

The Hancock News

Hancock, MD 21750

Established 1914 - Our 112th Year

Volume 113, Number 24

Hancock at a Glance

Weather

Wed. 6/17 82/64
Mostly sunny with calm southwest winds 5-9 mph, gusts up to 20 mph.

Thurs. 6/18 88/64
40% chance of showers with west winds 8-15 mph, gusts up to 31 mph.

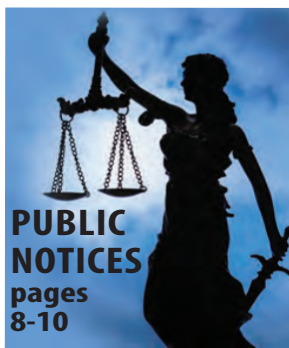
Fri. 6/19 79/59
30% chance of showers. Mostly sunny with a high near 79.

Sat. 6/20 78/57
Sunny with a high near 78 and a low around 7.

Sun. 6/21 81/62
Sunny with a high near 81 and a low around 62.

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PUBLIC NOTICES
pages 8-10



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All correspondents and advertisers are reminded the deadline for submitting copy to this publication is Monday each week at noon.

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Or Write To:
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P.O. Box 567
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411



“The end of its useful life is approaching” Maryland seeks \$1.2 million to study Hancock Bridge, develop options for rehabilitation, expansion, redesign

by Geoff Fox & Kate Shunney

Hancock town officials last week confirmed that the Maryland Department of Transportation is now ready to prepare a plan to rehabilitate or replace the 90-year-old bridges that carry U.S. 522 over Hancock, regional trails, the Potomac River and CSX railways.

The results of a plan won't be known until at least 2029, but the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is asking for \$1.2 million from the federal Bridge Investment Program to prepare a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study of the two bridges.

“Built in the 1930s, the US 522 bridges will soon exceed their useful life,” MDOT officials wrote in their 29-page project document seeking federal planning dollars.

Maryland and West Virginia have each pledged \$150,000 toward the study, with an additional \$100,000 each to cover cost overruns or budget adjustments as the planning process moves along, says the document.

Right now, hearings are being held to allocate funding for the study to determine what to do with the U.S. 522 bridge, Hancock Town Manager Mike Faith told Hancock council members and the public last week. Town officials approved a letter of support for the bridge study with the signatures of the mayor and council people.

The results of the study itself won't be available until well into 2029, according to a timeline included in the project proposal. Assuming that funding is granted in late 2026, analysis of the bridge condition, traffic operations



Hancock's bridge over Main Street and Little Tonoloway Creek.

photo by Geoff Fox

and other factors would begin in 2027. The development of “conceptual alternatives” is slated for mid-2029, with a final report to be prepared in late 2029 and early 2030.

Town Manager Mike Faith said a person was sent to Hancock to take pictures of the bridge, not aware there are two spans of the bridge – one over the Potomac River, C&O

Canal, and Western Maryland Rail Trail, and another over Main Street and Limestone Road.

see HANCOCK BRIDGE STUDY page 12

Officials approve \$2.17 million Hancock budget for 2027

by Geoff Fox

Town officials approved the \$2.17 million fiscal year 2027 budget during their June town meeting last Tuesday, June 9. The budget is lower than the 2026 fiscal year by a small margin.

The town is projecting revenue in the amount of \$2,166,358 from general fund, water, wastewater, and sanitation departments.

The expenses from the same categories is projected to total \$2,713,500, meaning the town will have to tap into other sources of revenue or carryover to cover expenses.

The general fund budget, in year-to-year comparisons, saw the town budget \$1,417,300 for fiscal year 2026, but it ended up being \$1,562,232. For the fiscal year 2027, the town has projected \$1,361,050.

The police department saw a decrease in the projected fiscal year budget.

The department was projected to spend \$72,500 in FY 26, but had actual expenses of \$46,227. This year's proposed police budget is \$57,000.

Cuts were made to travel, meetings, and conferences as there was \$1,000 budgeted for those. This year sees the projection cut in half to \$500. Other decreases in projected expenses for the coming year apply to line items including ammunition, newspaper ads, office equipment maintenance, medical exams and drug testing, and public relations.

There was an increase in grant matches as last year saw a projection of \$35,500, but the town needed \$11,225. This year has a \$15,000 projection for grant matches.

One of the biggest decreases is visible in the parks and recreation budget.

Last year, the projected

budget was \$33,000 with a total of \$6,282. This year the projection is \$9,500.

While budgeted last year, there were three categories that didn't see any costs – maintenance to the playgrounds, rail trail or pavilions.

Only ballfields, operating supplies for the parks, and tree planning and related services saw anything paid out. Each had their projection cut drastically from last year.

There is also an increase in anticipated utility costs.

One is cellphones which sees a jump from \$14,000 projected in 2026 to \$17,000 in 2027. The town paid out \$16,153 for cellphones last year.

This line item led to a longer discussion during the budget meeting prior to the regular meeting between Mayor Roland Lanehart, Jr. and Councilman Richard Strong.

Strong questioned why

the town was paying the \$14,000 a year for the phone service, stating it was ridiculous paying that much.

All town employees and council members have a phone provided to them, except Strong who never had one given to him, he said.

The costs include hotspots within the town for the cameras in the park and water department, as well as iPads.

Strong said he was just looking at the money side of things for taxpayers.

Lanehart said a lot of the cellular technology is tied up in the water and wastewater departments, police department, and Public Works so they don't have to use their personal phones for town business.

The town office did go through the cellular phone account and made sure all the numbers attached were still active and cleaned it up.

Lanehart said it was up to the council to decide as he wasn't going to complain

about town employees having cellphones.

Strong wasn't arguing against town employees having cellphones, just the cost.

Strong then asked why the town office has a cellphone when they have phones already available.

The cellphone for the office is for the system town uses for receiving codes for things like payroll and taxes. This way, office staff isn't using their personal phones to access town accounts.

Strong said there are plans available that aren't as much as the \$14,000.

The town has their phones through AT&T and allows for coverage should there be a disaster in town.

The town also projects \$232,500 in expenses for administration. That is under what was projected for 2026 when it was \$270,000 with actual \$257,681.

see HANCOCK BUDGET page 3

Discharge at natural gas facility closes down U.S. 522 temporarily on Sunday

by Kate Shunney

Discharge from a valve at a natural gas pipeline connection point along Hancock Road in northern Morgan County on Sunday caused the temporary closure of U.S. 522 in both directions as gas company workers responded to the site.

The discharge was detected by a passerby, as it was visible from U.S. 522.

Mountaineer Gas and TC Energy operate the distribution point, which connects their two natural gas pipelines.

Mountaineer Gas officials said the discharge was steam from a valve.

According to emergency officials, technicians from both companies arrived at

the site at roughly the same time – one from Mountaineer Gas in Winchester, Va. and the other from TC Energy in Pennsylvania.

Traffic was able to resume movement on U.S. 522 shortly before 9:30 p.m.

Photos on social media showed traffic backed up and sitting on the Hancock bridge on Sunday evening. A detour was set up to take vehicles east on River Road to various routes to get around the closure.

Media representatives from TC Energy, parent company of Columbia Gas, said the leak did not occur on their equipment.

A spokesperson for Mountaineer Gas Company told *The Morgan Messenger*

that the incident involved a relief valve.

“A relief valve at Mountaineer's facilities operated as designed, safely releasing steam from a line heater. Authorities briefly closed the road as a precaution. Mountaineer and TC Energy employees resolved the matter promptly. No customers were affected,” the company said in response to questions.

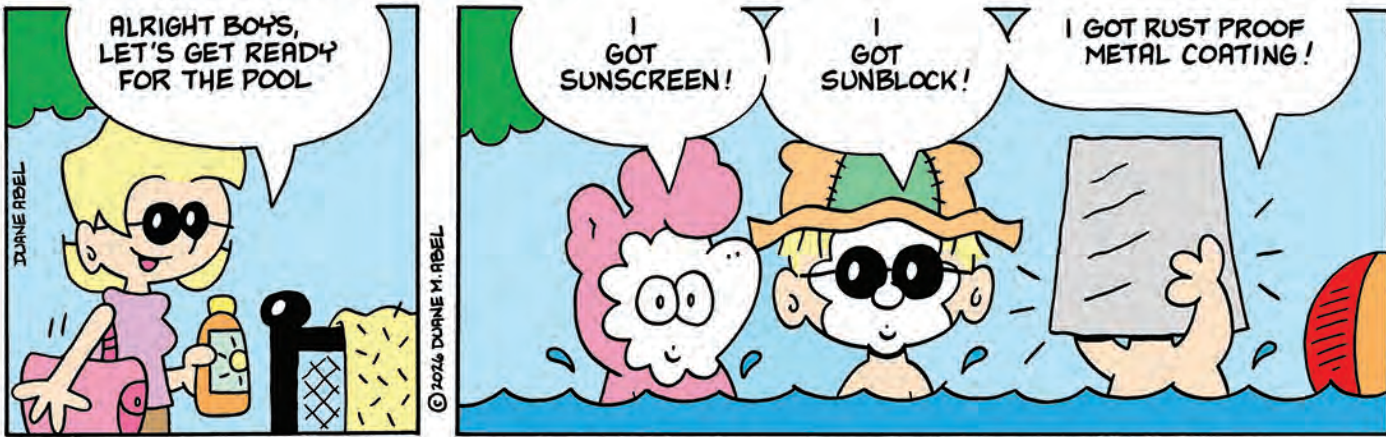
The connection point south of the Hancock bridge was put in service on June 26, 2025 following the construction of a gas pipeline from Fulton County, Pa. to feed the Mountaineer Gas pipeline into the Eastern Panhandle market.




The TC Energy/Mountaineer Gas connection point along Hancock Road, shared on social media Sunday.

OPINIONS

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com



Calendar of Events JUNE

Friday, June 19
 - Open Mic Night, 5-8 p.m.
 Hancock Community Center

Saturday, June 20
 - Hancock Museum open 9-11:30 a.m., basement of Town Hall

Sunday, June 21
 - Happy Father's Day
 - Hancock Museum open 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., basement of Town Hall

Monday, June 22
 - Hancock Lioness Lions Club meeting, Community Center, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, June 23
 - Hancock Rotary Club meeting, Hancock American Legion, 12:30 p.m.

Is Your Group or Organization Back To Having A Regular Meeting Schedule?
To Be Included on the Calendar, Call 301-678-6255 or email news@hancock.us

ARTICLES MAY BE EDITED

Articles submitted to *The Hancock News* may be edited for clarity, style and content and to conform to the newspaper's policies and protect against libel.

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk:

What is the "white roofs" movement all about and could this really be an effective way to combat climate change?
 —K.M., via email

The "white roofs" movement is a clever way to combat sweltering summers and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. White roofs have been a long-standing solution to the heat in many countries with intense climates, with even the ancient Greeks and Egyptians building white roofs to keep out the heat. U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu declared that white roofs "are one of the quickest and lowest cost ways we can reduce our global carbon emissions and begin the hard work of slowing climate change."

With a coat of fresh white paint, the interior temperature of a house can be cooled by up to 41 degrees Fahrenheit, making air conditioners less needed and therefore fighting carbon emissions. But what is the science behind this? Well, have you ever been told not to wear black clothing on a hot day? The opposite is true for white. White does not absorb any visible wavelengths; All light is reflected. On the other hand, darker colors absorb light, which contributes to hotter surface temperatures in an urban setting.

Taking steps like this to conserve energy is crucial, and white roofs are part of the overall fight. A benefit of white roofs is the low cost and immediate effect. On a large scale, white roofs can reduce city wide temperatures and mitigate hot climates where the heat is typically trapped in darker buildings.

Critics call the "white roof" movement greenwashing, because by encouraging it as the solution to global warming, some people don't understand its real limits. In colder climates, reflecting light may actually increase the demand for heat. It has even been suggested that white roofs could potentially cause increased global temperatures, since light is reflected into the atmosphere. Using white roofs is still a valuable tactic, especially in hot climates, and if it ever got to a worldwide scale, it would be as if we had stopped using 300 million cars for 20 years. Scientist at the Berkeley Lab Surabi Menon notes that "These offsets help delay warming that would otherwise take place if actual CO2 emissions are not reduced."

To skillfully create a white, reflective barrier to the sun, it is important to identify existing issues with your roof, a budget, and the right products and suppliers. Painting your roof white can be a great way to reduce both your carbon footprint and the amount of money you spend on electricity. As a community, it is important to spread awareness about this potential solution. Through social media, family and friends, encourage others to educate themselves about white roofs to understand whether it would be most beneficial to them and the environment.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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		56		57	58			
		59			60			

ACROSS

1. Similar
4. Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal
10. No (Scottish)
11. ___ Aires, city
12. Morning
14. Senior's son (abbr.)
15. A notable achievement
16. European nation
18. Endings
22. Puts into place
23. Former
24. Grenadier
26. Sea patrol
27. Algerian port
28. Norwegian river
30. Precipitation
31. Sunscreen rating
34. New York is one
36. Patti Hearst's captors
37. Soft mineral with greasy feel
39. Retired Brazilian footballer
40. An Indian nursemaid
41. Atomic #24
42. Automobile
48. Insignia of royalty
50. Seeds from which chocolate is made
51. Begin again
52. Round root
53. Beginning to end (alt. sp.)
54. What newlyweds just said
55. Empire State
56. Give back
58. College hoops tournament
59. Unstable situations
60. Young women's association


DOWN

1. Administer a drug
2. Holy places
3. Contrary opinions
4. Blood type
5. Gags
6. Micturating
7. Silly
8. A type of "cuff"
9. Spanish be
12. Austrian river
13. Messenger ribonucleic acid
17. Consume food
19. California supermarket
20. Electronic communication
21. Cassia tree
25. Written works
29. Cool!
31. Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth
32. One who was compensated
33. National symbols
35. Raising
38. A type of talk
41. Cloud
43. Middle Eastern peoples
44. Pouches
45. 007's creator
46. A cut of meat
47. Sports entertainment award
49. Christine __, actress (abbr.)
56. Relief organization (abbr.)
57. Canadian province (abbr.)

History Matters

a feature courtesy of David Bruce Smith's Grateful American Book Prize

by Ed Lengel



First Serial Publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, June 1851

Born in Litchfield, Connecticut, in 1811, Harriet Beecher moved with her large family to Cincinnati in 1832, which positioned them—all fervent abolitionists—into the ongoing cruelties and struggles of slavery. Harriet—in particular, who married Calvin Stowe in 1836, witnessed race riots that targeted free and incarcerated African Americans, met with many of its victims, and worked with other abolitionists to provide them with aid to escape across the Ohio River from Kentucky, a slave state, and Ohio, a free one. Although the passing of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act outlawed the "exchanges," they did not stop, and Stowe was galvanized to write what she expected to be a small—and minor—abolitionist serial novel called "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

The first installment was published on June 5, 1851, in the abolitionist paper, *The National Era*. Moved by an emotional loss after the death of her infant son, and by a vision Stowe claimed to have experienced about a long-suffering slave who died after taking communion, the serial tracked the tribulations of an enslaved black man—Tom or Uncle Tom—who was intended to elicit sympathy and condescension from white abolitionists. After an enthusiastic reception, Stowe published a larger version in March of 1852, that sold hundreds of thousands of copies, revved up abolitionist fervor in the years prior to the Civil War, and—allegedly—prompted Abraham Lincoln to say, "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war."

For more information about Harriet Beecher Stowe and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends Joan D. Hedrick's *Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Life* (1995).
Ed Lengel is an author, a speaker and a storyteller.

The Hancock News

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Hancock Police Report

301-678-5633



Hancock Police report the following arrests and incidents from the week of June 8-14:

June 8
Unsecured door 100 block East Main Street. Owner notified.
911 hang-up, first block Virginia Avenue. Unfounded.
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. One stop.

June 9
911 hang-up, 100 block Limestone Road. Unfounded.
911 hang-up, 100 block Limestone Road. Unfounded.
911 hang-up, 200 block West Main Street. Unfounded.
Service to advise, 100 block West High Street. Subject advised.
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. Four stops.

June 10
Vandalism, 400 block Whispering Wind Road. House egged. Subject advised.
Service to advise, West High Street area. Subject advised.
Service to advise, Hancock area. Subject advised.
Service to advise, 100 block West High Street. Subject advised.
Assisted EMS, first block Virginia Avenue. Subject transported.
Service to advise, Hancock area. Subject advised.
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. Three stops.

Suspicious person, 100 block East Main Street. Subject moved along.
Alarm, 200 block West Main Street. Building secure.

June 11
Service to advise, 100 block West Main Street. Subject advised.
Parking complaint, Widmeyer Park. Vehicles parked in the grass.
Traffic complaint, 200 block Pennsylvania Avenue. Driver advised.
Accident, 200 block Fulton Street. Information exchanged.
Traffic complaint, West Main Street area. Unable to locate vehicle.
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. One stop.

June 12
Suspicious vehicle, 100 block East Main Street. Notified owner.
Service to advise, 100 block West Main Street. Subject advised.
Suspicious person, West High Street area. Subjects showed proper address.
Abandoned vehicle, West High Street. Owner notified.
Service to advise, Hancock area. Subject advised.
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. One stop.

June 13
Service to advise, 200 block East Main Street. Subject advised.
911 hang-up, 100 block Limestone Road. Accidental.
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. Four stops.

June 14
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. Three stops.

Children's storytime at Buck Valley

There will be a Children's Storytime for ages 3-10 years on Tuesday, June 23, 1-2:30 p.m.
Storytime will take place at Buck Valley Park, 6677 Buck Valley Road, Warfordsburg, Pa.
There will be a story, snack, craft and a chance for a prize.
All are welcome, free of charge. A guardian must be present.

Free acoustic jam

BlackCat Music Cooperative's monthly acoustic jam Friday, June 19 at 5:30 p.m.
Mike Kligerman of the Tri-State Ukelectic Orchestra will host this free get-together. Take acoustic instruments and voices.
All ages are welcome. BlackCat Music is located at 155 Independence Street, Berkeley Springs.
For more information call 304-500-2696.

Baltimore drug trafficker sentenced to prison for cocaine offense

A Baltimore, Md. man was sentenced for selling cocaine in Berkeley County, West Virginia, announced U.S. Attorney Matthew L. Harvey.
Terrell Antonio Henderson, 35, was sentenced to 41 months in prison. Henderson worked with several others to transport cocaine from Baltimore, Maryland to the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. While surveilling the defendant as a part of an ongoing investigation, officers observed a suspected drug transaction near Henderson's vehicle in a parking lot in Spring Mills, West Virginia. A lawful search of the vehicle seized \$1200 used to purchase the drugs, cocaine, and drug paraphernalia.
Assistant U.S. Attorney Lara Omph-Botteicher prosecuted the case on behalf of the government.
Investigative agencies include the Eastern Panhandle Drug Task Force, a HIDTA-funded initiative, and the Martinsburg Police Department.
Fentanyl has been designated by President Donald Trump as a weapon of mass destruction due to its extreme lethality which poses a grave threat to public safety, even in trace amounts. This case is part of Operation Take Back America, a nationwide initiative that marshals the full resources of the Department of Justice to achieve the total elimination of cartels and transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), protect our communities from the perpetrators of violent crime, and repel the invasion of illegal immigration.
U.S. District Judge Gina M. Groh presided.

Hancock budget

(from front)
Attorney fees were budgeted last fiscal year at \$40,000, but only \$19,622 was paid out. The town cut the projection in half to \$20,000 for fiscal year 2027.
When it came to water/wastewater consulting, the town had projected \$50,000 last fiscal year with an actual expense of \$54,642. This year it is projected to be \$50,000.
This also got Strong's attention during the earlier budget discussion.
The town is currently without a licensed water or wastewater supervisor and have hired a licensed operator to serve in the role in the meantime.
The town's previous supervisor had stepped down, which Strong agreed with.
Lanehart said the town must have someone with a li-

cense doing that particular job, which Strong said he understood. The current employees are still taking the tests to get the licenses as fast as they can.
Strong said by looking at some of the numbers, he has to question the costs.
"We can't replace her right now is the problem," Lanehart said.
The mayor said they've tried getting someone, but no one has applied for the position.
"If somebody applies for the job tomorrow, we'll interview them and hire them," Lanehart said.
Lanehart asked Strong if he knew someone who was qualified for the job for less money. Strong said he didn't and wasn't looking.
The mayor tried to get the meeting back on course and talking about the budget, but the argument continued a few minutes longer.
There was a point when Strong alleged he was told by town officials he was considered an outsider, which Lanehart said never happened.
As the argument continued Councilman David Kerns interjected to get back to discussing the budget, which is what the meeting was about.
Strong said he was trying to save the taxpayers money by questioning the cellphone costs and the amount paid to the wastewater operator.
Between the two meetings, Lanehart and Strong continued their discussion in the parking lot. There were times it got loud enough to be heard in the council chambers.
During the regular meeting, no further conflict was raised.
A copy of the 2027 fiscal year budget can be reviewed at Town Hall.

Free Forest Medicine & Tree workshop set for June 27

Wild Potomac will host a free workshop on Saturday, June 27 about tending trees and finding "forest medicine," all being explored at Hancock's Widmeyer Park starting at 10 a.m.
Community herbalist Meaghan Thompson-Moore of Blooming Mountains Botanical Sanctuary will teach participants how to make medicine from trees.
The session will begin with an overview of tree care basics from Wild Potomac's Executive Director Neil Gormley, and then a harvest of some of the plants growing along the creek in Widmeyer Park. Thompson-Moore will then talk about how to make

medicine from them, their medicinal benefits, and appropriate harvesting techniques.
Participants will go home with a tree medicine workbook created for the event.
This is one of a series of events Wild Potomac is organizing this year in Hancock - all dedicated to learning about, planting, caring for, harvesting from, and eating food from native trees and shrubs.
For more information, contact Wild Potomac at 443-955-1732 or email info@wildpotomac.org.
Organizers ask participants to register ahead.

Free Workshop
Forest Medicine & Tree Tending
Saturday, June 27th
10 am - 12 pm
Location: Widmeyer Park, Hancock MD
Please RSVP: [QR Code]
Come to learn how to harvest & make medicine from local trees, as well as how to take care of young trees as they grow.
This event is part of Wild Potomac's Connecting with Local Trees series, where you can come to PLANT, TEND, GATHER, AND SHARE from the trees in your local neighborhood! Kids welcome with a guardian.
Sponsors: Chesapeake Bay Trust, Maryland Forest Service, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources.

Who's Havin' a Birthday?
Sunday, June 21
Roddy Whisner
Monday, June 22
Gene Truax
Tuesday, June 23
J.J. Clevenger

Open mic

Open Mic will be held on Friday, June 19, at the Hancock Community Center, 126 W. High Street, Hancock, from 5-8 p.m.
Free admission and food. Sponsored by the Hancock Lioness Lions Club. Host will be Jeanne Ward.
All are welcome. Come and sing, tell a joke, read a poem or just listen.

SOUTH MORGAN VFD
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Parents: Put the phone down, visit with your children: Immerse!

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” +Proverbs 22:6

We recently held an info-session on tech usage and artificial intelligence, and a young lady, from out of state, a rising junior in high school (“R”) said high-schoolers are suffering, need & want their parent’s help, for the parents to become less busy, put their phones down-- and intervene: Take interest. “R” was there with her loving grandmother (who once motioned for R to put her iPhone down while scrolling during the presentations!). Thankfully, R had guidance, and love. Not everyone does.

So, parents...
“These words I am commanding you today are to be upon your hearts. And you shall teach them diligently to your children” (Dt. 6:6-7).

Love your children Ie., spend time with them in their world (Messy bedroom, play lot, etc). Talk to them, minus any gadgets or other tasks; immerse into their world. They have plenty of challenges—forming their identity, peer pressure, social media, and now, prominently A.I., along with body-shape-weight issues, and—even despite a sometimes outwardly confident appearance—engage them in their concerns and interests. There’s plenty of depression and / or mental challenges going around nowadays, so check their personal-wellness barometer.

You can’t love too much. (Okay: So risk being annoying!)
Regarding artificial intelligence, “same-old counsel”: monitor and intervene, lovingly guide. Today, there is definitely a more assertive, if not aggressive, interventionism, by chatbots, tech gurus and interactive semi-intelligences to gain access to your sons / daughter’s soul—or your spouse. We need to help one another. Accountability and community are non-negotiables.

As Catholics & Christians we revel in, and admire, The Holy Family—Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the parents and Divine Child. They had plenty of challenges and yet persevered, together. How will you not only admire them but also imitate them in preserving the family bond and holy relationships that threaten your & anyone, anywhere?

Rev. John J. Lombardi is pastor of St. Peter-St. Patrick Catholic Parish

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St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, five miles west of Hancock on Resley Road, 301-678-7180 - Adult Bible and Sunday school classes for all ages, 8:45 a.m., worship service 10 a.m. Pastor W. Kenneth Stottleyer.

Long Hollow Church, 12722 Long Hollow Road - Sunday school 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:30 a.m.

Hancock Assembly of God, 431 North Pennsylvania Avenue, 301-678-5313 - Sunday school 10 a.m., worship service and kid’s church 11 a.m. Evening service 6 p.m. Wednesday activities 7 p.m. Ladies’ quilting every Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Stone Bridge Church of the Brethren, 14904 Orchard Ridge Road, Hancock, 301-582-4135 - Sunday school 9:30 a.m., worship 10:35 a.m. Rev. Harry E. Strite.

Victory Chapel, 116 W. Main Street - Sunday school 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m. Sunday evening 7 p.m. Rev. Bob Ardinger.

Saint Thomas’ Episcopal Church, Church and High Streets, Hancock, 301-678-6569 - Sundays 7:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday School for children & adults 10 a.m. Alcoholics Anonymous in lower parish hall.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 200 Douglas Street, Hancock - Sacrament meeting 10 a.m. Sunday school 11 a.m. Bishop Eric Exline..

Hancock Grace Church of the Nazarene, 304-258-4412 - Sunday school 11 a.m., Sunday morning worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday evening service 6 p.m., Wednesday prayer meeting 7 p.m. Pastor Rodney Truax 304-676-3306.

Buck Valley Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church - Services will be held on the third Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. until December. Rev. McCarty.

St. Peter’s Catholic Church, 16 E. High Street, Hancock, 301-678-6339 - Weekend Mass schedule: Sunday morning: 7:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Weekday Mass schedule: Monday, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 a.m. Mission Church-St. Patrick’s, Little Orleans: Saturday Vigil Mass at 5 p.m. Rev. John J. Lombardi.

Corner Independent Church, Corner Road, Big Cove Tannery, Worship, 11 a.m. Pastor Richard Bernhard.

Sideling Hill Charge: Catalpa U.M. Church, Rt. 144 west of Hancock about two miles, turn left on Willow Road. Go about five miles, bear right at fork. Church about one mile on right. Sunday service 8:30 a.m.

Piney Plains U.M. Church, Exit 72 off I-68, left off exit, then right at stop sign, right on Mann Road, cross back over I-68 and then left on Faith Circle, follow to end, Little Orleans, 717-658-3906 - Sunday school 10 a.m., service 11 a.m. Pastor Jean Squires.

Hancock United Methodist Church, 170 West Main Street, Hancock, 301-678-6440 - Sunday School all ages 8:30 a.m. Worship service 9:30 a.m. Pastor Becki Wessinger.

Non-Denominational Service, Seavolt Road, Hancock, 304-274-2353 - Campground ministry at Happy Hills Campground every Sunday 10 a.m. Pastor Tim Staubs.

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 180 South Washington Street, Berkeley Springs, 304-258-2440 - Sunday service 10 a.m.

Hancock (USA) Presbyterian Church, 17 East Main Street, 301-678-5510 - Sunday worship 10 a.m. Senior soup and sandwich first Saturday of each month from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in Church Social Room. Pastor Terry Martin-Minnich.

Grace Christian Fellowship, 130 Pennsylvania Avenue, Hancock, 301-678-6036 - Sunday services: Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. Wednesday 7 p.m. Bible study and prayer meeting. Rev. Edward Guyer.

Hancock Church of God, 7528 Millstone Road, 301-678-5390 - Sunday school 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m. Wednesday evening services 6:30 p.m. Pastor James Touchton.

Tri-State Community Church, 326 E. Main St., Hancock, across from CNB Bank, 301-302-6412 - 6 p.m., Saturday, Adult truth, teen thrust sixth grade and up. Children blast fifth and under. Pastor Alan Myers.

Orchard Ridge First Church of God, 13642 Orchard Ridge Road, 301-678-7267 - Sunday morning worship 9 a.m. Sunday school 10 a.m. Sunday evening worship 6 p.m. Kids club and youth group 6 p.m. Rev. Jeffrey Hawbaker.

1ST Evangelical Methodist Church, 11510 Price Road, Little Orleans, 240-609-6770 - Sunday school 10 a.m. Worship service 11 a.m. Wednesday evening Bible study 7 p.m. Darhl Trail, Jr.

Bethel Community Church, Bethel Church Road off Rt. 522, Warfordsburg, Pa., 301-991-7141 - Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m. Rev. Gary Quackenbos.

Berkeley Baptist Church, 300 Winchester Grade Road, 304-258-4101 - Wednesday prayer and study 6:30 p.m., Sunday school 9:30 a.m., worship service 10:45 a.m. Food pantry distribution site call for more info. Pastor Joey N. Giles, Jr.

Needmore Bible Church, 6939 Great Cove Road, Needmore, Pa., 717-573-2212 - Sunday school and life groups 9 a.m. Sunday worship 10 a.m. Monday 8:45 a.m. ladies Bible study. Wednesday evening 6:30 p.m. Awana for children. Pastor Doug Poffenberger.

Hope Community Church, 31 Buzzard Acres Lane, Berkeley Springs - Sunday service at 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m., Kids Ministry infant-fifth grade, Youth Ministry Sunday nights 6 p.m. Pastors Skip Euler.

Gospel Light Tabernacle, 21 Gospel Lane on Williams Street, Berkeley Springs - Sunday school and worship/children’s church 10 a.m., Sunday evening service 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Bible study 7 p.m. Pastor Shane Boyer.

Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, 14464 Buck Valley Rd., Warfordsburg, Pa., 301-678-5340 or 717-294-6494. Bible study, Wednesday, 6 p.m. Second Friday of each month prayer service 6 p.m. Sunday service 10 a.m. Pastor Emmanuel Ensor and Deacon Shadrach Ensor.

Warm Springs Baptist Church, 3683 Pious Ridge Road, Berkeley Springs, 304-258-1551. - Sunday SVCS 10-11 a.m. Sunday SVC 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible study 7 p.m. Pastor Robert Burton.

St. Patrick’s Catholic Church 12517 St. Patrick Road, SE, Little Orleans, 301-678-6339 - Saturday Vigil Mass 5 p.m. Rev. John Lombardi.

Needmore Full Gospel, six miles north of Hancock on Rt. 655, 717-294-3100 - Regular services: Sunday school 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m. Evangelistic service 6 p.m. Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m. Rev. John Lewis.

Cedar Grove Christian Church, Rt. 522 at 643 near Dott, Pa. - Sunday school 9:30 a.m. and worship service 10:30 a.m. Timothy B. Close.

Chapel of Praise - 14457 Buck Valley Road, Warfordsburg, Pa., 717-294-3184 - Worship services: Sunday morning 10 a.m. Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m. Pastors Jack and Lola Hiles.

Whips Cove Church, Rt. 643, three miles east of Town Hill, Exit Rt. 156, 717-294-3229 - Sunday school at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m.

Faith Assembly of God Church, Amaranth, Pa. - Sunday school 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m. Sunday CA service 6:30 p.m. Sunday evening service 7 p.m. Wednesday evening service 7:30 p.m. Pastor Delmas F. Bard.

Buck Valley Christian Church, 717-375-5881 - Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Worship service 10:20 a.m. Primary church and junior church are held 10:30 a.m. Pastor Bill Croteau, Jr.

New Testament Church, Buck Valley, Pa., Warfordsburg exit on 484 west, six miles on right - Sunday school 10 a.m., morning worship 11 a.m., prayer meeting Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Pastor R. Bobby Layman.

Damascus Christian Church, 717 Big Cove Tannery Road, BCT, Pa. - Worship every Sunday 11 a.m.

Bethel Independent Church, Sleepy Creek - Sunday school 10 a.m. Sunday worship 7 p.m. Wednesday evening prayer and Bible study 7:30 p.m.

Amaranth Church of the Brethren, Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Worship service 10:30 a.m. Wednesday kids program 6 p.m. Pastor Michael Lida.

Calvary Bible Church, 2065 Valley Road, Berkeley Springs, just south of Dairy Queen on top of hill, 304-258-1099 or 304-579-9389 - Sunday school 9:45 a.m. Sunday worship 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday prayer meeting and Bible study 7 p.m. Pastor B.J. Worley.

Needmore Seventh-day Adventist Church, corner Rt. 522 and 655, Needmore, Pa., 205-492-9989 - Sabbath School Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Sabbath worship service Saturday 11 a.m. Pastor Murvin Camatchee.

Oasis Community Church, 1121 Maryland Avenue, Hagerstown, located in the South End shopping center across from South High, 301-745-6183 - Sunday worship 6:30 p.m. Rev. Bill Lynn.

Unity of Berkeley Springs, New Earth Granary, 143 N. Mercer St., Berkeley Springs, 304-268-4222 or 304-258-2954. Celebration service, 10 a.m. Rev. Anne Murphy-Oswald.

Mountain Top Church, one mile east of Rocky Gap State Park on Rt. 144, Flintstone, 301-777-0923 - Sunday services: Sunday school at 10 a.m., morning worship 10:45 a.m., evening service 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible study and prayer 7:30 a.m.

LifeHouse Church Bethel, 515 E. Wilson Blvd., Hagerstown, 301-739-1167 - Sunday life classes 8:30 a.m., worship gathering 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday family life 7 p.m.

Church of Christ, 290 South Green Street, Berkeley Springs, 304-258-5175 - Sunday Bible study 9:30 a.m., worship 10:15 a.m. Evening service 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible study 7 p.m. for all ages. Evangelist Van Sprague.

Parkhead Union Church, 9512 National Pike, Big Pool, I-70 east at exit 9, Indian Springs, 301-639-9154 - Sunday school 9:30 a.m., morning worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor Randy Bivens.

Hilltop Christian Fellowship, 12624 Trinity Church Drive, Clear Spring, 301-842-2225, Early Bible class 8:15-9 a.m. Sunday school 9:15-10:15 a.m., worship service 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible study 7:15-8:15 p.m. Pastor John Miller.

Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church, 717-294-3028 - Fellowship 9 a.m. Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Worship service 10:30 a.m. Bible basics class for children K through fourth grade. 12941 Buck Valley Rd., Warfordsburg.

Unitarian Universalist, 626 Washington Avenue, Hagerstown, 301-745-6576 - Sunday service 10:45 a.m. youth religious education 10:45 a.m. Minister Valerie Wills.

Pleasant Grove Christian Church, four miles west of Needmore, Pa. - Sunday worship 10 a.m., Sunday evening services 6 p.m. Rev. Denver Plessinger.

Green Ridge Assembly of God, Green Ridge - Sunday services: Sunday school 9:45 a.m., worship service 10:45 a.m., evening service 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible study and prayer 6 p.m. Holy communion first Sunday of each month.

Blairs Valley First Church of God, Clear Spring, 301-842-2663 - Sunday school 10, worship 9 a.m. Bible study Wednesday evening 6:30 p.m. Pastor John Cook.

St. Catherine’s Eastern Orthodox, 433 Liberty Street, Hagerstown, 301-739-5237 - Saturday 6:30 p.m. Vesper service Sunday 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy. Rev. Dennis Buck.

Rehoboth New Life, 8159 Great Cove Road, (U.S. 522), 717-496-7558 - Services Sunday, 10 a.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday, 7 p.m. Bible based, spirit-filled church and discipleship center. Pastor Lowell Bard.

Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church, Exline Road, Hancock, 301-678-6038 - Church service 9:30 a.m.

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COUNTY CLERK DAWN MARCUS

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100 West Washington Street, Room 1101 • Hagerstown, MD 21740
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REGISTER LACY M. FLOOK

Register of Wills for Washington County
100 West Washington Street, Suite 3400 • Hagerstown, MD 21740
Phone: 301-739-3612 Email: lflook@registers.maryland.gov

State’s Attorney

STATE’S ATTORNEY GINA CIRINCION

State’s Attorney’s Office
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And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD. John 20:20 (KJV)

HOPE

Most of us have experienced times when all seemed lost, but with Christ in our lives, we can never lose hope. Just when all seemed lost, Christ rose again, giving hope to His disciples and all who believe in Him.

OBITUARIES

Melvin J. Shives, Jr.
1932-2026

Melvin J. Shives, Jr. (Jimmy), born September 5, 1932, died June 9, 2026, he was the son of Melvin and Rosella Shives of Needmore, Pa. He was married to Doris Wagner on June 2, 1952.

Jimmy was owner and operator of Shives Excavating and Shives Building for sixty-seven years.

Surviving are his children Rebecca (Tom) Dase of Needmore, Alvin (Peggy) Shives of Needmore, Christopher (Debbie) Shives, of Needmore, Timothy (Jenny) Shives of Warfordsburg, and Rose Shives; Sandy Shives – daughter-in-law of Berkeley Springs;

Eight surviving grandchildren, Steven (Anna) Dase, Brian (Tammy) Shives, Amanda (Danny) Kyne, Curtis (Kayla) Spade, Anthony (Jolene) Shives, Chase Duckwall, Lynn Shives, and Megan (Brad) Smith; thirteen great-grandchildren, Autumn, Noah, Kaitlin, Schadoh, Leangel, Brent, Gaven, Abby, Austin, Brady, Adryan, Laken and Camden; three great-great-grandchildren, Owen, Bennett, and Vivienne Bamhart, and one on the way; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Surviving brother, Barry Shives, of Little Rock, S.C., Sonja Stotler and Carol Wertman of Hagerstown.

In addition to his parents, and Doris Shives on January 29, 2023, he is preceded in death by two brothers, Gene and Dale Shives; one sister Patricia Shives; one grandchild Stacy Barnhart; and one son Wallace Shives.

Funeral service was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 1 p.m. with two-hour prior visitation at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 3738 Resley Rd., Hancock, MD. Pastor Kenneth Stottemyer officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to Grove-Rogowski Funeral Home, P.A. Online condolences can be expressed to the family at www.grfuneralhome.net.



Debra Ann Shambaugh
1955-2026

Debra Ann Shambaugh, age 71, of Great Cacapon, W.Va., died on Sunday, June 7, 2026 at her home in Magnolia, W.Va. Born April 3, 1955, she was the daughter of the late Marion A. and Essie Brown Shambaugh.

Debbie was a graduate of Paw Paw High School. She was a vibrant free spirit who danced to the beat of her own drum. Her happiness was living simply, nestled deep in the beautiful woods of Magnolia. She loved hunting and watching wildlife. She was a special aunt to many and made the time spent with her memorable. She will be forever in our hearts.

She is survived by her brother, Luther "Jock" Shambaugh (Dotty) and many nieces and nephews that she loved very much. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one sister, Sandra "Sue" Shambaugh and three brothers, Marion "Joe" Shambaugh, Floyd "Cook" Shambaugh and Marvin "Dean" Shambaugh.

All services will be private. Arrangements are being handled by Helsley-Johnson Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 95 Union Street, Berkeley Springs, W.Va.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.helsleyjohnsonfh.com.

Viola "Vi" Ruth Schetrompf
1945-2026

Viola "Vi" Ruth (Hoopengardner) Schetrompf, 80 years old, 9 months, 20 days, passed away at her primary residence on Saturday, June 6, 2026.

Born Monday, September 17, 1945, to the late Roy (Patsy) and Grace (Wigfield) Hoopengardner.

Viola was a widow of Arlie "Dan" Schetrompf. They were married on Friday, July 31, 1964.

Viola worked for many years as a seamstress for London Fog in Hancock, Md. She was also a cashier/stocker at Save-A-Lot in Hancock, Md.

She enjoyed being a homemaker, spoiling her husband and taking care of family. Viola was an excellent wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She is survived by her two daughters Ruthann True (Jeff), Lindy Morris (George); one son, Danny Lynn Schetrompf; one sister, Alverda Schetrompf; sisters-in-law, Shirley Hoopengardner, Norma "Sally" Payne and Arlene Lemmert; six grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren; along with several nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents and husband, she is preceded by one sister, Emma Teresa O'Neil; two brothers, Raymond Hoopengardner and Alva Hoopengardner; two nephews, Gary Hoopengardner and Edward O'Neil and son-in-law Leslie Golden III.

Funeral service was held on Friday, June 12, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Hancock Assembly of God, 431 N Pennsylvania Ave, Hancock, MD 21750. Pastor Don Preston officiated. Burial followed at Buck Valley Methodist Church Cemetery, 6600 Buck Valley Road, Warfordsburg, PA 17267.

Arrangements were entrusted to Grove-Rogowski Funeral Home, P.A. Online condolences can be expressed to the family at www.grfuneralhome.net.



Obituary policy

Obituaries will be printed for a fee based on the amount of information that is provided by a licensed funeral home. A photo of the deceased can be included.

Death Notices will be printed for free in *The Hancock News* as a public service which will only include name, age, date of death, residency and services.

For details, contact *The Hancock News* at 301-678-6255.

Baltimore Children's Choir to perform free community concert in Hagerstown

John Wesley United Methodist Church announces it will serve as a host venue for the highly anticipated Baltimore Children's Choir Summer 2026 Tour. The gifted young ensemble will perform a special community concert on Friday, June 26, at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the general public.

This evening will feature a varied and engaging program designed to uplift and unite listeners. Attendees can expect an expansive repertoire ranging from traditional classical choral works to vibrant multicultural pieces and dynamic contemporary selections. While admission is free, a free-will offering will be received during the performance to help offset the choir's regional touring expenses.

The Baltimore Children's Choir comprises approximately 25 exceptionally talented students ages 10 to 18. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Joey Shortall, the group performs regularly throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. The ensemble has achieved widespread acclaim, appearing at notable venues such as St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and the Strathmore Concert Hall, as well as delivering a memorable opening performance for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

"We are thrilled to welcome the Baltimore Children's Choir to John Wesley United Methodist Church. Their commitment to musical excellence, combined with the energy and enthusiasm young singers bring, promises an inspiring evening for our entire community. Music has always been a vital part of our worship and ministry here at John Wesley, and we are honored to open our doors to an ensemble that shares our belief in the power of music to bring people together, lift spirits, and enrich lives," said Stephen Pompa, Director of Music, John Wesley United Methodist Church.

John Wesley United Methodist Church holds a deep-rooted love for sacred music, rich musical traditions, and excellent choral artistry. The congregation and staff are especially excited to extend a warm welcome to these young musicians and share this world-class cultural experience with the broader Hagerstown and Washington County community.

Attendees may park in the Hub City Brewery lot located directly behind the church. Follow the posted signs for easy access to the building. A wheelchair accessible entrance is available on the front right side of the church building.

John Wesley United Methodist Church is located in the heart of Hagerstown, Md.

PVAS to offer bird walks in July



Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) announce bird walks on the following dates and locations in July.

Rolling Ridge Conservancy, 138 Tupelo Lane, Harpers Ferry, W.Va. Tuesday, July 14 from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Join birders Bill Telfair & Scot DeGraf to explore the habitat and bird life with others on the gorgeous trails of Rolling Ridge Conservancy, the largest privately-owned wilderness area near Washington, D.C. Anyone 8 years of age and older with an interest in birding is welcome to join trip leaders Bill and Scot as they explore some of the 1500 acres of protected woodlands. These walks are held on the second Tuesday of every month. This is a free/donation-based program for ages 8 and older. All youth must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required and limited to 15 participants, and can be found at www.potomacaudubon.org/event/rolling-ridge-conservancy-bird-walk-25/.

Cool Spring Preserve, 1469 Lloyd Road, Charles Town, W.Va. Wednesday, July 15 from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Join trip leader Bill Telfair for a bird walk at Cool Spring Preserve. Anyone aged 8 and older with an interest is welcome to come along, regardless of their birding skills. The trails at Cool Spring Preserve have a lot to offer. From well-maintained footpaths to gorgeous views, the 74 acres of this preserve are home to much wildlife. This is a free/donation-based program for ages 8 and older. All youth must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required and limited to 15 participants, and can be found at www.potomacaudubon.org/event/bird-walk-at-cool-spring-preserve-21/.

Watch for additional walks on our website: www.potomacaudubon.org. For more information, contact PVAS staff at info@potomacaudubon.org or 681-252-1387.

IN LOVING MEMORY
of my wife
ANNA PECK
Who GOD Called Home on Father's Day
June 18, 2018

We want you to know, we love you and we miss you very much. GOD called you home for a special reason. Maybe your mother, or Vicky or Dolly needed a special Angel to stroll through Heaven with, or maybe to bring our family closer together and I think it did. GOD does things for a reason and we believe He called you home for something special. I often have a vision of you strolling through Heaven in a pretty white gown and you look so beautiful. You will always be on our hearts and minds this FATHER'S DAY and every day.

WE ALL LOVE YOU & MISS YOU
Your Husband, John
Our Daughters, Punkin & Lisa
Our Son, Johnny
Our Grandchildren
and Great Grandchildren

PVAS to host Wellness Walk

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society will host a Wellness Walk at Eidolon Nature Preserve, 2145 Orleans Road, Great Cacapon, W.Va. on Wednesday, June 24 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join us for our Wellness Walk at Eidolon Nature Preserve, a serene 354-acre preserve perched along the summit of Sideling Hill in Morgan County, W.Va. This PVAS preserve, donated to The Nature Conservancy by Marguerite Zapoleon, offers a peaceful retreat through the dense mountaintop forest, with natural springs and sweeping views of the Potomac River below.

This is a free/donation-based program. All ages are welcome, though youth must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required and limited to 15 participants. This program has a minimum of 5 participants.

For additional details and to register, go to <https://www.potomacaudubon.org/event/wellness-walk-at-eidolon-nature-preserve-4/>.

For more information, contact Sonja Melander at Sonja@potomacaudubon.org or 681-252-1387.



The Hancock News

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QUICK QUALITY PRINTING

Bid for new park stairs approved, pavilion roof bids tabled

by Geoff Fox

Town officials opened five bid packets at the end of the June town meeting last Tuesday, June 9, to award the bids for replacing the stairs that lead from Joseph Hancock Park to the Western Maryland Rail Trail and for roof repair for the pavilions in the parks.

Town Manager Mike Faith said all bids were received by the deadline and both projects will be paid using grant money.

Only one bid was received for the stairs – contractor REM entered a \$20,500 bid. The town has a \$49,115 Project Open Space grant for the project.

Faith said the project could possibly require a permit and he would have to contact the Park Service to determine if they have any plans or engineering for the staircase.

If a permit is pulled, Faith



Only one bid was received to replace the stairs in Joseph Hancock Park leading to the Rail Trail.

photos by Geoff Fox

said there would have to be engineering associated with the project, which could require a change order.

“We got \$29,000 still to play with, so we should be fine,” he said.

Faith said he’d like to

spend all the money and not leave anything on the table.

That lone bid was unanimously approved.

Faith also opened four bids to repair the roofs of the pavilions in Joseph Hancock Park and Widmeyer Park.

In the RFPs the town put out, contractors were told it would be like for like, meaning if the roof was metal, the new roof would be metal.

Those bids ranged from \$40,000 to \$198,000.

The bids were - Norris Building Contractors with a bid for \$40,425, Ruff Roofers with a bid of \$128,351, Colossal Contracting at \$198,250, and RAM Enterprise at \$51,720.

The Project Open Space grant money available for that project is \$59,220.

Both Norris and RAM are local contractors. Ruff is from Baltimore and Colossal is from Annapolis.



Town officials opened four bid packets in regards to the Project Open Space grant money for the pavilions at Joseph Hancock Park and Widmeyer Park.

When looking at the roofs, the Widmeyer Park pavilions are all metal roofing while the Joseph Hancock Park pavilion is shingled.

Mayor Roland Lanehart, Jr. said there could be some lumber replacement needed at the pavilions, but there should be enough in the grant money if that needs to happen.

The problem is some bids did include that stipulation and others did not.

Councilman Josh McCusker said there could be a change order if those changes need to happen.

Town Attorney Ed Kuczynski said if a bid was incomplete, officials would have to reject the bids and if

the RFP was incomplete, they could reject those and resubmit with clarification.

Kuczynski said officials couldn’t go to each contractor they have questions with and ask for clarification when the others did everything correctly.

The answers from those two contractors might make them more competitive and get the bid instead.

Faith said when he drew up the original RFPs, he tried to tell the contractors what the town wanted without boxing them in, emphasizing they were the professional, the amount of the grant, and to look at the pavilions to tell the town what they need.

McCusker said if the low bidder saw a board that needed changed could have put that in his bid, but when removing the roof and find an underlying problem, could there be a change order.

Because of a large discrepancy between the lowest and highest bids, the town could look to their ordinance on bids and use the local preference section.

Councilman David Kerns suggested tabling the discussion about the pavilion bids which would allow officials to look at each more closely.

Officials agreed and tabled the discussion until the July town meeting.

★ ★ ★

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McCusker awarded band scholarship

The Herbert A. Young Scholarship Fund announced the 2026 Music Scholarship will be awarded to Brooklyn McCusker.

The annual scholarship is awarded to a senior member of the Hancock High School band and each year, the eligible band member is selected by band director Caleb Wescott.

The scholarship is designed to honor Herbert Young's outstanding 52-year career as a band director.

McCusker has been a member of the Hancock Middle-Senior High School band for seven years and during her time in band had served as Drum Major, played trumpet, and primarily the baritone.

"Brooklyn has been an advocate for all of the members of our program, and a strong voice for our ensembles," Wescott said.

He added McCusker is an athlete and strong student who has worked hard to balance and carry her responsibilities as a band member.

Her natural ability as a musician and leadership instincts make her a role model for fellow and future members of the band, Wescott said.

In the fall, McCusker will be attending Hood College where she will pursue a Bachelor's Degree in nursing and a Master's Degree as a Nurse Practitioner.

This year, the Herbert A. Young Scholarship Fund is grateful to have contributed \$900 to help and encourage McCusker's pursuit of her educational goals.

The family of Herbert Young would like to thank all who helped make a difference in the life of a very deserving student.

RIGHT: The Herbert A. Young Scholarship Fund awarded Brooklyn McCusker a \$900 check as the recipient of this year's Herbert A. Young Scholarship. Pictured (left to right) Band Director Caleb Wescott, McCusker, David Young, and Sara Jean Wagner (Young).

photo by David Young



Dean's List

FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

At the 168th commencement ceremony at Frostburg State University for the Spring semester, the following area residents were among the 591 total candidates for degrees.

To be eligible, a student must undertake a minimum of 12 credit hours and earn a cumulative semester grade point average of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale.

Hancock - Laura Golden, Elizabeth Papa, Hayden McCarty and Laurel Souders. Little Orleans - Laura Knotts and Robert Knotts.

MCDANIEL COLLEGE

Oakley Kendall of Hancock has been recognized for outstanding achievement by being named to the McDaniel College spring 2026 Dean's List with Highest Honors.

Highest honors are earned for a semester grade point average of 3.90 or higher, high honors for a grade point average of 3.70-3.89, and honors for a 3.50-3.69 grade point average.

Letters To The Editor over 400 words will not be published.

Cacapon Resort State Park activities

Thursday, June 18

10 a.m. - Beading. Whether it's a friendship bracelet or a beading necklace, we have the materials and instructions to help guide you. You can also try your hand at Yucca bush craft cordage.

1 p.m. - Pollinator Pursuit. Join us to fill out a pollinator journal and learn more about pollinators and pollination. After, we will conduct a citizen science survey to determine what lives in the garden and what flowers they are attracted to.

2:30 p.m. - Migratory Games. Join us for two fun interactive games on migratory birds.

3 p.m. - Triple Life: Red-spotted Newt vs Salamander. How does the red-spotted newt have 3 lives? How can community science help monitor the red-spotted newt?

Friday, June 19

10 a.m. - Bluebird Box Survey. Let's survey the bluebird boxes near the lodge and pollinator. Bluebird nests, eggs, or young may be possible. Meet at the lodge front desk area.

1 p.m. - Stream Study. Learn about stream macroinvertebrates and how they let us know a stream's health.

4-6 p.m. - Meet & Greet at the Lodge. Welcome to Cacapon. The park naturalist is on site to share nature center programming and weekend events.

7 p.m. - Wildflower Stroll. Discover wildflowers & birds during our walk into the 2 acre wildflower meadow. Meet at the lodge front desk.

8:30 p.m. - Glow Stick Walk. Meet the naturalist outside on the North Terrace patio for this night hike on the golf course. Free glow-stick bracelets, necklaces and more.

Saturday, June 20

Happy West Virginia Day Almost Heaven: Win a sticker if you can recite some lines of one of West Virginia's State Songs. See a naturalist for details.

10 a.m. - Fishing 101. Meet at the nature center. Grab a fishing pole and let's head to the lake. Fishing poles & bait provided. In celebration of West Virginia Day, if you catch a golden trout, you'll win a prize.

2:30 p.m. - Pollinator Pursuit. Join us to fill out a pollinator journal and learn more



about pollinators and pollination. After, we will conduct a citizen science survey to determine what lives in the garden and what flowers they are attracted to.

3:30 p.m. - West Virginia Day Meet at the lodge. In celebration of West Virginia Day, we'll explore the bluebird boxes and pollinator fields looking for blue & gold.

7 p.m. - Making Fire Starters & Fire Starting. Meet at the nature center campfire circle. We'll learn various ways to make fire starters & do a few. Also, we'll learn various ways to start a campfire. If we get a campfire going, our reward will be marshmallows with a possible spooky story at the end.

9-11 p.m. - Firefly Frenzy Night Hike. Meet at the nature center for a firefly walk. Learn about West Virginia's 31 species with their color patterns and blink patterns.

Sunday, June 21

All Day National Selfie Day. It's National Selfie Day, so come to the park and get selfies at our lower lake spillway, upper lake, mountain overlook, playground picture board, and nature center picture frame.

10 a.m. - WV Mammals. Fun facts for all ages. This WVDNR powerpoint helps us to discuss well known and lesser known mammals of WV. Pelts, taxidermy scat models, track models, some skulls and bones, and animal calls will help us to use our senses for this program.

1 p.m. - Friendship Bracelets. Make bracelets for your fathers and friends. Learn several techniques.

3 p.m. - Turtle Talk Game. Join us for this fun game and learn about Eastern Box Turtles. Let's take a lake walk and look for aquatic turtles.

Hancock Lioness Lions Club held 12th Charter Celebration

by Jeanne Ward

The Hancock Lioness Lions Club held their 12th Charter Celebration in Widmeyer Park on June 8 with 36 guests present. It was an old fashioned picnic theme also celebrating the 250th anniversary of our country.

Guests were dressed in red, white and blue. Eight Lions' clubs were represented: Hancock Lions, South Carroll Lioness Lions, Clear Spring Lions, Chewsville Lions, Deer Park Lions, Williamsport Lions, LaVale Lions and Hancock Lioness Lions.

Lion President Diane Hinckle opened the celebration by welcoming all the guests. Zone Chair Debra Norris introduced the dignitaries: District Governor Martin Bonura and his wife PDG (Past District Governor) Susan Bonura, PDG Gerald Beachy, PID (Past International Director) Richard Liebno, Region Chair Elect Lee Williams.

Lion Faye led the Pledge of Allegiance, Lion Jeanne led "God Bless America" Chaplain Andrea Stotler gave the invocation. Then it was time for lunch, grilled by Hancock Lion Scott McCusker.

Lion Debra led the group in singing patriotic songs. District Governor Martin Bonura rededicated the charter and installed new officers for the upcoming Lions year: President Diane Hinckle, Vice President/Secretary Susan Miller, Treasurer Helen Nelson, Membership Chair Faye Conley, Chaplain Andrea Stotler, Newspaper Editor/Marketing Jeanne Ward, Tail Twister, Gail Fitzwater, Service Chair Karen Morgan, Lion Tamer Lance Hinckle, LCIF Chair Faye Conley and Directors Lions Karen Morgan, Gail Fitzwater, Carmon Gordon, Andrea Stotler. DG Martin inducted a new member, Amanda Miller.

Awards were handed out to Lion Susan Miller and Lion Gail Fitzwater for their outstanding work this year. The club received the "Traveling Club Award", a newly created award. It was created because HLLC likes to visit as many clubs as possible throughout the year under the direction of Lion Faye Conley.

The International President's Award was given to Cabinet Secretary Jeanne Ward. She was also elected in Ocean City as the Second Vice District Governor of District 22W for the upcoming year, 2026-2027.

Patriotic songs played throughout the event. There was a 50/50 drawing, door prizes and a cake auction. Uncle Sam visited for a picture taking opportunity.

The gala ended with a sing-along of "God Bless the USA", led by new member, Lion Amanda Miller. Final remarks were delivered by Lion Susan Miller.

The Hancock Lioness Lions Club has 35 members and are always looking for more. Contact membership chair, Faye Conley at 301-678-5432 if interested in joining the Lions, the largest service organization in the world with over 1.4 million members in over 200 countries.



District Governor Martin Bonura with The Miller Family - Lions Lew, Amanda, Susan and Ken.



Lion Gail Fitzwater and DG Martin Bonura.



Lion Jeanne Ward as Uncle Sam.

The Hancock News
 105 West Main Street • Hancock, MD 21750
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PUBLIC NOTICES

J. Russell Robinson III, ESQ.
Robinson & Robinson
152 W. Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83569
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Maxwell Junior Miller.

Notice is given that Barbara Ann Miller, 99 Chittenden St., Duryea, PA 18642-1006 was on May 20, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Maxwell Junior Miller who died on November 5, 2025 without a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All interested persons or unpaid claimants having any objection to the appointment of the personal representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 20th day of November, 2026.

All persons having any objection to the probate of the will of the decedent shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 20th day of November, 2026.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Barbara Ann Miller
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd6-3-3th

Michael G. Day, ESQ.
Michael G. Day & Associates, PC
10715 Downsville Pike
PO Box 889
Hagerstown, MD 21740
**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83562
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Charles William Souders.

Notice is given that Charles W. Souders II, 403 Beaver Creek Rd., Hagerstown, MD 21740-1459 was on May 19, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Charles William Souders who died on April 22, 2026 with a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All interested persons or unpaid claimants having any objection to the appointment of the personal representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 19th day of November, 2026.

All persons having any objection to the probate of the will of the decedent shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 19th day of November, 2026.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Charles W. Souders II
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd6-3-3th

Laura A. Melia, Esq.
Offit Kurman, P.A.
30 West Patrick St. Suite 300
Frederick, Maryland 21701
**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83557
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Luz H. Hernandez-Feijoo.

Notice is given that Deborah Reyes Hernandez, C-16 Calle Cancio, Sierra Berdecia, Guaynabo, PR 00969 was on May 27, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Luz H. Hernandez-Feijoo who died on July 9, 2025 without a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All interested persons or unpaid claimants having any objection to the appointment of the personal representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 27th day of November, 2026.

All persons having any objection to the probate of the will of the decedent shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 27th day of November, 2026.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Deborah Reyes Hernandez
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd6-3-3th

Andrea Cheeatow, ESQ.
Law Offices of
Andrea Cheeatow LLC
134 W. Washington St
Hagerstown, MD 21740
**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83446
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Dustin James Stoner.

Notice is given that Penny W. Stoner, 2635 Grand Point Rd., Chambersburg, PA 17202-8184 was on May 14, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Dustin James Stoner who died on September 6, 2025 without a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All interested persons or unpaid claimants having any objection to the appointment of the personal representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 14th day of November, 2026.

All persons having any objection to the probate of the will of the decedent shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 14th day of November, 2026.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Penny W. Stoner
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd6-3-3th

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83583
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Jack Phillip Murray AKA: Jack Phillip Murray, Sr.

Notice is given that Michelle Ann Murray, 31 W. Frederick St., Williamsport, MD 21795-1525 was on May 26, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Jack Phillip Murray who died on May 26, 2020 with a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All interested persons or unpaid claimants having any objection to the appointment of the personal representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 26th day of November, 2026.

All persons having any objection to the probate of the will of the decedent shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 26th day of November, 2026.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Michelle Ann Murray
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd6-3-3th

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83541
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Gail Teresa Starliper.

Notice is given that Alice Viola Funk, 245 S. Mulberry St., Hagerstown, MD 21740 was on May 22, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Gail Teresa Starliper who died on May 1, 2026 with a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All interested persons or unpaid claimants having any objection to the appointment of the personal representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 22nd day of November, 2026.

All persons having any objection to the probate of the will of the decedent shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 22nd day of November, 2026.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Alice Viola Funk
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd6-3-3th

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83515
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Rose Marie Hessler.

Notice is given that Kevin Hessler, 2520 Waterside Dr. Unit 405, Frederick, MD 21701-3026 was on May 26, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Rose Marie Hessler who died on March 9, 2026 with a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All interested persons or unpaid claimants having any objection to the appointment of the personal representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 26th day of November, 2026.

All persons having any objection to the probate of the will of the decedent shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 26th day of November, 2026.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Kevin Hessler
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd6-3-3th

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83556
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Larry Kent Mace.

Notice is given that Cindy Scott, 21210 Serenity Dr., Hagerstown, MD 21742-4991 and Todd Mace, 16712 Caldwell Ct., Williamsport, MD 21795-1419 were on May 21, 2026 appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Larry Kent Mace who died on May 12, 2026 with a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representatives or the attorney.

All interested persons or unpaid claimants having any objection to the appointment of the personal representatives shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 21st day of November, 2026.

All persons having any objection to the probate of the will of the decedent shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 21st day of November, 2026.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representatives or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Cindy Scott
Todd Mace
Personal Representatives
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd6-3-3th

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83535
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Ruth Ann Ogle.

Notice is given that Patricia Regina Ogle-Collins, 12206 Westwood Hills Dr., Oak Hill, VA 20171-1511 was on May 15, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Ruth Ann Ogle who died on April 21, 2026 with a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All interested persons or unpaid claimants having any objection to the appointment of the personal representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 15th day of November, 2026.

All persons having any objection to the probate of the will of the decedent shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 15th day of November, 2026.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Patricia Regina Ogle-Collins
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd6-3-3th

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 82685
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Michael William Rinn.

Notice is given that Bonnie Diehl, 9223 Mountain Meadow Dr., Boonsboro, MD 21713-1537 was on May 26, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Michael William Rinn who died on July 1, 2025 without a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All interested persons or unpaid claimants having any objection to the appointment of the personal representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 26th day of November, 2026.

All persons having any objection to the probate of the will of the decedent shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 26th day of November, 2026.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Bonnie Diehl
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd6-3-3th

J. Russell Robinson III, ESQ.
Robinson & Robinson
152 W. Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83595
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF David Adam Donald Hinkle.

Notice is given that Phillip Wayne Hinkle, PO Box 165, Keedysville, MD 21756-0165 was on May 29, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of David Adam Donald Hinkle who died on January 5, 2026 without a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All interested persons or unpaid claimants having any objection to the appointment of the personal representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 29th day of November, 2026.

All persons having any objection to the probate of the will of the decedent shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 29th day of November, 2026.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Phillip Wayne Hinkle
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd6-10-3th

Michael G. Day, ESQ.
Michael G. Day & Associates, PC
10715 Downsville Pike
PO Box 889
Hagerstown, MD 21740
**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83607
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Judith Ellen Geary.

Notice is given that Cynthia A. McIntire, 2475 Eagle Dr., Melbourne, FL 32935-3559 was on June 2, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Judith Ellen Geary who died on April 20, 2026 with a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All interested persons or unpaid claimants having any objection to the appointment of the personal representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 2nd day of December, 2026.

All persons having any objection to the probate of the will of the decedent shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 2nd day of December, 2026.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

(1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death, except if the decedent died before October 1, 1992, nine months from the date of the decedent's death; or

(2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

Cynthia A. McIntire
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd6-10-3th

Deadline Notice

All correspondents and advertisers are reminded the deadline for submitting copy to this publication is Monday each week at noon.

SUDOKU

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	3						8
			1		2		
	6			8			5
1	4	2					
		3		9			
		5					7
	2					1	
8	9			7		3	

Level: Intermediate

The objective is to fill a 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row and each of the nine 3x3 sub-grids that compose the grid contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. Answer elsewhere in paper.

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OFFICE SUPPLIES for sale at The Morgan Messenger office, 304-258-1800. pd1/1- tfmh

STRAW, square bales \$5, 304-258-0584. 5/20- tfmh

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Size
Age
Color
Condition
Specifications
Previous Usage
Upholstery
Finish
Accessories & Attachments
Hours To See
Offering
Price
Phone Number

HOROSCOPES

June 14 - 20, 2026

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Discipline will be rewarded with a measurable success that can feel very uplifting, Capricorn. Your hard work is finally getting the recognition it deserves.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, right now your home is filled with laughter and shared memories. It's a great week to host a small gathering or a movie night with close friends to share all the good vibes.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Be your most authentic self this week and watch how it attracts those you want in your circle, Aquarius. A weird coincidence may lead to a funny situation.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Today you are a beacon of light and a source of inspiration. Use your unique position as a leader to spread positivity and watch good fortune multiply.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, calmer waters ahead allow you to reflect on yourself and recharge your emotional batteries. You may emerge at the end of the week centered and ready for anything.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you are often a master of finding practical solutions to tricky problems both at work and at home. Your reliable nature is a great gift to those around you.

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, physical activity can boost your mood and clear your mind for some big decisions that are ahead this week. Tackle some larger projects.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Some diplomacy this week can help you navigate a complex situation with ease. Find moments for mindful meditation so you can create a calm atmosphere wherever you go.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Indulge in simple pleasures this week, Taurus. They will lead you to the happiness you deserve. You may discover a new favorite recipe or cozy nook to hang out.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
If you are brave enough to voice it, a secret wish just might come true, Scorpio. After some difficult days, you can use a bit of magic and mystery to change your perspective.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Networking may feel less like a chore and more like a party this week, Gemini. A chance encounter could open a door to an excellent opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
You're definitely a glass-half-full kind of person, Sagittarius. This optimism will open doors to a new horizon. A sudden urge to learn something new leads to an opportunity.

FATHER'S DAY FUN WORD SEARCH

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I B E U C W I S D O M A B A R B E C U D
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H S E N A K S S E N D N I K N W B O T G
C R R F D R E L I A B I L I T Y A R H B
N E O L I R D T Y H S I I H N H E U R Y
L H S S U N E V F W N F M K U L D A Y T
G T I K G C A S G R L O S H A F V P Y I
B A T S D R O W P P B K I T N E G Y G R
U F Y B W C R Y P E K P E T R B L M O R
F A T H E R H O O D C D H Y O I T K L E
O K I G L Y C A G E L T T E M V B T A T
A K N O I T A I C E R P P A R I E G E A
D U C E T U B I R T E R F K N I C D N P
S N S L S D E D I C A T I O N Y T I E V
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Hancock Bridge study

(from front)

Faith said he told them about pieces of concrete falling onto Limestone Road and supplied photos of the concrete.

Faith said Hancock is heavily mentioned in the report and Hancock is included. There is a mention of a pedestrian bridge in the report as well, he added.

"I think we'll get the things we want as long as we stay active and participate in the process," he said.

In the grant application for the \$1.2 million in planning funds, Maryland transportation officials acknowledge the importance of engaging local residents, businesses and governments in the planning process when it comes to developing options for a future Hancock bridge.

Small glimpses into possible modifications are placed throughout the application, including mentions of widening the bridge to include shoulders and additional lane space, room for "intermodal" transportation, exits and entrances that specifically serve Hancock's trail users, bridge elevations that bring visitors more closely into Hancock rather than just over it, and the possibility of changing the "geometry" of the bridge to improve driver visibility and access.

Movement of trucks and goods throughout the region

is a key element of the grant application.

Planning would support "The US 522 Bridge Connectivity and Freight Mobility Plan," according to MDOT, which acknowledges that U.S. 522 is a "critical regional mobility link and cross-state connection between Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania."

In seeking the planning dollars, MDOT officials state plainly that the bridges carrying U.S. 522, critical to commercial truck traffic and to residents, are at the end of their lifespan and require action.

"These bridges' potential failure is a regional concern and a full replacement cost will likely exceed \$250 million. Both MDOT and WVDOT consider rehabilitation of these bridges a critical priority requiring thoughtful redesign to address safety, accessibility and reliability concerns," the document says.

Two bridges, one roadway

Under consideration is the structure most locals know as the Hancock Bridge. Opened in 1939, it is almost half a mile long (2,500 feet), is 27 feet wide and is rated in poor condition by MDOT, which maintains the structure under a cost-sharing agreement with West Virginia. It crosses above the C&O Canal, Potomac River and CSX railroad on the West Virginia shore.

This is cataloged as Bridge No. 210043001. It has an average daily traffic of 10,550 vehicles.

The shorter, smaller bridge in Hancock also carries U.S. 522 over Little Tonoloway Creek, Maryland 144, Hancock's Main Street and Limestone Road. It's 586 feet long and was built in 1937. This is Bridge No. 210124001. It has an average daily traffic of 10,911 vehicles.

Regional importance
"These bridges must support regional commerce while remaining sensitive to the rural context and scale of Hancock," project officials note.

The grant application has several mentions of the regional importance of the bridges and U.S. 522 as a key connector of multiple interstate transportation routes, noting that anytime Hancock bridges have been closed, vehicular traffic and trucks are forced to take detours more than 30 miles out of the way.

"U.S. 522 is also an alternate route for I-70's role on the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) and the Strategic Defense Network," the document says.

Interstate highways were designed, in part, to serve the needs of the U.S. military in national defense, providing reliable ways to move military equipment by land.

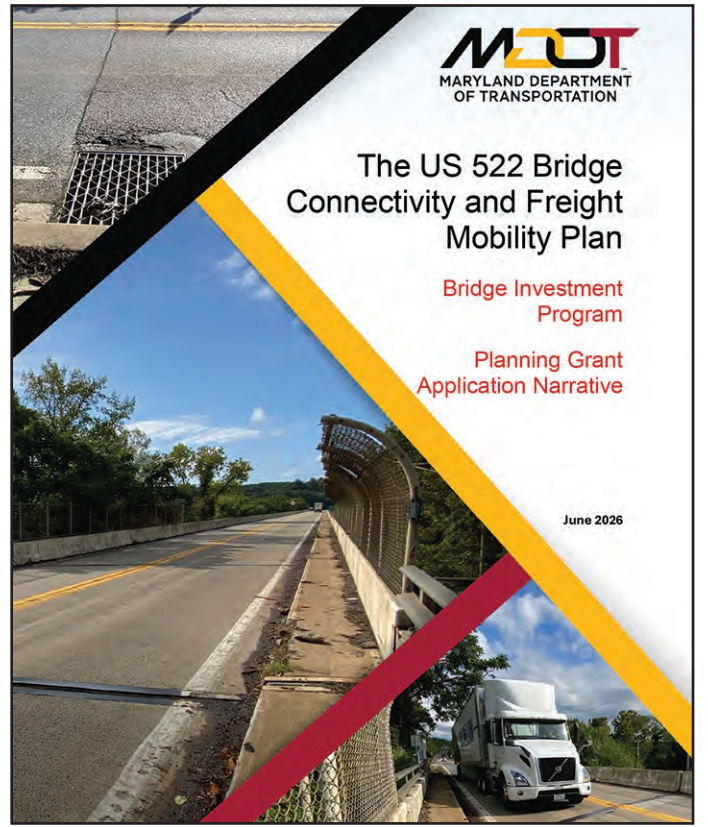
Hancock's bridges are also essential for public safety access, and U.S. 522 is an evacuation route in cases of disaster or national emergency. Not only that, but the bridges keep open access to rural hospitals like War Memorial Hospital in Berkeley Springs for area residents.

The new U.S. 522 bypass and hospital connector road are mentioned as "alignments" for an upgraded Hancock Bridge.

If funding is granted to MDOT's State Highway Administration, the Planning and Environmental Linkages study of the two bridges will include:

- A purpose and needs statement
- Bridge concepts
- A crash analysis and traffic projection
- Public outreach efforts & feedback on concepts
- Coordination with the Town of Hancock
- Listing of potential investment that would improve land use, supply chains and economic benefits
- Evaluation of environmental impact areas.

End of life for bridges
Users of the bridges see the ongoing repairs being done over various parts of the structure – from the decking to the understructure. Drivers have observed shifting at deck joints in recent years, making the bridge surface uneven. Troubles extend to other parts of the bridges, including truss spans, corrosion, loss of decking and



more. The multitude of areas needing upgrades have pushed highway officials to seek a bigger solution.

"Despite the U.S. 522 Bridge being maintained to the highest standards possible, the end of its useful life is approaching," said MDOT officials.

"MDOT has remained vigilant of ongoing maintenance requirements to ensure the U.S. 522 Bridge stays in a state of good repair, but costs continue to escalate as necessary repairs and preservation work are required to maintain the bridge in this condition," they note.

The lack of a shoulder on the bridge makes snow removal more difficult, hampers the option to move disabled vehicles out of travel lanes or to allow emergency vehicles to pass when traffic is stopped. Hancock and Berkeley Springs officials have also voiced support for adding a bike lane on the bridge to connect regional trailways. Highway officials envision a wider bridge structure with greater weight load ratings.

Modern technology like automatic traffic counters, pavement sensors, solar lighting and live weather cameras are also mentioned as possible upgrades to a future Hancock bridge system.

If grants pay for the Planning and Environmental Linkages study, Maryland and West Virginia can then pursue funding for the construction phases of the chosen rehabilitation concept.

"The PEL phase of the project will allow project stakeholders to further refine the needs of the capital construction project for the US 522 Bridge, and initiate the early discovery and financial planning necessary to support efficient project delivery," the grant application says. "MDOT is confident that after confirming the preferred alternative identified in the PEL Study, the agency will start construction within two years of the PEL study's completion."

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JUNE 17 - JULY 8, 2026

People Told Us...

—DAD JOKED: Why did the bicycle fall over? Because it was two tired.

—Friday June 19 is celebrated as Juneteenth, marking the actual end of slave-owning in the United States in 1865, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863.

—Don't forget to honor your Dad this Sunday, June 21, on Father's Day.

—OLD FARM LORE: Garden plants will catch up by the end of the month regardless of how early they were planted, thanks to the long hours of sunshine.

—The first day of summer is this Sunday, June 21. It marks the longest day and shortest night of the year. Since ancient times, cultures have adopted June as the perfect time for revelry, weddings, and feasts.

—Remove and destroy the dead tops of white pine trees to eliminate white pine weevil, the tree experts say.

—Charitable contributions of food and money to help needy local people can be sent to the Interfaith Service Coalition, 116 West High Street, Hancock, MD 21750.

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