

Tega Cay Sun



FREE • Vol. 4 - No. 5 Your Trusted Source for Local News and Information

May 2026

YORK COUNTY LOCAL PRIMARY ELECTIONS 2026: SIX RACES AT STAKE

<p>SC HOUSE DISTRICT 26 - REPUBLICAN PRIMARY</p> <p>ELIZABETH ENNS → DAVID W. MARTIN</p> <p>ELIZABETH ENNS DAVID W. MARTIN</p> <p>▶ Winner faces Democrat Jenny Desch & Workers Party Kiral Mace.</p>	<p>SC HOUSE DISTRICT 47 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY</p> <p>JUSTIN BENNETT → PETER MARTINEZ</p> <p>JUSTIN BENNETT PETER MARTINEZ</p> <p>▶ Winner faces Republican Incumbent Tommy Pope.</p>	<p>SC HOUSE DISTRICT 49 - DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY</p> <p>JOHN R. KING NO REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE PERRY SUTTON</p> <p>JOHN R. KING PERRY SUTTON</p> <p>▶ Primary winner is the heavy favorite in November.</p>
<p>YORK COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 - REPUBLICAN PRIMARY</p> <p>TOMMY ADKINS STEPHANIE BROWN BRAD SIMS</p> <p>TOMMY ADKINS STEPHANIE BROWN BRAD SIMS</p> <p>▶ Three-way race. High unpredictability. Winner likely holds seat.</p>	<p>YORK COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 - REPUBLICAN PRIMARY</p> <p>DEBI CLONINGER A direct two-way contest. SCOTT COUCHENOUR</p> <p>DEBI CLONINGER SCOTT COUCHENOUR</p> <p>▶ A direct two-way contest. General election effectively decided here.</p>	<p>YORK COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE - REPUBLICAN PRIMARY</p> <p>DANIEL HARSHAW ANNA MILLER</p> <p>DANIEL HARSHAW ANNA MILLER</p> <p>▶ Voters choose the judges for critical legal matters. No Democrat opponent.</p>

VOTER INFORMATION

- Primaries are open: Choose Republican or Democratic.
- Turnout is low: Your vote matters more.
- In many races, the primary IS the election.
- Verify your registration and polling place.

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Six local races head to a primary election, here's what's at stake

Before York County voters cast a single ballot in November, they will first have to settle some spirited disagreements within their own parties. Six local races, spread across the State House, County Council, and the Probate Judge bench, have drawn enough candidates within the same party to trigger a primary election.

That means Republican and Democratic primary voters will serve as the first filter, narrowing crowded fields before the general election. In some of these contests, the primary may effectively decide the winner. In others, it sets up a competitive fall matchup.

SC House of Representatives

House District 26 (Republican Primary): Two Republicans are competing to carry their

party's banner in District 26, a York County seat that will see a contested general election no matter who emerges from the primary. The winner will face Democrat Jenny Desch and Workers Party candidate Kiral Mace in the fall, making the Republican nomination the most valuable prize in the district.

House District 47 (Democratic Primary): Two Democrats are competing to carry their

See Primary, Page 13

Senator Michael Johnson Moves To Block Silfab Solar Restart Through State Budget



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

State Senator Michael Johnson, who represents Fort Mill and Tega Cay in District 16, has sponsored and passed a budget proviso in the South Carolina Senate that would block the Department of Environmental Services from taking any action that could allow Silfab Solar to resume manufacturing operations at its Fort Mill facility.

The amendment, designated Amendment No. 22 to H.5126 and dated April 16, 2026, targets Section 117 of Part IB of the state budget under General Provisions. If it survives the full legislative process, the proviso would prohibit SCDES from issuing permits, approvals, or entering into any consent orders or compliance

See Johnson, Page 3



SALLY AWAD
PROPERTIES

Premier | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

INSIDE



New Coffee Shop Brews Up in Fort Mill

Page 7



Fort Mill Lacrosse Senior Night

Page 8



Joshua Prince Wins JROTC National Championship

Page 11



Planning Commission Recommends Denial of Indian Land Mosque

Page 15

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2026

TEGA CAY, SOUTH CAROLINA UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

Why We Love Tega Cay
Kids Art Show

WHY WE ❤️ TEGA CAY ART SHOW

FEB 12-22 Enjoy a special display showcasing drawings and artwork created by Tega Cay youngest residents expressing their love for our community. Come see the creativity and heart of Tega Cay through the eyes of our children!

BEST DAM FOOD FESTIVAL
TEGA CAY, SC

MAY 9 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!

Music in the Park

MUSIC IN THE PARK SERIES

Sat, June 13 in Runde Park Sat, August 8 in Runde Park
Sat, October 10 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!

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U.S. OF CAY CELEBRATE AMERICA

July 2 - Boat Parade | Carolina Ski Show
July 3 - Uncle Sam Jam Runde Park
July 4 - Land Parade | Fish Fry
State of the City 6pm | Boom in the Cay Fireworks

Catawba Fest

SEPT. 26 SAT **CATAWBA FEST**

Kickstart your holiday shopping at Catawba Fest, where vendors will showcase their unique products and talents to help you discover the ideal gift! Bring the whole family for fantastic music, exciting amusements, and delicious food!

Tega Cay's SPOOKTACULAR WEEK
TRUNK-OR-TREAT • MOVIE NIGHT • PUMPKIN PALOOZA

SPOOKTACULAR WEEK

Oct. 24 - Oct. 31 Pumpkin Palooza in TC Memorial Gardens
Oct. 30 - Movie in the Park in Runde Park
Oct. 31 - Boos & Ghouls Trunk-or-Treat

LIGHTING OF THE TREE & Santa's Arrival

DEC 3 THURS. **LIGHTING OF THE TREE & SANTA'S ARRIVAL**

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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TEGA CAY SUN

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Johnson, From Page 1

agreements that would allow the manufacturing of solar panel materials, cells, or panels at a facility located on property adjacent to the property line of a public school.

The Silfab Solar plant on Logistics Lane sits adjacent to Flint Hill Elementary School.

"I just sponsored and passed a budget proviso stopping the Department of Environmental Services from entering into any additional agreements with Silfab," Johnson said. "My goal is to stop DES from allowing Silfab to restart manufacturing. This proviso will go to the House. Hopefully they keep it in the budget."

The amendment now moves to the South Carolina House of Representatives, where it must survive budget negotiations before it could become law.

The proviso arrives roughly six weeks after a pair of chemical incidents at the Silfab facility triggered a statewide response. On March 3, approximately 300 gallons of potassium hydroxide spilled at the plant. Two days later, on March 5, a second incident involving hydrofluoric acid prompted the closure of Flint Hill Elementary School, where students missed two full days of instruction. The South Carolina Department of Environmental Services ordered Silfab to immediately cease all operations following the incidents, and both state and federal investigators launched inquiries into the company's practices.

York County Emergency Management initially reported that 1,530 gallons of potassium hydroxide had been released during the March 3 incident

before revising that figure to 300 gallons. The discrepancy drew public criticism and fueled calls for accountability. State Rep. David Martin publicly noted at the time that he had not received clear verification of the actual amount spilled.

The school closure forced the Fort Mill School District to grapple with state mandates requiring makeup instructional days. The South Carolina Department of Education informed the district that the two missed days at Flint Hill could not be waived, citing eLearning policy and the availability of remaining calendar days. The school board considered and ultimately tabled a proposal to address those makeup days at its April meeting.

Senator Johnson's proviso represents the most direct legislative action yet aimed at preventing Silfab from resuming production near a school. The language of the amendment does not name Silfab by name but is written in terms that directly describe the company's situation, given the location of the Logistics Lane facility relative to Flint Hill Elementary.

The proviso language reads: "No funds appropriated to the Department of Environmental Services in this act may be used to issue permits, approvals, or enter into any consent orders or compliance agreements to allow the manufacturing of solar panel materials, cells, or panels that is located on property that is adjacent to the property line of a public school."

Whether the House retains the provision in its version of the budget will be a key question as the legislative calendar moves toward a conference committee report expected in mid to late May.

Boating Safety Course Offered in Tega Cay This Spring and Summer

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

America's Boating Club of the Catawba will host America's Boating Course at the Tega Cay Police Department on two dates this year: **May 16 and August 22.**

The course runs from 8:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is held at 7705 Tega Cay Drive. Registration includes the in-person course, a course book, and lunch.

The course is required by law for younger boaters before operating a motorized vessel. In South Carolina, anyone under 19 years old must complete the course before operating a vessel powered by a motor of 10 horsepower or more, including personal watercraft such as jet skis. In North Carolina, that requirement applies to anyone under 38 years old.

America's Boating Club of the Catawba, also known as the US Power Squadron, has taught the course for 60 years. Participants who pass will receive an official boating certificate valid in North or South Carolina.

The cost is \$40 for the first student in a family and \$10 for each additional student from the same family or group sharing course materials.

To register or for more information, contact Jim VanBlarcom at jimvan11@comporium.net or by phone at (803) 493-2472. Online registration is available at <https://www.registered.com/programs/43> by entering your zip code.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

MAY 4TH

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

MAY 11TH

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

MAY 28TH

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

MAY 25TH

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

TUE. Weekly

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

WED. Weekly

Music Bingo - 6:30 at The Velvet Coupe

THUR. Weekly

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

SAT. Weekly

Live Music - The Velvet Coupe

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. More information available at <https://tgoodlifeclub.wixsite.com/tcglc>



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Baxter Village Golf Cart Ordinance Advances



Thomas Hylsip, Editor

A proposal to allow golf carts to operate at night on public streets within the Baxter Village community in Fort Mill cleared its second reading before York County Council on Monday, April 20, passing 5 to 2 after a lengthy debate over whether the rules should apply to all of unincorporated York County.

The ordinance would give formal structure to golf cart use within the Baxter Village Traditional Neighborhood District, a planned community along Highway 160 that mixes residential and commercial uses. A third and final reading is still required before the rules take effect.

What the Ordinance Does

State law already permits golf cart operation on roads posted at 35 miles per hour or less during daylight hours. The Baxter Village ordinance would extend that permission to nighttime hours, provided carts are equipped with proper headlights and tail lights. Operators must be at least 16, hold a valid driver's license, and carry liability insurance.

The ordinance also consolidates Sutton Road crossings, currently happening freely at multiple points, into a single designated crossing at Market Street. Supporters cited that change as a meaningful safety improvement over the unregulated status quo.

Safety Concerns and Support

Council Member Roddey delivered the strongest opposition, citing a fatal golf cart accident involving a teenager in Rock Hill and saying he would not support the ordinance even for Baxter Village alone. Another council member raised concerns about youth safety and whether the liability insurance requirement would be meaningfully enforced.

Council Member Audette, whose district includes Baxter Village, framed the ordinance as a regulatory improvement rather than an expansion, noting that golf carts are already crossing Sutton Road without defined rules. He supports the Baxter application but not a countywide version.

Sheriff's Input Still Pending

Chairwoman Cox said she will support the ordinance advancing to third reading but wants to hear directly from the York County Sheriff before final passage to understand what enforcement protocols would address concerns about the limits of the Baxter district.

With second reading approved, the ordinance returns for a third and final reading at a future council meeting.

Fort Mill Schools Earn 13 Gold, 4 Silver Palmetto Awards in Statewide Recognition Program



Thomas Hylsip, Editor

Schools across the Fort Mill School District earned widespread recognition as the South Carolina Department of Education announced its 2024-25 Palmetto Gold and Silver Award winners, with 17 Fort Mill campuses placing on the statewide honor list and 13 earning the program's top Gold designation.

State Superintendent Ellen Weaver praised the honorees statewide. "The Palmetto Gold and Silver awards recognize strong, measurable growth in student achievement and celebrate the hard work of educators and students alike," Weaver said. "We congratulate these schools on striving for excellence and delivering impressive results for their students."

The awards program was established by the Education Accountability Act of 1998 and amended in 2008 to include recognition for closing achievement gaps between student groups. For elementary and middle schools, Gold status requires Excellent Academic Achievement paired

with Excellent or Good Student Progress, or Good Achievement with Excellent Progress. Silver schools meet combinations such as Good Achievement and Good Progress, or Excellent Achievement with Average Progress. High schools are evaluated on Academic Achievement, Graduation Rate, College and Career Readiness, and Preparing for Success, with Gold requiring Excellent ratings on at least three of the four indicators.

Fort Mill's Gold high schools:

Fort Mill High School
Nation Ford High School
Catawba Ridge High School

Fort Mill's Gold middle schools:

Fort Mill Middle School
Gold Hill Middle School
Springfield Middle School
Banks Trail Middle School
Pleasant Knoll Middle School
Forest Creek Middle School

Fort Mill's Gold elementary schools:

Gold Hill Elementary School
Springfield Elementary School
River Trail Elementary School
Kings Town Elementary School

Fort Mill's Silver schools:

Riverview Elementary School
Pleasant Knoll Elementary School
Sugar Creek Elementary School
Tega Cay Elementary School

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**Join us for food & fellowship!
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Great food
Great time
Great people

Garden Friends: Happy Spring, Tega Cay!



By Debbie Wey and Gardening On The Cay

Spring has arrived on the Cay, and for gardeners, it truly is the most exciting time of year. Trees are leafing out, beds are waking up, and that familiar urge to dig in the dirt and start planting is hard to resist.

Over the past few years, I've focused on growing flowers specifically for cutting—and like many gardeners, I've learned as much from trial and error as from success. If you've ever thought about growing your own bouquets, now is the perfect time to start.

Lessons from a Backyard Cutting Garden

My first year, I kept things simple. While not everything thrived, Shasta daisies proved to be reliable and mostly deer-resistant—a big win here in Tega Cay.

By year two, I expanded into starting seeds indoors. Snapdragons were a standout—beautiful, productive, and resilient to late winter/early spring temperatures (especially when paired with deer netting). After the average last frost date (April 6 for Tega Cay) I also directly sowed zinnias and dahlias, which added vibrant color through the summer heat.

Last year, I experimented with winter sowing, a low-maintenance method of seed starting during late winter using recycled containers outdoors. Along with herbs and more snapdragons, I later added sunflowers and tall marigolds, creating a steady supply of blooms. Each season builds confidence—and more flowers!

Gardening with a Purpose: Food for the Soul

One of the most rewarding parts of gardening has been participating in our club's "Food for the Soul" project. For the past two years, a few of us have gathered flowers from our gardens and created small mason jar bouquets for the Fort Mill Care Center (in addition to contributing canned goods and financial donations).

These simple arrangements are shared with clients to brighten their day—and they truly do. It's a wonderful reminder: gardening doesn't just grow flowers—it grows community.

What I'm Trying This Year

This season, I'm experimenting with soil blocking, a seed-starting method that eliminates plastic pots and encourages strong root systems. I started many plants in the fall, and they're already thriving as temperatures warm.

I've also started my summer annuals indoors in my garage—zinnias, dahlias, celosia, and sunflowers—so they'll be ready to go into the ground once we pass our average last frost date and soil temperatures reach about 70°F.

Practical Tips for Tega Cay Gardeners

If you're looking to grow your own cutting garden, here are a few tried-and-true tips:

Start seeds smart:

Try starting seeds indoors. I do it in the garage to avoid indoor pests like gnats. A small greenhouse setup with basic grow lights works beautifully.

Experiment with soil blocking or reuse materials:

Soil blocking is a great plastic-free option, but reusing cell trays from past purchases works just as well.

Use local, low-cost resources:

Compost and mulch don't have to be expensive. Check for community compost suppliers in the Charlotte area and take advantage of free mulch offered locally in Tega Cay.

Control weeds naturally:

Rolled paper or cardboard makes an excellent biodegradable weed barrier.

Plan for deer:

Even with netting, it helps to choose more deer-resistant flowers like snapdragons and daisies.

If you've been thinking about starting a garden—or expanding what you grow—this is your season. Start small, try something new, and don't be afraid to learn as you go.

Save the Date! Gardening on the Cay's 2026 Annual Plant Sale Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tega Cay City Hall

Featuring member-grown plants and local favorites. Proceeds support our local community beautification projects.

Healthy Living with Dr. Hall: Intermittent Fasting: A Simpler Way to Manage Weight?

Dr. David Hall

Intermittent fasting has become a popular way to lose weight without the hassle of counting every calorie. Instead of focusing on what you eat, this method focuses on when you eat — and for many people, that's a lot easier to stick with long-term.

What Is Intermittent Fasting?

There are different styles of intermittent fasting, but one of the most common is time-restricted eating. This approach limits eating to a specific window of time each day — usually around six to eight hours. For example, someone might only eat between noon and 8 p.m., fasting the rest of the day.

What the Research Shows

A recent study led by Krista Varady, a nutrition professor at the University of Illinois Chicago, looked at how well this approach works over an entire year. Her research, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, found that people who practiced time-restricted eating lost about the same amount of weight as those who counted calories — and kept it off for 12 months. On average, participants lost about 5% of their body weight. That may not sound dramatic, but the key takeaway is consistency: people could actually maintain this routine long-term. "You can basically achieve the same results by counting time instead of counting calories," says Varady.

The Study Setup Researchers followed 90 adults with obesity and divided them into three groups:

1. Time-restricted eating – could eat only between noon and 8 p.m.

2. Calorie-counting – reduced daily calorie intake by 25%.
3. Control group – made no changes.

After six months of active weight loss, both the fasting and calorie-counting groups entered a "maintenance phase," which slightly loosened their restrictions to help keep the weight off. By the end of the year, both groups had similar results — about 10–12 pounds lost compared to those who didn't change their eating habits.

Why It Works

Interestingly, those in the fasting group weren't told to track calories, but they naturally ate about 400 fewer calories a day — roughly the same amount as the calorie-counting group.

Researchers think this is because people have less time to snack, especially at night. "Most people eat over a 12- to 14- hour period," says Varady. "Cutting that down by six hours mostly eliminates after-dinner snacking." Nutrition experts say this "anti-snacking effect" can make a big difference in overall calorie intake without feeling deprived. It may also help regulate hunger hormones and appetite naturally.

Support Makes a Difference

Both the fasting and calorie-counting groups had regular sessions with dietitians for guidance and motivation. According to Dr. Adam Gilden of the University of Colorado, this kind of support plays a huge role in success. He notes that people who

See Dr. Hall, Page 13

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Dr. David Hall



Third Annual Seven Eleven Memorial Golf Tournament & Silent Auction to Take Place on Thursday, May 14, 2026 in Tega Cay



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Patrick Byrne, Editor

The Third Annual Seven Eleven Memorial Golf Tournament & Silent Auction will take place on Thursday, May 14, 2026 at Tega Cay Golf Club, bringing the community together for a meaningful day of golf, remembrance, and support for mental health awareness.

This annual event benefits the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, a leading nonprofit dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide. Importantly, funds raised through this tournament will stay local, directly supporting programs, education, and resources within our community.

This year, the event is honored to welcome the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), further strengthening the tournament's mission of supporting individuals and families impacted by trauma, loss, and mental health challenges.

The tournament continues to grow each year, drawing golfers, sponsors, and supporters who are passionate about making a difference. Participants can expect a full day on the greens, along with a silent auction, raffles, and opportunities to connect with others who share a commitment to mental health advocacy.

Registration is now open, but space is limited and filling quickly. Community members are encouraged to secure their spots as soon as possible.

In addition to golfers, volunteers are warmly welcomed to help make the day a success. Whether assisting with event operations, registration, or activities, volunteers play a vital role in creating a supportive and impactful experience.

Registration Information Here: <https://events.golfstatus.com/event/2026-seven-eleven-memorial-golf-tournament>

“This tournament is about more than golf—it’s about honoring lives, supporting families, and strengthening our community through awareness and action,” said event organizer Sherry Nims.

The Seven Eleven Memorial Golf Tournament was created to honor loved ones lost and to support mental health initiatives through community-driven events. Each year, the tournament brings people together to raise awareness, foster connection, and provide meaningful support where it matters most.

Fort Mill Announces 2026–2027 FMSD Honor Roll Teachers of the Year

Patrick Byrne, Editor



During the 2026 Teacher of the Year banquet held on April 16, the district honored our 2026–2027 Teachers of the Year and announced the five District Honor Roll Teachers of the Year.

The 2026–2027 Honor Roll Teachers of the Year are:

- **Chris Beasley**, 4th Grade, Kings Town Elementary School
- **Annalise Eberhard**, Librarian, Fort Mill Middle School
- **Cambridge Gamble**, 6 Grade ELA/SS, Springfield Middle School
- **Ronika Middleton**, Counselor, Banks Trail Middle School
- **Kristen Schauer**, Art, River Trail Elementary School

These five Honor Roll Teachers will now be considered for the District Teacher of the Year

One Person Shot at Fort Mill Bar; Victim Transported to Rock Hill Hospital

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Emergency crews responded Sunday evening to a shooting at the Blue Olive Lounge in Fort Mill, according to a York County Sheriff's Office incident report.

The shooting occurred at approximately 9:40 p.m. on April 19, 2026, at 929 Crossroads Plaza, the location of the Blue Olive Lounge in Fort Mill. Deputies arrived and secured the scene. Investigators confirmed the victim had been shot.

The victim was transported by EMS to Piedmont Medical Center in Rock Hill for treatment. The York County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division and Forensic Services Unit responded to the scene.

The case remains active and open as of April 20, 2026. No arrests have been announced. The identity of the victim has not been released.

Source: York County Sheriff's Office Case SO202603542



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Buzz around Town



Tega Cay's Kelsey McGuire Returns to Boston Marathon, Finishes in the Top 200 Nationwide



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Kelsey McGuire did not just return to the Boston Marathon this year. She elevated her performance to one of the top finishes in the country.

The Tega Cay native crossed the finish line Monday with a time of 2 hours, 52 minutes and 17 seconds, placing 161st out of 12,777 female finishers and 146th out of 5,787 competitors in the women's 18 to 39 age group. McGuire was the fastest amateur woman in the top area finishers.

The result marks a dramatic improvement from her 2025 debut at Boston, where she finished in 3 hours and 6 minutes while raising more than \$4,600 for the Knox Martin Foundation, an organization dedicated to brain cancer research.

McGuire is a product of the Fort Mill School District, where she spent all 12 years of her K through 12 education before graduating from Fort Mill High School. She went on to earn her degree from the University of Georgia and is set to begin medical school at the Medical University of South Carolina in August.

New Coffee Shop Brews Up in Fort Mill With a Unique Twist

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



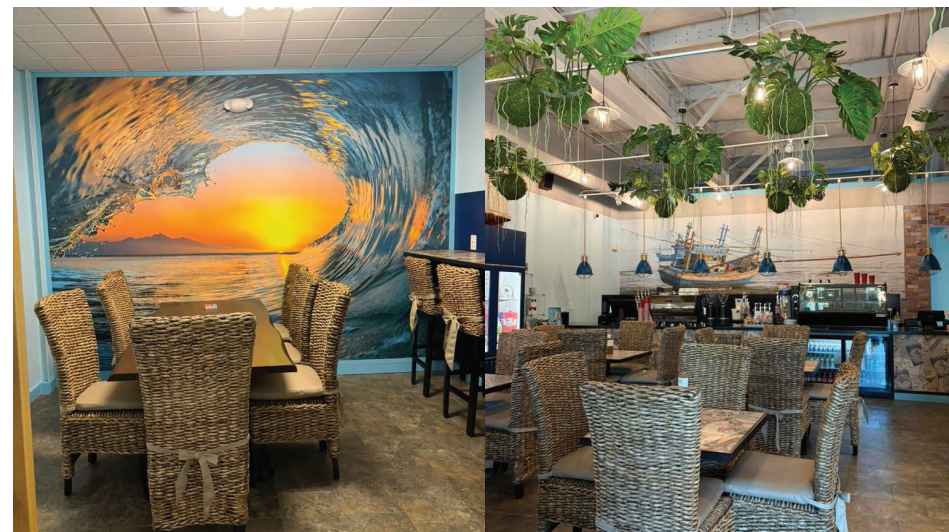
Fort Mill has a new spot to grab a cup of coffee, and it comes with a few extras you might not expect.

The Roasting Route, a new coffee shop located inside The Postal Route at 2764 Pleasant Rd., is now open for business. The combination concept lets customers grab a coffee, ship a package, and browse a curated gift shop all under one roof.

The shop is currently operating in soft opening mode with limited hours from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. A grand opening celebration is scheduled for May 13 from noon to 5 p.m., featuring \$1 drinks and 20% off gift items.

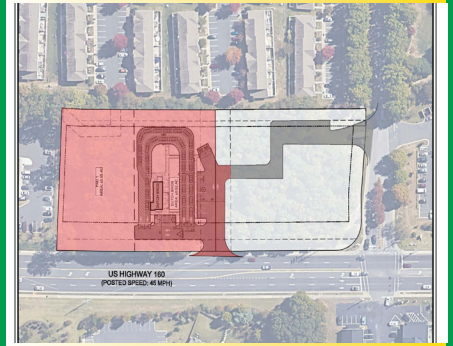
Beyond the coffee and retail offerings, the space itself is drawing early attention. The interior features a subtle nautical theme and includes a private room with a sliding door, designed for meetings, remote work sessions, or a quiet conversation away from the main floor.

The Roasting Route is located at 2764 Pleasant Rd., Fort Mill, SC 29708. Extended hours and additional details are expected to be announced ahead of the grand opening.



Dutch Brothers Coffee, Ice Cream Shop Eyed for Highway 160 Corridor

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



A new drive-through coffee shop and ice cream shop are in the works for a busy stretch of South Carolina Highway 160 near Tega Cay, following a first reading vote by York County Council on Monday night that advanced a rezoning request for the roughly 1.8 acre site.

The two businesses would occupy a parcel at the intersection of Highway 160 and Vandor Springs Road, adjacent to an existing Goodwill. Planning staff confirmed at the April 6 meeting that the proposed tenants are Dutch Brothers Coffee and an ice cream shop. The property would be divided between the two operations, which would share a single access point onto Highway 160.

What's Being Requested

The rezoning, Case 26-06, would move the 1.776 acre parcel from a 2008 Planned Development tied to the never fully built Stoneacres commercial park to General Commercial zoning, consistent with surrounding development along the corridor. Planning staff and the York County Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval, noting the old PD designation holds the property to outdated standards that predate modern

See Dutch Brothers, Page 11



SALLY AWAD
PROPERTIES

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SPORTS



York and Lancaster County Players Represent North Team at North-South All-Star Soccer Showcase



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Several players from York and Lancaster County programs have earned spots on the North team roster for the 2026 North-South All-Star soccer matches, set for Saturday, June 13 at Anderson University in Anderson, S.C.

The North-South All-Star event holds the distinction of being the Palmetto State's oldest high school soccer all-star showcase, bringing together the top graduating seniors from across South Carolina and dividing them geographically into North and South squads. This year's matches mark a venue change after seven consecutive years at T.L. Hanna High School, with Anderson University hosting the event for the first time.

York and Lancaster County schools placed several players on the North team this year, with representation on both the boys and girls sides.

On the boys side, Fort Mill's Chase Fandel and Andrew Jackson's Lawson Ardrey both earned spots among the North squad's 18 players, joining a roster that draws from programs across the Upstate and Midlands. Indian Land's Coen Wilson also earned a boys selection, giving the Panthers their own representative in the state's premier all-star showcase.

Soccer, Page 13

Fort Mill Lacrosse Honors Senior Class, Shuts Out Westside on Senior Night



Chris Coffee, Sports Editor

The Fort Mill High School Yellow Jackets celebrated Senior Night on Thursday before rolling to a 24 to 0 victory over Westside (Anderson) in a non conference boys varsity lacrosse game.

Before the 7:00 PM face off, the program honored a standout class of seniors who were central to the team's strong start this season. The ceremony recognized Chase Barington Hughes (Defense), a team captain and United States Air Force Academy commit; Charlie McGuire (Midfield), a key leader in the team's scoring efforts; Carson Maloney (Attack), the team's leading playmaker in assists; Maddox Baucom, Luke McKinney, Roman Meyer, Van Jantzen, Trey Dixon, Cooper Dyrness, and Cameron Stubenrauch.

Fort Mill then backed up the festivities with a dominant performance on the field, shutting out the Wolverines to improve to 13 and 3 on the season. The Yellow Jackets entered the game ranked ninth statewide and stood at 7 and 1 in 5A Region 3 play.

York County Teams Head to State Playoffs

Three York County high schools are represented in the SCHSL boys and girls lacrosse state playoffs, with Fort Mill holding No. 1 seeds in both Class 5A Division 2 brackets. Fort Mill, Clover and Nation Ford all qualified for postseason play, with state championships scheduled to be held at Irmo on May 8 and May 9.

Boys Brackets

The Fort Mill boys earned the top seed in Class 5A Division 2 Upper State and received a first round bye.

In Class 5A Division 1 Upper State, Clover earned the No. 2 seed and a first round bye. The 5A Division 1 Upper State championship is set for May 5, with the state title game on May 9. The 5A Division 2 Upper State

Seniors, Page 13

Yellow Jackets Outlast Clover in Shootout Thriller



Chris Coffee, Sports Editor

In a night of high-stakes conference play, the Fort Mill Yellow Jackets found themselves locked in a defensive battle on the pitch and a tough outing on the diamond.

Clover's Kaelin Antrim (5) looks for a steal against Fort Mill's Gabby Giarrizzi (19) in Tuesday night's conference matchup where both teams are seeking improved placement in the post season.

The highlight of the evening took place at Bob Jones Stadium, where the Fort Mill girls soccer team secured a gritty victory over the Clover Blue Eagles. After battling through two overtime periods to a 2-2 draw, the Yellow Jackets clinched the win in a dramatic shootout, outlasting the Eagles 4-3 in the final frame to move ahead in the conference standings.

On the softball field, it was a different story for the Yellow Jackets. Clover's pitching proved too much for the Fort Mill bats, holding them to just one hit — a single by Izzy Zook — in a 5-0 shutout loss. Freshman pitcher Elaina Hildebrand went the distance for Fort Mill, allowing three earned runs while striking out five, but the offense struggled to find traction

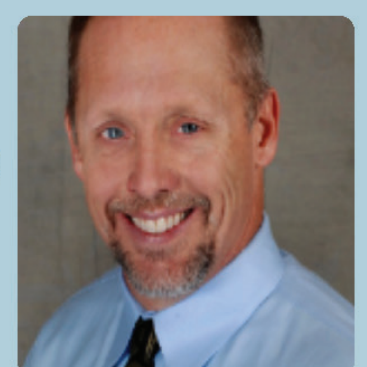
Shootout, Page 13

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SPORTS



Nation Ford Athletes Lock In Futures on Spring Signing Day

Chris Coffee, Sports Editor



A wave of Nation Ford High School standout athletes officially traded their Falcons jerseys for collegiate colors Wednesday, as 13 seniors gathered in the gymnasium to sign their national letters of intent.

The ceremony, a culmination of years of rigorous training and competition in the Fort Mill community, featured a heavy presence from the football program, which saw eight players finalize their commitments to programs across the Southeast and Midwest.

Leading the charge for the football team were Malachi Drayton, who is headed to the FBS level with UNC Charlotte, and Kason Canupp, who signed to play at Anderson University. The Falcons' depth was on full display as teammates Patience Andrews (Wingate), Mason Bucciero (Hampden-Sydney), Isaiah Johnson (McPherson College), Camren Huor (Averett), Ja'Karee Chisholm (Averett University), and JaMari Gore (North Greenville University) all made their collegiate choices official.

Beyond the gridiron, the Falcons celebrated diversity across their athletic departments:

Vance Matthews, a cornerstone of the Nation Ford defense, signed to play lacrosse for Hope College in Michigan.

Camron Magyar will take his talents to the mat, joining the wrestling program at Colorado Northwestern.

Sophia Banzon is bound for the Bronx, signing with Fordham University for soccer.

Ella Witkopf solidified her future on the diamond with Montreat College softball.

Jaeya Carter rounded out the afternoon's honorees, signing to join the dance team at USC Upstate.

South Pointe Boys, Nation Ford Girls Claim Tri County Track and Field Titles

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



South Pointe held off a tight challenge from Fort Mill and Rock Hill to win the boys team title, and Nation Ford ran away with the girls championship at the Tri County Track and Field Championships on Saturday at South Pointe High School.

The South Pointe boys finished with 136 points, holding off Fort Mill (128) and Rock Hill (127.5) in one of the closest team finishes in recent meet history. Just 8.5 points separated the top three squads. Catawba Ridge (85.5) placed fourth, followed by York (70), Nation Ford (37), Lancaster (30), Lewisville (25), Clover (19) and Riverwalk Academy (4).

Nation Ford's girls posted 164.5 points to easily win the team championship, finishing 46 points clear of runner up Fort Mill (118.5). South Pointe (97), York (76), Rock Hill (56.5), Clover (54.5), Lancaster (44), Catawba Ridge (33), Lewisville (13) and Riverwalk Academy (8) completed the team standings.

Fort Mill's Mia Williams was the meet's most prolific individual scorer, sweeping four events. Williams won the 100 meters in 12.39, the 200 meters in 24.92, the long jump at 17 feet 6.25 inches and the triple jump at 37 feet 3.75 inches.

South Pointe's Devin Isley collected his own track double, taking the boys 100 meters in 10.69 seconds and the 200 in 21.49. Rock Hill's Da'trell Watson and Devan Erby joined Isley on the boys sprint podium, with Watson runner up in the 100 (10.96) and Erby second in the 200 (21.59).

Fort Mill's Jahzir McCants edged Rock Hill's Jaderion Moore for the boys 400 meter title, 49.15 to 49.27. Nation Ford finished one two in the girls 400, with Madison Brailsford winning in 1:00.04 and Laia Green close behind at 1:00.69.

Fort Mill's Wyatt Gremillion captured the boys 800 in 1:57.17, and York junior Ava Shook took the girls 800 in 2:20.60.

Fort Mill's Jordan Walter clocked 15.45 to win the boys 110 meter hurdles, while teammate Ashton Privette took the 400 meter hurdles in 1:00.34. Nation Ford swept the girls hurdles events behind Lylah Buck and Ariaiah Heard. Heard won the 100 hurdles in 16.20, edging Rock Hill's KeMiya Mobley by .03 of a second. Buck won the 400 hurdles in 1:08.00, with Heard second in 1:08.46.



Team Eberle Rallies on Sunday to Win 2026 Tega Cay Cup

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Team Eberle erased a two point Saturday deficit and captured the 2026 Tega Cay Cup, defeating Team Zondervan 19 to 17 after dominating Sunday's individual match play 14 to 10.

Trailing 7 to 5 entering the final day, Team Eberle won six of the twelve singles matches and halved two more to flip the cup. With each match worth 2 points and ties worth 1 point per side, Eberle's 14 point Sunday haul proved more than enough to overtake Zondervan, whose four singles wins fell short of the comeback math.

Matt Bowman and Jim Mowery led the charge for Team Eberle with matching 5&4 victories, defeating Andy Zondervan and Brandon Fender respectively. Tim Wyatt added a 4&3 win over Jeff Roesler, and Ron Birmingham closed out Neil Kelker by the same margin. Dale Eberle edged Gary Anderson 1 up, and Tom McGrath squeezed past Brandon Barnes 1 up in another tight finish.

Team Zondervan's four singles points came from Bruce Fonte, who handled John Van Vranken 3&2, along with Greg Kniska (2&1 over Eric Thompson), Paul Liles (5&4 over Dave Morgan), and Mike Clyburn (2 up over Chris Radu). Randall Phillips and Kenny Hall halved their match, as did Bob Auman and Larry Harley, splitting the remaining 4 points evenly between the sides.

The 2026 cup wraps the post season for the top 24 finishers from the 2025 Tega Cay Men's Golf Association season, who earned their spots through cumulative tournament points.

Final Score: Team Eberle 19, Team Zondervan 17

Congratulations to Team Eberle on the 2026 Tega Cay Cup.



Madison Nadratowski
Lander University
Early Childhood Education



Julius Fiske
Clemson University



Catharine "Marlee" Cook
Campbell University
Health Sciences/Cross Country &
Track



Tyson Shouse
Coastal Carolina University
Professional Golf Management
Wall College of Business



Madison Lewis
ETSU (East Tennessee State
University)



Lily Blocher
University of South Florida
Honors College
Biology Pre-Med & Track



Aaden Pierce
Marywood University
Architecture



Jillian McNeil
Clemson University
Majoring in Bio-Medical
Engineering



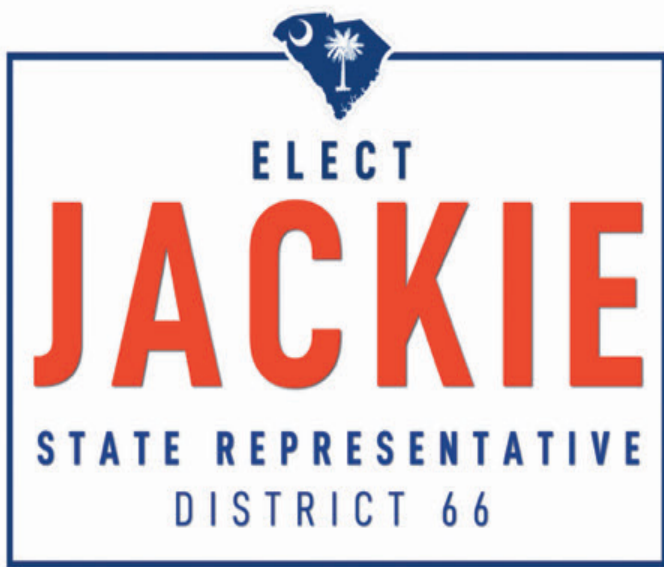
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Tega Cay Lions Club: The Vis-Ability Project

Understanding Autism:
A Tega Cay Lions Club initiative

Autism is one of the most misunderstood invisible disabilities — not because people lack compassion, but because so many of its traits are easy to overlook. While some autistic individuals communicate differently, avoid eye contact, or experience sensory overwhelm, many signs of autism are subtle, internal, and deeply personal.

“Autism doesn’t have a single look,” says the Tega Cay Lions Club Mental Health Committee. “A person may appear calm on the outside while feeling overloaded on the inside.”

Approaching an autistic person requires patience and clarity. Experts recommend using direct, literal language and avoiding sudden changes or unexpected touch. For someone with sensory sensitivities, a crowded room, bright lights, or overlapping conversations may feel overwhelming.

Simple steps — such as asking before moving closer, giving more processing time, or offering a quiet space — can make communication more comfortable.

Most importantly, we should avoid statements like “You don’t look autistic.” Autism is not something that should be judged by appearance. It is a neurotype, not a behavior flaw.

By understanding communication differences rather than trying to correct them, we help build a community where autistic residents feel accepted, supported, and seen.

Meet a Neighbor

“As a parent of a child with autism, I’ve learned how much approach and tone matter. Recently at a park, my 9-year-old son was riding his scooter in an area where it was allowed when a woman approached him and told him he wasn’t supposed to be riding there. Because he is very rule-oriented and always tries to do the right thing, this confused and upset him — he knew he wasn’t doing anything wrong. The interaction escalated quickly, and he became so overwhelmed that an officer was called, and by then he was too distressed to recover calmly. Moments like this show how important it is to approach children — especially those who may process things differently — with patience. Of course, if a child is doing something wrong, they should be guided and corrected, but the way it’s communicated matters. A calm tone, asking a question instead of giving a command, and allowing time to process can make all the difference. Something as simple as, “Hey buddy, can I ask you a quick question?” can completely change the outcome. Many autistic children want to follow the

rules, but when they feel confused or confronted, it can quickly become overwhelming. A little patience and kindness can turn a difficult moment into a better one.”

“As an autistic adult who was diagnosed later in life, I experience misunderstandings all the time simply because I don’t ‘look autistic’ — but then, who really does? Autism doesn’t have one appearance, and many of us who are diagnosed as adults have spent years masking our traits just to get by. When I get overstimulated or frustrated because I’m struggling to communicate clearly, I sometimes raise my voice without meaning to. To most people, it just comes across as anger or rudeness — and how could they know it’s autism? Even when I explain my diagnosis, many still don’t fully understand. I’ve realized the real answer isn’t expecting everyone to recognize every sign of autism. It’s in how we approach one another. If someone raises their voice or sounds stern, instead of saying ‘I don’t like your tone — you seem angry,’ try curiosity: ‘It seems like you may be upset. Can I help you with something?’ A calm, kind question like that can change everything. It works for everyone and helps build the kind of community where people feel truly seen.”

A volunteer with NAMI Tri-County on the autism spectrum shared that our article resonated with her experience, particularly in how it highlights the differences in how autism presents in individuals and the importance of effective communication. She noted that, during moments of overwhelm, communication can become more difficult:

“Generalized questions with many potential answers can be difficult as well. It’s easier for me to answer yes or no questions when I’m overwhelmed, for example.”

Mental health is an important part of overall well-being, and support close to home matters. We are proud to share NAMI Piedmont Tri-County, a local organization serving York, Lancaster, and Chester counties.

NAMI Piedmont Tri-County offers education, support, and resources for individuals and families affected by mental health conditions—helping make the invisible visible and reminding our community that no one has to navigate mental health challenges alone.

Website: <https://namipiedmont.org/>

To learn more or to request an Vis-Ability Project sticker, please scan the QR code and message the Tega Cay Lions Club. Your support helps bring awareness and understanding to invisible disabilities within our community.

Fort Mill's Joshua Prince Claims JROTC All-Service National Championship Title



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Senior makes history at Camp Perry, becoming champion among all branches

CAMP PERRY, OH — One month after standing atop the podium in Sandy, Utah, Fort Mill High School Senior Joshua Prince made history again. Competing at the prestigious JROTC All-Service National Air Rifle Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio, Prince finished first overall among 114 of the nation's most elite senior marksmen, claiming the title of JROTC All-Service National Champion.

An Invitation-Only Stage

Camp Perry is no ordinary venue. Steeped in American marksmanship tradition and home to the National Matches, it is a place where only the very best are invited to compete. The All-Service Nationals drew 114 top qualifiers from across every JROTC branch, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, making it the most competitive senior air rifle event in the country. To earn an invitation, each competitor had already proven themselves a champion within their own branch. Prince arrived as the Marine Corps National Champion. He left as something more.

Two Days, One Champion

Over the course of the two-day competition, Prince delivered the same composure and precision that had defined his performance in Utah. When the final scores were tallied, Prince stood alone at the top of the leaderboard, outperforming 113 of the best shooters in the nation. In doing so, he also set a new Marine Corps record during the event — a remarkable footnote to an already historic performance.

A Champion's Journey

The road to this moment was anything but simple. Just weeks earlier, Prince had navigated two grueling days of competition at the Marine Corps National Championships, earning an aggregate score of 1,123 - 47 to win that title and punch his ticket to Ohio. Now, facing competitors who had For Prince, the All-Service title represents the pinnacle of JROTC marksmanship

Dutch Brothers, From Page 7

requirements such as drive through bypass lanes.

Applicant Molly Kilpatrick told council the site plan includes an eight foot privacy fence and landscape buffer along the neighboring Fieldstone residential community, plus a photometric lighting plan designed for zero light spill across property lines. Access and driveway design are being coordinated with the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

Traffic and Neighbor Concerns

Council raised traffic as a central question, noting that Dutch Brothers locations elsewhere in the region have produced long queues that back into live traffic. Members asked staff to return with traffic impact data, driveway separation measurements from the adjacent Goodwill curb cut, and an analysis of whether a deceleration lane should be required on Highway 160.

Residents of Fieldstone, whose townhomes border the rear of the site, pushed back. Jacquelyn Alby cited concerns about traffic, food odors, drive through noise, lighting, and trash management. Justin Murray pointed to the community’s experience with the adjacent Goodwill, where promised tree buffers were cleared during construction, and urged council to ensure any buffer requirements are meaningful and enforceable.

What Comes Next

The rezoning requires two additional readings before final approval. Planning staff have committed to providing detailed traffic information, driveway separation data, and a comparison of buffer protections under GC versus the existing PD zoning before the second reading. If approved, the development would add to a growing line of drive through and retail uses along one of the most heavily traveled commercial stretches in the Tega Cay and Fort Mill area.



Tega Cay Tops Niche Rankings as Best Place To Live in South Carolina

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Tega Cay ranked first on Niche.com's 2026 Best Places to Live in South Carolina list, earning an overall grade of A+ and a perfect A+ for public schools.

Fort Mill came in fifth, also earning an A+ overall and an A+ for public schools, giving York County two communities in the top five of a ranking that evaluated 438 places across the Palmetto State.

Niche.com builds its annual rankings using data from the U.S. Census, FBI, Bureau of Labor Statistics, CDC, and other sources. Communities are graded on categories including public schools, crime and safety, cost of living, job opportunities, and local amenities. User reviews factor into the scores as well.

Tega Cay drew strong reviews from residents who praised its family-friendly atmosphere, low crime, and access to quality schools. Niche users gave the city an average rating of 4.3 out of 5 stars across 40 reviews.

Fort Mill, with a population of more than 30,700, ranked as the largest community in the top five. Residents highlighted the town's job opportunities, the reputation of its school district, and the range of activities available to families. Niche users submitted 214 reviews of Fort Mill, giving it an average rating of 4.2 out of 5 stars.

Eubanks Family Seeks to Block Industrial Uses on 50 Acres Next to Silfab Solar Site in Fort Mill Area

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

York County Family Pushes to Block Industrial Use on Land Next to Silfab Solar

A York County family whose land sits adjacent to the controversial Silfab Solar manufacturing facility is moving to permanently block warehouses, distribution centers, and heavy manufacturing from ever being built on the remaining 50 acres they still own.

York County Council unanimously approved the first reading Monday night of a rezoning request by the Eubanks family limited partnership to change approximately 50.8 acres at the intersection of Gold Hill Road and Highway 21 from Light Industrial to General Commercial. Council members described the rezoning as a gift to the surrounding community.

The rezoning comes against the backdrop of what happened to the northern portion of the same family's land, which was sold to a developer and eventually became the site of the Silfab Solar facility, a solar panel manufacturing operation that has drawn fierce community opposition over its use of hazardous chemicals and its proximity to Fort Mill schools.

A Century of Family Stewardship

The Eubanks family has held this tract, originally part of a larger parcel exceeding 300 acres, for over 100 years. Lee Eubanks' father, Thomas Hall Eubanks, lived on the property and farmed it for more than 60 years while serving on the citizens committee that produced York County's first zoning ordinance in the 1970s.

In 1992, the elder Eubanks agreed to rezone the property to Light Industrial after being assured by the county that LI was the most flexible zoning available, accommodating commercial and retail uses. The family's attorney, Stephen Acra, told council that assurance was later undercut by a text change to the zoning ordinance that removed those commercial uses from the LI district without the family's knowledge or consent.

The Silfab Connection

After the elder Eubanks retired, Lee Eubanks sold tracts to the Fort Mill School District for an elementary school and donated 28 additional acres to be held as the Thomas Hall Natural Preserve. He then sold the northern portion of the original 300 acre tract to the Rockefeller Group after being assured the land would be developed for warehouses and distribution centers. Rockefeller Group later sold the tract to Exit Development Group, which brought in Silfab Solar as the tenant.

"Lee Eubanks is mortified by what has come about as a result of that manufacturing operation," Acra told council. "And he thus desires to have his remaining property rezoned to GC so that not only undesirable manufacturing operations would be prohibited on this 50 acres, but also warehouse and distribution centers would be prohibited, thereby eliminating heavy truck traffic."

What General Commercial Would Allow and Prohibit

If the GC rezoning is approved, Lee Eubanks intends to immediately record a declaration of restricted covenants running with the land, meaning they would be binding on any future owner regardless of future zoning changes. Those covenants

would prohibit light and heavy manufacturing, warehouse and distribution centers, adult businesses, transitional housing, emergency shelters, and similar uses.

What would be permitted under GC includes retail stores, restaurants, and medical offices. Acra described Lee Eubanks' vision as a mixed use business park serving residents east of I 77 who currently must cross the interstate to access basic goods and services.

School District Supports the Rezoning

The Fort Mill School District submitted a letter of support for the rezoning. Acra told council that Superintendent Gray Young submitted a letter stating that the Fort Mill School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to support the request.

Council Reacts With Gratitude

"You have given the community a much needed gift," one council member told Acra. "I have had so many people call me, email me. I cannot tell you how happy they are. It is a breath of fresh air."

The Planning Commission had unanimously recommended approval prior to Monday's vote, and no opposition speakers appeared at the public hearing.

A Note on the Public Hearing

Council disclosed that the notice published for the case contained an error. A corrected public hearing will be held at the third reading, currently scheduled for May 4, 2026. Two more readings are required before the rezoning becomes effective.



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Soccer, From Page 8

The girls side features even stronger local representation. Fort Mill placed two players on the North girls roster, with Emma Hilsmier and Emerson Shelton both earning selections, a notable achievement for the Yellow Jackets program. Nation Ford contributed two players as well, with Sophia Banzon and Annie Newton both earning spots, reflecting the strength of the Falcons girls program this past season. Indian Land also placed two players on the North girls roster, with teammates CJ Johnson and Berkeley Slepokura both earning selections, giving the Panthers strong representation on both the boys and girls sides of the event.

The local connection extends to the coaching staff as well. Lee Hanna of Andrew Jackson will serve as one of the two North girls coaches, alongside Greg Boney of Indian Land.

Seniors, From Page 8

championship is scheduled for May 4, with the state final on May 8.

Girls Brackets

The Fort Mill girls also earned the No. 1 seed in Class 5A Division 2 Upper State and a first round bye. The Yellow Jackets will host a quarterfinal on May 2.

The Clover girls drew the No. 6 seed in Class 5A Division 1 Upper State. The girls 5A Division 1 Upper State championship is set for May 4, with the state title game May 9. The girls 5A Division 2 Upper State championship is scheduled for May 5, with the state final on May 8.

Dr. Hall, From Page 5

try fasting on their own, without coaching or structure, often don't see the same results.

Simpler Than Calorie Counting?

Tracking calories can be tedious — measuring food, logging meals, and estimating portions. That's why experts like Courtney Peterson at the University of Alabama say time-restricted eating can be appealing. "For a lot less effort, you can cut your calories by the same amount," she says.

The Bottom Line

Intermittent fasting isn't a magic fix or a free pass to eat whatever you want. It simply helps align eating habits with how the body naturally processes food — during daylight hours. As Dorothy Sears of Arizona State University explains: "We're designed to process nutrients during the day. Avoiding nighttime eating alone can lead to better health outcomes."

So, what's the takeaway? Whether you prefer to count calories or count hours, both methods can work. But if you're looking for a simpler, more sustainable routine, intermittent fasting might be worth a try — especially if you focus on healthy foods and stay consistent.

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

Book a FREE consultation online today!

Primary, From Page 1

vying for the chance to take on Republican incumbent Tommy Pope, a well-known figure in York County politics who previously served as Speaker Pro Tempore of the South Carolina House. Pope will enter the general election with the advantages of incumbency and name recognition, making this primary a proving ground for whichever candidate hopes to mount a credible fall challenge.

House District 49 (Democratic Primary):

District 49 features a Democratic-on-Democratic contest with no Republican currently filed in the race. That added weight means the primary winner is positioned to win the seat outright in November.

County Council District 3 (Republican Primary):

The most crowded primary on the York County ballot this cycle features three Republicans competing for the GOP nomination. Three-way primaries are notoriously unpredictable. With the Republican vote splitting three ways, any candidate could advance with a plurality, or the race could be forced into a runoff if no one clears the required threshold. No Democratic challenger has filed, meaning the primary winner will be the overwhelming favorite in November.

County Council District 7 (Republican Primary):

A two-way Republican primary will be the defining moment of this race, as no Democrat has filed for the general election. With the general election effectively decided by the primary, voters in District 7 will want to hear clearly from both candidates on local issues including development, infrastructure, and county services.

Probate Judge (Republican Primary):

The York County Probate Court handles wills, estates, guardianships, and mental health commitments, making the Probate Judge one of the most consequential local offices that often receives the least attention on the campaign trail. With no Democratic candidate currently in the field, the primary winner is on a clear path to the bench. The outcome will shape how York County residents navigate some of the most sensitive legal moments of their lives, from settling a loved one's estate to seeking guardianship for a family member who can no longer care for themselves.

What Primary Voters Should Know

Primary elections in South Carolina are open, meaning registered voters may participate in either the Republican or Democratic primary, but not both.

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Charlie's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1) Campground abodes
- 6) Public scenes
- 10) Partly open
- 14) Open-eyed
- 15) "Citizen ____" (film)
- 16) Yield
- 17) Cut into smaller pieces
- 18) Felt sorry about
- 19) Some flock members
- 20) Wild West outlaw
- 23) Inventor Whitney
- 24) Meat cut
- 25) Grand ____ (wine label word)
- 26) Dawson or Deighton
- 27) And so forth (Abbr.)
- 30) Platoon leaders (Abbr.)
- 32) Ornery mood
- 34) Castle's watery defense
- 36) Sounds of discovery
- 38) A wise beginning?
- 41) When to be saved from the theme entries?
- 44) Knee-to-ankle bone
- 45) "____ all else fails ..."
- 46) Trompe l'____ (optical illusion)
- 47) Cold War foe, briefly
- 49) Go for ____ (take a nice run)
- 51) Cook an egg, in a way
- 52) Road covering
- 54) Brewed beverage
- 56) Individualized atmosphere
- 58) Fix, as a game's outcome
- 59) Fingernail filer, among criminals
- 64) Sea-girt land
- 66) Wine bottle feature
- 67) Socially smooth
- 68) Lively spirit
- 69) Work on one's muscles
- 70) Las Vegas attraction
- 71) Arid
- 72) "Don't expunge that!"
- 73) Shouts

DOWN

- 1) Like a lemon
- 2) Large pitcher
- 3) "The Eagle has landed" recipient
- 4) Biker's path
- 5) Like some patches
- 6) LeBron James' birthplace
- 7) Apply crudely, as paint
- 8) Year before A.D. began
- 9) Passover dinners
- 10) Expert fighter pilot
- 11) Crook interested in rock collections?
- 12) "Chasing Pavements" singer
- 13) Pine exudation
- 21) "Costa" or "Puerto" follower
- 22) ____-the-mill
- 27) Give off
- 28) "Beloved" novelist Morrison
- 29) Stealthy stealer
- 31) Spinal vertebrae
- 33) "Leave ____ Beaver"
- 35) "With ____ ring ..."
- 37) Common sight in Aspen
- 39) Arabian bigwig
- 40) Show faith in (with "on")
- 42) Bridge-seat occupants
- 43) "Days ____ Lives"
- 48) Responds to stimuli
- 50) Like an infamous Dallas knoll
- 52) Takes a stab at
- 53) Airline-seat locale
- 55) Like the game, to Sherlock Holmes
- 57) Type of angle
- 60) Eagle of the coasts
- 61) "Communist Manifesto" co-author Marx
- 62) Definitely not good
- 63) Salespeople, briefly
- 65) 67.5 degrees, direction-wise

A CROOKED PUZZLE

By Caroline Biggs

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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				9					

Mother's Day

Find and circle all of the Mother's Day related terms that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Victor Hugo quotation.

A H U G S C M F T T D G H O D B T H E
 Y L I M A F L S R N N E R E E N S A G
 E R A R S O M U U I A G S A L S I N D
 A T I U W M S G T P N R U S G P I K E
 R N A E G T I R N I P T E N E V F G V
 G E R R I H O L H I I O I L O L N U O
 J S H N E F T C E F T R R L O I B D L
 R O G T M D A E U S U P E T Z T P E E
 T P Y O O E I L R T E M E A I R A V B
 E R C D T M E S R O V F M C O V T O E
 N E T E G N D U N E I A R U C N E T C
 D C H E N S N S A O T N D D C A H E I
 E I O S I R E S P E C T F U L I L D N
 R O U S R A D V I C E G E N E R O U S
 R U G E I L U F H C T A W G I V I N G
 O S H L P E S I W D O A G N I R A H S
 T R T F S G N I G A R U O C N E E N S
 N L F L N E E P S M P O U G N O R T S
 E N U E I D L Y L I S T E N E R I N T
 M H L S D E A R L U F R E D N O W E M

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| ACCEPTING | FAMILY | MENTOR | STRONG |
| ADVICE | FLOWERS | MOTHER | SUPPORTIVE |
| AMAZING | GENEROUS | NICE | TEACHING |
| BEAUTIFUL | GIVING | NURTURING | TENDER |
| BELOVED | HELPFUL | PRECIOUS | THOUGHTFUL |
| BLESSED | HUGS | PROTECTIVE | TOLERANT |
| CARING | INSPIRING | PROUD | TRUSTING |
| COMFORTING | JOY | RESPECTFUL | WARM |
| CONSIDERATE | KIND | SELFLESS | WATCHFUL |
| DEAR | LAUGHTER | SHARING | WISE |
| DEVOTED | LISTENER | SMILES | WONDERFUL |
| ENCOURAGING | LOVING | | |

YoCo News

FREE • Vol. 2 - No. 5 Shining a Light on York and Lancaster Counties

May 2026

Rock Hill Named Among Six South Carolina Innovation Hubs



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Rock Hill will host one of six new Innovation Hubs under a statewide initiative announced Thursday by the South Carolina Research Authority, placing York County at the center of an effort to accelerate the state's technology economy.

SCRA, a public nonprofit chartered by the state in 1983, said on April 23 it is launching a network of Innovation Hubs in Rock Hill, Columbia, Charleston, Greenville, Aiken, and Florence. The hubs are intended to serve as regional centers for collaboration, resource sharing, and support for emerging technology companies as they grow from early ideas into established enterprises.

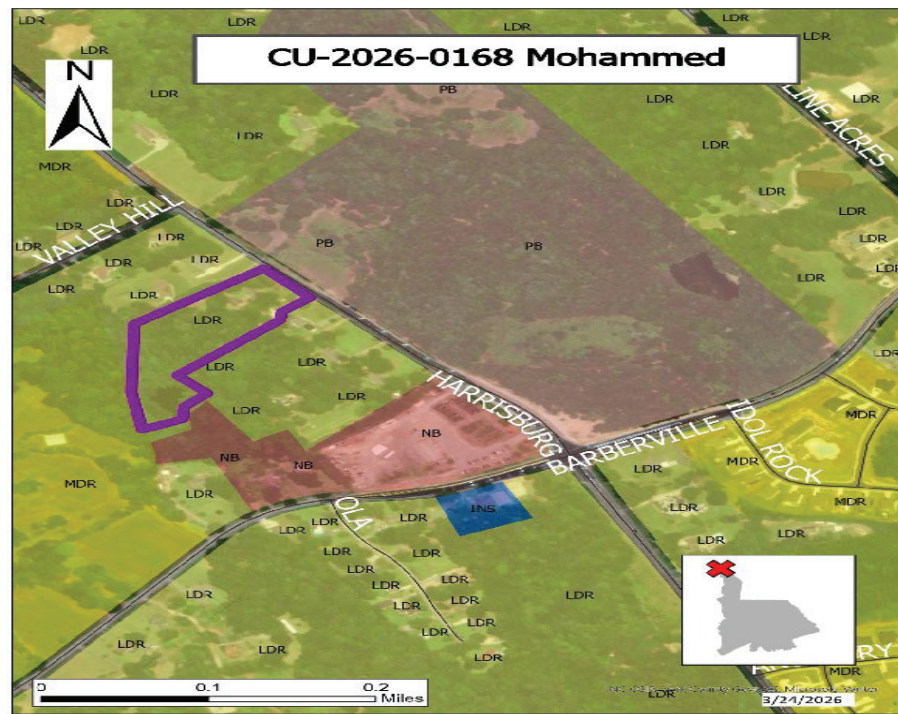
Grant Funding Opens In May

To jumpstart programming at the hubs, SCRA will begin making grant funding available to entrepreneurial support organizations in May. Eligible nonprofit organizations, including accelerators, incubators, colleges, universities, and industry associations, may apply for grants to develop programming that helps early stage technology companies accelerate their work.

Grant funding will support a range of activities, including mentorship programs, pitch competitions, technical workshops, investor matchmaking events, and specialized training in areas such as product development, market strategy, fundraising, and intellectual property.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. SCRA said priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate strong potential for measurable outcomes, including job creation, new company formation, and increased private investment.

Lancaster County Planning Commission Recommends Denial of Indian Land Mosque



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The Lancaster County Planning Commission voted Tuesday to recommend denial of a conditional use permit for a mosque at 10935 Harrisburg Road in Indian Land, sending the matter to county council for a final decision.

The application sought a conditional use permit for a place of assembly on a roughly five acre parcel zoned Low Density Residential. County planning staff had recommended approval, finding the application met Unified Development Ordinance requirements. Commissioner Sheila Hinson recused herself.

Angelo Tilman of AllPro Development presented the application on behalf of applicants including Abdul Manan of Fort Mill. Tilman said the mosque would serve 40 to 50 members initially, with parking for up to 100 vehicles, and would have no outside speakers or external call to prayer. Services would generally be held Friday afternoons.

Chair Shelly Richards said she received 24 emails opposing the application. More than a dozen residents spoke during the public hearing, most in opposition. Traffic on Harrisburg Road, which carried an average 7,300 vehicles per day in 2025 according to SCDOT, was the most cited concern. Residents also pointed to overflow parking, infrastructure strain, and a planned school nearby.

Commissioners focused their stated reasons on land use compatibility. Commissioner Frances Liu said the parcel sits between two houses and was unsuitable for any place of assembly. Commissioner Judianna Tinklenberg cited broader infrastructure strain.

Before the hearing, Tinklenberg objected to a staff report passage that she said inaccurately attributed a call to prayer question to her.

The application now goes to Lancaster County Council for a final decision.

Student Skill Powers the Future at Utility Line Worker Rodeo



YORK, S.C. — Students from across York County put their skills to the test today during a high-energy Utility Line Worker Rodeo, showcasing hands-on training and real-world readiness in front of industry professionals and community partners.

Participants from Floyd D. Johnson Technology Center, York Comprehensive High School, Clover High School, and York Technical College demonstrated essential line worker skills including pole climbing, equipment handling, safety procedures, and teamwork. The event provided a unique opportunity for students to apply classroom learning in a competitive, real-world environment while gaining valuable exposure to potential employers.

Representatives from local utility companies were in attendance, observing student performance and had the opportunity to engage with participants about career pathways in the energy sector. Their presence highlighted the strong partnership between education and industry, and the growing demand for skilled workers in utility careers.

A highlight of the event was a generous \$15,000 contribution from Duke Energy to York Comprehensive High School. The funding will support the continued growth and sustainability of the school's line worker training program



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