space will also be available for corporate workshops, mini-retreats, and team-building off-site meetings.

Bricks & Minifigs has built their brand based on three principals:

REBUILD: with tens-of-thousands of pieces to choose from, customers will have what they need to rebuild their favorite sets or create their own original projects.

REUSE: Bricks & Minifigs buys, sells, and trades everything LEGO*. And we mean everything!

REIMAGINE: staff members are trained to assist customers of all ages to create unique and imaginative masterpieces.

"We are very excited to bring the Bricks & Minifigs franchise and all of the joyful experiences it brings to the greater Fort Mill area," the Hipps said. "LEGO" is an ageless toy that appeals not only to children, but also to parents, grandparents, and anyone who enjoys creative expression through those little plastic bricks."

Tega Cay's Megan Cairns Rides High Again: Nationals Bound for Second Year!

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Tega Cay resident Megan Cairns has once again secured a spot at the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) National Finals. For the second consecutive year, the young equestrian has demonstrated her skill and dedication, earning a place among the nation's top riders.

Cairns qualified after a first-place finish at the IEA Regional competition in Lumberton, North Carolina, last weekend. This victory follows her success at last year's Southeast Regionals in Tennessee, which led to her debut at the 2024 Nationals in Texas.

The IEA provides middle and high school students with opportunities to compete in equestrian sports, emphasizing skill development and sportsmanship. Cairns' back-to-back national qualifications highlight the impact of these programs in fostering young talent.

She will return to Texas in June to compete against top equestrians from across the country. Supported by her family, the Flamekissed Equestrian team, and the Tega Cay community, Cairns continues to make her mark in the sport.





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Tega Cay City Council Reviews Audit, Approves Development Plans, and Recognizes Athletes Patrick Byrne, Editor

The Tega Cay City Council meeting on February 18, 2025, was held at the Philip T. Glennon Center – Council Chambers, beginning at 6:30 PM.

The Council issued proclamations recognizing Fort Mill High School's Girls Swim Team for winning their third consecutive 5A state championship, Turner Wiand for his record-breaking achievements in the South Carolina 5A Division 2 State Meet, Dominic Impens for setting state records and earning a Scholastic All-American honor from USA Swimming, and Coach Cindy Van Buskirk for being named 2024 Swim Coach of the Year.

In the financial reports, CPA Matt Philips presented the FY 2023-2024 audit, which received an unmodified opinion. The city's net position was \$24.9 million, with 15% of funds unrestricted. The general fund balance stood at \$12.4 million, with \$8.5 million in unassigned funds. Revenues totaled \$20.7 million against \$17.2 million in expenses, yielding a \$3.5 million increase in net position. Utility revenues and expenditures were on track, though impact fees were lower than budgeted. Stormwater revenue was expected to rise in upcoming quarters, and event and hospitality revenues were beginning to increase.

The City Manager's report included updates on the Fire Department, welcoming Jamie Johnson as a new firefighter and announcing promotions and safety inspections. Utilities reported ongoing GMP negotiations for ARPA-funded water treatment upgrades, and Lift Station 17 was scheduled for an early March upgrade. Development updates included continued work on the Main Street project, a subdivision plan under review for Dam Road, Walmart's approved renovations, and the launch of a new business license portal. The city reinspected the Serene Point stream erosion issue and sent findings to SC DHEC. Recreation updates noted that youth baseball registration was open through March 1, over 2,400 children had signed up for spring sports, and the 2025 events calendar had been released, featuring the Best Dam Food Festival, concert series, and Catawba Fest. The Catawba Park soccer fields were officially open.

A joint public hearing with the Planning Commission was held to discuss two zoning amendments. The Marina Overlay District (Ordinance 77) was reviewed following strong public input, a site visit, and a survey with 787 responses. Developers submitted a revised phasing plan for the Main Street Development.

During public comments, residents raised concerns about stormwater runoff, particularly related to the Main Street project. The Council then approved the minutes from the January 21, 2025, meeting. In unfinished business, the second readings of Ordinance 598, which amended the Parks, Recreation, and Events Committee and Stormwater & Environmental Committee structures, and Ordinance 599, which adjusted the 2024-2025 Parks and Recreation fee schedule, both passed unanimously.

New business included authorizing Pinnacle Golf Management to proceed with cart path repairs. The Council also discussed committee selections for the Comprehensive Plan update, appointing two Planning Commission members, two City Council members, and five residents to serve on the steering committee.

Council members concluded the meeting by commending the staff and Planning Commission for their efforts.



Healthy Living with Dr. Hall: The Three Key Ages Your Brain Declines – And How to Mitigate It

Dr. David Hall

As we age, cognitive decline is inevitable. Research identifies three critical ages when this decline is particularly noticeable: 57, 70, and 78. However, lifestyle choices can play a key role in slowing this process. Here's a breakdown of these key ages and what you can do to protect your brain.

1. Age 57: The Midlife Decline
At 57, many experience noticeable
brain changes due to hormonal
shifts and physical aging. Brain
shrinkage begins, particularly in
the white matter, which is crucial
for communication between brain
regions. This leads to memory issues,
such as difficulty recalling names
or tasks. Additionally, middle-aged
weight gain worsens cognitive decline,
as increased body fat reduces blood
supply to the brain, which impacts
essential nutrients and can increase
the risk of Alzheimer's.

What You Can Do: Regular exercise is one of the most effective ways to combat midlife cognitive decline. Aerobic exercise, in particular, boosts hippocampus size, which is essential for memory. Combining aerobic and strength-training exercises helps improve overall brain health. Even small daily activities like climbing stairs or standing without support can make a difference.

2. Age 70: The Retirement Effect At 70, the brain is more vulnerable due to decreased mental stimulation, particularly after retirement. Proteins like tau accumulate in the brain, and the cortex, responsible for thinking and memory, thins, leading to fewer synapse connections. The decline in intellectual activity during retirement, or the "retirement effect," can accelerate brain atrophy.

What You Can Do: Staying mentally engaged is crucial. Learning new skills, such as a language, playing strategic games, or even dancing, can keep the brain sharp. Social engagement is equally important, as isolation can increase the risk of cognitive decline.



Early cognitive testing can help detect issues and allow for preventive measures. Building "cognitive reserve" through continuous learning can help the brain withstand age-related changes.

3. Age 78: Cognitive Reserve Depletion

By 78, brain volume continues to shrink, and blood flow decreases. At this stage, the brain's cognitive reserves, the mental resources it relies on to cope with aging, are diminishing. Cognitive decline may be more pronounced, but it's still possible to maintain mental function with proper care.

What You Can Do: It's not too late to protect your brain. Staying mentally active with challenges like learning new skills or engaging in intellectually stimulating activities can help preserve cognitive health. An anti-inflammatory diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and healthy fats can reduce inflammation and protect the brain. Managing stress and maintaining social connections also support mental health. Physical activity remains important at this stage, as exercise supports brain function and delays cognitive decline.

Conclusion: Plan Ahead for Brain Health

Cognitive decline is a natural part of aging, but it doesn't have to be inevitable. By adopting healthy habits early on—regular exercise, mental stimulation, good nutrition, stress management, and social engagement—you can slow down the aging process and maintain cognitive function throughout your life. The key takeaway: it's never too early to start taking care of your brain.

Dr. David Hall is the owner of Hall Chiropractic Center. With over 40 years of experience, Dr. Hall is proud to serve the residents of Tega Cay and Fort Mill.





Buzz around Town



Tega Cay's Kelsey McGuire **Running the Boston** Marathon; Raising Funds for Cancer

Patrick Byrne, Editor



Some people like to run. They enjoy starting their day with a quick 2-3 mile loop around their neighborhood. Others hate to run but it do anyway, either out of obligation to lose weight or to feel better about themselves. For Kelsey McGuire, running is a passion. She not only likes to run, she loves it.

A twenty one year old junior at the University of Georgia, Kelsey grew up in Tega Cay. She was part of the first class to attend Tega Cay Elementary, moving on to Gold Hill Middle and eventually graduating from Fort Mill High School. It was in high school, during the height of Covid, where she found her love of running.

Initially a high school cheerleader and soccer player, she started running as a way to stay fit and active during prolonged periods of Covid lockdowns. According to Kelsey, "I started to enjoy it and joined the cross country team the day before the roster closed." She had gotten the running bug and wasted no time in seeing where it would take her.

It's taken her pretty far in a short period of time.

Kelsey has run only two marathons in her life; however, she's already qualified to run in the 2025 Boston Marathon, scheduled to take place

See Kelsey, Page 8



Fort Mill School District Dominates Niche Rankings, Named #1 in South Carolina for Third Consecutive Year

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



2025 Best School Districts in **South Carolina**

- #1 in South Carolina **#1** in Charlotte Area
- ► Top 10 Elementary
- **Schools in South Carolina** Top 6 Middle Schools in **South Carolina**



The Fort Mill School District remains the top-ranked school district in South Carolina for the third consecutive year, according to Niche.com's 2025 rankings. The district also placed second for "Districts with the Best Teachers" and fifth for "Best Places to Teach" in the state.

All three Fort Mill high schools ranked in South Carolina's top 15, with Catawba Ridge (7th), Fort Mill (11th), and Nation Ford (14th). Fort Mill's middle schools swept the top six spots, led by Pleasant Knoll Middle at No. 1. At the elementary level, Gold Hill Elementary retained its No. 1 ranking, with Fort Mill schools taking the entire top ten.

These rankings highlight the district's continued commitment to academic excellence.

Elementary School Rankings:

- 1. Gold Hill Elementary
- 2. Tega Cay Elementary
- 3. Pleasant Knoll Elementary
- 4. Kings Town Elementary
- 5. River Trail Elementary
- 6. Doby's Bridge Elementary
- 7. Sugar Creek Elementary
- 8. Springfield Elementary
- 9. Orchard Park Elementary
- 10. Fort Mill Elementary
- 13. Riverview Elementary

Middle School Rankings:

- 1. Springfield Middle School
- 2. Pleasant Knoll Middle School
- 3. Gold Hill Middle School
- 4. Fort Mill Middle School
- 5. Forest Creek Middle School
- 6. Banks Trail Middle School

High School Rankings:

- 7. Catawba Ridge High School
- 11. Fort Mill High School
- 14. Nation Ford High School

Fort Mill High School DECA Club Finishes 4th in South Carolina at Statewide Business Competition

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The Fort Mill High School DECA Club demonstrated its business and marketing expertise at the South Carolina DECA 78th Annual Career Development Conference, a prestigious event where high school students from across the state compete in various business-related challenges.

Led by advisor Gina Farley, the FMHS DECA teams had an outstanding performance, winning all their events in round one and securing a 4th place finish in South Carolina after two days of competition. The conference provided students with an opportunity to showcase their skills in entrepreneurship, finance, marketing, and leadership, competing against top students from across the state.

Tega Cay Author Ian Miller, 23, Publishes First Novel

Patrick Byrne, Editor



In many ways, Ian Miller is your typical 23 year old. A self described, "nerd on a lot of things," he grew up loving Star Wars and reading, with an affinity for books on Greek and Japanese mythology. As he got older, he delved into the fantasy worlds of George R.R. Martin (Game of Thrones), Rick Riordan (Percy Jackson) and Brendan Sanderson (Mistborn).

Ian and his family have lived in Tega Cay for over twenty years. He's a local product of Gold Hill Elementary, Gold Hill Middle and Fort Mill High School. Upon high school graduation, he attended App State where he recently earned his degree in Communication Studies.

What I've written so far could be used to describe any number of young adults in our area. What separates Ian is how he was able to harness his interest in mythology and fantasy to do something truly unique and all his

At 23, Ian Miller is a published author.

Ian's book, The Hunted Will Hunt, combines fantasy, mythology and action. Beautifully illustrated by Joshua Cook, the story follows a group of humans that have unique powers (telekinesis, pyrotechnics, etc) that aid them in hunting down monsters roaming the earth. The

See Miller, Page 8





SPORTS



Fort Mill Stuns Indian Land in Thrilling Playoff Showdown, Advances to SCHSL Semifinals



Chris Coffee, Sports Reporter

FORT MILL, SC – In a high-energy, nail-biting clash, the Fort Mill Yellow Jackets defeated the Indian Land Warriors 58-54 in front of a raucous, packed house at "The Hive" on Tuesday night, securing their spot in the SCHSL semifinals.

The atmosphere was electric from the opening tip, with both student sections bringing an intense level of support. Indian Land won the initial tip, but it was Fort Mill who drew first blood, setting the stage for a defensive slugfest. The early minutes saw both teams displaying aggressive defense, resulting in a slow offensive start.

Fort Mill held a slim 6-3 lead midway through the first quarter, but Indian Land rallied, capturing a 12-10 advantage with a minute remaining. The quarter ended in a 12-12 tie, foreshadowing the back-and-forth battle to come.

The second quarter was a rollercoaster ride. Fort Mill briefly regained the lead, only for Indian Land to respond with a clutch three-pointer. Fort Mill's Logan Parker answered with his own three, igniting the crowd. With under six minutes left in the half, Indian Land tied the game after a foul on Fort Mill's Wallace Campbell. The lead changed hands with every basket, culminating in a 27-27 deadlock at halftime.

The third quarter began with both teams struggling to find their rhythm. Fort Mill seemed to falter, but a pair of free throws from Campbell broke the tie. Indian Land briefly took a 34-33 lead, only to see Parker sink another crucial three-pointer. As the quarter progressed, referees began calling more fouls, allowing Indian Land to tie the game at 36. Fort Mill entered

See Baseketball, Page 8

Sixteen Fort Mill Student-**Athletes Sign Letters of**

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Mill High School celebrated a major milestone on Wednesday, signing their National Letters of Intent to continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level. The signing ceremony, held in the school's gymnasium, marked the culmination of years of dedication and hard work

The signees represent a variety of sports, including baseball, football, and bowling, and will compete at the NCAA Division I, II, and junior college levels across multiple states.

Fort Mill has long been known for its powerhouse baseball program, and this year is no exception, with twelve athletes committing to play at the next

Michael Rogers - Charleston Southern University

Jacob Pettit - Lenoir-Rhyne University JB Walters - Concord University John Coppola - Cleveland Community College

See Signing, Page 8



Sixteen student-athletes from Fort for these talented Yellow Jackets.

Baseball Leads the Way

Fort Mill High School Wrestling Wins Third Straight State Championship



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The Fort Mill High School Yellow Jackets wrestling team secured their third consecutive state championship with a hard-fought 33-28 victory over the Lugoff-Elgin Demons at Dreher High School. The win capped off a perfect 19-0 dual season for Fort Mill. The match saw the Yellow Jackets trailing only once, at the very beginning, before they mounted a strong comeback. The championship marks the 39th state team title in Fort Mill High School's history and the fourth state title for the school this academic year.

The match began at 190 pounds, where Lugoff-Elgin took an early lead with a 19-8 major decision victory. Fort Mill quickly responded with a pin by Ted Ernst at 215 pounds, followed by another pin by heavyweight Jonathan DaSilva.

Lugoff-Elgin won the 106-pound match by decision, but Fort Mill responded with an 8-5 decision victory from Luke Van Beynum at 113 pounds and a dominant 19-7 major decision from Cole Wartinger at 120 pounds.

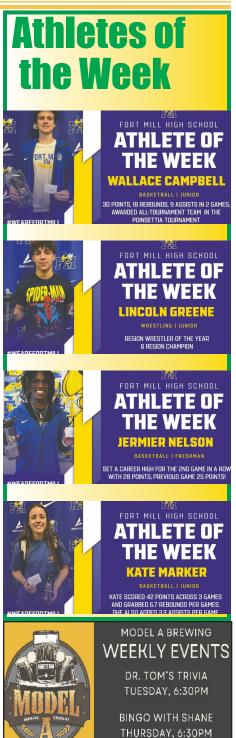
Tucker Gibson rallied at 126 pounds to secure a 9-8 decision, pushing Fort Mill's lead to 22-7. Lugoff-Elgin stayed in contention with a pin at 132 pounds, but Fort Mill answered with a 17-1 technical fall from Lincoln Green at 138 pounds and a 10-7 decision by Jayden Nguyen at 144 pounds.

Lugoff-Elgin earned a pin at 150 pounds, as well as wins at 165 and 175 pounds. However, Fort Mill's lead proved insurmountable.

Match Results:

Fort Mill 33, Lugoff-Elgin 28 190 - Logan Hinton (L-E) maj.dec. Maurice Lawrence (FM), 19-8 215 - Ted Ernst (FM) pin Ladon Lyone

285 - Jon DaSilva (FM) pin Issac James



106 - Tyler McChesney (L-E) dec. Brody Harris (FM), 13-7 113 - Lucas Van Beynum (FM) dec. Quentin Benjamin (L-E), 8-5 120 - Cole Wartinger (FM) maj.dec. Titan Magee (L-E), 19-7 126 - Tucker Gibson (FM) dec. Shayne Ross (L-E), 9-8 132 - Rylan Griggs (L-E) pin Grayson Wallen (FM) 138 - Lincoln Greene (FM) tech.fall Nathaniel Scott (L-E), 17-1

144 - Jayden Nguyen (FM) dec. Kendel Coker (L-E), 10-7 150 - Gabe Rush (L-E) pin Keenan

Coston (FM)

157 - Vincent Damico (FM) dec. Rivers Moak (L-E), 15-14 165 - Eddie Jefferson (L-E) dec. Broden Mitcheson (FM), 5-4 175 - Jakaleb Robinson (L-E) pin Mason Metcalf (FM)

Tucker Gandy - Coker University

Miller, From Page 6

main character, Isaac fights desperately against a werewolf, only to realize that the silver bullet he fired had no effect—the creature is immune. This leads him down a path of self discovery as he continues his quest to vanquish darkness and eliminate evil.

The book was born out of boredom during his junior year at App State. During a long break between classes, Ian figured, "my computer's on my lap here and I've had this idea stirring in my head."

The idea included a main character who is fighting a werewolf with immunity to silver bullets. He thought to himself, "I think I can do more with this." Two years later, he had developed a novel around his original idea.

Although Ian knew he "always wanted to write a story" he hadn't quite landed on what he should write about. With The Hunted Will Hunt, he figured rather than waiting for more life experience, he should start "writing about something I know."

The itch to write happened fairly early, sparked by a visit from an author while at Gold Hill Middle. Although he wasn't completely sold on the idea, after hearing the author speak, Ian had an initial thought that "being an author would be cool."

Fast forward ten plus years and Ian now sees writing as a potential career. "I always thought that if The Hunted Will Hunt goes well, I'd like to follow it up with a sequel and maybe a prequel to build on the existing world."

Far from a struggling author, Ian wanted to make sure he thanked his Mom and Dad for all their support and for helping him on his writing journey.



Kelsev, From Page 6

on Monday, April 21st. Even more impressive, she not only qualified to run in the Boston Marathon, she did so while acting as a pacesetter for other runners. A pacesetter is what it sounds like, she had to keep a consistent pace in order to assist other runners reach their per mile and overall time goals.

As a pre-med student, part time EMT, Girls on the Run Coach and member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority, Kelsey has multiple pokers in the fire. Somehow she's able to keep it all straight and moving in the right direction. To prove this point, she was recently recognized by the UGA Panhellenic Council as the "Woman of the Month" in January 2025.

Running is such a big part of her life that Kelsey even factored this in when choosing a college, having whittled her choices down to the University of Florida and Georgia, both of which have large running communities. Asked what she loved most about running, Kelsey said, "The challenge for sure. You can compete with yourself, and I think that's what I like about it the most."

As if all of this wasn't impressive enough, Kelsey is running the Boston Marathon in honor of her Aunt Lori, who died of cancer when she was a child. To honor her memory, she's raising funds through the Knox Martin Foundation, the namesake of a former student at UGA who also died of cancer.

Her original fundraising goal of \$3,000 has already been reached. She's now looking to raise an additional \$1,500 for a total of \$4,500.

You've probably noticed, Kelsey has a tendency to hit the goals she sets for herself, but that doesn't mean she wouldn't welcome help from the community.

Would you like to make a donation? Use the QR code provided in the flyer below.



Basketball, From Page 7

the fourth quarter with a narrow 39-38 lead.

The final quarter was a display of heightened intensity. Both teams ramped up their aggression, with Indian Land employing a full-court press. Fort Mill, however, seized control, extending their lead to six points with 5:25 remaining. Consecutive fast-break layups from Fort Mill's Jermier Nelson and Campbell pushed the lead to 10, putting the Yellow Jackets firmly in command.

Fort Mill continued to widen the gap, taking a 13-point lead late in the quarter. Despite the deficit, Indian Land refused to give up, battling until the final buzzer. With 25 seconds remaining, Fort Mill held a 57-49 lead.

Ultimately, Fort Mill prevailed 58-54, sending their home crowd into a frenzy. The Yellow Jackets now advance to the SCHSL semifinals on March 5, where they will face the winner of the Greenville vs. Riverside matchup.

Signing, From Page 7

Andrew Craddock – Florence-Darlington Technical College Nick Fallon – Surry Community College Carter Blankinship – Georgia Southern University Kody Romero – University of North Carolina at Pembroke Josh Patterson – Erskine College Brent Laughter – Concord University John Risk - Cleveland Community

Football Standouts Commit

Tanner Mays – Wingate University Grayson Sykes – Virginia Military Institute (VMI) Jeremiah McNeil – University of North Carolina at Pembroke Bowling Excellence

Bowling Commit:

College

Liam Buchanan – Emmanuel University

The ceremony was filled with cheers from family, teammates, and coaches, celebrating the athletes' next steps in their sports careers.





Public Notices

We now offer public notices IAW 15-29-80 S.C. Code Ann. (1976). If you are legally required to provide public notice, please contact us and we will assist you with meeting your requirements.

Baxter Barber Shop: A Cut Above in Baxter Village



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Nestled in the heart of Baxter Village, Baxter Barber Shop has been a staple of the Fort Mill community since opening its doors in August 2008. Founded by Brian Dixon, a seasoned barber with over 30 years of experience, the shop offers high-quality grooming services with a touch of classic barbershop tradition.

Brian's journey in the trade began in Charlotte, where he graduated from Myers Park High School in 1988 before attending the Barber and Hairstyling Institute of Charlotte, earning his certification in March 1993. His early career included working alongside family at South Park Barbers (1993-2001) and Quail Barbers (2001-2008) before bringing his expertise to Fort Mill. Inspired by Baxter Village's growth and charm, he saw an opportunity to establish a shop that would become a trusted destination for men's grooming in the area.

Baxter Barber Shop provides a full range of services, including:

Regular Haircuts (\$22)
Tapers & Fades
Beard Trims (\$8)
Long & Short Haircuts
Shampoo, Cut & Dry (\$28)
Bald Fades
Hot Steam Towel Face & Neck Shaves
Goatee Trims (\$3)
Shoe Shine Drop-off Service (\$6)

With four chairs and a team of three experienced barbers—Brian, John, and Scott—customers can expect expert cuts and styling with a friendly, laid-back atmosphere. Their collective experience ranges from 23 to 57 years, ensuring every client receives top-notch service tailored to their needs.

Convenience and Booking

Located in the bustling Baxter Village, the shop prides itself on being a clean, convenient, and welcoming space where customers can relax while receiving their services. The best way to book an appointment is by calling 803-802-3494 during business hours:

Tuesday – Friday: 8AM – 6PM (Appointments preferred, but walk-ins welcome) Saturday: 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM (Walk-ins only)

Whether you're looking for a classic cut, a modern fade, or a relaxing shave, Baxter Barber Shop remains a trusted choice for the Fort Mill and Tega Cay communities. Stop by and experience the tradition, expertise, and personal touch that set this barbershop apart.

Fort Mill High School Track and Field Sweeps Y.C. Winborn Pre-Season Invitational 2025

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Rock Hill, SC – Fort Mill High School showcased its dominance in the Y.C. Winborn Pre-Season Invitational 2025, winning both the boys' and girls' team championships. The Fort Mill boys scored 147.5 points, finishing ahead of Nation Ford (115) and Rock Hill (111), while the Fort Mill girls secured an emphatic victory with 187.83 points, outpacing South Pointe (97) and Clover (95).

The girls' team was led by Mia Williams, who won three events: the 200m, long jump, and triple jump. The boys' team was led by Isaac Campbell, who claimed victory in both the 1600m and 3200m.

South Carolina Teachers to Receive \$1,500 Pay Increase

Patrick Byrne, Editor

In a move to address teacher compensation, South Carolina's House budget committee has proposed a \$1,500 salary increase for teachers statewide. This adjustment will raise the starting salary from \$47,000 to \$48,500, impacting approximately 45 school districts where current starting salaries fall below this new threshold.

Despite this increment, the proposal falls short of Governor Henry McMaster's goal to elevate starting teacher pay to \$50,000 by 2026. Achieving this target would require an additional \$200 million in annual funding.

The salary schedule will also be streamlined from five lanes to four by removing the lane for a bachelor's degree plus 18 hours of continuing education. Most teachers in this category have already advanced to a master's degree.

While the pay raise is a positive step, South Carolina continues to face over 1,000 unfilled teaching positions. Efforts to increase salaries have positioned the state near the top in the Southeast for starting and average teacher pay, contributing to ongoing initiatives to address educator shortages.

The budget proposal is currently under review and will be subject to further discussions in the coming weeks.





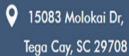


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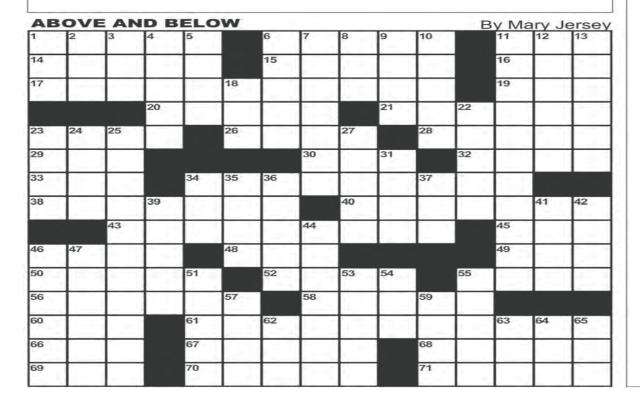
(Dinner Reservations & To-Go Orders)

Charlie's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1) Speak in the Senate
- 6) Upside-down sixes
- 11) Luau instrument, briefly
- 14) DNA curve
- 15) Take in, as a stray cat
- 16) Keanu in "The Matrix"
- 17) Repeatedly
- 19) Last mo.
- 20) It may have an attachment
- 21) Oregon city
- Chip veggie
- 26) Satie or Estrada
- 28) Erin of "Happy Days" 29) Two or more eras, in
- geology
- 30) Zig's companion
- 32) Complexion affliction
- 33) What a cow chews
- 34) Type of lens
- 38) Fast vibrato, in music

- 40) Clergymen
- 43) Make a copy of
- 45) Hawaii's Mauna
- 46) Turkish high official (var.)
- 48) Get for effort
- 49) Dusk, poetically
- 50) Bank offerings
- 52) Vegas machine
- 55) Bettor's numbers 56) Back of a saddle
- 58) Tie ___ (get smashed)
- 60) Antiquated
- 61) Go beyond mere accomplishment
- 66) Brooks Brothers buy
- 67) Brilliantly smart people
- 68) Aesop's point
- 69) TV star Danson
- 70) Disrespectful expression
- 71) Doberman's warning



DOWN

- 1) Taunting exclamation
- 2) Accelerate, as an engine
- 3) Pub serving
- 4) Exhausted
- 5) Questions at school?
- 6) Opposite of apex
- Put on a pedestal
- 8) A 30-day mo.
- 9) Certain sword
- 10) Play the guitar, in a way
- 11) Taken off the stove too soon
- 12) Character actor Wynn
- 13) "Dawn of the mammals" epoch
- 18) Scot's "not"
- 22) Billy and nanny
- 23) Little faith?
- 24) Decant
- 25) Deceitful
- 27) Phi Beta
- 31) Ganges access
- 34) Highest point
- 35) "Enchanted" girl in a 2004 movie
- 36) Gird one's
- 37) Metal-in-the-raw
- Should have said
- 41) Require
- serif (font choice) 42)
- 44) A diet soda may have one
- 46) Author of "Little Women"
- 47) Crucial soccer position
- 51) Trudges through mud
- 53) Live, in a TV studio
- 54) Lt. Columbo, e.g.
- 55) Bulb that makes one cry 57) Smooth out
- 59) Electrical resistance units
- 62) Vane dir.
- 63) Pitcher's stat
- 64) (alternate sp.), in crossword clues 65) 90-degree letter

Answers at tegacaysun.com/answers

Seven Eleven Memorial Golf Tournament to Honor Andrew Nims and Support Suicide Prevention Efforts

Patrick Byrne, Editor

The Seven Eleven Memorial Golf Tournament is set to take place on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at the Tega Cay Golf Club. This annual event aims to unite the community in raising awareness about mental health and suicide prevention, with a particular focus on veterans, young adults, and the broader population.

The tournament is being held to raise funds for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, in honor of Andrew Nims. Andrew was a 2015 Citadel graduate who tragically lost his battle with mental health on May 27, 2023. The tournament derives its name from his birthdate, July 11 (7/11).

Andrew was known for his charisma.

humor, and unwavering integrity. He married his high school sweetheart, Abby, in 2017, and they welcomed a daughter just five months before his passing. The profound impact of his loss has inspired this event, with the hope that increased awareness and education can prevent similar tragedies.

In its previous iteration, the tournament successfully raised over \$33,000 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). The 2025 event aspires to surpass this amount, with all proceeds supporting AFSP's "Out of the Darkness Walk" and other suicide prevention initiatives. AFSP remains dedicated to safeguarding those who serve, emphasizing the importance

of prioritizing suicide prevention among veterans, police, and military personnel.

Participants can look forward to a fun filled day of golf at the Tega Cay Golf Club. The tournament will also feature a silent auction and raffle. Raffle tickets are priced at \$5 each or five for \$20, with drawings occurring every half hour. The final raffle before the awards ceremony will award a certificate for luxury accommodations at Club Barbados.

Silent auction items include:

- Seven-night stays at Antigua's St. James Club, The Verandah, and Galley Bay
- An Ireland golf adventure
- A Fairmont Scottsdale golf and

spa package

- A round at Monterey's The Links at Spanish Bay
- Scotland golf experience
- CMA tickets in Nashville

For more information, registration details, or to explore sponsorship opportunities, contact Ron Kirby or Sherry Nims or review the link provided below:

Ron Kirby: 803-323-7633 Ronald.Kirby@FortMillFord.com

Sherry Nims: 704-617-6600 Snims1962@gmail.com

https://bit.ly/andrewnims

YOCO Mems

FREE • Vol. 1 - No. 2 Shining a Light on York and Lancaster Counties

March 2025

York School District One Superintendent Kelly Coxe Announces Retirement Thomas Hyslip, Editor



York School District One has announced the upcoming retirement of Superintendent Kelly S. Coxe. In a statement, the School Board expressed their gratitude for Ms. Coxe's dedication to students, staff, and the broader York community.

During her tenure, Ms. Coxe has been instrumental in advancing the district's mission to cultivate a service-oriented community of learners, focusing on personal growth and excellence in communication, collaboration, creation, and critical thinking. Her leadership has been pivotal in implementing the "YSD1: Connected as ONE" campaign, emphasizing collective efforts in learning, serving, and giving.

The Board has scheduled a special meeting on Monday, February 24, to discuss hiring a firm to conduct the search for a new superintendent. This initiative aims to ensure a smooth transition and continued success for the district's students both in and out of the classroom.

Ms. Coxe's retirement marks another leadership change in York County school districts. Recently, Fort Mill School District's Superintendent Chuck Epps announced his retirement after over four decades of service, including 15 years as superintendent. Additionally, Tommy Schmolze resigned as the superintendent of Rock Hill Schools in January.

Historic Brattonsville Reconsecrates Burial Ground for Enslaved Ancestors

Patrick Hyslip, Editor



On Saturday, February 22, 2025, Historic Brattonsville in McConnells, South Carolina, held a ceremony to honor and reconsecrate a burial ground containing the graves of at least 481 individuals of African descent. Archaeologists and museum officials have identified this five-acre site as one of the largest burial grounds for enslaved people in the Carolina Piedmont.

The event brought together descendants of both the enslaved and the enslavers who once lived on the plantation. Attendees joined in song and applause, paying tribute to those interred in the forested cemetery.

In 2022, the Culture and Heritage Museums secured a grant of about \$40,000 to study and preserve what is now designated as the "Enslaved Ancestral Burial Ground." This funding facilitated the placement of steel markers at each identified grave, ensuring that those buried are appropriately commemorated. The Historic Brattonsville site offers insights into 18th- and 19th-century Southern life, emphasizing the experiences of both the enslaved and the enslavers.

The museum plans to host a grand opening of the cemetery to the public next month, providing an opportunity for broader community engagement and education. This initiative reflects a growing movement among historic sites in the South to acknowledge and honor the lives and contributions of enslaved individuals, ensuring their stories are preserved for future generations.

Bicyclist Killed in Clover, SC Crash on SC Highway 55

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

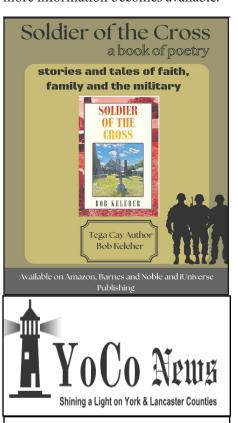
Clover, S.C. — A bicyclist was fatally struck by a vehicle early Wednesday morning on South Carolina Highway 55 near Soaring Eagles Road, according to the South Carolina Highway Patrol.

Authorities reported that the incident occurred around 6:30 a.m. when a 2023 Toyota sedan, traveling south on SC Highway 55, collided with the cyclist from behind. The driver of the vehicle was not injured.

The York County Coroner's Office has not yet released the identity of the deceased, pending notification of family members.

It is unclear at this time whether any charges will be filed in connection with the crash. The South Carolina Highway Patrol is continuing its investigation.

For updates, follow The YoCo News as more information becomes available.



YoCoNews.com

Local Wrestlers Shine at 2025 South Carolina Girls Individual Wrestling Championships



The 2025 South Carolina Girls Individual Wrestling Championships, held February 21-22, showcased the state's top female wrestlers, with several athletes from York and Lancaster County high schools earning top-four finishes.

Champions and Top Performers

Indian Land's Addie Shaw claimed the 100-pound state title, cementing her place as one of the state's best young wrestlers. Meanwhile, Rock Hill's Sirenity Davis (105 lbs) and Madi Beck (110 lbs) also secured state championships, fresh off the Bearcats' team championships.

At 115 pounds, Clover's Kalliscya Gardner captured first place, for the Blue Eagles' growing program.

Lancaster's Nichya Pemberton (170 lbs) took home gold, showcasing her strength and resilience throughout the tournament.

Additional Podium Finishes

Rock Hill had multiple strong performances, including:

Kamyla Torres (100 lbs) – 4th place Jenger Rhodes (115 lbs) – 4th place Alyciah Thomas (155 lbs) – 2nd place Brismar Velazquez (170 lbs) – 2nd place

Northwestern's Kerrington Ratliff (110 lbs) finished 4th, earning valuable points for her team.

