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SPORTS, 1B

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‘Past its useful life’



The Tom’s Cove Visitor Center building in the Virginia Unit of Assateague Island National Seashore has now closed permanently and is set for demolition in early January 2026. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ASSATEAGUE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

Tom’s Cove Visitor Center closes permanently in Assateague’s Va. unit

Keith Demko
Salisbury Daily Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – DELMARVA

Assateague Island National Seashore has announced that the Tom’s Cove Visitor Center in the Virginia unit has closed permanently. Here’s more from the announcement of the permanent closure on Facebook.

Tom’s Cove Visitor Center set for demolition in January

The building, which has housed National Park Service Interpretive, Education and Lifeguard Operations for decades, is scheduled for demolition in early January 2026, according Assateague Island National Seashore. In their announcement Assateague officials said the Tom’s Cove building

was never designed to be a visitor center, and has been moved twice in its history. “The building is past its useful life and closure will lead to significant savings in maintenance and utility costs,” the statement said. All Park Service staff and programs will move to United States Fish and Wildlife’s Herbert H. Bateman Educational And Administrative Center, which will become a joint operation. Winter hours for the Bateman Center, located at 8231 Beach Road, Chincoteague, are Thursdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Crumbl Cookies opening Dec. 4

Keith Demko and Olivia Minzola
Salisbury Daily Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – DELMARVA

The question has been raised for months in the Salisbury, Md. locals Facebook group and elsewhere: Just what is under construction on Route 13 southbound, across from The Centre at Salisbury mall and between locations for Arby’s and Five Guys? Here’s the answer on that, plus when Salisbury’s much-anticipated Crumbl Cookies is set to open, also in north Salisbury. A sign that appeared recently revealed the big info: It will be a Taco Bell, and the location is now hiring. Per the signage up now, visit <https://jobs.tacobell.com/> to apply online.

Crumbl Cookies sets opening date for north Salisbury location

Calling all shoppers with an insatiable sweet tooth: Crumbl Cookies is coming soon to Salisbury, Maryland, and now we know when to expect it to open. The popular dessert franchise has secured a lease in the north Salisbury shopping center The Commons, at 2717 North Salisbury Blvd., in Suite D. This is the brand’s first location on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, and a sign on the door said the location will open Dec. 4, 2025. The dessert franchise is best known for its weekly rotating menu of cookie flavors. The national flavors listed for the week of Nov. 17-22 are:

See **CRUMBL**, Page 2A

Timing uncertain for release of Epstein files

Law gives DOJ 30 days; some info can be withheld

James Powell and Michael Loria
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump announced that he signed a bill on Nov. 19 that compels the Justice Department to release all files linked to the disgraced financier and indicted sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein. Trump made the announcement, claiming that the growing demand for transparency on Epstein’s relationships

with the rich and powerful, including the president himself, was the “latest Hoax” created by Democrats. He pointed to high-profile Democrats connected to Epstein, including former President Bill Clinton and former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers. A pair of lawmakers, Reps. Ro Khanna, D-California, and Thomas Massie, R-Kentucky, championed the legislation as Trump’s initial opposition to the bill drew backlash from members of his own party, most notably Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Georgia. By a vote of 427-1, the House passed the Epstein Files Transparency Act. The

Senate followed suit when Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-New York, introduced a motion for unanimous consent. It is uncertain when exactly the Justice Department will release materials. The department has 30 days to publicize “all unclassified records, documents, communications, and investigative materials” from the investigation into Epstein, according to the legislation. The files must be released to the public in a “searchable and downloadable format.” See **FILES**, Page 2A



Days before President Donald Trump called on House Republicans to vote to release the Jeffrey Epstein files, he ordered the Justice Department to launch an investigation into Democrats linked to Epstein.
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