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November 2024

## Model A Brewing Wins Two Gold Medals at Charlotte Independent Brewers Alliance Awards



Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Model A Brewing has added to its impressive collection of accolades by winning two gold medals at this year's Charlotte Independent Brewers Alliance (CIBA) Best of Awards. The local brewery, known for its innovative and high-quality brews, received top honors for its fan-favorite Tega Haze and the unique Disco Sticke Altbier.

The recognition for Tega Haze marks a significant achievement for head brewer Jerod Jones, who has meticulously refined the recipe through countless iterations. Head of Brewing Operations, Brad O'Connor said "we're especially grateful for the recognition our Tega Haze received with its gold medal. It's been a challenging process to achieve haze stability, but Jerod has maintained a great hop balance while enhancing the citrusy aroma and flavor. I think we're done tweaking this one!"

The second gold medal went to Disco Sticke, a classic Sticke Altbier elevated with a twist of Tega Cay Coffee Co. cold brew and whole beans. This unique combination results in a harmonious blend of caramel malt and coffee flavors that has captivated local beer enthusiasts. "For those who have tried it, the caramel malt profile from the Alt melds perfectly with a touch of coffee," O'Connor added.

See Model A, Page 9

# **School Crossing Guard Safety in Question Amid Fatalities and Rising Traffic Concerns**

#### Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Recent tragedies and legal disputes in York County highlight critical issues surrounding the authority and safety of school crossing guards in managing traffic.

The role of crossing guards is bound by state laws that limit their ability to direct or control traffic on busy public roads. The South Carolina Attorney General's Office has also weighed in on this matter, clarifying that crossing guards are authorized only to stop vehicles temporarily to help students cross the street, not to manage broader traffic congestion. This limitation is designed to ensure that only certified law enforcement officials handle traffic direction, which is crucial for maintaining safety in school zones.

The Attorney General Opinion states,

"While there appears to be some conflict in the above opinions as to the authority, or lack thereof, of uniformed adult crossing guards to direct, control, or regulate traffic, we believe the conclusions of each can be read together so as to achieve one logical, coherent result. As indicated in the September 5, 1989 opinion, uniformed adult crossing guards have at least some lawful authority as to the control or direction of traffic pursuant to § 56-5-740. Consistent with the plain language of § 59-63-60, however, any such authority is limited to "assisting school children to cross streets near schools." Thus, as indicated in the January

5, 1983 opinion, the authority of a uniformed adult crossing guard to direct or control traffic does not extend to instructing drivers as to where to stop for the purpose of dropping children off at school. Accordingly, we believe it can reasonably be stated that the authority of a uniformed adult crossing guard to direct or control traffic is limited to ordering vehicles to stop so that children can safely cross the street when walking to or from school. Such crossing guards do not have the authority to direct or control traffic on public roadways near schools for the purpose of reducing traffic congestion caused by vehicles dropping children off or picking them up from school."

See District, Page 8

# Michael Matus Financial Advisor Franchise Owner 803.792.4770 michael.g.matus@ampf.com Ameriprise Ameriprise



#### **INSIDE**



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Fort Mill High School Girls Swim Team Win State Championship

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#### **Family of Crossing Guard** Killed in March Files Wrongful Death Lawsuit **Against Fort Mill School District**

#### Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The family of Stanley Brucker, a 61-year-old crossing guard who died in March after being struck by a vehicle near Fort Mill schools, has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the Fort Mill School District. The lawsuit, filed on October 18 in York County civil court, comes just days after another crossing guard was injured in a separate incident on October 15 at a different Fort Mill school.

Brucker died on March 21 while stationed on Springfield Parkway near Fort Mill Middle and Elementary Schools. He was employed by Cross Safe, a contractor hired by the district. The lawsuit alleges the school district failed to recognize the road as unsafe for crossing guard duties, placing Brucker at an "unreasonably dangerous" location. The suit, filed by attorneys J. Rutledge Young III and Hunter L. Windham of Duffy and Young, LLC out of Charleston, SC, also names the driver involved and seeks actual and punitive damages.

No charges were filed against the driver, as video footage from a school bus showed Brucker stepped into the northbound lane when the collision occurred. Speed was not a factor.

The lawsuit highlights a troubling trend, noting that at least four crossing guards have been hit in Fort Mill in the past six years. In the latest incident on October 15, a crossing guard was injured after two vehicles collided on Fort Mill Parkway near Catawba Ridge High School.



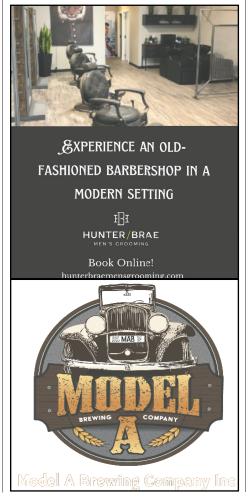
#### **South Carolina Launches** Free Concealed Weapons **Permit Classes Following Constitutional Carry Law** Changes

#### Thomas Hyslip, Editor

South Carolina is now offering free concealed weapons permit (CWP) classes following recent constitutional carry law changes. Each county must provide at least two free sessions open to residents aged 18 and older, with no restriction on attending classes outside one's county of residence. These courses offer the same training as traditional CWP classes, covering essential firearm basics, safety, self-defense laws, and legal regulations for carrying firearms.

The program includes four hours of instruction, followed by a 50-question multiple-choice test and a 25-round qualification course, requiring a 70% passing score on each component. The initiative aims to improve gun safety and education across South Carolina, helping residents develop responsible firearm practices while respecting Second Amendment rights.

Course schedule is available at https://www.sled.sc.gov/CWP\_ Courses



#### Mr. Penny Pincher: Financial Tips for a Stress-Free **Holiday Season**

Patrick Byrne, Editor

The holiday season is upon us. In some ways, it doesn't seem possible. Not long ago, we were sunning ourselves by the lake and eating hot dogs and hamburgers beside the backyard grill. Life is funny. It has a way of moving along when we least expect it.

Now that we're officially in the holiday season, the question is, are you ready for it? Did you prepare or are you behind? If you did prepare, good for you, you're ahead of the game. If you didn't, there's still time for you to make good financial decisions without going into a mountain of debt.

In a recent study conducted by WalletHub, 46 percent of Americans surveyed said they still had holiday debt from last year. A similar study from WalletHub conducted in 2023 prior to the holidays noted that 19 percent of Americans would by applying for a new credit card to help pay for their holiday shopping.

This is not the ideal way to have a worry free holiday. When you whittle the holiday's down to their core, the very purpose for their existence, they're meant to provide joy and fellowship among family, friends and neighbors. Spending your hard earned money to buy things for others when you can't afford to do so makes zero sense from both a budgetary and rational perspective.

There are exceptions for those who belong to the working poor and can barely keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. I'm not talking to them, they have plenty of their own problems.

For the rest of us, it's hard not to plunk down a credit card in order to pay for the things we'd like to buy. This is especially hard when it comes to our kids. If you're like me, you want to give your kids the best life possible. Sometimes this means

See Penny Pincher, Page 10

## TEGA CAY SUN



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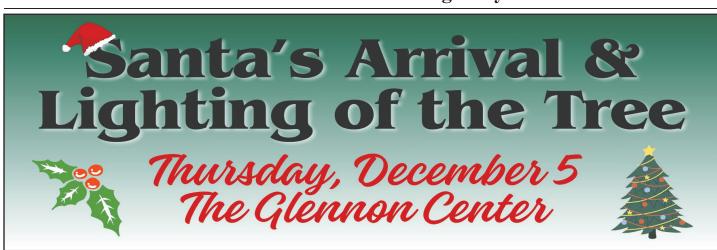
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Get ready to jingle all the way because the most magical time of the year is landing in Tega Cay on December 5th with the fabulous Lighting of the City Tree Ceremony!

Join the amazing Patti Mercer and the Tega Cay Council at 6 pm in the Glennon Center courtyard, 15083 Molokai Drive, as we flip the switch to kick off the holiday festivities and welcome Santa! Savor FREE cocoa and cookies courtesy of the SC Shore Club while belting out your favorite holiday tunes with the talented Tega Cay Music Association and the swingin' stars from Queen City Swing.

After the tree is aglow, kiddos of all ages can bring their Christmas wish lists to jolly old Santa in the pavilion.

There's a sleigh-full of fun waiting for you in beautiful Tega Cay this holiday season, so gather the fam and dive into festive cheer.



Join us for any evening of fun and celebration to say thank you to all those who have served. Tickets are \$45 and Veterans are Free!

Featured Speaker: Lt. Gen. Michael S. Tucker (Ret.) 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Tickets available at: https://bit.ly/tcvadinner







Shore Club in Tega Cay! Let's ring in 2025 with a night to remember! MarvelUS will keep the Glennon Center rocking all evening!

https://www.freshtix.com/events/rockin2025





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TUESDAY, 6:30PM

BINGO WITH SHANE THURSDAY, 6:30PM

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS 2024**

NOV

4TH

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

**NOV** 

**18TH** 

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

NOV

**25TH** 

Economic Development Commissionwill meet at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers.

TUE.

Weekly

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

> Weekly THUR.

Bingo with Shane - 6:30pm at Model A

#### WED-SAT. Weekly

Live Music - Live music four nights a week at the SC Shore Club

#### Saturdays Bi-Weekly

Tega Cay Lions Club - 2nd and 4th Satruday 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 Cav Good Life Club - Meets the last Wednesday of each month at the Glennon Center. More information available at https://tcgoodlifeclub.wixsite.com/tcglc



# Tega Cay Sun



#### **Public Notices**

We now offer public notices IAW 15-29-80 S.C. Code Ann. (1976). If you are legally required to provide public notice, please contact us and we will assist you with meeting your requirements.

#### York County Library Board Issues Corrected Statement

#### Thomas Hyslip, Editor

On Friday, October 18th, the York County Library Board issued a corrected statement after the an erroneous statement was issued last week. Below is the wording of the new statement and is available on the York County Library website at https://www.yclibrary.org/

#### Public correction of the record of the October 10, 2024 meeting of the York County Library Board

Moratorium on books that contain any sexual content for minors

At a special called meeting of the YCL Board of Trustees ("Board") held on October 16, 2024, the Board minutes were amended to correctly state the motion passed on October 10, 2024:

"Madame Chair, I move that a moratorium be put on purchasing books for minors that contain any sexual content until we have a clear understanding of the significance in the language changes of Proviso 27.1. I reference State Library memo dated June 24, 2024. This moratorium will stay in effect until we have further clarification from the Attorney General's Office."

On October 10, 2024, the motion was seconded and passed in its original form and wording. Contrary to the posting appearing on the YCL website and issued without prior Board notice or approval, the moratorium never withheld funding to purchase books for minors unless said books contained any sexual content.

We regret that the incorrect posting caused unnecessary confusion within our community and especially among library patrons. At the special called meeting of October 16, the Board approved several affirmative measures to improve our future public communication efforts.

The moratorium went into effect with the approval of the October 10, 2024 minutes.

The board also passed four resolutions to avoid future incidents.

- **1. Correcting the Minutes:** The board approved a correction to the minutes of the October 10, 2024 meeting. Tim Steele pointed out that the minutes erroneously reflected the removal of references to sexual material in the moratorium on book purchases. The minutes were corrected to reflect that the moratorium applied only to books with sexual content, not all children's books.
- **2. Public Statements Review:** In response to concerns over a public statement made by Board Chair Dr. Anne Royal Witte, the board passed a resolution requiring that all future public statements be reviewed and approved by the board before publication.
- 3. Appointment of Secretary and Meeting Recordings: Carol Herring was elected as the official secretary. The board also agreed that all future meetings would be audio-recorded to ensure transparency and accuracy.
- 4. Removal of Misinformation and Public Correction: The board resolved to retract the previous inaccurate public statement made after the October 10 meeting. The misinformation will be removed, and a corrected statement, approved by the board, will be posted along with an explanation of the error.

#### yclibrary.org

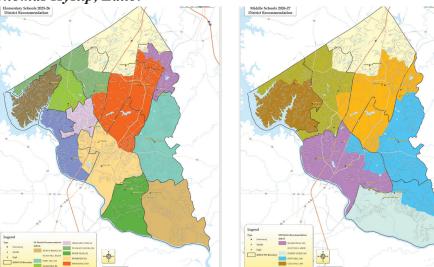
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#### Fort Mill School District Redistricting: Community **Concerns and Upcoming Decision**

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



The Fort Mill School District is in the midst of a complex redistricting process, aiming to reconfigure elementary and middle school attendance zones in anticipation of the opening of Flint Hill Elementary next fall and Flint Hill Middle School in 2026. The process, while necessary to accommodate the district's growth, has generated substantial feedback from concerned parents.

During a school board meeting on Tuesday night, parents voiced their concerns as the district presented its revised recommendations for new attendance lines. These updated proposals are slightly different from those initially submitted by an Ohio-based consultant two weeks ago. Changes include the reuniting of neighborhoods such as the Manors at Lake Ridge and parts of Baxter Village, which had been split in previous drafts.

#### Community Involvement and Feedback

In the two weeks since the initial proposal, the district received over 450 emails from parents, many from neighborhoods in the northern part of Fort Mill. The school district has been responsive to this input, incorporating feedback into the revised maps. Parents still have time to review the district's recommendations and provide additional input before the final decision is made. The district provided this timeline for input and redistricting:

October 1, 2024: School Board Meeting – Presentation of the Consultant's Recommendation

October 2-14, 2024: Community Feedback and District Evaluation of Consultant's Recommendation

October 15, 2024: School Board Meeting – Presentation of the District's Recommendation

October 16 - November 4, 2024: Community Feedback on the District's Recommendation

**November 5, 2024:** School Board Meeting – Consideration of Approval for the District's Recommendation

August 4, 2025: Flint Hill Elementary School opens, and students begin attending based on the approved elementary school attendance lines. August 2026: Flint Hill Middle School opens, and students begin attending based on the approved middle school attendance lines. We value your input. Please submit feedback to communications@ fortmillschools.org following the timeline listed above.

To assist with transparency, the district has made both interactive and static versions of the proposed attendance maps available for public review on its website, www.fortmillschools.org. These tools allow families to see how the changes may impact them.

#### Give the Gift of a Feast: Thanksgiving Bag **Project Brings Holiday Meals to Families in** Need

#### Thomas Hyslip, Editor

As the holiday season approaches, the Thanksgiving Bag project, now in its sixth year, is once again calling on the Fort Mill and Tega Cay community to help provide Thanksgiving meals for families in need. This initiative, led by Lindsay Gore and Christy Tolentino, has grown significantly since its inception in 2019, with last year's effort delivering 168 Thanksgiving dinners to families across 14 schools in the Fort Mill School District.



"We started this project after

realizing that there were families just a few miles from us who were really struggling, especially during the holidays," Gore shared. "We wanted to help, and Thanksgiving was the next holiday on the calendar. Since then, the community has stepped up every year, making it possible to expand and help even more families."

This year, the Thanksgiving Bag project is once again partnering with Tega Graze, 2879 Highway 160, Fort Mill SC, where participants can pick up bags beginning November 1st. Each filled bag should be returned to Tega Graze by Wednesday, November 13th. Families, sports teams, church groups, and businesses are encouraged to participate either by filling a bag with the necessary items or by sponsoring a bag with a \$65

The suggested items to include in each Thanksgiving bag are: \$40 gift card for meat (Wal-Mart or Visa)

2 packets of instant gravy

1 box of stuffing

2 cans of cranberry sauce

2 cans of green beans

2 cans of corn

1 can of yams

1 box of instant mashed potatoes

1 can of pumpkin pie filling

1 shelf-stable pie crust (graham cracker)

1 box of iced tea bags

Any additional items you would like to add!

See Thanksgiving, Page 11



#### Back to Basics: Dr. David Hall's Guide to Spine **Health and Wellness**

Dr. David Hall

Maintaining a healthy spine is crucial for overall well-being, yet it's an aspect of health that often goes unnoticed. Unfortunately, about 80% of people experience spinal pain at some point in their lives, particularly those who are over the age of 65, overweight, smoke, lift heavy objects, or have a history of back

The Importance of Spine Health The spine is vital for protecting the spinal cord and supporting the body. It allows us to bend, twist, and absorb shock while connecting hundreds of muscles,



ligaments, and tendons. With such a significant role in our health, it's essential to keep the spine in optimal condition.

#### How to Maintain a Healthy Spine

Here are some practical tips to promote spine health:

#### **Standing**

Keep one foot slightly in front of the other and your knees slightly bent to relieve pressure on your lower back. Dr Hall can provide personalized recommendations for postural corrections that suit your body mechanics. Maintain a level head position, ideally aligning your earlobes with your shoulders to avoid unnecessary strain.

#### Lifting

Avoid twisting while lifting, as this movement can significantly injure the

When lifting heavy items, use your legs instead of your back. If the item is too heavy, seek help.

Sit with your knees slightly lower than your hips and maintain a straight back. Dr. Hall can recommend ergonomic modifications for your workspace to ensure better spinal alignment.

Avoid slouching by keeping your shoulders back and your head up. This alignment is key to preventing chronic discomfort.

#### Reaching and Bending

For items above shoulder level, use a stool instead of straining. In picking items from the floor, bend at the knees, keeping your back straight and position yourself close to the object, utilizing leg strength to lift.

Sleeping positions can impact spinal health. Placing a pillow under your knees when lying on your back or between your bent knees when sleeping on your side can alleviate pressure.

#### **Technology Use**

With the risk of "text neck," many individuals experience pain from looking down at their phones and tablets. Holding your device at eye level to reduce strain on your neck.

Ensure your computer screen is at eye level and your feet are flat on the floor for optimal posture during long periods of device use.

#### **Experience Comprehensive Care at Hall Chiropractic**

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Call or text Hall Chiropractic at 803.412.2240 or schedule at www.hallchiropracticcenter.com



# Buzz around Town



#### Meet Joe Burke: The **Voice of Fort Mill Schools**



Patrick Byrne, Editor

If you have a child attending a Fort Mill school, you have definitely heard Joe Burke's voice on the other end of your phone or received one of the many emails he sends to keep you updated on what's happening with your child's school. Serving as the Chief Communications Officer for the Fort Mill School District, it's Joe's job to keep parents and children informed while also navigating multiple points of change in a town with ever expanding growth.

As he enters his eight year, we wanted to get to know the man behind the voice, while asking him to provide feedback on recent attendance line decisions and how that impacts families in Fort Mill with student age children.

#### **Getting Started**

With a degree in Communications See Burke, Page 9

#### Fort Mill School District Ranked #1 in South Carolina and Charlotte Metro Area



## 2025 Best School Districts in **South Carolina**

- #1 in South Carolina
- **#1** in Charlotte Area
- **Top 10 Elementary Schools in South Carolina**
- Top 6 Middle Schools in **South Carolina**



#### Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The Fort Mill School District has once again proven itself to be the best in South Carolina, according to the 2025 rankings by Niche.com. The district was named the #1 Best School District in the state, as well as the best in the Charlotte metro area. Additionally, Fort Mill's teachers were recognized as the second-best in South Carolina, highlighting their commitment to providing top-notch education. The district was also rated as the best place to teach in the Charlotte area and recognized as having the best teachers in the Charlotte area.

#### **Best Public Elementary Schools** in South Carolina Rankings:

- 1. Gold Hill Elementary School
- 2. Tega Cay Elementary School
- 3. Pleasant Knoll Elementary
- 4. Kings Town Elementary School
- 5. River Trail Elementary School
- 6. Doby's Bridge Elementary School
- 7. Sugar Creek Elementary School
- 8. Springfield Elementary School
- 9. Orchard Park Elementary School
- 10. Fort Mill Elementary School
- 13. Riverview Elementary School

#### **Best Public Middle Schools in South Carolina Rankings:**

- 1. Springfield Middle School
- 2. Pleasant Knoll Middle School
- 3. Gold Hill Middle School
- 4. Fort Mill Middle School
- 5. Forest Creek Middle School
- 6. Banks Trail Middle School

#### **Best Public High Schools in South** Carolina Rankings:

- 7. Catawba Ridge High School
- 11. Fort Mill High School
- 14. Nation Ford High School

#### **Step Into the Magic:** Harry Potter Yule Ball at Winthrop's McBryde Hall

#### Patrick Byrne, Editor

Prepare to be whisked away to a world of enchantment and wonder as Winthrop University serves as the backdrop to the Harry Potter Yule Ball on December 7, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM in McBryde Hall. The event promises to be an unforgettable evening filled with magic, dancing, and the timeless spirit of the wizarding world.

McBryde Hall will be transformed into a whimsical setting, decorated with twinkling fairy lights and charming details reminiscent of Hogwarts itself. Guests will be greeted by an atmosphere that captures the magic of the beloved Harry Potter series, ensuring an unforgettable experience from the moment they step inside.

#### **Event Details:**

Date: December 7, 2024 Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Location: McBryde Hall, Winthrop

University Ticket Price: \$75

https://www.communityhype.com/ products/yule-ball

Dress Code: Formal Wizarding

Attire

Whether you're a lifelong Harry Potter fan or just looking for a magical evening out, the Yule Ball is the place to be this December.



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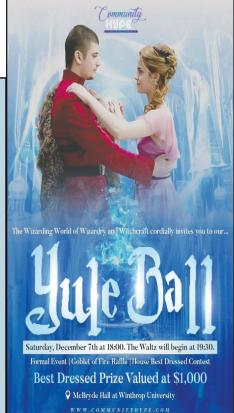
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# **Trojans Trounce Yellow Jackets in Total Takeover**

Chris Coffee, Sports Reporter



First downs and touchdowns were hard to come by for the Fort Mill Yellow Jacket's Friday night. With a 65-6 victory, the Northwestern Trojans dominated the field on a night the home team was celebrating senior night.

As it went for most of the game, Fort Mill went three and out on their opening drive. In goal line defense, Fort Mill intercepted a Trojan bobbled pass to start their second drive from their own one yard line. After a botched snap on their first play, the drive never got started as Northwestern intercepted the pass on Fort Mill's next play.

The Yellow Jacket's defense forced Northwestern into a punt on fourth and 20. After another three and out, Fort Mill's punt was fumbled by the Trojan return man. This gave Fort Mill a fresh set of downs on the 49 yard line and their best field position of the night so far.

As they would all game long, Northwestern dominated the line of scrimmage. They shut down any hope of Fort Mill trying to establish a running or passing game. On third and long, the Trojans intercepted Fort Mill on the 16 yard line. After a Trojan's touchdown, the Yellow Jacket's ended the first quarter with the ball and their first first down of the game. Tanner Mays helped pick up the team's next first down to start the second quarter, but Northwestern was already up 15-0 with no plans of looking back. Fort Mill punted on fourth and long. After the return, Northwestern quickly made it first and goal with a 65 yard pass to the wide receiver Tadarrian Knox. Freshman Nigel Smith found the end zone on third and goal. With the point after, Northwestern was up 22-0 with 8:31 remaining the the first half.

Between penalties and a porous front line, Fort Mill was never able to get anything going their way. At the half, Northwestern held a 50-0 lead and tacked on another 15 points in the second half. With eight minutes remaining in the game, the Yellow Jackets found the end zone but missed the PAT. Fort Mill was down 65-6 as time ran out.

Fort Mill moves to 1-6 on the season and 0-4 in region 3-5A play. This was their last home game of the season. They travel to Indian Land and Nation Ford over the next two weeks.



Fort Mill High School Girls Swim Team Clinches Third Consecutive State Championship Thomas Hyslip, Editor



The Fort Mill High School girls swim team has captured their third straight South Carolina State Championship. The Yellow Jackets demonstrated their depth and determination, securing the title with a score of 483 points, well ahead of their closest competitors.

Despite not securing any individual event wins, the Jackets' success came from the collective strength of their team. Twenty swimmers contributed to the overall score, with several top-five finishes boosting Fort Mill's points.





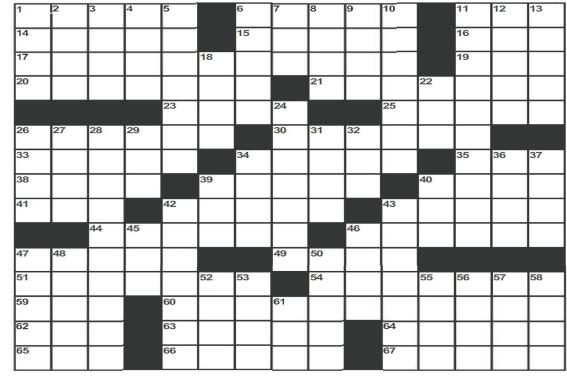
## Charlie's Crossword Puzzle

#### ACROSS

- 1) "\_\_ a sudden ..."
- 6) Make disappear
- 11) Parochial school subj.
- 14) Hotelier Helmsley
- 15) Backless couch
- 16) Hagen of stage and screen
- 17) Alley dwellers?
- 19) Moo \_\_ pork 20) Nineveh's region
- 21) Move along jumpily
- 23) Concerning, on a memo
- 25) Derek and the Dominos classic
- 26) Temporary occupant
- 30) Leading-edge
- 33) Dr. Alzheimer
- 34) Gadded about
- 35) Craigslist posts38) "Adult" literature
- 39) Audited a class, say

- 40) Prison uprising
- 41) Unit of bricks, proverbially
- 42) Yielded to pressure
- 43) Model glider wood
- 44) Dealer in cloth
- 46) Long-eared hound
- 47) Grouchy Muppet
- 49) Lasting emotional damage
- 51) Coffeemaker inserts
- 54) Gallery event
- 59) "Rope-a-dope" boxer
- 60) Milk, bread, potatoes, etc.
- 62) Area between outfielders
- 63) Doo-wop tune, say
- 64) Attack from all sides
- 65) Twisty curve
- 66) Raring to go
- 67) Pen's inferior, in a saying

#### FASTENERS



#### DOWN

- 1) Goya's Duchess of
- 2) Many August babies
- Weather map areas
- 4) "For Your Eyes
- 5) Tinker Bell and others
- 6) Mystery writer's award
- 7) Job for a tailor
- 8) Alamo rival
- 9) Holed, as a putt
- 10) Stored, as fodder
- 11) Drambuie and Scotch cocktails
- 12) Lucy's landlady
- 13) Gene Tierney title role
- 18) Punch-in time for many
- 22) Cigarette gunk
- 24) Hams on stage
- 26) In the proverbial cellar
- 27) Lincoln who played Tarzan
- 28) Audio snippets
- 29) Watch junior
- 31) Roman writer of "Amores"
- 32) Cozy retreat
- 34) Go ballistic
- 36) Two tablets, perhaps
- 37) BA or ERA
- 39) Easy mark
  - Tafari (Haile Selassie)
- 42) Tend to
- 43) Tipplers run them up
- 45) Mob informer
- 46) San Fran transit system
- 47) Old enough 48) Eliot's Marner
- 50) Stengel in Cooperstown
- 52) Kirk, to Shatner
- 53) Sprite, for one
- 55) Release forcibly 56) To boot
- 57) Look like a dirty old man
- 58) Tavern sign abbr.
- 61) Carried out

#### Answers at tegacaysun.com/answers

#### District, From Page 1

Uniformed adult crossing guards can stop vehicles solely for crossing purposes but lack authority to manage peak-time traffic near schools. This restriction means crossing guards cannot legally direct drivers to alleviate the frequent bottlenecks caused by school drop-off and pick-up routines.

More involved traffic management falls under law enforcement, such as the use of state constables who may direct traffic only under specific conditions of supervision by certified officers from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED).

When asked if off duty police officers could serve as crossing guards to comply with state law, district spokesman Joe Burke stated, "that is an option the district has considered, however we have been notified by local law enforcement that is not an option available to us at this time."

These regulations have come under scrutiny following the death of Stanley Brucker, a Fort Mill crossing guard tragically struck by a vehicle in March 2024. The incident, followed by another injury involving a crossing guard at Catawba Ridge High School in October, has raised

public concern about crossing guard safety in school zones and the adequacy of traffic management measures.

While no charges were filed against the driver in Brucker's accident, his family has since filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the Fort Mill School District, alleging insufficient safety provisions for crossing guards in high-traffic areas. The lawsuit aims to prompt the district to implement stronger protections.

The school community and local authorities are under pressure to reevaluate how crossing guards are protected and equipped to handle the dangers posed by school traffic. Advocates argue that without granting crossing guards additional authority or providing alternative traffic management solutions, such incidents may persist.

Fort Mill Mayor Guynn Savage and Tega Cay Mayor Chris Gray weighed in on the issue, encouraging the South Carolina DOT to assist and help communities come up with ways to prevent future incidents.

With the current laws restricting crossing guards' ability to control traffic effectively, recent litigation and incidents may become a catalyst for policy change aimed at enhancing school zone safety.

#### Burke, From Page 6

from Newberry College, Joe's career started in TV media, both during and after college. His work in media paved the way for his entry into public education communications when he joined the Richland County School District in 2007. Over a decade in Richland saw him climbing the ranks, managing everything from the district's TV channel to more significant communication strategies.

In 2017, a personal choice to relocate factored into his decision to join the Fort Mill School District. He and his family initially moved to Lancaster, allowing his wife, a professor at USC Lancaster, to cut her commute significantly. A recent move to Fort Mill has allowed him to also take advantage of less time in the car "I went from commuting an hour each way to 20 minutes," said Joe.

#### Managing Growth and Change

The Fort Mill School District has experienced rapid growth, a challenge that Joe and his team face head-on, particularly when it comes to attendance line adjustments. These adjustments are driven by the opening of a new school.

The recent adjustments are a result of two new schools, Flint Hill Elementary and Flint Hill Middle School. The funding for these schools was provided by either impact fees or bonds.

Joe explains the process of redrawing attendance lines as both necessary and data-driven. "We start with an outside consultant who gives us an impartial look, factoring in projected growth and current student data. Our goal is to prevent under or over-utilization while ensuring that students are distributed across our new schools."

Parents are encouraged to participate by submitting feedback, and Joe emphasizes that the district is carefully reviewing all input. "We know we can't address everyone's concerns, but we are doing our best to incorporate what we can. When you send an email, there is a person on the other end who's actually looking at all of this."

#### **Attendance Line Timeline**

October 1st:

Initial findings presented to the school board by an external consultant Interactive maps provided to the public showing impact to students and households
Parents were asked to provide feedback

October 2nd - November 4th

Parents and students are encouraged to provide feedback on the initial proposal via email to communications@fortmillschools.

Data will be collected and local expertise will be used to provide input and direction on next steps Findings are provided to administrators and decisions on next steps are made based on the information that has been gathered

November 5th

A revised proposal based on the additional findings is provided at the school board meeting. The school district asks for the school board to provide approval to move forward with the revised proposal. If approved, the school district will move forward. If not approved, additional discussions and analysis will take place. The school board will be asked to review the revised proposal at a later date. Addressing the Challenges

When asked about the most significant challenges facing the district, Joe is quick to mention the teacher shortage. "Nationwide, fewer people are going into teaching," Joe says, although he acknowledges that North and South Carolina have raised teacher pay, which has helped mitigate the issue in Fort Mill. Managing rapid growth and navigating school funding formulas are also ongoing concerns.

With a 10-year plan in place to project growth and plan for new schools, the district is prepared to meet future demands. However, Joe stresses that challenges like these require constant vigilance and long-term planning.

#### **A Community Connection**

Joe is most proud of the teachers who work tirelessly to maintain Fort Mill's high standards. "Our teachers are what make this district great. The latest Niche ratings show it—they're dedicated and put in a lot of hard work."

As the district navigates rapid growth and evolving educational needs, Joe stands as a key figure in ensuring that communication between the schools, parents,

and community remains open, transparent, and effective.

**NOTE**: the subject of Silfab Solar was discussed via email prior to our interview. Mr. Burke declined to comment but did provide the following notes from a recent board meeting:

We are aware that several legal proceedings are currently underway that could potentially impact future plans at a neighboring site. However, according to the state and federal regulatory agencies responsible for community health and safety, the nearby SILFAB site will be required to meet all health and safety guidelines for operation. These agencies establish operational standards and will monitor compliance to ensure there is minimal to no risk to our community.

Emergency planning is a routine practice for all school districts across the state. We are currently awaiting finalized emergency response plans from York County, which must first receive approval from the EPA. It is our understanding that these plans must be approved and submitted to the county before any chemicals can be present on the SILFAB site. Once these plans are submitted, the district will assess whether any additional site-specific safety measures are needed. This process aligns with the district's established protocols for addressing unique safety concerns, such as the Catawba Nuclear site and natural disasters. Similar site-specific safety considerations were addressed during the openings of Nation Ford High School, due to its proximity to a nearby rail line, and Banks Trail Middle School, because of the neighboring U.S. Foods facility.

Once the district has received the finalized plans and the legal matters are resolved, we can share any additional information necessary to ensure transparency and safety.



#### Model A, From Page 1

These latest awards follow Model A Brewing's successful run last year, where the brewery garnered two gold medals and a bronze for Best in Show with its standout beer, Absofugginlutely. The brewery also received accolades for its Finley's Alt, showcasing its prowess across a range of styles.

"We are honored to be recognized in this vibrant craft beer community," said O'Connor. "We invite everyone to come by and grab a glass of the best hazy around Charlotte!"

With its dedication to quality and innovation, Model A Brewing continues to solidify its position as a leader in Charlotte's brewing scene, creating exciting new flavors that keep fans coming back for



#### Penny Pincher, from page 2

buying them the things they want. It brings them joy and in turn, brings you joy for having the ability to do it. This is normal. It's also normal to have remorse 6 months later when you're still paying off something that your child has now thrown to the side for the next big thing.

If you fall into the category of being behind on your holiday budget, you still have time to store up some cash to avoid having to use credit cards to pay for the items you'd like to buy. Let's discuss the steps you can take to have success this holiday season.

#### Develop a Budget

It seems simple, right? It is simple if it's something you're used to doing. It's more difficult if it's something you've never done or don't currently do on a daily or monthly basis. Although it seems simplistic, documenting who you're buying gifts for and how much you're going to spend will help you greatly reduce the risk of a budgetary collapse. Sticking to the budget is also vital to success.

#### Downsize Your Life

Forego the morning coffee at Starbucks. Pack your lunch instead of eating out. Invite friends over for drinks at your house rather than spending money at the bar. These are all very small things that will have minimal impact on your life or general happiness; however, the impacts to your budget could be huge. I'd honestly recommend doing each of these on a regular basis anyway, but you can certainly implement them from now until mid December in order to save some money.

Work on Your Side Hustle

Take it from a guy who now makes his living hustling for every dollar. There is money out there if you work hard, have a will to win and provide something people either want or need done. At the Catawba Fest last week, I saw multiple vendors selling jams, breads or other goods. Many of them appeared to be local with the vast majority helping customers make a purchase each time I walked past. If you're good at something, use it to your advantage. You don't have to go into debt to do it either. There are plenty of low cost options for you to make extra money. Do your research and get started.

Accepting your fate and going into debt in order to purchase what you want or need for the holidays is avoidable for a vast majority of us. Make the necessary sacrifices now in order to have a joyful and stress free holiday season. You'll also be setting yourself up for financial success in 2025 by avoiding paying off your debt for months to come.

After all, Christmas comes once a year.

Your credit card bill; however, comes once a month.

# Celebrate Your Special Occasion with an Announcement in the Tega Cay Sun

Celebrate life's most cherished moments with a personalized announcement in the Tega Cay Sun! We're excited to offer announcements for weddings, graduations, anniversaries and other special occasions. This will provide an opportunity to share with the entire community for just \$50.



Whether you're tying the knot, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or honoring your graduate's achievements, our announcements are the perfect way to mark your special occasion. Each announcement is crafted to spotlight your memorable moment with custom text and optional photos, ensuring your loved one's celebration is shared with the community in a meaningful and lasting way.

Your announcement will be featured both in print and online, ensuring wide visibility and creating a keepsake that you can cherish for years to come. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate in style.

Visit our announcements page to learn more! https://tegacaysun.com/announcements/

### Fort Mill Receives \$4.2 Million FEMA Grant to Hire 15 New Firefighters

Patrick Byrne, Editor

FORT MILL, S.C. — The Town of Fort Mill is set to bolster its fire department with 15 new firefighters, thanks to a \$4,223,398 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



This funding comes through FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant program, which will cover the salaries and benefits for the new firefighters over the next three years, starting in March 2025. In addition to expanding the fire department's personnel, the grant will enable Fort Mill to staff its third fire station, significantly enhancing the town's emergency response capabilities.

Fort Mill's fire department is among 191 across the nation—and one of only six in South Carolina—to receive this year's SAFER grant funding. In total, FEMA awarded \$360 million through the program, which aims to help fire departments meet industry staffing standards, provide 24-hour coverage, and support their broader missions of community protection.



# **Tega Cay Men's Golf Association Fall Member Member Tournament Results**

#### Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The Tega Cay Men's Golf Association recently concluded its Fall Member-Member Tournament, which featured 27 holes of golf played across three different courses: Carolina Pines, Grand View, and The Cove. Each course featured a unique format, adding an exciting challenge for the competitors.

The Carolina Pines 9 was played in an alternate shot format, where teams decided which player would tee off on even and odd holes, with the players alternating shots until the ball was holed. The Grand View 9 used a format of both players playing their own ball, with the team score determined by the sum of both net scores. Lastly, The Cove 9 was a captain's choice format, where each team member was required to use three tee shots.

#### Flight 1 Results:

1st Place: Bruce Fonte and Dale Grizer - Net -3

2nd Place: Bill and Billy Hall - Net -1

Tied 3rd Place: Brian Ćurtis and Greg Scott - Net +4

Tied 3rd Place: Doug Champagne and Hunter Burke - Net +4

#### Flight 2 Results:

1st Place: Tim Wyatt and Paul Liles - Net +4 (scorecard playoff)

2nd Place: Dale Fandel and Randy Mook - Net +4 3rd Place: Robert Miller and Ron Birmingham - Net +6

Tim Wyatt and Paul Liles emerged victorious in Flight 2 through a scorecard playoff. The playoff was determined using scores from Carolina Pines holes 5 and 7, Grand View holes 10 and 18, and Cove holes 3 and 4. These scores were solely used to decide the tiebreaker.



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#### Thanksgiving, From Page 5

The bags will provide families with a complete Thanksgiving meal, ensuring that they can enjoy the holiday season without the stress of wondering how they will afford a traditional dinner. For those unable to fill a bag, sponsoring a meal is a simple way to contribute and make a difference.

"We work directly with school counselors to identify families who could benefit from this project," Tolentino explained. "Each year, it's heartwarming to see how many people from our community come together to help. It truly shows the spirit of generosity that thrives in our town."

With the goal of matching or surpassing last year's efforts, the Thanksgiving Bag project organizers are hopeful that 2024 will be another successful year. The project serves as a reminder that even small actions can make a big difference in the lives of local families.

To get involved or to sponsor a bag, community members can Venmo \$65 to Christy Tolentino @christy-tolentino or pick up a bag at Tega Graze.

"We truly live in the best city," Gore added. "This project has become a tradition not only for us but for many others who return year after year to help."

Let's all come together this holiday season to support those in need and ensure everyone in our community can enjoy a warm Thanksgiving meal.

## Thanksgiving Dinner Bag '24

#### What to Include:

- \$40 Gift card for meat (Wal-mart or VISA)
- 2 packets of instant gravy
- 1 box of stuffing
- 2 cans of cranberry sauce
- 2 cans of green beans
- 2 cans of corn
- 1 can of yams
- 1 box of instant mashed potatoes
- 1 can of pumpkin pie filling
- 1 shelf stable pie crust, graham cracker
- 1 box of iced tea bags

Anything else you may want to add!

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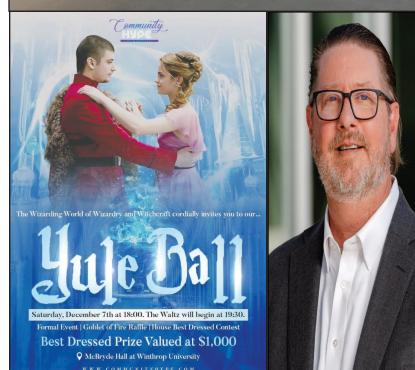
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