

School News



On the cover

Pictured at the top of the page are employees from Mattawoman Middle School. Pictured, from left, are: Linda Ford, food service manager; Clifton Shorter, building service manager; and Teresa Seay, media instructional assistant.

Now showing ...

Airing this week is a new episode of *NewsBreak 96*, a monthly show produced by the communications department that highlights school system events. This episode takes a look at the summer engineering camp, and features staff tips on how students can keep their minds sharp over summer break, and what students and staff are doing during the summer. The show airs on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is also available as a video on demand through the school system Web site. Visit www.ccboe.com for a programming schedule.

One-room school book sale

The Charles County Retired School Personnel Association (CCRSPA) is selling a version of "Our Legacy: One and Two Room School Houses in Charles County." The cost is \$20, and shipping and handling is \$4. Send orders to Pat Gallagher, 1014 Stone Avenue, Waldorf, MD, 20602. Include with your check a note to indicate the number of books for the order and an address where the delivery can be sent. Checks should be made out to CCRSPA. Call 301-645-9687 for more information.

Unified sports program

The Charles County Public Schools Unified Sports program is seeking tennis coaches at all six Charles County public high schools for the fall season. Contact Seth Rak, program coordinator, at srak@ccboe.com to apply or for information.



Charles County Public Schools hosted a summer robotics and engineering camp at North Point High School last week for middle school students. Students, such as Piccowaxen Middle School's Trevor Earnshaw, pictured above, worked in teams with their robots to complete underwater challenges in the school's indoor pool.

Numbers grow for engineering and robotics program

Students at North Point High School's swimming pool last week barely got their feet wet. Instead of swimming laps, the students let robots do the underwater work.

The students are part of a group of more than 90 Charles County Public Schools students who participated in the 2011 summer engineering and robotics program. As part of the activity, teams of students created robots, submerged them in the pool water and put the robots to work on a number of tasks. Teams competed with their robots while learning science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) concepts, such as electrical wiring, soldering and buoyancy. They also learned to troubleshoot in an uncontrolled environment, tackling issues that could occur in the water and caves or during a landslide.

The summer robotics program, which was held July 11-15, introduces students to the Sea Perch Program as well as projectile physics and packaging. Students learned about how to build underwater robots, which is part of the Sea Perch program. A Sea Perch is a simple, remote control operated underwater vehicle, or ROV, made from PVC pipes and other household materials. Students worked in groups of three on two Sea Perch challenges. In the first challenge, groups had

to maneuver their underwater robots through large submerged rings, placed in different directions, through which the vehicle had to travel. Each group was timed and the scores were based on the teams with the fastest completion of the obstacle course. The second challenge required teams to maneuver their robots underwater to lift and carry a variety of objects to a different destination.

Students were asked to complete each challenge and also create a five-to-10 minute Power Point presentation for a panel of judges. Each team's goal was to prove to the judges that their product was best for naval engineering missions.

The program is sponsored by the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head Division and the Naval Air Warfare Center, Patuxent River, in partnership with the National Defense Education Program (NDEP) and the Office of Naval Research. This is the third year that the program has been offered to students in county middle schools to expose them to STEM skill concepts.

Increased student interest in robotics created a need to move the program to North Point from Theodore G. Davis Middle School to accommodate the growth of the program.

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School system changes online meal prepayment plan

Charles County Public Schools Food Services Department is changing the online meal payment system, which employees and students can use to pay for meals at schools and centers. Mealpay Plus is a secure, Internet-based system staff can use to deposit money electronically for use on their cafeteria account. As of July 1, the Café Prepay system is no longer available. Any remaining account balances will be transferred to the new system.

The new system is available for use starting Monday, Aug. 1, and all employees who want to use Mealpay Plus will need to register for a new account on the new system. In order to create an account, employees will need their employee identification number to register. All employees will need to add a zero in front of their identification number when registering for the system to recognize their information. The food services department is working with human resources to transfer staff information from the old system to the new system.

The system will be accessible at www.mealpay-plus.com and is also linked on the home page of the Charles County Public Schools Web site. Use of the service is optional and account funds can be deposited online by electronic check, credit or deb-

it card or by telephone. Staff can also deposit cash on their accounts at schools and centers. Funds are generally available for use within minutes of each deposit.

There are no user costs associated with registering for an account; however, Mealpay Plus charges a fee for all deposits. The fee is 4.5 percent per deposit and is set by the company. The school system does not receive funding from these fees. Under the old system, users paid a fee of up to 6.5 percent per deposit. Users can also sign up for e-mail notification when an account reaches a low balance.

Parents who want to use the system for their children also have to register for a new account, and previous balances will be transferred from last school year. Student accounts are also available Aug. 1 and parents will need their child's six-digit identification number. Users can contact their child's school for this information, and families with more than one child enrolled in the school system only need to create one account.

The new system also allows users to monitor spending on each account. For more information, call the food services department at 301-392-5570.



Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.ccboe.com/hur. Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job Openings

Building Service Manager – Indian Head Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by July 26.

Secretary – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by July 26.

Media Instructional Assistant – John Hanson Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by July 26.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistants – Openings at T.C. Martin and Arthur Middleton elementary schools, 10-month positions. Apply by July 26.

Special Education Instructional Assistant, Emotionally Adjusted (EA) Program – North Point High School, 10-month position. Apply by July 28.

In-School Retention Instructional Assistant – Piccowaxen Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by July 28.

Literacy Instructional Assistant – Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month position. Apply by July 28.

Pre-K Special Education Instructional Assistant – William A. Diggs Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by July 26.

Special Education Instructional Assistant Inclusion – North Point High School, 10-month position. Apply by July 28.

Building Service Assistant Manager – T.C. Martin Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by July 28.

Building Service Worker – Westlake High School, 12-month position. Apply by July 28.

Computer Analyst II – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by July 29.

New Teacher Mentors – Openings at the elementary, middle and high school levels, 10-month positions.

Technology Education Teacher – Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month position.

Life Skills Teacher (Moderate, Severe and Profound) – Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month position.

Special Education Life Skills Teacher – Gale-Bailey Elementary School, 10-month position.

Special Education Early Childhood Teacher – F.B. Gwynn Education Center, 10-month position.

Teachers for the Emotionally Impaired – Openings at Mary H. Matula Elementary School and the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month positions.

Special Education Inclusion Resource Teachers – Openings at Dr. Gustavus Brown, Dr. James Craik and Dr. Samuel A. Mudd elementary schools, 10-month positions.

Special Education Inclusion Resource Teacher for Reading/English – Westlake High School, 10-month position.