

Tega Cay Sun

REACHING
80,000 READERS
MONTHLY

FREE • Vol. 3 - No. 7 Your Trusted Source for Local News and Information

July 2025

Tega Cay Coffee Expands, Doubling Down on Community Focus

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

What started in 2020 as a hand-built coffee cart has blossomed into one of the most beloved local businesses in the area — and now, Tega Cay Coffee is expanding its footprint and its commitment to community.

Founded by coffee enthusiast Brian Bourgal and backed by a team of local business partners, Tega Cay Coffee has steadily grown from a mobile cart to a brick-and-mortar café. Six months after opening the shop, demand began to outpace space, especially on weekends. That demand prompted an expansion into the adjacent unit, now undergoing renovations, with a targeted soft opening around July 4.

“We saw the lines, we saw people turning away, and we knew we had to do something,” Jeremy said. “It’s a great problem to have, but still a problem.”

The new space will offer expanded indoor seating, an additional register to improve wait times, and eventually a full-service kitchen. While the dining room will open first, the kitchen — which required a full rebuild of the existing hood system — is expected to follow a week or two later.



One of the most exciting elements of the expansion is the larger role it creates for their in-house baker, Megan. Her pastries, already a local favorite, will now come from a dedicated space, allowing more fresh-baked options daily and the ability to support another local small business through catering partnerships.

“Everything we do is rooted in the community,” said the team. “From our local coffee roaster in Indian Trail,

to our homemade syrups and baked goods, we want this place to feel like Tega Cay’s own.”

The café’s food philosophy is also clear: affordability without sacrificing quality. A new breakfast menu will offer full platters — including 2 eggs, a protein, a side, and bread — all for under \$10. “We know how expensive it can be to take your family out. We want to change that,” Jeremy added.

See Coffee, Page 8

Fort Mill School District Engages Citadel EHS for Environmental Review Near Silfab Solar Facility

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The Fort Mill School District is moving forward with an independent environmental health and safety review tied to community concerns about the Silfab Solar manufacturing facility’s proximity to Flint Hill Elementary and Middle Schools. In response to public input and recommendations from the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU), the district has hired Citadel Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) to conduct a comprehensive assessment.

The initiative was introduced at a recent school board meeting by Joe Burke, who said the district spent months selecting a qualified,

independent firm. Julie Wojnowski, a Fort Mill resident and senior consultant with Citadel, presented the firm’s scope and emphasized her commitment to the community.

Wojnowski stressed that Citadel is fully independent from both Silfab Solar and the school district. She outlined the firm’s mission: to provide a transparent, science-based evaluation of environmental conditions and internal systems to help the district and families move forward with trust and clarity.

The assessment will focus on five key areas:

Review of External Emissions Risk: Citadel is analyzing Silfab’s air permits, emissions data, safety protocols, and

industrial processes to assess any chemical or fire hazards.

Internal School Safety: HVAC systems, filtration, emergency preparedness, and real-time air circulation will be reviewed to evaluate the schools’ ability to maintain safe indoor air quality.

Baseline and Ongoing Monitoring: Air and potentially water samples will be collected and tested for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate matter (PM), and other pollutants, both before and after occupancy.

WELL Health-Safety Rating: The district aims to earn this third-party certification, which recognizes best
See Citadel, Page 9

INSIDE



Tega Cay Approves Driving Golf Carts at Night

Page 4



Tega Cay Lions Club Citizen of the Year Finalists

Page 6



Ed Currie to Lead Independence Day Parade

Page 7



New Rock Hill VA Clinic Opening

Page 11

Missed an edition of The Tega Cay Sun?

Visit www.tegacaysun.com
TO VIEW NOW



Fort Mill School Board Finalizes Contract for Incoming Superintendent Grey Young

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



FORT MILL, S.C. — The Fort Mill School District has officially signed a three-year employment agreement with incoming Superintendent Grey Young, a longtime district educator and administrator who will begin his new role on July 1, 2025. The contract outlines a comprehensive compensation package that positions Young competitively among regional education leaders while emphasizing performance and community involvement.

Salary and Adjustments

Young's base salary is set at \$275,000, which is \$29,940 more than outgoing Superintendent Dr. Chuck Epps, who currently earns \$245,060. His compensation is in line with the new Rock Hill superintendent and below the \$318,270 salary of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Superintendent Crystal Hill.

Young will also receive:

Annual cost-of-living increases equal to those granted to teachers. An additional 2% salary bump in any year teachers receive a step increase. Retirement Contributions and Optional Pay-Out

The district will contribute to Young's 403(b) or deferred compensation plan, contingent on satisfactory performance:

5% of base salary in January 2026, 8% in January 2027, 10% in January 2028.

Young may alternatively elect to receive these amounts as supplemental wages.

Technology and Transportation

To support his work, the district will provide:

A mobile phone, laptop, and iPad (or

equivalent), for both professional and reasonable personal use.

A \$1,000 monthly automobile and maintenance allowance for in-district travel. Reimbursement for out-of-district travel following district policies. Leave and Time Off

Young's contract includes:

15 vacation days annually
15 sick days and 5 personal days.
All district-recognized holidays.
Payout for unused vacation upon separation, in line with board policy.
Professional Development and Community Engagement

Young will have access to professional development opportunities and the district will cover:

Dues to the American Association of School Administrators, South Carolina Association of School Administrators, and other approved groups. Up to three local civic organization memberships to support community engagement.

Other reasonable expenses related to job duties, per the district budget.

Other Provisions

Young is required to maintain a primary residence within the district during the term of the contract. The district will fund a complete annual medical exam, with results confirming his continued fitness to serve.

He is protected under a professional liability clause, ensuring indemnification for claims arising during official duties.

The contract includes annual performance evaluations, with informal reviews possible throughout the year.

Should the Board opt to terminate the contract unilaterally, Young would receive up to one year's salary as severance, depending on the time remaining on the agreement.

Background and Leadership

Young is a Fort Mill native and product of the district's public schools. He has worked for the district since 2001, most recently serving as assistant superintendent of student services and administration. His deep roots in the community and decades of service were key factors in the board's decision to promote from within.

The agreement underscores the district's commitment to continuity, accountability, and supporting leadership that reflects Fort Mill's values as it continues to grow.

York County Library Proposes Moving Some Children's and Teen Books to Adult Shelves

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The York County Library Board is reviewing a proposal to relocate certain books from children's and teen sections into the adult collection. The policy targets materials that include themes of gender identity, gender transitioning, and related medical or social concepts.

Under the proposed guidelines books for children aged 0–12 that depict or discuss gender identity, pronoun use, clothing choices inconsistent with biological sex, or gender transitioning—either social or medical—would be moved to the Parenting and Early Childhood section within the adult collection. Books for teens aged 13–17 involving characters who have transitioned or are transitioning would be placed in the adult section. This includes books with themes of social transitioning (such as name or pronoun changes) and physical changes (such as hormone use).

The changes do not constitute a ban, and the books would still be accessible to the public. However, the books would only be available in the adult section and parents would need to check the books out for their children.

The proposed policy mirrors a similar measure enacted by the Greenville County Library System, which is currently facing legal challenges. In that case, critics argue the relocation of LGBTQ+-themed books restricts access and represents viewpoint discrimination. Legal advocacy groups have raised concerns that York County could face similar challenges if the policy is implemented.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 24 at 1 p.m. at the Lake Wylie Library branch, where the board is expected to continue its review of the proposal

Michael Matus



Financial Advisor
(803) 792-4770

michael.g.matus@ampf.com



TEGA CAY SUN

Staff



Thomas Hyslip
Editor/Publisher
(919) 274-4526

editor@tegacaysun.com



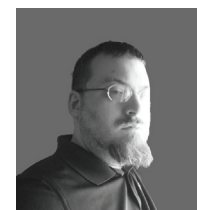
Patrick Byrne
Editor/Ad Sales
(704) 904-8067

patrickbyrne@tegacaysun.com



Chris Coffee
Sports Reporter

chriscoffee@tegacaysun.com



Mike Griffith
Carolina Weather
Authority

Tega Cay Sun



Want to advertise in the Tega Cay Sun?

Contact Patrick Byrne
patrickbyrne@tegacaysun.com
(704) 904-8067

Online: tegacaysun.com/shop
Media Kits available upon request

facebook.com/tegacaysun

www.tegacaysun.com

TSA Reiterates Warning: Avoid Airport USB Chargers and Public Wi-Fi

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is again urging travelers to steer clear of public USB charging ports and unsecured airport Wi-Fi—a warning echoed by federal agencies including the FCC and FBI.

Juice-Jacking: A Persistent Threat

“Juice-jacking” occurs when hackers embed malware into public USB ports, exploiting connected devices to steal data or install malicious software. Despite no confirmed widespread attacks, federal authorities continue sounding the alarm.

The FCC cautions travelers to use AC outlets and carry personal chargers or battery packs to prevent exposure through public USB ports and free Wi-Fi networks .

The FBI’s Denver office also warned: “Bad actors have figured out ways to use public USB ports to introduce malware and monitoring software”—advising the public to “carry your own charger and USB cord and use an electrical outlet instead” .

Improved Security, Yet Risks Remain

Although mobile operating systems have added USB safeguards, a novel method called “ChoiceJacking” was discovered in 2025. Researchers showed it can trick devices into accepting unauthorized data transfers by simulating user actions—even on up-to-date iOS and Android devices .

How to Stay Safe While Traveling

Threat	Recommended Precaution
Public USB Charging	Use AC outlets or bring your own USB cable and power brick; power-only (no data) cables or USB data-blockers (“USB condoms”) prevent data exchange .
Public Wi-Fi	Avoid sensitive transactions on unsecured networks; instead, use cellular data or trusted airport Wi-Fi with a VPN .
Device Security	Keep software updated, disable Bluetooth when not in use, lock devices before charging, and monitor for unusual behavior .

What Travelers Should Do

Pack your own charger – Use AC adapters or battery packs instead of public USB ports.

Use charge-only cables or USB blockers – These prevent any data connection while charging.

Keep devices locked and software current – Prevents malware installation.

Skip public Wi-Fi for sensitive tasks – Rely on mobile data or secured networks and consider using a VPN.

Federal warnings from the TSA, FCC, and FBI reflect growing concern over these cyber threats—despite no large-scale incidents to date. Travelers can avoid risks by adopting simple habits: carry personal charging gear, choose secure networks, and remain vigilant.

Mr. Penny Pincher: Ways to Save on Your Next Vacation

Patrick Byrne, Editor

The family vacation is synonymous with summer. It’s such a standard within American society that an endless array of movies have been made depicting trips to the beach, national parks and Europe, to name a few. It’s something adults and kids alike look forward to each year as a way to unwind and spend quality time together.

There’s only one problem. Vacations are getting close to being unaffordable.

My family and I have been visiting Fripp Island for years. Understanding Fripp is considered a resort, I was always willing to spend a little more in order to stay on a private and secluded island. The trouble is, the “little more” I had been spending has grown into a lot more. Ownership of the resort changed hands in 2023 and ever since, prices have skyrocketed. What was once a \$3-4K all in trip for the week has doubled. Private island or not, it shouldn’t cost \$8-9K to stay at the beach, especially in my own state.

Rather than pay the exorbitant price for the beach, my family and I headed down to Universal Studios in Florida.

Although this wasn’t exactly cheap either, we did find ways to cut our spending without taking away from the overall experience. The great part is, much of what we were able to do can be applied to any vacation, regardless of where you’re going or what you’re doing.

Here are the 3 ways we were able to save and still have an incredible time away:

Avoid Costly Beverages

This one is especially true at theme parks, but could be true elsewhere as well. Rather than purchase the souvenir container that could be refilled with any number of sugary drinks that wouldn’t quench our thirst anyway, we brought a reusable container and filled it with water.

Although it’s hard to quantify exactly how much we saved, I can tell you that one Powerade cost \$6.50. This isn’t to say we never drank anything other than water. Rather than spending throughout the day, we savored the experience at dinner with mocktails for the kids and alcoholic beverages for the adults.

Utilize the 60/40 Rule

This is a tough one. You don’t want to stay somewhere that’s going to take away from the overall experience but you also don’t want to annihilate your budget staying in a hotel you can’t afford.

A good rule of thumb is the 60/40 rule. Your accommodations should cost you around 60% of your overall budget, leaving you with 40% for spending money. For instance, if your overall budget is \$6K, your hotel/house should cost you no more than \$3,500. This leaves with \$2,500 to spend on food, gifts, etc. Anything additional you’d save on accommodations provides you with more spending money for the things you actually want to do.

Family Road Trip

Cars these days are incredibly comfortable. They’re also insanely expensive. Why not use the car you’re already paying for to get you to where you want to go?

Instead of flying, we hopped in the

See Penny Pincher, Page 9

UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

JULY 7TH

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

JULY 14TH

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

JULY 14TH

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

JULY 28TH

Economic Development Commission- 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..

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 Saturday of the month, the Tega Cay Lions Club meets in the lower level of the Glennon Center. More information available at <https://tegaylions.wixsite.com/tegaylions>

Last WED. Monthly

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



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.

Tega Cay Approves Driving Golf Carts at Night; First in South Carolina

Thomas Hylsip, Editor

The City of Tega Cay has approved a new ordinance allowing golf carts to be operated at night without time restrictions. This change follows a state law signed by Governor Henry McMaster on May 22, 2025, which permits nighttime golf cart use—provided local governments pass ordinances authorizing it.

Tega Cay's ordinance incorporates all state-mandated safety requirements, including:

Drivers must hold a valid driver's license
 Golf carts must be equipped with working headlights and taillights
 All passengers under the age of 12 must be secured in a seat belt or car seat
 State age and safety restrictions must be followed at all times

Local businesses are also responding to the change. Travis Macaluso, owner of Macaluso Golf Carts, noted a sharp increase in customer inquiries since the law went into effect. "We've seen a big increase in calls from families asking about seat belt installations since the new law went into effect. Safety has always been a priority for us, and we're glad to help residents get their golf carts up to code. Installing seat belts is a straightforward process, and we offer both in-shop service and kits for those who prefer to do it themselves. Whether it's for kids or overall peace of mind, we encourage all golf cart owners to make this upgrade," Macaluso said.

A full copy of the ordinance is provided below.

Section 50-37.- Regulated Use of golf carts.

Golf carts shall not be operated on public streets or trails except in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance and applicable law.

An individual or business owner of a vehicle commonly known as a golf cart shall obtain a permit decal and registration from the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles upon presenting proof of ownership and liability insurance for the golf cart and upon payment of a registration fee to the department of motor vehicles. The permit decal must be affixed to the golf cart and replaced every five years, or at the time the owner changes their address, whichever is sooner.

A permitted golf cart may be operated anytime day or night within the City jurisdictional limits on highways or streets with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less and on multiuse trails; provided that a permitted golf cart may cross a highway or street at an intersection where the highway has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles an hour.

A golf cart must be equipped with operational headlights and taillights, and if the golf carts is operated after dusk and before dawn, the headlights and taillights must be illuminated.

Each golf cart passenger that is under the age of twelve years old, when it is being operated on permitted highways, streets or multiuse trails, must wear a fastened safety belt or be properly restrained in a car seat or booster seat.

A person operating a permitted golf cart must be at least 16 years of age and hold a valid driver's license. The operator of a permitted golf cart being operated on a highway, street or multiuse trail must have in their possession:

- (1) The registration certificate issued by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles;
- (2) Proof of liability insurance for the golf cart in conformance with Section 38-77-140 of the South Carolina Code of laws; and
- (3) Valid driver's license.

Catawba Nation Announces Phased Opening for Two Kings Casino

Patrick Byrne, Editor

The Catawba Indian Nation has recently provided an update on the highly anticipated Two Kings Casino Resort in Kings Mountain, North Carolina, revealing key opening timelines for its phased development. While a temporary casino has been operational since 2021, the tribe is now progressing towards the grand opening of its more extensive facilities.

The introductory phase of the permanent casino complex is slated to open in spring 2026. This initial section, located on the ground level, is planned to feature 1,350 slot machines, 20 table games, sports betting kiosks, a 40-seat restaurant, and a bar. This new introductory casino will replace the existing temporary facility, offering an expanded gaming and dining experience.

Construction on the overall \$1 billion project has reached significant milestones, with foundations for the casino complex and hotel completed in 2024. The casino complex now stands at its full height, and the 10-story hotel tower is steadily rising, with additional floors being added weekly.

The full-scale casino complex, boasting approximately two million square feet, is targeted for completion and opening in 2027. This expansive final phase is expected to include 4,300 slot machines, 100 table games, 11 dining outlets (including a steakhouse and Italian restaurant), and a players' lounge. The resort will also feature 11 bars and a 385-room hotel tower, connected to the main casino complex.



Teenager Injured in Zoar Road Shooting Near Tega Cay

Thomas Hylsip, Editor

An 18-year-old was injured in a shooting that occurred early Sunday morning on Zoar Road in Charlotte, close to the South Carolina state line and the Tega Cay area, according to WCNC. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) is actively investigating the incident.

The shooting happened a little before 2 a.m. on Sunday, June 15, 2025, WCNC reported. According to authorities, the victim sustained injuries and was transported to a local hospital. Fortunately, the victim's injuries are not considered life-threatening, and they are expected to recover.

The injured teenager reportedly told police they did not know the person who shot them, WCNC stated. As of now, law enforcement is searching for the suspect responsible for the shooting.

Zoar Road runs through the Steele Creek area of Charlotte, a growing community that borders Tega Cay, South Carolina. The proximity to the state line often means that incidents in this area can draw attention from residents on both sides of the border.

CMPD is urging anyone with information about this shooting or any other criminal activity to contact Charlotte Crime Stoppers at 704-334-1600. All calls to Crime Stoppers are anonymous and may be eligible for a reward. The investigation remains ongoing.

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.



BUYING OR SELLING A HOME?



LET'S WORK TOGETHER

THOMAS RACKLEY
REAL ESTATE AGENT

704-340-0400
 thomas.rackleyrealtor@gmail.com
 www.northgroupe.com



Tega Cay Lions Club Celebrates a Year of Service and Welcomes New Leadership at Annual Meeting

Thomas Hylsip, Editor



The Tega Cay Lions Club gathered for its annual meeting at the Glennon Center, marking another successful year of community service and ushering in new leadership for the upcoming term. The event was a testament to the club's dedication, highlighted by scholarship awards, a special guest speaker, and the recognition of outstanding contributions.

The head table featured prominent figures, including outgoing President Jerry Church and his wife Jolene Church, President-Elect Jim MacBride and Lion Hope MacBride, PCC Jim Barbare and Lion Hope Barbare, and Rev. Lion Jon Dwyer. The club was also pleased to welcome special guest Evan Streeter.

A highlight of the evening was the announcement of the annual scholarship awards, recognizing exceptional local students:

Aubrey Heaton was awarded the prestigious Kazel Scholarship (\$2500). Aubrey, the child of Monica Reynolds and Scott Heaton, was unable to attend the ceremony. Madeline Nestel, daughter of Michele and Mark Nestel, received the Cullen Scholarship (\$2000). Griffin Gacsy, child of Deborah and Timothy Gacsy, was presented with the Siegel Scholarship (\$2000).

The meeting proceeded with the induction of the 2025/2026 Board of Directors and officers, who are poised to lead the club in its continued mission of service. The new leadership team includes:

- President: Jim MacBride
- 1st VP: Ray Williams
- 2nd VP: Christine Lekich
- Secretary: Hope MacBride/Gayle Esarove
- Treasurer: Hope MacBride
- Director 1 year: Ashvin Patel
- Director 1 year: Gary Goodson
- Director 2 year: Brooke Lawn
- Director 2 year: Alice Dobleske
- Tail Twister: Elmo Aivalotis
- Lion Tamer: Elmo Aivalotis
- Club Service Chair: Janet Pritchard
- Membership: Bob McCarthy
- Past President: Jerry Church

Several individuals and organizations were honored for their exceptional contributions to the Tega Cay Lions Club and the wider community:

Christine Lekich received a "Membership Key Pin" for her outstanding efforts in bringing in new members. Howell Landscaping and Design was recognized with an "Award for Outstanding Service to the TC Lions Club and Community." Alice Dobleske was presented with an "Award for Dedicated Service" for her significant enhancements to the International Youth Exchange program and her instrumental role in organizing a new Tega Cay Leo Club.

Prestigious fellowship awards were also bestowed upon deserving members:

See Lions, Page 8

Healthy Living with Dr. Hall: Needle-less Vaccines in Our Future?

Dr. David Hall



A recent breakthrough in immunology could lead to needle-free vaccines, revolutionizing immunization and disease prevention. Researchers have discovered that the skin plays a crucial role in immune defense, challenging the traditional view of the skin as just a barrier against pathogens. This research, led by bioengineers Michael Fischbach and Dr. Djenet Bousbaine at Stanford University, focuses on how skin microbes, particularly *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, activate the immune system.

Previously, the skin was understood mainly as a physical barrier to harmful invaders, but recent findings reveal that it also has an active immune response system. *S. epidermidis*, a harmless bacterium naturally found on the skin, was found to stimulate the production of T cells and antibodies, vital components of the immune system. This discovery highlights a complex interaction between the skin's microbes and the immune system, contributing to the body's defense mechanisms.

The most promising aspect of this research is its potential to transform vaccine delivery. Traditional vaccines require injections, but this discovery suggests that topical vaccines could trigger immune responses directly through the skin, eliminating the need for needles. This could be a game-changer for people with needle phobia and in situations where injections are impractical.

Unlike other skin-based vaccine methods, such as microneedle patches, this approach taps into the skin's natural immune functions. In earlier studies, mice exposed to *S. epidermidis* produced a strong T-cell

response, and the recent research showed that B cells, responsible for producing antibodies, were also activated, providing long-lasting protection for over 200 days.

The researchers also explored the potential for mucosal vaccines, which could be applied to the skin as a cream. By using a modified version of *S. epidermidis* to mimic harmful toxins like the tetanus toxin, they were able to prompt the immune system to generate antibodies. This could offer protection against respiratory infections such as COVID 19 before pathogens even enter the body, stopping diseases at their point of entry.

Moreover, cream-based vaccines would be cost-effective, easy to distribute, and do not require trained medical personnel for administration. This makes them an ideal solution for global vaccine distribution, particularly in resource-limited areas where traditional injections are difficult to administer.

Although the research is still in its early stages, the goal is to begin human clinical trials by 2028. If successful, this innovation could usher in a new era of vaccine development, making immunization safer, more accessible, and more effective in preventing infections at their source.

This discovery represents a major advancement in immunology, potentially leading to needle-free vaccines that could transform how we prevent diseases worldwide, paving the way for a healthier global population.

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

Book a FREE consultation online today!

<https://www.hallchiropracticcenter.com/>

(803) 784-1458

MODEL A BREWING
WEEKLY EVENTS

DR. TOM'S TRIVIA
TUESDAY, 6:30PM

BINGO WITH SHANE
THURSDAY, 6:30PM

YOUR AD

COULD BE

★ HERE ★

Your Local, Hometown Chiropractor

1188 Stonecrest Blvd
Ste 102
Tega Cay

Dr. David Hall



Buzz around Town



South Carolina's Hottest Market: Tega Cay Leads State in Home Price Growth

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Tega Cay, South Carolina, is currently the state's undisputed leader in home price growth, according to the latest data from Redfin. In May 2025, home sales prices in Tega Cay surged by an impressive 40.1% year-over-year, significantly outpacing all other metropolitan areas in the state and highlighting its robust real estate market.

This substantial increase in Tega Cay reflects a broader trend of rising home values across South Carolina, though at a more moderate pace statewide. Overall, home prices in South Carolina were up 1.6% compared to last year, with a median selling price of \$392,200. The state also saw a slight increase in homes sold, with 7,389 transactions, a 1.0% rise year-over-year. Homes spent an average of 66 days on the market.

Just a short distance away, Lake Wylie is also experiencing strong appreciation, with home sales prices increasing by 22.4%.

Here is the full list of the top 10 Metros in South Carolina with the Fastest Growing Sales Price:

- Tega Cay: 40.1%
- Murrells Inlet: 35.8%
- Hanahan: 28.8%
- Socastee: 25.0%
- Lake Wylie: 22.4%
- Simpsonville: 14.7%
- Moncks Corner: 13.7%
- Greenville: 13.3%
- Florence: 13.2%
- Greer: 11.6%

Tega Cay Lions Club and Foundation Press Release: Citizen of the Year 2025 Finalists



Since 1975, the Lions have recognized Tega Cay residents who have had an impact on Tega Cay and our local community. Tega Cay residents are invited to nominate a fellow resident - a neighbor, friend, spouse, or colleague - whose achievements and contributions to our community make them worthy of special recognition. The Lions then announce the Citizen of the Year at our annual fish fry at the City's July 4th celebration at the Glennon Center.

The Tega Cay Lions are pleased to announce five 2025 finalists:

Casey Borer is the founder and president of the Tega Cay Wildlife Rehabbers. She tirelessly ensures that every animal in need receives help, coordinating volunteers to provide transport and care, and collaborating with other agencies. Her volunteer efforts not only support wildlife but also offer relief to residents encountering animals in distress. Casey also manages Tega Cay Freecycle, a popular group that fosters community connections through the exchange of free items. "Casey would do anything for anyone in Tega Cay if she was asked."

Cedric Denis is a devoted husband and father who continuously gives back to the community. Though retired from his special education job, he remains active by volunteering as a coach for children's sports and chess teams in Tega Cay and Fort Mill. His teaching background positions him to impart life skills to the kids, fostering confidence and teamwork. Cedric's impact is evident in the growth of the Tega Cay Elementary School chess club, along with planning a district-wide competition this year, and the gratitude of parents. He also is a Fort Mill Rotary Club member, helping to plan their events and volunteer in the community. "I'm nominating

Cedric, not because he's my husband, but because in this past year/the past few years, I've seen him continuously give back to the community without expecting much in return."

Brian and Anastacia Howell are local business owners and parents who have consistently contributed to the community. They host an annual Brunswick stew fundraiser in partnership with a local restaurant with significant community engagement to support local charitable organizations including the Fort Mill EMS and Tega Cay Lions Club and Foundation; organize community events like "Movie in the Park" in partnership with the city; and launch initiatives like Food Truck Wednesdays in their company's parking lot in Tega Cay. Their efforts promote local nonprofits and businesses and engage the community, embodying the spirit of Tega Cay. "Brian and Anastacia's efforts and contributions exemplify the values and spirit that make Tega Cay so special."

April Simpkins is a mental health advocate, national speaker, and author who serves on the Board of Directors at NAMI Piedmont Tri-County. She champions mental health awareness and suicide prevention, sharing the story of her daughter who battled depression for many years, to emphasize the importance of mental wellness. April's involvement in various local and national boards, including Past Board Chair of the York County Regional Chamber, S.C. Small Business Development Centers, and Human Resources Advisory Board for Winthrop University, and role as a National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) ambassador highlight her commitment to the community. Her numerous local, regional, and national awards and recognitions reflect

See Citizen Finalists, Page 9

Buzz, Sweat & Tears 5K Returns to Fort Mill with Halloween Fun and Fundraising for Cross Country

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



FORT MILL, S.C. — Get ready to lace up and join the community at the 2nd Annual Buzz, Sweat & Tears 5K, a festive Halloween-themed fundraiser in support of the Fort Mill High School Cross Country Team. The event will take place on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at Bob Jones Stadium, located at 225 Munn Rd E.

Open to runners and walkers of all fitness levels, the 5K kicks off at 3:30 p.m., with check-in beginning at 2:00 p.m. The course will wind through the Fort Mill High School campus on mostly paved paths. A half-mile kids' fun run will also be held, free for children 10 and under.

The fundraiser supports more than 100 student-athletes across Fort Mill High School, Gold Hill Middle, Pleasant Knoll Middle, and Banks Trail Middle. Proceeds help cover essential costs like uniforms, travel, race fees, and training equipment, keeping the program free and accessible to all athletes.

Highlights of the event include:

- Costume contest
- Food trucks and local vendors
- Trunk-or-treat for kids of registered

See Buzz 5k, Page 8

Don't Let Your Pain... Get in the Way

Specializing in:

- **Massage**
- **Auto Accident Care**
- **Chiropractic Care**
- **Spinal Decompression**

HALL
CHIROPRACTIC

1188 Stonecrest Blvd
Tega Cay

Opens @ 7am!

Dr. David Hall

SALLY AWAD
Luxury PROPERTIES

THE TIME TO LIST IS NOW

OUR STRATEGIC MARKETING WILL GET YOU RESULTS FAST

- Best Possible Price
- Fast Results
- Exceptional Service
- Sophistication That Goes Beyond Traditional Methods

980-301-3552



EVENTS



Tega Cay Prepares for "Where Eagles Soar!" Fourth of July Celebration



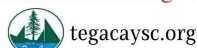
July 4th & 5th Celebration

FRIDAY, JULY 4TH

- 9 am - "Where Eagles Soar" Land Parade Step-Off City Hall
- 4:30 pm - Lions Fish Fry in the Glennon Center
- 6 pm - Mayor's State of the City in the Glennon Center
- 9 pm - Fireworks Over Tega Cay at the Golf Course

SATURDAY, JULY 5TH

- 11 am - Flotilla Parade - Nivens Landing to Windjammer
- 11:15 am - Freedom Fun Run Paddle Board Competition
- Noon - Carolina Ski Show - Salute to the US of A at Windjammer
- 6:30 pm - Uncle Sam Jam featuring "Dixie Diamonds" at Runde



Caroline Hasty

The City of Tega Cay is gearing up for what promises to be its most spectacular Fourth of July celebration yet, with the patriotic theme "Where Eagles Soar!" honoring America's national bird through two full days of festivities designed to bring the community together in celebration of Independence Day.

The comprehensive celebration will feature traditional parades, live entertainment, delicious food, thrilling water sports demonstrations, and a grand fireworks finale that will light up the night sky over this scenic lakeside community.

"This year's celebration promises to be our most spectacular yet," said Mayor Chris Gray. "We've planned activities for all ages that truly capture the patriotic spirit of our community while honoring our national symbol, the American Eagle."

Full Schedule of Events

Friday, July 4th The Independence Day festivities kick off bright and early with the "Where Eagles Soar" Land Parade stepping off at 9:00 AM from City Hall. Community groups, local businesses, and patriotic floats will wind through the streets of Tega Cay, showcasing the town's vibrant spirit.

As the day progresses, residents can enjoy the Lions Fish Fry at 4:30 PM in the Glennon Center, followed by Mayor Gray's State of the City Address at 6:00 PM, also at the Glennon Center. The evening will culminate with the highly anticipated fireworks display at 9:00 PM over the Golf Course, providing a spectacular backdrop for the pyrotechnic show.

Saturday, July 5th The celebration continues the water with the Flotilla Parade at 11:00 AM, featuring decorated boats traveling from Nivens Landing to Windjammer. Water sports enthusiasts can participate in or watch the Freedom Fun Run Paddle Board Competition, organized by Goat Boater, beginning at 11:15 AM. Buses will not be available this year. Parking is limited please come early and, if possible, car pool with friends or plan on walking.

The afternoon highlight will be the Carolina Ski Show's "Salute to the US of A" performance at Windjammer starting at noon, featuring skilled water skiers performing patriotic-themed routines. The weekend concludes with the Uncle Sam Jam at Runde Park at 6:30 PM, featuring live music by the "Dixie Diamonds."

Community Celebration

The entire two-day event is free

and open to the public, reflecting Tega Cay's commitment to making the celebration accessible to all residents and visitors. Organizers encourage attendees to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and their patriotic spirit to fully enjoy the outdoor festivities.

Food vendors will be stationed at most event locations, ensuring that families can enjoy delicious treats while taking in the various activities throughout both days.

The celebration represents the community's dedication to honoring American traditions while creating new memories for residents of all ages. From the youngest children watching their first parade to grandparents sharing stories of past Independence Days, the "Where Eagles Soar!" theme is designed to unite the community in celebration of freedom and patriotism.

For complete event details, schedules, and updates, residents can visit the city's website or contact Events Manager Caroline Hasty for additional information.

The City of Tega Cay invites everyone to join in this year's patriotic celebration and help make the "Where Eagles Soar!" Fourth of July festivities a memorable experience for the entire community.

Tega Cay Pepper Pioneer to Lead Independence Day Parade

Ed Currie, the world-renowned "King of Hot" and founder of PuckerButt Pepper Company, has been selected as the 2025 July 4th Grand Marshal for this year's Independence Day celebration.

Currie, a longtime Tega Cay resident, holds the Guinness World Record for creating the Carolina Reaper, officially recognized as the world's hottest pepper. What began as a passionate hobby has grown into an internationally recognized business that has put the local community on the global map.

"Ed represents everything we celebrate on Independence Day - American innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, and community dedication," said Events Manager Caroline Hasty. "He's built a world-class business right here in our backyard while never forgetting to give back to his neighbors."

Beyond his pepper empire, Currie is known throughout the area for his generous community involvement. He regularly supports local schools, sponsors community events, and has created numerous jobs for area residents. Along with his wife Linda, Currie raised two children in Tega Cay while building his business.

PuckerButt Pepper Company has attracted visitors from around the world bringing international attention to the Tega Cay area. Currie has appeared on numerous television shows and has been featured in major publications, always highlighting his South Carolina roots.

The July 4th parade will begin at 9 AM, with Currie leading the procession down Tega Cay Drive.



BEAT THE HEAT AND GOLF INDOORS

SUMMER AT X-GOLF

BOOK ONLINE  [HTTPS://PLAYXGOLF.COM](https://playxgolf.com)

BOOK WITH CODE:
DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

20% OFF
RESERVATIONS

OFFER EXPIRES 9/15/25

York County Council Eliminates Park Entrance Fees for Residents Starting July 1

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

YORK COUNTY, SC — Beginning July 1, 2025, York County residents will no longer be required to pay daily entrance fees at county-operated parks, following a decision made by York County Council as part of the approved 2025-2026 fiscal year budget.

The change applies to all York County citizens and is aimed at improving access to outdoor recreation for local families and individuals. To offset the revenue loss from eliminating local entry fees, the county will increase entrance fees for non-residents visiting the parks.

The initiative affects several popular park destinations, including:

Ebenezer Park in Rock Hill, a lakeside facility with boat ramps, camping, and fishing.

Allison Creek Park near Lake Wylie, offering hiking trails and water access.

Bethel Lake Wylie Preservation Park, a nature-focused park along Crowders Creek.

Nanny's Mountain Historical Park, known for its natural trails and historical iron ore mining site.

Field Day Park at Lake Wylie, a multipurpose facility with sports fields, event space, and a playground.

Catawba Bend Preserve, an ongoing conservation and recreation project along the Catawba River.

Veterans Park in Clover, featuring memorials, walking paths, and open space.

Worth Mountain Wilderness Area, a



natural retreat for hiking and wildlife observation.

County leaders say the policy change is designed to encourage more in-county usage of public recreational spaces and to recognize the contributions of local taxpayers.

The updated fee structure for out-of-county visitors will be published on the York County Parks website closer to the July 1 implementation date. County residents may be asked to show proof of residency to access parks without charge.

More details and updates can be found at York County Parks, www.yorkcountygov.com/740/Parks.

YOUR AD

COULD BE

★ HERE ★

Coffee, From Page 1

In keeping with their values, Tega Cay Coffee remains one of the few places that doesn't charge extra for alternative milk options and offers a generous rewards program. The café also sees significant traffic from online orders (<https://tega-cay-coffee-company.square.site/>), making it accessible for busy customers.

Looking ahead, Tega Cay Coffee plans to partner with The Postal Route in Fort Mill for its next location — with more future spots envisioned across York County. But the team emphasizes that their Tega Cay shop will remain the flagship, serving as the heart of their operation.

"Our goal is simple," Brian said. "A better product, the same convenience, and a better price — all from people who live here and care about the community."

With the expansion, new offerings like matcha and homemade syrups, and continued investment in local talent, Tega Cay Coffee is brewing something bigger — and keeping it local every step of the way.

BEAT THE HEAT AND GOLF INDOORS

SUMMER AT X-GOLF

BOOK ONLINE [HTTPS://PLAYXGOLF.COM](https://playxgolf.com)

- PLAY WORLD FAMOUS COURSES
- COMPETE IN NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS
- SAMPLE A SIGNATURE COCKTAIL
- IMPROVE YOUR SWING WITH OUR PGA INSTRUCTOR
- HOST YOUR NEXT EVENT

BOOK WITH CODE: DOGDAYS OF SUMMER

20% OFF RESERVATIONS

OFFER EXPIRES 9/15/25

Lions, From Page 5



The Melvin Jones Fellowship was awarded to Liz Duda and Gayle Esarove.

The Franklin Mason Fellowship was presented to Sheila Cole. The highly coveted Tega Cay Lions Club "Lion of the Year" award was proudly given to Hope MacBride.

The club also extended a warm welcome to its newest members, inducted during the ceremony: Vicki Kenworthy, Victoria Smith, Audrey Aivalotis, and Kristin Araujo.

The evening concluded with an engaging address from guest speaker Evan Streeter, who captivated the audience with his personal journey from aspiring farmer to the launch of Streeter Heritage Farms. His inspiring story underscored the importance of supporting small farmers, and the Lions Club encouraged attendees to learn more about his work.

The Tega Cay Lions Club looks forward to another year of impactful service under its new leadership, continuing its tradition of making a positive difference in the Tega Cay community.

Buzz 5k, From Page 6

participants
Kid-friendly activities

Registration Fees:
Early Bird (through Aug. 15): \$30
Regular (Aug. 16 – Oct. 1): \$35
Late (Oct. 2 – Oct. 24): \$40
Race Day: \$45
Kids' Fun Run: Free

Commemorative t-shirts are guaranteed for all 5K participants who register by Oct. 1.

Awards will be given to:
Top 3 overall male and female finishers

Top male and female finishers in age groups: 11–19, 20–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60+

Sign up here. <https://runsignup.com/Race/SC/FortMill/BuzzSweatTears5k>

DINNER AND A SHOW

DUELING PIANOS RETURNS WITH CAROLINA KEYS!

Saturday, August 23rd, 2025 at 8 pm (Doors Open at 7 pm)

\$40 Ticket Includes Dinner Buffet

Tickets: freshtix.com/events/dueling-pianos-10





Garden Friends: Landscaping with Herbs to Outsmart Deer and Rabbits

By Debbie Wey and Gardening On The Cay

Achieving an attractive landscape in Tega Cay can be challenging. Heavy deer pressure, rabbits, voles, and slugs challenge us all.

Growing herbs may be the perfect solution. Susan Poel, a member of the Charlotte Herb Society and Master Gardener, gave her presentation "Adventures in Herbs" at the February meeting of Gardening on the Cay. Herbs not only deter deer, rabbits, and other pests, but herbs also provide food for pollinators, as well as pretty flowers and foliage for culinary uses. Poel transformed a difficult area of her yard into an attractive herb garden using heat and drought-tolerant, pollinator-friendly, perennial herbs. Poel's favorites are listed below with links to fact sheets on the Clemson and N.C. State Extension websites.

Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) is a native plant that has mint and licorice-scented foliage. Its long purple flower spikes attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

Artemisia varieties add silver accents to the garden. Silver King Artemisia (*Artemisia ludoviciana*) has a felt-like texture and segmented foliage, and Southernwood (*Artemisia abrotanum*) is fragrant.

Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*) is aromatic, and the flowers come in so many colors.

Catmint (*Nepeta*) is easy to grow and blooms the whole summer in blue, pink, or white, and pollinators love it. It spreads, so choose wisely where you plant it.

Chamomile is in the daisy family and is very fragrant. Roman Chamomile is a creeping perennial with smaller flowers and a bitter taste. German Chamomile is an annual, grows taller, has larger flowers, and tastes sweeter.

Chives should be planted among other plants you want to protect from deer and rabbits. Onion Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum* L.) produce beautiful edible flowers and a sweet onion taste.

Garlic Chives (*Allium tuberosum*) have a mild garlic taste and attract pollinators.

Fennel repels deer, and Bronze fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare* 'Rubrum') is a beautiful burgundy color.

Lavender comes in many varieties. Grosso has dark blue flowers and is very fragrant. Provence has light blue flowers and is best for cooking. Phenomenal lavender grows fast, flowers longer, and produces more flowers than other lavenders. It is well adapted to heat and humidity. Give it plenty of room.

Golden Oregano makes a good ground cover but is not for cooking. Greek Oregano makes a small, mounding plant and is good for cooking and drying for winter use.

Rosemary comes in several varieties and stays green in winter. Tuscan Blue Rosemary gets large, so give it room. Salem Rosemary grows more upright than Tuscan Blue. Prostrate Rosemary makes a beautiful trailer for pots and over walls.

Garden Sage reaches 3-4 ft tall, stays green in winter, and the leaves and flowers are edible. Maraschino Sage grows 2-3 feet tall, and the red flowers taste like cherries.

Dark blue salvia grows 2-3 feet tall, and the flowers are so pretty.

Creeping thyme is a ground cover with dark pink flowers. Lemon thyme is a ground cover that can be used in sweet dishes. It is also a pretty spiller for container planting. Oregano thyme is a mounding plant used for savory cooking.

Winter savory can be used as a ground cover and stays green in winter.

Yarrow can be planted in flower beds, between vegetable rows, and in other areas to discourage deer from browsing. Yarrow has flat umbels of different colors. It can be used in rice and soups. Yarrow spreads.

Herbs that can take part sun include basil, dill, sage, golden sage, and lemon grass.

Citadel, From Page 1

practices in air and water quality, sanitation, and emergency protocols.

Community Engagement: Citadel will provide regular updates to staff, parents, and the public, and will consider data or reports submitted by the community alongside official records.

Citadel is also coordinating with Silfab Solar for a facility tour, which—though not a formal inspection—will help identify containment systems and chemical storage. These findings will guide recommendations for monitoring and response strategies, including potential student evacuation protocols if emissions rise to unsafe levels.

Wojnowski said the goal is to establish a real-time monitoring system aligned with EPA and industry standards, possibly including ambient air testing near the school to match any monitoring conducted within Silfab's facility.

Citadel brings more than 30 years of experience in environmental consulting. Its portfolio includes projects with:

- LAUSD: Two decades of work addressing lead, asbestos, and air quality.
- UCLA: Over 2,000 indoor air quality and safety projects.
- Caltech: Real-time monitoring to prevent lab exhaust contamination.

A preliminary action plan is expected in the coming weeks. Final steps, including air quality sampling and potential mitigation efforts, will be based on Citadel's recommendations and timed to support the schools' opening schedule.

"This is just the beginning," Wojnowski said. "We're looking at this as a long-term partnership that evolves with the needs of the community."

The district plans to provide updates throughout the summer as the assessment progresses and as Flint Hill Elementary and Middle Schools prepare to open.

Citizen Finalists, From Page 6

her impact and dedication. "April's achievements and contributions to our community deserve our appreciation and make her worthy of special recognition."

Carmen Lorraine Wells is a long-time resident, involved parent, and crossing guard supervisor who goes above and beyond her duties. As a wonderful personality who dresses up on holidays to bring joy to schoolkids (remember the flamingo on Tega Cay Drive?), Carmen also buys and distributes safety gear for kids, and advocates for school zone safety. Volunteering with the Tega Cay Wildlife Rehabbers, Carmen also dedicates her time to care for abandoned squirrels. "Carmen is a wonderful, compassionate resident of Tega Cay and I would love to see her work acknowledged."

The Tega Cay Lions invite community members to join us at the Glennon Center, between 6-6:45pm on July 4, to hear this year's winner announced. Buy your fish fry ticket (4:30-7:30) from any Tega Cay Lion, or order on our website.

Also remember to cheer for the 2024 winner, Cliff Nichols, at the City's July 4th land parade!

Penny Pincher, From Page 3

car and drove down to Florida. The trip took around 8 hours and required two tanks of gas. The total cost to get us there was around \$160. If we had flown down we would've saved a ton of time not being in the car, but the cost would've been astronomical in comparison. Buy a couple of new DVDs for the kids and head on down the road.

It definitely took awhile to get there, but it's all part of the experience. After all, if it's good enough for Chevy Chase, it should be good enough for you.

Just make sure Aunt Edna is tied down. We don't need her falling off the roof again.



THE SHORE CLUB
STEAKS • SEAFOOD • SUSHI



PHONE

📞 803-630-0540

ADDRESS

📍 15083 Molokai Dr,
Tega Cay, SC 29708

(Dinner Reservations & To-Go Orders)

Charlie's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1) Killed, gangster-style
- 6) Montezuma, for one
- 11) Dashboard abbreviation
- 14) Key in Florida
- 15) ____-cotta
- 16) "I can't believe my eyes!"
- 17) Prepare to stop crying
- 19) Charged particle
- 20) Bank heist units
- 21) Indian social class
- 23) ____ oblongata (brain part)
- 27) Simple shelters
- 29) Humiliates
- 30) Martin with an Oscar
- 31) Easy wins
- 32) Audacity
- 33) Backstabber
- 36) First-rate
- 37) Ratty or flea-bitten
- 38) Booby trap component
- 39) Leave white tracks
- 40) Dude kin
- 41) Certain mast (var.)
- 42) Arrange tidily
- 44) Mum
- 45) Some socks
- 47) Vast frozen expanses
- 48) Runway figure
- 49) Andean land
- 50) Busy bother
- 51) Be seductive, in a way
- 58) Use a needle and thread
- 59) Come to mind
- 60) Spooky
- 61) Member of the family, often
- 62) Marina sight
- 63) All-out attack

DOWN

- 1) Way past voting age
- 2) Wide's partner
- 3) Swelter
- 4) Teamwork inhibitor
- 5) Computer attachments
- 6) Baffled on the Pacific?
- 7) Zorro's marks
- 8) "Don't give up!"
- 9) Before, in poetry
- 10) Rush down in vast quantities
- 11) Certain skin cream
- 12) Quick snap
- 13) Fine-tunes
- 18) Slithering sea creatures
- 22) "Santa" tail
- 23) Convenient places to shop
- 24) Digital novel
- 25) Discouraging or dissuading
- 26) They often deliver good news
- 27) The "L" of XL
- 28) Jealousy
- 30) He's there late in Red Square
- 32) Directory contents
- 34) "Gladiator" setting
- 35) Army shelters
- 37) Bit of dust
- 38) Uncontrolled
- 40) Bedroom separator, often
- 41) Some simple math signs
- 43) CBS logo
- 44) "Certainly!"
- 45) Accumulate
- 46) Event with lots of bucks
- 47) Article of faith
- 49) Fancy-schmancy
- 52) Victorian, for one
- 53) First syllable of a simple game
- 54) Hawaiian giveaway
- 55) Anger
- 56) County fair animal
- 57) "Comprende?"

ON CONDITION

By Timothy E. Parker

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	
14						15						16			
17						18						19			
				20						21	22				
23	24	25	26					27	28						
29							30								
31							32					33	34	35	
36						37						38			
39						40						41			
		42	43							44					
45	46								47						
48								49							
50						51	52	53				54	55	56	57
58						59						60			
61						62						63			

Answers at tegacaysun.com/answers

Man Who Fatally Shot SLED K9 Sentenced to Over 12 Years for Gun Charge

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



COLUMBIA, S.C. — James Robert Peterson, 38, of Prosperity, has been sentenced to more than 12 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Evidence obtained in the investigation revealed that on June 11, 2024, Peterson was found in possession of a firearm while law enforcement attempted to arrest him on a felony state warrant. He has prior convictions that prohibit him from possessing firearms. Peterson used the gun to fatally shoot South Carolina Law Enforcement Division K9 Officer Coba during the incident.

United States District Judge Jacquelyn D. Austin sentenced Peterson to 150 months imprisonment, to be followed by a term of court-ordered

supervision. There is no parole in the federal system. Peterson was sentenced to 33 years in state prison earlier this year for first-degree burglary, attempted murder, cruelty to a police dog, and resisting arrest with a deadly weapon.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Lexington County Sheriff's Department, and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. Assistant U.S. Attorney Elle E. Klein is prosecuting the case.

YOUR AD

COULD BE

★ HERE ★

YoCo News

FREE • Vol. 1 - No. 7

Shining a Light on York and Lancaster Counties

July 2025

New Era of Veteran Care Dawns with Rock Hill VA Clinic Opening

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



ROCK HILL, SC – A significant enhancement to veteran healthcare in York County is on the horizon as the new, state-of-the-art Rock Hill VA Clinic is set to open its doors on July 1, 2025. Located at 459 Lakeshore Parkway, this expanded 26,000+ square-foot facility promises to deliver world-class care to the nation's heroes.

The Columbia VA Health Care System is spearheading this exciting initiative, recognizing the growing need for comprehensive and accessible services for veterans in the region. "This new clinic is a significant milestone in our mission to deliver world-class care to our nation's heroes," stated David Brett Vess, Acting Executive Director & CEO of the Columbia VA Health Care System.

The new clinic will offer a broad spectrum of services, including primary care, mental health services, women's health, and lab testing, all delivered by dedicated VA healthcare professionals. The expanded space and enhanced offerings represent a substantial investment in the well-being of local veterans, aiming to provide a more stable and comprehensive healthcare environment.

For veterans currently enrolled with the VA, the transition to the new facility will be seamless. No action is required on their part, and appointments and ongoing care will continue without interruption. The VA is committed to ensuring a smooth shift for all patients.

The opening of the new Rock Hill VA Clinic marks a pivotal moment for veteran healthcare in York County

South Carolina Senator Challenges Legislator Pay Raise in State Supreme Court

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

South Carolina State Senator Wes Climer, R-York, has filed a lawsuit seeking to block a planned pay increase for state legislators, arguing that the raise violates the state constitution. The petition, submitted late Friday to the South Carolina Supreme Court, challenges a provision in the upcoming state budget that increases monthly in-district compensation for lawmakers from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

The legal action was filed jointly by Climer and Carol Herring, a retired teacher and member of the South Carolina Federation of Republican Women. They are represented by the law firm of former state senator Dick Harpootlian. The court has ordered state officials to respond to the petition by next week, with a decision anticipated before the new fiscal year begins on July 1.

The contested \$1,500 monthly increase—totaling \$18,000 annually—is part of a one-year budget proviso intended to cover legislators' expenses while working in their districts. These expenses include hosting public events, communicating with constituents, and travel. Although framed as expense reimbursement, Climer and Herring argue that the payments amount to compensation, and therefore fall under constitutional restrictions.

Herring told the Tega Cay Sun, "I

became part of this lawsuit because of my concern regarding bills left on the table while a pay raise was added as a facially unconstitutional proviso and voted on the last day of the legislative session. Critically important issues for Palmetto citizens this session—privacy for women and girls, parental rights, closed primaries—will have to wait while lawmakers give themselves a pay raise."

The filing points to a clause in the South Carolina Constitution that says any changes to lawmakers' pay or per diem can only take effect for future General Assemblies—not the one that passed the raise. The lawsuit argues that the in-district payments are taxable and unrestricted, making them more like direct income than reimbursement for expenses.

According to the state's chief accountant, the in-district compensation—set to rise from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per month—is not considered a per diem.

Currently, legislators receive a base salary of \$10,400, along with mileage reimbursements and a daily per diem of \$240 during legislative sessions. The new budget provision would raise the in-district stipend to \$2,500 per month for fiscal year 2025–26. While the increase is technically limited to one year, budget provisos are frequently renewed by the legislature, raising concerns about the change becoming effectively permanent.



Michael Matus

Financial Advisor

(803) 792-4770

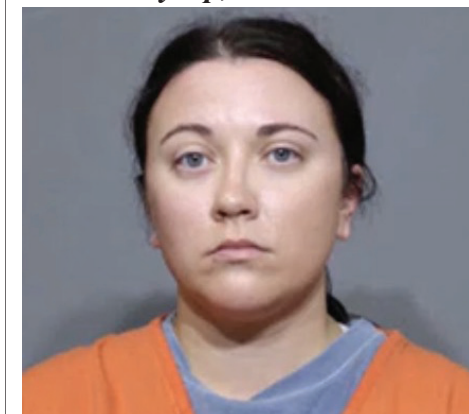
michael.g.matus@ampf.com



YoCoNews.com

Inman Woman Arrested in Fatal Hit-and-Run That Killed Bicyclist in Clover

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



An Inman woman was arrested days after a man was killed in a hit-and-run in Clover.

Kailey Carpenter, 25, was arrested Friday morning, June 13. She was charged with leaving the scene of a collision involving death for her alleged involvement in a crash on June 8.

According to troopers, 31-year-old Raheem Parker was hit by a car while riding a bicycle on Highway 55 near Paraham Road. Parker pronounced dead at the scene. Officials said they believed the vehicle that hit him did not stop. Law enforcement issued a public plea for help identifying the driver, leading to Carpenter's arrest five days later.

The impact reportedly caused substantial damage to the vehicle, including a caved-in windshield, according to state troopers. Carpenter was taken into custody and issued a \$75,000 bond at her first court appearance.

Parker, a resident of Clover, was the father of a 3-year-old girl. A GoFundMe was created to help his family with funeral costs and to benefit his daughter. His relatives, including his aunt, expressed outrage that the driver left the scene, questioning whether Parker could have survived had he received timely aid.

Leaving the scene of a collision involving death is a felony in South Carolina and carries a possible sentence of one to 25 years in prison.



Michael Matus

Financial Advisor
 (803) 792-4770
 michael.g.matus@ampf.com



Tuesday
Dr. Tom's

TRIVIA NIGHT

Thursday
Bingo Share's

BINGO GO

15	20	1	10	19	19
25	44	40	18	63	53
37	60	★	13	30	10
33	5	27	48	53	3
21	70	57	68	56	5

704 FRESIA DRIVE TEGA CAY 5 BEDS 4 BATHS

SALLY AWAD
 PROPERTIES
 Premier Sotheby's
 INTERNATIONAL REALTY
 704.680.8689

Don't Let Your Pain... Get in the Way



- Specializing in:
- **Massage**
 - **Auto Accident Care**
 - **Chiropractic Care**
 - **Spinal Decompression**



1188 Stonecrest Blvd
Tega Cay



Opens @ 7am!

DINNER AND A SHOW

DUELING PIANOS RETURNS WITH CAROLINA KEYS!

Saturday, August 23rd, 2025 at 8 pm (Doors Open at 7 pm)

\$40 Ticket Includes Dinner Buffet

Tickets: freshtix.com/events/dueling-pianos-10



— BUYING OR SELLING A HOME?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

Buying or selling a home can be a stressful process if you don't have the right real estate agent. Choosing the correct REALTOR for your most important financial decision is crucial!



THOMAS RACKLEY
REAL ESTATE AGENT

CONTACT:

✉ THOMAS.RACKLEYREALTOR@GMAIL.COM
 ☎ 704-340-0400
 📍 @THOMASCHARLOTTEREALTOR



BEAT THE HEAT AND GOLF INDOORS • • • • • SUMMER AT X-GOLF

BOOK ONLINE



[HTTPS://PLAYXGOLF.COM](https://playxgolf.com)

BOOK WITH CODE:
DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

20% OFF
RESERVATIONS

OFFER EXPIRES 9/15/25