

The Roaring Eagle



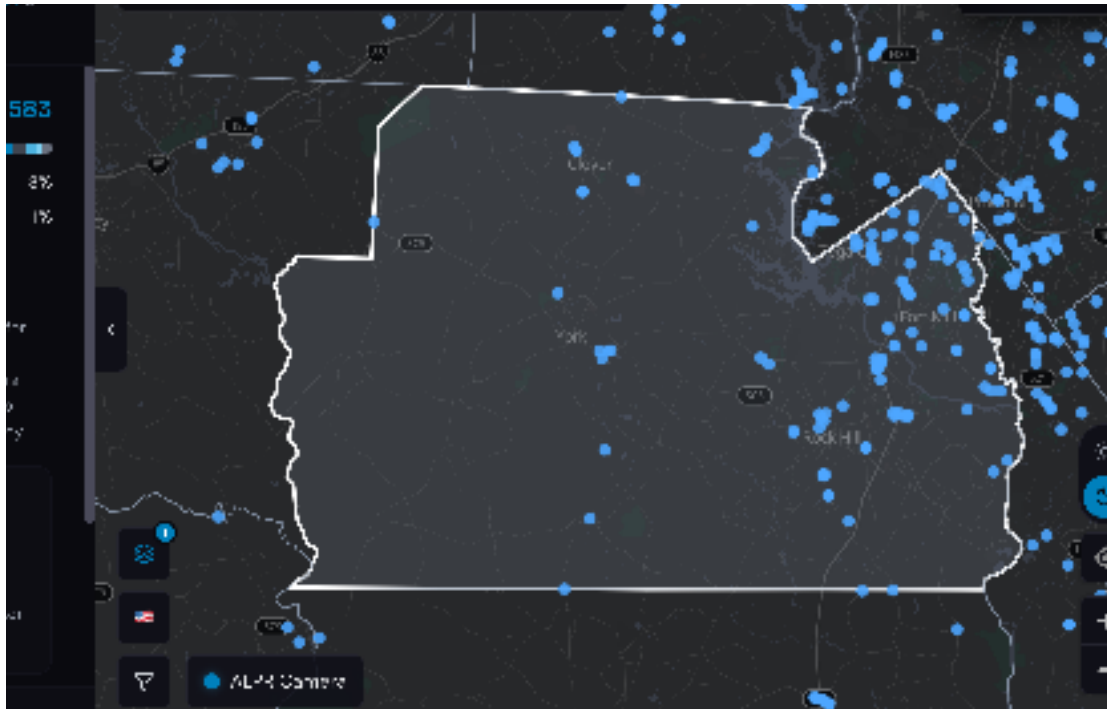
A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF CLOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

ISSUE 36

SEPTEMBER 2026

Deflock York County's petition reaches its goal of 2,500 signatures

BY PIPER HAYCOCK, LWHS JUNIOR, WITH EVAN FRINTNER, CHS SENIOR



Screenshot from Deflock.com of York County and surrounding areas. Blue dots represent ALPRs. Source: Deflock

YORK COUNTY, S.C.- Law enforcement agencies brought Flock to the York County community in 2021. What started as the sheriff's department purchasing seven Flock Safety cameras has turned into 45 cameras around our county.

The Clover Police Department (CPD), specifically, has seven cameras and

York County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) has 19. Neighboring districts like Rock Hill and Fort Mill have upwards of 20 cameras.

In an interview with York County District Two Representative Andrew Litten, he says, as of right now "the cameras are an asset more than a hindrance". He stated several times that he

trusts CPD and YCSO, but understands the importance of keeping the information gathered out of the wrong hands.

The annual average daily traffic for Charlotte Highway is 36,700 vehicles according to the South Carolina Department of Transportation as reported by The Herald. Just on the stretch of Hwy.

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274 outside of Crowders Creek Elementary, there are two flock cameras pointing at either side of the road. With a minimum Flock reported mistake rate of 4%, an estimated nearly 1,500 mistakes a day are made just on that small stretch of road. When asked about this number, Litten responded that 4% was close enough to zero for his comfort.

He added that his "opinion is subject to change" if they become a bigger problem.

Since Oct. 2024, Will Freeman's organization, De-Flock, has attracted a growing number of supporters. Their mission is to locate Flock cameras, educate citizens and

continued on pg. 5

Chargers first win 02

First game in school history ends in a victory for the brand-new Lake Wylie Chargers.

Quinn announces retirement 08

It's time to say a bittersweet goodbye to CSD's Dr. Sheila Quinn.

LWHS Legacy Week 09

Lake Wylie hosts a series of fun events to celebrate their students paving the way for the school's future.

Town of Clover Tax Levy 12

A property tax increase was passed.

SPORTS

Lake Wylie Chargers historical game: first game, first win

BY AVA AYERS, CHS SOPHOMORE

LAKE WYLIE, S.C.- On August 20, Lake Wylie High School varsity football team had their first win in history against Ballantyne Ridge High School with a final score of 41-35.

This young team of only juniors, sophomores, and freshmen achieved this historic first win led by Coach Nick Pelham.

Athletic Director Steven Peeler says, "We are incredibly proud of our football players and coaching staff. They have worked extremely hard, stayed committed to one another and represented our school with tremendous pride".

Quarterback Landon Robinson rushed for three touchdowns and 160 yards. Additionally, he threw two passes to wide receiver Rhyann

Watson with 283 receiving yards, giving the team five touchdowns and 593 total offensive yards.

Ballantyne Ridge took the lead 21-20 at halftime. In the second half, the Lake Wylie Chargers took the lead.

Peeler said, "The victory is an important early chapter in the history of Lake Wylie High School athletics".

Robinson completed 18 of 23 passing attempts for 358 passing yards and two passing touchdowns.

LWHS had to appeal to the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) because of



Players shake hands after the game. Source: NRSE Photography Instagram

the league rule denying immediate post-season eligibility for brand new schools. Normal

SCHSL rules state a brand new school must wait one to two years before the schools athletic teams are allowed to compete in playoffs, to ensure the new school's enrollment stabilizes and to make sure its athletic programs are established properly. The school successfully petitioned the SCHSL for hardship relief, which gave the Lake Wylie Chargers full varsity sta-

tus and playoff eligibility.

Since that game, the Chargers have played two more games at home. The second game of the season was against South Point. The game ended with a loss, but the Chargers redeemed themselves the next Friday against the Hunter Huss Huskies. Though it was a tight game, they came out on top, 27-26. So far their win-loss record is 2-1.



First game for the LWHS student section. Source: NRSE Photography Instagram

Optimist International essay contest announced

BY CLOVER OPTIMIST CLUB, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

CLOVER, S.C.- Participants must write on the official topic "Finding My Voice in a World Full of Noise." The essay must be no less than 700 and no more than 800 words.

The Club contest will start

on September 28th. The typed essay, a copy of your birth certificate and the application should be returned to the school secretary no later than Friday, November 13th, 2026.

This contest is divided into

two levels of competition. Club level receives a medallion and small monetary award, and District level is a plaque and \$2500.00. This contest is open to any student under the age of 19 as of October 1st, 2026. District

winners must provide a copy of birth certificate or passport with the District's entry documentation.

Applications may be picked up from your school or contact Ashby Skinnell, sknnell@aol.com or 803-322-0177.



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Clover Womens' Volleyball overcomes early season challenges

BY AVA AYERS, CHS SOPHOMORE



The 2026 Women's Varsity team on Media Day. Source: Clover Women's Volleyball Instagram

CLOVER, S.C.- The Clover Blue Eagles Varsity Womens' Volleyball team has had a good season so far with eight wins and eight losses. They have had some big accomplishments as a team

like pushing through games, despite the injuries some of their players have had. Team Captain Gracie Hickey shared, "I think that shows how much we can rely on each other and adapt when

things don't go as planned". Players have stepped into different positions, played outside of their comfort zones and still come together and win games. Moving forward they are working on taking

more accountability, keeping a "just go" mentality and pushing themselves to improve both individually and as a team.

A weekend of love and deuce

BY TAYLOR SCHULTHEIS, CHS SENIOR

FLORENCE, S.C. - On the weekend of August 21-23, both Clover and Lake Wylie High School's Girls Tennis teams traveled to Florence, South Carolina for a tournament.

LWHS number 3 player, Emma Tompkins, won her match in the early morning of August 22, resulting in the first win for the Girls Tennis Team in LWHS history.

Tompkins lost her 1st

set 2-6 before winning the 2nd set 6-4 and the deciding 10-point tiebreaker 11-9. Tompkins played a lengthy, challenging match, resulting in a historical win. Tompkins shared her feelings about making school history, stating "I didn't really think about it much, but it does feel nice to be part of something bigger". Tompkins' sudden realization about being a valuable asset to her team left her feeling

proud with a sense of accomplishment.

The CHS girls team had a clean sweep the morning of August 23rd; every player won their respective matches against LWHS.

CHS Girls Tennis Head Coach, Allison Gainey, said "Honestly, it was an incredible

feeling. As a coach, you're always hoping for success and to see your players perform at their best, but to witness every single one of them secure a victory on Sunday morning it was a moment of pure excitement and validation".

Many of the players shared how strenuous the weekend was, playing multiple matches a day, dealing with intense heat, and playing a variety of opponents with different experience levels. CHS number 2 player, Kara Quaife, stated "the hardest part about Florence is that they're all private school teams". Quaife shared how defeating it can feel to



Lake Wylie Tennis team in uniform. Source: Lake Wylie Tennis Instagram

play against opponents with a greater skill set than your own, but every year, players share the challenge allows them to grow their own skills.

Both the CHS and LWHS Girls Tennis Team brought their 'A' game and left feeling proud of their team and themselves. Players learned pride through both wins and losses; an exciting season for both teams is sure to come.



Clover Tennis Team at tournament. Source: Allison Gainey

SPORTS

Battle of the Bridge

BY TAYLOR SCHULTHEIS, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C.- The much awaited first home game took place Sept. 4. Clover's Varsity Football Team took on Palisades High School in an exciting game which many students referred to as "Battle of the Bridge". Palisades, while not in the Clover School District, lies just on the other side of Lake Wylie in Charlotte, N.C.

With all the excitement surrounding the event, Clover's Team fought hard, but the fight was not enough.

After a long night, Clover lost 12-3 to our bridge rivals, Palisades. While Clover may have lost, fans are still excited for the upcoming season and a comeback against Palisades.

Clover's Athletic Director,

Bailey Jackson, shared, "You learn more from losing than you ever do from winning. I am sure our guys will bounce back".

Jackson explained the players do film study to help understand what worked and what didn't in a game to help the players improve for the future.

Every game allows for players and coaches to learn more about themselves. Clo-



Clover Football Athlete at game. Source: @between.the.seconds Instagram

ver Football Head Coach, Bennett Swygert, stated "I learned that we have a group of resilient players that love

to compete. Our defense played well, and our special teams were solid. Offensively, we are a little beat up on the offensive line, but at the same time we had our chances. We didn't execute well enough. There are a lot of things that we can correct as we approach region competition,

but I believe in this team".

Clover is resilient, and through continued practice, film review and motivation, Clover should have a great season ahead of them.

While a loss is never ideal, players use it as a motive to push themselves for the future. Defensive lineman, John Summer, said in order to bounce back from a loss, "we just have to keep working harder and doing our best we can at practice and making sure we're still doing the best we can".

The season has just begun, and Clover is prepared for the challenge ahead. Clover fans, be ready for the great season ahead and Clover's chance to win back the bridge against

Clover Crazies remain one of the highest ranked student sections

BY LILY BRODBECK, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C.- According to The Student Section Report Instagram account, the Clover Crazies were ranked No. 1 student section in South Carolina last year. The account claims that the Clover Crazies have consistently been at the top and are "one of the powerhouses in the state".

The student section was run by 14 seniors at Clover High School. These students brought energy and hype to all of the Friday night football games and never failed to show out for each theme.



The 2026-27 Clover Crazies at the first football game of the season. Source: Magnus Onoszko

"They pack the house and rock the stands", says The Student Section Report.

The Clover Crazies' dedication to supporting the Blue Eagles helped make the

student section stand out across the state. From creative themes to loud cheers, the students made Friday night games about more than just what happened on the field.

Being ranked No. 1 also puts pressure on this year's seniors to keep the tradition alive.

For the 2026 football season, 17 eager seniors are ready to lead the Clover High School student section with extreme pep and the best themes.

With a new group of seniors taking over, the Clover Crazies have the opportunity to prove that last year's No. 1 ranking was not a fluke.

Deflock Petition, cont.

BY PIPER HAYCOCK, LWS JUNIOR, WITH EVAN FRINTNER, CHS SENIOR

continued from pg. 1

unveil the negative impacts and secrets of Flock Safety.

DeFlock York County, a branch of the organization from the area, started a petition on change.org on Aug. 12, 2026. The petition has 2,609 signatures at the time of publication. Every signature goes towards the organization's mission to call for the removal of Flock cameras in the community.

When asked how many signatures would be needed to actually raise an issue, Litten said that for it to become a real issue in the council there must be 10% of the voting public in the county. He also added that not every signature on a change.org petition can actually be trusted because signatures must be followed by a voting card.

Deflock's criticism of Flock cameras stems from concerns over misuse, errors and the invasion of privacy experienced by innocent civilians. For a recent example, Flock system error led to a police officer holding a Rock Hill man at gunpoint after the camera system falsely flagged him for driving a stolen vehicle.

Litten suggested that errors like this are "human errors and not related to flock itself and the AI". When this argument was countered by asking "how do you rule out human error and how do you make this better" he replied that CPD and YCSO has "better guardrails, guidelines, policies and procedures" going into action.

After reaching 2,000 signatures, the starters of the petition posted a message to the supporters. It read, "the message remains simple:

We can support law enforcement and public safety while still demanding limits on mass surveillance. Residents deserve

to know who can search this data, how it is being used, how long it is retained, what outside agencies can access it, how misuse is detected, and what happens with the enormous amount of information these systems collect about people who are not suspected of committing any crime".

Trent Faris, YCSO Public Relations officer, has responded to questions regarding the issue with "We do hope that once we have our website transparency page up and the transparency portal provided by Flock Safety, both will help dispel any concerns the public may have".

Recently, CPD has published a transparency portal that partially answers these concerns. To read more on this go to <https://transparency.flocksafety.com/clover-scpd>. Much of the information in the portal relies on the trust that officers and entire departments will not misuse the technology. Though this publication answers questions, as evidenced by the petition, the people of York County have a hard time trusting that any department will lawfully follow the prohibited uses. Additionally, the transparency page and portal that CPD and YCSO uses are provided by Flock Safety.

To try to combat misuse,



This is what a Flock Camera looks like. Source: www.wpr.org

Flock forces logs to be kept on reasons for accessing the data. Problems arise when officers access data with vague justifications such

as "follow-up" or "investigation".

There are people across many departments who are able to access and potentially this data. Some who have been affected by misuse report that they feel they cannot come forward because the offenders carry a badge and a gun and they worry about facing retribution for making a report.

Across the country, con-

cerns continue to rise. The county of Mooresville, N.C. has recently signed a contract with Flock to use their drones for surveillance on in addition to the Automatic License Plate Readers.

The Charlotte Observer reported in July that "A CMPD officer was arrested after being accused of using the Flock database to search the license plate of a person buying drugs from his friend in Boone to see if they were an undercover police officer".

Just a few states over, Florida's Department of Transportation (FDOT) has banned the usage of Flock cameras on state-owned roads. FDOT has given law enforcement agencies 30 days to remove the Flock cameras and other ALPRs.



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New Clover gathering spot pours community into every glass

BY KELLY CLARK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CLOVER, S.C. - The Swirling Vine Social House wants neighbors to slow down, sip something good and stay a while.

A House Built for Gathering

The Adams House, built in the 1930s, once sat as a blank slate. New owners Laura Landolphi and Valerie Larsen transformed it, painting and curating each room while preserving the home's original structure.

A front porch welcomes visitors with plenty of seating. Inside, the main room offers several tables, a fireplace and, on some days, live music, Landolphi said. Gospel music played on the house radio during a recent visit.

The Tuscan Room sits to the left, filled with couches and comfy chairs for guests who want to settle in. A hallway straight ahead leads to the Tea Room, where a shelf displays tea services beside several tables. Along the way, a gallery wall showcases work from local artists, who sell their pieces on-site. The Tea Room hosts high tea every other Saturday and takes reservations for bridal and baby

showers, book clubs and Bible studies. The hallway also leads to a restroom that houses a surprising detail: a crystal chandelier.

Guests who pass through the main room and step through an archway will find a bar that spans three-quarters of the space.

Clean Food, Honest Drinks

Co-owner Laura Landolphi built the business around one idea: clean, healthy food and drink, made fresh daily.

"We want you to stay for a while," Landolphi said.

Tracy Jefferies, a recent visitor echoed that sentiment: "The place was very quaint and the host/owner was very personable. The wine selection was great, and the house wine we ordered was excellent".

The kitchen, specializing in vegetarian options, serves



House wine, foccica with oil, and fresh flowers dress this front room table.

sandwiches, salads and appetizers like avocado deviled eggs. Co-owner Valerie Larsen prepares

a rotating soup of the week. The bar pours wine, seltzers, smoothies, tea, lemonade and mocktails — no traditional sodas. Landolphi said the owners aim to stay "organic and as local as we can," questioning vendors about not just how they make their food, but what goes into it. They rule out anything made with seed oils.

From Long-Distance Friendship to Local Business

Landolphi and Larsen built their friendship over the phone long before they built a business together. The two connected online over a shared pursuit of clean living. That friendship grew into a business idea, and Larsen pushed Landolphi to move to Clover. She did, and the pair scouted the area to find what

it needed.

Landolphi first pictured a vendor store, but found the market already had a few. She and Larsen combined their ideas instead. They saw a need for clean, healthy meals in the community and built The Swirling Vine Social House — part gathering space, part café, with a small vendor section that sells clean supplements, jewelry and knick-knacks. The owners say they're building more partnerships with local vendors.

Landolphi didn't hesitate when asked why she chose the Adams House.

"I love this house," she said.

What's Next

The Social House hosts craft nights, wine tastings and Mahjong classes from time to time, all announced on Facebook. Room rental prices depend on group size, and the owners can add food for an extra cost.

"We don't want to be super expensive; we want to be available," Landolphi said.

The Social House plans a sip and shop event for November. Hours and events can be found on Facebook.



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The Grand brings big charm to our small town

BY SAVANNAH ADAMS, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C. - Aug. 30 was an exciting day for the Szasz family, as husband and wife Steve and Andreea introduced their brand-new wedding venue, The Grand.

Before becoming the stunning wedding venue it is today, The Grand spent over 30 years as a local llama farm near Lake Wylie.

The property got a massive glow-up when the duo bought the 10-acre lot with a dream to build something unforgettable. Combining his background in construction with her exper-

tise in hospitality, they rolled up their sleeves and personally managed the build from the ground up. Today, the old farm is home to a massive European-inspired timber Hall and a secret speakeasy called The Cellar, successfully turning a quirky piece of local history into the ultimate party spot.

"You only get one wedding day, so we wanna make it the best day we can!" said Carol Ann, a head team member with Steve and Andreea. "So we hope that everyone around here can see The Grand as their next place

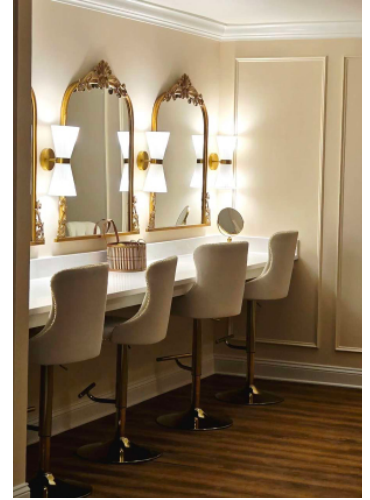
to hold their special event".

What sets The Grand apart is its combination of custom design features and flexibility that standard event centers rarely offer. Because it is family-owned, couples work directly with the owners who oversaw the entire construction process, ensuring a more personalized planning experience.

Additionally, the venue operates on an open-vendor policy, actively partnering with local caterers and vendors to give clients freedom to customize their event's menu, budget, and style.

"We're only half an hour from Charlotte, so you're not in the middle of nowhere. So you have a little bit of everything. And then even our ceremony, we wanted to make a little peaceful retreat," says Andreea Szasz.

Ultimately, the success of The Grand's grand opening shows just how much the community appreciates supporting small, local businesses.



Vanities in the dressing room.



Wedding Ceremony set up at The Grand.

Instead of traveling to a big city, having a premier venue right in Clover's backyard brings out the true charm and beauty of the town. By turning a piece of local history into a beautiful gathering space, the venue gives residents a closer place to celebrate milestones while keeping the community's welcoming spirit alive.

Another year of support from the Lions

BY KARA QUAIFE, CHS SENIOR

LAKE WYLIE, S.C. - The annual raffle held by the Lions Club of River Hills and Lake Wylie now supports the Community Cafe and the Clover Area Assistance Center instead of the River Hills Emergency Medical Services.

According to Ron LeBlanc, the Lions Club member in charge of the raffle, "The raffle itself has been in existence for approximately 20 years".

Ten years ago the Lions Club board of directors decided to use the raffle proceeds to support the EMS. LeBlanc said, "The Lions support, as well as community donations

helped keep the nonprofit EMS afloat for many years until their recent takeover by Piedmont Medical". Last year, though, Piedmont Medical Center took over the EMS, so they don't need the money from the raffle any more.

The recipients for the raffle this year, the Community Cafe and the Clover Area Assistance Center, are both organizations that support the community.

The Community Cafe is a place that "focuses on alleviating food insecurity and fostering a sense of community".

The CAAC offers a food pantry, financial assistance and education to those in need. They "respond effectively and compassionately to those in need who live within the boundaries of the Clover School District".

LeBlanc said, "These two organizations provide a tremendous service to our local community and the RHLW Lions are pleased to lend their support".

The Lions Club motto, 'We Serve', guides this choice. The charities answer one of the Lions's eight global causes, to fight hunger. Sherri Ciurlik,

Lions Club member, said that the raffle "sustained the ambulance. And it's a good way to give back".

For those wishing to participate in the raffle, it's a bit too late, because the tickets sold out in record time. Kevin Naumann, president of the Lions Club, talked about other alternatives for those unable to participate in the raffle. The Lions Club provides vision screenings and books to children in the schools in the area. They also provide classroom readers. Donations can be made on the RHLW Lions website.

Dr. Sheila Quinn announces her retirement from CSD

BY EVAN FRINTNER, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C.- In an email to CSD staff on Aug. 25, Dr. Sheila Quinn announced her plan to retire, despite the Clover School District Board of Trustees' decision to renew her contract for another period. Quinn has been the superintendent of the Clover School District for eight years, with many years of experience with the state and school districts before retiring in this position.

A graduate of the then Winthrop College, Quinn went through different major paths before realizing that she wanted to teach. A one-year internship at Rock Hill High School led to a job offer from Indian Land High School, where she began her teaching career. She then went back to Rock Hill and spent nearly a decade in positions ranging from teacher to administrator.

Quinn was first introduced to working at the district level when a position opened up for the role of an English coordinator, "because that's what I taught". 18 years with the Rock Hill School district carried her through roles ranging from English as a second language (ESOL) coordinator to a social studies coordinator.

Along the way Quinn, "learned about what good teaching was. I was always in teachers' classrooms, helping co-teaching and making policy decisions with the board".

The former superintendent invited Quinn to apply for the position of assistant superintendent for curriculum and administrative services.

Following five years of that role and all the curriculum that comes with it,

the state superintendent at the time, Molly Spearman, invited Quinn to be the deputy superintendent for the state. "And I turned her down for six months. I said no, I love Clover". Eventually Quinn agreed to do three years of



Dr. Sheila Quinn,
Clover School District
Superintendent

Source: CSD Website

"very political" work for the State Department of Education.

All three years of her work in the State Department of Education, Quinn made the over 85-mile drive daily both ways from Clover to Columbia to allow her children to graduate in the district she loves.

During her eight years as superintendent, she saw CSD grow from a small district that flies under the radar to quickly rising in prominence.

Clover has become a notable school district in the state.

Quinn

highlighted the importance and successes of the Center for Career Innovation and how it has grown throughout the years. "That's been a jewel in our crown in Clover, so I'm really proud of that". A jewel in the crown, but also nearly at capacity, noted

Quinn.

Quinn's answer about what advice she has for the future superintendent was decisive. Quinn recommended to go not just to every school, but to the transportation office, IT facility, maintenance, Bright Beginnings, Adult Education and even recommended they go to the Eagle's Nest. "Just learn this community, because I'll tell you the best thing that I had going for me was that I had worked here for 5 years".

Her parting words were simple. Quinn humbly offered her thanks to the residents of the district and the principals who keep the schools running. Notably, she thanked the Board of Trustees who she says keeps her accountable and always wants the best for the district. "When you have all those ingredients, you have Clover School District".

After she officially retires from this job, she wants to stay in touch with public schools. She cannot see herself as superintendent of another district, so this will be her last time as superintendent. She has no definitive plans for what may be next but definitely wants to stay an advocate for South Carolina public schools.

"So then the (Clover District Superintendent) came open and once again, you know, people reached out and said, would you like to come home?"

Well, I never left."

-Sheila Quinn



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Legacy week brings school spirit to Lake Wylie High School

BY PIPER HAYCOCK, LWHS JUNIOR

LAKE WYLIE, S.C.- The week leading up to Lake Wylie High School's (LWHS) Legacy dance had a packed schedule. Events like spirit days, a parade, powder puff game, and a pep rally took place. The legacy dance was hosted at the LWHS cafeteria on Saturday, Sept. 12.

The name "Legacy Week" replaces "Homecoming Week" because there are no graduated classes yet. This title honors the students actively paving the way for every future LWHS class.

The school week had a cozy start with Tuesday's pajama theme. Next, it was time to find a partner and participate in Wednesday's twin day. On Thursday, students dressed as a wide variety of TV characters. The spirit week ended with students representing their grade levels with designated colors inspired by LWHS.

Parade

LWHS sports and student organizations participated in the school's legacy week parade on Sept. 9. The march was led by students in the AFJROTC program. Dancers and cheerleaders followed

along to the sounds of the marching band. The other sport teams that participated included: Women's Lacrosse, Women's Tennis, Football, Swim, Volleyball and Cross Country. There were also a variety of clubs that participated, including: Student Ambassadors, National Spanish Honor Society, YCI and Interact Club. This parade showcased just how many students are involved in extracurricular activities at LWHS and school spirit.

Powder Puff

Two teams of 10 girls went head-to-head on Sept. 10. Female students got the opportunity to make a Powder Puff Football team and join the tournament. During first block, there was a buy out of \$5 to go watch the game. The game was a hit with hundreds of students coming to support. This was a great interactive way for the school to raise money.

Team One named themselves "Jazzy Juniors", and Team Two did not have a name. The game started off strong with the Jazzy Juniors scoring twice. Team Two later made a comeback with the

game ending in a tie.

Pep Rally

The final event of the week hosted at the school was a pep rally. Its purpose was to get the students excited for the upcoming weekend. Students sat in the bleachers of the main gym alongside their grade level classmates.

The rally included announcing all of the fall varsity sports, plus the special olympics team. Performances from the dance team and cheerleaders took place. Students led games like "head, shoulders, knees, cup" and a "cookie to mouth" race. The student council revealed the grade level who won the spirit stick for showing the most school spirit and participation.

One of the most anticipated events was the student versus teacher volleyball game. Unfortunately for the kids, the teachers came out on top.

Football game

Just a few hours after the pep rally, the Lake Wylie Chargers kicked off against the Hunter Huss Huskies. The band played the national anthem, followed by a tribute

to first responders and all the lives lost from the 2001 tragedy of 9/11. The USA themed student section showed up and showed out for their team on the first official Friday Night Lights.

The Chargers prevailed through the first half, scoring touchdowns and field goals. The game went back and forth between the two teams in the second half. Pushing through the storm, the Chargers continued to score. It ended with the Chargers on top, 27-26.

Dance

To finish off the week, the main event was hosted on Sept. 12. LWHS first ever Legacy Dance took place in the campus cafeteria. The event began at 7:30 p.m. and ran until 9:30 p.m. Saturday night. The entire dance was planned, put together and cleaned up by the student council, with the support of administration and staff members. DJ Grant Sparks played songs of all different genres for students to enjoy and dance to. There was also a dirty soda bar that the student council worked together to put together and provide.



Source for all pictures: Hayley Davis

From classroom to commander

BY SAVANNAH ADAMS, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C.- High school teacher and Army Colonel Rodney K. Tatum Jr. became a Brigadier General on Aug. 8, 2026, at the South Cobb Readiness Center in Marietta, Georgia.

Tatum serves as the 30th commander of the 78th Troop Command for the Georgia Army National Guard.

Outside his military duties, he also teaches in the history department at Lake Wylie High School (LWHS), where he also serves as the head wrestling coach and an assistant football coach. He notes that while his high military rank and everyday teaching career are vastly different, he successfully balances both lifestyles by letting the lessons from each naturally cross over and bleed into the other.

The service member reflects deeply on his background, stating, “My military and combat experience have shaped the person I am.” His service includes two combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan alongside an overseas deployment to Kuwait. He also had the opportunity to train in South Korea and witness



Rodney K. Tatum Jr. Promotion Ceremony Source: CSD Website

firsthand the U.S. military response to the Russia-Ukraine war. Interacting with both military and civilian personnel across the globe gave him “a different perspective than most classroom teachers,” Tatum said.

Today, he channels these unique experiences directly into his curriculum, noting that these opportunities have “allowed my students to get a different perspective on foreign culture, bilateral affairs, and nation building” by consistently introducing multiple viewpoints into the classroom.

Tatum holds several advanced degrees, including a Master of Education from

Georgia Southern University, a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College, and a Master’s +30 postgraduate certification in History. Drawing on this extensive academic background, Tatum emphasizes how he applies his high-level military decision-making to the daily routines and strategies of his athletic teams at LWHS. Tatum said: “I look at all problems I face in the classroom and on the wrestling mat with my objectives and end state in mind. I do not plan one to two weeks in advance, rather I look at what I am trying to accomplish, how much time I think it will take to reach that goal,

and backwards plan from there. In some cases that might be six months away, or several years. Anyone who has coached more than a few years understands that how well you do during your current season is a combination of multiple factors. To beat the top programs in our state, the process sometimes starts several seasons before your current one, and you have to be focused on the younger athletes in your program just as much as you are current starters. That is what separates a great program from teams that occasionally put together a good season or two”.

Tatum emphasizes that much of his motivation stems from his own past role models, as well as the men and women who made extreme sacrifices to shape the country. “I am here because of servant leaders who played a huge role in my life at an early age” he says. Ultimately, his primary goal is to teach his students the importance of becoming the best versions of themselves, so they, too, can inspire future generations and make a meaningful difference in the world.



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Clover Women's Basketball receives \$10,000 grant from Ulta

BY KARA QUAIFE, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C.- The Clover Women's Basketball team won the Ulta Beauty Roster for Change Grant three weeks ago.

The grant, which is \$10,000, provides "critical support to local communities and sports organizations in need". The program was established in February of this year by Ulta Beauty.

It was created to change sports to be viewed through a lens of beauty and empowerment. The grant is targeted to help with the high dropout rate of girls in sports, providing

funding for fees, transportation, upgrades, amenities, and equipment.

To qualify, teams make a video stating their goal for its usage to apply for the grant. The Clover Girls Basketball Coach Shakkia Walker said that "in the video I had to send a clip on what the goal was, what our plans were, and talk a little bit about our team".



The CHS Womens Basketball and Volleyball teams gathered for the big announcement.

Walker applied to the grant in March because she saw promotion for it and

decided to "take advantage of this. It's their first grant, see what happens".

When the team found out that they had won, they were ecstatic. They will use the grant to make upgrades to the locker rooms, such as painting the walls, along

with upgrades in the gym.

They're also thinking about putting some of their team slogans up on the walls.

One of them is #selfless, which stands for sacrifice, energy, lead, family, limit, effort, strong and succeed. Walker said that these are things that she wishes for the team to see in themselves.

Winning the grant will help Ulta's goal of keeping girls in sports and give Walker's girls a daily reminder of the traits she hopes they see in themselves.

Clover Jazz joins 2027 SCMEA Conference

BY DASHA VERHOSEK, LWHS SOPHOMORE

CLOVER, S.C. — The Clover High School Jazz Ensemble has secured a coveted performance slot at the annual South Carolina Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference, scheduled for February 4-6, 2027, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

Under the direction of Courtney Wyatt, the ensemble will perform Friday, Feb. 5, at 4:45 p.m. A panel of judges selected the ensemble as one of nine featured ensembles from a pool of 44 applicants from across South Carolina and the Southeastern region.

For members of the ensemble, the recognition reflects more than technical ability. Students say the group's collaborative atmosphere and approach to jazz help set it apart.

"I would say the greater side of it is there's so much freedom," senior alto saxophone player Shamar Singh

said. "With improv, for example, it's not like you have to strictly follow the music. You could pretty much do whatever you want".

That freedom is paired with organization and experience, according to the students. Many members have prior experience with jazz, allowing the ensemble to develop a shared understanding of the style.

"I feel like our jazz band is really, really organized with the way we do things," senior trombone player Desmond Lancaster said. "We all contribute. We all kind of know the style somewhat". Students also credit Wyatt's leadership with creating a relaxed environment where they can take ownership of their music.

"It's very laid back," senior alto saxophone player Zach Kilkelly said. "She kind of lets the students lead a lot". Lancaster pointed out, "You don't feel overwhelmed. You feel like you're having fun at

the same time".

The ensemble learned about its selection in a memorable way. Wyatt gathered the students in the band room and revealed the news, followed by an impromptu celebration involving cookies.

Despite the significance of the upcoming performance, students said they are not focused on playing perfectly. For the ensemble, jazz is about more than avoiding mistakes.

"I think pressure comes

from getting something perfect, but in jazz, it's not really supposed to be perfect," Singh said. "It's okay to mess up. The mistakes are what make jazz human".

The conference will bring together music educators, directors and industry professionals for clinics, master classes and other professional development opportunities. Although the conference primarily serves educators, featured performances are open to the public.

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GOVERNMENT

Council backs \$56M in incentives, land fund

BY EVAN FRINTNER, CHS SENIOR

YORK COUNTY, S.C.- York County Council held its August meeting on Monday, Aug. 17. Discussion ranged from fee-in-lieu-of-taxes, or FILOT, deals to a proposal for the county to help secure development rights on farmland along Kings Mountain Street.

Two state grant projects are slated for York County: Project Bolt and Project Blue Mako. Project Bolt will manufacture electric vehicle charging stations and plans to invest \$33.9 million into the

local economy while creating 70 new jobs.

Project Blue Mako will reuse existing manufacturing space in the county, investing \$22.6 million and creating 59 new jobs.

The council will provide \$1,055,000 to Nation Ford Land Trust to secure development rights for 120 acres of land along Kings Mountain Street. Council passed the measure 6-1. The main point of contention was how much money the county should de-

vote to preserving farmland. Several county law enforcement and disaster preparedness agencies received a \$13,000 increase to their fuel budgets for the year.

Those agencies outspent their previous \$200,000 budget last year, and officials hope the increase will cover the shortfall.

With gas prices at a record high, the agencies are unlikely to spend only the amount budgeted this year.

The council approved a

\$29,551,810 construction contract for renovations at the Moss Justice Center on second reading. The project includes a new booking and intake area along with dedicated medical and mental health housing. Buildings two, three and four will also get new waterlines.

York County Council meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month.

Clover raises property tax

BY DASHA VERHOSEK, LWSH SOPHOMORE

CLOVER, S.C.- Clover property owners will face a 144.5-mill town property tax rate for the 2026 taxable year.

Clover's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. The fiscal year does not align with the calendar year. This allows organizations to coordinate financial data with their natural business cycle.

The revenue collected will help cover Clover's ordinary operating expenses and any town indebtedness during the fiscal year from 2026-27.

The tax applies to taxable real and personal property within the Town of Clover's corporate limits. Properties that are exempt under the South Carolina Constitution or state law will not be subject to the tax.

According to Town of Clover Ordinance 26-05, "This tax levy provides the funding necessary for the town to cover its ordinary current and general expenses."

Taxpayers will follow the same payment deadlines and late-payment penalties used by York County. According to the ordinance, the York County Treasurer is authorized to collect those penalties along with the taxes owed to Clover.

Failure to pay the taxes could result in further action against the property. York County may pursue a defaulting property owner and, as permitted by law, sell the property at a public sale to recover the unpaid taxes, penalties and costs.

After York County deducts applicable fees and costs from the proceeds, the county will pay the town the amount owed. Any remaining money will be distributed according to state law.

The 2026 tax levy will help fund Clover's municipal services and expenses throughout the fiscal year.

Committee hosts Veterans picnic

BY KELLY CLARK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CLOVER, S.C. - The Clover Veterans Committee will host its annual picnic on Saturday, September 19th, at 2 p.m. Registration for this year's picnic has already closed.

The picnic is a potluck. Guests should bring a dish to share, along with lawn chairs and a tent if they have one. The committee will provide iced tea, lemonade, water, ice, hot dogs, buns, chips, watermelon, BBQ chicken, and pork butts. Families are welcome to attend.

People who missed the sign-up deadline can still get involved with the committee in other ways. The group holds regular meetings that are open to the public. The next meeting will be held Monday, October 5th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Clover Community Center, located at 120 Bethel Street in Clover.

Residents can learn more about the committee by visiting cloverveteranscommittee.org.

The website lists upcoming events, ways to volunteer, and veteran resources. It also explains how people can donate to the committee through Cash App or Zelle. Donations help fund veteran recognition events, ceremonies, and community service projects.

The committee also runs a flag program for local businesses. For \$50 a year, the committee will place an American flag outside a business for five display dates throughout the year. More than 50 businesses in Clover currently take part in the program.

Organizers hope community members will consider attending the October meeting, even if they cannot make it to this year's picnic.

One-Pan Harvest Chicken Dinner

BY FRANCIENE MARZ, CHS CULINARY ARTS TEACHER

Makes 4 Servings

Ingredients

4 each bone-in or boneless, skin on chicken thighs
4 T. olive oil, divided
1 T. Balsamic vinegar
2 cloves garlic, minced (1 Tbsp)
2 tsp. poultry seasoning
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 large, sweet potato, peeled and cut into ½ inch pieces
1 large parsnip, peeled and cut into ½ inch pieces
½ lb. Brussels sprouts, cleaned & sliced into halves
1 medium Granny Smith apples peeled, cored and cut into ½ inch pieces
1 red onion, cut into ½ inch pieces
4 slices of cooked bacon, chopped
1T. each minced fresh Thyme & Rosemary
2 T. Maple syrup

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Pour 2 T. olive oil, balsamic vinegar, minced garlic and poultry seasoning into a medium bowl.
3. Add chicken, season with salt and pepper, then coat chicken and set aside.
4. Spray your half sheet pan or baking dish with pan spray or lightly coat with additional olive oil.
5. Place sweet potato, Brussels sprouts, parsnips, apples and onion on half sheet pan or large baking dish.
6. Drizzle with remaining olive oil and toss to evenly coat, season with salt and pepper to taste.
7. Spread ingredients into your sprayed pan into an even layer.
8. Set chicken thighs over the layer of apples and vegeta-



Source: Chef Marz

bles.

9. Roast in preheated oven until chicken and veggies are golden brown, about 30 - 35

minutes (chicken should register 165 in center). Place heat on broil during last few minutes of baking to get crispy skin on chicken if desired.
10. Garnish with cooked chopped bacon, fresh chopped herbs and/or maple syrup drizzled over the top if desired.

PET OF THE MONTH

All Smiles, No Home: Denise's Story

BY DASHA VERHOSEK, LWHS SOPHOMORE

YORK, S.C.- Denise, a vibrant five-year-old pup who has spent the last three years at the Humane Society of York County in Fort Mill is officially ready to find her forever home.

This resilient dog has captured the hearts of shelter staff and is now searching for a family to call her own.

While the shelter staff has provided excellent care, the rescue shelter life simply does not compare to that of a real household.

Denise has spent over half of her life in a kennel, and she is more than ready to swap the concrete floors for a soft

dog bed where she can soak up all the love and attention she deserves.

Despite Denise's shy demeanor, she will always greet you with excitement. From her great big smile, to her forever-wagging tail, she will always be your number one fan. She is a big lover of walks and adventures.

Because Denise thrives when she is the center of attention, she is looking for a home where she can be the only dog. She has so much devotion to give that she simply wants to keep it all for her chosen humans.

A patient household that

understands she might need a few days to adjust to a new routine will be rewarded with a fiercely loyal, joyful, and affectionate family member.

Call 803-802-0902 to meet Denise today or go visit her at the Humane Society of York County.



Denise captured being her smiley self. Source: Mary Knapp

SEPTEMBER

September 15, 2026

- York Public Library Toddler Storytime; 10:30 AM; York Public Library, 21 East Liberty Street, York, SC

September 17, 2026

- Clover Public Library Preschool Storytime; 10AM; Clover Public Library, 107 Knox Street, Clover, SC



September 18, 2026

- Watercolor Paint & Sip: Ladies Night Out; 7PM; Funtown Play Cafe, Ste 19, 4555 Charlotte Highway, Clover, SC
- Reckless Betty: Live at Papa Docs; 8PM; Papa Doc's Shore Club; 3990 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, SC
- Annual Tidal Wave Auto Spa Charity Day; 8AM - 8PM; Charlotte Hwy 49, near New River Church

September 19, 2026

- Clover Farmers Market and Pop Up & Shop; 8AM; Main Street, Clover, SC

September 21, 2026

- Mirror, Mirror...Who's the Spookiest? Paint Night; 6:30 PM; Papa Doc's Shore Club, 3990 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, SC



September 22, 2026

- York Public Library Toddler Storytime; 10:30 AM; York Public Library, 21 East Liberty Street, York, SC

September 23, 2026

- Lake Wylie Library Family Storytime; 10AM; Lake Wylie Public Library, 185 Blucher Circle, Lake Wylie, SC

September 25, 2026

- Save July: Live at Papa Docs; 8PM; Papa Doc's Shore Club, 3990 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, SC

September 26, 2026

- Clover Farmers Market and Pop Up & Shop; 8AM; Main Street, Clover, SC
- Fall Picnic; 9AM; Redeeming Grace PCA, 4800 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, SC
- Wild Wonders, 18th Century Living History Saturday, and family activities; 10AM - 5PM; Museum of York County

September 28, 2026

- RHLW Lions Club Golf Tournament; 10 AM; River Hills Country Club, Lake Wylie, SC



SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

RIVER HILLS/LAKE WYLIE LIONS ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Please join us for the annual River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Charity Golf Tournament. We will have a great day of golf at the beautiful River Hills Country Club in Lake Wylie, SC.

This Captain's Choice event includes 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winning teams.

All proceeds from this tournament are donated to local, state, and national charities.

The River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Club is part of Lions Club International (LCI), the world's largest service organization. The primary mission of Lions is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Charities is a 501 (c)3.
Tax ID #57-1037559.

Individual Golfer \$165
Foursome \$660

Entry Fees include:
Green Fees, Cart,
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Contests, Lunch, Beer,
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October 1, 2026

- Bachelors of Broadway: Gentlemen of the Theatre; 7PM; Clover School District Auditorium, Clover, SC



October 10, 2026

- 12th Annual Curtin Farms Fest; 10AM; Curtin Farms, 407 North Parham Road, Clover, SC
- Tim Hong/Last Exit LIVE at Windy Hill - York; 1PM; Windy Hill Orchard & Cidery, 1860 Black Highway, York, SC



October 2, 2026

- Friday Night Live Acoustic Set; 8PM; Papa Doc's Shore Club, 3990 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, SC

October 14, 2026

- Lake Wylie Library Family Storytime; 10AM; Lake Wylie Public Library, 185 Blucher Circle, Lake Wylie, SC

October 3, 2026

- Clover Farmers Market and Pop Up Shop; 8AM; Main Street, Clover, SC

October 15, 2026

- Clover Public Library Preschool Storytime; 10AM; Clover Public Library, 107 Knox Street, Clover, SC

October 4, 2026

- Sunday Brunch on the Water; 11AM; Papa Doc's Shore Club, 3990 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, SC

October 7, 2026

- Lake Wylie Library Baby Storytime; 10AM; Lake Wylie Public Library, 185 Blucher Circle, Lake Wylie, SC

October 8, 2026

- Thursday Trivia Night; 7PM; The Clover Gin Mill, 104 S Main St, Clover, SC



September CAAC Pantry Needs

- Canned Beans - Kidney, Pinto, Navy, etc.
- Canned Carrots
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Tomatoes- Diced, Stewed, Whole, Etc.
- Canned Soup
- Cereal
- Children's Pull-Ups- 4t/5t, 6t, Medium/Large
- Instant Potatoes
- Incontinence Pads/Bed Liners
- Jelly- Regular size jars
- Mac & Cheese
- Pork & Beans/ Baked Beans- Regular size cans
- Quick Meals- SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, etc.
- Rice/Flavored Rice
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Toilet Paper



(803) 222-4837



Info@cloverareassistance.org



Our Amazon wishlist

Source: CAAC Facebook Page

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