

Tega Cay Sun

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May 2025

Future of Silfab Solar Plant is Uncertain as Zoning Bills Advance

Patrick Byrne, Editor

Fort Mill, SC — The future of Silfab Solar’s planned manufacturing facility in Fort Mill has come under scrutiny as two proposed bills advancing through the South Carolina legislature could empower local officials to halt construction on zoning grounds—even after work has already begun.

House Bill 4293 filed by Representatives David Martin and Jackie Terribile, and Senate Bill 530 filed by Senator Michael Johson would grant cities and counties stronger authority to enforce zoning laws by allowing them to revoke construction permits if a project is found to be out of compliance. Under the proposed legislation, any ruling by a zoning board, planning commission, or zoning administrator declaring a project in violation of current zoning classifications would nullify previously issued permits. Construction would be required to stop
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Fort Mill School Board Discusses 2025-26 Budget and Potential 21.2 Mill Tax Increase

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

At its regular meeting on April 15, the Fort Mill School District Board reviewed a proposed 2025–2026 General Fund Budget that includes a significant local tax increase to support operational needs. The plan recommends a 21.2 mill increase in the local property tax rate — on top of a previous tax hike tied to recently approved bond measures. This refers to the district’s General Fund Budget, which covers day-to-day operational expenses. Under Act 388, the General Fund is approved by the Board of Trustees and a portion of the budget is funded through taxes on local businesses, rental properties, vehicles, boats, and non-primary residences. It does not include taxes on owner-occupied homes.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Leanne Lordo presented the budget proposal, which totals \$253 million. The increase in millage is aimed at addressing rising personnel costs, inflation, and state-mandated salary adjustments. According to Lordo, the proposed budget continues to prioritize teacher recruitment, staff retention, and manageable class sizes, while maintaining compliance with state regulations.

The initial proposed budget for the 2025–2026 school year includes a 21.2 mill increase to support the district’s operational needs. This was the first discussion of the 2025–2026 budget, and the budget process will continue over the next several board meetings.

Under the current proposal, 89.6% of the budget is allocated for salaries and benefits. The district projects a \$13.3 million increase in local tax revenue, factoring in the full 21.2 mill increase — the maximum allowed based on a combined 7.4% growth in the Consumer Price Index and local population. With one mill valued at \$360,000, the tax adjustment would account for a substantial portion of the district’s revenue increase.

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Thursday
Bingo Shane's
BINGO GO

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Tega Cay Sun Wins Seven Awards at 2024 South Carolina Press Association News Contest



The Tega Cay Sun, a local newspaper focused on delivering news to Tega Cay, Fort Mill, and surrounding communities, was recognized for its journalistic excellence by the South Carolina Press Association (SCPA). In its first year of eligibility, the Tega Cay Sun won an impressive seven awards at the SCPA's 2024 News Contest.

Presented on April 4th at the 2024 News Contest during the Awards Celebration Luncheon in Columbia, SC, the awards represented the best in South Carolina journalism. With over 3,000 entries submitted, the contest showcased a high level of competition.

Founded just under two years ago by Thomas Hyslip and Patrick Byrne, the Tega Cay Sun has quickly established itself as a vital source of local news. It is a small but impactful newspaper that is "hyper focused" on local news. The newspaper operates on a unique "always free to the reader" model, ensuring that news is accessible to everyone, both online and in print.

The Tega Cay Sun's awards spanned both statewide and divisional categories, showcasing their strength in various aspects of journalism. Notably, the Tega Cay Sun competed in the "All Weekly Division" categories, going up against much larger newsrooms and publications across the state.

"We are incredibly honored to be recognized by the South Carolina Press Association in just our first year of eligibility," said Thomas Hyslip, co-founder of the Tega Cay Sun. "These awards are a reflection of our deep commitment to local journalism and the belief that every community deserves access to free, quality, reliable news—without a paywall."

Co-founder Patrick Byrne added, "From day one, we've been proud to deliver impactful, community-focused reporting that's always free to our readers, both online and in print. Winning two awards in the highly competitive All Weekly Division, against much larger publications, reinforces the importance and impact of truly local journalism."

Here is a breakdown of the awards won:
All Weekly Division

Education Beat Reporting: First Place was awarded to Thomas Hyslip for "Fort Mill School District" coverage. This was a significant win, with Hyslip taking first place in a category that included all weekly newspapers in South Carolina, regardless of size. You can see the coverage here.

Election/Political Coverage: Third Place was awarded to Thomas Hyslip and Patrick Byrne. In 2024, the Tega Cay Sun published an impressive 51 articles focused on state and local elections, providing comprehensive coverage that enriched civic participation in the community. See the Sun's coverage here.

Division F (Small Weekly and Monthly newspapers)

Lifestyle Feature Writing: First Place was awarded to Patrick Byrne for "Non Profit Named After 19 Month Old Child Keeps Her Legacy Alive."

Column Writing: First Place was awarded to Thomas Hyslip for "Dr. Tom's Cyber Bits & Tips."

Inside Page Design: Second Place was awarded to Thomas Hyslip and Patrick Byrne for the March 2024 inside page design.

Reporting-in-Depth: Third Place was awarded to Thomas Hyslip for "York County Campaign Finances" coverage. The Winning articles are:

York County Campaign Finance Analysis. The Price of a Vote Revealed

The High Cost of Running for Office in York County, South Carolina

Lifestyle Feature Writing: Third Place was awarded to Thomas Hyslip for "Tega Cay Teen Claire Collins Captures U.S. Kids Golf Foundation South Carolina Spring Tour Title."

These awards reflect the Tega Cay Sun's commitment to high-quality journalism and community-focused reporting. Winning in the "All Weekly Division" against larger publications further underscores the newspaper's ability to compete at a high level.

As the Tega Cay Sun continues to grow, its dedication to local coverage remains at the forefront. The recognition from the SCPA serves as a milestone in its mission to deliver accessible, impactful journalism to the community.

TEGA CAY SUN

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Culinary Delights Await at This Year's Best Dam Food Festival

Caroline Hasty

With over 30 food vendors offering everything from savory barbecue to sweet gelato, festival-goers are in for a treat at this year's Best Dam Food Festival.

Award-Winners Return

Last year's crowd favorites, Sal's Roadside and Little Annie's, return as the 2024 winners, with Sal's famous smoked brisket and Annie's legendary handmade pierogies expected to draw long lines.

Meat Lovers' Paradise

Meat lovers will find paradise at several vendors including Sal's Roadside (2024 Winner), Rollin' Grub, Jamrock Jerk Spot, Smokin' Butts & More, King of Fire, Voo Doo Wings, Krave Food Truck, Wilbur's Last Ride, Roman's All-Star Dogs, and Native Burgers. For those seeking culinary fusion, Maki Taco offers an innovative blend of Japanese and Mexican flavors.

Fresh Catch of the Day

Seafood enthusiasts should make their way to Baltimore Crabcake Co. and Cousin's Main Lobster, where fresh-caught delicacies are transformed into mouthwatering dishes right before your eyes.

Sweet Endings

When it's time for dessert, the options are just as plentiful. Sweet tooth favorites include Little Annie's (2024 Winner), Abbott's Custard, Sweets for Survivors, K&M Sweet Treats, Auntie Anne, LKN Cheesecake, Top That Mini Donuts, Donut NV, Drip & Drizzle, and Gnam Gnam Gelato.

Quench Your Thirst

Don't forget to wash it all down with a refreshing beverage from Missy's Lemonade of Roman's All-Star, Big Time Boba Tea, or Travelin' Toms of RH. And, beer and wine served by SC Shore Club.

Nostalgic Treats

For those with nostalgic tastes, Jay's Maize Kettle Corn and Ken's Famous Italian Ice offer classic fair favorites, while Frios Gourmet Pops, Timbo's Licorice Ropes, and Drip & Drizzle present modern twists on frozen treats.

Plan Your Visit

A festival map is available at the entrance and online, making it easy to locate all vendors. Festival organizers encourage attendees to scan the QR codes located at each vendor to vote for this year's favorites.

Tega Cay Events Schedule

2025 TEGA CAY, SOUTH CAROLINA UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

- MAY 10 SAT: BEST DAM FOOD FESTIVAL**
Come and enjoy an evening filled with delicious food, and fun at Catawba Park by the Dam! Fun begins at 2 PM and continues into the night with top-notch entertainment! Bring your chairs and relax under the Carolina sky!
- CONCERTS IN THE PARK**
Sat, June 14 in Runde Park Sat, August 16 in Runde Park Sat, October 11 in Catawba Park
Join us for an enjoyable evening filled with fantastic music and delicious food! Bring your chairs and settle in to stay for a while!
- JULY 4/5 FRI./SAT.: U.S. OF CAY JULY 4TH CELEBRATION**
July 4th Land Parade 9 am, Fish Fry 2 pm State of the City 6 pm, Boom in the Cay Fireworks 9 pm
July 5th Boat Parade 11 am, Carolina Ski Show at Noon and Uncle Sam Jam 6:30 pm
- SEPT. 27 SAT: CATAWBA FEST**
Jump start your holiday shopping at Catawba Fest where vendors will be selling their wares and talents helping you find the perfect gift! Bring the family for fun amusements and great food!
- OCT. 31: BOOS & GHOULS & PUMPKIN PALOOZA**
Bring a pumpkin and lets build a pumpkin wall for all to see the week leading up to Halloween! On Halloween fill your trunk and help us scare up some fun during Boos and Ghouls Trunk or Treat!
- DEC. 4: LIGHTING OF THE TREE & SANTA WELCOME**
Join Mayor and Council as they welcome Santa to town and officially kick off the holiday season in Tega Cay! Stay tuned for additional holiday events!

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Paco's Tacos & Tequila Now Open in Fort Mill's Kingsley Town Center

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Fort Mill just got a little spicier. Paco's Tacos & Tequila, the popular Tex-Mex destination known for its wood-fired fajitas, hand-rolled tortillas, and extensive tequila list, is now open in Kingsley Town Center.

Located at 1328 Broadcloth St, Suite 102, the vibrant new restaurant seats over 200 guests with 4,400 square feet of indoor space and an additional 954-square-foot covered patio designed for all-season dining.

Already a favorite in Charlotte, Paco's expansion into Fort Mill promises the same commitment to bold flavors and fresh, made-from-scratch ingredients. Diners can expect fan favorites like cheesy enchiladas drenched in chili con carne, sizzling grilled meats smoked on-site, and signature tacos that have helped build the brand's loyal following across the Carolinas.

The restaurant's bar program, led by Beverage Director Chaz Smith, features an initial lineup of over 130 tequilas, with a plan to expand to over 250 varieties, potentially making it one



of the most extensive tequila selections in the Carolinas. In addition to tequila, guests can explore a curated menu of agave-based cocktails and spirits.

Leadership at the new location includes General Manager Samantha Fugate, a seasoned hospitality veteran, and Chef Brian Liebhardt, who brings more than 20 years of culinary experience to the kitchen to ensure every dish meets Paco's high standards.

Paco's Fort Mill is open:

Sunday–Thursday: 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Friday–Saturday: 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

MAY 5TH

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

MAY 12TH

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

MAY 19TH

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

MAY 26TH

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.

Fort Mill, Tega Cay, and Clover Recognized Among South Carolina's Safest Cities

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



In its annual "Safest Cities in South Carolina" report, SafeWise has named Fort Mill, Tega Cay, and Clover among the top 10 safest cities in the state for 2025. The rankings are based on FBI crime data, examining both violent and property crime rates per 1,000 residents.

The SafeWise report highlights that across South Carolina, property crime rates have seen a notable decline, although public concern about safety remains high.

Fort Mill ranks second statewide in 2025, with a violent crime rate of 0.8 per 1,000 residents and a property crime rate of 6.1. The city continues to benefit from proactive public safety strategies and strong partnerships between law enforcement and the community.

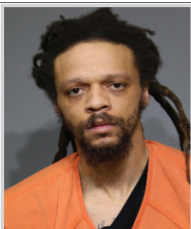
Tega Cay holds the third position on the list, supported by a three-year trend of declining violent and property crime rates. In 2025, the city reported a violent crime rate of just 0.2 per 1,000 residents and a property crime rate of 9.1.

Clover is ranked sixth among the safest cities in South Carolina. With a violent crime rate of 1.8 and a property crime rate of 9.9 per 1,000 residents, the town has maintained a safe environment for families and businesses.

Armed Man Arrested After Brief Standoff Inside Fort Mill Publix

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Reid, Jaylen Richard			
Booking Date:	4/10/2025 6:18:34 PM		
City:	FORT MILL		
State/Zip:	SC 29708		
Race/Sex:	B M		
Height/Weight:	6 ft 8 inches 200 lbs.		
Age:	30		



York County Detention Center			
Booking Number	Booking Date	Release Date	Total Bond
DC202501594	4/10/2025 6:18:34 PM	*In Jail	\$110,465.00
Sequence#	Charge Description	Arresting Agency	
11	FAILURE TO STOP FOR BLUE LIGHT - 1ST OFFENSE	York County Sheriff's Office	
12	RESISTING ARREST	York County Sheriff's Office	
13	UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM ON SCHOOL PROPERTY	York County Sheriff's Office	
14	TRESPASSING - ENTERING PREMISES AFTER WARNING	York County Sheriff's Office	

FORT MILL, S.C. — An armed individual was arrested by York County Sheriff's deputies on Thursday, April 10, 2025, after entering the Publix Super Market at 928 Gold Hill Road and briefly locking himself in a staff office. The York County Sheriff's Office arrested of Jaylen Richard Reid at the Publix Super Market on Gold Hill Road.

According to the official incident report, the Sheriff's Office had received multiple calls over the preceding two days about a man walking near school property while armed with a rifle. On the day of the incident, a citizen identified the individual as Reid and provided a photo. Deputies confirmed Reid had an active arrest warrant and were already searching the area.

Deputies Duckett and Richard located Reid near a walking path away from the school. When ordered to stop, Reid fled across Pleasant Road and into the Publix store, where he ran through the front area and locked himself in an employee-only office.

Deputies secured the area and directed civilians away. Through a small window, officers saw Reid with his hands over his head but could not confirm the location of the firearm. After several verbal commands and a brief standoff, Reid opened the door. As deputies attempted to detain him, Reid resisted by tensing his arms and pulling away. He was taken to the ground, at which point a rifle slung across his body was secured.

A search of Reid revealed a revolver, extended magazines, and loose ammunition. He was read his Miranda rights at the scene and later transported to the York County Detention Center. Deputies recovered and entered all firearms and ammunition into evidence.

In addition to the active warrant, Reid was charged with unlawful possession of a firearm on school property, resisting arrest, and trespassing after warning.

The incident concluded without injuries, and store employees were credited for their swift action in guiding customers to safety.

According to a Facebook post by a Publix employee, the incident occurred around 3:00 p.m. The employee stated that the man entered the store carrying a semi-automatic weapon and proceeded directly to the manager's computer room, where he locked the door. Employees and customers in the area were visibly alarmed.

The employee said he had just returned from a break when a pharmacist warned him to stay in the break room. Moments later, a deputy entered looking for a key to the locked office. The employee then assisted by directing the deputy to the key's location.

Shortly afterward, deputies were seen detaining a tall male suspect in handcuffs inside the store. The situation was resolved without injury, and customers were evacuated through the stockroom exits at the rear of the building.

The York County Sheriff's Office later identified the individual as Jaylen Richard Reid of Fort Mill. Reid was arrested and charged with failure to stop for blue lights, resisting arrest, unlawful possession of a firearm on school property, and trespassing after warning.

York County Finalizes New Impact Fees to Fund Fort Mill School Facilities

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

At its April 7, 2025 meeting, the York County Council gave final approval to an ordinance establishing new public education impact fees for all new residential development within the Fort Mill School District (District No. 4). The ordinance sets the impact fee at \$29,640 per single-family detached home and \$20,796 per multifamily unit, making it one of the highest school impact fees in the state.

The fee structure, which passed on its third and final reading, is based on a capital improvements plan developed by the Fort Mill School District and a supporting impact fee study. The goal is to help fund construction and expansion of school facilities required to serve the rapidly growing student population in Fort Mill.

According to the ordinance, the fees will be imposed on all new residential development within the district's boundaries. The funds collected will be used exclusively to maintain the district's level-of-service standards for public education facilities as defined in the capital plan.

Council's approval also authorizes an intergovernmental agreement between York County and the Fort Mill School District, which outlines the procedures for collecting, managing, and allocating the fees.

The impact fee discussion drew multiple speakers during the public forum. Some residents and developers voiced support for the fees, citing the need for school funding amid continued population growth in eastern York County. Others raised concerns about transparency and affordability.

Michael Pruner, president of the York County Home Builders Association, urged Council to delay a vote until additional documentation was made public. He cited the absence of the legally required affordable housing impact analysis from the published materials, stating, "That document has not been made public before a public hearing ... how do we know what affordable housing is?"

Despite the concerns, other residents spoke in favor of the full impact fee amount, emphasizing the need to adequately fund school infrastructure in a fast-growing area.

The new fees follow similar efforts in recent years to manage the strain on Fort Mill schools due to rapid residential development.

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Buzz around Town



Fort Mill Girls Soar, Catawba Ridge Boys Excel at Region 3-AAAAA Track & Field Meet

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

CLOVER, SC – May 1, 2025 – The track at Clover High School was alive with the energy of competition yesterday as seven area high schools battled for top honors at the Region 3-AAAAA Track and Field Championships. Under sunny skies, athletes from Fort Mill, Clover, Nation Ford, Rock Hill, Northwestern, Catawba Ridge, and Indian Land high schools showcased their speed, strength, and determination in a thrilling day of track and field events.

Fort Mill Girls Dominate, Claim Region Title

The Fort Mill Lady Jackets proved to be a force to be reckoned with, accumulating points consistently throughout the meet to secure the regional crown. Their victory was a testament to their well-rounded team, with strong performances across sprints, distance events, jumps, and throws.

Leading the charge for Fort Mill were several standout athletes. Junior Alivia Cleveland had a phenomenal day, sweeping the distance events by claiming gold in both the 800m (2:21.77) and the 1600m (5:02.88). Sophomore Kaylee Rovenstine provided crucial support in the distance races, finishing second in both the 1600m (5:03.25) and the 3200m (11:10.05), where senior Ella Demmerle rounded out the top three (11:14.35).

In the sprints and jumps, junior Mia Williams was a key contributor for the Jackets. She secured second place in the 100m (12.08) and third in the 200m (25.79), while also leaping to victory in both the long jump (5.51m) and triple jump (11.68m). Senior Marisa Jones cleared 1.57m to win the high jump, and senior Bela Grupp soared to a first-place finish in the pole vault (3.33m), with freshman Heidi Ernst taking second (2.9m). Freshman Addison Feinour led the way in the throwing events, winning the discus with a throw of 35.66m, and junior Kate Marker placed second in the shot put (10.06m). The Fort Mill girls also showcased their endurance in the relays, winning the 4x800m (9:43.33).

Catawba Ridge Boys Secure Team Championship

The Catawba Ridge Copperheads showcased their strength and athleticism, earning key victories in multiple events to clinch the boys' team title. Their balanced attack across various disciplines proved to be the difference-maker.

The Fort Mill boys' team demonstrated their depth, finishing a close second in the overall standings. Junior Connor Demmerle had an impressive day on the track, winning both the 800m (1:59.04) and the 1600m (4:24.46). Sophomore Owen Ware finished closely behind Demmerle in the 1600m (4:26.67), and sophomore Hudson Haley won the 3200m (9:42.78), with senior Isaac Campbell finishing third (9:43.99). Sophomore Smith Stapleton contributed in the field events, placing second in the shot put (13.46m) and third in the discus (49.48m). The Fort Mill boys also secured a victory in the 4x800m relay (8:22.83).

Fort Mill head coach Lee Whitaker said, "Fort Mill finished their season strong with the region meet. I'm very proud of the hard work and determination that they've exhibited this season. For the girls to win the region and the boys to be runners up is a huge accomplishment and speaks volumes to the direction of the program. Both teams are poised well to have a very competitive and successful post-season!"



Vibe Pilates Opens Boutique Studio in Tega Cay

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



A new Pilates studio has opened in Stockbridge Commons, offering a boutique wellness experience to the Tega Cay community. Vibe Pilates, founded by local resident Lorraine Bennett, hosted its grand opening celebration on April 5 with raffles, giveaways, live music, and refreshments from a local acai and coffee truck.

Located at 757 Stockbridge Drive, the studio is designed to be welcoming and community-focused, offering small group classes for all fitness levels. Bennett, who previously ran a women's gym in New Jersey before transitioning to the corporate sector, returned to her passion for fitness after completing a 500-hour Pilates certification program.

"Vibe Pilates is more than just a workout—it's a place where people can invest in their health, find their strength, and feel at home. We've built something special here for all ages, and we can't wait to share it with the community," said Bennett.

Vibe Pilates features a team of experienced instructors, including former LA Lakers and Equinox trainers, as well as Bennett's daughter, who completed her Pilates certification while studying at Auburn University.

More information, including class schedules and membership details, is available at www.letsvibepilates.com.





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Arts & Crafts

<p>A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UpLevel Martial Arts 2. Carnelian Chiropractic 3. Creations by Alice 4. York county reads 5. Milltown Kids 6. Zoom Room Dog Training 7. School of Rock FM 8. Universal Windows 9. U Nailed it Woodworking 10. Pitch Fork Perfect 	<p>B</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canvas Creations - Face Painting 2. Edward Jones 3. Stingers and Web. 4. Carolina Party Co. 5. Name Rings 6. Train by Cain 7. Sun's Jewelry 8. Make a Candle, LLC 9. Wood Creations by MIP 10. Palmetto Clay Jewelry 11. Balloon Express 	<p>C</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dazzles Premier 2. Devine Pumpkin Vine 3. BestSkins 4. The Crazy Yarn Lady 5. Jewelry By Ang 6. Two Chicks Candles 7. Sweet Jude Boutique 8. Hawley's Harvest 9. Project Lean Nation 10. Overtime Athletic Club 11. Southern Icing 	<p>D</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carolina Golf Cars 2. Carolina Golf Cars 3. Cantey Foundation Specialist 4. Power Home Remodeling 5. Beadnjus4U 6. Alcalde Woodworking 7. Thread Tastics 8. Lotus Designs by Rachel 9. Blue Butterfly Dreams 10. Bean Bazaar 11. The Hungry Hound 	<p>E</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Melanin Chef Cookware 2. Flavor Expedition Co. 3. Passanante's Home Food Service 4. Zavia Handmade 5. Renewal by Anderson of the Carolinas 6. Howell Designing Outdoors Better 7. Straight Away Travel 8. Bass Pro Shops 1. Play It Again Sports 2. XRVr, LLC Game Truck
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SPORTS



Tega Cay's Mia Williams Soars to 2nd and 4th at Adidas Indoor Nationals

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Tega Cay's Mia Williams, a junior at Fort Mill High School, delivered a standout performance at the 2025 Adidas Indoor Track Nationals, finishing second in the Girls Triple Jump Elite Finals and fourth in the Girls Long Jump Elite Finals. The national event, held March 21-23 at the Virginia Beach Sports Center, brought together top youth athletes from across the U.S. and Canada for the final indoor competition of the season.

Williams earned a silver medal in the triple jump with a mark of 37 feet, 6¾ inches (11.45m), just behind Angel Neal-Smith of Butler High School, who won the event with a jump of 37' 9½". In the long jump, Williams claimed fourth place, reaching 17 feet, 9¾ inches (5.43m) in a strong field of competitors.

Her success at the national level marks continued growth from last season. In 2024, Williams placed eight in the triple jump at the South Carolina AAAAA State Championships with a mark of 36' 3". She had also finished ninth in the long jump in 2023 at 16' 10¼" and sixth in the triple jump that same year at 36' 9".

Williams' strong showing at the Adidas Indoor Nationals reflects her steady improvement and positions her as one of South Carolina's top returning jumpers heading into the 2025 outdoor season.

Michael Matus



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Lightning Delay Can't Stop Lucy Beckham From Lacrosse Crown

Chris Coffee, Sports Reporter

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A two-and-a-half-hour lightning delay couldn't dampen Lucy Beckham's championship aspirations Saturday as the Bengals defeated the Fort Mill Yellow Jackets 8-5 to capture the South Carolina Class 5A Division 2 girls lacrosse state title.

Iliana Kane got Lucy Beckham (13-5) on the board first at the 8:49 mark of the opening quarter and added her second goal with 5:02 remaining in the frame. Mallory Hitch answered for Fort Mill (9-8) to cut the deficit to 2-1.

While Lucy Beckham controlled much of the attack in the first quarter, the Fort Mill defense held strong, aided by stellar play from goalkeeper Grace Boyd. Lucy Beckham's goalie also proved a formidable presence in net.

Fort Mill's Cece Shia scored with 7:34 left in the second quarter to make it 4-2 in favor of the Bengals. Lucy Beckham dominated the face-off circle and capitalized on those possessions, extending their lead to 5-2 with 3:15 remaining before halftime.

Violet Coates added another for Lucy Beckham on a penalty shot, making it 6-2. As the buzzer sounded to end the first half, Kane found the back of the net again, giving the Bengals a commanding 7-2 advantage. Due to the lengthy weather delay, the halftime break was shortened to just five minutes.

Lucy Beckham continued to control

Bengals Claw Past Falcons for State Title

Chris Coffee, Sports Reporter



COLUMBIA, S.C. — The Lucy Beckham Bengals proved too strong in the second half, pulling away from the Nation Ford Falcons for a 14-5 victory Saturday in the Class 5A Division II South Carolina boys lacrosse state championship game.

Nation Ford (13-8) jumped out to an early lead when Josh Ameo found the back of the net in the opening



the game in the third quarter, extending their lead to 8-2. Fort Mill struggled to find offensive momentum. The Yellow Jackets finally broke through at the 6:16 mark to make it 8-3, and Shia added another goal before the end of the quarter, pulling Fort Mill within four at 8-4 heading into the final period.

In the fourth quarter, Lucy Beckham effectively controlled the tempo. Fort Mill managed to force a turnover and called a timeout with four minutes remaining, hoping to orchestrate a comeback while trailing 8-4. However, the Yellow Jackets turned the ball over on a charge to the net. Lucy Beckham regained possession and shifted into a clock-killing offensive strategy in the final minutes.

Despite the score, Fort Mill's Boyd continued her impressive performance in goal, making several key saves. Fort Mill managed to score in the final seconds, but it was too little, too late as Lucy Beckham secured the 8-5 victory and hoisted the state championship trophy.

minutes. However, Lucy Beckham (17-3) responded quickly, tying the score at 2:51 in the first quarter. The Bengals then capitalized on a Nation Ford turnover late in the first, taking a 2-1 advantage.

The Falcons' defense, anchored by goalie Josh Miller, held firm for much of the first half, frustrating the Lucy Beckham attack. Nation Ford's offense moved the ball effectively at times, but struggled to convert against a stout Bengals defense. Chase Murray managed to tie the game at 2 for the Falcons.

Lucy Beckham regained the lead, going up 3-2 before Ameo connected with Trevor Keaton to knot the score

See Lacrosse, Page 9

Sweet Success at the South Carolina Strawberry Sprint & Stroll 5K

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



The air was filled with the sweet scent of spring and the buzz of excitement on Saturday, April 26th, 2025, as 876 runners and walkers gathered in Fort Mill's historic downtown for the annual South Carolina Strawberry Sprint & Stroll 5K.

The race, known for its festive atmosphere and the delicious post-race strawberries, saw a fantastic turnout. Participants laced up their running shoes, eager to tackle the 3.1-mile course. The scenic route, winding through charming neighborhoods, provided a delightful backdrop for the morning's endeavor.

Matthew Tina of Oradell, NJ, was the overall male winner, crossing the finish line in a remarkable time of 16:11.8. Kaylie Dzedzina of Cary, NC, claimed the overall female title with a time of 19:21.7.

Tega Cay Age Group Winners:

Female 1-14: Haley Krasinski (21:48.5)
Female 40-49: Heather Doheny (24:05.8)
Male 70+: Ray Haile (28:17.2)

Fort Mill Age Group Winners:

Male 15-19: Landry MacDonald (18:06.0)
Female 15-19: Sara Davis (20:40.2)
Male 20-29: Evan Mason (20:28.3)
Male 30-39: Matthew Harrington (20:02.8)
Female 30-39: Casey Cline (20:20.5)
Male 40-49: Nathan Furlow (19:27.1)
Male 50-59: Bobby Woodson (25:42.5)
Male 60-69: John Marotta (24:30.3)
Female 70+: Patricia Lynch (32:11.6)

Silfab, From Page 1

immediately and could only resume if the developer achieves compliance through rezoning, a variance, or a court ruling.

The Senate version of the legislation includes a clause allowing the law to take effect immediately upon the governor's signature.

Silfab Solar's project has already stirred controversy among Fort Mill residents, particularly due to the facility's proximity to newly built schools. Community members have voiced concerns about environmental and safety risks, with particular unease over potential chemical hazards, increased traffic, and a perceived lack of transparency in the planning process.

Despite the company's assurances that the plant will operate within strict environmental and safety guidelines, some residents remain skeptical, citing unanswered questions regarding chemical usage and waste disposal.

If either bill becomes law and Silfab's facility is ruled noncompliant with local zoning ordinances, the company could face significant delays—or even a full stop—on the nearly \$150 million project. Legal proceedings would likely follow to determine whether construction could proceed.

As the bills move forward, both local officials and developers are closely watching what could become a defining moment for land-use regulation in the state.



Tuesday
Dr. Tom's
TRIVIA NIGHT

School, From Page 1

State funding is projected to rise by just \$4.6 million, covering less than half of the district's required teacher pay increases. This disparity has prompted local leaders to lean more heavily on property taxes to close the gap. The district intends to raise the starting teacher salary from \$50,000 to \$52,500, outpacing the state's minimum requirement of \$48,500. A 5% raise is proposed for teachers, with a 4% cost-of-living adjustment planned for other staff.

The district continues to express concern over the state's education funding formula, which it says does not adequately reflect the needs of fast-growing districts like Fort Mill. The current state aid to classrooms model is set to provide only 38.1% of the district's total revenue for next year.

Enrollment projections for the 2025-26 school year estimate 18,618 students, an increase from the current Average Daily Membership of 18,188. The budget also includes a \$2.8 million contingency reserve to support the opening of Flint Hill Elementary School next year.

In addition to budget discussions, the board received a \$57,400 donation from the Foundation for Fort Mill Schools to fund the purchase of a Starlab portable planetarium, which will support the district's science curriculum.

Board member Lipi Pratt also provided an update on the ongoing superintendent search. Applications are due by April 28, with interviews and a final selection scheduled for May. The new superintendent is expected to begin by July.

More information about the budget proposal and superintendent search is available on the Fort Mill School District website. Recordings of board meetings are accessible via the district's YouTube channel.

Thursday
Bingo Shane's

Lacrosse, From Page 8

again at 3 with 5:24 remaining in the second quarter. Nation Ford forced a turnover and called a timeout with 3:16 left in the half, eager to take the lead into the break. But an errant pass gave Lucy Beckham another scoring opportunity, and a Nation Ford offsides penalty led to a Bengals man-up goal, giving them a 4-3 lead at halftime.

The Bengals came out of the locker room with renewed intensity. They quickly rattled off three unanswered goals to extend their lead to 7-3. While the Nation Ford defense continued to battle, Lucy Beckham's offense proved relentless, pushing the score to 8-3 late in the third quarter. The Falcons struggled to get shots on target.

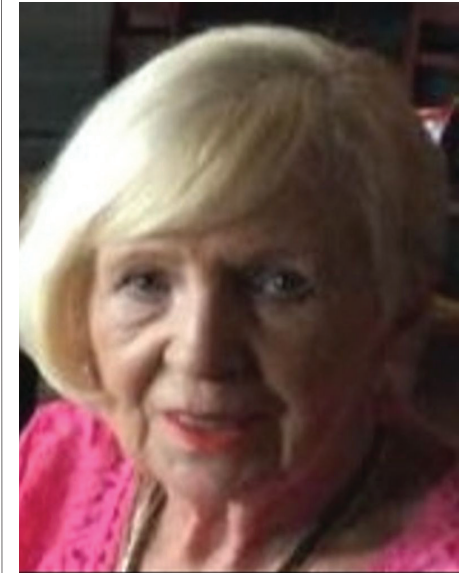
Nation Ford switched to a man-on-man ride, forcing a Lucy Beckham timeout with 44 seconds left in the third.

The Bengals continued their scoring run in the fourth quarter, making it 9-3 with 9:30 remaining. Nation Ford earned a man-up opportunity after an offsides call, and Ameo capitalized, bringing the score to 9-4 with 7:31 left.

The Falcons won the ensuing face-off and called a timeout to strategize, but time was running out for a comeback. Ameo managed to score again, making it 9-5, but Lucy Beckham responded immediately, scoring two quick goals to extend their lead to 11-5 with 5:36 left.

Nation Ford's defense, which had played valiantly for much of the game, could not contain the Bengals' attack in the final minutes. Lucy Beckham added three more goals to secure the decisive 14-5 victory and the state championship.

Lore K. Hahnen, 87, Tega Cay, SC



Lore Hahnen, 87 years, of Tega Cay, SC passed away peacefully at the Wellmore Assistant Living on April 19th, 2025.

Lore was born in Marburg, Germany on December 6th, 1937. She is preceded in death by her husband, Heinz Hahnen and survived by her daughter, Susanne Berg of Lüdenscheid/Germany.

Lore worked for many years as an executive secretary at American Barmag Corporation in Charlotte, NC until her retirement.

Interment is private.

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Premier Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY Neighborhood Trend Report

MARKET SUMMARY As of 04/22/2025

SALLY AWAD PROPERTIES

FOR SALE DATA

Status	MLS ID	Address	City	Bed	Bath (T/F/P)*	List Price	DOM		
Active	4239219	163 Windy Dell Drive	Tega Cay	4	4/3/1	\$699,000	27		
Active	4214107	224 Windy Dell Drive	Tega Cay	4	4/3/1	\$880,715	95		
Active	4204504	148 Windy Dell Drive	Tega Cay	4	4/4/0	\$849,000	137		
Active	4238840	276 Annatto Way	Tega Cay	5	4/3/1	\$735,000	19		
Active	4241905	704 Fresia Drive	Fort Mill	5	4/4/0	\$700,000	1		
Active	4221931	1284 Independence Street	Tega Cay	3	3/3/0	\$640,000	69		
Active	4195813	821 Terra Drive	Tega Cay	3	3/2/1	\$627,885	173		
Active	4195842	809 Terra Drive	Tega Cay	3	3/2/1	\$609,691	173		
Active	4195740	817 Terra Drive	Tega Cay	3	3/2/1	\$602,069	173		
Active Under Contract	4148104	628 Wisteria Vines Trail #6	Fort Mill	5	5/4/1	\$1,949,900	231		
Active Under Contract	4196570	1501 Liberty Row Drive	Fort Mill	3	4/3/1	\$599,000	128		
Coming Soon	4245764	826 Coralbell Way	Fort Mill	5	4/4/0	\$765,000	0		
AVERAGE						4	4/3/1	\$821,438	111
HIGH						5	5/4/1	\$1,949,900	231
LOW						3	3/2/1	\$599,000	1

PENDING DATA

Status	MLS ID	Address	City	Bed	Bath (T/F/P)*	List Price	DOM		
Pending	4223038	147 Windy Dell Drive	Tega Cay	4	4/3/1	\$872,900	8		
Pending	4148257	166 Windy Dell Drive	Tega Cay	4	4/3/1	\$859,000	274		
Pending	4233713	1061 Verbena Court	Tega Cay	5	4/4/0	\$739,900	23		
AVERAGE						4	4/3/1	\$823,933	102
HIGH						5	4/4/1	\$872,900	274
LOW						4	4/3/1	\$739,900	8

SOLD DATA

Status	MLS ID	Address	City	Bed	Bath (T/F/P)*	List Price	Sale Price	DOM		
Closed	4202248	5702 Morris Hunt Drive	Fort Mill	4	4/4/0	\$1,100,000	\$1,075,000	11		
Closed	4158657	4043 Orchid Way	Tega Cay	5	4/3/1	\$650,000	\$625,000	122		
Closed	4231357	809 Cadence Park Place	Fort Mill	3	3/3/0	\$545,000	\$555,000	1		
AVERAGE						4	4/3/1	\$765,000	\$751,667	45
HIGH						5	4/4/1	\$1,100,000	\$1,075,000	122
LOW						3	3/3/1	\$545,000	\$555,000	1

* Baths: T = Total, F = Full, P = Partial

Sally Awad
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Sally.awad@premiersir.com
https://sallyawad.premiersir.com

Charlie's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1) Quench
- 6) Beach locale
- 10) Issue a caveat to
- 14) Personnel director, often
- 15) Sometime today
- 16) Cookie brand
- 17) It might be jumpin'
- 20) Lay waste to
- 21) When the expectant are expecting
- 22) Type of whale
- 23) Permitted
- 24) Certain beach bird
- 27) "___ will be done"
- 29) Taro root
- 33) St. kin
- 34) Chinese dynasty (Var.)
- 36) Worthy of a medal
- 38) It's not proof of future success
- 41) Parting words
- 42) Complain pettily
- 43) When you might come down
- 44) Transmit
- 45) Suffix for a world record
- 46) Expression of praise (Var.)
- 47) Personals, e.g.
- 49) Select carefully
- 52) Like some elephants
- 56) Scared, to a stereotypical hayseed
- 60) From Methuselah's time
- 62) Connive
- 63) Common canine name
- 64) Garden bulb
- 65) About half of all deliveries
- 66) Addition column
- 67) All in

DOWN

- 1) Certain herring
- 2) "That's ___"
- 3) Music and dance are two
- 4) Continue
- 5) Baseball miscue
- 6) One who quarantines
- 7) Former French coin
- 8) Like an aristocrat
- 9) Follow afterward
- 10) Furniture material
- 11) La Scala solo
- 12) Cost of living?
- 13) School jotting
- 18) Soused one's sound
- 19) Boeing 757, e.g.
- 24) Spanish finger foods
- 25) Avoid doing
- 26) Fir tree exudation
- 28) Angry fits
- 29) Good bit of history
- 30) Beneficiary
- 31) Pronouncements
- 32) Indian or Atlantic
- 34) PC "brain"
- 35) Spell
- 36) Many mins.
- 37) Pair of jammies?
- 39) One of the Kennedys
- 40) Shunned ones
- 45) Break out of jail
- 46) Emphasize the importance of
- 47) Consumed
- 48) Performed, in Shakespeare
- 50) Alien craft
- 51) Some boxing blows
- 52) Dangerous snakes
- 53) It holds plenty of fodder
- 54) Get ___ a good thing
- 55) Play divisions
- 57) Part in a sitcom
- 58) One of "The Waltons"
- 59) U.S. govt. subgroup
- 61) "Hither" partner

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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				47	48			49	50	51				
52	53	54	55					56				57	58	59
60								61						
62						63					64			
65						66					67			

Answers at tegacaysun.com/answers

Healthy Living with Dr. Hall: Napping for Optimal Brain Function

Dr. David Hall

Winston Churchill was one of many great thinkers who napped on the job. You can also include Albert Einstein and Salvador Dali as both great thinkers and frequent nappers.

Some feel napping is a luxury, but a daily afternoon nap might just be what you need to age well. In fact, a 2023 study published in the journal Sleep Health found a causal link between habitual napping and larger total brain volume - a marker of good brain health linked to improved mood, better cognitive performance, a lower risk of dementia and other diseases. Based on the data, the researchers found a link between habitual daytime napping and larger brain volume.

The difference in brain volume between people who nap regularly and those who don't was equivalent to 2.6 to 6.5 years of aging. "Our brains naturally shrink as we age, but this process is accelerated in people with neurodegenerative diseases but also cognitive decline," said Valentina Paz, MSc, a co-author of the study.

While optimal nap time is relative to each individual, a related study found that naps lasting 10-40 minutes can improve mood, alertness, reduce fatigue, boost productivity and improve physical performance. These studies also cautioned that too long of a nap could lead to the deep sleep stage or sleep inertia, a period of impaired alertness right after waking.

The studies also suggested that napping over 40 minutes might also increase the risk of type 2 diabetes and heart problems.

The researchers suggested setting an alarm or some other form of assuring you don't oversleep. Exposing yourself to light, standing or at least sitting up immediately or upon awaking from your nap will help avoid feeling the grogginess of sleep inertia. One study also suggests consuming caffeine before a nap may be the best countermeasure for sleep inertia.

Physical activities before and after naps can promote wakefulness. People can feel fatigue for a variety of reasons like stress and nutrition. For these people napping too much during the

day may likely interfere with their nighttime sleep quality. Daytime fatigue can often be diminished by walking around or even drinking more water.

Summary
Regular daytime napping might help slow down the aging process from natural brain shrinkage. Most research and experts suggest that a short nap-between 10 to 40 minutes-offers the most benefit, such as improved mood, cognitive performance, and alertness.

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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YoCo News

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Shining a Light on York and Lancaster Counties

May 2025

Indian Land's Julie Holmes Crowned Mrs. South Carolina 2025

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Indian Land, SC – Lancaster County is celebrating a new queen! Julie Holmes, a resident of Indian Land, has been crowned Mrs. South Carolina 2025. The announcement was met with excitement in her community, where she lives with her husband, Greg Holmes, and their three children.

Holmes will now have the honor of representing the Palmetto State on a national stage at the Mrs. America competition, which will be globally livestreamed from Las Vegas. This prestigious event showcases married women from across the United States, celebrating their achievements and commitment to their communities.

In a recent news release, Holmes shared her vision for her reign. "As Mrs. South Carolina, I want to serve as a strong voice and advocate for the Ronald McDonald House, with a focus on increasing volunteer support across the organization," she stated. Her dedication to this cause is evident through her past involvement in organizing numerous fundraisers and drives for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Charlotte at Hemby's Children's Hospital, as well as other local charities.

Beyond her advocacy, Holmes also aims to inspire and empower other women. "Additionally, I aim to inspire and empower other women to embrace challenges inside and outside of pageantry," she added.

York and Lancaster County Fire Departments Earn 2024 Fire Safe South Carolina Community Designation

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

YORK & LANCASTER COUNTIES — Several fire departments in York and Lancaster counties have earned the prestigious 2024 Fire Safe South Carolina (FSSC) Community Designation, recognizing their commitment to public safety and fire prevention education.

The honored departments include:
Bethel Fire Department
Flint Hill Fire Rescue
Fort Mill Fire Department
Riverview Volunteer Fire Department
Rock Hill Fire Department
Tega Cay Fire Department
York County Fire
York Fire Department
Lancaster City Fire Department
Lancaster County Fire Rescue



These departments are among 207 across South Carolina that have received the designation for their proactive efforts to reduce fire-related injuries and fatalities through education, data-driven response strategies, and community partnerships.

The 2024 class represents a nearly 35% increase from the previous year, underscoring growing interest and commitment statewide in community risk reduction. "The enthusiasm for obtaining this designation continues to grow," said Josh Fulbright, Community Risk Reduction Chief. "Many departments have received this recognition for the first time, some seek it again with new purpose, and others receiving since the 2017 inception continue to build depth within their organization."

To earn the designation, departments complete specialized training, track and report data related to emergency incidents, and engage in targeted public education programs to address fire and life safety risks in their communities.

The impact of these initiatives is significant. In the past year:

- Over 1.1 million South Carolinians were reached with fire safety education—a 70% increase from 2023.
- Nearly 1,284 fire service members received training in risk reduction—almost triple the number trained the previous year.
- 279 community partnerships were formed—an 11% increase over 2023.

YoCo News
Shining a Light on York & Lancaster Counties

YoCoNews.com

Hotel Developer Breaks Ground on Hampton Inn & Suites in York, SC

Patrick Byrne, Editor

York, SC — Hotel developer Raines has officially broken ground on a new Hampton Inn & Suites in York, marking a significant step in the city's ongoing economic development efforts.

Owned by York Hotel Group LLC and designed by ODA Architecture, the 97-room hotel will be the only branded lodging option in the York market. The project is expected to generate 30 to 35 full- and part-time jobs and provide a boost to the local economy.

The new hotel will include modern amenities such as onsite parking, a fitness center, a business center, complimentary Wi-Fi, and free breakfast. It will also offer twice the amount of meeting space typically found in a Hampton Inn, making it a versatile venue for both business and community events.

City, county, and state officials have partnered with Raines on the development, offering economic incentives to help bring the project to life. The initiative is part of a broader effort to revitalize York's downtown area and support the city's growing residential and manufacturing base.

The Hampton Inn & Suites in York is positioned to serve both local travelers and visitors to the greater Charlotte area, which continues to experience steady residential and commercial development. Construction is now underway, and the hotel is expected to open its doors in the near future.

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Tuesday
Dr. Tom's
TRIVIA NIGHT

Thursday
Bingo Shane's

BINGO GO

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

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