

The Roaring Eagle



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ISSUE 31

MAY 2026

Clover first to declare stage two water restrictions

BY ANTHONY MATHIPANNHA, CHS SENIOR

YORK COUNTY, S.C. — Clover has become the first municipality in York County to declare Stage 2 water restrictions as an ongoing drought continues to strain the region’s water supply.

What’s Happening?

The drought — the worst to hit the region in more than a decade — has pushed Lake Wylie water levels 15 to 17 inches below average, exposing submerged obstacles that many boaters don’t realize are closer to the surface than usual. The lower levels have

triggered a spike in rescue calls and boat repairs as temperatures rise. Forecasters have not issued any significant rainfall outlook for the coming weeks, raising concerns that con-

ditions will worsen heading into summer.

As reported on WBTV, Catawba Riverkeeper Brandon Jones explained boat rescue calls have increased 40% since the drought began. Jones said water flow into Lake Wylie has dropped from more than 500 liters per day to about 150 liters as of April 20. He added that current water levels are the lowest the lake has seen in 80 years, with docks now sitting above the waterline.

Without significant rain-

fall, levels may continue to drop.

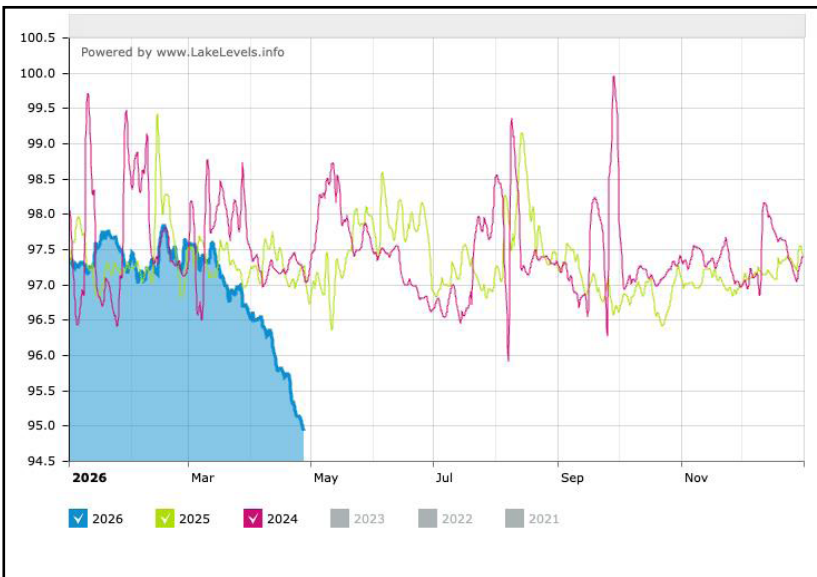
Effects of the Drought

TowBoatUS reports a surge in calls as shallow water conditions create hazards across the lake.

“We’ve had a huge influx of groundings and low water-related incidents here on the lakes as the water has been low,” said Logan Thomas, a captain with TowBoatUS.

Boaters attempting to dock must now wade through shallow water on foot. Motorboat Mechanics on Lake Wylie has

repaired dozens of damaged propellers in the past two weeks alone as exposed rocks, trees, stumps and other debris increasingly cause hull and propeller damage. Repairs to damaged propellers and lower



Lake Wylie levels in 2026 compared to 2024 and 2025. Source: wylie.uslakes.info

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units can cost boat owners hundreds to thousands of dollars, and mechanics warn that repair timelines are growing as demand rises.

The drought’s severity has forced officials to close boat ramps, including those at Allison Creek, as of early May. For now, the boat ramp at Buster Boyd Bridge remains open.

The Lake Wylie Marine Commission is closely monitoring conditions and may take additional action if water levels continue to fall.

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New scientists

Bethel and CHS preschool students partake in an inter-district science competition run by the Science National Honors Society.

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A new addition to CHS

Clover High School welcomes a new percussion director to the team.

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Clover Cuisine

CloverLEAF held its fourth annual Clover Cuisine at CHS, catered by

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Junior chefs

3 Clover High students, a part of the culinary arts program, competed and placed second in two high-level chef competitions.

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COMMUNITY

Sewage spill fouls Lake Wylie just as boating season begins

BY PIPER HAYCOCK, CHS SOPHOMORE

CLOVER, S.C. - On April 19, 70,000 gallons of sewage water spilled into Boyd's Cove, Lake Wylie. The sewage leaked via a creek located on Grand Palisades Parkway. The Charlotte Observer reported a pipe failure caused the spill, but homeowners on the lake are confused with how that led to tens of thousands of gallons leaking.

The city of Charlotte released an updated 'No Swim Advisory' on April 23. Water samples showed high levels of bacteria. This added to the existing bacteria.

Harley Green, a homeowner in the affected area, voiced his frustration. Green said members of the community noticed the leak days before

restoration services showed up. This made him question whether the city even knew what had happened. He criticized the transparency from news outlets and alerts. He said "the information about the cause, remedy, and remediation is almost non-existent".

Green noted this is the second time this type of incident has happened in two years,

though last time it was on private property.

Incidents like this can be concerning for people all

over Lake Wylie.

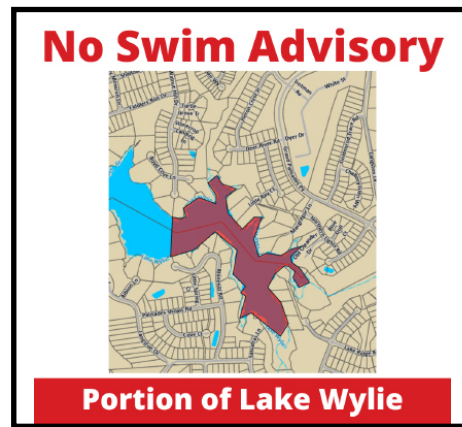
Other homeowners share Green's concerns. On WBTV, Celia Wilson linked the overdevelopment and clear cut-

ting with water quality, which she says increases issues with runoff and sewage.

Though this 'No Swim Advisory' was only in a small area of the lake, this cove opens directly on the main channel near Buster Boyd Bridge.

On April 30, the advisory lifted when bacteria levels returned to normal. With the ongoing drought, most coves have been left bone dry. This has postponed recreations regardless of high or low bacteria levels.

The spill comes just as the boating season kicked off. This news has left residents weary about the water's integrity. The Lake Wylie community now wonders when they can return to the water.



Source: City of CLT

Proposed guardrails added to license plate readers, like Flock

BY KYLEE LOWE, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C. - The South Carolina General Assembly introduced Senate Bill 447 and House Bill 4675 to place barriers on license plate surveillance cameras, including Flock. Both bills are different approaches to what the cameras can and cannot do.

Senate Bill 447

The Senate introduced Bill 447 on March 12, 2025, focusing on regulating the use of license plate readers. SB 447 creates a legal framework for cameras. It specifies that they can only be used "by a state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency for the comparison of license plate data". They can also be used for law enforcement

and criminal justice purposes which includes operating and maintaining the reader database.

This bill enables license plate readers, like Flock, to be used with basic legal guidelines to follow. These guidelines include "Any person who knowingly requests, uses, obtains, or attempts to obtain captured license plate data for a law enforcement agency under false pretenses or for any purpose other than those sent forth in subsections (D) is guilty of a misdemeanor," meaning that access to the footage from these cameras are now limited under penalty of law.

House Bill 4675

The House introduced this bill on January 13, 2026, and it is awaiting action in the House Judiciary Committee.

HB 4675 changes the way license plate readers are being used. It targets AI vehicle tracking, cloud storage on third party servers and adds oversight by banning certain systems using AI.

"No State or local law enforcement agency may use AI or automated systems that identify, or track vehicles based on appearance, characteristics, or features other than license plates."

HB 4675 also adds judicial oversight, reporting requirements and restrictions

on third party participation specifically. It states, "No state or local law enforcement agency may use, contract for, or participate in any surveillance system that stores surveillance data on third-party servers."

Both bills set stringent guidelines for Law Enforcement agencies by stating what they can and cannot do with the cameras. South Carolina lawmakers now have to make a decision on whether to approve these guidelines, revise them, or not enact them.

Without guidelines like these, it is up to individual municipalities to determine restrictions.

Making Waves for a Cause: 4th Annual Paddle for the Cure Shines on Lake Wylie

BY PAUL MORAN, LAKE WYLIE ROTARY CLUB, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

CLOVER, S.C.- Lake Wylie showed its heart on April 18, 2026, as 45 paddlers—joined by volunteers, families, and supporters—gathered at Camp Thunderbird for the 4th Annual Paddle for the Cure. What began as a simple idea shared by a Lake Wylie Rotarian in 2022 has grown into one of the community's most inspiring spring traditions, uniting neighbors, local businesses, and civic organizations in the fight against Alzheimer's.

This year's event was nothing short of extraordinary. Under a brilliant Carolina blue sky, the day opened with the Crowder Creek Elementary Honors Choir performing the national anthem as the crowd looked on at a majestic flag raised by the Bethel Volunteer Fire Department. Participants then took to their paddleboards and kayaks to honor loved ones and raise critical funds for Alzheimer's research. The atmosphere was electric, with live music from the Cove Creek Bluegrass Band adding to the celebration.

The silent auction once again lived up to its reputation as one of the largest on



Paddlers are getting into position to start the race. Source: Paul Moran

Lake Wylie, featuring more than 100 donated items. Patrons strolled through the displays, and the friendly, spirited bidding was a highlight of the day.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity and partnership of our sponsors. To every business, organization, and individual who stepped forward—Thank You. Your support fuels this mission. A special thank you goes to our title sponsor, QTS Data Centers, whose leadership helped elevate this year's event to new heights. We also extend deep appreciation to our Gold Sponsor, Kaia & Cayden; our Silver Sponsors, Buckeye Fire Equipment, Paul &

Sandy Moran in Memory of Ann G., and AK Media; and our Bronze Sponsors, including Capstone Accounting & Advisory Group, Cornerstone Wealth Advisors, Freedom Boat Club, Watson Insurance, United Bank, Express Sunrooms, Shoreline Plumbing, Karrus Homes, and Mary Sieck – Rinehart Realty in Memory of Col. Michael Noll. Your commitment propels us forward.

We are equally grateful to the many local businesses that contributed through monetary gifts, in kind donations, silent auction items, and promotional support. Particularly vital to this year's success were America's Boat Club of the Catawba, which provided paddler safety vessels, and TowBoatUS, which set course buoys and supported on water safety. From restaurants and retailers to

service providers and waterfront partners, your involvement demonstrates the true power of community impact. Civic groups and nonprofits also played a crucial role.

Rotary members, youth volunteers from Clover High School Interact and Air Force Jr. ROTC, first responders from the Bethel Volunteer Fire Department, and members of America's Boat Club worked side by side to ensure a safe, joyful, and meaningful experience for every participant. Their teamwork reflects the very best of Lake Wylie.

And finally—to the community at large: thank you for



CHS AFJROTC students helped set up for the race. Source: Paul Moran

paddling, cheering, donating, sharing, and believing in this cause. Whether you were on the water, on the shore, or bidding at the silent auction, you helped make this year's Paddle for the Cure our most successful yet.

As we look ahead to year five, one thing is clear: when Lake Wylie comes together, hope moves forward. And together, we will keep paddling toward a future without Alzheimer's.



Contestants are setting up to get in the water. Source: Paul Moran

COMMUNITY

River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Club Run draws 250+ for childhood health causes

BY ART VERNICK, RIVER HILLS/LAKE WYLIE LIONS MEMBER, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

LAKE WYLIE, SC – The scenic streets of Lake Wylie were buzzing with energy the last Saturday in April as the River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Club hosted its annual Run for Life event. With more than 250 runners, walkers, and families crossing the finish line, the event successfully raised vital funds and awareness for childhood diabetes prevention and the Children’s Cancer Partners of the Carolinas.

The April 25th event featured a competitive 10K, a family-friendly 5K, and a One Mile Fun Walk, drawing par-



This entire family, most who participated in the Run, got a picture with the Lion. Source: Chad Clark

ticipants of all ages. Beyond the physical challenge, the morning served as a community-wide rally for health education and support for local families facing medical crises.

Serving a Global Mission on a Local Scale

In alignment with Lions Clubs International’s global causes that includes diabetes and childhood cancer. The River Hills/Lake Wylie chapter is channeling 100% of the proceeds into localized health programs. These include:

- Free health screening events for early diabetes detection.
- Educational workshops aimed at prevention and lifestyle management.

- Direct financial assistance for individuals in need of testing supplies or treatment resources.
- Support for Children’s Cancer Partners of the Carolinas, providing critical resources for families navigating pediatric cancer.

“The turnout this year speaks volumes about the heart of this community,” said George Elmiger, co-chair of this year’s event for the River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Club. “Our motto is ‘We Serve,’ and seeing over 250 people hit the pavement to support childhood health initiatives proves that when we run together, we

can truly move the needle on diabetes awareness and help for the Children’s Cancer Partners of the Carolinas.”

The race course showcased the natural beauty of the River Hills area, concluding with a post-race gathering that featured local health booths, music, and food. The event was made possible through the collaborative efforts of local volunteer teams, health-care providers, and schools, all working toward the shared goal of promoting active lifestyles and preventive care. For those who were unable to participate but still wish to contribute to the cause, donations are still being accepted through the Lions Club website.



Runners of all ages participate. Source: Chad Clark



RHLW Lions President, Michelle Gurevitch, handed out medals. Source: Chad Clark



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Little scientists, big discoveries

BY LILY BRODBECK, CHS JUNIOR

CLOVER, S.C. - Students in the Clover High School Science National Honor Society organized the Inter-District Preschool Science Competition to serve the community. Student leaders designed the event to build scientific inquiry skills in preschoolers.

Science teacher Preethi Ramasamy introduced the idea as a memory from her childhood and home country. She was born in India and wanted to bring her traditions and culture to the U.S.. India hosts regional and state competitions. Ramasamy adapted the concept into an inter-district competition for different grade levels. The society started with preschoolers and plans to expand to other grade levels annually.

Lydia Walters, a member of the SNHS, says the kids were fun to work with and were so excited to learn from their older buddies. "They

loved working with the students. They showed so much curiosity in their eyes and their body language," Ramasamy said. This community service project turned into so much more. It created a spark in each preschool student that can only grow from here.

The high school students visited preschool classrooms at both Clover High School and Bethel Elementary for two weeks. They conducted activities that introduced key concepts including prediction, data collection and analysis through writing and drawing. Activities involved oobleck exploration and water density experiments. Oobleck is a mixture of cornstarch and water that acts as both a liquid and a solid. Each child worked, with support from their teacher, on individual and group projects. For the culminating activity, the preschool students de-

signed and built bridges while applying these same scientific practices—making predictions, recording the number of trials and analyzing outcomes. Students tested bridges using weight, and rankings reflected the maximum weight each bridge could support.

The winning team, with a weight of 5,900 grams, was Adalynn Mauney, Ronin Sayanama, Charlee Neal, and Harlee Bell.

Second place winners, with a weight of 5,600 grams, were Henson Wood, Chandler Overbeek, and Cameron Dool.

Third place, with a weight of 5,000 grams, went to Aria Wells, Paiton Wofford, Avery Vitaris, and Walker Ford.

This act of community service



Mrs. Ramasamy joins the students for a picture with their bridge.

from the CHS Science National Honor Society exceeded expectations. The preschoolers had a day filled with learning, spending time with their older buddies and a little friendly competition. Teachers were able to watch their students show their knowledge, reflecting and applying the concepts they learned.

CCI students land 2 of 30 slots at competitive fire camp for girls

BY TYLER ALLEN, CHS JUNIOR

CLOVER, S.C. -Congratulations to Chloe Ivey and Mullally Holt of the Center for Career Innovations Fire Science program on their acceptance into Camp Ignite, a four-night, five-day fire camp for high school girls scheduled for June 16-20, 2026. The CCI offers an Emergency and Fire Management program designed for high school students interested in careers in the fire service. The program prepares students for entry-level roles by focusing on both theoretical knowledge and hands-on, practical skills.



Chloe Ivey and Mullally Holt with CCI Principal, Carrie Bolin
Source: Scott Boyd

Hosted by the Charlotte Fire Department, Camp Ignite provides hands-on training in search and rescue, rappelling and hose work to build confi-

dence and teamwork under the guidance of professional female firefighters. Ivey and Holt secured two of only 30 available slots.

Chief Scott Boyd serves as their CCI instructor. The program meets standards set for high school and

career and technology center programs in South Carolina, ensuring training aligns with the National Fire Protection Association 1001 standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications.

Ivey said she applied to Camp Ignite because she wants to pursue firefighting after high school, with plans to earn forensic science certifications as well.

Holt said she has always wanted to be a firefighter, and earning a spot at Camp Ignite represents the first step toward that goal.

'I'll Never Forget This': Queens University Basketball surprises Larne student after class project

BY RYAN SCONZO, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C. - For most fifth graders, a school project wraps up with a grade and maybe a few minutes at the front of the classroom. For Weston, it ended with a Division I basketball team walking through his classroom door.

Weston spent weeks creating his March Madness project about Queens University of Charlotte — its players, its history, its unlikely path to the NCAA Tournament. He sent a letter. He figured he'd get one back. What he didn't figure on was the team actually showing up. "I thought they might send a letter back and maybe a few stickers or something for my class," Weston said. "I didn't think they would actually come."

They came.

When the Queens players and coach walked in, Weston recognized them immediately. "That's Gus. Oh my gosh," he said, according to his teacher. "What are they doing here?" The moment hit him fast — Gus, he'd noted in his



Weston poses with Buddy the dog and his visitors from Queens University.

project, stands 6-foot-10. And Chris, he pointed out, is 40th in the world for three-pointers and one of the best players in Queens history.

His classmates were equally stunned. "I felt proud and shocked," one student said. "I can't believe out of all those schools, they came to our school. What are the chances?" Another just said, "I felt special." A third put it plainly: "It was like a dream. It just doesn't happen."

For Weston, the highlight was simple. "Getting to hold Buddy the dog and taking a picture with everybody," he said. "Words can't answer

how cool it was." He's still processing it. "I'll never forget this," he said. "I'm still riding high from it."

Betsy Heintz created the annual project that led to the visit — herself a Queens graduate. Every March, she assigns her students a university to research, watch, and write about. The basketball is almost beside the point. "It's not so much the basketball end of it," Heintz said. "It's letting them know there's a whole world outside of Clover, South Carolina." Some of her students have never left the state. Most, she said, don't know much beyond Clemson and the Gamecocks. "I want them to understand there are options outside of here too."

The project runs deep. Students research their assigned school, watch a game with their family, work through figurative language assignments, and — crucially — write a handwritten letter to the university president. Hines doesn't let them type it. The math teacher down the hall folds in probability and statistics. "Once I have their buy-in, I've got them," Heintz

said.

It's worked before. She's had former students go on to attend Baylor and Wisconsin — schools they first encountered through this project. "When I went to their graduations, they were like, 'We're going here because of March Madness,'" she said.

When she got the email saying Queens would actually visit, she was at the middle school on a tour. "I read it and thought, 'Did that say what I think it said?'" She kept a straight face, then quietly emailed Weston's parents to get permission — and to make sure nobody gave it away. She wanted the surprise to land.

It did.

After the players left, Heintz said one thing they told the class stuck with her. When asked how it felt to play against bigger programs — Wake Forest, the Carolinas — their answer was short. It's just basketball. Same game, whatever the stage. She drove that home with her students. "It doesn't matter if you're on the biggest stage in the world or the smallest," she said. "You do you and great things are gonna happen."

Weston has already decided where he wants that stage to be. "Yes, I want to go to Queens," he said. "Miss Heintz went there and she turned out wonderful." Asked what he'd tell future students who get to do the project, his answer didn't take long. "Write the letter," he said. "Just dream."



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Kristal Stefanov named a National Outstanding Assistant Principal

BY KYLEE LOWE, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C. - The National Association of Elementary School Principals named Bethany Elementary Assistant Principal Kristal Stefanov a National Outstanding Assistant Principal after she won South Carolina Assistant Principal of the Year. Stefanov states, "I was honestly a bit shocked when I first received the news—it's not something you ever expect, especially when you're surrounded by so many talented and dedicated educators doing amazing work every day."

The National Association of Elementary School Principals sent Stefanov an email on Easter morning naming her a National Outstanding Assistant Principal. She was



Kristal Stefanov Source: Clover School District

shocked when she saw the email, she told her husband and called her son, who had a very heart warming reaction.

The Association of Elementary School Principals selected Stefanov to compete at the national level

based on her state win in an application and interview process. This included sharing work, impact, and leadership skills. From there the association chose her as a National Outstanding AP.

After asking Stefanov

about her future goals she shared she wants to grow as a leader and to become a principal. "I'm always looking for ways to improve in my profession and better support both students and staff."

Stefanov adds that her recognition not only reflects her but also the people who she works with, her students, and staff. She loves being part of this community. "I'm passionate about creating a school where everyone feels supported, challenged, and valued, and I'll continue to do that work each day. This honor is meaningful, but what matters most to me is the impact we're making together for our students."

A new rhythm begins at CHS

BY BRODY WOOLBRIGHT, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C. - Clover has hired new percussionist, Joshua Roper. Roper, who is originally from Spartanburg, is the third generation member in his family to be a percussionist.

He went to Furman University and has performed world-wide. Most recently, he has served as the Associate Director of Bands and Percussion Director at Indian Land High School in Indian Land, South Carolina.

Roper served for the Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps in 2021, as well as the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps in 2022 as the snare line for both drum corps. Roper was also the percussion instructor at Dorman High School, Travelers Rest

High-school, and camps like Furman's Youth camp and Carolina Youth Symphony camp.

Roper says what most excites him to come to Clover is "to build upon the established excel-



Source: Bands of Clover Facebook Page

lence of the band and percussion programs here at Clover High School."

Clover has built a strong program, and Roper is excited to build off that. Roper's main

goal is to "sustain the program's historic success while creating new, enriching opportunities for our students."

Roper moved to plans for Clover next when he said, "I bring a dedicated focus on developing both great musicians and great people, ensuring a rewarding experience for students and parents alike."

The hardest thing about starting a new job is leaving the last. When talking to us, Roper emphasized that "while it was difficult to leave my previous role due to our recent achievements and the wonderful colleagues I worked with, I am fully prepared and eager for this next step."

ROTC to D.C.

BY ANTHONY MATHIPANNHA, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C. - After going through two fast-paced and highly competitive rounds, four Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadets from Clover have risen up and earned a coveted spot at the 2026 JROTC Leadership

Wallace, Jessica Vance, Lilian Munn, and Mya Tobe can go compete in Washington D.C. Securing their place among top JROTC Leadership & Academic, the team competed against over 5,000 teams to be among the top units

ship (JLAB) is one of the most prestigious academic competitions exclusively for ROTC Cadets. Topics focus on leadership, teamwork, and excellence. The competition is organized by the College Options Foundation, which has supported years of academics for ROTC Cadets through competition and college readiness.

leading commanding officer of the ROTC Cadets spoke of preparation "Our academic team will review preparation material and work to be competitive. Our team consists of very bright individuals who strive to give it their all."

Christopher also spoke of what this opportunity meant to Clover High and Clover AFROTC. "It pushes our cadets to emulate one of our basic core values, Excellence in All We Do. This core value plays an important role in our program. This will also help recruit new talent to the team. I have nothing but confidence in our team and the team leaders. This is my first time going as an instructor and I hope to learn more regards to the competition."

The academic competition tested cadets on core subjects including math, science, and language arts. Leadership Teams were tested on leadership values, skills, and citizenship. All teams were challenged far beyond the classroom, being tested on current events, financial literacy, and critical thinking under time pressure

Why does it Matter?

To Clover High School, this competition and achievement means much more than just a trip to Washington D.C. This competition reflects the months of work, the preparation, and discipline in leadership development the JROTC program aims to build.

Lt Col (Ret) Adam Christopher, the Senior Aerospace Science Instructor and the



(L to R) Lilly Munn, EmmaGale Wallace, Briana Tobe, Mya Tobe, Mia Weldon, Taylor Schultheis, Ashlyn Coffey, and Jessica Vance Source: CHS AFJROTC Instagram Page

& Academic Bowl Finals in Washington D.C. at The Catholic University of America on June 12-16.

Clover High's AFJROTC Leadership & Academic Team was made up of the 8 cadets in the photo above. However, only Emma Gale

nationwide from 98 different high schools across 40 states as well as programs outside the US including Guam, Japan, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

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CHS students win national contest

BY TYLER ALLEN, CHS JUNIOR

CLOVER, S.C. —Two Clover High School students earned top honors in a national contest focused on the dangers and benefits of battery recycling. Junior Vayda LeMere won the Grand Prize in the poster contest, and senior Cheyenne Joshi won the Grand Prize in the video contest at the Recycling Materials Association's recent competition.



Representatives from the International Recycling Convention pictured with Cheyenne Joshi (Left Center) and Vayda LeMere (Right Center) and teacher Preethi Ramasamy (Far Right). Source: CSD Facebook page

The students, along with their sponsor Preethi Ramasamy, traveled to Las Vegas

to accept their awards at the International Recycling Convention.

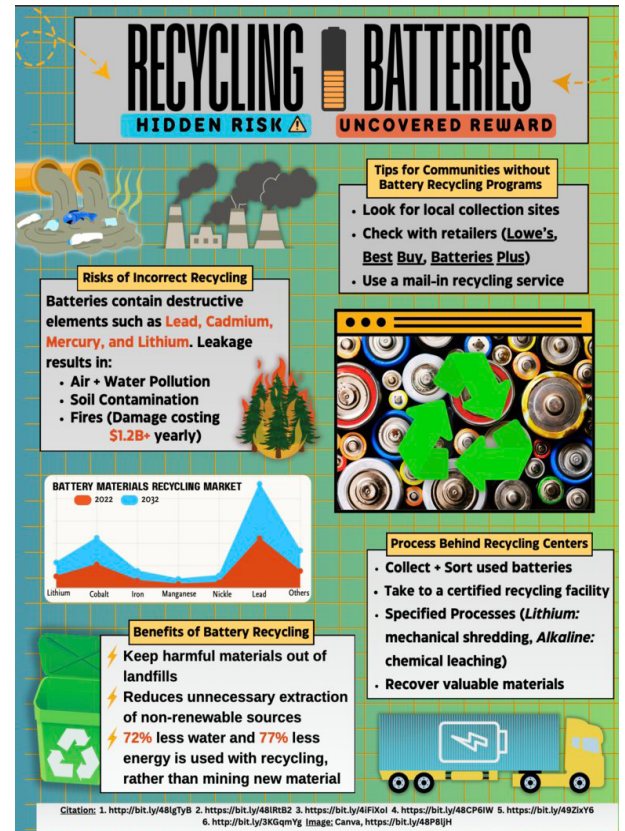
The theme for this year's contests was "Batter Recycling: Hidden Risks and Rewards."

Joshi's winning video highlighted the dangers of improper battery disposal. "In less than 7 years, there have been 250 fires in waste facilities due to improper battery recycling," Joshi said. Her video outlined how battery-related incidents can cause burns, tissue death, poisoning, and internal bleeding.

The projects emphasized that battery recycling is critical for more than just safety. Recycling centers help

conserve important resources and boost the economy while reducing carbon, water, and energy footprints.

Vayda's main purpose for making her poster was that she wanted people to know how easy and simple it is to recycle batteries, so then that will help out the environment. She said "I just wanted to convey that everyone should begin recycling batteries because it's a



LeMere's winning poster Source: CSD Facebook page

simple thing to do."

The winning video can be viewed here: <https://drive.google.com/.../1LVjXI0359f-pduFOYyCLi4n.../view>.

Clover High School hosts the Olde English Consortium Quiz Bowl

BY KYLEE LOWE, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER S.C.—Meghan Campbell and Christina Ghent hosted the Olde English Consortium Quiz Bowl at Lake Wylie Christian Academy on March 6. Lewisville High School won in the small school division and Indian Land took the lead in the large division.

The large division included Clover, Rock Hill, Northwestern, South Pointe, Fort Mill, Nation Ford, Indian Land, Catawba Ridge, York Com-

prehensive, and Lancaster High School. The small division starred Chester, Fairfield Central, Andrew Jackson, Buford, Lewisville, and Great Falls High School competed.

Tournaments were held in separate rooms simultaneously. Each room was directed by a reader and timer to judge each response. The readers were Kathryn Coady, Michelle Vitaris, Ben Clark, Shannon Godwin, Olivia Praga, Kelly Clark, Ann Shearer,

Mica Brakefield, and Curtis Godwin. Questions could vary from math problems to the origin of words. The timers were Martha Lowery, Leann Mellon, Dan Potter, Ali Womack, Alberto Palmo-Sanchez, Amanda Karr, Brandy Christopher, Michelene Richey, and Christina Ghent.

The Clover ROTC brought about 40 volunteers to help. Meghan Campbell said, "They organized clean setups, broke down everything for us. With-

out those students we would have been lost."

Campbell credited Lake Wylie Christian Academy, especially Pastor Billy Ginn for the use of their facilities. She said, "They were very generous and patient with us. They understood how to help us."

Ghent said Campbell was the "star of the show" and that "It was a really great year."

Inside Clover cuisine

BY KAYA SPENCER, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C. - Clover Cuisine used to be called Taste of Clover and invites restaurants

the community an opportunity to support the students. It is also done in conjunction with CloverLEAF so they help them raise money for teacher requests while also showcasing what his class has learned throughout the year.

CloverLEAF is a nonprofit organization that raises money for teacher grants. It supports not only Clover

High School, but the entire Clover School District.

The theme for this year's Clover Cuisine was Local Clover. Chef Michaw showcased a bunch of their ingredients from local markets that reflect the culture of the community such as strawberries from Bush and Vine, tomatoes from SLC Farms, pork from Herndon, microgreens from



Ethan Solomon serves a flavorful dish to a patron. Source: Clover LEAF Facebook Page

companies by getting their name out there.

A reporter from The Roaring Eagle had the opportunity to interview one of the students who was a part of Clover Cuisine.

Connor Malloy had the sous chef position. He went around and made sure that everyone had their stations stocked up. "I would

have to go back and get another couple things then run back. Overall, just monitoring the whole thing myself."

Being a part of Clover Cuisine changed the way he thought about the banquet style service because there's a lot more that goes into it. "Such as preparing the food beforehand because when you're actually there, it's a lot more different. Especially when you're sort of trying to run the whole

thing which is stressful, but at the same time it's fun."



Abigail Thompson frosts away. Source: Clover LEAF Facebook Page

from the area to showcase one of their dishes and raise money for Cloverleaf.

During COVID, it was tougher for restaurants to cook for the community, so they decided to let Chef Michaw's class do it on their own.

His class usually creates a theme for the event. Students prepare a variety of dishes while gaining real world experience in cooking and teamwork. The event also gives



The menu of offerings for Clover Cuisine. Source: Clover LEAF Facebook Page

Fields of Revery, and shrimp from The Saltwater Market. This also helps support these



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Cooking up champions

BY LILY BRODBECK, CHS JUNIOR

CLOVER, S.C. - Chef Scott Michaw took three students to compete in the Southeast Regional Jr. Chef Competition. Mr. Ken Love, the Clover School District Chief Financial Officer, recommended this event to Chef Michaw for years, but Chef decided to compete this year. Fortunately, Abigail Thompson, Ryan Jones and Connor Malloy won second place with a dish of fresh southwest quinoa salad, grilled chicken strips, and a glaze of avocado ranch.

The challenge for each culinary team was to create a school lunch that followed the USDA nutritional standards and cost below \$2.50 to make. Each team had to plan out a filling, nutritious meal, and gather the ingredients to cook it for seven sets

of judges. Contestants were told this ahead of time, and spent days doing research to come up with a menu.



The students posing proudly with their certificates and trophies. Source: Chef Michaw

All three students from Clover High School's culinary class are well versed in and out of the kitchen. But they all have particular strengths that help them work as a

team. Not only did these classmates have to prepare in the kitchen, but they also had to get to know each other

and form a relationship that would benefit them during tense moments at the event. Abigail Thompson expresses her enjoyment in attending the competi-

tions and says she was able to calm her nerves by having fun and joking around with the guys. "It was a lot of fun to be able to interact and get tips from them [the judges],"

Thompson says. She says she is "really proud of what we did. We got the highest that we've done for the program." Chef Michaw is very proud of all three students for their hard work and dedication to the competitions and is excited to see what the next year holds.

After placing second at the Jr Chef Competition, the team earned an invitation to Hoover, Alabama to compete on April 24. They came home with a second place win and a delicious dish to bring back to Clover High School. Chef Michaw hints that CHS's cafeteria staff is considering offering the culinary students' meal one day during all lunch periods.

KINDNESS CORNER

Kindness that asks for nothing

BY CLOEY HARRIS, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C. - Some people leave a mark on a community, not through grand gestures or public recognition, but through quiet, consistent acts of love. Ronnie Montgomery was that kind of man.

"Ronnie wasn't just a friend," says David Bowles, a close friend and community organizer from Clover. "Ronnie was a great friend. I never asked Ronnie for anything that he wasn't right there helping — and he did that for a lot of people."

Years ago, Bowles began hosting Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for the community. When he turned to Ronnie for help, there was no

hesitation. "Every year after that, he did all of our meats for Thanksgiving and all meats for Christmas," Bowles recalls. "He was never a second late. He would always come pulling in the morning of the dinners with a big smile on his face."

That generous spirit stretched far beyond holiday meals. "Ronnie would always help anyone — whether it was a handicap ramp or a window or anything they needed done to their house. He was always there to help people in the community."

And much of that help went unnoticed by design. "I could not tell you the times

Ronnie has helped other people," Bowles says, "most of them who probably never knew that it was him doing it."

Ronnie also had a love for collecting bottles and old signs. Bowles keeps one of his signs on the wall today. "Many people have tried to buy it, and it will never go nowhere," he says. "Every time I look at it, I think of him."

The lesson Bowles carries most from his friend is a simple one Ronnie spoke often: invest in people. "That was probably one of the biggest things I've learned from Ron Montgomery."

"We need more Ronnies

in our community. We need more Ronnies in our church," Bowles reflects. "When people used to say they loved Clover and Lake Wylie — it wasn't because of the land, it wasn't because of the trees. It was because of the people like Ronnie."

"We know that Ronnie is smiling in heaven. We are definitely going to miss him at Thanksgiving and Christmas the most. I miss him every day."

GOVERNMENT

York County Council addresses rezonings, ambulance franchise in April, May meetings

BY VIRGINIA GILOMEN, CHS SENIOR

YORK COUNTY, S.C. -York County Council held regular meetings on April 20 and May 4, addressing rezonings, ambulance services, budget discussions and more.

Ambulance Service Franchises

A franchise requirement for local ambulances has been established. These requirements include service providers and emergency transportations. They create a structural set up for the workers in this field to follow. The system is collaborative and will be overseen by the county. The system will guide the ambulance service, enhance accountability, modernize it, and expand it. The first reading of this new ordinance was passed on March 16, 2026. Council gave the ordinance its third and final reading at the May 4 meeting, formally adding Chapter 37 to the York

County Code of Ordinances.

Rezoning

Several rezonings affecting Districts 2 and 3 moved forward across the two meetings.

0.81 acres of Urban Development land is being rezoned to General Commercial. The land is located at 4070 Charlotte Highway in Clover, in District 2. The future rezoning does not align with York County's Forward 2035 Future Land Use Map designation of Village Center. However, the rezoning action that was approved will allow a greater potential for commercial tenant mix. Nearby properties have also been rezoned to General Commercial for similar purposes.

8.38 acres of Residential Mixed Use land is being rezoned to Residential Urban Development on Sand Tar Road in York, also in District 2. The purpose of the request

is to facilitate the division of the lot into six total lots, each of at least one acre. This request aligns with the county's York Forward 2035 Future Land Use Map designation of Rural Residential land use. Council gave the Sand Tar Road rezoning its third and final reading at the May 4 meeting.

Two rezonings in District 3 received first readings at the May 4 meeting. A 12.80-acre property on Blessed Hope Road in York is proposed to be rezoned from General Commercial to RMX-20, with the purpose of subdividing the land into three large residential lots. The request aligns with the City of York's Future Land Use Map. Separately, a 43.18-acre parcel on True Road in McConnells is proposed to be rezoned from RSF-40 to Agricultural Commercial to allow construction

of a barn for timberland use, which is consistent with the county's Agriculture future land use designation.

Other Business

Council member Tommy Adkins, who represents District 3, recognized International Firefighter's Day at the May 4 meeting and requested that the county hold off on future discussions regarding data centers until the State Legislature has weighed in. Council member Watts Huckabee requested that staff develop criteria for funding non-profit agencies, including funding sources, eligibility requirements, and budget amounts. County Manager Josh Edwards presented the FY27 budget at the April 20 meeting.

Clover Drought, cont.

BY ANTHONY MATHIPANNA, CHS SENIOR

Continued from pg. 1 Current Solutions

Experts are currently encouraging boaters to plan careful routes, stay within marked channels, and consider towing coverage. TowBoatUS also has four boats out across the lake 24/7 and encourages calling them anytime anyone is on the lake boating. A big solution that York County Utilities has come up with is encouraging residents to reduce water usage. Although not mandatory and not restricting it, it is recommended that residents in York County volunteer to

reduce water usage.

This includes limiting watering to no more than two days per week, reducing washing down of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, and other hard-surfaced areas, reducing washing down of buildings for purposes other than immediate fire protection, and reducing residential washing of vehicles. Use car washes that use recycled water instead of washing vehicles at home. This solution is made to protect the local water supply and limit the future use of other mandatory restrictions.

The Catawba Wateree Drought Water Management Group plans meetings on May 16th. As of May 1st, water restrictions have been placed in Clover and York, and as of May 5th, Fort Mill has implemented water restrictions. Residents in Clover and Fort Mill will follow a fixed water schedule. Properties north of Highway 55 are only allowed to water on Wednesday and Sunday nights, while those south of the highway can water on Tuesday and Saturday nights. They are responsible for conserving water and meeting the goal of decreasing

water usage by 15% of normal use. Only using the water for necessary usage, public safety, or maintaining regulatory compliance. While Fort Mill doesn't follow a fixed schedule, they are encouraged to limit irrigation and watering during peak daytime hours. York and Clover's declaration of stage 2 to limit water will mean that residents will voluntarily limit their water use in their household, using only 300 gallons a day, as they enter stage 2 of the drought as of May 6th.

Warning: this chili disappears fast

BY HEATHER BRODBECK, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

CLOVER, S.C. - With the changing weather—wind, rain, and sun—a warm bowl of chili is always a great choice. You can never go wrong with the flavors of fresh tomato, smoked paprika and a hint of salt. Whether you like it mild or with a fiery kick, this recipe gives you all the bold flavors to be your favorite comfort meal. Enjoy!



Smoky Chili Source: Google

Ingredients:

5 strips uncooked bacon, chopped
1 large yellow onion, diced
1 red bell pepper, diced
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 lb ground beef
1 tablespoon brown sugar
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 tablespoon ancho chili powder
1 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
1 teaspoon cumin
1 teaspoon onion powder
3/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 1/4 cup beef broth
15 oz can dark red kidney beans, lightly rinsed and drained
15 oz can black beans, lightly rinsed and drained
14.5 oz can diced fire roasted tomatoes, undrained

7 oz can fire roasted green chilis
1/4 cup tomato paste
1 tablespoon worcestershire sauce

Method of Preparation:

1. Place chopped (uncooked) bacon in a large pot or dutch oven, and cook over medium heat until crisp and cooked through. Remove bacon to a paper towel lined plate and drain all but 1 1/2 tablespoons of grease.
2. Add onion and pepper and cook until softened, about 3-5 minutes.
3. Add garlic, and cook until fragrant (about 30 seconds).
4. Add beef, breaking apart with a spatula as you cook. Once meat is partially (about 50%) browned, add sugar and all spices (chili powders, paprika, cumin, onion powder,

black pepper, salt, cayenne pepper) and stir well.

5. Add all remaining ingredients — beef broth, beans, tomatoes, tomato paste, chilis, and Worcestershire sauce — and your cooked bacon and stir well.
6. Bring to a boil and cook 1-2 minutes, stirring frequently.
7. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally. Simmer for 30 minutes to allow flavor to really develop.
8. Serve with preferred toppings (sour cream, shredded cheddar cheese, and corn chips are a must!)

PET OF THE MONTH

HSYC is home to more than just dogs

BY PIPER HAYCOCK, CHS SOPHOMORE

CLOVER, S.C. - The Humane Society of York County not only shelters dogs, but cats too. On the adoption list at HSYC, the catalog of cats is twice as long. This month, we are going to shout out two different felines, one cat and one kitten.

The adult cat is named Manfred. This big-eyed kitty is a 2-year-old, domestic shorthair male. He is already



Manfred

neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped.

Manfred's personality would definitely be considered interesting. He has lots of random energy bursts, but also enjoys chilling by the window. He keeps a look out of his surroundings in the cat lounge and for his potential forever family. Manfred does occasionally have an attitude, and you'll

know it. He can't help but show his judgment on his face. He is also friendly with the other cats, and would be okay with sharing his new home with others.

The next kitty getting a shout out is a new addition to the cat lounge at HSYC. This is the small but feisty Surf N Turf. She is a 2-month-old domestic shorthair. Due to

her being new, it is too early to really pick up on her personality. Although, giving her a new home would definitely help her grow into a kind kitty.

If you are interested in either of these felines visit HSYC

or call at (803)-802-0902. You can find the adoption requirements at



Surf N Turf

MAY

Saturday, May 16.

- Main Street York Farmers Market: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Main Street York City Market, 55 N Congress St, York, SC
- Chalk, Jam & Stroll Street Festival: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM at North Congress Street, York, SC
- America's Boating Course: 8:45 AM – 6:00 PM at MarineMax, 310 Blucher Cir, Lake Wylie, SC
- Retired Flag Drive Drop-Off: All Day at All Saints Catholic Church, 530 Highway 274, Lake Wylie, SC



Sunday, May 17.

- Retired Flag Drive Drop-Off: All Day at All Saints Catholic Church, 530 Highway 274, Lake Wylie, SC

Friday, May 22.

- Watercolor Paint & Sip Night: 7:00 PM – End Time Not Specified at Funtown Play Cafe, 4555 Charlotte Hwy, Ste 19, Lake Wylie/Clover, SC
- Teen Glow-in-the-Dark Volleyball: 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM at Clover School District YMCA, 5485 Charlotte Hwy, Clover, SC

Saturday, May 23.

- Main Street York Farmers Market: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Main Street York City Market, 55 N Congress St, York, SC
- Horns, Hooves, & Honkytonks Kickoff Party!: 12:00 PM – End Time Not Specified at Wicked Cowboy and Co, 108 N Congress St, York, SC
- Lake Wylie AM Vets Charity Car Show: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Lake Wylie Plaza, 4094 Charlotte Hwy, Lake Wylie, SC
- Clover High School Plant Sale: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Clover High School Greenhouse, 1625 Highway 55 E, Clover, SC



Sunday, May 24.

- Memorial Day Weekend Sunset Cruise: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM departing from Lake Wylie Marina, 310 Blucher Cir, Lake Wylie, SC

Tuesday, May 26.

- Preschool Storytime & Craft: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM at York Public Library, 21 E Liberty St, York, SC



Thursday, May 28.

- Summer Concert Series: Town of York: 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM at Downtown York, SC
- Lake Wylie Chamber After Hours Networking: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM at Rey Azteca, 4052 Charlotte Hwy, Lake Wylie, SC

Friday, May 29.

- Shoreline Social Waterfront Meetup: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM at Papa Doc's Shore Club, 3990 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, SC
- LIVE @ Courtney's BBQ and Brew: 7:00 PM – End Time Not Specified at Courtney's BBQ Inc, 1166 Highway 55 E, Clover, SC

Saturday, May 30.

- Spring Watercolor Workshop: 10:00 AM – End Time Not Specified at Indigo Iris Farm, 524 Ridge Road, Clover, SC
- Main Street York Farmers Market: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Main Street York City Market, 55 N Congress St, York, SC
- Vintage Pariah Live Outdoor Concert: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Yorkville Marketplace, 108 N Congress St, York, SC
- Kids' Fishing Derby: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM at Allison Creek Community Park, 2499 Allison Creek Rd, York, SC
- Lake Wylie Spring Artisan Pop-Up: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at Lake Wylie Public Library Parking Lot, 4751 Charlotte Hwy, Lake Wylie, SC



**Tuesday, June 2.**

- Teen Anime & Manga Club: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM at Clover Public Library, 107 Knox St, Clover, SC

Thursday, June 4.

- Sunset Yoga on the Lawn: 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM at Field Day Park, 1101 Field Day Ln, Clover, SC

**Friday, June 5.**

- Live Music on the Patio: 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM at Clover Harvest, 1002 Old Bowling Green Rd, Clover, SC

Saturday, June 6.

- Aerial View Live Concert: 8:00 PM – End Time Not Specified at Papa Doc's Shore Club, 3990 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, SC
- Lake Wylie Pokewalk & Family Fun Day: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Field Day Park, 1101 Field Day Ln, Clover, SC
- York County Master Gardeners Plant Clinic: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at York Extension Office, 120 N Congress St, York, SC

Sunday, June 7.

- Official Flag Retirement Ceremony: 6:00 PM – End Time Not Specified at All Saints Catholic Church, 530 Highway 274, Lake Wylie, SC
- Sunday Bark in the Park: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at Clover Dog Park, New Centre Park, Clover, SC

**Tuesday, June 9.**

- Adult Book Club Meeting: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM at York Public Library, 21 E Liberty St, York, SC

Thursday, June 11.

- Food Truck Thursday: 6:30 PM – End Time Not Specified at New Centre Park, Clover, SC
- York Summer Concert Series, Live Music: 7:00 PM – End Time Not Specified at Main Street York City Market, 55 N Congress St, York, SC
- Clover Chamber Coffee & Connections: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM at Clover Chamber Office, 114 Walnut St, Clover, SC

Friday, June 12.

- Friday Night Live Comedy Showcase: 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM at Sylvia Theater, 27 N Congress St, York, SC
- Lake Wylie Youth Night Pool Party: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM at Camp Thunderbird Outdoor Pool, 1 Thunderbird Ln, Lake Wylie, SC

**Saturday, June 13.**

- Summer Kick-Off Block Party: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM at Yorkville Marketplace, 108 N Congress St, York, SC
- Cody Webb LIVE Charity Concert: 12:00 PM – End Time Not Specified at Papa Doc's Shore Club, 3990 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, SC
- Annual Clover Volunteer Fire Department BBQ: 11:00 AM – Until Sold Out at Clover Fire Department, 115 S Main St, Clover, SC

Monday, June 15, 2026

- Summer II CSA Sign-Up Deadline: All Day at Bush-N-Vine Farm, 1650 Filbert Hwy, York, SC

Links to Full Calendars

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[Clover School District](#)

[Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce](#)

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