

Tega Cay Sun

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June 2025

Whitaker Leads Fort Mill Girls Track and Field to State Championship in Debut Season

Chris Coffee, Sports



The Fort Mill girls track team claimed their second state championship in program history Thursday, dominating the 5A Division II competition with 100 points at Spring Valley High School's Harry Patrone Stadium. Their victory secured the school's 40th team state athletic title, outpacing rival Nation Ford, who finished second with 70 points. This championship marks the first track title for Jackets' head coach Lee Whitaker, who remarkably guided both the boys' and girls' cross-country teams to state crowns earlier in the school year in his debut track season at the school. Coach Whitaker said, "I'm so proud of this team! They fought hard all night long for points at every turn. Everyone contributed across the board from distance to sprints to throws. They're a very well-rounded team."

The Yellow Jackets showcased their strength across multiple events, highlighted by a win in the 4x800 relay. Individually, Alivia Cleveland secured two state titles in the 1,600 meters and as part of the winning relay team. Kaylee Rovenstine also captured gold in the 3,200 meters. Nation Ford had individual champions in Gabriela Brailsford, who won both the 100 and 200 meters, setting a new school record in the latter. Neale Johnson also stood out for the Falcons, winning the long jump with a nation-leading mark and the 400-meter hurdles, contributing to the Nation Ford boys' third-place team finish.

Copperheads Three-Peat: Catawba Ridge Claims Third Straight State Title in Rain-Soaked Victory

Chris Coffee, Sports



Rain could not dampen the celebration for the Catawba Ridge Copperheads on Thursday night. For the third consecutive year, the Copperheads are state champions, defeating the St. James Sharks 9-1 in Game 2 of the Class 5A-D2 championship series to complete a two-game sweep.

Catawba Ridge secured their unprecedented third straight title in front of a home crowd that braved the steady downpour, erupting as the final out was recorded.

The Copperheads set the tone for the series on Monday, taking Game 1 with a 9-6 victory. They carried that momentum into Thursday, despite the challenging weather conditions.

Senior slugger Sarah Rocheleau delivered a decisive blow late in Thursday's contest, launching a three-run home run that extended Catawba Ridge's lead and all but sealed the victory, while also solidifying her place in Copperheads history.

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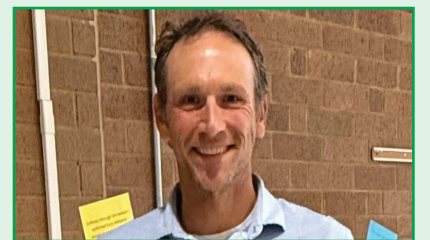
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TO VIEW NOW



Fort Mill School Board Taps Internal Veteran Grey Young as Next Superintendent

by Chris Coffee



The Fort Mill School District Board of Trustees has unanimously selected Grey Young, a seasoned administrator with 24 years of experience within the district, as its next superintendent. Young will succeed Dr. Chuck Epps, who is retiring after more than four decades of service.

The board's 7-0 vote occurred during a special called meeting on May 22. Young is scheduled to officially begin his new role on July 1, following contract negotiations.

Young, who currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent for Student Services and Administration, has a long history with the Fort Mill School District, having held positions as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal at both elementary and middle school levels, and district-level administrator. In his current role, he oversees crucial areas including school safety, transportation, athletics, student discipline, and leadership development.

His dedication to education and leadership was recently recognized when he was named the 2025 South Carolina District-Level Administrator of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators.

"The Board is grateful for the community's engagement and support throughout this process," said Chairwoman Kristy Spears. "We conducted a thorough national search and

were fortunate to interview a number of highly qualified and impressive candidates. After careful consideration, we are confident that Mr. Young is the right person to lead the Fort Mill School District into its next chapter."

Spears added, "We are excited about the experience and vision Mr. Young brings, and we look forward to working together to continue the tradition of excellence that defines our schools."

Young holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Winthrop University and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from the University of South Carolina. He also earned an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from Clemson University and is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Clemson, with an anticipated completion in 2026.

"I am incredibly honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve as the next superintendent of the Fort Mill School District, a community that has shaped who I am both personally and professionally," Young said. "I am especially grateful to Dr. Epps, whose leadership, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to our students have left an indelible mark on this district and on me. I look forward to building on that legacy with a clear vision focused on innovation, academic achievement, and meaningful connections with our students, staff, and families. Together, we will continue to grow, lead, and elevate Fort Mill to even greater heights."

Dr. Epps will remain with the district as a consultant through December to assist Young during the transition period. The selection of Young concludes a comprehensive national search that included multiple rounds of interviews, school visits, public sessions, and community feedback.

FMSD Players Named to Baseball All-State Teams

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



The South Carolina Baseball Coaches Association (SCBCA) has announced its 2025 All-State selections, recognizing outstanding high school baseball players across the state. Several athletes from the Fort Mill School District have earned spots on these prestigious lists, highlighting the region's strong baseball talent.

Fort Mill High School:

Jacob Pettit and Carter Blankinship were named to the All-State team, acknowledging their significant contributions to the Yellow Jackets' season.

Catawba Ridge High School:

Caden Glauser was selected for the All-State team, representing the Copperheads' talent in the region.

North-South All-Star Game Selections

In addition to the All-State honors, several players from the region have been selected to participate in the upcoming North-South All-Star games:

- Jacob Pettit (Fort Mill)
- Carter Blankinship (Fort Mill)
- Caden Glauser (Catawba Ridge)

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Tega Cay Lions Club Prepares for Annual July 4th Fish Fry

Patrick Byrne, Editor

TEGA CAY, SC – The Tega Cay Lions Club is gearing up for its highly anticipated annual July 4th Fish Fry, a community tradition that also serves as the cornerstone of their yearly fundraising efforts. This event is a key component of Tega Cay's Independence Day celebrations and marks the beginning of the Lions Club's fiscal year for its extensive philanthropic endeavors.

Bob Constantine, Treasurer of the Tega Cay Lions Foundation and Chairman of the Fish Fry Committee, plays a pivotal role in orchestrating this large-scale event. He notes that the Fish Fry, held at the Glennon Center, is historically the Lions Club's largest annual fundraiser. The event is open to everyone, not just Tega Cay residents. Attendees can enjoy a delicious meal while being entertained by the 20-member Queen City Swing orchestra, playing patriotic music from 4:30 to 7:30 PM.

Funds raised from the Fish Fry are directly channeled to various vital charities. These include the Lions Club International Foundation, South Carolina Lions Vision Services (providing essential eye surgery for those unable to afford it), the South Carolina School for the Deaf and The Blind, and the MUSC Storm Eye Institute, which conducts research on eye-related diseases. They also support Leader Dog for the Blind, an organization that trains and matches guide dogs with blind individuals.

Beyond the Fish Fry, the Tega Cay Lions Club is deeply embedded in community service throughout the year. They award three to four scholarships annually to Fort Mill High School seniors residing in the 29708 zip code. Their vision-related donations range from \$500 to \$4,500, covering costs for eyeglasses for low-income individuals and supporting programs like SPOT cameras for screenings. The Lions proudly host the annual Halloween Parade and a two-day Senior Citizens Christmas Party, inviting 400-500 elderly seniors from care centers across York County. Their "Reading Action Program" sees Lions members reading to second graders every Friday during the school year, culminating in a book gift for each child. They also host an Easter Egg Hunt at Runde Park.

For those interested in joining the Tega Cay Lions Club, membership is open to all adults.

Tega Cay's 4th of July Celebration



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Where Eagles Soar Celebration

This year's celebration will honor the American Eagle with the theme "Where Eagles Soar!" Prepare for lively parades, toe-tapping live music, mouthwatering treats, an exciting ski show, and a dazzling fireworks display that will illuminate the night sky!

FRIDAY, JULY 4TH

9 am - "Where Eagles Soar" Land Parade Step-Off City Hall
 4:30 pm - Lions Fish Fry in the Glennon Center
 6 pm - Mayor's State of the City in the Glennon Center
 9 pm - Fireworks Over Tega Cay at the Golf Course

SATURDAY, JULY 5TH

11 am - Flotilla Parade - Nivens Landing to Windjammer
 11:15 am - Freedom Fun Run Paddle Board Competition by Goat Boater
 Noon - Carolina Ski Show - Salute to the US of A at Windjammer
 6:30 pm - Uncle Sam Jam featuring "Dixie Diamonds" at Runde Park



 For Event and Vendor information for the "Where Eagles Soar Celebration visit tegacaysc.org/discover/events July 4th

Faithfully Yours: Trial By Fire brings the Sounds of Journey to Tega Cay

Caroline Hasty

The summer sound sensation comes to Runde Park, 5116 Windward Drive, on Saturday, June 14

Lights Will Shine on a Perfect Summer Night as Trial By Fire, the Southeast's premier Journey tribute band, transforms Runde Park into the ultimate rock destination beginning at 6:30 PM.

Trial By Fire takes the stage, delivering the iconic Journey catalog with remarkable precision and energy. From power ballads to arena rock anthems, their performance promises to make this early summer evening truly unforgettable. Bring your friends and family to experience the magic of community gathering under the stars.

Local food vendors will be on-site offering delicious options to complete your evening. Free admission means everyone can enjoy this spectacular show, so pack your lawn chairs and blankets for comfort as you sing along to decades of beloved classics.

Transportation is convenient with buses running from Glennon Center to Runde Park every 15 minutes throughout the event.

Whether you're a longtime Journey fan or just discovering their music, Trial By Fire's authentic performance will have you on your feet. This is a rain or shine event, so nothing will stop the music from playing.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

JUNE 2ND

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

JUNE 9TH

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

JUNE 16TH

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

JUNE 30TH

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://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://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.

President Trump Signs ‘Take It Down Act,’ Recognizes SC Rep. Brandon Guffey for Advocacy

Thomas Hylsip, Editor



On May 19, 2025, President Donald Trump signed the bipartisan “Take It Down Act” into law, criminalizing the distribution of nonconsensual intimate images, including AI-generated deepfakes and revenge porn. The legislation mandates that social media platforms remove flagged content within 48 hours and empowers the Federal Trade Commission to enforce compliance.

During the White House Rose Garden ceremony, President Trump acknowledged South Carolina State Representative Brandon Guffey and his family. Guffey’s son, Gavin, died by suicide in 2022 after being targeted in an online sextortion scam. In his remarks, President Trump stated:

“Also with us are several other brave Americans whose lives were rocked by online harassment, including Francesca Manny, as well as a South Carolina state representative, Brandon Guffey and his family who lost their son to suicide after he was targeted in an internet extortion scam... I want to thank you both for your incredible work, and to reach this important day could you stand up please. Thank you. Thank you very much. Great job. I read about it thank you very much.”

Guffey, representing Rock Hill, has been an advocate for stronger protections against online exploitation following his son’s death. He has also filed a lawsuit against Meta, alleging the company’s platforms facilitated the scam that led to his son’s suicide.

The “Take It Down Act,” co-sponsored by Senators Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), passed the House with a 409-2 vote and was unanimously approved by the Senate. First Lady Melania Trump, who championed the bill as part of her “Be Best” initiative, emphasized its importance in protecting children from online abuse.

While the law has received broad support from advocacy groups and industry leaders, some digital rights organizations have expressed concerns about potential implications for privacy and free speech.

The enactment of the “Take It Down Act” represents a significant step in addressing the challenges posed by technological misuse and online exploitation.

York County Housing Market Gains Momentum Through April

By Thomas Rackley | Real Estate Market Report – April 2025

York County’s real estate market continued to gain traction in April 2025, with balanced growth across listings, sales, and prices. According to the latest data from Canopy MLS, the local market is experiencing healthy movement, even as homes take slightly longer to sell.

Sales Activity and Listings

York County recorded moderate sales growth, with closed sales increasing 2.3% year-over-year to 354 homes. Pending sales rose 14.5% to 466, reflecting strong buyer activity, while new listings climbed 6.5% to 570 homes on the market. Year-to-date, new listings are up 17.5%, a sign of increasing seller confidence.

Inventory and Market Balance

The inventory level saw a significant boost, reaching 968 homes, a 49.6% increase from April 2024. This expansion pushed the months’ supply of inventory to 2.7, up from 1.9 the previous year—marking a step toward a more balanced market, though still tilted slightly in favor of sellers.

Home Prices and Buyer Demand

Home prices continued to trend upward. The median sales price rose 6.3% to \$419,500, while the average sales price climbed 9.7% to \$501,053, driven in part by movement in the upper-price brackets. Despite rising costs, buyer interest remained robust, averaging 4.9 showings per listing.

Pace of Sales

Homes are spending more time on the market. The average days on market until sale increased 40% to 49 days, and the list-to-close time lengthened by over 22% to 93 days. This gives buyers slightly more breathing room, even as competition remains.

Bottom Line

The York County housing market remains strong, with increased options for buyers and continued price appreciation for sellers. With more inventory available and solid buyer demand, the rest of the spring and summer seasons look promising.

Thinking about buying or selling in York County? Let’s talk strategy. Call **Thomas Rackley at 704-340-0400** to discuss your next move today.

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Fort Mill School District Welcomes New Principals and Academy Coordinator

The Fort Mill School District is excited to announce the selection of Daniel Beels as the principal of Springfield Middle School, Trina McFadden as the principal of Fort Mill Middle School, and Matt Mallery as the coordinator of Oak Grove Academy.



Mr. Beels currently serves as the coordinator of Oak Grove Academy, the district's alternative school, where his work has centered on implementing effective policies and procedures that promote a safe and positive learning environment for all students. Prior to leading Oak Grove, Mr. Beels was assistant principal at Banks Trail Middle School. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Middle Level Education from Winthrop University and a Master's in Educational Administration from the University of South Carolina. Mr. Beels will begin his new role at Springfield Middle School in July.



Matt Mallery has been named the new coordinator of Oak Grove Academy. He currently serves as assistant principal at Fort Mill Middle School, a position he has held since 2019. During his time at FMMS, he led schoolwide professional development focused on social-emotional learning and the integration of restorative practices. Before becoming an administrator, Mr. Mallery was the band director at Marvin Ridge Middle School. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a minor in Business Administration and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Winthrop University, along with a Master's Add-On in Educational Leadership from Wingate University. He will begin his new role at Oak Grove Academy in July.



Mrs. McFadden will begin at Fort Mill Middle School in January, following the transition of current principal Emily McQuay to the new Flint Hill Middle School. Mrs. McFadden is currently an assistant principal at Nation Ford High School, where she has led the development of the master schedule and supported professional learning and community-based initiatives tied to the school improvement plan. She previously served as an assistant principal at Old Mill High School in Maryland and taught science at both Nation Ford High and Spring Valley High School. Mrs. McFadden earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology, a Master's of Teaching in Secondary Education from the University of South Carolina, and a Master's in Educational Leadership from Winthrop University.

"We are proud to welcome Mr. Beels, Mr. Mallery, and Mrs. McFadden into their new leadership roles," said Superintendent Dr. Chuck Epps. "These three bring a strong commitment to students and a proven ability to support school communities. We look forward to seeing them continue to make a positive impact as they serve in new areas."

MODEL A BREWING
WEEKLY EVENTS

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

BINGO WITH SHANE
 THURSDAY, 6:30PM

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Healthy Living with Dr. Hall: Managing Osteoarthritis: Essential Self-Care Practices

Dr. David Hall

Osteoarthritis (OA) is a progressive joint disease characterized by pain, stiffness, and swelling that can impair joint function over time. While it is primarily associated with joint pain in areas like the hips, knees, hands, neck, and lower back, its impact extends beyond physical discomfort, affecting daily activities such as climbing stairs and handling objects.

In addition to adhering to prescribed treatments, adopting effective self-care practices is crucial in managing OA, encompassing physical, emotional, and mental well-being.

1. **Stay Active** Maintaining an active lifestyle despite OA challenges is pivotal. Regular exercise not only alleviates symptoms but also preserves joint health by reducing stiffness and strengthening surrounding muscles. Incorporating aerobic activities like walking or swimming alongside resistance training fosters joint flexibility and diminishes pain and swelling.

2. **Follow a Balanced Diet** Diet plays a significant role in managing OA symptoms. Emphasizing nutrient-dense foods such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, nuts, seeds, and healthy fats like olive oil supports joint health and reduces inflammation. The Mediterranean diet, renowned for its anti-inflammatory properties, is particularly beneficial for OA management.

3. **Consider Supplements** Certain supplements like glucosamine, chondroitin, vitamin D, SAM-e, curcumin, and UC II may offer relief from OA symptoms and promote joint function. However, consulting with a healthcare provider before starting any supplement regimen is essential to ensure safety and effectiveness.

4. **Manage Weight** Maintaining a healthy weight alleviates stress on

weight-bearing joints, such as knees and hips, thereby reducing pain and inflammation associated with OA. Even modest weight loss can significantly improve joint function and overall quality of life.

5. **Prioritize Sleep Quality** sleep is crucial for managing OA pain and improving overall well-being. Establishing consistent sleep patterns, engaging in relaxing bedtime routines, and optimizing sleep environment conditions can enhance pain management and mood.

6. **Utilize Pain Management Techniques** Incorporating heat therapy, meditation, chiropractic joint mobilization, stretching exercises, and TENS therapy into daily routines can effectively alleviate OA-related pain and stiffness, improving joint mobility and overall comfort.

7. **Use Assistive Devices** Assistive devices like dressing aids, kitchen tools with ergonomic designs, bathroom safety equipment, and ergonomic office setups can significantly reduce joint strain during daily activities, enhancing independence and comfort.

8. **Seek Emotional and Social Support** Maintaining strong social connections and seeking emotional support are vital aspects of managing OA. Engaging with supportive friends, family members, or community groups can provide valuable encouragement and resources for coping with the challenges of OA.

In conclusion, while self-care strategies can effectively manage OA symptoms and improve quality of life, it is essential to maintain regular communication with healthcare providers. Monitoring symptoms and promptly addressing any changes or concerns ensures comprehensive OA management tailored to individual needs.

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.

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Dr. David Hall



Buzz around Town



Heartbreak for Fort Mill Girls Soccer in Overtime Playoff Loss to Eastside

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



The Fort Mill Lady Yellow Jackets saw their playoff journey end in a heartbreaking 1-0 loss to the Eastside Eagles after a grueling four overtime periods. In a tightly contested match where both defenses stood strong, neither team could find the back of the net through regulation and three subsequent extra times.

The decisive moment came in the fourth overtime when Eastside was awarded a penalty kick. Payton Nutzman stepped up and calmly converted, securing the narrow victory for the Eagles.

Despite a valiant effort and a strong defensive performance throughout the extended match, the Lady Jackets fell in the final moments. The hard-fought contest concluded with Eastside advancing, leaving Fort Mill to reflect on a hard-fought season that ended in a difficult playoff defeat.

Tega Cay Lions Seek Community Photos for July 4th Celebration Showcase

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Tega Cay, SC — Grab your phone, scroll through the cloud, or flip through that dusty old photo album — the Tega Cay Lions Club wants your most festive Fourth of July photos!

In anticipation of the city’s annual Independence Day festivities, the Lions Club is hosting a community-wide photo showcase during the City Celebration, Lions Club Fish Fry, and Queen City Swing Band performance at the Glennon Center on July 4th from 4:30 to 7:30 PM. Whether your snapshots are from this year or decades past, residents are encouraged to share their most nostalgic, colorful, or patriotic moments from past Tega Cay July 4th celebrations.

Prizes will be awarded for the best picture in the following four categories:

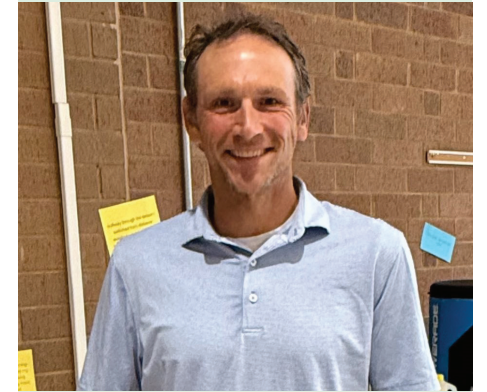
1. Most Patriotic Outfit
2. Most Nostalgic Photo
3. Best Parade Pic
4. Best Pet in Patriotic Sprit

Participants can submit up to two entries per category. Photos should be emailed to jman0199@outlook.com by June 22, 2025 in JPEG, GIF, HEIC, or PDF format (max file size: 2MB). Scanned or digitized copies are also welcome.

By entering, participants agree to have their photos judged and displayed at the event and on social media.

Coach Whitaker Named Fort Mill High School Coach of the Year After Historic Season

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Fort Mill High School is celebrating an extraordinary athletic year with the announcement of Coach Whitaker as the 2024–2025 Coach of the Year—a well-deserved honor after guiding three teams to state championships.

Coach Whitaker’s leadership this season led to state titles in Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, and Girls Track & Field, marking one of the most successful athletic years in school history. His ability to foster team unity, develop elite athletes, and maintain a championship mindset across seasons and disciplines made him a standout not just at Fort Mill, but across the state.

“This has been a dream year,” said Coach Whitaker. “I’m incredibly proud of our athletes—their dedication, perseverance, and
See Whitaker, Page 8

Fort Mill School Board Approves Budget, Fee Increases, and Environmental Review

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The Fort Mill School Board held its regular meeting on June 3, 2025, covering the 2025–2026 budget, extracurricular fee adjustments, teacher pay increases, and an environmental health assessment.

2025–2026 Budget Approved

The board approved a \$253 million general fund budget, with nearly 90% allocated to personnel. Key highlights include:

- Starting teacher pay raised to \$52,500
- Cost-of-living adjustments for all employees
- New hires for classrooms, special education, transportation, and instructional support

Funding for technology and facility upkeep

A \$3.6 million year-end transfer was also approved to support STEAM programs, summer school, digital records, and professional development.

Fee Increases for Athletics and Band

See School Board, Page 8

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GRADUATION



FORT MILL HIGH SCHOOL



Jacob Nally
National Guard
Lander University
Data Science



Gabby Knight
Coastal Carolina University
Marketing



Clare Moore
Clemson University
Political Science



Claire Hansen
Clemson University
Biology



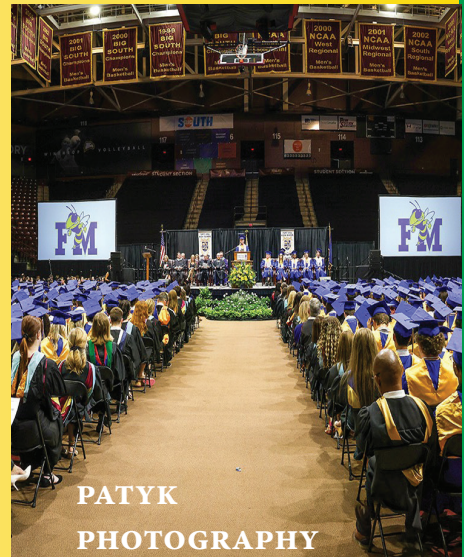
Ayla Greene
University of South Carolina
Exercise Science



Katherine Margaret Ready
Clemson Univeristy



Emma Grace Funderburk
Clemson University
Business Marketing

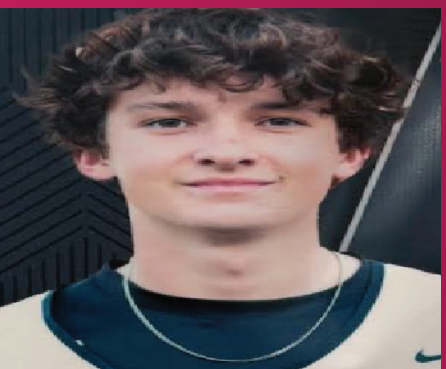


PATYK PHOTOGRAPHY

NATION FORD HIGH SCHOOL



Julia Peden
Clemson University



Chase Murray
Clemson Univeristy
Mathematical Sciences



Patyk Photography

Tuesday
Dr. Tom's
TRIVIA NIGHT

Thursday
Bingo Shane's

B	I	N	G	O	G	O
15	20	1	10	19	19	10
25	44	40	18	63	53	18
37	60	★	13	30	10	63
33	5	27	48	53	3	13
21	70	57	68	56	3	48
						53
						8
						56

Fort Mill Students Recognized in All-State Band Selections

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

FORT MILL, S.C. — Students across the Fort Mill School District (FMSD) have earned statewide recognition for their musical achievements, securing spots in the prestigious South Carolina All-State Bands. Dozens of middle and high school musicians from the district were selected following a competitive audition process.

Participants were named to one of three All-State ensembles: Junior Band, Clinic Band, and Senior Band, representing the top young instrumentalists in the state.

Junior Band Selections

- Rachel Hildebrand** – oboe (Gold Hill Middle)
- Madison Leach** – oboe (Gold Hill Middle)
- Lydia Homan** – clarinet (Springfield Middle)
- Kavin Perumal Karthikeyan** – clarinet (Gold Hill Middle)
- Owen Isenhour** – clarinet (Gold Hill Middle)
- Skylar Shepard** – clarinet (Gold Hill Middle)
- Katarina Katarincic** – alto saxophone (Springfield Middle)
- Sid Gullena** – trumpet (Fort Mill Middle)
- Neythri Vijay** – horn (Gold Hill Middle)
- Elaina Hildebrand** – horn (Gold Hill Middle)
- Emily Li** – euphonium (Fort Mill Middle)
- Maksim Smith** – tuba (Gold Hill Middle)
- Jacob Belcher** – tuba (Forest Creek Middle)
- Hayden Wilson** – percussion (Fort Mill Middle)

Molly Caudill – percussion (Gold Hill Middle)

Clinic Band Selections

- Katherine Smith** – contra clarinet (Fort Mill High)
- Paul Trease** – tenor saxophone (Fort Mill High) — First Chair in South Carolina
- Robert Hildebrand** – horn (Fort Mill High)
- Matthew DiNapoli** – trombone (Fort Mill High) — First Chair in South Carolina
- Jack Starkey** – tuba (Nation Ford High)
- Henry Lee** – tuba (Catawba Ridge High)
- Isabella Stricker** – timpani (Fort Mill High)

Senior Band Selections

The Senior Band represents the most advanced high school musicians in the state. Twelve students from FMSD high schools were selected for this elite group, including a first-chair honoree in trombone.

- Haley Kleffman** – flute (Fort Mill High)
- Zoe Noznesky** – flute (Fort Mill High)
- Lilah Haen** – bassoon (Fort Mill High)
- Molly Lessard** – clarinet (Nation Ford High)
- Scott DeArment** – clarinet (Catawba Ridge High)
- Katie Hanson** – clarinet (Nation Ford High)
- Katie Ranft** – clarinet (Fort Mill High)
- Lana Lee** – clarinet (Catawba Ridge High)
- Zane Snipes** – bass clarinet (Catawba Ridge High)
- Casey Stauffer** – trombone (Fort Mill High) — First Chair in South Carolina
- Jadon Marcus** – euphonium (Fort Mill High)
- Harrison Turner** – euphonium (Fort Mill High)

Whitaker, From Page 6

heart. These championships are a reflection of their relentless effort and belief in each other.”

The Yellow Jackets’ dominance began in the fall, with both the girls and boys cross country teams powering through the competition to secure back-to-back state titles. In the spring, the momentum continued as the girls’ track and field team brought home another state championship, showcasing strength across sprints, distance events, and relays.

Beyond the trophies, Whitaker is widely respected for his mentorship and the positive culture he’s built within the Fort Mill athletic community. His commitment to excellence, sportsmanship, and student development both on and off the field has left a lasting impact.

Congratulations to Coach Whitaker and all the student-athletes on an unforgettable season!



School Board, From Page 6

Beginning in 2025–2026, the Athletic and Band Fee will increase from \$100 to \$150—the first adjustment in over a decade. Additional revenue will fund higher stipends for coaches and directors.

Environmental Health Assessment Launched

In response to community concerns about the nearby Silfab Solar facility, the district has begun a comprehensive environmental review by Citadel Environmental Health & Safety. The review includes:

- Emissions analysis and emergency planning
- Evaluation of HVAC and filtration systems
- Contaminant sampling and quality control
- WELL Health-Safety rating assessment
- Community engagement and transparent reporting
- Findings will be shared publicly once available.

Financial and Impact Fee Update

As of April 30, the district reported \$211.6 million in revenue and \$185.1 million in expenditures, resulting in a \$26.5 million surplus. Local tax revenue is projected to end \$2.8 million over budget.

Impact fees have reached \$78.8 million, with \$7.2 million in interest. A \$3.5 million collection in May from a townhome development contributed to a 350% year-over-year increase in multi-family unit growth.

New Dual Credit Courses

The board approved two new dual credit offerings through USC Lancaster:

HIST 111 – U.S. History to 1865

PSYC 101 – Introduction to Psychology

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Chuck Epps reported a year-end enrollment of 18,444 students. Fort Mill High, Fort Mill Middle, and Gold Hill Elementary had the highest teacher attendance in May.

DINNER AND A SHOW

DUELING PIANOS RETURNS WITH CAROLINA KEYS!

Saturday, August 23rd, 2025 at 8 pm (Doors Open at 7 pm)

\$40 Ticket Includes Dinner Buffet

Tickets: [freshtix.com/events/dueling-pianos-10](https://www.freshtix.com/events/dueling-pianos-10)





Companion Planting

By Carol Holden & Gardening on the Cay

Hello Garden Friends!

Have you ever wanted to use plants to deter pests in your garden? Well, that is exactly what companion planting is all about. I tried it for the first time last year with my tomato plants. I never had any luck growing tomato plants in pots, so last year I joined the Anne Springs Close Community Garden and got a raised plot to grow my vegetables. I wanted to be successful with my tomato plants, so I planted several basil and marigold plants near my plants and sure enough, no pests! No bugs bothered my tomato plants, and I enjoyed wonderful tomatoes all summer long. For me, companion planting really works, and you might want to try it too! For growing carrots, edge them with chives to deter carrot flies. Plant nasturtium near zucchini to deter squash bugs, put chamomile near cabbage to deter cabbage worms, or plant thyme with broccoli/cabbage to deter cabbage worms and loopers. Plant marigolds around onions to deter onion flies.

Below is a list of other plants to try:

- Onions, chives and garlic deter ants, aphids and flea beetles
- Marigolds deter aphids, Colorado potato beetles and white flies
- Fennel attracts Hover flies and parasitic wasps which will eat aphids and larvae of white caterpillars and other beneficial insects that prey on Leaf Miners and other pests
- Rosemary deters carrot flies and cabbage moths
- Thyme repels cabbage moths
- Sage deters both cabbage moths and carrot flies
- Nasturtium deters squash bugs and white flies
- Mint deters cabbage moths and ants (be careful with mint as it can become invasive, is best to grow in pots)
- Garlic deters Japanese beetles, vegetable weevils and spider mites
- Celery deters white moth
- Borage attracts predatory insects and honeybees
- Catmint to deter Colorado beetles
- Plant white clover as a living mulch around cabbage plants to suppress cabbage root flies
- Don't forget to plant pollinators around the garden to attract helpful insects such as lacewing, lady bugs and of course, bees

Companion planting is certainly worth trying and it helps the environment. Without pesticides, the butterfly and bee population can thrive, which in turn is beneficial for healthy gardens.

Happy Gardening from Gardening on the Cay! You can follow us on Facebook @ **Gardening on the Cay**

FMSD Celebrates 2025 Spring Signing Day with 20+ Athletes Committing to College Sports

Chris Coffee, Sports



FORT MILL, S.C. – The Fort Mill School District celebrated more than 20 student-athletes from Catawba Ridge High School and Fort Mill High School on their 2025 Spring Signing Day, marking the culmination of years of dedication on and off the field. For these athletes, signing day signifies a new chapter in their academic and athletic careers, extending beyond their high school graduations.

The event highlighted the profound impact of continuing sports at the collegiate level, offering new opportunities for personal and athletic growth. Families gathered to honor their athletes' achievements and anticipate their future successes.

Here is a list of students who will be playing at the college level:

Catawba Ridge High School

Baseball:

- Zach Boutwell – Gardner-Webb University
- Caden Glauber – University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- Britton Nash – USC Sumter
- Gavin Oberg – Mount Saint Mary

College

Sam Schwamb – North Carolina A&T

Football:

- Parker Arnold – Mars Hill University
- Braylen Burgis – Mars Hill University
- CJ Couch – Mars Hill University

Women's Lacrosse:

- Lydia McCarter – Marietta College
- Naomi Thereault – Virginia Wesleyan University

Men's Soccer:

- Justus Abramo – Ave Maria University
- Liam Prendergast – Lenoir-Rhyne University
- Jermaine Smith – Lander University
- Jeremy White – Lander University
- Joshua Zawlocki – USC Upstate

Women's Soccer:

- McKenna Randall – Catawba College
- Phoebe Serkin – Catawba College

Softball:

- Aloni Hogans – Queens University
- Kendra Murray – Wingate University
- Kyrsten Reynolds – North Greenville University
- Sarah Rocheleau – Clemson University

Track and Field:

- Jordan Kent – Newberry College
- Cason McKinney – USC Upstate

Fort Mill High School

Men's Basketball:

- Nas Berry – Wingate University
- Logan Parker – North Greenville University

Dance:

- Alyssa Tanksley – College of Charleston

Football:

- Bo Blankenship – Averett University

Men's Lacrosse:

- Gavin Gordon – Columbia College
- Will Johnson – Columbia College

Women's Lacrosse:

- Nicolette D'Alto – North Greenville University

Men's Volleyball:

- Mikey Lambert – Roanoke College



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Charlie's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1) Flat-bottomed harbor boats
- 6) It's a matter of taste
- 11) Parking place
- 14) Chicago landing spot
- 15) Alistair or Sam
- 16) Words said before a pastor
- 17) Drives recklessly ...
- 19) Mauna ____
- 20) Cursed
- 21) Scenic walking paths
- 23) Opposite of a crooner
- 26) Far-off
- 27) Elevates
- 28) Beyond ordinary understanding
- 29) Inquire
- 30) Evil spirit
- 32) Casino bandits?
- 35) Average grades
- 37) Traditional bodies of knowledge
- 39) Blockhead
- 40) Creme de la creme
- 42) Comes up short
- 44) "Much ____ About Nothing"
- 45) "The Wizard of Oz" character
- 47) Like the nervous system
- 49) Any person
- 51) Bounce on one's knee, as a baby
- 52) Gathered, as cattle
- 53) Fund one can't touch?
- 55) Country hotel
- 56) Repeat what one hears ...
- 61) To and ____
- 62) Continent separator
- 63) Moon-related
- 64) In great shape
- 65) Oktoberfest tune
- 66) About to weep

DOWN

- 1) Costa del ____
- 2) "Tai" follower
- 3) Common deciduous tree
- 4) Takes from by force
- 5) Sushi wrap
- 6) Surgery evidence
- 7) Top-notch
- 8) Finger food of the islands
- 9) Giraffe relatives
- 10) Hires different actors
- 11) Runs from a battle ...
- 12) Classic movie theater name
- 13) Breakfast staple
- 18) Tasty crumb
- 22) Artificial leg?
- 23) Crutch, essentially
- 24) Artist's stand
- 25) A critic's job is to critique ...
- 26) Force units
- 28) Definitely not a rocket scientist
- 31) Grinder in the back
- 33) Kind of wave
- 34) Lifted, so to speak
- 36) Confined to a pig pen
- 38) Parody
- 41) Surround completely
- 43) Chef's sprinkle, sometimes
- 46) Doc
- 48) "That's a lie!"
- 49) Slight smell
- 50) Artist Matisse
- 53) Heavy, durable furniture wood
- 54) ____ good race (competed well)
- 57) Kenan's Nickelodeon co-star
- 58) Biochemistry abbr.
- 59) Propel on water, in a way
- 60) "Don't give up!"

I SEE A RESEMBLANCE By Timothy E. Parker

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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61					62					63				
64					65					66				

Answers at tegacaysun.com/answers

New SC Law Ends "Meal-Shaming," Expands Free School Lunch Access

Patrick Byrne, Editor

A new law in South Carolina will expand access to free and reduced-price school lunches and prohibit schools from penalizing students over unpaid meal debt. The legislation, signed by Governor Henry McMaster earlier this month, makes permanent a previously temporary budget provision.

The law specifically outlaws "meal-shaming," a practice where students with outstanding meal debt might be denied food, given alternative meals, or excluded from school activities. This measure aims to prevent children from being disciplined for their inability to pay for meals.

Crucially, the law also requires schools

to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the federal Free and Reduced School Lunch Program. Under CEP, schools where at least 40% of students qualify for free lunch can opt in, resulting in free lunches for the entire student body. This eliminates the need for numerous individual applications and aims to reduce administrative burdens.

While the federal government covers most of the cost for CEP, depending on the percentage of qualifying students, school districts are responsible for the remainder. Experts noted that before a budget proviso enacting this two years ago, many districts chose not to participate. Under the new law, schools can only opt out if they can demonstrate that participation would

create a financial hardship.

Advocates for the law suggest that school participation makes lunch administration easier and alleviates a burden for struggling families, ensuring children are fed at school. It is also believed to reduce any embarrassment or stigma associated with receiving free lunch, as all students in participating schools automatically receive meals.

The law became effective upon the governor's signature and will be in effect for the upcoming school year, provided federal funding for the school lunch program remains consistent.

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Shining a Light on York and Lancaster Counties

June 2025

York County 4-H Reaches 600 Members, Sets New Record

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

York County 4-H has reached a milestone with the registration of its 600th youth member for the 2024–2025 program year, setting a new participation record for the organization.

The achievement reflects the program’s steady growth and increased engagement throughout the county. Leaders credit the milestone to strong community partnerships, active volunteers, and the commitment of local families to youth development.

“This number isn’t just about enrollment,” said Kristin Kunde from York County 4-H. “It represents 600 young people participating in hands-on learning, gaining life skills, and stepping into leadership roles in their communities.”

York County 4-H is part of the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service and offers educational opportunities in areas such as agriculture, science, healthy living, and civic engagement. Youth ages 5 to 18 take part in projects, competitions, and community service activities throughout the year.

With plans to continue expanding its programs and outreach, York County 4-H leaders expressed appreciation for those who have supported its mission.

The organization remains focused on providing high-quality educational experiences that help prepare the next generation of leaders across the county.

Rock Hill Schools Welcomes Dr. Deborah Elder as New Superintendent



Following a successful meet-and-greet and thoughtful discussion, the Rock Hill Schools Board of Trustees is pleased to announce Dr. Deborah Elder as our next Superintendent. Her contract was unanimously approved in a 7-0 vote at the Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 28th, and she will officially begin her role on July 1, 2025.

Dr. Elder is a nationally respected leader in education, known for driving innovation and transformation. She also has meaningful family ties to South Carolina and Rock Hill. Now, she’s ready to call the community home. “This is THE district I truly want to serve,” Dr. Elder shared. “There’s tremendous passion here to take Rock Hill Schools to the next level and I promise to work every day to make that happen. To the students of Rock Hill Schools, I am committed to work with

staff, families, and partners of to ensure that each of you is equipped to succeed. From the first day of kindergarten tears to joyful celebration with a handshake for each graduate, I will be a leader who shows up ready to listen, learn, and lead with a spirit of partnership and respect. I can’t wait to get started. Together.”

As Chief Operating Officer of the Iowa Department of Education, Dr. Elder serves as the agency’s second-in-command, overseeing a \$5.1 billion system that supports nearly 500,000 K–12 students and more than 86,000 community college learners.

With more than 30 years in public education—as a teacher, principal, and interim superintendent—she brings a well-rounded, hands-on understanding of school leadership. She holds multiple degrees from the University of New Mexico and a doctorate in Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California. She and her husband, Scott, are the proud parents of two grown sons and spent many summers as family in Rock Hill.

With a proven track record, a bold vision for the future, and a deep commitment to this community, Dr. Elder is well-positioned to lead Rock Hill Schools forward.

Detective Brochin Awarded Clover Optimist Club Officer of the Year

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Each year, local Optimist Clubs in York County recognize law enforcement officers during the Clover Optimist Club Respect for Law program. This year Detective Tim Brochin was given the honor of officer of the year.

On May 28, 2025, the Clover Optimist Club awarded Detective Tim Brochin as the 2025 Clover Officer of the Year. The nomination submitted by Lt. Josh Yates reads, in part, Det. Brochin was the case agent (lead detective) for the Helacious Gun Store burglaries in Lake Wylie. Det. Brochin worked on these cases for several months, working around the clock, and was finally able to identify, locate, and interview suspects, ultimately solving the cases and charging several juveniles from Charlotte, NC. Det. Brochin worked with local and federal partners at all hours of the day and night over the last few months, including setting up surveillance operations at Helacious Gun Store and collaborating with multiple agencies in North Carolina, such as the Concord Police Department, Pineville Police Department, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, and the ATF. This group of juveniles was found to be involved in other gun store burglaries in North and South Carolina, due to Det. Brochin’s dedication to justice for the victims and hard work led to the recovery of multiple guns. Ultimately, lives were saved with these guns being recovered and taken off the streets.

Det. Brochin also serves as a part-time polygrapher and a lead investigator for the Fire Investigations Team.



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37	60	★	13	30	10	13	30
33	5	27	48	53	3	18	53
21	70	57	68	56	5	8	56

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