

Tega Cay Sun

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April 2025

PuckerButt Pepper Company Heats Up Kingsley with New Storefront



Thomas Hyslip, Editor
Fort Mill, SC – PuckerButt Pepper Company, the fiery force behind the world’s hottest peppers, has officially opened its doors at a new location in the bustling Kingsley shopping district. The company, known for its record-breaking Carolina Reaper and the recently crowned Pepper X, celebrated its grand opening today, March 21, 2025, at 10 AM, at 1376 Broadcloth St., suite 102.

This move marks a significant expansion for PuckerButt, which first ignited the Fort Mill scene in April 2009 at 237 Main Street. Owner Ed Currie, a two-time Guinness World Record holder, explained the decision, stating, “When I saw the new space in Kingsley, it was a sign from God and knew it was the right time to move.”

The new storefront offers significantly more shelf space, allowing PuckerButt to showcase its extensive range of hot sauces, peppers, and other spicy products. Its prime location near the Marriott

Courtyard in the heart of Kingsley promises increased foot traffic, bringing the company’s fiery delights to a broader audience.

Currie’s impact on Fort Mill extends beyond his spicy creations. He was previously recognized by former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley for his role in revitalizing downtown Fort Mill with his original store.

I had the privilege of arriving 30 minutes before the grand opening, allowing me to interview “Smoking Ed” Currie and capture the excitement of the new space. Currie graciously invited me to stay for the grand opening, providing a firsthand look at the community’s enthusiastic reception.

PuckerButt Pepper Company is not just a retailer; it’s also the largest organic pepper farm in the United States, located right here in Fort Mill. Currie’s dedication to pepper breeding is legendary. He meticulously crossbreeds his plants, using a paintbrush to transfer pollen between varieties.



This innovative process led to the creation of the Carolina Reaper, a hybrid of a Naga pepper from India and Bangladesh and the La Soufriere pepper from Saint Vincent.

In 2013, the Carolina Reaper earned the title of “World’s Hottest Chili” from Guinness World Records. Then, on August 23, 2023, Currie once again made history when Guinness World Records certified his Pepper X as the world’s hottest chili, measuring a staggering 2.69 million SHU (Scoville Heat Units).

For those seeking an intense culinary experience, a visit to PuckerButt’s new Kingsley location is a must. And for those unable to visit in person, the company’s website,

<https://puckerbuttpappercompany.com/>, offers a comprehensive online store. Whether you’re a seasoned chili head or a curious newcomer, PuckerButt Pepper Company has something to ignite your taste buds.

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York County Republicans Push for Closed Primaries Amid Fierce Debate Over Candidate Selection

Patrick Byrne, Editor

Every two years, South Carolina Republicans come together for a critical grassroots process known as Party Reorganization—a foundational tradition that empowers local conservatives to shape the future of the SCGOP.

This year, hundreds of York County Republicans participated in the process, which began in March with neighborhood-level “precinct” meetings where new precinct officers and county delegates were elected. These delegates will then attend the county convention in April to choose state delegates for the South Carolina Republican Party State Convention in May.

The reorganization effort isn’t just about internal leadership—it’s also a launchpad for broader party engagement and influence. For 2025, it comes at a pivotal time, as party members and elected officials debate the future of how Republican candidates should be selected.

At the heart of the debate is the long-standing practice of open primaries, where any registered voter, regardless of party affiliation, can vote in either the Democratic or Republican primary. Many conservatives argue that this system allows Democrats and independents to influence GOP elections, potentially leading to candidates who do not fully represent Republican values. To address this concern, State Senator Wes Climer (R-York) and State Representative Brandon Newton (R-Lancaster) have introduced legislation to implement closed primaries, requiring voters to register with a political party before participating in its primaries.

Push for a Convention System Sparks Controversy

While many York County Republicans support the transition to closed primaries, a more extreme proposal has emerged—abolishing primaries altogether in favor of a convention system. Under this model, party delegates would select candidates instead of voters casting ballots in a primary election.

Advocates of this approach argue that a convention would ensure only committed party members influence candidate selection, preventing what they see as “moderates” or “Republicans In Name Only” (RINOs) from securing nominations. A faction of conservatives, including members of the “America First Movement,” has been promoting this idea across

multiple South Carolina counties.

“The Swamp has managed to rig the primary system to the point where we the people no longer have a voice,” read an email circulated among York County Republicans, claiming that a convention system is “the only way we can completely change the dynamics.” Supporters contend that the current primary system is vulnerable to manipulation by outside influences, including media bias and crossover voting by Democrats.

Caitlin Boyle, a vocal advocate for closing the primaries, emphasized the need for tighter party control over candidate selection. “As conservatives, we must protect the integrity of our party, and that begins with closing the primaries to stop Democrats from crossing over and weakening our Republican candidates,” Boyle said.

Opposition: Threat to Voter Participation and Party Unity

Despite the support for closed primaries, many Republicans are strongly opposed to eliminating primaries entirely. Critics argue that switching to a convention system would limit voter participation, handing control over candidate selection to a small group of party insiders.

“They want to hand-pick every single Republican nominee... without giving you a say,” read a counter-argument circulating among party members, warning that the move would “silence” voters and lead to backroom deals rather than transparent elections.

Representative Brandon Guffey (R-York) has publicly denounced the convention proposal, arguing that it would disenfranchise thousands of Republican voters. He supports Climer’s push for closed primaries but believes eliminating primaries altogether would be detrimental to the party’s future.



Fellow Republican,

Some insiders in the York GOP are working to eliminate our Republican primaries in South Carolina — and it's all about **POWER**.

They want to hand-pick every single Republican nominee — for Governor, Attorney General, Sheriff, Coroner, County Council, and more — *without giving you a say*.

They want all nominees to be handpicked by party insiders making backroom deals behind closed doors.

If we don't stop them, *your vote, your voice, and your freedom* will be **GONE**.

The good news? **You can fight back.**

By showing up tomorrow morning and becoming a York County delegate, you can protect our primaries and defend your right to vote.

This is about power — theirs or yours. Don't let them steal what's rightfully yours.

Opponents also warn that moving to a convention system could lead to internal fractures within the party, alienating moderates and more traditional conservatives. Some fear that a system designed to ensure ideological purity could, in turn, weaken the party’s chances in general elections.

Can South Carolina Close Its Primaries?

While transitioning to a closed primary system is possible, it requires significant political maneuvering. Under South Carolina law, a party can switch to closed primaries if three-fourths of its convention delegates vote in favor of the change. However, despite strong GOP support for closing primaries, past attempts to make the switch have repeatedly failed.

Local GOP chair Larry Barnett acknowledged that the push to close primaries has been ongoing for two decades but has never gained enough traction to pass. Even with overwhelming Republican support, lawmakers have been unable to enact the change at the state level.

The Road Ahead for the SC GOP

The ongoing debate over primary elections and candidate selection highlights a deep divide within South Carolina’s Republican Party. The outcome of this battle could reshape how candidates are chosen for years to come, impacting elections at the local, state, and national levels.

As the debate continues, all eyes are on the state legislature and GOP leadership to determine whether South Carolina’s primaries will remain open to all voters or shift toward a closed—or even convention-based—system. The decisions made in the coming months could have significant consequences for Republican politics in York County and beyond.

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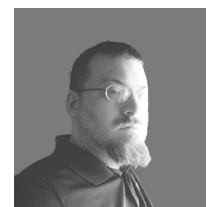
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THE BEST DAM FOOD FESTIVAL!

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

Tega Cay Events Schedule

Taste of Fort Mill Returns to Anne Springs Close Greenway

FORT MILL, SC - Anne Springs Close Greenway has announced the return of the popular "The Taste of Fort Mill" event to its traditional springtime setting. The outdoor food celebration will take place on Friday, May 2, on the Greenway Gateway Lawn.

The event invites the finest restaurants and culinary experts from across York County to showcase their exceptional talents. Over 700 guests are expected to gather and sample a diverse array of signature dishes from more than 15 culinary participants. To ensure a fresh and exciting experience for both new and returning attendees, the participating restaurants and their featured dishes change from year to year. A complete list of confirmed culinary partners is available online,

with more to be announced. Beverages will be available for purchase from the Greenway Canteen.

General Admission tickets are priced at \$90 per ticket and include the opportunity to enjoy tastings from participating local restaurants and caterers, with sampling beginning at 6:30 PM. Beer and wine will be available for purchase, and the Josey Wails Band will provide live music.

For those seeking an enhanced experience, VIP Tickets are available for \$160 per ticket. Businesses interested in exploring sponsorship opportunities should contact Senior Advancement Manager, Yarina Conners, at YarinaConners@ASCGreenway.org or 804-547-2711.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

APR 7TH

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

APR 14TH

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

APR 14TH

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

APR 28TH

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 Saturday of the month, the Tega Cay Lions Club meets in the lower level of the Glennon Center. More information available at <https://tegaylions.wixsite.com/tegaylions>

Last WED. Monthly

Tega Cay Good Life Club -Meets the last Wednesday of each month at the Glennon Center. More information available at <https://tegoodlifeclub.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.

Tega Cay Real Estate Market Sees Significant Price Growth in Early 2025

Thomas Hylsip, Editor

The Tega Cay real estate market is off to a strong start in 2025, with median home prices and price per square foot rising significantly compared to both the previous month and year, according to a recent market update from local Realtor® Thomas Rackley.

The median sales price for single-family homes in February 2025 reached \$564,000, a 17.5% increase from January and a substantial 51.9% increase year-over-year. Price per square foot also climbed to \$259, up 5.71% from the previous month and 17.73% higher than February 2024.

Despite the rising prices, overall sales activity slowed slightly. Only 15 homes were sold in February, down from 24 sales in the same month last year. Homes are also spending more time on the market, averaging 54 days to sell, up from 38 days in February 2024.

As of March, there are 95 active listings in the area. Inventory remains tight, which could continue to place upward pressure on home prices.

The March market summary notes 16 new listings, with an average sales price of \$602,782. Homes sold during the month spent an average of 46 days on the market, and 15 sales were recorded.

Rackley encourages homeowners considering selling to act now, stating that “things are heating up” and that current market conditions are favorable for sellers.

A featured listing in the update highlights a four-bedroom, three-bathroom home at 1065 Guagin Lane in Tega Cay, offering 2,362 square feet of space.

For more information or a free home value analysis, Rackley can be contacted at 704-340-0400 or thomas.rackleyrealtor@gmail.com.

MARCH 2025 BENCHMARK PRICE		CALL 704-340-0400
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Things are heating up. Now is the time to sell.

- Median Sales Price: \$564,000 in February 2025 (+17.5% from January, +51.9% YoY).
- Price Per Square Foot: \$259 (+5.71% from January, +17.73% YoY).
- Sales Activity: 15 homes sold in February (down from 24 in February 2024).
- Days on Market: Homes took an average of 54 days to sell (up from 38 days in 2024).
- Inventory: 95 active listings

Thomas Rackley

FEATRUED LISTING



4 BEDROOM 3 BATHROOM
2362 SQFT

1065 GUAGIN LANE
TEGA CAY, SC

MARCH 2025 MARKET SUMMARY

- 16 NEW LISTINGS
- \$602,782 AVERAGE PRICE SOLD
- 46 DAYS TIME ON MARKET
- 15 SOLD LISTINGS

THOMAS.RACKLEYREALTOR@GMAIL.COM
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Mr. Penny Pincher: Youth Sports and Their Rising Cost of Entry

Parick Byrne, Editor

As I've gotten older and had kids of my own, it's impossible not to think about how expensive certain things have become versus what they used to cost not so long ago. The cost of housing, cars and eating out is much more expensive in our post Covid world.

One of the main reasons for being a parent is to provide your children with a better life. This line of thinking works itself into aspects of city planning, where new and safer playgrounds are built, providing a stimulating environment for our children. This is certainly not a bad thing; however, when does better become too far out of reach for a majority of parents?

Youth sports are a great example. When I was a child, recreation leagues provided most of the equipment needed to participate. Baseball or softball proves this point. As long as you had a glove on your hand and cleats on your feet, the rest would be provided. Bats, helmets and uniforms were available for use as part of the participation cost. This is far from being true today.

My 8 year old daughter decided she wanted to play softball last year. I was surprised to learn that I was required to purchase the following: glove, field mask, aluminum bat, helmet and full uniform (multiple shirts and pants). The all in cost to participate was well

See Penny Pincher, Page 8

Nation Ford Student Selected for Disney Dreamers Academy

Chris Coffee, Reporter



FORT MILL, S.C. — Nation Ford High School junior Mason Bucciero has been selected to participate in the prestigious 2025 Disney Dreamers Academy at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida.

Bucciero joins 100 high school students from across the nation for the five-day program, which began this week. The academy provides students with immersive workshops and seminars led by business leaders, educators, and celebrities, all designed to inspire and cultivate their career aspirations.

Bucciero's selection highlights his commitment to community service and his resilience in the face of personal tragedy. In 2012, at the age of four, Bucciero lost his younger brother, Carter, to an inoperable brain tumor. This experience deeply impacted Bucciero, leading him to become actively involved with St. Jude

See Bucciero, Page 8

10 Bidders attend meeting for Tega Cay Golf Course Restaurant

Parick Byrne, Editor

The Tega Cay Golf Club Restaurant food and beverage services is out for bid, and ten businesses are competing for the chance to manage the operation. The City of Tega Cay hosted a meeting for anyone interested in bidding in the future.

The selected business will sign a five-year agreement starting February 1, 2026, with an option for a five-year extension.

Ten businesses attended a mandatory meeting to be eligible to submit a bid for food and beverage operations, including the Shore Club, the current operator of the facility.

CGDS LLC
Ben E. Keith
Karl Schaefer Designs
Knowledge Perk Coffee Company
Flipside Restaurant Group
Slotted Spoon Hospitality

Hobo's
Charter House
Shore Club
Margaux's Wine/The Garrison

Each of these businesses is now eligible to submit a proposal. The winning company will be responsible for running the golf club's restaurant and bar, as well as potentially managing the Conference Center/Ballroom for an additional fee.

The operator, known as the Licensee, will pay the city a \$15,000 monthly fee for running the food and beverage services. If they also take on the Conference Center/Ballroom, they will pay an additional \$1,500 per month plus 10% of the revenue.

If the city extends the contract for an additional five years, the monthly fee may increase by up to 10%. Proposals must be submitted by June 19th to be considered.

Tega Cay Council Honors Local Achievements, Advances Park Regulations at March 17 Meeting

Patrick Byrne, Editor

The Tega Cay City Council held its regular meeting on March 17, 2025. The evening featured several proclamations, committee reports, and city business items including ordinances, development updates, and board appointments. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Recognitions and Proclamations

Fort Mill High School Wrestling Team

The Council honored the Fort Mill High School Wrestling Team for winning the 2025 South Carolina 5A Division 2 State Championship, marking their third consecutive state title.

Outgoing Committee, Commission, and Board Members

Several individuals were recognized for their service on city advisory boards, including the Planning Commission, Economic Development Commission, and others.

Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

April 13–19, 2025 was proclaimed as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in recognition of the critical role these professionals play in emergency response.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day

March 29, 2025 was declared National Vietnam War Veterans Day, acknowledging the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans, including 11 from Tega Cay and Fort Mill.

Committee and Commission Reports

Economic Development Committee: Discussed the upcoming Tega Cay Business Connect event (March 19), ARPA fund disbursement to local businesses, and community engagement efforts.

Planning Commission: Voted to recommend zoning amendments to the Main Street development and the Marina Overlay District. Discussed the comprehensive plan process and selected members for the Steering Committee.

Stormwater & Environmental Committee: Focused on public education regarding stormwater issues and pollution. Plans include launching a dedicated Facebook page and content for the city website.

RFATS: Updates on I-77/Selenese-Cherry Rd redesign (approved Option 6A) and Highway 160 project (on schedule). A proposed \$10M pedestrian bridge in Rock Hill was voted against due to cost concerns.

COG (Council of Governments): Information received on grant opportunities from SC Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. Staff is working on follow-up.

Council Business

Approval of Minutes: February 18, 2025 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Appointments to Committees and Boards: Council appointed new members to several advisory groups, including Planning Commission, Board of Zoning
See City Council, Page 8

Healthy Living with Dr. Hall: Rethinking Fibroids: The Silent Epidemic Affecting 70% of Women

Dr. David Hall

Fibroids are common yet largely misunderstood benign growths that develop in or around the uterus, affecting 70-80% of women by age 50. Despite their prevalence, fibroids often go undiagnosed, especially among women of color. These growths can cause significant health complications, affecting a woman's quality of life, yet awareness remains limited. It's time to address fibroids as a silent epidemic deserving of more attention.

Fibroids vary in size, shape, and location, and many women have more than one. While not cancerous, fibroids can cause troubling symptoms such as heavy menstrual bleeding, pelvic pain, pressure on the bladder or bowel, frequent urination, constipation, bloating, and pain during intercourse. In some cases, fibroids can even cause a visibly swollen abdomen.

There are different types of fibroids, classified by their location in the uterus. Intramural fibroids are found in the muscle wall, subserosal ones grow near the outer wall, and submucosal fibroids develop closer to the center, where a baby would grow. Heavy bleeding, often caused by fibroids, is the leading cause of menorrhagia (excessive menstrual bleeding).

The cause of fibroids remains unclear, but genetics, family history, and ethnicity are considered risk factors, with women of African descent being at higher risk. Hormones like estrogen and progesterone are believed to contribute to fibroid growth, which is why they often enlarge during pregnancy when hormone levels are higher.

Fibroids are often discovered incidentally during routine pregnancy check-ups or ultrasounds, leaving many women unaware that their symptoms might be linked to fibroids. Healthcare providers must take fibroids seriously and investigate when symptoms like heavy bleeding or

pelvic pain are reported.

Treatment depends on the severity of symptoms. Asymptomatic or mild fibroids may require monitoring through ultrasound, while more severe cases may involve medications to shrink fibroids, though these can have side effects like hot flashes and bone loss. Surgical treatments like myomectomy (fibroid removal) or hysterectomy (removal of the uterus) are options for more serious cases, and uterine artery embolization, a less invasive procedure, can block blood flow to the fibroids.

Fibroids can complicate pregnancy, increasing the risk of miscarriage, preterm labor, and delivery complications. They can also hinder conception, and if they grow too rapidly during pregnancy, they may cause a painful condition known as "red degeneration," which leads to fever, vomiting, and intense pain.

Despite available treatments, many women remain unaware of fibroids and their potential consequences. The stigma around menstrual health and pregnancy issues further silences the conversation, delaying diagnosis and care. Raising awareness, educating women, and improving access to resources is crucial for managing this condition.

Fibroids affect millions of women, yet they are often overlooked. It's time to rethink fibroids as a serious health issue and provide the focus and resources needed to improve the lives of those affected.

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.

Book a FREE consultation online today!

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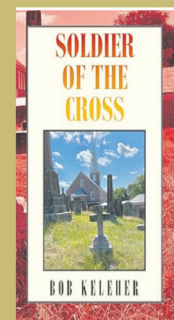
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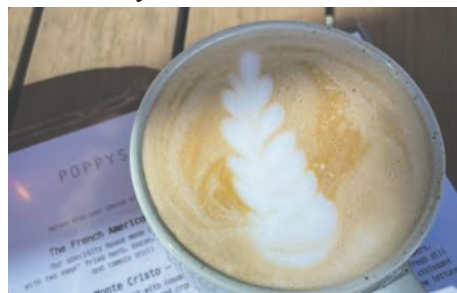


Buzz around Town



Whether for Brunch or Lunch, Poppysed Kitchen Delights Your Taste Buds

Patrick Byrne, Editor



Through a series of fortunate events, my wife and I found ourselves childless for lunch on a Saturday. We considered our favorite haunts but decided that given our newfound freedom, we needed to try something new. After a bit of discussion and wrangling about brunch or lunch, my wife threw out a place we hadn't been to but have always wanted to try.

Shortly thereafter, we set out for Poppysed Kitchen.

Nestled just outside downtown Fort Mill, Poppysed Kitchen has been delighting diners since they launched in 2022. Open Wednesday thru Sunday from 7am - 3pm, the menu features upscale breakfast and lunch items, specialty drinks and pastries. Favorites like a Monte Cristo sandwich, Caesar Salad and Stuffed French Toast share the menu with specialties such as; a Southern BLT, Ranch Hash or Bird Box (panko crusted fried chicken) sandwich.

As much as I wanted to try a specialty item, I had one of those days where a burger and fries sounded too good to pass up. Thankfully, the Poppysed Kitchen delivered. Their All American Burger was juicy and delicious with just the right amount of "bad for you"

See Poppysed, Page 8

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- Fast Results
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980-301-3552

Tega Cay Named Best Place to Live in South Carolina and Charlotte Metro Area

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



2025 Best Places to Live in South Carolina

Explore the best places to live in the U.S. based on crime, public schools, cost of living, job opportunities, and local amenities. Ranking based on data from the U.S. Census, FBI, BLS, CDC, and other sources. [Read more on how this ranking was calculated.](#)

Tega Cay has been named the No. 1 best place to live in South Carolina and the Charlotte metropolitan area in Niche's 2025 rankings. The city also earned top honors in several other categories, including best place to raise a family in South Carolina, best public schools in the state, best suburb to live in South Carolina, and best suburb to raise a family.

The rankings, released annually by Niche, evaluate communities across the United States based on a combination of data and resident reviews. Categories include public schools, housing, crime and safety, family-friendliness, and access to amenities.

Tega Cay's consistent top rankings reflect its strong public school system, low crime rates, and high quality of life. Located along Lake Wylie in York County, the city has become a popular destination for families and professionals seeking a suburban lifestyle with close proximity to Charlotte.

Fort Mill, also in York County, earned high marks as well. It ranked as the No. 3 best place to live in South Carolina and No. 12 in the Charlotte metro area. Fort Mill was also named the second-best place to raise a family in South Carolina and the No. 2 best suburb in the state for families.

The full rankings can be found at [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com).

Tega Cay Lions Club Seeks Citizen of the Year Nominations

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The Tega Cay Lions Club is calling on residents to recognize the unsung heroes among them, those individuals who tirelessly contribute to the vibrant fabric of our community. Nominations are now open for the prestigious "Citizen of the Year" award, a tradition that honors those who go above and beyond to make Tega Cay a better place to live.

This annual recognition, culminating in a special presentation at the beloved July 4th celebration, shines a spotlight on individuals who exemplify dedication, service, and a genuine commitment to the betterment of Tega Cay.

Do you know someone who consistently volunteers their time, initiates impactful projects, or simply

embodies the spirit of community service? The Tega Cay Lions Club wants to hear from you!

Nomination Criteria:

- Nominator and Nominee must be a resident of Tega Cay.
- Joint Nominations: Nominees may be two individuals who work together as a unit.
- Subjective Criteria: Nominees must have made substantial contributions to the Tega Cay community and demonstrated exceptional dedication and service.

To submit a nomination, please send an email to tega.cay.lions@gmail.com. Be sure to clearly state the nominee's name and provide detailed information about their contributions and dedication to the community.

Join us for our

Easter Brunch Buffet

Sunday, April 20th 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Enjoy our extensive buffet

Brunch buffet items include...

Carved beef strip loin, baked ham, salmon, chicken entrees, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, french toast, home fries, grits, fresh fruit, muffins, danishes, pasta entrees, salads, mashed potatoes, vegetables, pasta salad, kids chicken tenders, kids mac & cheese, desserts \$5 mimosas & bloody marys

Adults \$39.95 • Children 6-10 \$10.95 • Children 5 and under eat free

Limited reservations! Call 803-630-0540



Shining Stars of Agriculture: Local Students Represent at 2025 Miss FFA Scholarship Pageant

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



The South Carolina FFA community recently celebrated its brightest young leaders at the 2025 Miss FFA Scholarship Pageant, held at the Greenwood 50 Performing Arts Center on February 28th. Among the 64 talented contestants, students from Rock Hill, Tega Cay, Fort Mill, and York showcased their dedication to agriculture and personal excellence.

The prestigious title of Miss FFA 2025 was awarded to Savannah Griffin from the SC Governor's School for Agriculture (SCGSA), who also took home a \$500 scholarship generously provided by Ag South. Her fellow SCGSA classmate, Elizabeth Viseth, earned the esteemed position of 1st Runner-Up.

The competition was fierce, with the Top 5 also including:

- 2nd Runner-Up:** Annabelle Creech (Pelion FFA Chapter), also recognized for the Highest Application Score.
- 3rd Runner-Up:** Kayci Claire Wilkerson (York FFA Chapter), who impressed judges with the Highest Interview Score.
- 4th Runner-Up:** Jenna Kay Avant (Carver's Bay FFA Chapter), awarded for the Highest Evening Wear Score.

Hannah Wilkerson of the Rock Hill FFA Chapter also finished in the top 10.

See FFA, Page 8

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SPORTS



Fort Mill Blasts Clover 11-3, Secures Series Win



Chris Coffee, Sports Reporter

FORT MILL, S.C. — Fort Mill's bats came alive Wednesday night, powering the Yellow Jackets to an 11-3 victory over Clover and securing the series win in Region 3-5A baseball action.

The Yellow Jackets (6-2, 3-2 Region 3-5A) jumped out to an early lead, scoring two runs in the first inning. Clover (5-4, 3-2 Region 3-5A) responded with a run in the second, but their offense remained quiet until the fifth inning.

Fort Mill exploded for five runs in the fifth, extending their lead to 10-3. Clover added two runs in the top of the 5th, but that was all the offense they could manage. Fort Mill added one more run in the bottom of the sixth to seal the victory.

Fort Mill outfielder Jacob Pettit led the offensive charge, hitting three home runs and driving in six runs. Alex Carreiro earned the win on the mound, with John Risk coming in for relief. The Yellow Jackets won game one of the series 4-2.

Fort Mill High School Track Teams Triumph Over Catawba Ridge in Dual Meet



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The Fort Mill High School's track and field teams secured victories against Catawba Ridge High School on March 12, 2025. The Fort Mill girls dominated with a score of 148-25, winning every event except the 4x100m relay, while the boys edged out a narrow win at 87.5 to 85.5. The boys' meet was decided in the final event, the 4x400-meter relay, where

Byrnes Defeats Fort Mill on Senior Night in Defensive Lacrosse Battle



Chris Coffee, Sports Reporter

Under the lights of senior night, the Fort Mill Yellow Jackets hosted the James F. Byrnes Rebels in a tightly contested lacrosse matchup. The evening, meant to honor Fort Mill's 13 seniors and their families, saw a defensive masterclass from both sides, but ultimately, Byrnes emerged victorious with a 5-3 win.

The game began with Fort Mill winning the opening face-off, but they struggled to establish their offense. A shot on goal at the crease went wide, giving Byrnes possession. The Rebels patiently worked the ball, and at the 8:01 mark of the first quarter, they took a 1-0 lead.

Byrnes' defense proved formidable, stifling Fort Mill's offensive drives and forcing desperate shots. Despite their defensive prowess, Byrnes also struggled to generate clear scoring opportunities, keeping the first quarter *See Lacrosse, Page 9*

Yellow Jackets Buzzing: Fort Mill Boys Golf Aces Early Season

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Fort Mill High School's boys golf team has teed off the 2025 season with a powerful swing, securing two impressive victories against region rivals Catawba Ridge and Nation Ford. With a young roster brimming with potential, the Yellow Jackets are proving they're a force to be reckoned with on the greens.

Coach Bridges, enthusiastic about the team's promising future, has witnessed firsthand the dedication and skill fueling their early success. The team's strong start is a testament to their hard work and the depth of talent within the squad.

The Yellow Jackets began their winning streak on March 13th, facing off against Catawba Ridge. Fort Mill showcased their prowess, posting a team score of 164, a decisive eight strokes ahead of Catawba Ridge's 172. Leading the charge was Baker Tolentino, who delivered an outstanding round of 37, securing the overall match low score.

Fort Mill individual scores:
Baker Tolentino - 37
Noah Jones - 40
Brody Blackwell - 42
Greyson Sipe - 45

The momentum continued on March 20th, as Fort Mill faced a tight contest against Nation Ford. In a nail-biting match, the Yellow Jackets edged out their opponents with a team score of 168, just one stroke ahead of Nation Ford's 169. Once again, Baker Tolentino tied for the overall match low score with a 40.

Fort Mill individual scores:
Baker Tolentino - 40
Tyson Shouse - 42
Wilson Holmes - 42
Nich Harper - 44

As the season progresses, the Fort Mill community will be eagerly watching to see how this young and talented team continues to develop.

Athletes of the Week

FORT MILL HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
JACOB PETTIT
BASEBALL | SENIOR
667 BATTING AVERAGE
9 AT BATS 6 HITS 4 HOME RUNS
(INCLUDING A GRAND SLAM), BRBI

FORT MILL HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
CECE SHIA
LACROSSE | SOPHOMORE
9 GOALS,
10 DRAW CONTROLS IN 2 GAMES

FORT MILL HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
ALEX CARREIRO
BASEBALL | SENIOR
6 INNINGS PITCHED
0 HITS
9 STRIKEOUTS

FORT MILL HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
LOGAN PARKER
BASKETBALL | SENIOR
GAME HIGH 24 POINTS, 6 REBOUNDS, 2 ASSISTS
AND 2 CHARGES TAKEN IN ELITE B WIN,
SELECTED ALL-REGION AND ALL-STATE!

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Dr. David Hall

Penny Pincher, From Page 4

over \$400! Keep in mind, she’s “trying out” softball to see if she likes it. In the end, she liked it but wanted to focus on soccer full time. That’s a whole other story.

Moving from a recreation league to a club team in soccer is not only time consuming, it’s quite expensive. The cost to play on the team can run thousands of dollars per year. This is on top of the uniforms or “kit” you’re required to purchase. Although we’re not quite there yet, out of town travel and hotel rooms will begin to play a factor in our overall budget. Regional teams may travel across multiple states while national teams will travel to games throughout the United States. As you can imagine, it starts to get pretty expensive rather quickly.

Although I had friends who played soccer and baseball in high school, some were even good enough to get scholarships, I rarely remember any of them playing on a national team. They did travel across the state of South Carolina and sometimes regionally for a large event, but the number of people I knew who did this were few and far between. Nowadays, it seems like the norm.

The middle school my daughter will attend has a turf field and stands large enough to fill hundreds of people on both sides. The park a few miles from my house has multiple turf fields for soccer and flag football and beautifully manicured bermudagrass outfields used for baseball. I’m not complaining of course, but do the kids really care? Is this the reason why an entry fee for a sport is now hundreds of dollars instead of being moderately affordable for those who want to try it out?

I don’t know the answer. What I do know is, sports are big business. The hijacking of college athletics by corporations is having a trickle down effect on high school, middle school and lower level sports. This is making it less affordable to pick and choose the sports you want to play. It’s gotten to the point where it’s more cost effective to choose early and steer your child toward one sport rather than trying two or three as they grow older.

Nicer fields and venues are certainly better than playing in dirt fields and run down stadiums, but we can’t ignore the cost of progress. Big business is impacting youth sports and making it harder for many families to absorb the trickle down costs of new equipment and entry fees.

This is an unfortunate reality that shows no signs of changing anytime soon.

Poppyseed, From Page 6

to fulfill my craving. The butter pickles and deliciously toasted brioche bun added to the experience. A side of perfectly browned, salted and crispy fries rounded out my meal.

My wife opted for the Southern BLT. Although it had the usual lettuce, tomato and bacon, the sandwich featured pimento cheese while being placed on buttered sourdough bread. The bacon was thick cut, with a salty sweet flavor. Alongside her perfectly frothed espresso, she was quite pleased with the items she had ordered.

As far as portions are considered, they’re generous without being overwhelming. We were both able to finish our meals with only a few scraps left on the plate.

Although neither of us ordered an adult beverage, wines, mimosas and beers are available. They also had a variety of cold and hot beverages to choose from. A coffee bar is conveniently located at the front of the restaurant so you can order a drink while you’re waiting on your table.

Our total bill was \$35 without tip. A family of four can expect to pay double this or more. Although that may sound like a lot for brunch, the food at Poppyseed Kitchen is worth digging a little deeper into your wallet. This is a place that would be very much at home in Charlotte or any other big city in America.

Thankfully for us, they’ve decided to make their home in Fort Mill instead.

Bucciero, From Page 4

Children’s Research Hospital.

He has since dedicated himself to raising funds for St. Jude, speaking at hospital events, and participating in their leadership society. Bucciero’s application to the Disney Dreamers Academy was inspired by the similarities he saw between the program and his experiences with St. Jude’s leadership initiatives.

In his application essay, Bucciero shared his profound connection to his late brother, his unwavering dedication to St. Jude, and his ambition to leverage professional sports as a platform to amplify his fundraising efforts for the hospital.

Bucciero expressed his enthusiasm for the Disney Dreamers Academy, stating he hopes to gain valuable insights and skills to help him realize his dream of making a significant impact on St. Jude through sports-related fundraising.

City Council, From Page 5

Appeals, Parks & Recreation Committee, Stormwater Committee, and the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

Zoning Amendments: Council reviewed and accepted Planning Commission recommendations related to the Main Street phasing plan and the Marina Overlay District.

Ordinance – Watercraft at City Parks: Council held a first reading of an ordinance to regulate the docking and beaching of motorized watercraft at city parks. The ordinance:

Prohibits overnight docking at Pitcairn Park.

Bans beaching of motorized watercraft at Windjammer Park.

Prohibits loading/unloading of passengers or cargo for hire.

Aligns city code with state law by removing unenforceable restrictions related to firearms and alcohol display. The motion passed unanimously following discussion about enforcement and legal alignment.

Council Comments

Councilmembers expressed appreciation for public engagement, committee service, and staff performance. The Fort Mill wrestling team, public safety personnel, and volunteers were commended. Council also reminded residents about upcoming events such as the Business Connect, Chat with Council (March 27), and the Tega Cay Elementary School golf fundraiser (April 3).

Executive Session

Council entered executive session to receive legal advice concerning:

Contractual matters with York County.

Potential litigation matters.

FFA, From Page 6

The pageant saw strong representation from the York County area, with several local students making their mark. Kayci Claire Wilkerson from York FFA’s 3rd runner up position was a highlight for the area.

Rock Hill ATC FFA Advisor Cameron Ramsey expressed immense pride in her chapter’s participants. “Three ladies (Makayla Baber, Hannah Wilkerson, Cadence Fosdick) of the Rock Hill ATC FFA Chapter participated in the annual Miss FFA Scholarship/Pageant. Hannah Wilkerson finished the night as one of the top 10 contestants and participated in the on-stage question portion of the competition. These ladies are each active FFA members and enjoy the opportunity to be involved in agriculture although living in a suburban community. The Rock Hill ATC FFA offers an abundance of agricultural learning opportunities in and outside of the classroom. While these ladies are able to participate in concrete skill competitions such as Floriculture, Livestock Evaluation and Agricultural Mechanics, they are also able to hone their soft skills associated with public speaking and interview techniques through Miss FFA. Agribusiness is the number one industry in the state of South Carolina and Rock Hill ATC is excited to provide competitive opportunity to students in an effort to guide them towards their desired career goals.”

Further showcasing the strong agricultural foundation in the region, Payton Bryan from Baxter Village (Fort Mill), a senior at SCGSA, and Kennedy Keskey from Tega Cay, a sophomore at SCGSA, also participated. Both girls began their FFA journeys at Fort Mill High School under the guidance of Mr. Tim Pasour, demonstrating the ripple effect of dedicated agricultural education.

A Celebration of Achievement

The pageant itself was a blend of tradition and elegance. Contestants showcased their poise and dedication during the parade of “dress blues,” followed by the evening gown presentation, where their impressive achievements were highlighted. The on-stage question segment tested the finalists’ knowledge and communication skills, demonstrating their readiness to lead in the agricultural community.

The 2025 Miss FFA Scholarship Pageant served as a powerful reminder of the bright future of agriculture in South Carolina, with local students from Rock Hill, Tega Cay, Fort Mill, and York playing a vital role in that promise.

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Fort Mill School District Announces 2025 Teachers and Support Staff of the Year

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The Fort Mill School District has named its 2025 Teachers and Support Staff of the Year, recognizing outstanding educators and staff members from each school and facility. These honorees were nominated and voted upon by their peers in recognition of their dedication and contributions to students and the school community.

The teachers and support staff selected for this honor will serve as key representatives throughout the 2025-2026 school year, participating in the district's Teacher and Classified Liaison Committees.

Among the honorees are educators across all grade levels and subject areas, including kindergarten, special education, technology, math, and social studies. The district also recognized dedicated support staff, including school psychologists, instructional assistants, receptionists, and behavior technicians who contribute to student success daily.

2025 Teachers of the Year:

- Martha Jenkinson – Lead Teacher, Banks Trail Middle
- Jessie Haynes – Chorus Teacher, Catawba Ridge High
- Sarah Gilreath – Kindergarten, Doby's Bridge Elementary
- Ebony Bankhead – 7th Grade Guidance, Forest Creek Middle
- Kim Barkley – Kindergarten, Fort Mill Elementary
- Stewart Ruddy – 12th Grade English, Fort Mill High
- Rebecca Reiter – 7th Grade Math, Fort Mill Middle
- Ebony English – 3rd Grade, Gold Hill Elementary
- Rachael Shriver – Technology, Gold Hill Middle
- Chrishonda Howze – 4th Grade, Kings Town Elementary
- Tyler Griffin – Social Studies, Nation Ford High
- Lauren Robinson – Kindergarten, Orchard Park Elementary
- Ashley Smith – 1st Grade, Pleasant Knoll Elementary
- Hayat Sabah – Special Education, Pleasant Knoll Middle
- Samantha Rigby – 1st Grade, River Trail Elementary
- Heather Morris – Technology, Riverview Elementary
- Courtney Brady – 3rd Grade, Springfield Elementary
- Hannah Ritschel – 7th Grade Math, Springfield Middle
- Michelle Berisford – 3rd Grade, Sugar Creek Elementary
- Sam Kirkley – 5th Grade, Tega Cay Elementary
- Emily Sirico – Special Education, Oak Grove Academy

2025 Support Staff of the Year:

- Christopher Solis – School Psychologist, Banks Trail Middle
- Jamale Foster – Instructional Assistant, Catawba Ridge High
- Suzanne Crider – Receptionist, Doby's Bridge Elementary
- Carissa Carlson – School Psychologist, Forest Creek Middle
- Cynthia Jelinek – Bookkeeper, Fort Mill Elementary
- Sandra Stankovits – Instructional Assistant, Fort Mill High
- Krysten Lawson – Instructional Assistant, Fort Mill Middle
- Malinda Murphy – Behavior Technician, Gold Hill Elementary
- Johnny Shaw – Instructional Assistant, Gold Hill Middle
- Lindsey Maxwell – School Nurse, Kings Town Elementary
- Stephanie Gray – Receptionist, Nation Ford High
- Allison Pogalz – Behavior Technician, Orchard Park Elementary
- Victoria Dawes – Behavior Technician, Pleasant Knoll Elementary
- Wendy Longwell – Bookkeeper, Pleasant Knoll Middle
- Amber Slovonik – Behavior Interventionist, River Trail Elementary
- Barbara Anderson – Technology Assistant, Riverview Elementary
- Jenni Hawkinson – Behavior Technician, Springfield Elementary
- Kelly Cutrone – Technology Assistant, Springfield Middle
- Casey Wright – Receptionist, Sugar Creek Elementary
- Tracy Green – Receptionist, Tega Cay Elementary
- Melissa McGady – Receptionist, District Office
- Robert Ayers – Maintenance Mechanic, Maintenance Department
- Vonda Werth – Operations Manager, Student Nutrition
- Mandy Carter – Dispatcher

Lacrosse, From Page 7

score at 1-0.

The second quarter continued the defensive trend, with Byrnes controlling possession. At 6:28, they extended their lead to 2-0. However, Fort Mill's Charlie McGuire quickly responded, scoring off the face-off to bring the score to 2-1. Byrnes answered back, pushing the lead to 3-1. McGuire struck again for Fort Mill, making it 3-2. Byrnes then showcased their patience, draining the clock and scoring to take a 4-2 lead into halftime.

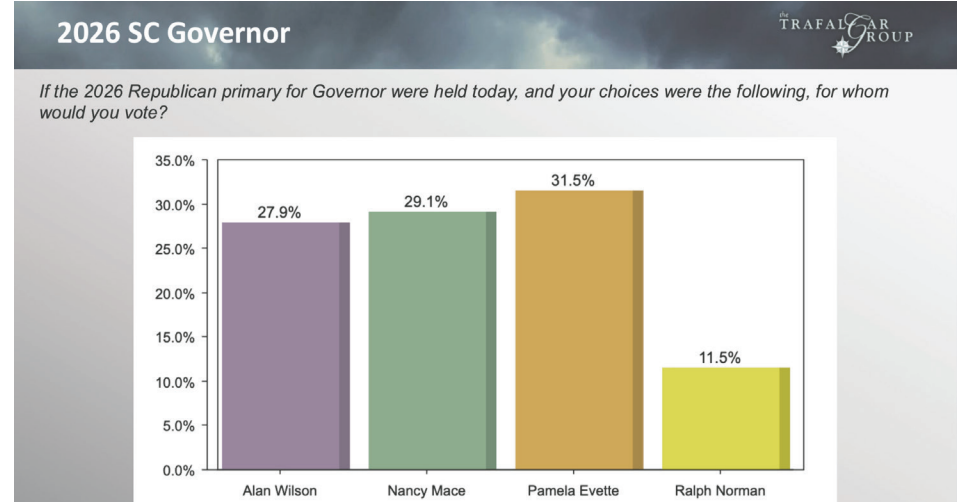
The second half opened with Fort Mill failing to capitalize on a 30-second man-up opportunity. Byrnes' defense continued to dominate, controlling the pace and limiting Fort Mill's chances. Fort Mill's goalie, Jack Annin, was a stalwart in the crease, making crucial

saves to keep his team in the game. Despite Fort Mill's efforts, the third quarter ended with Byrnes still leading 4-2.

In the fourth quarter, Byrnes's Jake Fowler and Myles Covington connected for a goal, extending the lead to 5-2. Fort Mill's defense swarmed Byrnes, but the Rebels' defense remained impenetrable. With 4:37 remaining, a Fort Mill goal was called back due to an illegal stick penalty, maintaining the 5-2 score.

As time dwindled, Fort Mill faced additional penalties, including another illegal stick. Despite playing with a man down, Fort Mill's Patrick Yarborough scored with 13 seconds left, making it 5-3. However, it was too little too late. Byrnes held on for the win, securing a hard-fought victory on Fort Mill's senior night.

Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette Leads Early Poll in 2026 South Carolina's Governor's Race



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

A recent poll by The Trafalgar Group indicates that South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette leads among likely Republican voters in the early stages of the 2026 gubernatorial race. The survey, conducted from March 8 to 10, 2025, included 1,127 respondents and has a margin of error of ±2.9%.

According to the poll, 31.5% of participants support Evette's candidacy. U.S. Representative Nancy Mace follows with 29.1%, Attorney General Alan Wilson has 27.9%, and U.S. Representative Ralph Norman holds 11.5% support.

These findings have surprised some

political analysts, as Evette was previously considered an underdog in the race. Mace, who represents South Carolina's 1st Congressional District, has been vocal about her potential gubernatorial bid and has recently made headlines with her advocacy on women's safety issues. Wilson, serving as Attorney General since 2011, has also expressed interest in the governorship.

As the 2026 election approaches, these early poll results provide insight into the evolving dynamics of South Carolina's gubernatorial race.

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Charlie's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1) Classic recording label
- 6) Christmas kings
- 10) Car juice
- 13) Even a bit
- 14) "... happily ___ after."
- 15) Trunk of a tree
- 16) Waste no time in traveling to
- 19) Great deal
- 20) "___ a beautiful morning"
- 21) Detonate
- 22) Gives birth to
- 23) Foils
- 24) Commotion or type of room
- 28) A smaller amount
- 29) Beatles song "Any Time ___"
- 30) Citrus flavor
- 31) Singer Simone
- 35) Do the apples-to-oranges thing
- 38) Small farm building
- 39) Vagabond
- 40) Colonizing insect
- 41) It can get into a jam
- 42) Give a hard time to
- 43) Categorizes
- 47) Deck swabber's need
- 48) Labor organizer Cesar
- 49) It may be written in stone
- 50) Move little by little
- 54) Emulate Nostradamus
- 57) "Happy Days" actress Moran
- 58) Pitches in
- 59) Bitterly pungent
- 60) Female sib
- 61) Run the party
- 62) If-___ (computer routines)

DOWN

- 1) Bonneville and Hoover
- 2) Substitute for the unnamed
- 3) Birthday party centerpiece
- 4) Ball of thread
- 5) Chicken ___ king
- 6) Track season events
- 7) Park and Madison (Abbr.)
- 8) Mousse, for one
- 9) Arm of the North Atlantic
- 10) Find attractive
- 11) Floating above ground
- 12) Lowly laborers
- 15) ___-carotene
- 17) Unfairness
- 18) Fresh information
- 22) ___ hoop
- 23) Musician's speed
- 24) St. Louis gridders
- 25) Beehive State
- 26) Construct
- 27) Appealed, as for mercy
- 28) Dance requiring a pole
- 30) Takes as spoils
- 31) "___ Island" (Jodie Foster film)
- 32) Doctrines, informally
- 33) December air
- 34) Poker pay-in
- 36) Audacity
- 37) Get, as profits
- 41) Rug-buyer's concern
- 42) Kachina doll makers
- 43) Apexes
- 44) Lewis with Lamb Chop
- 45) Rice beverages
- 46) Range section
- 47) Center
- 49) Winery choices
- 50) Draw with acid
- 51) In ___ straits
- 52) "Whole Lotta Shakin' ___ On"
- 53) Ultimate purposes
- 55) Lead-in for "Branco" or "Bravo"
- 56) Garfield, for one

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[Answers at tegacaysun.com/answers](http://tegacaysun.com/answers)

York County Council Projects Millage Revenue Growth, Discusses New Bridge Over Lake Wylie at Workshop

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The York County Council's March 11, 2025 budget workshop centered on balancing rapid growth with fiscal responsibility. Preliminary revenue projections indicated a 4-5% millage revenue increase, a slight deceleration from the previous year's 6%, coupled with concerns about declining deed stamp and building permit revenues, suggesting a potential slowdown in development. This prompted discussions on prioritizing infrastructure investments to accommodate the county's expansion.

Capital project discussions focused heavily on addressing the strain of this growth. Road improvements in high-growth areas and stormwater

management, particularly in Regent Park, were identified as critical needs. A significant infrastructure initiative under consideration was the construction of a new bridge over Lake Wylie to alleviate increasing traffic congestion and improve emergency response times. This proposal was referred to the transportation committee for further analysis and planning.

The council also explored funding for parks and recreation expansion to meet the growing population's needs, and debated the merits of county investment in a large-scale industrial park to stimulate economic development. Concerns were raised about the county's role in land acquisition and the use of economic

development funds for infrastructure versus land purchases.

Additionally, the council addressed funding for an agricultural education center to support 4-H and FFA programs, and explored the potential for a countywide agritourism facility. The FY26 budget timeline was outlined, including a March retreat for detailed revenue projection review and strategic planning, an April workshop, a May public hearing for outside agency funding requests, and final budget approval in June. These meetings will be instrumental in finalizing budget allocations and addressing the county's long-term infrastructure and economic development goals.

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YoCo News

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Shining a Light on York and Lancaster Counties

April 2025

The Prettiest Small Towns in South Carolina: A Journey Through York, Clover, and Beyond

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

South Carolina is home to many charming small towns, each offering a unique glimpse into the state's rich history and natural beauty. World Atlas highlights several of these gems, noting that they "guarantee something to excite all types of travelers." According to World Atlas, York and Clover, both located in York County, are rated as two of the prettiest small towns in SC. Here's an expanded look at the towns mentioned in the article:

York: Known as the "Charleston of the Upstate," York is celebrated for its Southern hospitality and rich history. The town boasts a historic district with dozens of vintage buildings, including the McCelvey Center. Visitors can enjoy retail therapy at the Yorkville Marketplace and outdoor activities at the York Recreation Complex.

Clover: This welcoming community in York County offers a tight-knit atmosphere and quaint attractions. Outdoor enthusiasts can explore spaces like Clover Community Park and New Centre Park. The pedestrian-friendly downtown region features antique shops, such as High Cotton Antiques of Clover.

Beaufort: One of South Carolina's oldest towns, Beaufort offers a blend of history and coastal charm.

Camden: This town is known for its equestrian heritage and historic sites.

Cheraw: Cheraw boasts a rich cultural scene and beautiful natural surroundings.

Georgetown: As South Carolina's third-oldest town, Georgetown features a picturesque waterfront and historic architecture.

Landrum: Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Landrum offers scenic beauty and outdoor adventures.

Seneca: Seneca is a charming town near Lake Keowee, providing opportunities for water activities and relaxation.

Travelers Rest: This town is a gateway to the Swamp Rabbit Trail and offers a vibrant downtown area.

Lancaster County Leaders Hold Joint Meeting to Strengthen Collaboration



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

For the first time in recent memory, the Lancaster County Council and the Lancaster County School District Board of Trustees held a joint meeting to improve coordination on shared priorities including education, infrastructure, and community outreach.

Improving Communication

Superintendent Dr. Rashad Fitzpatrick and County Administrator Dennis Marstall outlined how both entities communicate with residents through email, social media, broadcasts, and newsletters. They discussed enhancing shared messaging and increasing public engagement through platforms like LearnTV, student-led events, and community forums.

Partnerships and Challenges

Officials highlighted ongoing collaborations, such as joint finance meetings, facility use agreements, and youth programs. They also addressed logistical challenges—such as facility scheduling and resource allocation—which are being managed through regular staff-level meetings and creative planning efforts.

Future Referendum Plans

Following the failure of the 2024 school bond and transportation referendums, both boards emphasized the need for clearer communication and smaller project scopes. The district introduced a 45-member Citizen Review Committee (CRC) to guide planning for a revised bond referendum in March or April 2026. A scaled-down transportation referendum is expected in November 2025.

School Impact Fee Update

The district's current impact fee applies only north of Highway 5 and has generated around \$900,000 since 2021. To assess future needs, a new study will examine fee levels and potential expansion. Council members voiced concerns about applying fees countywide, citing affordability in rural areas.

Key Impact Fee Facts:

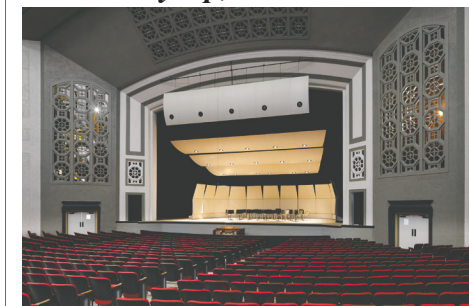
\$9,000–\$9,900 per unit (panhandle only)

Funds limited to K–8 capital projects or land purchases

New study results expected in six months

Byrnes Auditorium Reopens with a Symphony of Celebration

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Rock Hill, SC – After a prolonged closure marked by renovations and unexpected setbacks, Winthrop University is thrilled to announce the grand reopening of its historic Byrnes Auditorium. The iconic building, a cornerstone of the campus since 1939, will once again resonate with the sounds of music and the energy of live performance, starting with a week-long celebration in April.

To commemorate the reopening, Winthrop University has curated a diverse program of musical events, designed to showcase the auditorium's versatility and celebrate its rich history. A Week of Musical Celebration:

Friday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.: Vince DiMartino with the Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensemble.

Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.: Winthrop Chorale & Collegiate Choir Concert.

Sunday, April 6, 3 p.m.: Carolinas Wind Orchestra & Alumni Band Concert Featuring the D.B. Johnson Memorial Organ.

Wednesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.: Winthrop Symphony Orchestra Concert.

A Historic Landmark Reborn:

Byrnes Auditorium, named after former South Carolina Governor and U.S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, stands as a testament to the architectural style of the Depression era. Its reopening signifies not only the restoration of a physical space but also the revival of a cultural hub for the university and the surrounding community.



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 Friday: 8am - 6pm
 Saturday: 7:30am - 12:30pm
 Sunday: Closed

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Dr. David Hall