

Tega Cay Sun

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A Whirlwind of Local News: The First Six Months of the Tega Cay Sun

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

It's hard to believe it's only been six months since the Tega Cay Sun launched! In June, we set out on an ambitious journey to establish a hyper-local news platform dedicated to the vibrant community of Tega Cay, aiming to fill the void in local news coverage and address the frustrations of content hidden behind paywalls. Our commitment has always been to provide local stories that are accessible to everyone, free of charge. The warm reception and support from Tega Cay and its neighboring areas have been overwhelming, affirming our mission and fueling our dedication to keeping the community informed and connected.

From the very start, it's been a whirlwind of exciting stories, engaged readers, and a deep sense of connection with the community. We've witnessed firsthand the power of local news to inform, entertain, and bring people together.

One of the highlights was uncovering the buzz about new restaurants coming to town. Who wouldn't be excited about Firebirds Wood Fired Grill and Biscuit Belly setting up shop at Mills Crossing? This article, the

Tega Cay Sun

2023 2024

THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE TEGA CAY SUN

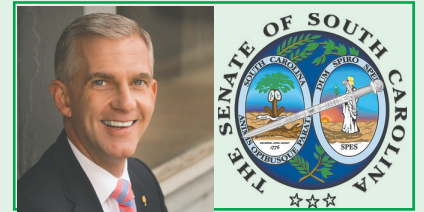
most read of the year, dives into the details of the \$6 million development project on S.C. Highway 160. Readers were captivated by the promise of hand-cut steaks, fresh seafood, and gourmet biscuit sandwiches adding flavor to the local dining scene. With site preparations underway and an opening targeted for late 2024, the community awaits these culinary additions with anticipation. Stay tuned for more updates on what's sure to be a new hotspot at Mills Crossing!

Another favorite among our readers was the heartwarming "Reason for the Season on Full Display at Christmas House" story. This article offers a touching look into the lives of the Buettner-Ouellette family in Tega Cay, who transform their home into a beacon of Christmas cheer. Their commitment, stemming from Jeremy's challenging childhood

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Home Delivery

The Tega Cay Sun is proud to announce the creation of the monthly print edition. The printed paper will be available at Model A Brewing, the Shore Club and Knowledge Perk.

In addition, home delivery is now available. For only \$25 per year, you can receive your copy of the Tega Cay Sun delivered right to your door, the first week of every month.

Sign up at tegacaysun.com/delivery

6 common tax mistakes for investors to avoid

by Michael Matus

The complexity and breadth of U.S. tax rules can be challenging for investors to navigate. While the intricate nature of the tax code means there is opportunity for investors to capture additional savings, there is also opportunity to make a mistake.

We will work with you and your tax professional to position your investment portfolio to help take

advantage of the current tax code.

Here are six common tax mistakes to be aware of, although taxation is just one consideration when making investment decisions.

1. Missing out on savings from tax-advantaged accounts

From 401(k)s to Roth IRAs, there are a variety of tax-advantaged accounts that can help reduce the amount of taxes you owe on your investment earnings. With so many options, it can be difficult to determine which are best for your situation and how to utilize them for maximum tax efficiency.

However, failing to be strategic with these tax-advantaged accounts can cost you in retirement and could result in a higher tax bill.

Avoid this mistake: Make sure you're making use of the wide array of tax-advantaged accounts available by incorporating a tax diversification strategy into your investment portfolio.



Michael Matus

Financial Advisor

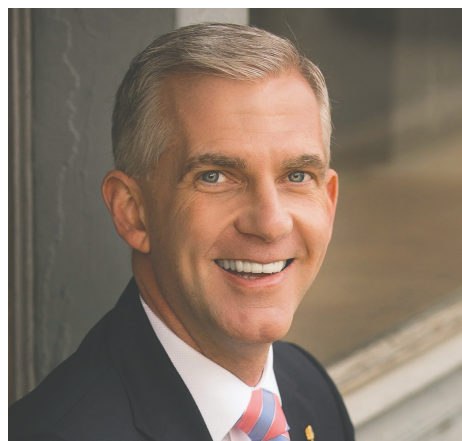
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Tax Mistakes, See Page 7



Senate Goals 2024

by Senator Michael Johnson

In 2020, the citizens of Senate District 16 elected me to serve Tega Cay, Fort Mill, Indian Land, and Lancaster. Serving in the Senate for the past three years has been an honor, and I truly appreciate the faith entrusted in me. The South Carolina Senate returns to Columbia next week to begin the legislative session. The legislature meets from the second Tuesday of January to the second Thursday of May each year. While we can be called back during the other months by the Governor, we only have about 16 weeks to accomplish our goals.

What are our goals, you ask? The Senate met in our annual caucus meeting in December and laid out a

plan to address some key areas before the end of February. Here is a quick look at some of those topics:

- **Parental Access to Prescription Information.** Earlier this year the Atrium Hospital System announced that it would no longer allow parents to “access prescription information for children between the ages of 12-17.” This notification was based on a North Carolina law that requires that certain medical information about minors be kept from their parents. I drafted and filed legislation in late November to stop this from happening. S.882 simply states that a “parent or legal guardian of a minor must be immediately notified if the minor is prescribed medication by the health care provider prescribing the medication.” This bill will be one of the first bills passed by the Senate.

- **Judicial Reform.** Currently, judges are elected by the legislature. Before the legislature can vote on them, candidates must go through the Judicial Merit Screening Committee (JMISC) to be vetted. Issues have arisen over legislators serving on the JMISC and judges feeling intimidated by those legislators. Reform along the lines of no legislator may serve on the JMISC, where all members of the JMISC are limited to a single term of 4-years, and where the Governor has a say in appointing some of the members of the JMISC is needed.

- **Medical Marijuana.** The Senate passed a medical cannabis bill in

goals and lifestyle.

Set Realistic Goals: Start by setting achievable goals that are specific, measurable, and time-bound. Whether it's losing weight, gaining muscle, or improving endurance, having clear objectives will keep you motivated and focused.

In addition, you should set “mini goals” that’ll show you small “wins” along the way to help keep you motivated.

Create a Balanced Routine: Your exercise plan should include a mix of cardiovascular training, strength training, and flexibility exercises. This balanced approach not only enhances overall fitness but also reduces the risk of injury.

Gradual Progression: Begin with light to moderate intensity workouts and gradually increase the intensity and

duration. This gradual progression helps your body adapt to new challenges without overwhelming it.

- **ESG Pension Protection.** The bill pending in the Senate, H.3690, would prohibit the State from investing in companies using the pension system, who use ESG (Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance) criteria to assess another organization's business practices. The bill will require that an investment made in our pension must be made on “pecuniary factors and is not being made to promote, further, or achieve any nonpecuniary goal, objective, or outcome.”

- **Work Experience for Teachers.** Senator Tom Young filed this bill, S.305, which will allow an individual with prior work experience in a field (biology for instance) to teach that course and be paid at a commiserate level based on their years of experience.

Are there other priorities, yes, but these bills will be focused on during the first five to six weeks of the session. From lowering taxes to teacher raises to funding improvements on our roads and bridges, a lot of other things will also happen next year. This is the first of what I hope to make a weekly column outlining a few of the things the SC Senate tackles this year. I also do a weekly email Newsletter detailing all of my votes on every bill. If you are interested in receiving that, email me at michael@michaeljohnsonforsenate.com.

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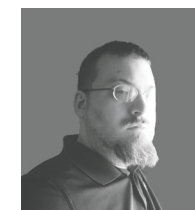
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Weather

In Health with Dr. Brian: 5 Keys to an Effective Exercise Routine

Dr. Brian Strump



Millions of people are starting this year with the goal of being more consistent with an exercise routine.

I want to share with you five crucial keys to starting an effective exercise routine, taken from some of our members that have made great improvements over the last year.

These tips are designed to help you create a sustainable and enjoyable workout plan that aligns with your

~~Tomorrow~~



Today



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Ace Hardware Coming to Gold Hill Road

A new sign went up outside the old YMCA building at 1785 Gold Hill Road, Fort Mill, SC, announcing ACE Hardware is coming soon.

Ace Hardware Corporation is an American hardware retailers' cooperative based in Oak Brook, Illinois. It's the largest non-grocery retail cooperative in the United States

Stay tuned as we interview the new owners next month.



Cover Story, From Page 1

experiences, to creating a festive sanctuary resonated deeply with the community. The narrative of sharing, community involvement, and the joy of the holiday season touched many hearts, making it a cherished read. The family's journey of turning adversity into a celebration of love and resilience exemplified the spirit of Christmas and left a lasting impression on readers. Dive into the full, uplifting story available here.

But it wasn't just heartwarming tales and foodie news that resonated. The Tega Cay City election page, with its in-depth candidate spotlights, became the most visited page on our website. It was a testament to our commitment to providing valuable information during a

crucial time for our community.

While online engagement has been fantastic, we also wanted to ensure everyone had access to local news, regardless of their internet access. That's why we launched our free monthly print edition, available at the Shore Club, Model A Brewing, and Knowledge Perk, as well as via home delivery. Seeing people pick up a copy with a smile has been incredibly rewarding.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our sponsors, including Model A Brewing, Ameriprise Financial Advisor Michael Matus, Everguard Fence Solution, Farm Fresh Carolinas, Live Active Charlotte, Carolina Realty Solutions, and

Mr. Penny Pincher

Patrick Byrne, Editor

In what seems like a lifetime ago, I took a cruise to Alaska. It was my first cruise so I wasn't sure what to expect. For the most part, it far exceeded what I thought it would be. The food was delicious, having a balcony overlooking the ocean was incredible and the ship itself had so much to do. What was unexpected were the ports of call. Specifically, the shops and the merchandise contained within.

Depending on the length of the cruise, you'll stop at 3-4 places along the way and/or on your way back to the port you departed from. The towns/cities you'll stop in can be large (Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska) or smaller (Skagway, which is a smaller Alaskan town). Regardless of where you stop, you'll almost always see the same jewelry and high end fashion stores.

Something else you'll see is a plethora of "cheap collectible" stores. Imagine picking up a Wings beach store and placing it in the middle of Alaska and you'll get an idea of what I mean. This isn't necessarily surprising as America is full of cheap stores with useless merchandise. What is surprising is the number of people who not only shop at these stores but spend hundreds of dollars on cheap memorabilia.

It's possible I'm just an oddball, but I've never seen the purpose of even going into these stores. Why would I buy a shirt that says "Alaska" on it that was made in China? This has zero correlation to Alaska itself, except the long shot chance of the screen



Penny Pincher, See Page 7

Nash Patient Advocacy & Consulting. Their belief in our mission has been instrumental in our success.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our contributing reporters: Dr. Brian Strump for his insightful Health/Fitness coverage, Whit Sawyer for enriching our Leisure/Health section, Mike Griffith for keeping us updated with the Carolina Weather Authority, and Kaitlyn Smith for her engaging contributions. Your dedication, expertise, and hard work do not go unnoticed and have been instrumental in our mission to deliver quality local news. Thank you for being an integral part of our team and for your commitment to informing and serving our community. Your efforts are truly appreciated!

Tech school students guaranteed transfer credits at Clemson, USC

South Carolina is taking a major step towards making college more affordable and accessible for its students. A new agreement between the state's technical college system and its two largest research universities, Clemson University and the University of South Carolina, guarantees seamless transfer of credits for students transitioning between institutions.

Governor Henry McMaster summed up the benefits of this initiative: "No more paying twice for the same class like English. This makes college education more affordable for everyone." Indeed, starting at a technical college can save students an estimated \$30,000 compared to directly enrolling at a four-year university.

Beyond core classes, the agreement opens doors for even more flexibility in educational pathways. Over 80 additional courses offered at technical colleges can be applied towards specific degrees at USC and Clemson.

Rub roast with olive oil and season. Salt, pepper, garlic powder (I typically use Montreal Steak Seasoning).

Heat up a heavy skillet or dutch oven and sear the roast on all sides until almost "burnt" looking.

Leave the roast in the pan and add potatoes, carrots and onions. Add enough water or beef broth to cover most of the roast and vegetables. Add 1 bay leaf (optional) and 1 c of coffee (optional).

Simmer 2 hours or bake at 300 for 5 hrs.
<https://tegacaysun.com/recipes/>

Tega Cay Pilot Injured in Mooreville Plane Crash



Tega Cay Resident, Peter Granow, 62, was seriously injured when the small plane he was piloting crashed on Jan 14th in Mooreville, NC. According to the NC Highway Patrol, Granow was attempting to land a single-engine Cessna at Lake Norman Airport, but encountered trouble, striking several trees before crashing into a front yard on Normandy Road in Iredell County.

Tilly Fitzgerald's Pot Roast Dinner

Submitted by Ange Keskey



The meal that sends me to my grandparent's house in Oil City, Pa., is pot roast. Here's my grandma's recipe.

1 pot roast, 4-6 potatoes, 8-10 carrots, 1 large yellow onion, seasoning, oil.

Set roast out and bring to room temperature. Pat dry.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

FEB. 3rd

Polar Plunge- The Tega Cay Police Department is excited to host its 9th annual Polar Plunge! Join us in our partnership with the community, furthering awareness and inclusion. Help us raise money for the athletes of Special Olympics South Carolina! Must raise a minimum of \$50 to plunge. 10:00am, Beach Club, Tega Cay

FEB. 5th

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

FEB. 10th

Firehouse Stories- Join the Tega Cay Fire Department on February 10th at 10am for firehouse stories at the fire station, 1195 Stonecrest Blvd, Tega Cay.

FEB. 20th

City Council Meeting- City Council will meet at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers.

FEB. 26th

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

TUE. Weekly

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

THUR. Weekly

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

Saturdays Bi-Weekly

Tega Cay Lions Club - 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, the Tega Cay Lions Club meets in the lower level of the Glennon Center. More information available at <https://tegacaylions.wixsite.com/tegacaylions>

Last WED. Monthly

Tega Cay Good Life Club -Meets the last Wednesday of each month at the Glennon Center. More information available at <https://tgoodlifeclub.wixsite.com/tcglc>

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MODEL A BREWING
WEEKLY EVENTS
DR. TOM'S TRIVIA
TUESDAY, 6:30PM
BINGO WITH SHANE
THURSDAY, 6:30PM

Model A Brewing Takes Home Triple at SC Beer Awards

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Model A Brewing in Tega Cay is popping corks and hoisting mugs after a triumphant outing at the prestigious Best of South Carolina Beer Awards. The local favorite nabbed three coveted medals, leaving judges and beer lovers alike impressed with their diverse brewing prowess.

“We’re absolutely thrilled with this haul,” exclaimed Brad O’Connor, co-owner and director of brewing operations at Model A. “Winning these awards, especially against the incredible talent we have in South Carolina, is a real testament to the passion and dedication of our entire team.”

Their gold medal Tega Twang Kiwi Sour boasts a unique story of resilience. A malfunctioning boil kettle threatened to sour a batch in the making, but head brewer Jerod Jones had a stroke of genius. “We turned disaster into deliciousness,” he recounted. “By souring the wort with some good old-fashioned yogurt, we ended up with a beer that’s bursting with tangy kiwi flavor and a smooth, satisfying finish.”

The silver medal Springs Farm Strawberry Kolsch proved itself a classic for the ages. Even several months after brewing, this seasonal delight kept its charm, showcasing the perfect harmony of crisp Kolsch character and juicy strawberry notes. “This beer is a testament to the quality of our local ingredients and Jerod’s masterful brewing,” O’Connor said.

Finally, O’Connor’s personal favorite, the Finley’s Altbier, took home a well-deserved bronze medal. “This beer has been my labor of love for over 15 years,” he admitted. “It’s been a quest to perfect the recipe, and Jerod finally nailed it on our commercial system. This medal is a sweet reward for countless hours of experimentation and unwavering passion.”

These awards are a clear reflection of Model A’s commitment to brewing excellence. “We wouldn’t be here without the incredible support of our community,” O’Connor emphasized. “Thank you for choosing Model A and sharing our passion for great beer. We can’t wait to raise a toast to you with some exciting new brews coming soon!”

Cheers to Model A!



Buzz around Town



FM Eatery Provides Big City Dining With a Small City View



Patrick Byrne, Editor

Fort Mill and Tega Cay would be considered by many to be bedroom communities of Charlotte. Meaning, people live here but work in and around the city. This is not the case for everyone of course, but it’s true for a great many people who live in the area.

It’s also true that a large number of those residents are adults with kids. Again, not everyone, but it’s safe to say this area has become a destination for families due to the great schools, low crime rate and general value received for your real estate investment.

Communities that experience large growth in a short period of time usually experience a housing boom. Houses, townhomes and apartments are built at a rapid pace in order to keep up with the influx of new residents. There’s of course impacts to schools and traffic, both of which are negatives. We’ll steer clear of this for today.

Instead, we’ll discuss the positive impact of the growth being experienced in the form of our burgeoning restaurant scene. I’d like to focus in particular on a restaurant my wife and I visited late last week, FM Eatery in downtown Fort Mill.

FM Eatery or Fortes Mill Eatery (the restaurant gets its name from the head chef/owner, Jon Fortes) is an upscale dining experience without the fuss. Having taken over the much loved space of Local Dish, I was skeptical that it could ever live up to the former tenant. I’m happy to say I was proven wrong.

With a menu designed to provide a tasting/small plate experience or traditional sit down meal, you get to choose how you want your night to unfold. You may want to share with your date, spouse or friend and try a few different things. You may prefer to order something and have it all to yourself. Either is possible and I have no doubt you’d leave satisfied no matter which way you choose to go.

We opted for small plates to be brought out as they were ready. The first plate arrived with bacon wrapped figs, followed by scallops and pork confit and braised short ribs on a bed of grits. If this all sounds delicious, that’s because it was.

If you had to make me choose, I’d probably go with the braised short ribs. The rib itself was fork tender while the grits had a perfect balance of salty and sweet. The large diver scallops were cooked perfectly but the pork confit swimming in peach preserves was both unexpected and delicious. The bacon wrapped figs could’ve doubled as a dessert, they were that good.

We each had a glass of wine with dinner but their cocktail menu is filled with tasty and creative concoctions. Cocktails weren’t in the cards on this particular night, but I speak from a previous experience to confirm the small bar in the back is more than equipped to meet your needs.

Although we didn’t order dessert, the temptation was definitely enough to consider packing on a few more post holiday pounds. We mentioned the cornbread (apparently an in house favorite) and our server almost talked us into it but we were able to fend off our inner sweet tooth.



The interior of the restaurant would be at home in any downtown throughout the country, including of course our city neighbor to the north. It’s comfortable with booth and table seating and provides a chic 1940s modern vibe. Getting there before the rush, we sat by the window looking onto main street. If you need a little romance in your life, this table is the place to be.

With 3 small plates and wine for each of us, we were able to stay under \$90 total after a tip. Another plate and/or dessert would’ve taken us over the \$100 mark, but this would’ve been perfectly reasonable given how good the food was, the atmosphere and service provided.

Make this your next date night destination but keep your Charlotte friends at home for now. Let’s keep this our little secret for awhile longer.

York County Allocates \$16M to Improve Congested I-77 Exit at SC160

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



York County is investing an additional \$16 million into the revamp of the notoriously congested Exit 85 on Interstate 77 due to escalating costs.

This financial redirection will affect funds typically allocated for repaving various roads. Exit 85, a critical junction for Fort Mill and Tega Cay, has seen increased traffic, prompting calls for upgrades from local leaders.

Despite the county’s significant contribution and funding from state and federal agencies, a recent letter revealed a \$46 million shortfall for the project. The county’s extra funds, coupled with other financial strategies, aim to bridge this gap and enhance the interchange notorious for its high traffic volumes. The Sun reported the details of the project in August. SC 160 and I-77 Interchange work to begin this year

This infrastructure push is part of a broader effort to manage growing traffic demands, with adjustments in project scope and rising costs of materials and labor contributing to the inflated budget. The county plans to fund this increase through C-Funds, derived from state gas tax revenue.





SPORTS



Tega Cay Takes Top Honors at Lake Norman Barefoot Tournament!



Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Photos Credit: Cornelius Today

A brisk New Year's Day on Lake Norman saw Tega Cay residents Van Jantzen and Jackson Tigner steal the show in the 46th annual Barefoot Tournament! While seasoned competitor Jeff Blair fell short of his usual dominance, young talent and local heroes took center stage.

Jantzen, 17, faced off against Blair, a nine-time champion, in the Open Division. With a daring flying backward dock start and unwavering focus, Jantzen pulled ahead, clocking an impressive 387 points compared to Blair's 351. This marks a significant victory for the young athlete, solidifying his place as a rising star.

The Men's Division saw another Tega Cay resident shine. 15-year-old Jackson Tigner put on a dazzling display of skill and grit, finishing second with 196 points (66 seconds and 130 start/tricks points). His performance highlights the depth of talent in the local barefoot water skiing community.

The tournament, known for its diverse range of participants, saw barefoot enthusiasts as young as five and as seasoned as 81. Congratulations to Van Jantzen, Jackson Tigner, Logan Harrington, and all the competitors who braved the chilly waters to showcase their skills!

Alivia Cleveland is the 2023-2024 South Carolina Girls Cross Country Gatorade Player of the Year.

Alivia Cleveland from Fort Mill High School has been named the Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Player of the Year for 2023-24. She is the second student from her school to earn this distinction. The award celebrates top high school athletes across the nation for their outstanding performance in sports, academics, and community service.

Cleveland has emerged as the top female high school cross country athlete in South Carolina. Her remarkable performance includes winning the Class AAAAA state meet with a leading time of 18:17.24, contributing to her team's state championship. Additionally, she achieved the highest state placement at the renowned Great American Cross Country Festival, finishing 23rd.



Beyond athletics, Cleveland is also active in her community. She has been involved in preparing and distributing care packages to a local elderly home and crafting blankets for the Gold Project, aimed at suicide prevention.

Fort Mill High School Dominates at South Carolina Junior Varsity



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Fort Mill High School dominated the South Carolina Junior Varsity Wrestling Championships, securing the team title with impressive wins, including two individual champions. Clover High School and Catawba Ridge High School finished in second and third place, respectively and also had two individual champions each.

Other York County high schools also participated, with Rock Hill at 16th place, York High School at 28th, Nation Ford at 39th, and South Pointe at 45th.

- Individual Winners:
- 113 weight class – Lincoln Marks, Fort Mill
 - 120 weight class – Camden Metz, Clover
 - 132 weight class – Xavier Gonzalez, Clover
 - 144 weight class – Ryan Skukitz, Catawba Ridge
 - 157 weight class – Lincoln Wise, Catawba Ridge
 - 175 weight class – Kristian Villatoro, Fort Mill

Athletes of the Week

FORT MILL HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
KISHAWN ANDERSON
BASKETBALL | SENIOR
AVERAGED 12 POINTS
100% FROM 3 PT. LINE
2X MAXPREPS PLAYER OF THE GAME

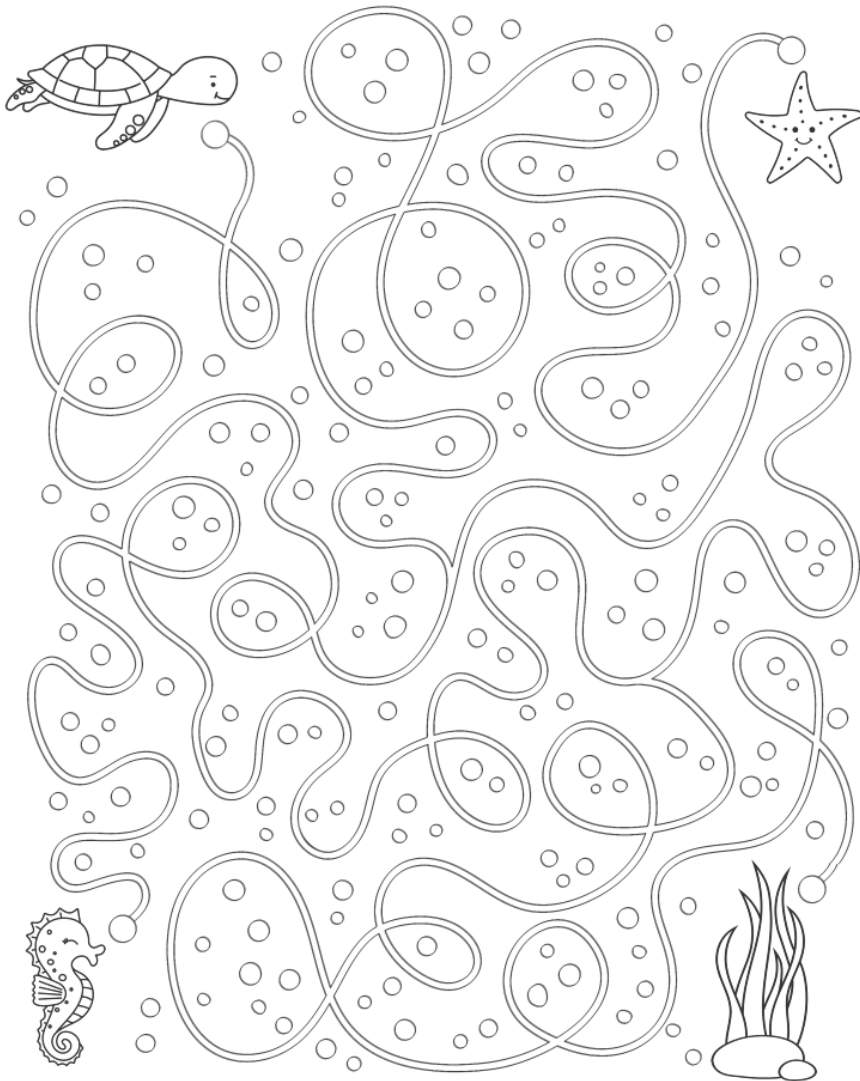
FORT MILL HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
REAGAN REYES
BASKETBALL | SENIOR
11.6 PPG, 5.7 RPG, 4.3 APG
NAMED TO 2 ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAMS
13-2 OVERALL RECORD

FORT MILL HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
ELLA MARKER
BASKETBALL | SENIOR
9.6 PPG, 7 RPG, 1.6 BPG, 1 SPG
IN 3 GAMES
HELPED LEAD TEAM TO 8-0 START

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ACROSS

- 1) Biggest round trip in the world?
- 6) Blossom holder
- 10) Crave
- 14) Animal followed by a tickbird
- 15) "Les Miserables" novelist Victor _____
- 16) Miscellaneous mix
- 17) Balance point
- 20) Palm tree variety
- 21) Bran source
- 22) Coughs up
- 23) Where grapplers grapple
- 24) Outlaw hunter's reward
- 25) Carnivorous freshwater fish
- 29) Except for
- 30) They divide Europe and Asia
- 31) Dublin's isle
- 32) Pond coating
- 36) One way to attract attention
- 39) Quite a few
- 40) Possessive adjective
- 41) Unit of magnetic flux density
- 42) Moments, for short
- 43) Dinner-table accessory
- 44) Islamic spiritual leader
- 47) Check
- 48) Former Nicaraguan president Daniel
- 49) Yonder damsel
- 50) "It ___ what you think!"
- 54) Place for younger criminals
- 57) Beloved person
- 58) Apple-seed holder
- 59) Previously, previously
- 60) Quick-footed
- 61) Proceed with a game plan?
- 62) Behaving like a ruffian

DOWN

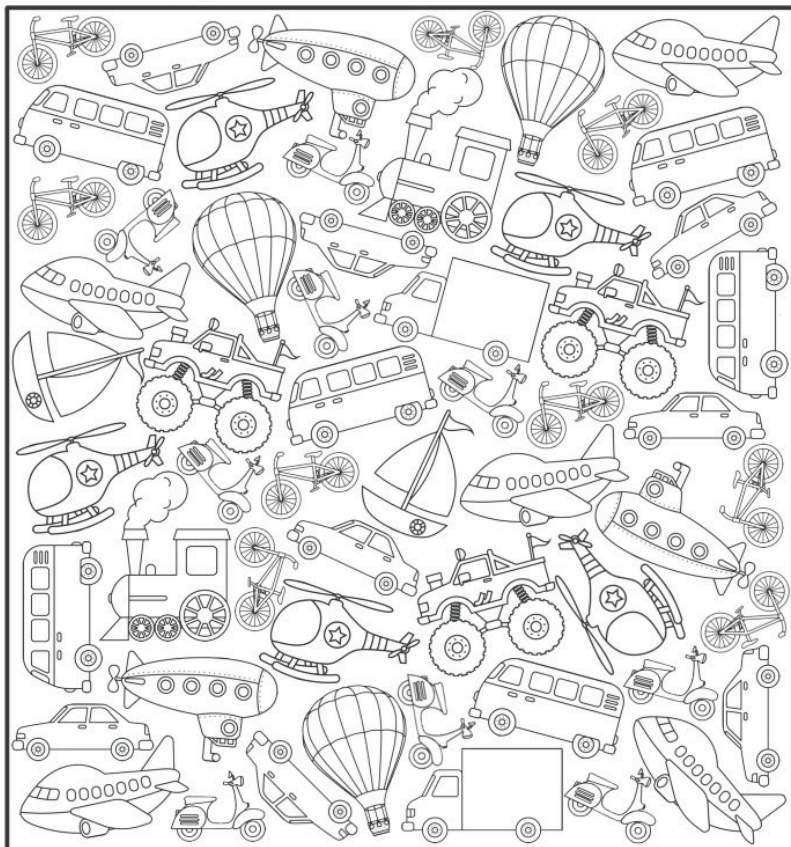
- 1) Mythical monsters
- 2) Actress Perlman
- 3) Perry on "Friends"
- 4) Obsessed with
- 5) Little piggie
- 6) Little hog
- 7) Cockatoo's crest
- 8) Bacon go-with
- 9) Additionally
- 10) Interlaced
- 11) Choice invitees
- 12) Gritty lead-in
- 13) Kiddie litter?
- 18) Kind of horse or leather
- 19) Chills, fever and sweating, together
- 23) "Other" category (Abbr.)
- 24) Less leafy, like a tree
- 25) "No ifs, ands, or ___"
- 26) Kind of communication
- 27) Become conscious
- 28) Went Southwest?
- 29) Original positions
- 31) Eldest son of Cain
- 32) Resign, with "down"
- 33) Winery container
- 34) "Unattractive" Jamaican fruit
- 35) Intend
- 37) Item for a pirate, stereotypically
- 38) Brief try
- 42) Make a contract official
- 43) Drug cop
- 44) Willies giver
- 45) Floral perfume
- 46) Uneasy
- 47) Believe it, coming or going
- 48) At ___ (disagreeing)
- 49) Feature of 14-Across
- 50) Insider dirt
- 51) Cram into the overhead
- 52) Role in many teen flicks
- 53) Deuce beater, barely
- 55) Bad bettor's letters
- 56) Word before drop or drum

MIDDLE GROUND?

By Luke Cayon

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
14					15					16					
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48										49		50	51	52	53
54										55					
57										58					
60										61					

I Spy Transportation



Search and color these 12 items - How many of each can you find?



Sudoku #1543 (Medium)

3	9	6	5	8	4			
	7		3		6	9		
1								7
						5		
			7	3	8			
7	6		4		9	5		
9	3		1					
		4	8			3	6	

Sudoku #1537 (Hard)

		1	5	8				
3			4		9			
	6	1						7
8		4	1					3
	1	6						
		3	7					4
								1
7		9						
		8			5			

Sudoku #1544 (Medium)

		7	2					
2	7	6	5			3		
		5	1	3	9			
		1						8
			9	7	1	6		
						9		
		2	8	5				
7								3
	9	3	1	6	8	7		

Sudoku #1538 (Hard)

	3							
		8	5	6				9
				7			1	3
		7						
	9		1					
	6							
	5	6	3		9	8		
7			6	2		3		
		2			8		6	

Answers at tegacaysun.com/answers

Farm Fresh Carolinas Delivers the Farm to Your Door



Patrick Byrne, Editor

Starting a business is stressful. Moving is stressful. Taking your family along for the ride adds another level of stress that most of us are unfamiliar with. Consider doing all of these things while moving halfway across the world. Once you get there, you have to hit the ground running. Welcome to the past 6 months for Adrian and Adriana Gheorghiu, owners of Farm Fresh Carolinas in Fort Mill.

Adrian's background is in business, specifically tobacco. This allowed him to travel the globe and bring his family along for the ride. His two children, Toma (12) and Paul (10) were born in Canada and Switzerland respectively. They attended international schools, which provided them with a higher level of comfort interacting with English speaking kids their own age.

Weary of all the moving and travel, the family decided to set down roots in their home country of Romania. With a shared passion for healthy eating and fitness, they opened a yoga studio in Romania thinking this was the answer they had been looking for. They quickly learned a change in scenery was in order and began to research America as a potential destination.

As mentioned, the couple had lived in Canada but didn't have a high level of knowledge about America and where to live. Since business had taken Adrian to Raleigh/Durham in the past, this served as a natural starting point. Although the family liked the area, it was when they made a trip to Charlotte that they began to feel at home.

According to Adrian, "Charlotte is a more European style city, with public transport and churches. There's lots to do." After 3 days and a trip to Carowinds, the boys and the couple were sold on making the move.

The move itself took place in September 2023 by way of an entrepreneurship visa. Rather than bore you with lawyer speak, this visa allows the Gheorghiu's to live in America for a period of time as long as they own a business. The business they settled on was Farm Fresh Carolinas.

Through a shared contact by way of their lawyer, they were put in touch with the owner of Farm Fresh Carolinas. What had been a conversation to learn more about the business landscape in the area turned into an opportunity to purchase the business outright. Purchase discussions began in November 2022 and they were able to hammer out a deal by March 2023. They now own 90% of the business.

"We wanted to continue on this path of helping people have a healthy lifestyle and helping ourselves staying healthy. We bring the farmers market to your door, everyday, 365 days a year." said Adriana.

Farm Fresh Carolinas offers organic produce without the hassle and a focus on quality. Their thorough process to sort, verify and check each box ensures only the highest quality fruits and vegetables are packed and delivered. Working directly with their suppliers, only the items that are best in quality are provided in your order.

With an ability to customize a box based on your preferences, you're in control of what you'll be receiving for that week. This is done via an email that's sent to customers on Sunday outlining what's fresh and available for the upcoming week. Customers have the opportunity to order what they want based on what's being offered. You can even limit your order to 1-2 items in particular, if that's your preference.

The customization extends to the particular box you order and how often you want it delivered. You can pause, cancel, freeze or change the size of the box being ordered at any time. Pickup orders at their Fort Mill pantry start at \$25 while weekly delivery orders start at \$30.

Long term, the couple would like to expand to different markets throughout the Carolinas. Short term, they're looking to grow the business in the Charlotte area, specifically within Fort Mill and Tega Cay.

Tax Mistakes, From Page 1

2. Selling an asset before the 1-year mark

Capital gains tax rates vary, depending on the amount of time you've held an asset and your annual income. There is a large difference in tax rate if you sell an asset before the one-year mark versus after it. Not factoring these differences into your selling decision can cost you.

Avoid this mistake: In some cases, it can make sense to hold on to an asset until past the one-year mark to get a lower tax rate.

3. Miscalculating your cost basis

In tax terms, the cost basis is the original investment you make in an asset. Your cost basis matters because it will ultimately determine the amount of capital gains tax you pay on the sale of the asset.

Avoid this mistake: When you sell an asset, certain upward or downward adjustments may need to be made to the cost basis, which could affect how much you pay in taxes.

4. Neglecting opportunities to harvest your losses

While investment losses aren't ideal, there are steps investors can take to reduce the sting of poor-performing assets and gain a tax advantage. This strategy, known as tax-loss harvesting, allows you to manage and reduce your tax burden by selling investments at a loss to offset the taxes owed on capital gains from other investments.

5. Failing to harvest gains

While it may seem counterintuitive, it sometimes makes sense to pay more in taxes now to achieve greater tax savings over one's lifetime. This is the premise behind tax-gains harvesting, which is the strategic selling of favorable tax brackets that are available to you today. Tax-gains harvesting may make sense for your situation if:

You are presently in a lower tax bracket than you expect to be in the future.

Your capital gains tax rate is 0%, which means you have taxable income less than \$44,625 for single filers or \$89,250 for joint filers in 2023.

While tax-gains harvesting means your next tax bill may be higher, you may realize greater tax savings than if you had you sold later, when you're subject to higher tax rates.

6. Overlooking state tax planning

Federal tax laws are often top of mind, but don't forget your state's tax laws. Many states, for example, tax investment earnings at ordinary tax rates, which can eat away at your gains.

Avoid this mistake: Strategizing for tax efficiency on both federal and state levels can help lessen the impact of taxes on your investment returns.

Reap the benefits of tax-efficient investing strategy

Penny Pincher, From Page 3

printing having been done down the road. Since there's really no way of knowing that, it doesn't make any sense to buy the shirt in the first place.

"But I want something to remember the trip." Never mind the 50 pictures of random birds, sunsets and kids in beach hats while you're on vacation (don't feel bad, we all do it). Is this not enough to remember your time together? You need to take a trip to the Wings equivalent and plunk down \$200 on beach shirts, flip flops and chairs?

I have a better idea. If you feel the need to make a purchase, put down the shirt made in Bangladesh or the Chinese sunglasses emblazoned with "Hilton Head, SC" on them. Buy something local. Not only will you be helping out the local economy, you'll actually be buying something that's unique to the area.

My wife and I visit Beaufort, SC as often as we can. We were married there and love it like it's our second home. We also love the fact it's quiet and devoid of pretty much all of the commercial trappings you'd find at a traditional seaside/beach getaway.

Two of the stores we like to frequent are the Carolina Cider Company and Lowcountry Produce. Both are local to the area and provide unique and moderately priced items that you can take home with you. Although most are food related, they also have kitchen and house items that are locally made in case you wanted to watch your belt line.

Before you say it, I realize Lowcountry Produce has soups and other items that can be purchased throughout the state. They're actually available locally at The Peach Stand among other places. Although this is true, the mothership locations are always going to have more selection from which to choose. This is certainly the case when it comes to both of these stores.

Spending your hard earned money on something local will provide you the satisfaction of knowing you're helping a small business while providing you with a lasting memory of the place you visited.

Still want the shirt? Let me run down to Wal-Mart and pick it up for you. In the end, there's really no difference.

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OBITUARIES

Diane DeQuinzio, Age 65



Diane DeQuinzio, 65, entered into eternal rest on January 6, 2024, surrounded by her devoted life partner of 32 years, Mary Tucker, and the rest

of her family..

Constance Garbett Sixbey, Age 84



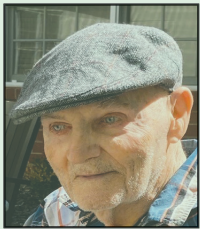
Constance Elizabeth Garbett Sixbey, age 84, of Tega Cay, passed away on Thursday, January 11, 2023, at The Wellmore in Tega Cay.

Paul Shisler, Age 81



Paul C. Shisler (81), originally from Grand Island, New York, lived in Tega Cay for the past thirteen years.

Harold G. Leighton, Age 90



Harold Gerard Leighton, 90, of Tega Cay, South Carolina, passed away peacefully in his sleep early on Monday, December 25, 2023, at

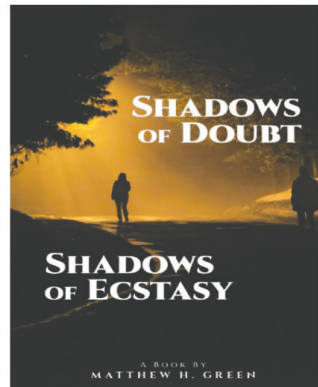
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Shadows of Doubt, Shadows of Ecstasy

A Book by Matthew H. Green



In the idyllic facade of Groves Hill, Nicholas Covington's unwavering belief in intellect is shattered when darkness descends upon his family. Nicole, his headstrong daughter, unwittingly crosses paths with Stephan McFadden, setting off a chain of events that thrusts their lives into a maelstrom of secrets and despair.

The incompetent Sheriff JoeBob Hanson arrests Albert Matterington, a peculiar photographer with a lisp, and a chilling game of justice aligns with the truth. As chaos ensues and the town's secrets unravel, Nicholas, driven by shadows of doubt and guilt, confronts Albert in a desperate quest for answers. The ensuing tragedy catapults him into a nightmare of his own making.

In Shadows of Doubt, Shadows of Ecstasy, Matthew H. Green skillfully crafts a suspenseful narrative where lies lurk in plain sight, justice stands on a razor's edge, and the chilling truth emerges from the shadows, leaving readers breathless until the final revelation. Groves Hill's secrets are laid bare, but at what cost to Nicholas and his fractured family?

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