

# Tega Cay Sun

FREE

FREE • Vol. 3 - No. 9 Your Trusted Source for Local News and Information

September 2025

## Fort Mill School District Announces Teacher and Support Staff Employee of the Year

FORT MILL, SC — At the school board meeting held on Aug. 19, 2025, the district announced the selection of the 2025-2026 District Teacher of the Year and Support Staff Employee of the Year.



**Katie Jenkinson, Lead Teacher at Banks Trail Middle School, was named the 2025-2026**

District Teacher of the Year. Dr. Jenkinson earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Randolph-Macon Women’s College, a Master’s Degree in Education and Divergent Learning from Columbia College, and a Doctorate in Education with a focus on Curriculum Studies. She previously taught English at Rock Hill High and Gold Hill Middle before joining Banks Trail in 2020. A National Board Certified Teacher, Dr. Jenkinson has also shared her expertise through conference presentations across the district.



**Jamale Foster, an instructional assistant in the self-contained Special Services classroom at Catawba Ridge High School, was named the 2025-2026 Support Staff Employee of the Year.**

Mr. Foster earned a bachelor’s degree in Sports Management from North Greenville University and previously served as an assistant football coach at Nation Ford High School before joining the Special Services team as an instructional assistant. Since joining Catawba Ridge in 2023, he has continued his work in special services while also serving as the defensive back and special teams coach for the junior varsity and varsity teams. In addition, he sponsors Club Unify, supporting inclusive student opportunities.

“We celebrate this year’s honorees not only for their hard work but for the impact they have on their schools and our community,” said Superintendent Grey Young. “Their example inspires all of us to continue building an environment where students thrive.”

## City of Tega Cay Offers Free “Tega Cay 101” Course for Residents



Tega Cay 101 begins on Tuesday, September 30, and will run weekly through October 21. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Tega Cay Police Department Training Room, located at 7705 Tega Cay Drive.

The course is open to Tega Cay residents only and is limited to 25 participants. Those interested can register through the City’s website or by visiting the following link: Tega Cay 101 Registration.

Each week will focus on different departments:

- September 30: Administration
- October 7: Fire and Police
- October 14: Parks & Recreation and Public Works
- October 21: Development Services and Utilities

INSIDE



**Oktoberfest Coming to Model A Brewing** Page 3



**Potbelly Sandwich Shop Coming Soon to Fort Mill** Page 6



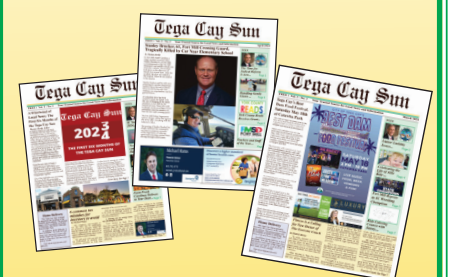
**Van Vranken Captures Men’s Club Championship** Page 7



**Rock Hill Police K9 Officer Stabbed During Arrest** Page 11

**Missed an edition of The Tega Cay Sun?**

Visit [www.tegacaysun.com](http://www.tegacaysun.com)  
**TO VIEW NOW**



## South Carolina Achieves Goal of Armed Officer in Every Public School

Patrick Byrne, Editor

South Carolina has secured the final funding necessary to place a full-time, armed, and certified school resource officer (SRO) in every public school across the state. The announcement was made by state and local leaders, marking the culmination of a multi-year effort to enhance school safety.

The initiative, a top priority for state leadership since 2018, has steadily increased the number of SROs from just 406 statewide to a planned full coverage of all 1,283 public schools. In a move to improve coordination, the program's management was transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of Public Safety (SCDPS).

At the start of the current school year, 1,106 schools had full-time SROs, leaving 177 without coverage. The General Assembly recently appropriated an additional \$29.4 million to fund these remaining positions. Following this funding, SCDPS immediately awarded funds for 58 new SROs and has released a solicitation for the remaining 119 positions, which school districts will fill throughout the year.

This achievement places South Carolina as a national leader in school safety. The state's commitment to protecting students, teachers, and staff has been a bipartisan effort, with strong support from both legislative bodies.

The new funding is part of a broader commitment to school safety. Additional initiatives secured by the state government include:

**Center for School Safety and Targeted Violence:** A center within the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) that provides training on active shooter response and violence prevention for law enforcement and school personnel.

**School Safety Upgrades:** The state has provided \$20 million annually in grants for schools to improve security features, such as locks, secured entry points, and bulletproof glass.

**School Mapping Program:** A new \$5 million program that provides 911 operators with real-time digital maps of school campuses, allowing first responders to locate incidents more quickly.

The state is moving forward with filling the remaining SRO positions as districts are able to staff them, with the ultimate goal of ensuring every public school has dedicated, on-site protection.



**SALLY AWAD**  
PROPERTIES

Premier | Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



**Michael Matus**

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



## South Carolina's New Hands-Free Driving Law Takes Effect on September 1st

Patrick Byrne, Editor



South Carolina's new hands-free driving law is set to go into effect on September 1st, making it illegal for motorists to hold a mobile phone or other electronic device while driving. The law, passed earlier this year, aims to reduce distracted driving and improve road safety across the state.

The legislation makes it a primary offense, meaning law enforcement can pull over drivers for this violation alone. The law prohibits drivers from holding a device to talk, text, or use it for navigation while operating a vehicle. There are, however, some key exceptions.

**What is Permitted Under the Law?** Motorists are still allowed to use their devices in a hands-free manner. This includes:

- Using a device for phone calls with a Bluetooth earpiece or a car's speakerphone.
- Viewing a GPS map that is mounted to the vehicle's dashboard or windshield.
- Using a single touch or swipe to activate a device.
- Operating a two-way radio or other similar communication devices.

The law also allows drivers to use a handheld phone to report a traffic incident, medical emergency, or criminal activity.

**Penalties for Violations** The new law includes a tiered penalty system. A first offense will result in a fine of \$25, a second offense will cost \$50, and a third or subsequent offense will carry a \$100 fine and two points on the driver's record.

While some other states have long had similar laws, South Carolina is now catching up with a majority of the country. Officials hope the new law will decrease traffic accidents and fatalities caused by distracted driving. The South Carolina Highway Patrol has announced it will be stepping up enforcement efforts to ensure compliance.

# TEGA CAY SUN

Staff



**Thomas Hyslip**  
Editor/Publisher  
(919) 274-4526

editor@tegacaysun.com



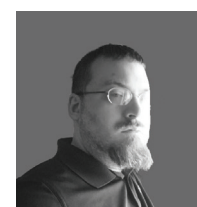
**Patrick Byrne**  
Editor/Ad Sales  
(704) 904-8067

patrickbyrne@tegacaysun.com



**Chris Coffee**  
Sports Editor

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

tegacaysun.com

# Oktoberfest Celebration Coming to Model A Brewing in Tega Cay

Thomas Hyslip, Editor

Tega Cay is about to raise its steins as Model A Brewing hosts its annual Oktoberfest celebration on Saturday, September 27, at 1175 Stonecrest Boulevard. The event promises to be one of the biggest Oktoberfest parties in the area, bringing the sights, sounds, and flavors of Bavaria to the heart of York County.

### A Day of Festivities

The celebration runs for 11 hours and is open to the public. Guests will be treated to live Oompah music by The Foothills Oompah Band, performing from 1 to 5 p.m., setting the perfect backdrop for a festive afternoon. Traditional polka rhythms and German folk tunes will keep the crowd moving throughout the day.

### Award-Winning Beer Release

Model A Brewing will also release its US OPEN award-winning Märzen, "Vest Weather," brewed especially for the season. This amber lager, rich in malty flavor, is the centerpiece of the brewery's Oktoberfest offerings and pairs perfectly with German-inspired dishes.

### Authentic Food & Festive Vibe

No Oktoberfest would be complete without hearty fare. Guests can enjoy an authentic German menu featuring classics like pretzels and sausages, ensuring that no one leaves hungry. Attendees are encouraged to embrace the spirit of the festival with lederhosen—though optional, they are highly encouraged to add to the authentic atmosphere.

### Community Gathering

The event is designed for friends, families, and neighbors to gather, celebrate, and enjoy the season



together. With lights strung across the outdoor space, Model A Brewing offers the perfect setting to sip, savor, and celebrate the return of autumn.

Date: Saturday, September 27  
Location: Model A Brewing, 1175 Stonecrest Blvd, Tega Cay, SC  
Duration: 11 hours  
Entertainment: The Foothills Oompah Band (1-5 p.m.)  
Beer Release: "Vest Weather" Märzen  
Food: Authentic German menu

So mark your calendars, bring your crew, and get ready to toast "Prost!" at Tega Cay's own Oktoberfest celebration.

# Catawba Fest



Saturday, September 27  
10 am - 6 pm

Catawba Park  
2351 New Grey Rock Road  
Tega Cay, S.C.

A Craft & Art Show Extravaganza



## UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

SEPT 4TH

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

SEPT 8TH

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

SEPT 15TH

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

SEPT 25TH

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.

## Fort Mill School District Expands College-Level Opportunities for High School Students

*Thomas Hylsip, Editor*

The Fort Mill School District (FMSD) is giving high school students unprecedented access to college-level coursework, with nearly 70 percent of the Class of 2025 graduating with credits earned through Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Credit, or Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses.

### College-Level Learning in High School

Out of 1,373 students in the Class of 2025, 956 have taken at least one college credit course, while 417 students—just 30 percent—have not. This exposure provides students with a head start on higher education, teaching essential skills such as time management, critical thinking, and scholarly writing. Many students begin official college transcripts while still in high school, saving families time and money on future tuition.

The district's goal extends beyond readiness—it is working toward pathways that could allow students to graduate with an associate degree or higher by the time they leave high school.

### Advanced Placement (AP)

Fort Mill currently offers 25 AP courses across disciplines including social studies, science, arts, and languages. Students complete rigorous coursework and take national exams each May, earning scores from 1 to 5. Colleges may award credit for scores of 3, 4, or 5, depending on institutional policies.

AP participation has skyrocketed in the district. In 2005–2006, just 203 exams were taken. By 2024–2025, that number reached 2,648. Despite growth in Dual Credit options, AP numbers and performance remain strong. FMSD's AP passage rate far exceeds the global average—86.5% compared to the worldwide rate of 66.8% in 2024.

### Dual Credit Courses

Through partnerships with the University of South Carolina Lancaster (USCL), Winthrop University, and York Technical College, students can take courses that count for both high school and college credit. Unlike AP, these credits are awarded for successfully completing the course rather than based on a single high-stakes exam.

USCL offers 19 courses, with strong representation in world languages and social studies.

York Technical College provides 55 course options in fields ranging from welding and mechatronics to math and health sciences, with many classes held on York Tech's campus.

Winthrop University partners with FMSD on courses including Teacher Cadet, Educational Psychology, and Introductory Financial Accounting, the latter supported by a private donor who funds tuition.

Passage rates for Dual Credit courses remain exceptionally high. In 2022–2023, 1,320 students enrolled with a 99.9% pass rate, and numbers have continued to grow, with over 3,400 students enrolled in 2024–2025.

### Project Lead the Way (PLTW)

PLTW courses allow students to explore engineering and biomedical sciences through a unique credit structure. Students first earn high school credit, which can then be converted to dual credit if they score well on end-of-course assessments and maintain an 85 or higher in the class. These credits are recognized through the Rochester Institute of Technology.

In addition to strengthening GPAs, PLTW helps students determine if they want to pursue STEM fields in college. Enrollment continues to rise, with nearly 1,000 students projected to complete PLTW courses in 2025, all maintaining a 99.9% passage rate.

### Benefits Beyond Credits

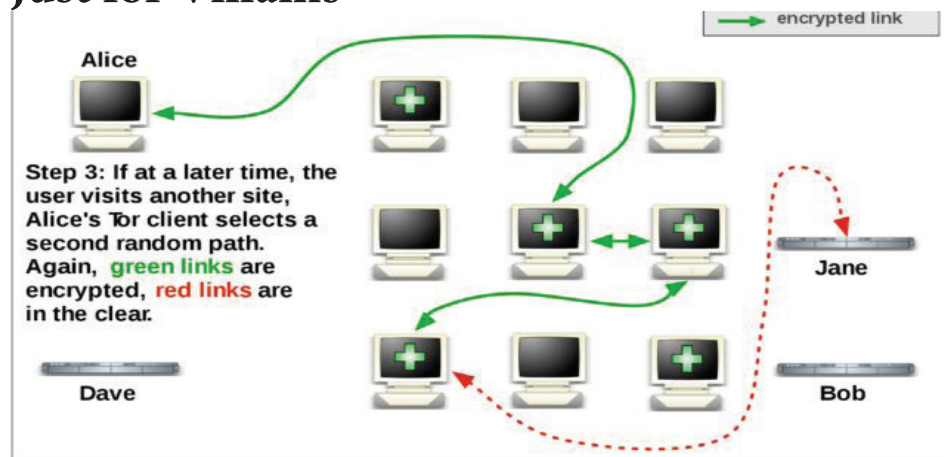
The advantages of these programs go far beyond saving on tuition. Students who earn college credits in high school can explore majors early, avoid falling behind if they switch fields, study abroad, or even pursue double degrees. For some, early credits allow them to enter the workforce sooner or secure internships that give them a competitive edge.

District leaders are aiming higher. Plans are underway to expand offerings at USC Lancaster's Indian Land campus, hire more adjunct-qualified teachers to serve as professors of record, and explore the creation of an early college model with a dedicated building and faculty. Such a program could ultimately allow students to graduate high school with an associate degree or more.

Currently, Fort Mill high schools collectively offer over 115 distinct college credit courses. The district is also evaluating ways to close participation gaps by recruiting underrepresented student groups to these programs.

**JUST LISTED** OFFERING AT \$739,000  
3076 Amaranth Drive  
Click for Private Showing  
**SALLY AWAD**  
704.680.8689 Premier | Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

## Beyond the Headlines: The Dark Web Isn't Just for Villains



*Thomas Hylsip, Editor*

When most people hear the phrase “dark web,” they picture shadowy marketplaces, hackers, and illegal trade. That reputation isn’t entirely wrong—but it’s also not the whole story. The dark web is more complex, serving both as a haven for illicit activity and as a crucial tool for privacy, security, and free expression.

Think of the internet like an iceberg. The familiar “surface web”—searchable through Google and other engines—makes up less than 10% of the whole. Beneath it lies the deep web, a vast section that includes private databases, corporate intranets, medical and legal records, and even your personal Netflix account. The dark web, in turn, is a small, intentionally hidden slice of the deep web, accessible only with special tools like Tor (The Onion Router), Freenet, or I2P.

### From Naval Labs to Public Use

The dark web’s story begins not in an underground hacker forum but inside the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory. In the mid-1990s, researchers Michael G. Reed, Paul Syverson, and David Goldschlag developed a method called onion routing to allow intelligence operatives to communicate securely and anonymously.

The project gained support from DARPA, the same defense agency that helped birth the internet itself. To ensure anonymity, the system had

to be used by more than just spies—otherwise anyone on the network could be easily singled out. So, in 2004, the Navy released the source code to the public, paving the way for the creation of the Tor Project in 2006. With support from the Electronic Frontier Foundation and funding—ironically—from parts of the U.S. government, Tor became a nonprofit organization focused on privacy and digital freedom.

### How Tor Works: Layers of Privacy

The name “The Onion Router” is no accident. Like an onion, Tor hides data in multiple layers of encryption. When a user sends a request, it bounces through a series of volunteer-run servers around the world. Each stop peels away one layer, revealing only the address of the next node. By the time the data reaches its destination, its origin is effectively untraceable.

This extra security comes at the cost of speed, but it shields users from surveillance by governments, corporations, or even internet service providers.

### Everyday Uses for the Public

While Tor is best known for its role in accessing hidden services, it also has practical uses for everyday internet users. In many ways, Tor can function like a free VPN, masking your IP address and preventing websites, advertisers, or even your internet

*See Darkweb, Page 9*

## Healthy Living with Dr. Hall: Boost Your Memory with More Deep Sleep

*Dr. David Hall*

Running is a fantastic way to boost cardiovascular health, alleviate stress, and enhance overall fitness. However, for many, it can also lead to knee pain, which affects a significant percentage of runners annually. Research suggests that up to 79% of runners may experience injuries each year, with about half of these injuries specifically occurring at the knee joint. This statistic underscores the importance of addressing running form to mitigate such risks.

If you or someone you know is grappling with knee discomfort while running, you’re likely seeking effective solutions. Sorting through the plethora of advice on running techniques and form adjustments can be daunting. Distilling this information into actionable steps that yield meaningful results can be a time-consuming endeavor.

Fortunately, here’s a streamlined approach to immediately alleviate knee pain:

### Enhancing Running Form: Quick Solutions for Knee Pain Relief

1. **Adjusting Cadence** Increasing your running cadence — the number of steps you take per minute — can significantly reduce the impact on your knee joints. Typically, runners aim for a cadence between 172 and 180 steps per minute. Research indicates that raising your cadence by just 10% from your natural rate can notably decrease stress on your knees. This adjustment helps prevent overstriding, a common error where the leading foot lands too far ahead of your body’s center of mass, exacerbating knee strain. To enhance your cadence, consider using a metronome app or music with a beat that matches your desired step rate. These tools provide auditory cues, making it easier to maintain a consistent pace without monotony.

2. **Adopting Forward Trunk Lean** Running with a slight forward lean of the trunk can also alleviate knee pain. This technique shifts the workload from the quadriceps — which can overload the knee joint when running with an upright posture — to the gluteal muscles and calves. The optimal forward trunk angle typically ranges between 8 to 10 degrees. This adjustment mimics the sensation of “running into a headwind,” helping to distribute impact forces more evenly throughout your lower body.

Implementing these two straightforward changes requires no special equipment and can be integrated into your next run immediately. They provide quick relief for knee discomfort, allowing you to continue training or participate in upcoming events without hindrance.

**Looking Beyond Immediate Relief** While adjusting cadence and trunk lean are effective for immediate pain reduction, they do not address other potential factors contributing to knee pain, such as muscular imbalances, inadequate shock absorption, or excessive knee rotation. For long-term relief and optimal performance, it’s advisable to consult with a specialized running physical therapist. They can analyze your running gait, identify specific areas for improvement and design a comprehensive training plan tailored to your needs.

In conclusion, by implementing these simple yet effective adjustments to your running technique, you can swiftly alleviate knee pain and enjoy running with greater comfort and reduced risk of injury. Whether preparing for an upcoming race or aiming to enhance your regular runs, optimizing your running form is a proactive step towards long-term running enjoyment and health.

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!

## Your Local, Hometown Chiropractor



1188 Stonecrest Blvd  
Ste 102  
Tega Cay



**Dr. David Hall**



# Buzz around Town



## Get Ready to Grab a Wreck: Potbelly Sandwich Shop Coming Soon to Fort Mill!

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



Fort Mill foodies, get your taste buds ready! Popular sandwich chain Potbelly Sandwich Shop is gearing up to open a new location in our very own town. Situated at 1018 Gold Hill Rd, Fort Mill, the site is currently buzzing with construction, and a promising "Opening Soon" sign hints at delicious meals to come.

For those unfamiliar with the Potbelly phenomenon, prepare for a treat. Founded in Chicago in 1977, Potbelly has grown into a beloved brand known for its toasty, made-to-order sandwiches served on signature oven-fresh bread. But it's not just about the sandwiches. Potbelly also offers a tempting array of fresh salads, hearty soups, craveable cookies, and hand-dipped milkshakes, all served in a warm and inviting atmosphere. Many locations even feature live music, adding to the unique Potbelly experience.

From their classic "A Wreck" loaded with multiple meats and cheeses to customizable vegetarian

See Potbelly, Page 9

## York County Sheriff's Office Mourns Loss of Mounted Patrol Horse Josie



YORK COUNTY, SC — The York County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol Unit is grieving the loss of Josie, a beloved 27-year-old American Paint Horse who served faithfully as a member of the Mounted Patrol Unit. Josie passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of service and connection with the community.

Josie was part of the Mounted Patrol Unit for more than 16 years. In those years, Josie served as team leader, Cpl. Mark J. McCarter's backup horse. Josie was also ridden by Mounted Patrol members, Detective Tom Kinnee, Retired Cpl. Allen Strom, Investigator Marschal Martens, Deputy Chloe Fey, and Kellie Conrad in her Mounted Search and Rescue role. All of whom were certified to ride Josie during her tenure.

Known for her gentle demeanor and steadfast presence, Josie was a fixture at numerous community events, including the prestigious National Police Memorial Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The total of Josie's contributions to the Sheriff's Office and the community are immeasurable. The York County Sheriff's Office extends its gratitude to all who supported Josie's service over the years and invites the community to share in remembering her remarkable life.



MODEL A BREWING  
WEEKLY EVENTS

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

BINGO WITH SHANE  
THURSDAY, 6:30PM



## Buzz, Sweat & Tears 5K Returns to Fort Mill



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 participants  
Kid-friendly activities

Registration Fees:  
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.



## BUYING OR SELLING A HOME?

THOMAS RACKLEY  
REAL ESTATE AGENT

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



LETS WORK TOGETHER



# SPORTS



## Falcons Fall to Bengals, Copperheads & Yellow Jackets Earn Dominant Wins

Chris Coffee, Sports Editor



FORTS MILL, S.C. — Kason Canupp and the Nation Ford Falcons' high-flying offense couldn't outlast James Veasey and the Blythewood Bengals, falling 34-27 Friday in a season-opening shootout. The loss extends Nation Ford's losing streak to ten games, dating back to last season.

Nation Ford running back Malachi Drayton leads quarterback Kason Canupp on a short gain during Friday night's home loss to Blythewood.

Canupp put up a spectacular individual performance in the defeat,



throwing for 375 yards and four touchdowns while adding another 117 yards on the ground. Wide receiver Jayden Scott was Canupp's favorite target, hauling in 214 receiving yards.

Despite the Falcons' offensive fireworks, Veasey stole the show for the Bengals. The dual-threat quarterback rushed for 115 yards and two touchdowns while adding 193 yards and another score through the air. Veasey connected with Ben Hendrix for 93 of his passing yards.

Nation Ford will look to snap their

skid when they host York at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

Nation Ford head football coach Jake Bentley lost his home opener Friday night against Blythewood.mhs, Copperheads Shutout Eagles in Season Opener

The Catawba Ridge Copperheads started their season with a dominant performance, shutting out the Chapin Eagles 30-0 on the road Friday. The win was sweet revenge for the Copperheads, who lost a high-scoring

**See Football, Page 9**

## Van Vranken Captures Tega Cay Men's Club Championship

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



John Van Vranken pulled away on Sunday to win his first Tega Cay Golf Club Men's Club Championship with a steady 71-71 performance for a two-round total of 142. Van Vranken's consistency proved decisive, finishing four shots ahead of a three-way tie for second between Doug Champagne, Bruce Fonte, and Adam Byerly, all at 146. Billy Hall rounded out the top five at 147.

John van Vranken	71	71	142
Doug Champagne	75	71	146
Bruce Fonte	75	71	146
Adam Byerly	71	75	146
Billy Hall	76	71	147

In the Senior Club Championship, Kenny Hall claimed the title with rounds of 76 and 79 for a total of 155, finishing four shots ahead of Andrew Zondervan (159). Randall Phillips placed third at 167, followed by Michael Clyburn (169) and Bruce Parker (175). This is Kenny's third Tega Cay Championship title.

Kenneth Hall	76	79	155
Andrew Zondervan	77	82	159
Randall Phillips	85	82	167
Michael Clyburn	83	86	169
Bruce Parker	84	91	175
Charles Siegel	89	91	180

The Super Senior Championship came down to the wire, with

**See Golf, Page 9**

## Fort Mill Cross Country Teams Sweep WNC Carnival

Thomas Hyslip, Editor



The Fort Mill High School cross country teams earned a clean sweep at the 2025 WNC Cross Country Carnival, winning both the boys' and girls' 5000-meter team titles.

The girls' team dominated its race with 38 points, finishing well ahead of runner-up Dorman (96) and Greer Middle College Charter (136). Junior Kaylee Rovenstine was Fort Mill's top runner, placing 2nd overall in 19:01.11. Senior Alivia Cleveland finished 4th (19:39.16), junior Mia Zook was 6th (20:20.94), freshman Lauren Allen 12th (20:43.90), and sophomore Bailey Nolin 14th (20:47.27).



Photos by Larry Mull

The Lady Jackets also placed three more runners in the top 25 — junior Avery Moriarty in 15th (20:54.98), junior Rachel Vinson in 17th (21:06.64), and senior Sara Davis in 18th (21:13.15) — showing the team's strong depth.

In the boys' race, Fort Mill placed four runners in the top 25 and finished with a team score of 79, ahead of Cary Academy (92) and T.C. Roberson (102). Junior Hudson Haley led the way for the Yellow Jackets, placing 4th overall in 16:22.80. Senior Connor

Demmerle followed in 5th (16:28.82), with sophomore Owen Ware 7th (16:44.00) and junior Ben Madej 21st (17:30.89). Junior Reeves Parker secured the fifth scoring spot with a 41st-place finish (18:06.32).

Fort Mill's junior varsity squads also turned in strong performances, with the JV boys winning 1st place and the JV girls taking 2nd place in their divisions.

The sweep marked a strong early-season statement for both programs as they prepare for conference competition later this fall.

## Hot Summer Gardening Tips for Your Garden

By Carol Holden & Gardening on the Cay



Hello Garden Friends!

Wow, was the last week of July scorching or what? If you're like me, you've probably been staring at your garden wondering what in the world happened out there! Southern summers can be brutally hot, and maintaining a thriving garden during these heat waves can feel like an uphill battle. But don't sweat it, I've gathered a few tips to help your garden stay healthy even when temperatures soar.

### Tip 1: Prioritize Soil Quality

Healthy soil is the backbone of a successful garden. Before planting anything in early spring, assess your soil's condition. Testing your soil can guide you in determining nutrient needs, pH levels, and composition. Whether your plants crave loamy earth or sandy mixes, use compost and potting soil that cater to specific requirements. For example, daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) thrive in well-drained soil with organic matter, which make them a great choice for sunny spots.

### Tip 2: Mulch is Your Best Friend

Don't underestimate the power of mulch, it's a multitasking marvel. A generous 2-3 inch layer of bark mulch or decorative alternatives like river stones helps regulate soil temperature and retain moisture. In the sweltering sun, mulch acts like a sponge, absorbing water and slowly releasing it as needed. It also protects roots and improves soil health, giving your plants a fighting chance during extreme conditions.

### Tip 3: Water is Life, Especially During Periods of Relentless Heat

All plants, even drought-tolerant ones, need regular hydration. Aim to water at the base of your plants to avoid leaf diseases such as black spot, and steer clear of overhead watering that can cause sunburn on leaves. Grouping plants by their water needs simplifies your routine and conserves resources. Water early in the morning to minimize evaporation. For instance, Lantana is drought-tolerant, but it

still needs regular watering early on to establish strong roots.

### Tip 4: Avoid Fertilizing During Heat Waves

You do not want to overwhelm your plants with fertilizers! Gardens need time to rest and conserve energy, not ramp up its activity during sweltering conditions.

### Tip 5: Skip Pruning When It's Scorching

Pruning can expose tender plant areas to direct sunlight, something they don't need during heatwaves. Leaves act like natural umbrellas, shielding both soil and stems. Especially for tomato plants, keep those leafy protectors intact to prevent stress and damage.

### Tip 6: Use Shade Wisely

When the heat peaks, use shade cloths and opt for 40% UV protection cloths. Avoid anything stronger than 50% UV. Use them sparingly, during the hottest times to prevent light deprivation.

### Tip 7: Incorporate Drought Tolerant Plants in Your Garden

**Succulent Leaves or Stems**—Thick, fleshy parts store water (sedum, agave or euphorbia).  
**Waxy or Hairy Surfaces**—Reduce water loss by reflecting sunlight and trapping moisture (lamb's ear and sage).  
**Small or Narrow Leaves**—Less surface area means less water loss (rosemary & thyme).  
**Deep or Extensive Root Systems**—These roots tap into underground moisture (coneflowers & switchgrass).  
**Gray, Silver or Pale Green Foliage**—Reflect sunlight and reduce heat absorption (lavender & artemisia).  
**Dormancy During Drought**—Some plants drop leaves or slow growth to conserve energy. If a plant wilts but perks up after watering, it may be using this survival strategy.

So, when you find yourself staring at your garden and wondering what happened, instead stare at it and think, what changes can be made to assure it can handle the high heat of our southern summers? Hope you find these tips useful, good luck!

Happy gardening from Gardening on the Cay! ~You can follow us on Facebook @Gardening on the Cay

## Mr. Penny Pincher: Healthy Debates, Not Shouting Matches

Patrick Byrne, Editor

Whether it was high school, college or both, students used to be able to be part of a debate team. These teams would debate each other on a variety of topics, each vying to make the best argument and be declared the winner. I tend to think the idea of a debate team still exists; however, by the looks of social media or our society in general, you'd never know it.

We've increasingly become a binary society. Our reliance on computers and all things data has placed our values and emotions into similar states of being. You're either a "1" or a "0," there is no in between. I'm right, you're wrong, we're not going to discuss the why. This line of thinking is not only uneducated, it's highly destructive and acts as an impediment to progress.

One of the beauties of having friends are the similarities you share but also the differences they bring to your life. You'd of course need to have some things in common otherwise what would be the point of the friendship. And yet, having every single thing in common would be quite boring. Sharing experiences and hearing differing opinions from your own provides much needed perspective that would otherwise be missing if you were talking to yourself in the mirror.

You always hear people say, "avoid any talk about religion and politics." I completely disagree. As long as you can be respectful of one another's opinions on any matter, no subject is off limits. Why can't a Christian have a conversation with an atheist? How about a Republican discussing current affairs with a Democrat? Think neither of these is possible? It's very possible.

I have conversations like this on an almost daily basis. None of them end in shouting. They also very rarely end in changing anyone's mind. That's not the point.

The point or purpose is to hear what someone else has to say, even if whatever they're saying differs from what you believe. I'd even say it's more important that it does differ. This allows you to understand what the other person might be thinking rather than staying inside a bubble of your own making.

There's no other place that this bubble is more prevalent than on social media. It's incredibly easy to digitally bully someone. It's another thing entirely to bully someone to their face. I'll be the first to admit I'm not fond

of confrontation. It's not in my nature to be disliked or confront someone; however, I'd much prefer to speak with someone face to face rather than through the keystrokes of my laptop.

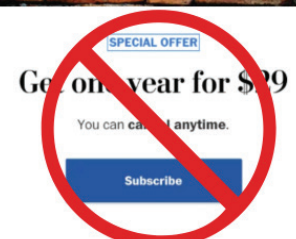
The media isn't helping either. Their bias for one side or the other is obvious to the point of embarrassment. It's human nature to favor one view over another; however, it should be the job of a journalist to keep what they truly think to themselves. Their job is to tell the news, as it happens, using facts and nothing else. Too often the facts are skewed to favor their own personal opinion, which serves zero purpose for the audience. Instead, the bias provides narratives for discussions that quickly turn into arguments amongst the populace.

Like it or not, we live in a world of grey. The complexity of our human condition opens an array of possibilities on a daily basis. What was once thought to be an immutable fact one day becomes a falsehood the next. Operating in the grey requires an openness and ability to see the world through the lens of others and not just your own. Whatever I believe may not be what you believe and that's perfectly fine. I'm happy to discuss our differences in both a candid and pleasant manner.

At least we can all agree on one thing. Pizza is the best food ever invented.

Debate.

## SAY NO TO PAYWALLS



Always Free

Online and Print

Tega Cay Sun

**Football, From Page 7**

affair to the Eagles last season.

**Yellow Jackets Dominate in Rout**

Fort Mill made a statement in their home opener, overwhelming the Ballantyne Ridge Wolves with a 52-6 victory on Friday.

Running back Broden Mitcheson led the charge, rushing for a career-high 127 yards and three touchdowns on just 14 carries. Quarterback Quinn Kelly was also impressive, completing 76% of his passes for 189 yards and a touchdown.

The Yellow Jackets' defense and special teams were equally impactful. The defense forced three interceptions, including a pick-six by Joseph Duey, who also had a second interception. Jeremiah Young also snagged a pick.

The special teams unit racked up 16 points, highlighted by Deveian Southward's kickoff return for a touchdown.

**Golf, From Page 7**

Gary Anderson taking the win at 157 to claim his fourth Tega Cay Championship. A three-way tie for second followed, as Tom McGrath, Ryan Ratcliffe, and Doug McGowan all posted scores between 159 and 160. Gary Martin rounded out the leaderboard with a 162.

Gary Anderson	78	79	157
Tom McGrath	81	78	159
Ryan Ratcliffe	75	84	159
Doug McGowan	79	81	160
Gary Martin	79	83	162
Eric Thompson	84	87	171

In Open Flight Division 1, Brandon Fender surged to victory with a ringer score of 13-under, highlighted by a closing 67. Hunter Berke (-9) finished second, followed by Larry Elia (-8), and a tie for fourth between Shawn Blum and Greg Kniska at -7.

Open Flight Division 2 saw Dale Eberle match Fender's mark of -13 to secure the win, edging out Jared Vestal (-12). Andrew Dunlap and David Morgan tied for third at -10, with Dan Manes close behind at -9.

**Sunday Skins Winners**

**Potbelly, From Page 6**

options, Potbelly caters to a wide range of palates. Their commitment to quality ingredients and friendly service has cultivated a loyal following across the country, and Fort Mill is next on their list to delight.

And the good news doesn't stop there! Potbelly is currently looking to build its team for the new Fort Mill location. If you're enthusiastic, customer-focused, and looking for an exciting opportunity in the food service industry, you might be the perfect fit. They are currently hiring for a Shift Leader position at MFG Gold Hill LLC, located at the same address: 1018 Gold Hill Rd, Fort Mill, SC, 29708.

While an exact opening date hasn't been announced yet, the progress at 1018 Gold Hill Rd suggests it won't be long before Fort Mill residents can enjoy the Potbelly experience. Keep an eye out for updates and get ready to satisfy your sandwich cravings! You can also visit their main website at <https://potbelly.com/> to learn more about their menu and brand. Welcome to the neighborhood, Potbelly! We can't wait for you to open your doors.

**Gross Skins:** Hole 1 – Eagle – John Van Vranken; Hole 5 – Birdie – Billy Hall; Hole 6 – Birdie – Paul Dustin; Hole 7 – Birdie – Brandon Fender; Hole 16 – Eagle – Doug Champagne; Hole 18 – Birdie – Eric Thompson.

**Net Skins:** Hole 6 – Net Eagle – Paul Dustin; Hole 7 – Net Eagle – Brandon Fender; Hole 10 – Net Eagle – Marty Corrigan; Hole 12 – Net Eagle – Jared Vestal; Hole 13 – Net Eagle – Paul Dustin; Hole 14 – Net Eagle – Steve Levine; Hole 18 – Net Eagle – Eric Thompson.

Despite more than six inches of rain earlier in the week, the Tega Cay Golf Club course held up remarkably well for the weekend, offering players excellent scoring conditions. With close margins across all divisions and the ringer format in play, the final round delivered the shakeups that were promised on Saturday, culminating in a strong finish.

**Darkweb, From Page 5**

service provider from monitoring your browsing activity. This can be useful for people who want to research sensitive topics, avoid targeted advertising, or simply browse with greater privacy.

That said, there's a trade-off. Because your traffic is routed through multiple encrypted layers and volunteer-run nodes around the world, Tor can be significantly slower than normal browsing. It's an effective shield for anonymity, but not always the most convenient tool for streaming, downloading large files, or general everyday use.

For those interested in trying it out, the Tor Browser is free to download at <https://www.torproject.org/download/> and is available for Windows, macOS, Linux, and Android.

**Who Uses the Dark Web?**

The dark web has both legitimate and illegitimate uses, and its user base is diverse:

**Everyday people:** Protecting personal data from identity thieves or browsing without advertisers tracking them.

**Journalists and whistleblowers:** Submitting sensitive information through tools like SecureDrop, or publishing in repressive regimes. Major outlets like the BBC and The New York Times maintain dark web versions of their sites.

**Activists and human rights defenders:** Reporting abuses and organizing protests under the radar of censorship and surveillance.

**Law enforcement and military:** Conducting undercover operations, online surveillance, or covert communications from hostile regions.

**Cybersecurity professionals:** Testing

firewall rules, researching exploits, or analyzing threats.

At the same time, the dark web is infamous for illegal markets offering drugs, stolen data, counterfeit documents, malware, and more. Sites like Silk Road, AlphaBay, and Hansa became household names after high-profile law enforcement takedowns.

**Finding the Hidden Corners**

Unlike the surface web, dark web sites don't end in ".com" or ".org." Instead, they use ".onion" addresses, generated from encryption keys. These addresses often change, making them difficult to track. Specialized search engines like Torch, Ahmia, or DuckDuckGo's Tor version help users navigate, though reliability is inconsistent.

It's important to be cautious when looking for Tor links. Many directories that claim to list "the best onion sites" often contain scams, phishing pages, or links to malicious content. For safety, stick to trusted resources such as the official Tor Project website and reputable outlets that mirror their content on the dark web. Clicking blindly on unknown onion links can quickly lead to unsafe territory.

**More Than a "Digital Underworld"**

It's easy to write off the dark web as a digital underworld—and there's no denying that serious crimes take place there. But it's more accurate to see it as a neutral technology: a platform for anonymity that can shield criminals or protect dissidents, depending on who is using it.

In an era of growing surveillance, data breaches, and censorship, the dark web represents both a challenge and an opportunity. Understanding its dual nature is essential—not just for law enforcement and cybersecurity experts, but for anyone who wants a more nuanced view of digital privacy and freedom.



# Charlie's Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

- 1) Head pests
- 5) Arctic breakaway
- 9) Nodded off
- 14) "While \_\_\_ it ..."
- 15) Say with certainty
- 16) Type of gas
- 17) Lawrence, in Stockholm
- 18) Epsilon follower
- 19) Not under one's breath
- 20) L.A. 10-percenter
- 21) Things done in the gym
- 23) Black-eyed legume
- 25) Master of rhymes
- 26) Abominable
- 29) Wagner contemporary
- 33) Firewood measure
- 35) Beehive State flowers
- 37) Break bread
- 38) Atkins or Huntley
- 39) Detach
- 40) Tasting of wood, as some spirits
- 41) Address on the Web
- 42) Furrier John Jacob
- 43) End table?
- 44) Free-for-all
- 46) Earth models
- 48) Difficult
- 50) Detroit player
- 53) Things done in the gym
- 58) "Wheel of Fortune" buy, perhaps
- 59) Sacred song
- 60) Group of three
- 61) MIT, for one
- 62) Aboveground?
- 63) Birthright seller of Genesis
- 64) Chick's ending
- 65) \_\_\_ down (softened)
- 66) It's tossed in a pub
- 67) Speedy fliers no more

## DOWN

- 1) Dooryard bloomer, in a poem
- 2) Insect stage
- 3) Things done in the gym
- 4) ALF and Mork, for two
- 5) Charity sale
- 6) It's almost seven, but seven's not
- 7) Living in Fla., perhaps
- 8) Get hold of
- 9) Successful trap setters
- 10) 1962 Kubrick film
- 11) Black, poetically
- 12) Tub stopper
- 13) Kennedy and Danson
- 21) "Help yourself"
- 22) Address abbr.
- 24) Ship's destination
- 27) "Amazing, \_\_\_ it?"
- 28) Clear, as a windshield
- 30) Things done in the gym
- 31) \_\_\_ ends meet
- 32) Underworld river
- 33) Bunny tail
- 34) "No \_\_\_ traffic"
- 36) Mary or Jane
- 39) Software buyers
- 40) "This \_\_\_ on me!"
- 42) Protected, as a home
- 43) Stork's kin
- 45) Put away for a while
- 47) Decide to withdraw
- 49) Not fashionable
- 51) It's a start
- 52) Informal evenings
- 53) Bit of bickering
- 54) Capital on a fjord
- 55) Kind of attraction
- 56) Night-sky bear
- 57) Whopper creator
- 61) \_\_\_ in Idaho (elementary lesson)

## GYM DANDY

By Carla Azure

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						64	
65							66						67	

Answers at [tegacaysun.com/answers](http://tegacaysun.com/answers)

## Off-Duty Mecklenburg Detention Officer Killed in Fort Mill Crash



**Thomas Hyslip, Editor**

FORT MILL, S.C. — A Mecklenburg County detention officer was killed in a two-vehicle crash Wednesday morning while off duty, according to the South Carolina Highway Patrol.

The crash occurred around 11:20 a.m. on S.C. Highway 460 near the intersection with S.C. 160. Authorities say 30-year-old Aaron Tindall was driving a Chrysler sedan eastbound when his vehicle left the right side of the road. He overcorrected, crossed the center line, and struck a westbound Honda Odyssey.

Tindall was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the Honda was transported to a local hospital with

injuries. Their condition has not been publicly released.

Tindall joined the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office on April 2. Following the crash, Sheriff Garry McFadden released a statement expressing condolences.

"We are deeply saddened by the sudden loss of Officer Tindall," McFadden said. "We offer our prayers and sympathy to his family and ask the community to keep them in their hearts during this time of grief. His passing is a great loss for our agency and our community. We also thank the South Carolina Highway Patrol for responding and standing with us

through this difficult time."

The crash remains under investigation by the South Carolina Highway Patrol.



# YoCo News

FREE • Vol. 1 - No. 9

Shining a Light on York and Lancaster Counties

September 2025

## Rock Hill Schools Becomes First York County District to Offer Full Associate Degree

Rock Hill Schools and York Technical College celebrated a bold new chapter in education with the launch of the Middle College at York Tech, welcoming its first class of dual enrollment students on Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

This innovative program allows high school students to earn their diploma and a full associate degree simultaneously, blending rigorous academics with real-world readiness, all while still in high school.

Rock Hill Schools is setting a powerful precedent for college and career readiness. Dr. Deborah Elder, Superintendent of Rock Hill Schools explains, "Our high school students will graduate with their full associate degree. We are breaking down traditional barriers to higher education and expanding the possibilities for every learner. This partnership ensures our students are well-prepared, confident, and competitive in whatever path they take. This marks not just a beginning for our students, but a transformative model for educational partnerships that prioritize innovation and long-term student achievement."

"At York Technical College, we are thrilled to partner with the Rock Hill School District to launch a brand-new Middle College," said Dr. Stacey Moore, President of York Technical College. "Together, we have created a program that opens doors, accelerates learning, and ensures students are prepared for the workforce or a seamless transition to a four-year degree. This collaboration represents the best of what happens when a college and a school district come together with a shared commitment to student success and community impact."

The event will recognize the 20 students stepping into this unique academic journey. Tuition and fees are free thanks to the S.C. Lottery Assistance Program.

## Rock Hill Police K9 Officer Stabbed During Arrest



*Thomas Hyslip, Editor*

A Rock Hill Police K9 officer is recovering at an emergency veterinary hospital after being stabbed multiple times during a violent incident late Thursday night.

Just after 10 p.m. on August 28, officers responded to a home on Martin Avenue after a 56-year-old woman reported that 35-year-old Travonte Tate had chased her with a knife and threatened to kill her. The woman managed to escape and call the police.

When officers arrived, Tate fled on foot. K9 officer Apollo was deployed and successfully apprehended him. However, while Apollo was holding Tate for officers, police say Tate pulled a knife and stabbed the dog several times. An officer was able to wrestle the knife away and restrain Tate.

Tate was taken into custody and now faces multiple charges, including attempted murder, possession of a weapon during a violent crime, resisting arrest with a deadly weapon, and unlawful injury to a police animal.

K9 officer Apollo was rushed to an emergency veterinary hospital, where he underwent treatment and was stabilized. He is scheduled for surgery and is expected to recover and return to duty.



### Michael Matus

Financial Advisor

(803) 792-4770

michael.g.matus@ampf.com



# YoCoNews.com

## Lancaster County Council Approves Library Funding, Road Projects, Development Changes, and Impact Fee Study at Aug 25 Meeting

*Thomas Hyslip, Editor*

The Lancaster County Council tackled a full agenda at its August 25 meeting, approving new funding for libraries, directing millions toward local road improvements, and voting on changes to development and community boards that will affect residents across the county.

Council recognized Deputy Coroner John Collins for receiving a statewide professional award, approved amendments to support a new coroner's office alongside the detention center project, and streamlined the Health and Wellness Commission by reducing its size.

Budget adjustments were approved to account for increased state aid to libraries and to direct excess capital project sales tax funds toward Cleveland Street and Rise Lane improvements.

A key development agreement with Redwood Indian Land Barberville was amended, reducing housing density and extending timelines. Council also approved a signage ordinance affecting MUSC's new hospital project and the Lowe's Foods store, balancing visibility with community standards.

Additional resolutions addressed special assessment districts, authorized a study on expanding impact fees countywide, and supported truck restrictions on Carolina Acres Road.

Council approved \$264,689 in state aid for the county library system, with about \$16,800 earmarked for staff support. In addition, council backed a resolution to help the library system secure a \$50,000 federal grant to install book vending machines in underserved areas of northern Lancaster County. These machines will allow residents to check out and return books without traveling to a branch.



## Michael Matus

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



**Tuesday**  
*Dr. Tom's*  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**

**Thursday**  
*Bingo Shane's*  
**BINGO GO**

15	20	1	10	19	19	10	19
25	44	40	18	63	53	18	63
37	60	★	13	30	0	13	30
33	5	27	48	53	3	48	53
21	70	57	68	56	8	56	8

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

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

Specializing in:

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

Opens @ 7am!

1188 Stonecrest Blvd  
Tega Cay

Dr. David Hall

YoCo News ♦ Tega Cay Sun

### SAY NO TO PAYWALLS

Get one year for \$29  
You can cancel anytime

**Subscribe**

Always Free  
Online and Print

YoCo News ♦ Tega Cay Sun

NORTH GROUP

## REAL ESTATE AGENT

THOMAS RACKLEY  
Find your dream house

@thomascharlotterealtor  
thomas.rackleyrealtor@gmail.com

CONTACT US  
704-340-0400  
www.northgroupre.com

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