

2026
WEDNESDAY,
JULY 15

75¢

The Hancock News

Hancock, MD 21750

Established 1914 – Our 112th Year

Volume 113, Number 28

Hancock at a Glance

Weather

Wed. 7/15 97/73
Sunny and hot with heat index as high as 100, west winds 3-7 mph.

Thurs. 7/16 95/70
Mostly sunny with calm west winds 5-7 mph in the afternoon..

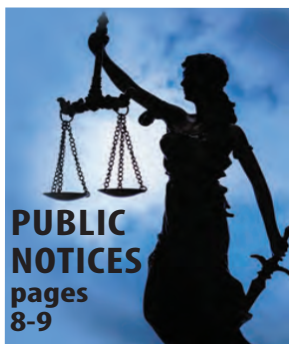
Fri. 7/17 90/69
Mostly sunny with a high around 90 and a low near 69.

Sat. 7/18 83/69
50% chance of showers, possible thunderstorm. Partly sunny.

Sun. 7/19 84/67
50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy.

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Deadline Notice

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

Keep in Touch

Contact Us At:
301-678-6255

304-258-1800
Email:
news@hancocknews.us
Website:
thehancocknews.com

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



Faith on administrative leave following misdemeanor charge

by Geoff Fox

Hancock mayor Roland Lanehart has confirmed that town manager Mike Faith has been placed on an unpaid, three-week administrative leave.

According to online court documents, Faith was charged by summons with a misdemeanor charge of false statements to a police officer. The charges were

filed on July 6 by the Washington County Sheriff's Department. No further details about the charges were available at press time.

Mayor Roland Lanehart said the charges stemmed from a personal matter, so he, nor council members, would comment on Faith's situation.

Lanehart responded to questions from *The*

Hancock News about the matter in a phone interview on Monday.

He has said that he's handling all of Faith's duties during the leave, and anyone needing to contact him about an issue should call Town Hall at 301-678-5622 and town employees will get in touch with Lanehart.

Job Fair at Hancock Library set for this Thursday

The American Job Center Veterans Services in Hagerstown has teamed up with Mellott's in Warfordsburg, Pa., for a one-day recruitment open house.

The event will take place at the Washington County Free Library, Hancock Veterans Memorial Branch in Hancock, on Thursday, July 16 from 12-5 p.m.

Come by and check out employment opportunities with Mellott or speak with a DVOP on services offered through the American Job Center. Veterans will receive priority of service.

For more information, contact the American Job Center in Hagerstown at 301-393-8212 or email Michael.Tomlin@maryland.gov.

Cat poisonings draws Humane Society to Hancock

by Geoff Fox

Over the last few weeks, there has been a number of cats being poisoned in Hancock and now the Humane Society of Washington County has begun looking into them.

The Humane Society Field Services is currently looking to several reports of deceased cats found in the area of Jackson Street, Washington Street, and Virginia Avenue in Hancock.

The Humane Society is asking residents in that area to check their owned cats and monitor them closely.

They said in a social media post if your cat has experienced a recent onset of symptoms that include loss of appetite, vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, lethargy or weakness, tremors or seizures, or excessive drinking or urination to contact your veterinarian immediately for evaluation and care.

"If your cat is found deceased, please do not dispose of the body," the Humane Society said.

If it can be done safely, the Humane Society advised to avoid unnecessary handling, wear gloves if the ani-

mal must be moved, and contact them immediately so they can provide guidance and determine whether the animal should be examined as part of the investigation.

They are also asking for the community's assistance in reporting and suspicious activity that may involve the health or well-being of cats in the affected area.

If you have any information that may assist with the investigation, contact HSWC Field Services at 240-707-3082 during normal business hours or by email at casetips@hswcmd.org.

Hancock Police are not involved in the investigation.

The Hancock News reached out to the Humane Society and their Field Services for more information, however they did not respond to emails by press time.

On Monday, July 13, one of the TNR (trap, neuter, release) cats Linda Smith has been taking care of the last six years was found dead and presumed to have been poisoned.

In a social media post, Smith said the Humane Society had come and picked it up.

She said the Humane Society told her the number of cats they've picked up has been in the low 20s found in the Jackson Street, Washington Street, and Virginia Avenue area.

"Who knows how many more strays not accounted for," she said in the post.

In a text message conversation with *The Hancock News*, Smith said Stoners Florists has been taking care of several cats on that end of Washington Street and Jackson Street has a lot as well.

Smith said Stoners has lost four cats from around the shop.

The Humane Society had been contacted prior to the recent cat deaths and the area was put on a list for someone to try and do trap, neuter and release with the cats that are running around. "With help from friends we had all the cats in the west end of Washington Street TNR'd but two new ones," Smith said.

She added if a cat is trapped and neutered, they have to be released back to



Cats in the area of Jackson Street, Washington Street, and Virginia Avenue have been found deceased with the possibility of being poisoned. The Washington County Humane Society is investigating the case. These three cats are still alive in that area.

photo by Linda Smith

the area of the colony, unless it's well behaved and can be put up for adoption. Most strays, if wild, can't.

Cats that have been neutered, Smith said, would have a clipped/tipped ear to identify it.

The Humane Society has been back to check the place where some cats were found, which Smith said tells her it wasn't a sickness as some people are saying "because they were checking locations."

One of the cats from Stoners that had died had a powdery, almost dusty looking substance all over its face, Smith said.

Another person Smith talked to said two of their cats looked the same with the same substance on their face.

"All these cats were healthy, no signs of illness the day before they were found," she said.

Spaces available for National Night Out



The Town of Hancock is looking for businesses, non-profits, and organizations to register for this year's National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4, in Widmeyer Park.

by Geoff Fox

As the summer season is just getting under way, that means National Night Out is just around the corner.

The annual community event will take place on Tuesday, August 4, beginning at 6 p.m. in Widmeyer Park. As always, the night is a free event.

As National Night Out approaches, the Town of Hancock is seeking businesses, non-profits, churches, and organizations to have a space at the park.

If your group or organization is interested in a space in the park email Jodi@townofhancock.org.

In the email, include the name of the organization or business and what is being planned to be offered at the event.

Organizers ask you contact them as soon as possible if your group would like a space.

Garage fire spreads, destroying home Saturday



Firefighters on the scene took this photo of a Saturday evening structure fire on Tall Pines Lane that destroyed a home and garage.

by Kate Shunney

A blaze that began in a home garage on Saturday, July 11 spread into the adjacent residence, destroying the home and displacing two adults.

The fire, which claimed a home and garage on Tall Pines Lane off Mountain Run Road, was reported around 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Capt. Robert Frey of Berkeley Springs Volunteer Fire Company was command on the scene, and said

first responders found the fire had already spread from the garage into the house. Fire had caused the garage roof to collapse and had spread into the void space of the home's attic, causing the house roof to start falling in.

Frey said a neighbor had called the fire into 911, as the owner said he was not able to call because he only had a landline phone that was disabled by the fire.

see GARAGE FIRE page 3

Hancock
Police Report
301-678-5633



Hancock Police report the following arrests and incidents from the week of July 6-13:

July 6
Assisted EMS, 200 block Fulton Street.
911 hang-up, 200 block Pennsylvania Avenue. Accidental.
Fraud, Hancock area. Subject advised.

July 7
Service to advise, Hancock area. Subject advised.
Service to advise, first block Fleming Court. Subject advised.
Service to advise, Hancock area. Subject advised.

July 8
Unauthorized use of vehicle, first block Fleming Court. Unfounded.
Service to advise, Hancock area. Subject advised.
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. Two stops.
Suspicious person, Joseph Hancock Park. Subject advised.

July 9
Found property, 400 block Quaker Creek Drive. Wallet returned to owner.
Service to advise, 100 block West High Street. Subject advised.

Service to advise, 100 block West High Street. Subject advised.
Check well-being, 300 block Pennsylvania Avenue. Subject checked okay.
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. Three stops.
Injured person, 100 block West High Street. Subject shot another with a bb gun.

July 10
Parking complaint, 200 block Fulton Street. Owners moved vehicles.
Traffic direction, first block Blue Hill Road. Truck stuck on bridge.
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. Three stops.
Noise complaint, 100 block Quaker Creek Drive. Subject advised.

July 11
Alarm, 100 block Rayloc Drive. Building checked okay.
Service to advise, 100 block West High Street. Subject advised.
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. Two stops.

July 12
Traffic hazard, Canal Street. Tractor-trailer stuck.

Geology Rocks presentation and hike July 15 and 16

It's a rockin' mid-week at Cacapon Resort State Park. Geologist Ken Ashton welcomes 'rockers' to an evening program about the geology of West Virginia. Discover more about rocks, minerals and fossils during the evening slideshow held at Cacapon's Nature Center at 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 15.

On Thursday, July 16 at 10 a.m. there will be a hands-on guided hike starting at the lodge.
The program is free to attend and open to the public.
This program is presented by a geologist of the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey.

Bil Lepp brings stories to Cacapon State Park



Bil Lepp, an award-winning storyteller, author and recording artist known for his tall tales, will be telling his stories at Cacapon Resort State Park on Saturday, July 18, 7 p.m. at the lodge conference room.

Garage fire

(from front)
According to Frey, the homeowner said he didn't realize the garage structure was on fire until he looked out the window from his home office on the far side of the house and saw black smoke rising from the garage end of the structure.
Capt. Frey said firefighters initially pulled two fire lines to fight the blaze. Once additional personnel and units arrived on the scene, they pulled a third line to shoot water inside the structure.
Because of recent drought conditions, water was not available near the fire scene and multiple tankers shuttled

water from the nearest draft site on Highland Ridge Road.
Firefighters were able to rescue three cats from the home. Two adult residents were displaced and the American Red Cross was called to offer housing and emergency assistance to them. Morgan County Animal Control took the three cats to an emergency veterinarian because the animals were inside during the fire.
Firefighting operations continued until 11:30 p.m. There were no firefighter injuries during the response operation. At least 60 firefighters and emergency personnel were on the scene during the incident.
The house and garage are

Girl Scout Day Camp in Hancock



The Girl Scouts held a Day Camp in Hancock that ran June 29 through July 1 in Widmeyer Park. photo by Gaela Shop

Island vibes at the Ice House

by Lisa Schauer
Proverbs Reggae Band brought their seven-piece musical ensemble back to the MAC Ice House on Friday evening, July 10.
Jamming as part of Morgan Arts Council's summer music series, the talented Rasta band said between songs they were happy to be back on stage in Berkeley Springs.
Next up in the Friday concert series is Rusted Blue on July 24. Fronted by local artist Michael Gregg, this blues and rock band takes the stage at 7 p.m.



Proverbs Reggae Band entertained the crowd with a lively performance at MAC Ice House on Friday evening, July 10.

Acoustic jam

BlackCat's Acoustic Jam will be held Friday, July 17 at 5-6:30 p.m.
Take a guitar, uke, fiddle or voice and join for this interactive evening of music.
Mike Kligerman of the Tri-State Ukelectic Orchestra will host this get-together.
For more information call 304-500-2696. BlackCat is located at 155 Independence Street, Berkeley Springs.

Open mic

Open Mic will be held on Friday, July 17, at the Hancock Community Center, 126 W. High Street, Hancock, from 5-8 p.m.
Free admission. Sponsored by the Hancock Lioness Lions Club.

Story telling with Natalya Smith

Join storyteller Natalya Smith around the Cacapon Campfire, located next to the nature center on Friday, July 17, 8:30 p.m. for Appalachian Folklore and stories from World Over connecting Appalachia with their origin across the sea. Marshmallows provided.

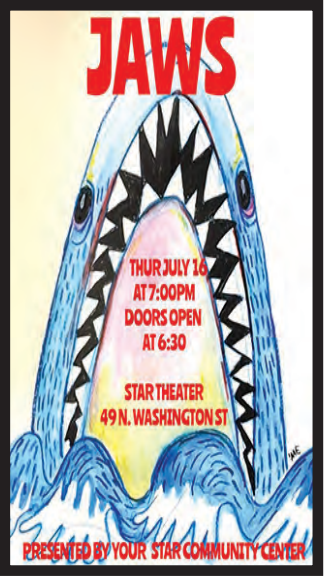
Deadline Notice

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SOUTH MORGAN VFD
10166 Winchester Grade Road
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

NO BINGO
SATURDAY,
JULY 11 & 18

National Child Abuse Hotline
1-800-4-A-CHILD



South Morgan Volunteer Fire Department
10166 Winchester Grade Road • Berkeley Springs

CARNIVAL
Tuesday, July 14 through Saturday, July 18
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15	FRIDAY, JULY 17
5 p.m. - South Morgan Games & Food Pavilion Opens	5 p.m. - South Morgan Games & Food Pavilion Opens
5-9 p.m. - Knight Rider K.I.T.T.	5 p.m. - Baby Contest Registration
6 p.m. - Bingo	6 p.m. - Baby Contest
6-10 p.m. - Snyder's Attractions	6 p.m. - Bingo
Ride All Night for One Price	6-10 p.m. - Snyder's Attractions
Fire Extinguisher Demonstration	Ride All Night for One Price
7 p.m. - Eclipse (Journey Tribute Band)	Fire Extinguisher Demonstration
THURSDAY, JULY 16	7 p.m. - Dean Crawford & The Dunns River Band
5 p.m. - South Morgan Games & Food Pavilion Opens	At Dark - Fireworks Display
6 p.m. - Bingo	SATURDAY, JULY 18
6-10 p.m. - Snyder's Attractions	4 p.m. - South Morgan Games & Food Pavilion Opens
Ride All Night for One Price	4-10 p.m. - Snyder's Attractions
Fire Extinguisher Demonstration	Ride All Night for One Price
7 p.m. - The Red Handed Band (Classic Rock)	6 p.m. - Bingo
	6:30 p.m. - WDW Pro Wrestling
	Fire Extinguisher Demonstration
	7 p.m. - Promising Leith (Rock)

firemascarnival.com

NO DOGS ALLOWED UNLESS SERVICE CERTIFIED
NO ALCOHOL PERMITTED • BRING A CHAIR TO ENJOY THE BANDS
Come Out and Enjoy a Fun Family Evening and Support the Fire Department

TICKETS TO THE CARNIVAL

Who's Havin' a Birthday?
Thursday, July 16
Rusty Wheeler

HEROES OF THE BIBLE
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Hancock Assembly of God
431 N. Pennsylvania Avenue
Join Us
August 3-5 • 6-8 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Joyce Elaine Pugh Kline
1940-2026

Joyce Elaine Pugh Kline, 86, of Berkeley Springs, W.Va., completed her earthly journey on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, in Frederick, Md., following a brief but aggressive battle with cancer.

Born on March 30, 1940, in Montcalm, W.Va., Joyce was the daughter of the late George and Clara Kade Taylor. She graduated from Montcalm High School in 1958 as a member of its first graduating class. During her school years, she excelled both academically and socially, serving as a member of the National Honor Society, Secretary of the Future Teachers of America, Yearbook Editor, Student Council member, theater participant, head majorette for four years, and President of the Future Homemakers of America.

Joyce began her career as a telephone operator with General Telephone Company of the Southeast from 1959 to 1961. On October 15, 1961, she married the love of her life, Wendell E. Pugh, and together they moved to Rockville, Md. She continued her career with the Chesapeake & Potomac (C&P) Telephone Company, first as an operator and later as a Service Representative until the birth of their first child.

As a loving mother to Kevin and Kimberly, Joyce dedicated herself wholeheartedly to her family. She served as a room mother, volunteered in the school cafeteria, and was a Cub Scout Den Mother from 1971 to 1976, touching countless young lives through her service.

Joyce later joined Montgomery County Public Schools as an Instructional Assistant with the Vocational Support Teams at Rockville and Richard Montgomery High Schools. She worked with students in carpentry, woodworking, electricity, fashion merchandising, and food service. Additionally, she assisted special needs students helping them succeed in the academic portions of these classes. She truly adored her students and believed deeply in their potential. In recognition of her outstanding dedication, she received the 1986 Maryland Association of Vocational Education for Special Needs Persons (MAVESNP) Award for Outstanding Service as a Special Needs Paraprofessional.

Following her retirement from Montgomery County Public Schools in 1988, Joyce and Wendell settled in Berkeley Springs, where she enthusiastically embraced community life. She enjoyed amateur radio (call sign WA3WQM), square dancing and Vacation Bible School, where she faithfully hosted the annual youth pool party for many years. She was a member of the Gilbert & Sullivan music appreciation group, volunteered with MCEAT, belonged to numerous square dance clubs, and founded the Timber Ridge Twirlers. She also served as State Representative and Secretary for Seniors with AARP and coordinated meals for Camp Joy.

A faithful servant of the Lord, Joyce was a devoted member of Union Chapel United Methodist Church. She served on the church council as Membership and Attendance Secretary, taught Sunday School, worked with the youth ministries, and, as she often joked, served on every committee except the choir.

Joyce was a Life Member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), a member of QST magazine, OMXYL (Old Man's XYL), and the 10-10 International Club. Through amateur radio, she formed lasting friendships with people around the world.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, George Edgar "Junior" Taylor and James Edward "Eddie" Taylor; and her first husband of 48 years, Wendell E. Pugh.

On June 22, 2013, Joyce married Paul Kline, with whom she shared many happy years. In addition to her husband, Paul, and his family, she is lovingly survived by her son, Kevin E. Pugh and wife Deanie; her daughter, Kimberly E. McCullagh and husband Robert; five grandsons, Nicholas K. Pugh, Christopher R. McCullagh (Katie), Cody D. Pugh, Michael F. McCullagh, and Sean R. McCullagh; two cherished great-grandchildren, Tucker and Violet (her family, Alison, Steven, Alan, Oliver, and Clara); her sister-in-law, Leta Arleen Payne of Raleigh, North Carolina; and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Joyce cherished the names Mom, Aunt Joyce, Grammy and GiGi.

Joyce is also survived by her treasured Simeon & Anna Squad and her many dear friends from Union Chapel and throughout the world.

Joyce will be remembered for her beautiful smile, contagious laughter, unwavering faith, servant's heart, and the joy she brought to everyone fortunate enough to know her. Her kindness, generosity, and love of life touched countless lives and will continue to inspire those she leaves behind.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at Union Chapel United Methodist Church with Pastor Mike Leedom officiating. Interment will follow in the Union Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery. Friends will be received at the church from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Joyce's memory to The Hurst Hospitality House at Winchester Medical Center, valleyhealthlink.com/donate, Valley Health Foundation, 220 Campus Blvd., Suite 402, Winchester, VA 22601, or to Union Chapel United Methodist Church, 10123 Valley Road, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411.

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

Arrangements are being handled by Helsley-Johnson Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 95 Union Street, Berkeley Springs, WV.

Gregory A. Howell
1962-2026

Gregory A. Howell, 64, of Warfordsburg, Pa., passed away on Sunday, July 5, 2026, Hagerstown, Md.

Born May 2, 1962, in Berkeley Springs, W.Va., he was the son of the late Elwood "Arlo" and Linda "Dean" Howell.

Greg was a 1980 graduate of Hancock High School. He retired after serving thirty-three years as a Highway Surveyor with the Maryland State Highway Administration.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing, helping his neighbors and friends, working around his farm, and spending time with his fur babies.

Greg is survived by his loving wife of forty-two years, Kimberly Howell of Warfordsburg, Pa.; one brother, Kevin Howell and wife Elena of Smithsburg, Md.; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his maternal grandparents, Fred and Helen Hinckle and paternal grandparents, Easton "Red" and Maxine Howell; and one brother, Kenneth Wade Howell.

A celebration of life will be held at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements were entrusted to Grove-Rogowski Funeral Home, 141 West Main Street, Hancock, MD 21750. Online condolences can be expressed to the family at www.grfuneralhome.net.



David Ray Cain
1959-2026

David Ray Cain, 67, of Hedgesville, W.Va., passed away on July 7, 2026 while at the Hospice of the Panhandle Inpatient Facility.

Born to the late Charles and Hope Cain, David lived a life rooted in family, hard work and a deep love for the outdoors. He was happiest when with his wife, children and grandchildren, training coonhound dogs, spending time with his horses, restoring old cars and trucks, or enjoying the beauty of being outside.

David was a proud member of the Carpenters Local 132 and retired from CECO after 45 years of dedicated service.

Known for his strong work ethic and skilled craftsmanship, he took great pride in the work he did throughout his career.

David was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 50 years, Cheryl Ann Cain, who passed away in December 2025. In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Ruth Ann Fox, Ronald Cain and Charles Leo Cain.

He leaves behind a loving family who will cherish his memory, including his children: Steven Cain and wife Dawn, Ernie Cain and wife Jennifer, Jonathan Cain and Barbie, and Ashley Carter and husband David.

David was a proud grandfather to Jazmine Briscoe, Stephanie Briscoe, Arianna Briscoe, Alex Cain, Ava Cain, Bella Cain and Wrenlee Cain. He also held a special place in his heart for his honorary grandchildren: Kaitlyn Hashem, Natalie Hashem, Jasauni Sizemore and Levi Carter.

He is also survived by his sisters, Connie Mitchell and husband Greg, and Carol High; his brothers, Dale "Bo" Cain and wife Diane, and Bobby Cain; his sister-in-law, Brenda Hashem and husband Dr. Joseph Hashem; brothers-in-law Dwight Fox and Craig Fox; as well as several beloved nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

David's legacy of hard work, devotion to family and love for the outdoors will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. He will be remembered for his willingness to lend a helping hand, his love for his family and the many memories made with those fortunate enough to know him.

Memorial services will be conducted at noon on Saturday, July 18, 2026 at Helsley-Johnson Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 95 Union Street, Berkeley Springs, W.Va., with Brenda Hashem officiating. Private burial will be in Bethel Cemetery in Sleepy Creek, W.Va.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until service time.

The family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, support, and acts of kindness during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in David's memory may be made to Hospice of the Panhandle, 330 Hospice Lane, Kearneysville, WV 25430.

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



Lori Ann Cross
1967-2026

Lori Ann Cross, 59, passed away on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, in Needmore, Pa.

Born Saturday, March 18, 1967, in Chambersburg, Pa, she was the daughter of the late Daniel and Vada Carbaugh.

Lori attended Boonsboro and Hancock Schools. She worked as a caregiver for Community Resources for Independence - CRI, McConellsburg, Pa. She also worked as a cook for many years at Weaver's and Park-N-Dine Restaurants in Hancock, Md.

She enjoyed tending to her gardens, cooking, crocheting, and camping. Most of all, she loved spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Lori survived by her loving husband of twenty-one years, Robert L. Cross, of Needmore, Pa.; five children, Darlene Gladhill, Robert Gladhill, Dustin Cross, Brooke Glessner, and Dylan Cross; one brother, Daniel Carbaugh of Chambersburg, Pa.; two sisters, Barbara Fiddler of Winchester, Va. and Patricia Snow of Hagerstown, Md.; mother-in-law, Shirley Cross of Hancock, Md.; five grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life service was held on Monday, July 13, 2026, at 7 p.m., at Grove-Rogowski Funeral Home, 141 West Main Street, Hancock, Md. Pastor Jeff Hawbaker officiated.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Lori's name can be made to the ALS Foundation at www.als.org/ways-give.

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



Douglas Raymond True
1938-2026

Douglas Raymond True, 87, of Hagerstown, Md., passed away, Sunday, July 5, 2026, at the Meritus Medical Center.

Born Thursday, July 28, 1938, in Hancock, Md., he was the son of the late Leroy F. True and the late Dorothy S. (Corbett) True.

Doug graduated from Hancock High School in 1956. He later was employed for many years with NBC in Washington, D.C. He loved to restore houses and enjoyed playing the piano.

He is survived by his sister, Irene Anna Little; brother, William "Bun" E. True and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, John W. True and James W. True.

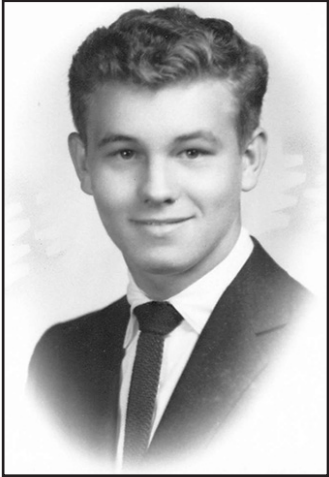
Services will be held privately with the family.

Interment will be at the Cedar Lawn Memorial Park, Hagerstown, Md.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Doey's House c/o Hospice of Washington County 1710 Underpass Way, Suite 300, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Douglas A. Fiery Funeral Home 1331 Eastern Blvd. North, Hagerstown, Md.

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



Esther Margaret Phillips
1928-2026

Esther Margaret Phillips, age 97, of Berkeley Springs, W.Va., passed away on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at Winchester Medical Center in Winchester, Va.

Born August 4, 1928, she was the daughter of the late Emory J. and Bessie Ellen Walls Metz.

Esther was a high school graduate. She worked at Fairchild Industries in Hagerstown, Md. and was a Total Loss Clerk for Geico in the insurance industry. She attended Berkeley Springs Church of The Nazarene. She enjoyed Boot Kicker country line dancing, cooking and her family.

She was affectionately known to most as Mam-maw. Esther was the heart and soul of her family. Anyone entering her home was sure to be offered a meal and a slice of something sweet. She was always full of warmth and love. Mam-maw was "home" to many.

Esther is survived by a daughter, Vickie Jane Phillips of Berkeley Springs, W.Va., one sister, June A. Moore of Berkeley Springs, W.Va., three grandchildren, Raymond Jerry Phillips, Charley Nicole Brock and Joseph Bradley Phillips, and four great grandchildren, Carter Brock, Phoenix Phillips, Shyla Phillips and Caroline Phillips and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Charles William Phillips and her two sons, Emory Gary Phillips and Raymond Jerry Phillips.

A memorial service will be conducted on Friday, July 17, 2026 at noon at Helsley-Johnson Funeral Home, 95 Union Street, Berkeley Springs, W.Va. Burial will be Greenway Cemetery.

The Family will receive friends at the funeral home from 11-noon prior to the service.

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



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.

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of
BETTY L. WHISNER

Who Passed Away 25 Years Ago, July 17, 2001

Love and memories never die
As time goes on and days go by
Deep in our hearts a memory is kept,
Of one we loved and will never forget.
In our hearts your memory lingers,
Sweetly tender, fond and true.
There is not a day,
That we do not think of you.

Loved & Sadly Missed By The Family



Deadline Notice

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

Washington County Division of Emergency Services honors Life-Saving First Responders

The Washington County Division of Emergency Services (DES), in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Office and Meritus Medical Center, recently recognized several emergency incidents in which coordinated efforts between dispatchers, bystanders, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) clinicians, firefighters, law enforcement officers and hospital staff led to patients surviving life-threatening cardiac emergencies and being discharged from the hospital with favorable neurological outcomes.

The recognition is part of the County's Cardiac Arrest Save Recognition Program, which highlights the lifesaving work of emergency responders who regularly face the most critical moments in people's lives. In many cases, EMS clinicians, firefighters, dispatchers, and law enforcement officers provide rapid intervention before immediately responding to the next emergency without ever learning the outcome of the patient they worked so hard to save.

To qualify for this recognition, patients must have experienced an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest or similarly life-threatening event in which resuscitation efforts resulted in a return of spontaneous circulation and eventual discharge from the hospital with favorable neurological outcomes. According to national data from the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES), only about 8–9% of cardiac arrest patients nationwide survive to hospital discharge with good neurological function, making each successful outcome especially significant.

EMS Personnel: Paramedic Colton Hartman, EMT Alexus Lentz was honored. Responding on a mutual aid assignment for a patient experiencing severe chest pain, clinicians quickly identified a major heart attack and initiated a STEMI activation. During transport, the patient went into cardiac arrest. The crew immediately delivered defibrillation, initiated CPR,

and successfully restored circulation before transporting the patient for definitive cardiac care. The patient was discharged home just three days later following successful treatment.

These remarkable incidents demonstrate that every link in the Chain of Survival. From rapid recognition and bystander CPR to emergency communications, advanced prehospital care and hospital treatment, plays a vital role in improving cardiac arrest survival. The Washington County Division of Emergency Services recognizes all of the dispatchers, bystanders, EMS clinicians, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and healthcare professionals whose teamwork and dedication continue to save lives throughout our community.

For more information about the awards and the lifesaving work of our EMS teams, contact the Washington County's Public Relations & Marketing Department at pr@washco-md.net.



EMS Personnel: Paramedic Angie Wolff, EMT Jeff Jenkins, Captain Paul Virden, Chief David Chisholm; Fire Department: EMT JT Altman, EMT Craig Sipes, EMT Zachary Schmidt, EMT Caleb Jenkins and Bystander: Family member.

After a family member immediately began CPR, responding crews identified ventricular fibrillation and initiated advanced cardiac life support. The patient experienced multiple episodes of cardiac arrest during transport, requiring repeated defibrillation and advanced interventions. Despite the complexity of the incident, responders restored circulation, allowing the patient to undergo emergency cardiac intervention before eventually returning home.



EMS Personnel: Paramedic Adam Baumgardner, EMT Hannah Hoffman, Captain Casey McKnight, EMT Robert Myerly; Fire Department: Chief David Yankey, EMT Dawson Yankey, EMT John Ashbaugh, EMT Danny Gibson, Firefighter Chuckie Johnson, Firefighter Randy Smith, EMT Matt Lyons, Firefighter John Hall and Bystander: Unknown.

Bystander CPR was already in progress when responders arrived to find the patient in cardiac arrest. EMS and fire personnel immediately initiated advanced cardiac life support, performed multiple defibrillations—including dual sequential defibrillation—and managed a complex cardiac emergency before restoring circulation. The patient later underwent cardiac intervention and was discharged from the hospital.



Communications Specialists: Calltaker Tara Buskirk, Dispatcher Warren Royce; Law Enforcement: Master Deputy Nicholas Fazenbaker, Sergeant Matthew Sullivan; EMS Personnel: Paramedic JP Miller, Paramedic Peter Mitchell, Captain Paul Virden; Fire Department: EMT Jerry Dorsey, EMT Lucas Murdock, EMT Brayden Tritapoe, EMT Bill King and Bystander: Rodney Keefer.

After a 911 caller was coached through CPR instructions, responding Sheriff's deputies quickly removed the patient from a tractor-trailer, initiated CPR, and delivered a lifesaving AED shock before EMS arrived. Fire and EMS personnel continued advanced cardiac life support, ultimately restoring circulation before transport. Following cardiac surgery, the patient was discharged home with an excellent neurological outcome.



Communications Specialists: Calltaker Dustin McQuaid, Dispatcher Aaron Myers; EMS Personnel: NRP Zachary Culler, EMT Bradley Lohr, Captain Joanna Bingham; Fire Department: EMT Danny Myers, EMT James Kershner, Off-Duty Firefighter Joshua McDaid and Bystanders: Caitlynn Barborek, Alex Johnson, Caleb Smagacz, Anthony Marian, Richard Robinson, Hunter Riley.

Staff and bystanders at the Hagerstown Field House immediately caught the patient as he collapsed, called 911, retrieved a public access AED, began CPR, and delivered a lifesaving shock before emergency crews arrived. Fire and EMS personnel continued resuscitative efforts, successfully restored circulation, and transported the patient to Meritus Medical Center, where the patient ultimately recovered and was discharged home.

RIGHT: EMS Personnel: NRP Jeremy Mackrell, EMT Jeff Hardman, Lieutenant Brandon Neuenschwander; Fire Department: EMT Tony Veney, Firefighter Daryl Trumpower and Bystander: Unknown medically trained individual.

A medically trained bystander immediately began CPR and utilized the school's public access AED before emergency responders arrived. Fire and EMS personnel continued patient care, consulted with physicians during transport, and delivered advanced treatment that resulted in the patient's successful recovery following cardiac surgery.



EMS Personnel: Paramedic Adam Baumgardner, EMT Carlton Borher, EMSVO Joshua Lapine, EMSVO Jeffrey Geesaman, Captain Terry Doyle; Fire Department: Chief David Yankey, EMT Dawson Yankey, Firefighter Matt Lyons and Bystander: Physical Therapist Seth Staley.

A physical therapist immediately recognized the patient's collapse and began high-quality CPR before emergency responders arrived. During treatment, the patient experienced two separate cardiac arrests, requiring multiple rounds of advanced cardiac life support and defibrillation. Through coordinated efforts between EMS and fire personnel, the patient regained circulation both times and was ultimately transported conscious, neurologically intact and later discharged from the hospital.

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—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.

- Sports
- School News
- Public Notices
- Classifieds
- Real Estate

Great American Bike Ride rolls into Hancock with Blessing of the Bikes

by Lisa Schauer

Around 160 bicyclists, including 15 or 20 children from San Mar Family and Community Services in Boonsboro, pedaled around Hancock on Sunday, July 12 for Blessing of the Bikes.

The blessing was given by Pastor Becki Wessinger from Hancock United Methodist Church at C&O Bike Shop.

Participants then made their way up the towpath to BuddyLou's for a free scoop of ice cream, and on to two other destinations with give-aways, before returning to C&O Bike Shop for music, games, prizes, and more snacks.

The event was produced by Main Street Hancock as part of the Great American Bike Ride, marking the future Great American Rail Trail.

Stretching 3,700 miles from D.C. to Seattle, including 184 miles on the C&O Canal Towpath, the Great American Rail Trail is just over halfway completed.

Hancock businesses including C&O Bike Shop, BuddyLou's, Jackie's Trail Rental, 1878 River Run, and the Red Barn co-sponsored Blessing of the Bikes and provided food.

Hancock Elementary School was also at Blessings of the Bikes, playing music, and raffling off bikes and helmets, while providing information on bike safety.

C&O Canal Trust had a booth at the event, where people gathered to play spin-the-wheel and learn more about the historic lockhouses being restored as B&Bs along the canal.



Junior bicyclists representing San Mar Family and Community Services in Boonsboro gathered for a group photo at Blessing of the Bikes in Hancock on Sunday, July 12.

photos by Lisa Schauer



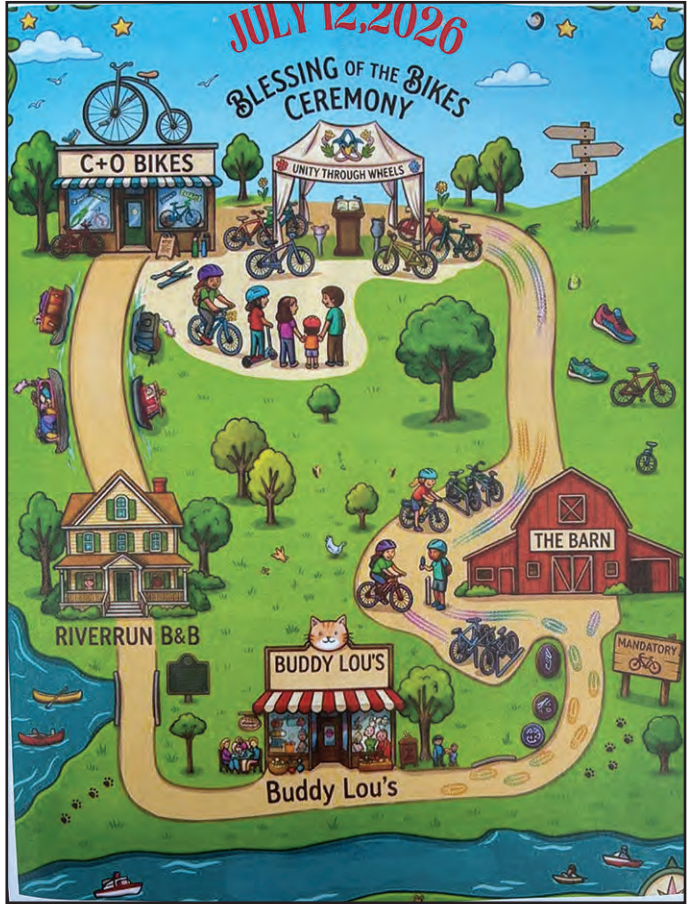
A tyke on a 'trike participated in Blessing of the Bikes in Hancock on Sunday, July 12.



Pictured at Blessing of the Bikes on Sunday, July 12 are Lewis Elias, right, representing Hancock Elementary School, and Cason, 11, a student at Southern Fulton Elementary School.



Representatives from C&O Canal Trust played games and gave away prizes at Blessing of the Bikes in Hancock on Sunday, July 12.



A flier shows the route for Blessing of the Bikes in Hancock on Sunday, July 12.



Staffing Blessing of the Bikes in Hancock on Sunday, July 12, from left, Tracy Barnhart, owner of C&O Bike Shop; Jackie Daley, owner of Jackie's Trail Rental; Maureen Thomas with C&O Canal Trust; Delayn Partlow with C&O Canal Trust; Queli Campos, owner of 1878 River Run.

Tonoloway Rod & Gun Club 2026 scholarship award



Left to right: Brooklyn McCusker and TRGC President Leroy Mann.

by Leroy Mann

Tonoloway Rod and Gun Club's 2026 scholarship awards for graduating seniors from Hancock Middle Senior High School was Brooklyn McCusker. She received a \$2,000.00 scholarship to further her education after high school.

Brooklyn McCusker attended Hancock High School and Washington County Technical High School for Biomedical Science. Brooklyn served as the President of the Interact club, Vice President of National Honor Society, member National Technical Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Brooklyn also was the Class of 2026 class President of Hancock High School. Brooklyn was a four year varsity softball and Basketball player with an additional of Indoor track and field for two years. She plans on attending Hood College in Frederick Md. She will be continuing her athletics in softball and getting a bachelor's in nursing, then a Master's to be a Nurse Practitioner.

How to get in the sports section

Getting your team's scores, team photos and schedules into *The Hancock News* is easy! Coaches and representatives of school teams, adult and youth leagues are encouraged to report their schedules and results in *The Hancock News*, and there are several ways to do it.

--Bring information to the news office at 105 West Main Street (next to the arcade) during our regular business hours, or use the drop box next to the front door for after-hours submissions.

--Email information and photos to the news desk at news@hancocknews.us.

--Call *The Hancock News* at 301-678-6255.

A deadline of Monday at noon is set for all regular submissions, Results from Monday night sporting events should be submitted by 8 a.m. on Tuesday to make it in that week's newspaper.

See you in the sports section!



PUBLIC NOTICES

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR
(OR)
BEFORE THE REGISTER
OF WILLS FOR
WASHINGTON COUNTY,
MARYLAND
IN THE ESTATE OF:
Wilbur Allen Itnyre, Jr.

Estate No: 83057
NOTICE OF JUDICIAL PROBATE
To all persons interested in the above estate:
You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed by Richard Itnyre, 51 Stanford Rd., Hagerstown, MD 21742-4519 for judicial probate of the will dated April 25, 2016 and for the appointment of a personal representative.
A hearing will be held at Washington County Orphans' Court, 100 W. Washington St., Ste. 3500, Hagerstown, MD 21740 on August 4, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
This hearing may be transferred or postponed to a subsequent time. Further information may be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR
(OR)
BEFORE THE REGISTER
OF WILLS FOR
WASHINGTON COUNTY,
MARYLAND
IN THE ESTATE OF:
Thomas Edward Hope

Estate No: 83566
NOTICE OF JUDICIAL PROBATE
To all persons interested in the above estate:
You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed by Mary L. Kelly, 8619 Pete Wiles Rd., Middletown, MD 21769 for judicial probate of the will dated November 17, 2025 and for the appointment of a personal representative.
A hearing will be held at Washington County Orphans' Court, 100 W. Washington St., Ste. 3500, Hagerstown, MD 21740 on August 11, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
This hearing may be transferred or postponed to a subsequent time. Further information may be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills.

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. 83682
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Paul Edward Kunkleman, Jr.
Notice is given that Julie Lough, 10728 Connor Dr., Williamsport, MD 21795-3165 was on July 2, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Paul Edward Kunkleman, Jr. who died on June 17, 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 January, 2027.
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 January, 2027.

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.

Julie Lough
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd7-15-3th

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR
(OR)
BEFORE THE REGISTER
OF WILLS FOR
WASHINGTON COUNTY,
MARYLAND
IN THE ESTATE OF:
Maybell Grace Johnstn

Estate No: 83681
NOTICE OF JUDICIAL PROBATE
To all persons interested in the above estate:
You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed by Betty Lee Johnston, 1221 Horners Sawmill Rd., Gerrardstown, WV 25420-4277 for judicial probate of the will dated June 7, 2006 and for the appointment of a personal representative.
A hearing will be held at Washington County Orphans' Court, 100 W. Washington St., Ste. 3500, Hagerstown, MD 21740 on August 4, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
This hearing may be transferred or postponed to a subsequent time. Further information may be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR
(OR)
BEFORE THE REGISTER
OF WILLS FOR
WASHINGTON COUNTY,
MARYLAND
IN THE ESTATE OF:
Larry Vernon Schildtknecht

Estate No: 83561
NOTICE OF JUDICIAL PROBATE
To all persons interested in the above estate:
You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed by Gary Schildtknecht, 708 Northern Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742-2724 for judicial probate of the will dated and for the appointment of a personal representative.
A hearing will be held at Washington County Orphans' Court, 100 W. Washington St., Ste. 3500, Hagerstown, MD 21740 on August 4, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.
This hearing may be transferred or postponed to a subsequent time. Further information may be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills.

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. 83686
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Ruth McNeill.
Notice is given that Barbara McNeill Belz, 13410 Mercersburg Rd., Clear Spring, MD 21722-1349 was on July 2, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Ruth McNeill who died on February 28, 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 2nd day of January, 2027.

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 January, 2027.

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 McNeill Belz
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd7-15-3th

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

Estate No. 83638
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF William Eugene Tall, Jr.

Notice is given that Judith Ann Helton-Tall, 19005 Geeting Rd., Keedysville, MD 21765-1452 was on July 6, 2026 appointed personal representative of the small estate of William Eugene Tall, Jr. who died on December 30, 2025 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 shall file their objections with the Register of Wills within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. All persons having an objection to the probate of the will shall file their objections with the Register of Wills within six months after the date of publication of this notice.

All persons having claims against the decedent must serve their claims on the undersigned personal representative or file them 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) Thirty days 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 claims will be barred unless the creditor presents the claim within thirty days from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. Any claim not served or filed within that time, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter.

Julie Baker
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd7-15-1thn

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

Estate No. 83642
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Betty Jane Campbell.

Notice is given that Todd Campbell, 114 W. Antietam St., PO Box 19, Sharpsburg, MD 21782 was on July 6, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Betty Jane Campbell who died on June 15, 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 6th day of January, 2027.

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 6th day of January, 2027.

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.

Todd Campbell
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd7-15-3th

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

Estate No. 83666
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF George Edward Baker.

Notice is given that Julie Baker, 117 Crispin Ln., Falling Waters, WV 25419-3856 was on June 30, 2026 appointed personal representative of the small estate of George Edward Baker who died on March 6, 2025 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 shall file their objections with the Register of Wills within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. All persons having an objection to the probate of the will shall file their objections with the Register of Wills within six months after the date of publication of this notice.

All persons having claims against the decedent must serve their claims on the undersigned personal representative or file them 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) Thirty days 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 claims will be barred unless the creditor presents the claim within thirty days from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. Any claim not served or filed within that time, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter.

Julie Baker
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd7-15-1thn

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

Estate No. 82624
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Patricia Ann Firestein.

Notice is given that John Firestein, 236 Fairway Cir., Cross Junction, VA 22625-2018 was on July 2, 2026 appointed personal representative of the small estate of Patricia Ann Firestein who died on December 28, 2024 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 shall file their objections with the Register of Wills within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. All persons having an objection to the probate of the will shall file their objections with the Register of Wills within six months after the date of publication of this notice.

All persons having claims against the decedent must serve their claims on the undersigned personal representative or file them 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) Thirty days 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 claims will be barred unless the creditor presents the claim within thirty days from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. Any claim not served or filed within that time, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter.

John Firestein
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd7-15-1thn

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

Estate No. 83679
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Audry Louise Walton.

Notice is given that Kristina Frazier, 18309 Roy Croft Dr., Hagerstown, MD 21740-1662 was on July 1, 2026 appointed personal representative of the small estate of Audry Louise Walton who died on December 18, 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 shall file their objections with the Register of Wills within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. All persons having an objection to the probate of the will shall file their objections with the Register of Wills within six months after the date of publication of this notice.

All persons having claims against the decedent must serve their claims on the undersigned personal representative or file them 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) Thirty days 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 claims will be barred unless the creditor presents the claim within thirty days from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. Any claim not served or filed within that time, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter.

Kristina Frazier
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd7-15-1thn

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

Estate No. 83626
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Allen E. Calvert.

Notice is given that Kristy Malochee, 20515 Park Hall Rd., Rohersville, MD 21779-1027 was on July 2, 2026 appointed personal representative of the small estate of Allen E. Calvert who died on June 7, 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 shall file their objections with the Register of Wills within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. All persons having an objection to the probate of the will shall file their objections with the Register of Wills within six months after the date of publication of this notice.

All persons having claims against the decedent must serve their claims on the undersigned personal representative or file them 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) Thirty days 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 claims will be barred unless the creditor presents the claim within thirty days from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. Any claim not served or filed within that time, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter.

Kristy Malochee
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd7-15-1thn

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			9				4
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7		1			3	2	
							8

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.
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Maryland promoting county forestry board membership for public

The Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Forestry Foundation are urging Marylanders to join their local Forestry Boards following a statewide update to Maryland’s longstanding Forestry Board network.

Originally established under state law in 1943, Maryland’s Forestry Boards have helped connect communities to forest stewardship for more than 80 years. In spring 2026, DNR updated the Forest Conservancy District Board structure by organizing districts regionally rather than by county. The new regional structure strengthens coordination across shared landscapes and watersheds while preserving county Forestry Boards as the primary local connection for volunteers, landowners, and communities.

Under the updated structure, county boards are connected through four regional districts — Western, Central, Southern, and Eastern — while continuing the local, volunteer-driven work that has long defined Maryland’s Forestry Boards.

“Forests don’t stop at county lines,” said Maryland

State Forester Anne Hairston-Strang. “This transition strengthens collaboration across Maryland while keeping local communities at the center of forestry stewardship.”

County Forestry Boards remain active in every county and Baltimore City.

Volunteers help organize tree plantings, lead educational programs, support Arbor Day events, assist with Maryland’s Big Tree Program, sponsor students for the annual Natural Resources Career Camp, and promote responsible forest stewardship within their communities.

“Joining a Forestry Board is a great opportunity for people who care about forests, conservation, wildlife, agriculture, education, and community service,” said Emma Beck, field officer for the Maryland Forestry Foundation. “It’s meaningful local work, but it also connects volunteers to a broader statewide network of people committed to conserving Maryland’s forests.”

The updated structure is intended to reduce administrative burdens on

volunteers while improving coordination among county boards, the Maryland Forest Service, and the Maryland Forestry Foundation.

Regional boards now provide additional opportunities for county leaders to share resources, coordinate projects, and align local efforts with statewide conservation priorities. Regional Boards will be made up of chairpersons for county boards in addition to other at-large seats for county board members.

The Maryland Forestry Foundation, a nonprofit organization, serves as the umbrella organization supporting county Forestry Boards through shared resources, financial oversight, and volunteer support. The Maryland Forest Service, part of the state’s Department of Natural Resources, continues to provide professional forestry leadership, statutory oversight, and technical assistance.

Forestry Board membership is open to residents, landowners, forestry professionals, educators, students, and community members interested in conservation and natural resources. Individuals



interested in learning more are encouraged to visit the Maryland Forestry Foundation website to identify their local county Forestry Board, attend a meeting, and explore volunteer opportunities. Questions about Forestry Boards or the application process may also be directed to forestryboards.dnr@maryland.gov.

More than eight decades after their creation, Maryland’s Forestry Boards continue to serve as a bridge between communities and the forests that sustain them, helping shape healthier forests and stronger communities across the state.

History Matters

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

by Michael F. Bishop



The 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence



On July 4, 1826, the United States celebrated its first half-century of existence, while John Quincy Adams commemorated the simultaneous deaths of his father, President John Adams, and President Thomas Jefferson.

As the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson had been invited to the festivities in Washington, DC, but by June of that year, he was too ill to attend; he composed a letter from Monticello, which praised the significance of the document—and its importance to mankind—forevermore:

May it be to the world, what I believe it will be, (to some parts sooner, to others later, but finally to all), the signal of arousing men to burst the chains under which monkish ignorance and superstition had persuaded them to bind themselves, and to assume the blessings and security of self-government. All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man. The general spread of the light of science has already laid open to every view the palpable truth, that the mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few bootied and spurred, ready to ride them legitimately, by the grace of God. These are grounds of hope for others. For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them.

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends Pauline Maier’s *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence* (1997).

The Bicentennial of American Independence



On July 4, 1976, the United States celebrated its 200th anniversary with nationwide festivities—after a period of national reflection associated with the Vietnam War, Watergate, and a variety of economic difficulties in the 1970s.

Planning had begun years earlier under the umbrella of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. Communities of all sizes participated: cities hosted parades, historical reenactments, and fireworks displays. Philadelphia, site of the original signing, held massive events including a ceremonial ringing of the Liberty Bell. Operation Sail brought tall ships from around the world into New York Harbor, creating one of the most memorable spectacles of the era. The Smithsonian Institution opened major exhibitions, and “Bicentennial Minutes” aired on CBS, delivering daily historical vignettes to millions of television viewers.

The hoopla emphasized grassroots involvement. Cities and towns painted fire hydrants red, white, and blue; planted “Bicentennial trees,” and restored historic buildings. States issued commemorative coins, medals, and license plates. Culturally, it inspired everything from the renovation of Ellis Island to new public art and performances. Even NASA named its first space shuttle, Enterprise, in honor of the spirit of 1776.

The event advanced—and renewed—national pride. Attendance at national parks and historic sites ramped up. For many, it symbolized resilience and a young nation reminding itself of its founding ideals amid contemporary turmoil.

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends Lawrence R. Samuel’s *The American Bicentennial: A Cultural History* (2025).

Michael F. Bishop, a writer and historian, is the former executive director of the International Churchill Society and the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

Crush summer dining with that squash crop

Summer gardens are delivering their bounty around this time, and gardeners might be looking for new ways to prepare the produce they’re picking daily. Zucchini and yellow squash are among the big producers in local gardens. Below are recipes to turn these garden staples into main dish super stars.

Zucchini Lasagna
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 1 hour, 5 minutes

Ingredients
3 large zucchini
1 lb. ground beef, 93% lean
16 oz ricotta cheese, part skim
½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated
2 cups mozzarella cheese, part skim, shredded
24-ounce jar marinara sauce
½ cup onion, finely chopped
1 egg
1 tsp olive oil
2 tsp garlic, minced (or ½ tsp garlic powder)
½ tsp Italian seasoning
1 tbsp parsley, chopped (or 1 tsp dried)
Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions
Trim both ends off the zucchini.
Use a mandolin, wide-edge cheese grater, vegetable peeler, or knife to cut the zucchini into 1/8-inch slices. Sprinkle salt over the slices, then lay them out on paper towels to drain. Leave for at least 10 minutes.
Pat the tops of the zucchini slices with paper towels until dry (this will prevent the lasagna from being too watery).
While the zucchini is resting, prepare the sauce. Heat the olive oil in a large pan over medium heat.
Add the ground beef and season with salt and pepper to taste.
Cook for 5-6 minutes, breaking the meat up with a spatula, until beef is browned and cooked through.
Add the onion and cook for another 3-4 minutes or until

softened. Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds.
Add the marinara sauce and bring to a simmer; cook for 5 minutes.
Place the ricotta cheese, Italian seasoning, egg, parmesan cheese, salt and pepper in a bowl. Mix until well combined.
Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Coat a 2 or 3-quart baking dish with cooking spray or olive oil.
Place 1/4 of the sauce in the bottom of the dish. Add 1/3 of the zucchini slices on top. Spread 1/3 of the ricotta mixture over the zucchini then top with 1/3 of the mozzarella cheese. Repeat the layers, ending with the mozzarella cheese.
Cover and bake for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake for an additional 20 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley, then let stand for 5-7 minutes. Cut into slices, then serve.
Optional: Skip the ground beef for a vegetarian version or substitute ground turkey or Italian sausage.
Zucchini Pancakes
Prep Time: 40 minutes
Cook Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients
1 pound zucchini, shredded with cheese grater (about 2 cups packed after straining water)
½ cup red onion, chopped small
¼ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
2 eggs
½ cup whole wheat or almond flour (if using almond flour, use 1 extra egg)
2 tbsp olive oil
½ tsp salt
½ tsp pepper
Sour cream and extra red onion for topping

Instructions
Shred zucchini with a cheese grater into hash-brown-sized pieces. Combine zucchini and salt in a large bowl. Let stand 30 minutes. Place zucchini in strainer and press firmly to remove water.
Combine zucchini, red onion, Parmesan cheese, flour, egg, and pepper.



Heat 1 tsp olive oil in large skillet over medium heat. Using ¼ cup zucchini mixture per pancake, drop zucchini mixture onto hot skillet, leaving 2-3 inches between mounds. Flatten mounds to about ½ in thickness.
Cook 4 minutes until golden brown, carefully turning over once during cooking. This is delicious with sour cream and red onion, or Mediterranean-style with hummus and tzatziki sauce and shredded lettuce.
Crispy, Cheesy Squash Rounds
Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients
2 Summer Squash
1 tsp oil or cooking spray
¼ cup grated parmesan cheese
Pepper, or Montreal Chicken/Steak Seasoning, Adobo, Creole Seasoning, etc.

Pinch of salt (unless you are using a salted seasoning blend)

Instructions
Place an oven rack in the center position of the oven. Preheat to 425F. Line a baking sheet with tin foil or parchment paper with a little bit of oil or cooking spray.
Cut summer squash into ¼-inch rounds (you can also cut into wedges or chunks). Arrange them on the baking sheet with little-to-no space between them.
Sprinkle evenly with seasonings and grated parmesan cheese.
Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until cheese melts and turns a light golden brown. If you want to speed up the browning, you can use the broil setting on your oven for the last 3-4 minutes of cooking.

Source: Farm to you West Virginia (farmtoyouwv.org)

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

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BEDDOW'S Septic Service, Inc. 304-258-1527 or 304-671-1773. 10/3- tfh

YARD SALES

MULTIFAMILY yard sale on July 17 & 18, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. at 14003 & 14008 Orchard Ridge Rd, Hancock. Collectibles, baby and adult clothes, happy meal toys, vinyl records, tractor chains, rocking chairs, kitchenware, tools, kayak, lawn mower snow plow, seed spreader and much more. 7/15-1mh

MULTIFAMILY July 16 - 18, 8:30-4:30, 21 Vintage Tre'o Lane, Berkeley Springs. Glassware, housewares, holiday decorations, pocketknives, books, accent chairs, free TV's/entertainment center, DVDs, CDs, men's & women's clothing/shoes, dartboard, small wine cooler, decorative ceiling tiles, suitcases. pd7/15-1mh



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Tommy Raskin struggled with depression. His name is now a symbol of hope for those struggling with mental health. His legacy inspired the Thomas Bloom Raskin Act/211 Health Check. Tommy is the late son of Congressman Jamie Raskin, of Takoma Park and Maryland's 8th Congressional District.

For more information, scan or visit 211md.org.





July 12 - 18, 2026



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Look for ways to help a coworker who could use some help right now. You have the power to give them what they need right now, more so than others.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
This is a time for social outings and special dates, Aquarius. Figure out how to feel sensitive to the needs and feelings of loved ones as only you can do best.



PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
True generosity is giving what is needed, Pisces. Assist a relative as best as you can, even if that is simply serving as a sounding board.



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, now is the perfect time to socialize with others. Romance is in the air and you are going to go out of your way to treat someone special in the days to come.



TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, some people express their affection for others by buying them gifts. You have the ability to know just what a person needs at a given time and provide that to them.



GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, a pleasant week awaits you, and one this inspires your compassionate and tender side to come to the forefront. You may feel unselfish and spiritual, and relationships will be easy.



CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Your idealism is aroused this week. This is a time for you to become more involved with others, and you might find it rewarding to work with a charity.



LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
A friendship may turn romantic, Leo. You'll have to tread carefully depending on how you want to see things go. Listen to your emotions carefully in the days to come.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
This week you are compelled to use your influence to help someone directly or indirectly, Virgo. Figure out what you can do to affect change.



LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Expect to meet people under unique circumstances, Libra. You may engage with someone who needs your help or can teach you something new.



SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, enjoy spending time with friends and other groups because this is a feel-good time for you. If you feel affectionate toward someone, those feelings will become more passionate.



SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
People notice you more than usual, Sagittarius. This is an excellent time to enjoy the company of others, including, friends, your partner or spouse.



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How to Create Safer Spaces for Healthcare Workers

- Adhere to rules about visiting hours, appointment times, and behavior expectations.
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- Be aware that physical or verbal aggression disrupts healthcare workers' ability to provide care.
- If you witness violent behavior from another patient or visitor, report it to staff immediately.

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Keep planting through summer with succession planting plan

Succession planting allows you to maximize yield through strategic planting. Gardeners may plant early in the season with cool-season crops and as those crops are harvested, replace them with warm-season crops and return to cool-season crops again in the fall, so that the garden is continually in production. Another option involves planting smaller amounts of one crop, such as beans, every few weeks so that the harvest continues throughout the season. Alternatively, a gardener could plant different varieties of the same crop with different maturity dates, so each variety would ripen at staggered times throughout the season. Experienced gardeners may mix strategies from each of these options to maximize harvest with a variety of crops depending on their goals for the production season. An example would be planting early crops and replacing them as they are harvested, but also choosing to stagger plantings of a crop or

choosing to plant both early and late varieties of a crop.

Benefits of succession planting

Planting throughout the entire growing season maximizes the yield of a garden space while allowing production of both cool- and warm-season crops. Planning is essential to maintain a continuous supply of fresh vegetables; lay out the year's schedule and map the garden, if necessary. Adjust the plan next year if you would like to try something different. Some basic principles to follow:

Cool-season crops include beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, greens, kale, lettuce (check variety), peas, radishes, spinach, Irish potatoes and turnips. Some of these, such as many varieties of lettuce as peas, cannot tolerate heat. Most are "one and done" crops, meaning that the entire plant is removed at harvest, such as cabbage, carrots and beets. Those, such as peas, that continue to produce will

do so for a short period of a few weeks.

Warm season crops include beans, cantaloupe, corn, eggplant, peppers, squash, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and watermelon. These can be planted after the last expected frost date for your area.

When cool-season crops are harvested, plant warm-season crops; when warm-season crops are harvested, plant cool-season crops, if you desire to do so. (The exception to this is a short maturing crop, like radishes, which can mature in as little as 25 days, so you may get multiple crops in the cool season.)

If you are planting the same crop with a staggered harvest date, choose early, mid- and late maturing varieties of the same crop and plant at the same time. This works well with vegetables such as sweet corn, beans, tomatoes and cabbage.

If you prefer to plant smaller amounts of the same vegetable varieties, stagger plantings seven to 14 days

apart to spread the harvest out. As each set of plants finish production, a new set will start producing. This works well for crops such as cabbage, lettuce, onions, radishes and spinach

Variety is important; once temperature warms, some varieties cannot handle the heat of summer, while others are tolerant. Gardeners may desire to use space for a warm-season crop, such as summer squash, instead or use a heat-tolerant spinach, for instance.

Plant in July

Arugula
Basil
Snap beans
Beets
Broccoli
Brussels sprouts
Cabbage
Carrots
Cantaloupe
Cauliflower
Collards
Cucumbers
Fennel
Kohlrabi
Leeks
Lettuce
Green onions



Peppers
Pumpkins
Summer squash
Winter squash
Sweet corn
Swiss chard
Tomatoes
Turnips

Plant in August

Arugula
Snap beans
Beets
Carrots
Collards
Kohlrabi
Lettuce
Green onions

Summer squash
Swiss chard
Turnips

Plant in September

Arugula
Beets
Collards
Kale
Lettuce
Green onions
Radishes
Spinach
Swiss chard
Turnips

Information by Jodi Richmond, WVU Extension Agent – Mercer County.

Bluegrass at the Berkeley Springs State Park

The Morgan Arts Council (MAC) welcomes the community to another evening of free live music as the Saturday Concerts in the Park series continues on Saturday, July 18, with a performance by The Burnett Sisters Band. The concert begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Berkeley Springs State Park and is free and open to the public.

The Burnett Sisters Band is a Billboard-charting group that seamlessly blends old-time, bluegrass, swing, and folk into a sound that is both deeply rooted in tradition and refreshingly modern. Known for their award-winning musicianship, exceptional sibling harmonies, and energetic live performances, the band has captivated audiences on stages across the country and around the world. Their authentic sound and engaging stage presence promise an unforgettable evening for music lovers of all ages.

Guests are encouraged to take a lawn chair or picnic blanket.



The Saturday Concerts in the Park series has been a beloved Berkeley Springs tradition since 1987 and continues to bring nationally and regionally acclaimed musicians to the heart of the community each summer.

For more information about the Morgan Arts Council's 2026 MAC Summer Concert Series, go to the MAC website or follow the Morgan Arts Council on social media.

Join us for our next concert of the 2026 MAC Summer Concert Series at the Ice House on the Charlotte's Cafe Garden Stage with Rusted Blue on Friday, July 24; doors open at 6 p.m., and the music starts at 7 p.m., and the Eric Byrd Trio in the Berkeley Springs State Park on Saturday, July 25, at 5:30 p.m. For detailed information on the concert series and participating performers, go to macicehouse.org or call 304-258-2300.



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Phone: 1-800-811-8336
- DELEGATE TERRY BAKER (R)**
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Office: 323 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401
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- SENATOR MIKE MCKAY (R)**
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Annapolis Office: 416 James Senate Office Building
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PENNSYLVANIA

Both Houses of the Pennsylvania Assembly reconvene in January, and meet year-round, with intermittent breaks. Pennsylvania residents may call 1-717-787-2342 for information about bills pending before either House. Or, residents may contact the representative at the district office in their area at the following locations:

- GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO (D)**
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Phone: 717-787-2500 Text: 717-788-8990
Email: Governor@pa.gov
- CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOYCE (R)**
U.S. House of Representatives, 13th District
2102 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2431
- REPRESENTATIVE JESSE TOPPER (R)**
Fulton County, District 78
Bedford Office: 133 South Richard Street, Bedford, PA 15522
Phone: 814-623-9097 Fax: 814-623-6633
Email: jtopper@pahousegop.com
Capitol Office: 423 Main Capitol Bldg., P.O. Box 202078, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2078
Phone: 717-787-7076
- STATE SENATOR JUDY WARD (R)**
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Capitol Office: Senate Box 203030
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