

IN BRIEF

Somerset sets staggered start to school year

After reviewing community survey feedback on a proposed “staggered-start” to the school year, Somerset County Public Schools recently announced that it will proceed with a schedule change.

On Monday, Aug. 29, only the following grades by school will report:

- Deal Island Elementary – PreK4
- Princess Anne Elementary – Prek3, Prek4
- Greenwood Elementary – Grade 2
- Washington Academy & High – Grade 8
- Somerset Intermediate – Grade 6
- Crisfield Academy & High – Grade 8
- Woodson Elementary – Prek3, Prek4

Comprehensive classroom special education students in all grades & schools

On Tuesday, Aug. 30, all students will report.

Additionally, as in years past, bus drivers will call families of bus-riding students before school begins. Parents and guardians should attend to any phone calls or messages regarding bus pickup and drop off times, which will occur over the weekend of Aug. 26-28.

Health department offers free diabetes education classes

The Somerset County Health Department will be hosting a free diabetes education support group starting Sept. 5.

The goal of this free group is to make positive life changes, improve health, and prevent or delay type 2 diabetes.

Sessions will be held Tuesdays at 5 p.m. at Princess Anne Library, 11767 Beechwood St., Princess Anne; and

Wednesdays at 5 p.m. at Crisfield Library, 100 Collins St., Crisfield.

Alongside a certified lifestyle coach, participants will work through modules and activities to add healthy habits, create shared goals and inspire each other. The deadline to register is Sept. 2. Sessions begin Sept. 5.

This activity is part of the Rural Equity and Access to Community Health program and is funded by TidalHealth through a grant from the Maryland General Assembly as part of the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act. Grant funding is administered by the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission.

For more information, www.health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/herc.aspx. Funding is also provided by CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, and the Maryland Department of Health.

For more information or to register, call 443-523-1700.

UMES Extension’s Farm Bus Tour hitting road to Va.

UMES Extension’s Farm Bus Tour will be back on the road Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 for a visit to eastern and central Virginia, including a stop at Virginia State University College of Agriculture’s annual field day. The tour, highlighting farms with sustainable and innovative agricultural practices, is returning after a four-year hiatus.

A sample of the stops lined up for the tour include Virginia’s Bees Knees Farm and Creamery in West Point, Riverside Produce Farm and Muscadines in King William, and Slade Farms in Surry.

The tour starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 7 p.m. at the University of Maryland East-

ern Shore campus. Registration includes bus transportation to three to four farm visits, educational packets, light refreshments and one night hotel accommodation on Wednesday, Aug. 31, in addition to VSU’s field day on Thursday, Sept. 1.

Registration is open at www.farm-bustour2022.eventbrite.com, with more information to come. Fees are \$75 for a single registrant and \$125 for a party of two. The deadline to register is Aug. 24. Anyone in need of special services or accommodations must call 410-621-5450, Ext. 106, two weeks in advance.

TidalHealth opens new crisis center in Salisbury

On Aug. 4, TidalHealth cut the ribbon and officially opened the TidalHealth Crisis Center at 200 E. Vine St, Salisbury. It will be staffed, initially, Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended days and hours to come.

The Health Services Cost Review Commission Regional Partnership Catalyst Grant program approved five years of funding at just over \$11 million.

The TidalHealth Crisis Center is an extension of TRIBE, the Tri-County Behavioral Health Engagement. It’s a collaboration formed in 2021 through a regional partnership between TidalHealth Peninsula Regional, Atlantic General Hospital and 11 behavioral health community partner agencies. Their immediate goal, which has now been met with the primary site open in Salisbury and the satellite location operational in Berlin, was to design behavioral health crisis stabilization centers, or behavioral health urgent care centers.

The two crisis centers essentially serve as behavioral health urgent care centers where individuals can receive crisis respite, observation and intervention in a warm, friendly, homelike community setting.

To learn more about the services offered by the behavioral health community health partner agencies, call Clinical Manager Stacey Walker at 410-912-5887. She may also be reached by email at stacey.walker@tidalhealth.org.

Harris to host virtual forum on service academies

Congressman Andy Harris, R-1st-Md., has announced his annual military service academy information event for high school students interested in pursuing a Congressional nomination to attend one of the nation’s military service academies. The virtual forum will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 17, at 6:30 p.m. and will run about 90 minutes. Congressman

Harris will kick off the meeting, followed by an informative briefing by experts in the selection process and a first-hand look at academy life through the eyes of recent graduates. It will conclude with a question-and-answer session for students and parents.

Interested students must RSVP for the Aug. 17 virtual event with their name, address, phone number and reliable email address to MD01Academy@mail.house.gov. Individuals who have RSVP’d will receive a confirmation email with a link to join the virtual meeting by Monday, Aug. 15, in the afternoon. Additional questions can be emailed to Harris’s office at Leo.Thuman@mail.house.gov.

Camp

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aerial adventures at the new Iron Pony ropes course and summertime favorites, including ice cream from Island Creamery on neighboring Chincoteague Island.

With their continuing commitment to accessibility, the academy provided

30 full scholarships to students from the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Maryland this year, thanks to the generosity of corporate sponsors, foundations, grant awards, and private donors.

“We believe STEM education is critical for preparing youth for the future. We also believe that all students deserve access to exciting, high-quality STEM educational opportunities and mentorship,” said VSFA Executive Director Kim Check.

“The Virginia Space Flight Academy offers students a glimpse into the future and highlights potential STEM career pathways. Our camps continue to have a positive impact on children, even long after summer is gone. Summer camp experiences enrich the whole child.”

The Virginia Space Flight Academy, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, relies on contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, and grants. In 2023, they will celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Students who missed out on camp this year are encouraged to check out online learning opportunities with VSFA, including a virtual STEM Academy, which includes guided hands-on and online learning at home or in any suitable setting for study. Fall enrollment is now open.

For more information, visit www.vaspaceflightacademy.org.

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