

The Hancock News

Hancock, MD 21750

Established 1914 – Our 112th Year

Volume 113, Number 39

Hancock at a Glance

Blood drive

A blood drive will be held Thursday, October 1, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Presbyterian Faith Center in Warfordsburg.

Call 1-800-733-2767 for an appointment. Walk-ins are accepted when there is a lull between appointments.

Weather

Wed. 9/30 79/56 
Mostly sunny with light and variable winds and a high around 79.

Thurs. 8/30 84/58 
Mostly sunny with calm southwest winds around 5 mph, high of 84.

Fri. 10/2 84/57 
Mostly sunny with a high around 84 and a low near 57.

Sat. 10/3 68/55 
50% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy with a high near 68.

Sun. 10/4 65/49 
60% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy with a high near 65.

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Tri-State health centers reopen after temporary closure under federal direction

by Kate Shunney

Patients of Tri-State Community Health Centers in Berkeley Springs, W.Va.; Hancock and Cumberland, Md. and McConnellsburg, Pa. were not able to seek medical care at those centers for most of last week, as the clinics were closed under short notice because of administrative issues.

On Monday, two local clinics – one in Hancock and one in Berkeley Springs – were open for patient care.

Last Thursday, September 24, visits to the Berkeley Springs and Hancock center locations found the facilities locked and signs hanging on the doors.

In Berkeley Springs, the sign said, “Our Office is facing an organizational emergency and our doors will be closed until further notice. Sorry for the inconvenience.”

In Hancock, the sign said “Our Office will be closed today for an organizational emergency. Sorry for the inconvenience.”

A phone call to the administrative offices of Tri-State Community Health in Hancock seeking comment was

returned by the organization’s new interim CEO, David Olson.

Olson explained that Tri-State is a federally qualified health center (FQHC) that operates under federal rules and guidelines directed by the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA).

“We are dealing with some requirements from HRSA,” Olson said. Those issues have forced five clinic locations to shut down.

Olson said he couldn’t comment right now on what those requirements are affecting the clinic operations. Olson started the prior week as the interim CEO, he said.

He said about six months ago, HRSA “started to make changes about how they deal with issues” at health centers and Tri-State officials have been in regular touch with the federal agency to supply data and other required information.

“We’ve submitted information needed to get back open,” said Olson on Thursday.

As a federally-funded community health clinic,



Hancock’s Tri-State Community Health Center door on Thursday, September 24.

photo by Geoff Fox

Tri-State primarily serves individuals who have Medicaid health insurance for low-income or disabled people, and those who have no health insurance coverage at all. These are historically medically underserved populations.

Olson said he and his staff have been working with HRSA to reopen after the temporary closure.

Patients of the five clinics were contacted about the closure and their appointments were either resched-

uled or they were referred somewhere for more urgent matters, Olson said in response to questions about patient communications over the sudden closure.

“We’re trying to minimize the impact as much as possible,” he said last week. “The last thing we want is for our patients or the community to be negatively impacted.”

see **TRI-STATE REOPENS**
page 6

U.S. 522 bridge among poorest in Maryland

by Geoff Fox

There are 2,574 bridges in the Maryland State Highway System, 24 of which are rated as poor. One of those 24 is the U.S. 522 bridge connecting Maryland and West Virginia in Hancock.

The number of “poor” rated bridges decreased from 143 in 2005 to 20 in 2025, and then increasing slightly to 24 in 2026.

Of those 24 bridges, seven are in Washington County, six of which are along Interstate 70 in the Hagerstown area. The highway sees 62,680 vehicles each day. Only the I-70 ramp A over Beaver Creek sees less at 37,200.

The U.S. 522 bridge, built in 1937, sees 10,550 vehicles cross it each day.

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the bridge is under construction for minor rehabilitation.

Repairs to the concrete piers on the 522 bridge were completed this past July and addressed the poor rating for the substructure component, said SHA Spokesperson Charlie Gischlar.

In the coming weeks, he added, steel repair work will start to address the poor rating for the superstructure.

The main components of a bridge are deck, superstructure, and substructure which are rated on a scale of zero (closed to traffic) to nine (relatively new).

The deck of the bridge is the riding surface; the superstructure is the main supporting element of the deck, usually beams, girders, trusses, etc.; and the substructure supports to hold up the superstructure and deck, usually abutments and piers.



The U.S. 522 bridge in Hancock, shown on Monday, September 28, is on the list of “poor condition” bridges in the state of Maryland.

photo by Geoff Fox

Both the sub- and superstructure of the 522 bridge had earned a four. Gischlar said if any of the three components in the FHWA’s report were rated as a four or less, the bridge would be categorized as being in poor condition by federal regulations. They’ve both had that rating since an October 2023 inspection.

The bridge’s deck received a five.

“This does not mean that the bridge is unsafe,” Gischlar said. “If a bridge becomes unsafe, it will be closed to all traffic until repairs are completed, which will allow it to be reopened, or it will be posted for a weight the bridge can safely carry.”

He said the poor condition designation, which is a result of an in-depth, hands-on bridge inspection, is an early warning sign that engineers use to prioritize funding and to initiate preservation, rehabilitation, or begin the de-

sign process to replace a bridge.

When the steel repairs begin, they will be below the deck but require access equipment on the deck and a flagging operation to alternate traffic.

The repairs, Gischlar said, would be during daytime hours between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays to limit public impacts while allowing safe and visible access for the construction and inspection staff.

Gischlar said, weather permitting, the repairs are expected to be completed by mid-October 2026. Flagging equipment was put in place Tuesday, September 29.

Earlier this year, MDOT was asking for \$1.2 million from the Bridge Investment Program to prepare a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study for the bridge for a major rehabilitation effort.

When asked if there were

any updates on the study, Gischlar said there are no active studies to replace the bridge and just that a Bridge Improvement Grant application to perform the PEL study had been submitted.

Gischlar said SHA has among the lowest number of “Poor Rated” bridges in the nation, thanks to their aggressive Bridge System Preservation Program.

“This is thanks to the Moore-Miller Administration and the Maryland General Assembly’s funding increases to the Transportation Trust Fund over the past several years,” he said.

The other Washington County bridges are: east-bound I-70 over I-81, east-bound I-70 over U.S. 11 (Virginia Avenue), west-bound I-70 over U.S. 11 (Virginia Avenue), east-bound I-70 over MD 632 (Downsville Pike), west-bound I-70 over MD 632 (Downsville Pike), and I-70 Ramp A over Beaver Creek.

Maryland added 2,000 jobs amid monthly fluctuations



New employment estimates released September 18 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) suggest that Maryland added 2,000 jobs across July and August.

Survey estimates can be volatile from month to month, and in this case indicate employment fell by 8,200 jobs in August after rising by 10,200 jobs in July (revised down from a preliminary estimate of 11,700 jobs gained). Due to monthly volatility, reviewing estimates across both July and August shows a clearer picture of recent employment patterns, indicating steady growth. Across July and August combined, employment in Maryland grew at a rate of 0.1 percent, matching the national rate.

In total, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that Maryland added 20,100 total jobs in the first eight months of 2026 and grew at a 0.7 percent rate, which outpaces the national employment growth rate of 0.4 percent for that same period.

Bureau of Labor Statistics further estimates that Maryland’s unemployment rate fell slightly to 4.1 percent, matching the national average. Maryland’s labor force participation rate fell slightly to 63.7 percent, but remains well above the national average of 61.6 percent.

The five sectors with the largest estimated employment gains across both July and August were: Accommodation and Food Services (4,000 jobs); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,800 jobs); Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (1,500 jobs); Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation (900 jobs); and Government (600 jobs).

The six sectors with the largest estimated employment losses across both July and August were: Construction (-2,900 jobs); Private Educational Services (-1,400 jobs); Health Care and Social Assistance (-800 jobs); Retail Trade (-800 jobs); Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (-700 jobs); and Other Services (-700 jobs).

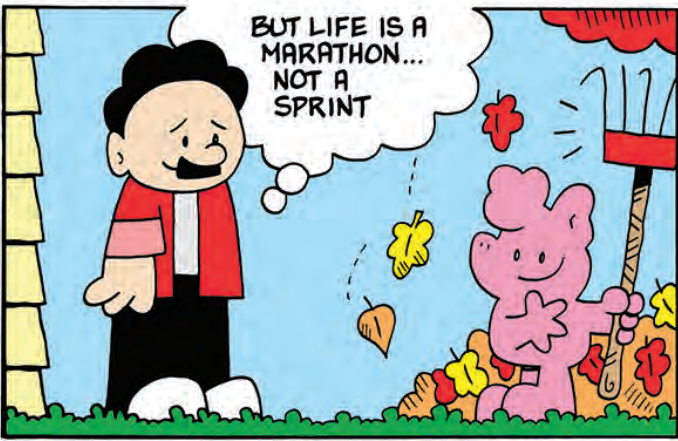
Note: Data is transferred to the Maryland Department of Labor’s website directly from BLS servers. Our database may be refreshed with a brief lag. For more immediate access to this month’s jobs data, please visit the BLS website. Visit the Maryland Department of Labor’s website to view the current employment situation.

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OPINIONS

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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EARTH TALK



Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk:
How do zoning and development codes affect wildlife?
—B.L., via email

Suburban and urban developments continue to push outward into natural landscapes, raising critical questions: How do our zoning laws and development codes impact wildlife? Not just mere paperwork, land-use planning is the foundation on which regional biodiversity either survives or collapses. Instead of relying solely on sprawling subdivision designs that fragment natural habitat, many planners are turning to smart zoning tools, environmental overlay districts and preservation regulations.

One of the most distinctions is how local authorities enforce their goals. Municipalities typically rely on master plans as guiding visions, but development codes provide the legal rules. As Michigan State U. Extension researchers explain in their guidelines, "...local governments utilize plans as guiding documents and zoning as the legally enforceable component." When communities integrate ecosystem services into these frameworks, they create structured protections for local wildlife.

The physical design of a community has a profound, measurable effect on animal populations. A comprehensive, decade-long study tracking wildlife dynamics in the Puget Sound lowlands demonstrated that sensitive species, such as the Wilson's warbler and Swainson's thrush, are acutely affected by how residential and commercial layouts are built. Rather than treating all construction as entirely destructive, researchers found that preserving native vegetation and tree cover between homes drastically changes animal survival rates. Commenting on these long-term trends, senior author John Marzluff, a professor emeritus of environmental and forest sciences at the University of Washington, noted in a university report on the findings: "This work shows that birds care how land is developed, which gives developers a choice during the planning process. There are trade-offs between developments designed for humans and those designed with the ecosystem in mind, but balancing the two can benefit both."

To achieve this balance, modern municipal codes use specific regulatory tools. Environmental ordinances, wetlands protections, stormwater management and riparian buffer requirements help shield critical corridors from disruptive construction. And site-plan reviews, overlay districts and large-lot preservations let local planners to prevent severe habitat fragmentation. For example, large-lot zoning in rural areas helps maintain continuous tracts of unfragmented forest and open space, giving wide-ranging mammals and forest-dwelling birds the room they need. Ultimately, zoning codes are powerful. When thoughtfully crafted, they bridge the gap between human infrastructure growth and the protection of vulnerable species, ensuring that community expansion does not come at the absolute expense of local wildlife.

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

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No more than two letters from any individual will be printed in a four-week period.

Letters are subject to editing. Letters longer than 400 words will not be published. Nor will letters that are libelous, too personal or not of general interest to the public.

Letters are a way for citizens to comment on current issues. They are not meant to provide anyone with a platform to write again and again about their philosophy, group or business.

Thank you notes and political endorsements are considered advertising. Form letters are often discarded.

The Hancock News

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ACROSS

- “Wicker Man” actor Nic
- Protection
- Cloth worn over a shoulder
- Ceramic jars
- Midway between north-east and east
- South American hummingbird
- Platforms
- Taxi
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- A citizen of Yemen
- Military mailbox
- Nuclear near reach weapon
- Clears
- Broken
- Actress Lathan
- Avid fan
- One and only
- Proceeding
- River in Portugal and Spain
- Doctor of Education
- Defeat handily
- Less complicated
- Handyman tools
- Written works
- Castle dweller’s safety net
- Honorable title (Turkish)
- Greatest
- Can do
- A place to sleep on the road
- Member of U.S. Navy
- 24-hour units of time
- Actor Horsley
- In a way, sounds off
- Formerly (archaic)
- Eye infection
- Plundered

DOWN

- William __, Buffalo Bill
- Wings
- Candle or lantern
- Freedom from difficulty
- A type of pie
- Metrical foot
- __ Kerr, actress
- Nap
- Popular singer Bocelli
- Immune responses
- “Mad Men” leading man
- A citizen of Senegal
- Philly basketball player
- Not even
- Measures wind speed
- Insecticide
- Jordan glided through it
- Bird-like dinosaur genus
- Expression of satisfaction
- Big Blue
- One point east (clockwise) of due north
- Of she
- Oral rehydration solution
- Knocks off course
- Popular cop show of yesteryear
- Zhou dynasty state
- Genus of gulls
- Onion flatbreads
- Declare as true
- Of a lobe
- Missouri county
- Produced
- Volcanic crater
- Off-Broadway theater award
- KU hoops coach Bill
- Check for

The Hancock News

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Calendar of Events OCTOBER

Saturday, October 3
– Hancock Museum
open 9-11:30 a.m.,
basement of Town Hall

Sunday, October 4
– Hancock Museum
open 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.,
basement of Town Hall

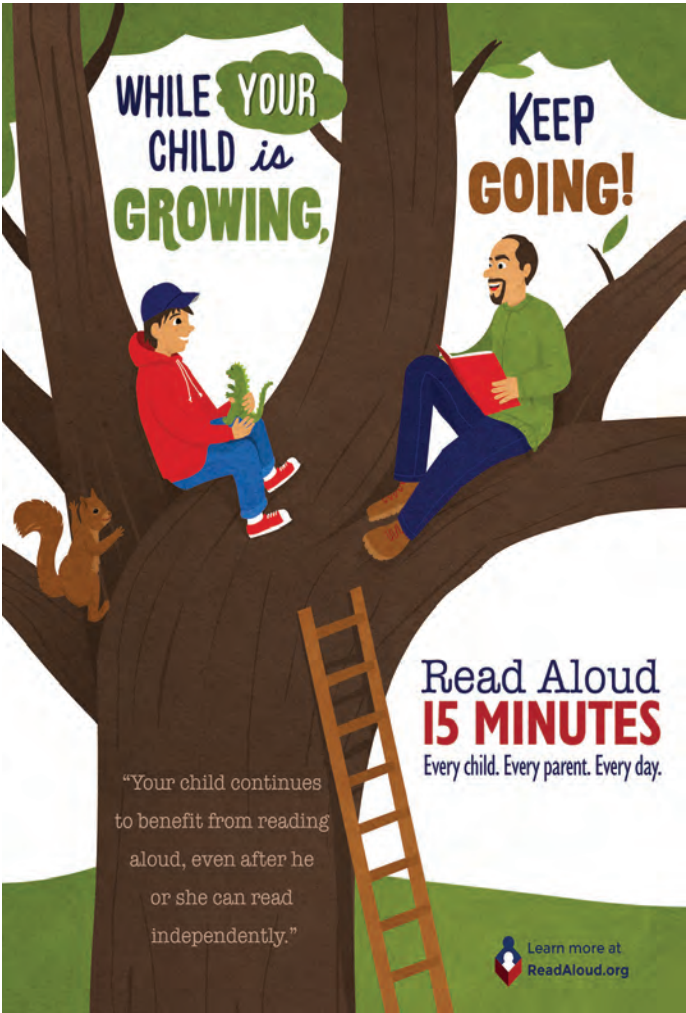
Tuesday, October 6
– Hancock Rotary Club
meeting, Hancock
American Legion,
12:30 p.m.

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@hancocknews.us

Letters To The Editor
over 400 words
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Hancock
Police Report
301-678-5633



Hancock Police report
the following arrests and
incidents from the week of
September 21-27:

September 21
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. One stop.
Vehicle alarm, 200 block Maryland Avenue. Accidental.

September 22
911 hang-up, 100 block Pennsylvania Avenue. Unfounded.
911 hang-up, 200 block West Main Street. Unfounded.
Alarm, 200 block Pennsylvania Avenue. Accidental by a mouse.

Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. One stop.
Summons service, West Main Street. Summons served on Curtis Ray of Hancock.

Property damage accident, Widmeyer Park. Report to follow.
Emergency commitment, Widmeyer Park. Subject transported to hospital.

September 23
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. One stop.
Theft reported, first block West High Street. Report to follow.

Property damage accident, first block Blue Hill Road. Information exchanged.

Suspicious person, first block Grove Circle. Unable to locate subjects.

Theft reported, 100 block West High Street. Report to follow.

Suspicious person, 100 block West Main Street. Subject checked and moved along.

September 24
911 hang-up, first block Taliaferro Street. Unfounded.
Service to advise, 100 block West High Street. Subject advised.

Suspicious person, 200 block Fulton Street. Checked okay.

Property damage accident, 200 block Baptist Road. Information exchanged.

Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. One stop.

Trespassing, Dale Street. Subject issued trespass notice.

Assisted National Park Service, Berm Road/Rt. 522. Subject checked okay.

September 25
Assault in progress, 200 block Myers Street. Joseph Shaun Cockran, 44, of Hancock, was arrested.

Service to advise, Hancock area. Subject advised.

Check well-being, 100 block West Main Street. Subject checked okay.

Service to advise, first block East Main Street. Subject advised.

Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. One stop.

September 26
Traffic enforcement, Hancock area. Nine stops.

DUI, 400 block East Main Street. Tarkan Ozgun, 59, of Fort Washington, Md., arrested for DUI.

Service to advise, 200 block East Main Street. Subject advised.

September 27
Disorderly conduct, 100 block Limestone Road. No police assistance needed.

Disorderly conduct, 200 block Myers Street. All subjects advised.

Service to advise, 100 block West High Street. Subject advised.

Theft reported, 200 block Fulton Street. Bicycle stolen. Information taken.

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Hagerstown man sentenced for sexually
exploiting Ecuadorian minors

by Geoff Fox

A Hagerstown man was sentenced to 138 months in federal prison last Wednesday, September 23, by a federal judge for sexually exploiting minor victims living in South America.

U.S. District Judge Brendan A. Hurson sentenced William Foster Alger, 76, of Hagerstown to the 138 months in federal prison that will be followed by lifetime supervised release, for coercion and enticement of a child, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

Alger was indicted by a federal grand jury on child sex-abuse charges in February 2025 and pled guilty to the child-sex abuse charges in March of this year.

Kelly O. Hayes, U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced the sentence along with Special Agent in Charge Akil Baldwin, Homeland Security In-

vestigations- Maryland; Colonel Paul Joey Kifer, Police Chief of the Hagerstown Police Department; and Gina Cirincion, State's Attorney for Washington County.

According to court documents, between November 2023 and December 2024, Alger used mobile phones and online applications to persuade, induce, entice, and coerce three minor victims to engage in sexual activity.

Alger paid the victims' mothers, through Western Union payments, to send him images of the minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

The victims, officials said, were between 6 to 16 at the time of exploitation and living in Ecuador where Alger traveled to frequently.

Eventually, Alger purchased land in Ecuador and built a residence there.

Officials said Alger's iCloud account included nu-

merous photos of him at that residence with minor victims and their mothers.

According to online court documents, Alger was charged with 10 counts of possession of child pornography, one count of child pornography soliciting subject, and one count child pornography permit sex subject

The case was part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

U.S. Attorney Hayes commended HIS, HPD, and the Washington County State's Attorney's Office for their work in the investigation while also thanking Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul E. Budlow who prosecuted the federal case.

Open mic
night

BlackCat Music Shop's Free Open Mic Night Friday, October 2 from 7-10 p.m.

This monthly event is open to all musicians, singers and songwriters. Show up, sign up, play or listen.

All ages are welcome. BlackCat Music is located at 155 Independence Street, Berkeley Springs.

For more information call 304-258-4440.

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Board of County Commissioners appoint new
Division Director of Environmental Management

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners announced the appointment of David A. Mason, P.E., as the new Division Director of Environmental Management for Washington County. Mason brings more than two decades of experience with Washington County Government, along with extensive expertise in engineering, environmental management, and solid waste operations, to his new role.

Mason began his career with Washington County Government in October 2004, joining the Engineering Department as a Civil Engineer. In 2007, he transitioned to the Department of Water Quality, where he served as the Environmental Engineer. In 2014, Mason became Deputy Director of Environmental Management within the Department of Solid Waste, a position in which he has continued to develop his expertise in environmental programs and county operations.

Throughout his tenure with Washington County, Mason



David Mason

has progressed through increasingly responsible roles, gaining a broad understanding of the County's engineering, environmental, and solid waste operations. His experience working across multiple departments has provided him with a comprehensive perspective on the County's environmental programs and the importance of responsible resource management.

Prior to joining Washington County Government, Mason worked for two consulting engineering firms as a Structural and Transportation Engineer. He began his engineering career after moving to Washington County in

1996 from Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Mason graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in 1996 with a degree in Civil Engineering Technology. He is a member of the Maryland Recycling Network and the County Engineers Association of Maryland, where he previously served as a member of the Board of Directors.

In his new role as Division Director of Environmental Management, Mason will provide leadership and oversight for the County's environmental management operations and initiatives. His extensive experience within Washington County Government and background in engineering, water quality, and solid waste management will support the continued advancement of the County's environmental programs and services.

Mason currently resides in Falling Waters, W.Va., with his wife, Ann. They have two daughters and one grandson.

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Halloween—Inspiring or Dark—Decorations:
How to Respond...

Halloween, the word, comes from ancient Scottish, and means, All Hallows Eve—the night before All Saints, which is, now, Nov. 1. Thus: The night began as Light, and now, is kinda’ fright. As Christians and Catholics, we are called to counter-witness to the world (Rm. 12:2) –remember MLK and Dorothy Day & all who protested and proclaimed?

So, I’ve been thinkin’ about folks who celebrate spooks, goblins, witches and alien aspects of Halloween, with some reflections and responses...

1-Invite to the Light—show them saints, beauty, life of Jesus Mary and Joseph –the True Sources of Halloween—(see above, below).

2-Display Light and grace around home, workplace, neighborhood –like candles, saints, flying angels and worshipping ones; and shimmering haloes and nimbuses (look up online).

3-Recount the history of Halloween / Samhain –was once an Irish pagan “holiday” and then Catholics in Ireland –evangelized with All Saints celebration-now on Nov.1,-thus giving rise of All hallow’s eve. Upshot: Replace darkness with His Light. And, P.S., we are light, too! (Cf. Jn. 8:12 Mt. 5: 14—from God Himself)

4-How to respond if they say: “Oh, we’re just having’ some fun -Ghouls and ghosts...” So, say: How about, rather, having & sharing some fun celebrating saints ? Do you really wanna’ support “pagan portals” —especially for children? So: Promote + preserve life: “The Light shines in darkness and darkness has not overcometh it” (Jn. 1:5).

5-Realize some people are just into “gore and more”: Pray for them—send them God’s Love. We should realize there are more folks today, with more pervasive Internet and bad influences around these days, who are falling prey to evil and Darkness: intercede for these: “For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves” (Col. 1:13).

6-Ask, if person is open: Do you think gore and daggers and blood are attractive and helpful in our modern, stressed already-violent culture? Instead...

7—Introduce & invite folks to Seasonal -Harvest Parties, or kids dressing as saints, or putting Gospel messages in with candy; celebrate Trunk or Treat parties safely, serenely. Share the Gospel—Good News—with others...“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.” – 2 Timothy 1:7

Rev. John J. Lombardi is Pastor of St. Peter-St. Patrick Catholic Church

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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 Stottlemeyer.

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 1 p.m. Wednesday Bible study 7 p.m. Thursday couples class 6 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 9 a.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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	TRADITIONAL FUNERALS CREMATIONS PRE-ARRANGEMENTS Helsley-Johnson Funeral Home & Cremation Center 95 Union Street • Berkeley Springs, W.Va. 304-258-1015 ON SITE CREMATORY DIRECTORS: Douglas C. Sensel, L.I.C. & Ellen Sensel
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	Ancient wisdom for modern life <i>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.</i> <i>John 20:20 (KJV)</i> 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.
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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.

OBITUARIES

Geraldine Balko 1931-2026

In loving memory of Geraldine Balko (nee Younker), 95, of Cooper City, Fla., formerly of Long Grove, Ill., who passed away on September 20, 2026.

The loving mother of Beverly (Michael) Ross, Sharyn (David) Swisher, the late Bruce S. Balko, David (Alina) Balko and Michael (Amy) Balko; dear grandmother of Daniel, Stephen and Hali Ross, Clay, Nick and Erik Balko and Kristin and Corey Balko; dear great-grandmother of Bryan and Jake Ross, Astrid and Iris Ross and Levi Balko.

Our Mom, Gerri, was the heart of our family. She was known for her kindness and warm smile and was always there to help and cheer us on.

Rest in peace, Mom, you will be loved forever.



Glenda (Marlene) Barnhart 1939-2026

Glenda "Marlene" Barnhart, 86, of Warfordsburg, Pa., passed away on Sunday, September 27, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Born Saturday, October 28, 1939, in Little Orleans, Md., she was the daughter of the late Marvin and Dorothy DeShong Golden.

Marlene graduated as the Valedictorian from Flintstone High School, Class of 1957. She ran the family business, Barnhart's General Store, for over forty years. Marlene was best known as being a shelter and a safe place for everyone. She was the embodiment of generosity and shared her Christ-like love with everyone she encountered.

She was a member of the Hancock Assembly of God. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, and loved her dogs. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family.

Marlene is survived by one son, James R. Barnhart, Jr. and wife Tracy of Clear Spring, Md.; one daughter, Kimberly D. Barnhart-Hulock and husband Steven of Chambersburg, Pa.; four grandchildren, Ty "Bo" Divelbliss, Alexandra Barnhart, Christian Barnhart and Elijah Barnhart; four great-grandchildren, Hank Divelbliss, Isabella Divelbliss, Minnie Barnhart, and Callum Barnhart; and two brothers, Leslie Golden and Maple Golden.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her loving husband, James Barnhart, Sr.; one infant daughter; one grandson, Timothy Divelbliss; one sister, Carol "Hope" Ritz; and one brother, Thomas Golden.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at 11 a.m., at Hancock Assembly of God, 431 N Pennsylvania Ave., Hancock, MD 21750. Pastor Delmas Bard will officiate.

Arrangements were entrusted to Grove-Rogowski Funeral Home, 141 W Main St, Hancock, MD 21750.

Online condolences can be expressed to the family at www.grfuneralhome.net.



Bird walks offered in October

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

C&O Canal Towpath at Town Creek Aqueduct Wednesday, October 7 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Join JP Miller and Kris Phillips for a bird walk along the C&O Canal starting and ending at the Town Creek Aqueduct. This area is nestled between the Potomac River and Green Ridge State Forest, making it ripe for some great birding. We will look and listen for birds along and in the canal next to the trail. Some species we may observe include Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Common Raven, and Eastern Towhee. Anyone with an interest is welcome to come along, regardless of their birding skills. 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 10 participants, and can be found at www.potomacaudubon.org/event/bird-walk-on-the-co-canal-towpath-at-town-creek-aqueduct/.

Rolling Ridge Conservancy, 138 Tupelo Lane, Harpers Ferry, W.Va. October 13 from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Join birders Bill Telfair and 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 Telfair and DeGraf as they explore some of the 1,500 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-28/.

Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve, 4069 Back Creek Valley Rd., Hedgesville, W.Va. Saturday, October 24 from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Anyone with an interest is welcome to come along, regardless of their birding skills. Join PVAS for a bird walk at Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve in Back Creek

Valley, west of 81. This 46-acre PVAS nature preserve features a wetland restored through the USDA's Wetland Reserve Program and is a paradise for migrating and nesting waterfowl. The property features easy, mowed trails with interpretive signs, two overlooks for waterfowl viewing, and even a pollinator meadow. 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 10 participants, and can be found at www.potomacaudubon.org/event/bird-walk-at-stauffers-marsh-nature-preserve-3/.

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

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Maryland issues Emotional Support Animal Guidance following change in federal fair housing enforcement

In response to recent enforcement guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR) last week issued new guidance clarifying the rights and responsibilities of Maryland residents and housing providers regarding emotional support animals.

On May 22, HUD announced a significant change in federal enforcement priorities for animal-related reasonable accommodation complaints.

Under the new policy, HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity will generally find reasonable cause and recommend charges only in cases involving animals individually trained to provide disability-related assistance.

"MCCR is issuing its guidance to make one point unmistakably clear: a change in federal enforcement policy does not eliminate protections provided under Maryland law," said state officials.

The Maryland Fair Housing Act requires housing providers to make reasonable accommodations when necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to use a dwelling.

Under MCCR's interpretation and enforcement of Maryland law, such an accommodation may include an emotional support animal, even when the animal has not been individually trained to perform a specific task.

"Federal enforcement pri-



orities may change, but Maryland's commitment to protecting the civil rights of people with disabilities has not," said MCCR Executive Director Cleveland L. Horton II. "Marylanders deserve to know where they stand. Our message is simple: Maryland law matters, Maryland protections remain, and this Commission will continue to enforce the law entrusted to us."

MCCR's guidance provides practical information for tenants, housing providers, property managers, real estate professionals, and advocates, including how emotional support animal requests should be evaluated, permissible documentation, fees and deposits, breed restrictions, direct-threat determinations, and the obligation to engage in an individualized assessment.

The guidance makes clear that housing providers may not simply adopt blanket policies rejecting emotional support animals. The guidance document can be found at <https://mccr.maryland.gov/media/179>.

MCCR will continue to evaluate accommodation requests based on their individual circumstances and the requirements of Maryland law.

"This is precisely why state civil rights enforcement matters. When the landscape changes around us, we cannot allow confusion to become a barrier to justice. We have a responsibility to educate people about their rights, provide clarity to those who must comply with the law, and stand in the gap when protections are threatened or uncertain," said Horton. "Marylanders should never have to guess whether their civil rights still matter. They do—and MCCR will continue to show up to protect them."

The Commission encourages Maryland tenants, housing providers, real estate professionals, and advocates to review the new guidance and understand their rights and responsibilities under Maryland law.

Tri-State reopens

(from front)

According to comments made on social media, some patients of Tri-State had been having trouble getting their medications through the clinics for weeks due to a disconnect between the clinics and patient insurance providers.

A staff member at Tri-State's administrative office said she couldn't comment on whether the longtime CEO Susan Walther was still with the organization.

"Part of my job will be to help Tri-State find a permanent CEO," Olson told The Messenger.

Tri-State Community Health Center was incorporated in 1987 as a non-profit organization to provide primary healthcare services in the region.

According to HRSA data-



Tri-State's primary care clinic in Berkeley Springs. photo by Kate Shunney

bases, Tri-State Community Health served 16,085 patients in 2025. Of those, 70.8% are patients with income at or below 200% of the federal

poverty guideline. The clinic served 2,123 children under the age of 18, plus 10,795 adults aged 19 to 64 and 3,167 older adults.

Nature Journaling - Color, Change, and Letting Go

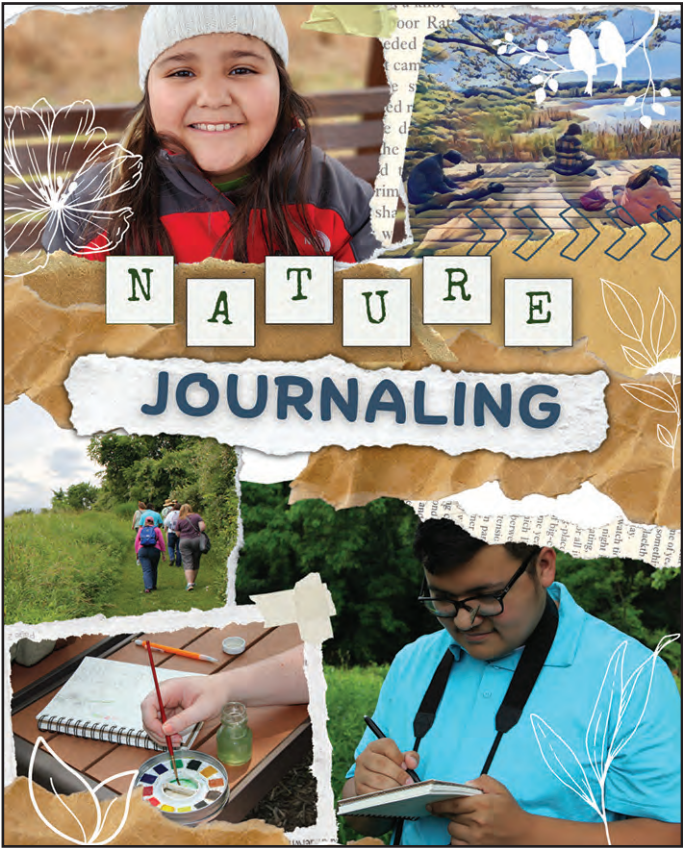
Potomac Valley Audubon Society will host Nature Journaling - Color, Change, and Letting Go on Saturday, October 10 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Poor House Farm Park, Poor House Rd., Martinsburg, W.Va.

October welcome us to slow down and notice transformation. Journal vivid fall colors, shifting textures, falling leaves, and the graceful process of letting go as the landscape prepares for winter.

This event is free and open to the public. All ages are welcome, though youth must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required and limited to 12 participants.

For additional details and to register, go to www.potomacaudubon.org/event/nature-journaling-at-poor-house-farm-park-color-change-and-letting-go/.

For more information, contact PVAS Staff at info@potomacaudubon.org or 681-252-1387.



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

People Told Us...

—DAD JOKED: What do you call an athletic pumpkin? A jock o'lantern.

—Fall Fire Season begins on October 1. Obey state fire rules and be careful when you burn.

—The official flower for October is Calendula, also known as the pot marigold. The name comes from the ancient Roman idea that the plant would flower on the first day of the month, or "calends." Calendula has been used since ancient times to treat snake bites, wounds and other ailments.

—OLD FIREWOOD LORE: A tree that has been hit by lightning won't produce much heat when you cut it up and burn it.

—The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is free and confidential for people in distress. Dial 988 to reach help.

—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.

—Tell our advertisers you read about them in The Hancock News.

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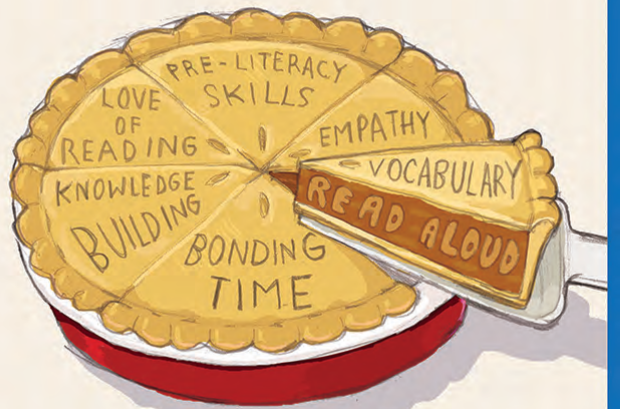
* SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: This is not an alternative to cigarettes. Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, and may Complicate Pregnancy.

We appreciate all the kind words and congratulations sent our way for the "Business of the Year" Award and a special thanks for nominating my mom "Nan" Betty Hovermale and Cindy Hovermale for the Morgan County Morganite Award.

Thanks For Your Continued Support of our Mom-Pop's Store for 61 Years

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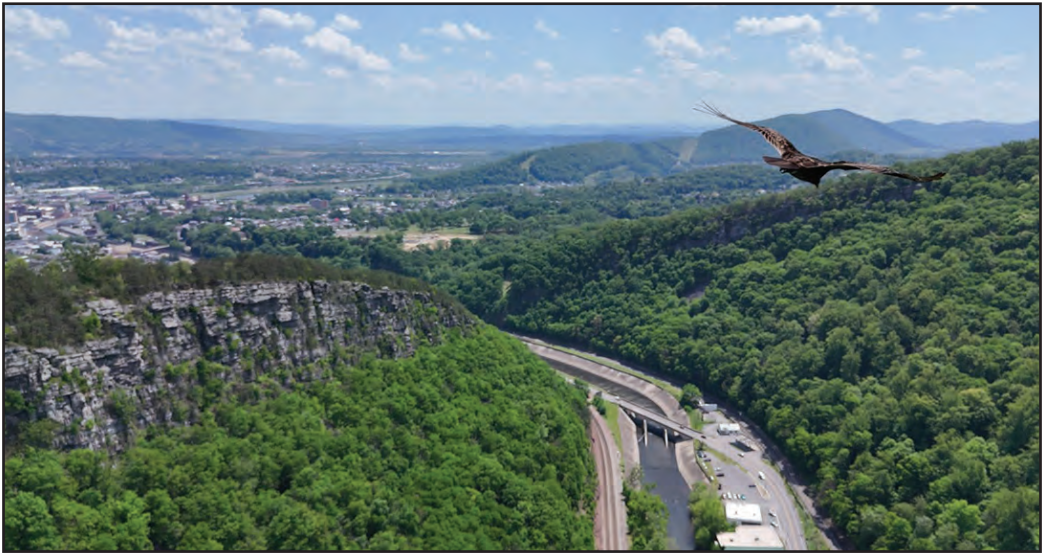
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Wills Mountain State Park taking shape with added acreage, design grant for public access

from the Maryland DNR
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has secured grant funding through a partnership with Frostburg State University that advances the development and opening of Wills Mountain State Park in Allegany County.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), an economic development agency of the federal government and 13 state governments, recently approved a grant of \$521,684 to Frostburg State University for the Wills Mountain State Park Comprehensive Planning Initiative project. With ARC’s investment, Frostburg State University, through its Frostburg Outdoor Recreation Economy Institute (FOREI), will work in partnership with DNR and the Maryland Park Service to complete the planning activities that will guide the development of Wills Mountain State Park for public access.

On Thursday, the department hosted a community gathering and stewardship celebration atop Wills Mountain in Cumberland to provide an update to local officials and other guests about the latest plans and funding for the park. The department also announced the purchase of an additional



Drone image from the top of Wills Mountain, courtesy of the Maryland DNR.

195-acre forested property along the ridge and eastern slopes of Wills Mountain, which will be added to the park.

Preserving Wills Mountain for public use has been an effort 60 years in the making. The state purchased the first 51.69-acre parcel in 1966. Wills Mountain officially became a state park in 1998, when the Maryland Department of Natural Resources purchased about 305 of the current 823.38 acres.

Despite its designation as a state park, Wills Mountain has remained closed to the public for more than two decades because there has been no suitable location to construct an access road. The park is situated almost entirely along the mountain’s ridge and surrounded by private property.

To provide that access, DNR purchased the 48-acre site of the former Artmor Plastics plant in March 2024, adjacent to the park. The property includes an existing road up the mountain that, once repaired, will eventually enable the state to open Wills Mountain State Park to the public.

“For so many families, climbers, hikers, and residents of Allegany County, Wills Mountain is part of their personal and cultural history,” said Maryland Park Service Director Angela Crenshaw. “Today, we begin restoring that connection, carefully and deliberately.”

With a path toward public access now established, DNR is advancing the infrastructure improvements and resource protection efforts needed to prepare the park for visitors.

DNR’s Engineering and Construction team has taken steps to stabilize the road infrastructure to allow access for ongoing and upcoming planning and construction projects. DNR is working in partnership with the Maryland Environmental Service and the Maryland Department of the Environment to determine the extent of hazardous material remediation at the Artmor site. Once the

necessary remediation is complete, DNR will begin demolition of the former plastics plant and develop the Artmor site to create parking and visitor services.

At the same time, protecting the mountain’s ecological resources remains central to the park’s development. DNR’s Wildlife and Heritage Service biologists have conducted extensive studies to document the plant and animal communities on the mountain and identify measures to protect their habitats. The sustainable management of Wills Mountain State Park will require carefully balancing public service and resource stewardship goals.

Wills Mountain is named after a prominent 18th-century Native American man named Will, and stands as a reminder that the story of westward expansion and early settlement rests upon much older Indigenous pathways. The park will also honor Shawnee and other Indigenous Peoples who used this area for movement, trade, and diplomacy and who continue to maintain relationships with the lands.

In the late 1800s and 1900s, the mountaintop was home to a hotel and tavern, then a textile plant, and most recently the Artmor Plastics plant that closed in 2013.

Wills Mountain State Park will be managed as part of the Rocky Gap State Park complex.



Maryland State Senator Mike McKay, DNR Secretary Josh Kurtz, DNR Capital Projects Director Eric Leudtke, Director of the Maryland Park Service Angela Crenshaw, Allegany Tourism Director Ashli Workman, and Frostburg University's Jeff Simcoe at Wills Mountain State Park in Cumberland. Maryland DNR photo

League bowling scores

Bowling scores for the Monday Tri-State Mixed on September 14:

High scratch game: Mike’s Scrap Metal 547, Old Vets 512 and Let’s Roll 486.

High scratch series: Mike’s Scrap Metal 1,495, Old Vets 1,472 and Let’s Roll 1,433.

High scratch game men: Jeremy Breeden 235, Don Itjen 203 and Bob Clark 203. Women: Deloris Stotler 176, Susie King 174 and Dee Thomas 167.

High scratch series men: Jeremy Breeden 615, Don Itjen 589 and Bob Clark 541. Women: Susie King 484, Deloris Stotler 478 and Dee Thomas 467.

High average men: Jeremy Breeden 205, Don Itjen 196 and Bob Clark 180. Women: Susie King 161, Deloris Stotler 159 and Dee Thomas 155.

Standings: Let’s Roll 4-0, Get-R-Done 3-1, Mike’s Scrap Metal 3-1, Aces 1-3, Lucky Strikes 1-3 and Old Vets 0-4.

Bowling scores for the Thursday Starlight Mixed on September 17:



High scratch game: Roy’s 534, Beauty & Beasts 533 and C.J.’s Bar & Grill 486.

High scratch series: Beauty & Beasts 1,483, Roy’s 1,416 and C.J.’s Bar & Grill 1,397.

High scratch game men: Jack Wachter 243, Dennis Neely 212 and John DuVall 210. Women: Betty McCauley 171, Deloris Stotler 168 and Rhonda Kratochvil 161.

High scratch series men: John DuVall 556, Jack Wachter 551 and Dennis Neely 544. Women: Deloris Stotler 484, Betty McCauley 443 and Rhonda Kratochvil 430.

Standings: Roy’s 6-2, C.J.’s Bar & Grill 5-3, Wanna B’s 4-4, Beauty & Beasts 4-4, The Great Escape 4-4 and It’s Show Time 1-7.

Dean’s List

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

More than 12,900 University of Maryland Global Campus students were named to the Dean's List for the summer 2026 term. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

Hancock - Tabitha Bruchey, Cara Trail and Jacob Zirkle.

THE PERFECT TIME IS...NOW

Learn more at ReadAloud.org

Read Aloud 15 MINUTES Every child. Every parent. Every day.

Panther’s Den

VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	W/L	SCORE
Sept. 9	Forbes Road	6 p.m.	W	3-0
Sept. 14	at Berkeley Springs (JV/V)	5:30 p.m.	L	0-3
Sept. 17	Paw Paw	5:30 p.m.	W	3-0
Sept. 22	Lighthouse Christian (JV/V)	5:30 p.m.		
Sept. 23	Southern Fulton (JV/V)	6 p.m.		
Sept. 26	at St. James Tournament	10 a.m.		
Sept. 28	Faith Christian (JV/V)	5:30 p.m.		
Sept. 29	at McConnellsburg (JV/V)	6 p.m.		
Oct. 1	at Paw Paw	6 p.m.		
Oct. 5	at Faith Christian (JV/V)	6 p.m.		
Oct. 7	Allegany (JV/V)	5:30 p.m.		
Oct. 12	Berkeley Springs (JV/V)	5:30 p.m.		
Oct. 19	at Southern Fulton	6 p.m.		
Oct. 22	at South Hagerstown (JV/V)	6 p.m.		
Oct. 26	Northern Garrett (JV/V)	5:30 p.m.		

• Games that are both JV/V - Times are for JV which plays first.

How to Contact Schools & Officials

Hancock Middle-Senior High School
301-766-8186
Website: <https://hmshs.wcpsmd.com>
Principal Andrew Kaetzel
kaetzand@wcps.k12.md.us

Hancock Elementary
301-766-8178
Website: <https://hae.wcpsmd.com>
Principal Shauna Gore

Washington County Public Schools
301-766-2800
<https://www.wcpsmd.com>

Department of Public Information
301-766-2809

Department of Transportation
301-766-2902

Department of Athletics
301-766-2929

Department of Student Services
301-766-2960

Department of Safety & Security
main number

Department of Technology
main number

Dept of Facilities Planning & Development
main number

Washington County Board of Education
Darrell Evans, President
evansdar@wcps.k12.md.us

Dr. April Zentmeyer, Vice President
zentmapr@wcps.k12.md.us

Michael Guessford
guessmic@wcps.k12.md.us

Victoria Beachley
beachvic@wcps.k12.md.us

Charles Burkett
burkchar@wcps.k12.md.us

Ashley McCusker
MccusAsh@wcps.k12.md.us

Linda Murray
murralin@wcps.k12.md.us

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

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**
Estate No. 82567
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Laura Louise Traver.

Notice is given that Jack Woodrow Slick, 19405 Emerald Sq. Ste 1400, Hagerstown, MD 21742-3666 was on September 3, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Laura Louise Traver who died on April 13, 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 of the personal representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 3rd day of March, 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 3rd day of March, 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.

Jack Woodrow Slick
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-16-3th

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

Estate No. 83611
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Lois Jean Joy.

Notice is given that Ramon Theodore Joy, Jr., 15012 Bottom Rd., Williamsport, MD 21795-3008 was on September 1, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Lois Jean Joy who died on March 12, 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 of the personal representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 1st day of March, 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 1st day of March, 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.

Ramon Theodore Joy, Jr.
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-16-3th

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Southern Fulton School District is accepting sealed bids for roadside signs with electronic message centers at the elementary and high schools, pending PCCD grant approval. To obtain a specification sheet, contact the district office at 717-294-2203.

A walkthrough will be held Thursday, October 8, 2026 at 11:00 a.m., beginning at the district office. Anyone planning to attend must notify the district office in advance at 717-294-2203. Bids will be opened Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. at the district office. The bid will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder whose proposal meets the specifications, contingent upon PCCD grant approval.

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

Estate No. 83822
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Cecil William Dagenhart.

Notice is given that Brenda Woods, 7622 Fairplay Rd., Boonsboro, MD 21713-2319 and Wanda Crilly, 10901 Gaywood Dr., Hagerstown, MD 21740-7724 were on September 1, 2026 appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Cecil William Dagenhart who died on July 2, 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 representative shall file their objection with the Register of Wills on or before the 1st day of March, 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 1st day of March, 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.

Brenda Woods
Wanda Crilly
Personal Representatives
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-16-3th

Lena Clark, ESQ.
Law Office of Lena A. Clark
129 W. Patrick St. Ste. 11
Frederick, MD 21701-5688
**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83839
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Peggy Ann Haney.

Notice is given that Ryan D. Skiles, 12468 Carlson Ct., Mercersburg, PA 17236-8750 was on September 3, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Peggy Ann Haney who died on July 25, 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 3rd day of March, 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 3rd day of March, 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.

Ryan D. Skiles
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-16-3th

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

**PUR-1845
SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT
KEYSTONE FIRE MOBILE
DISPATCH AND DATA
SOFTWARE USED BY THE
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY
SERVICES AND THE VOLUNTEER
FIRE AND EMS COMPANIES**

On September 15, 2026, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland awarded a sole source procurement for Keystone Fire Mobile Dispatch and Data Software in the amount of \$55,291 from Keystone Public Safety, Inc. of Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

This procurement is permitted under Section 1.106.2. (a)(1) (2) of the Code of the Public Local Laws of Washington County, Maryland stating that a sole source procurement is permissible when (1) only one source exists that meets the County's requirements and (2) The compatibility of equipment, accessories, or replacement parts is the paramount consideration. Publication of this notice is in compliance with Section 1.106.2.(e)(1) & (2) (1)of the Code of the Public Local Laws of Washington County, Maryland.

By Authority of:
Brandi J. Kentner
Procurement Director
9-30-1th

Russ Robinson
152 W. Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83843
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Ronald E. Swee-
ney.

Notice is given that Amy Diane Thompson, 73 Grouse Lane, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411 was on September 8, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Ronald E. Swee-
ney who died on October 3, 2024 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 8th day of March, 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 8th day of March, 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.

Amy Diane Thompson
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-16-3th

Joseph Chukla, Jr. ESQ.
21310 Leiters Mill Road
Hagerstown, MD 21742
**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83773
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Karl Kurt Kemp

Notice is given that Sandra Blacklance, 501 Skyline Dr., Selmer, TN 38375-3245 was on September 3, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Karl Kurt Kemp who died on August 14, 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 3rd day of March, 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 3rd day of March, 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.

Sandra Blacklance
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-16-3th

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY,
MARYLAND**

CASE No.: C-21-CV-26-000058

Adam D. Greivell
Plaintiff/
Substitute Trustee

v.

Angela Mills,
Defendant

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Circuit Court of Washington County, Maryland, that the sale made by Adam D. Greivell, Substitute Trustee, of the real property designated as 14321 McAfee Hill Road, Cascade, MD, and reported in the above entitled cause, will be finally RATIFIED AND CONFIRMED, unless to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 23rd day of October, 2026; provided a copy of this NOTICE be inserted in *The Hancock News* printed in said County of Washington, once a week for three successive weeks before the 23rd day of October, 2026.

The report states the purchase price at the Foreclosure sale to be \$40,000.00.

Kevin R. Tucker
Clerk, Circuit Court of
Washington County, Maryland
9-30-3th

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

Estate No. 83702
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Kenneth Heath Hartung.

Notice is given that Gabriel Hartung, 7425 Walton Ln., Annandale, VA 22003-2504 was on September 8, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Kenneth Heath Hartung who died on June 4, 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 8th day of March, 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 8th day of March, 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.

Gabriel Hartung
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-16-3th

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

Estate No. 83760
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Betty Jane Zeigler.

Notice is given that Sara Elizabeth Zeigler, 14612 Pennsylvania Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742-1671 was on September 1, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Betty Jane Zeigler who died on July 28, 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 1st day of March, 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 1st day of March, 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.

Sara Elizabeth Zeigler
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-16-3th

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

Estate No. 83791
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Clarence Dwight Heintzelman.

Notice is given that Julie Heintzelman, 19069 Fort Davis Rd., Mercersburg, PA 17236-9430 and Darin Heintzelman, 19069 Fort Davis Rd., Mercersburg, PA 17236-9430 were on September 8, 2026 appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Clarence Dwight Heintzelman who died on August 13, 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 8th day of March, 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 8th day of March, 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 Heintzelman
Darin Heintzelman
Personal Representatives
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-16-3th

Jamie K. Blair
Furey Doolan & Abell LLP
7600 Wisconsin Ave. Ste. 600
Bethesda, MD 20814-9500
**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Estate No. 83831
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Tyler Vincent Orcino.

Notice is given that Mary Faye Orcino, 2201 Middlegreen Ct. Apt. 204, Lancaster, PA 17601-2088 was on September 2, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Tyler Vincent Orcino who died on March 30, 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 March, 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 March, 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.

Mary Faye Orcino
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-16-3th

This Week's Crossword Answers

C	A	G	E			P	A	D	S	A	S	H
O	L	L	A	S		E	N	E	I	N	C	A
D	A	I	S	E	S	C	A	B	E	D	A	M
Y	E	M	E	N	I	A	P	O	S	R	B	M
						E	X	O	N	E	R	A
D	A	M	A	G	E	S	A	N	A	A		
D	I	E	H	A	R	D	T	H	E			
T	R	I	A	L						M	I	N
						E	D			C	L	O
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A	B	L	E			I	N	N		S	E	A
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E	R	S	T			S	T			R	E	F

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

Nicole R. Hewitt
1447 York Road, Ste. 204
Lutherville, MD 21093

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF
APPOINTMENT OF FOREIGN
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Estate No: 83826

Notice is given that the Circuit court of Hillsborough County, Florida appointed Jo Ann Hadley, 1709 Tahoe Drive, Sun City Center, FL 33573 as the Personal Representative of the estate of Roger L. Cline who died on February 23, 2024 domiciled in Hillsborough County, Florida, USA.

The Maryland resident agent for service of process is Nicole R. Hewitt, whose address is 1447 York Road, Ste. 204, Lutherville, MD 21093.

At the time of death, the decedent owned real or leasehold property in the following Maryland counties: Washington County.

All persons having claims against the decedent must file their claims with the Register of Wills for Washington County with a copy to the foreign personal representative 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 foreign personal representative mails or 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 claim within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. Claims filed after that date or after a date extended by law will be barred.

Jo Ann Hadley
Foreign Personal Representative
Honorable Lacy M. Flook
Register of Wills
Washington County, MD
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-16-3th

NOTICE OF SALE

Adam D. Greivell, Esq.
Substitute Mortgagee
The Greivell Firm
5 Cornell Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21742

**SUBSTITUTE
MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY
1014 POPE AVENUE,
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740**

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Estate No. 83830
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Margaret Colleen Shank.

Notice is given that Stephen Lee Shank, 2150 Whitacre Rd., Cross Junction, VA 22625-2260 was on September 10, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Margaret Colleen Shank who died on August 29, 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 10th day of March, 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 10th day of March, 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.

Stephen Lee Shank
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-23-3th

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Estate No. 83862
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Ernest Alvey Truax.

Notice is given that Kathy Lynn Keefer, 130 Rumsey Ter., Martinsburg, WV 25403-1589 was on September 14, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Ernest Alvey Truax 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 14th day of March, 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 14th day of March, 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.

Kathy Lynn Keefer
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-23-3th

Jeanne F. Singer, ESQ.
864 Jefferson Blvd.
Hagerstown, MD 21740

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Estate No. 83748
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF George Edward Manger, Jr.

Notice is given that Jessica Decesare, 1215 Woods Rd., Westminster, MD 21158-2959 was on September 10, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of George Edward Manger, Jr. who died on July 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 10th day of March, 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 10th day of March, 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.

Jessica Decesare
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-23-3th

Michael G. Day, ESQ.
Michael G. Day & Associates, PC
10715 Downsview Pike
PO Box 889

Hagerstown, MD 21740
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Estate No. 83855
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Jacob William Shaw, Jr.

Notice is given that Richard Shaw, 21427 Black Rock Rd., Hagerstown, MD 21740-1829 was on September 15, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Jacob William Shaw, Jr. who died on July 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 15th day of March, 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 15th day of March, 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.

Richard Shaw
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-23-3th

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Estate No. 83802
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Ronald Eugene Hartman.

Notice is given that Debra Curry, 436 Jefferson St., Hagerstown, MD 21740-4056 and Linda Jones, 1188 Avondale Ct., Frederick, MD 21702-3965 were on September 11, 2026 appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Ronald Eugene Hartman who died on August 6, 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 11th day of March, 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 11th day of March, 2027.

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.

Debra Curry
Linda Jones
Personal Representatives
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-23-3th

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Estate No. 83796
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Stephanie Gwendolyn Morgan.

Notice is given that Brian Stine, 17831 Davidson Dr., Sharpsburg, MD 21782-1702 was on September 10, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Stephanie Gwendolyn Morgan who died on August 8, 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 10th day of March, 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 10th day of March, 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.

Brian Stine
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-23-3th

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
OF A SETTLOR OF A
REVOCABLE TRUST

To all persons interested
in the trust of
MARGARET A. GEIWITZ
(a/k/a Margaret Ann Geiwitz):

This is to give notice that Margaret A. Geiwitz died on or about August 22, 2026. Before the decedent's death, the decedent created a revocable trust for which the undersigned, Karen A. Canoles, whose address is c/o Howard & Howard, Attorneys-at-Law, 298 Butler Road, Reisterstown, MD 21136, is now a trustee.

To have a claim satisfied from the property of this trust, a person who has a claim against the decedent must present the claim on or before the date that is 6 months after the date of the first publication of this notice to the undersigned trustee at the address stated above. The claim must include the following information:

- A verified written statement of the claim indicating its basis;
- The name and address of the claimant;
- If the claim is not yet due, the date on which it will become due;
- If the claim is contingent, the nature of the contingency;
- If the claim is secured, a description of the security; and
- The specific amount claimed.

Any claim not presented to the trustee on or before that date or any extension provided by law is unenforceable.

Karen A. Canoles,
Trustee
9-23-3tm

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Estate No. 83849
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Kazuko O. Alsip.

Notice is given that Michelle Alsip, 13825 Pennsylvania Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742-2340 was on September 11, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Kazuko O. Alsip who died on August 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 11th day of March, 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 11th day of March, 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.

Michelle Alsip
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-23-3th

Deadline Notice

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

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Estate No. 83792
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Harry Reginald Hesson.

Notice is given that Kathy Fronda, 22 Petrie Ct., Falling Waters, WV 25419-7061 was on September 21, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Harry Reginald Hesson who died on August 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 21st day of March, 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 21st day of March, 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.

Kathy Fronda
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-30-3th

James W. Stone, ESQ.
Kane & Stone, PA
28 W. Washington St.
Hagerstown, MD 21740

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Estate No. 83861
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Cory M. McAndrews.

Notice is given that William M. McAndrews, 545 Main St., Pennsburg, PA 18073-1503 was on September 16, 2026 appointed personal representative of the estate of Cory M. McAndrews who died on August 10, 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 16th day of March, 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 16th day of March, 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.

William M. McAndrews
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-30-3th

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Estate No. 83864
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Robin Kay Cockroft.

Notice is given that Randy Ashbrook, Sr., 1140 Lawton Ln., Hagerstown, MD 21740-7369 was on September 18, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Robin Kay Cockroft who died on September 14, 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 18th day of March, 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 18th day of March, 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.

Randy Ashbrook, Sr.
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-30-3th

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Estate No. 83866
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Charles Edward Calandrelle.

Notice is given that Charles M. Calandrelle, 10811 Coffman Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21740-7629 was on September 18, 2026 appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Charles Edward Calandrelle who died on September 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 18th day of March, 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 18th day of March, 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.

Charles M. Calandrelle
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-30-3th

SELL IT IN
The Hancock News
301-678-6255

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP

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Many people think they're stuck with their timeshare forever-- but that's often not the case. Wesley Financial Group has helped more than 50,000 families break free from unwanted timeshares, and we may be able to help you, too. If you were misled, pressured, or deceived during your purchase, you could qualify for cancellation.

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- If we determine your case qualifies, you'll be paired with a specialist to guide you through the process;
- Our **Resolution Department** works diligently to cancel your timeshare and help stop related maintenance fees--permanently.

Thousands of timeshare owners have already found relief through our proven process. You could be just one phone call away from peace of mind. Our dedicated team is ready to help.

Get your free information kit and see if you qualify:

Call 1.888.984.2917

*This is an advertisement. Wesley Financial Group, LLC ("WFG") and/or its affiliates, subsidiaries, or assigns are not lawyers and/or a law firm and do not engage in the practice of law or provide legal advice or legal representation. Actual results depend on each client's distinct case, and no specific outcome is guaranteed.

SUDOKU

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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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4.9/5 ★★★★★

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Priority Tax is a private company that identifies qualified consumers who require tax assistance. They are not the IRS, nor a State Taxing Authority. They are not a debt relief company or attorney referral service. Costs and results will vary. RESULTS ARE NOT GUARANTEED. Hiring a tax resolution company is an important decision and should not be based solely on advertisements. There is no charge for a consultation. Call for complete details.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**SMALL ESTATE
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**
Estate No. 83863
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Wayne Harold Ebersole.

Notice is given that Linda Ebersole, 11119 Hopewell Rd., Hagerstown, MD 21740-2104 was on September 17, 2026 appointed personal representative of the small estate of Wayne Harold Ebersole who died on August 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 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.

Linda Ebersole
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-30-1thn

Steven D. Campen, ESQ.
Campen & Manganaro
3409A Urbana Pike
Frederick, MD 21704-7772
**SMALL ESTATE
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**
Estate No. 83862

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Clayton Hendrix.
Notice is given that Laura Hendrix, 80 Byron Dr., Smithsburg, MD 21783-1565 was on September 16, 2026 appointed personal representative of the small estate of Clayton Hendrix who died on July 17, 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 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.

Laura Hendrix
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-30-1thn

**SMALL ESTATE
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**
Estate No. 83781
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF Debra Jo Pennesi.

Notice is given that Renata Maria Purcell, 21631 Ringgold Pike, Hagerstown, MD 21742-1400 was on September 16, 2026 appointed personal representative of the small estate of Debra Jo Pennesi who died on July 14, 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.

Renata Maria Purcell
Personal Representative
True Test Copy
Lacy M. Flook,
Register of Wills for
Washington County
100 W. Washington St. Ste 3400
Hagerstown, MD 21740
pd9-30-1thn

Where to turn for help

Maryland Crisis Helpline
Call 211, Press 1

Maryland Crisis Helpline is available 24 hours/7 days a week to provide support, guidance and assistance on how to access Substance Use Disorder services, in addition to the current mental health crisis services provided by this hotline.

Callers will also be given information about naloxone, recovery support and family services as available/appropriate in the individual's local area.

Washington County Health Department Behavioral Health Services
240-313-3200

CAMEO HOUSE Residential treatment program for adult females who are pregnant or have children. Call Admission Screening at 240-313-3322.

Peer Recovery Services Program for those seeking or in recovery from substance use disorder. Call 240-313-3242 to enroll. kelly.marquart@maryland.gov

Project Act Now Call 240-313-3310 to learn more about how to use Naloxone or take a class on its use. Visit <http://projectactnow.org> for a list of treatment resources, support group meetings and more.

ONLINE MUNICIPAL TAX SALE OF REAL ESTATE

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND
CITY OF HAGERSTOWN AND TOWNS OF BOONSBORO, FUNKSTOWN, HANCOCK AND WILLIAMSPORT
Online sale begins October 8, 2026 - GovEase.com

As authorized by Title 14, Subtitle 8, Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, notice having been given as required therein, the Washington County Treasurer will conduct an online municipal tax sale on behalf of the participating municipalities listed below. The online sale will commence on October 8, 2026 and will remain open for ten (10) calendar days, through October 17, 2026. The sale will be conducted through GovEase.com.

PROPERTIES SUBJECT TO SALE: The properties listed below were submitted by the respective municipalities because of delinquent municipal taxes, charges, water bills, or other municipal liens. Properties that do not satisfy the applicable statutory minimum for owner-occupied property are not included in this advertisement. Any listed property for which all amounts required to remove the property from sale are paid before the property is sold may be removed from the sale.

ADMINISTRATION OF MUNICIPAL TAX SALE: The Washington County Treasurer is conducting the online municipal tax sale. Each participating municipality will issue its own municipal tax sale certificate for property sold on its behalf and will remain responsible for the collection and accounting of its delinquent municipal taxes, charges, and liens. The municipality will be reimbursed for the amounts due to it from tax sale proceeds remitted directly through GovEase.com. After the sale, redemption payments are to be made to and accepted by the municipality that issued the tax sale certificate, in accordance with applicable Maryland law.

BIDDER REGISTRATION AND ONLINE BIDDING: Bidders must use the GovEase.com online tax sale platform to register and participate in the sale. Prospective bidders are responsible for completing all registration requirements imposed by the online auction platform and for reviewing the sale information and instructions provided there.

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder will be required to comply with the payment requirements and other terms established for the online municipal tax sale. Neither the Washington County Treasurer, Washington County, nor any participating municipality makes any representation or warranty as to title, condition, use, occupancy, boundaries, or other matters affecting any parcel offered for sale. Purchasers are responsible for conducting their own due diligence and for all costs associated with any later proceeding to foreclose the right of redemption.

RIGHT OF REDEMPTION / FORECLOSURE: Rights of redemption and proceedings to foreclose rights of redemption are governed by Title 14, Subtitle 8 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, including the time periods applicable to owner-occupied and non-owner-occupied property. A purchaser receives a tax sale certificate and does not receive immediate ownership or possession of the property.

Questions concerning the conduct of the online municipal tax sale may be directed to the Washington County Treasurer's Office at 240-313-2110. Questions concerning a municipal delinquency, municipal tax sale certificate, or redemption payment should be directed to the municipality for which the property was sold. Properties listed in the municipal tax sale include parcels of land situate in Washington County, Maryland and shown on the assessment rolls as follows:

TOWN OF BOONSBORO			
Acct No.:	06-015379	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$875,800 Opening Bid: \$6,473.56
Desc:	Parcel A 43.79 Acres 6633 Old National Pike Name: Preserve @ Fox Gap, LLC		

TOWN OF FUNKSTOWN			
Acct No.:	10-011396	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$123,130 Opening Bid: \$497.03
Desc:	LOT 82 40.85X90 111 E. CHESTNUT STREET Name: JAMES KERSHNER		

CITY OF HAGERSTOWN			
Acct No.:	03-002608	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$91,200 Opening Bid: \$1,061.83
Desc:	LOT 23 SEC 19 25X150 845 CHESTNUT ST Name: RAMIREZ BAYRON RENE MIRANDA		

Acct No.:	03-005232	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$128,700 Opening Bid: \$1,510.00
Desc:	LOT18 SECTION 9 1029 MAIN AVE Name: RC HOME SOLUTION LLC		

Acct No.:	03-012638	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$46,400 Opening Bid: \$80,036.78
Desc:	LOT 17 40X75 10-12 ELIZABETH ST Name: LIGHT TIMOTHY C		

Acct No.:	03-012700	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$135,400 Opening Bid: \$1,588.61
Desc:	LT 4 .064AC 28X100 809 GUILFORD AVE Name: REZK YOUSSEF		

Acct No.:	03-016854	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$1,555,800 Opening Bid: \$15,429.44
Desc:	LOT 36X146.5 1/3 S POTOMAC ST Name: PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING LLC THE		

Acct No.:	03-023699	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$106,700 Opening Bid: \$1,110.00
Desc:	PAR C 0.17 ACRE 425 W ANTIETAM ST Name: SCOTT THOMAS		

Acct No.:	03-033503	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$20,600 Opening Bid: \$239.51
Desc:	LOT 1 0.28 ACRES 433 W ANTIETAM ST Name: SCOTT THOMAS H		

Acct No.:	03-033511	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$112,100 Opening Bid: \$1,110.00
Desc:	LOT 2 0.26 ACRES 429 W ANTIETAM ST Name: SCOTT THOMAS H		

Acct No.:	17-000802	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$422,400 Opening Bid: \$4,955.89
Desc:	LOT 144X165 200-212 S POTOMAC ST Name: YGB INVESTMENTS LLC		

Acct No.:	17-003992	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$103,800 Opening Bid: \$1,217.86
Desc:	LOT 16X83 36 S LOCUST ST Name: SMITH DORIS J		

Acct No.:	17-006339	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$265,800 Opening Bid: \$3,583.82
Desc:	LOT 98X200 0.36 ACR 640-642 FREDERICK ST Name: MORRISON JAMES W		

Acct No.:	17-006843	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$252,600 Opening Bid: \$1,459.14
Desc:	LOT 26X205 .122AC 262 S POTOMAC ST Name: MARTIN CHRISTOPHER BRADLEY		

Acct No.:	17-007238	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$93,400 Opening Bid: \$1,095.84
Desc:	PARCEL B 19.75X146 338 S LOCUST ST Name: 338 SOUTH LOCUST STREET		

Acct No.:	17-015427	Tax Year: 2025	Asmnt: \$1,292,500 Opening Bid: \$15,929.55
Desc:	UNIT 1 1.60 ACRE 901 DUAL HWY (BAREFOOT B Name: DC BROTHERS LLC		

Acct No.:	17-016423	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$140,900 Opening Bid: \$1,653.13
Desc:	LOT 16.25X200 244 S POTOMAC ST Name: LEGIT MANAGEMENT LLC		

Acct No.:	17-020536	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$790,000 Opening Bid: \$9,268.83
Desc:	LOT 13 8.236 ACRES PAUL SMITH BLVD Name: SHAOOL HAGERSTOWN COMMONS		

Acct No.:	17-065651	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$217,000 Opening Bid: \$2,546.00
Desc:	CELL TOWER SITE BOWMAN AVE Name: SHENTEL PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS LL		

Acct No.:	21-006572	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$0 Opening Bid: \$46,414.28
Desc:	.73 AC OPEN SPACE SW/S GARST COURT Name: R & J BUILDERS INC		

Acct No.:	21-018783	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$179,306 Opening Bid: \$2,087.63
Desc:	LOT 1 SEC G 62X100 1101 BEECHWOOD DR Name: ROWLAND CHARLES L		

Acct No.:	22-001523	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$596,600 Opening Bid: \$6,999.73
Desc:	19.37 ACRES SECURITY ROAD Name: BROOK MEADOW LLC		

Acct No.:	22-003623	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$243,900 Opening Bid: \$2,861.60
Desc:	LOT 80X240 412 N POTOMAC ST Name: SHEDRICK HOLDINGS LLC		

Acct No.:	22-005081	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$150,200 Opening Bid: \$1,762.25
Desc:	LOT 68 PT 67 48X235 626 POTOMAC AVENUE Name: NIKAAR HOLDINGS LLC		

Acct No.:	22-005340	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$144,200 Opening Bid: \$1,691.85
Desc:	EASTERN PT LOT 106 50 BROADWAY Name: BAPTISTE KEVIN		
Acct No.:	22-008641	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$114,500 Opening Bid: \$1,333.12
Desc:	1/2 LOT 17.5X83 307 N LOCUST ST Name: CHAUDHARY NABILA R		

Acct No.:	22-008889	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$126,100 Opening Bid: \$1,479.50
Desc:	LOT 20X113 0.05 ACR 535 N LOCUST ST Name: ZAKI ZOHAAN LLC		

Acct No.:	22-024833	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$316,100 Opening Bid: \$3,708.71
Desc:	LOT 43 .12 AC 184 BRYNWOOD ST Name: ROBINWOOD REALTY LLC		

Acct No.:	25-000994	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$92,400 Opening Bid: \$1,075.81
Desc:	LT 46X33 .035AC 54 WINTER STREET Name: MALDONADO LUZ ENEDIA		

Acct No.:	25-003276	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$135,300 Opening Bid: \$3,408.25
Desc:	LTS17&18 80X140 .25A 44 WATER ST Name: BENEFIT SERVICES LLC		

Acct No.:	25-005325	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$111,200 Opening Bid: \$1,304.67
Desc:	LOT 25X74 .05AC 231/233 ALEXANDER ST Name: 231 ALEXANDER STREET LLC		

Acct No.:	25-009517	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$405,900 Opening Bid: \$4,762.30
Desc:	1/2 LOT 5 41.3X240 41/43/45 N POTOMAC ST Name: JOHNSON TAMARA		

Acct No.:	25-016319	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$95,400 Opening Bid: \$1,119.30
Desc:	LT .064AC 10.5X136.5 821 WEST FRANKLIN ST Name: MURRAY MICHAEL C		

Acct No.:	25-022777	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$114,900 Opening Bid: \$1,348.08
Desc:	LOT 0.08 ACRE 424 JONATHAN ST Name: MELENDEZ MARIA ROSA		

Acct No.:	25-023609	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$177,300 Opening Bid: \$2,064.27
Desc:	LOT 50X140 0.17ACR 833/835 W FRANKLIN ST Name: SMITH DORIS J		

Acct No.:	25-034848	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$83,500 Opening Bid: \$979.69
Desc:	LOT 40X60 132 BETHEL ST Name: LODGE OAK SPRING #41 AF&AM		

Acct No.:	25-038592	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$281,800 Opening Bid: \$3,280.96
Desc:	LOT T233 .08 AC 17657 POTTER BELL WAY Name: CCARHUARUPAY MAGALY OCHOA		

Acct No.:	25-042867	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$259,100 Opening Bid: \$5,924.81
Desc:	LOT TH72 .06AC PHS 1 18215 HURRICANE COURT Name: RODRIGUEZ LUIS FLORES		

TOWN OF HANCOCK			
Acct No.:	05-018943	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$154,400 Opening Bid: \$910.50
Desc:	LOT 88 X 320 20 1/2 E MAIN STREET Name: FRANCES YOUNKER		

Acct No.:	05-002699	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$46,000 Opening Bid: \$281.79
Desc:	LOT 33 X 90 109 E MAIN STREET Name: PETER PELTIER		

Acct No.:	05-018498	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$96,267 Opening Bid: \$592.79
Desc:	1/2 LOT 33.5 X 150 201 W MAIN STREET Name: FREDDIE MADDOX		

Acct No.:	05-021383	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$21,700 Opening Bid: \$140.86
Desc:	96.160 X 124 AV E/S MARYLAND AVE Name: MADISON 73 LLC		

TOWN OF WILLIAMSPORT			
Acct No.:	02-023938	Tax Year: 2023	Asmnt: \$25,000 Opening Bid: \$175.59
Desc:	LOT 2, 0.05 ACRES N. CONOCOCHIEAGUE ST. Name: ALAN S. & JAQUELYN MOORE		

Acct No.:	02-023938	Tax Year: 2024	Asmnt: \$25,000 Opening Bid: \$161.21
Desc:	LOT 2, 0.05 ACRES N. CONOCOCHIEAGUE ST. Name: ALAN S. & JAQUELYN MOORE		

Acct No.:	02-023938	Tax Year: 2025	Asmnt: \$25,000 Opening Bid: \$151.73
Desc:	LOT 2, 0.05 ACRES N. CONOCOCHIEAGUE ST. Name: ALAN S. & JAQUELYN MOORE		

Acct No.:	02-023938	Tax Year: 2026	Asmnt: \$25,000 Opening Bid: \$142.25
Desc:	LOT 2, 0.05 ACRES N. CONOCOCHIEAGUE ST. Name: ALAN S. & JAQUELYN MOORE		

Acct No.:	02-023946	Tax Year: 2023	Asmnt: \$25,000 Opening Bid: \$169.85
Desc:	LOT 3, 0.04 ACRES N. CONOCOCHIEAGUE ST. Name: ALAN S. & JAQUELYN MOORE		

Acct No.:	02-023946	Tax Year: 2024	Asmnt: \$25,000 Opening Bid: \$161.21
Desc:	LOT 3, 0.04 ACRES N. CONOCOCHIEAGUE ST. Name: ALAN S. & JAQUELYN MOORE		

Acct No.: 02-023946	Tax Year: 2025	Asmnt: \$25,000	Opening Bid: \$141.73
Desc: LOT 3, 0.04 ACRES N. CONOCOCHIEAGUE ST.			
Name: ALAN S. & JAQUELYN MOORE			

Classified Ads

Classified Ads - 25 cents per word first week, 18 cents per word for the same ad in each issue thereafter. Minimum charge \$1.00. An additional charge of a \$1.00 for each ad not paid for when placed.

FOR SALE

DOUBLE Roll Coupon Tickets \$10.24 for sale at The Morgan Messenger and The Hancock News offices. pd1/1- tfmh

YARD sale signs now available at The Morgan Messenger and The Hancock News offices. Also many other signs including Posted, No Trespassing and No Hunting. 1/1- tfmh

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

MUMS are available at Fischer's Greenhouse in Little Orleans, Md. 1,000's available. Phone 301-478-2412. 9/2- tfmh

AUTOS

2010 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited, 126,399 miles, \$10,500. 304-671-2808. pd9/23- tfmh

ANIMALS

LEONA'S Pet Grooming and Bath. 304-258-1268. 1/1- tfmh

Helpful Hints For Writing A Classified Ad SERVICES Kind Of Service Experience Special Equipment Trained Personnel Guarantee Follow-up Service Hours Insured? Bonded? Prices Phone Number

SERVICES

AUCTIONEER - Appraiser. Ronnie R. Zimmerman, 301-331-6821. MD - PA & WV. 1/7- tfh

APPLIANCES - Sales & service for the Tri-State Area. Gordon's Garage & Appliance. Needmore, Pa. 717-573-2590. Prompt & reasonable. 11/14- tfh

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

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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.



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HOROSCOPES

September 27 - October 3, 2026



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Concerns about money may be on your mind, Capricorn. If you can get a handle on your finances, you will feel more secure about spending money.



CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

You tend to be very careful with money, Cancer. Financial discipline is a great asset that will pay dividends for you in the days ahead.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

There is no winning if you enter a fray between family members right now, Aquarius. It is best if you keep your distance and do your own thing this week.



LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

You may find yourself in a highly visible position this week, Leo. That means you will need to be on your best behavior at all times. People will notice your every move.



PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Your input will be sought this week, Pisces. Carefully consider an emerging situation, and then use your critical thinking skills to come up with the right advice.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, steer clear of any controversial subjects this week because they may escalate into something that can be off-putting for all involved. Try to keep your opinions to yourself.



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, some free time opens up this week. Focus on social outings and keeping things light. Use the time to relax and recharge.



LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Embrace a challenge for all it has to offer, Libra. A unique situation arises this week, and you can learn something about yourself and feel a strong sense of accomplishment.



TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Tact may be required in the days ahead, Taurus. You have strong opinions about how to approach a situation, but present your views with kindness and express a willingness to be flexible.



SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Harsh words can be hard to forget, Scorpio. Be careful about how you communicate with others. Your intentions are good, so take a thoughtful approach to how to express them.



GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, save up your energy for something fun instead of getting swept up in someone else's drama. Patience is your best friend this week, even if it doesn't always come easy.



SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

This week you are juggling many things, including work, appointments and family obligations. Optimism and patience will be key for the time being, Sagittarius.

Apple Butter Festival to host Baking Contest once again

Apple pie may be the classic, but at the Apple Butter Festival Baking Contest, apple can become just about anything.

Cakes, cookies, breads, muffins, pastries, apple dumplings and plenty of creations that don't fit neatly into any category are all welcome when the Baking Contest returns Saturday, October 10 as part of the 51st Annual Apple Butter Festival.

Whether it's a treasured family recipe passed down through generations or something entirely new, the only real requirement is that apples have a starring role.

The contest is presented by Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, with Blue Ridge and the Boys & Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle working together to organize and run the event.

Both organizations put in plenty of work behind the scenes to make the contest happen, from collecting entries and coordinating judging to getting all those delicious creations ready for their next stop after the winners are chosen.

Entries will be judged in

seven categories: breads, muffins and rolls; cakes; cookies; pies, pastries and apple dumplings; miscellaneous; sugar-free; and youth (grade 8 and below).

Contestants may enter as many times as they like, so there's no need to choose between Grandma's apple pie and that new recipe you've been perfecting.

Entries must be delivered to Blue Ridge Community and Technical College at the Pines Opportunity Center, 109 War Memorial Drive in Berkeley Springs, between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 10. Judging begins at 12:15 p.m. and no entries will be accepted after 11 a.m. Winners will be recognized and ribbons awarded at 2 p.m. on the Apple Butter Festival Main Stage.

And the story doesn't end when the ribbons are awarded.

Following judging, the entries are donated to the Boys & Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle. They sell the baked goods during the festival, turning all those pies, cakes, cookies and apple-filled creations into a fund-



raiser supporting programs for area youth.

"Some of the best recipes are the ones with a story behind them, the ones written on an old recipe card or learned by standing beside someone in the kitchen," said Happy Rone, Executive Director of the Berkeley Springs-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce. "We love seeing those traditions carried on, along with all the wonderfully creative things people dream up. And knowing every entry goes on to help the Boys & Girls Club makes the whole contest even sweeter."

Entry forms and complete contest rules are available at berkeleyspringschamber.com, Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, or the Berkeley Springs-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce office.

The 51st Annual Apple Butter Festival takes place October 9-11.

For more information, call the Berkeley Springs-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce at 304-258-3738, go to berkeleyspringschamber.com, or follow Apple Butter Festival WV on Facebook.

Cacapon Resort State Park activities

Thursday, October 1

10:45 a.m. - Flowering Plant Survey & Monarch Catch. Help or Observe our blooming plants survey and adult monarch in our 2 acre wild flower meadow. We'll also see if we can catch some monarchs to tag. Meet at the meadow across from the old Inn. Timeframe: 45 min.

1:30 p.m. - Fall Leaf Card Making. Using foam stickers and card stock, make a few cards. Gathering leaves for pressing or laminating can occur as well.

3 p.m. - Bush Craft. We'll make cordage from several natural plants. Yucca, day lilies, irises, and gladiolus will be a few. All materials provided. Yours to take home. Take your own cordage ideas too. There are some supplies you can take home.

Friday, October 2

10 a.m. - Birds of Prey Migration Watch. Join us anytime between 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Cacapon Resort State Park overlook to watch migrating birds & monarchs. These birds: black vulture, turkey vulture, golden eagle, northern harrier, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, and merlin, would be experiencing peak migration at this time. Other wildlife could be spotted: ravens, crow, deer, monarch butterflies. Join us just this one time or all the birds of prey watch series listed in the upcoming events. Binoculars will be provided or bring your own. Dress for the weather but this event will be canceled due to rain, fog or snow.

12:45 p.m. - Tree ID Walk with Leaf Pounding. We'll do a leisure walk looking at different ways to ID trees. For those that would like to, you can collect leaves and use those in a leaf pounding craft. Flowers could also be added.

2-3 p.m. - Monarch Tagging Demonstration. September is peak Monarch butterfly migration month, when monarchs migrate south to Mexico over a 2,500 mile journey. Be part of a community science project through <https://monarchwatch.org/> that helps tag monarchs along their migration route in West Virginia. A slide show will be shown to understand the monarchs life cycle; host plant; and more details of their great migration. At the end of the hour, together the class will tag a live monarch butterfly together. Free and fun for all ages.

Saturday, October 3

9:30 a.m. - Ridge Trail Ramble. Meet at the nature center. Join park volunteer Dale and we'll take a 45 minute to 1 hour walk looking at sites in the park related to our CCC history and beyond. We'll discuss any wildlife we may see too.

1 p.m. - Spectacular Fall Walk Series #4. The Cabin Loop Trail will be today's walk. Yes, there is leaf color change occurring. Wildflowers, trees, and grasses are showing signs of fall. Meet at the nature center. Rated easy. 0.75 mile loop. (20 min. to 30 min. With an option of cutting it in half.) Good for all ages.

3:30 p.m. - Double Irish Road Bowling. We'll do West Virginia Irish Road Bowling. We use a small cannonball, divide everyone into teams and bowl around our Nature Center Circle Loop to play. The lowest score wins. This will be double IRB where we go around the loop one way and back around the loop the other. Join us for one or both rounds.

Sunday, October 4

9:30 a.m. - Spectacular Fall Walk Series #5. The Piney Ridge Trail will be today's walk. Yes, there is leaf color

change occurring. Wildflowers, trees, and grasses are showing signs of fall. Meet at the Lodge. Rated easy. 1.00 mile loop. (30 min. to 45 min.) Good for all ages. Also, we'll provide binoculars and do birding. Rock Formations.

1 p.m. - Fall Leaf Stenciling & Leaf Journal. Pick a leaf of your choice and learn some fun facts about that tree. You'll start a leaf journal to take home to complete.

3 p.m. - Leaf Art. Gather leaves and make art. Animal depictions, abstract leaves, leaf paintings are all options. Share your ideas as we share ours. Geared toward adults.

Monday, October 5

9:30 a.m. - Spectacular Fall Walk Series #6. The South Part of the Central Trail will be today's walk. Yes, there is leaf color change occurring. Wildflowers, trees, and grasses are showing signs of fall. Meet at the Batt Parking Area. Rated intermediate. 2.5 mile loop. (2 hours to 2.5 hours) Overlooks & rock formations.

10 a.m. - Tai Chi. This volunteer led class will help increase balance, flexibility, and focus on connection to mind, body & spirit. Location lodge.

1 p.m. - WV Mammals. Fun facts for all ages. Pelts, taxidermy scat models, track models, some skulls and bones, and animal calls will help us to use our senses for this program. A small craft of making a paw cast with plaster of paris will occur.

3 p.m. - A Lizard's Life. We'll learn about WV lizards. If it is sunny, there's a good chance we'll see 1 or 2 different species around the nature center.

Tuesday, October 6

10 a.m. - Name That Tune. How to ID birds through their calls. Using Merlin & recorded devices, we'll learn a few bird calls and songs. Focus will be on seasonal birds of our area. A short walk will follow to see if we can ID a few birds along the way.

1 p.m. - Be-Jeweled. Experience our native Ruby-Throated Hummingbird in our pollinator garden. Observe them darting around flowers and hummingbird feeders. We will talk about the importance of these incredible birds and their connection to native plants. Learn how you can track and view the hummingbird migration <https://www.hummingbirdcentral.com/>

3 p.m. - Bush Craft. We'll make cordage from several natural plants. Yucca, day lilies, irises, and gladiolus will be a few. All materials provided. Yours to take home. Take your own cordage ideas too. There are some supplies you can take home.

Wednesday, October 7

10 a.m. - Spectacular Fall Walk Series #7. The Lower Rock & Roll Trail will be today's walk. Yes, there is leaf color change occurring. Wildflowers, trees, and grasses are showing signs of fall. Meet at the Nature Center. Rated easy. 1.2 mile loop. (40 min. To 50 min.) Stream.

1 p.m. - The CCC Boys, A West Virginia Legacy. This 30 minute film shares how the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s were active with conservation projects in our WV state parks and forests. A short guided history walk to follow the video weather permitting.

3 p.m. - Sassafras & Birch: Nature's Flavor Trail. Step into the woods to find and identify these two trees. A flavorful adventure connecting nature, history and taste buds.

PVAS to host program and PVMN open house

Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) will host its October monthly program on Wednesday, October 7 from 6-8 p.m. The program will be at Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education at Shepherd University, 213 N King St, Shepherdstown, W.Va. We will also be offering this program virtually on Zoom. No registration is required, admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Join PVAS and Potomac Valley Master Naturalist (PVMN) for social time before the PVAS Monthly Program. Learn about how you can expand and share your knowledge of the natural world, make a difference in our community, and learn about the Potomac Valley Master Naturalist program. Bring your questions to learn more about the requirements of becoming a Master Naturalist. Meet active members who are serving and learning about the natural world. If you're already a Master Nat-

uralist, we invite you to join us and share your experiences and what you likemost about being part of this vibrant community. Come connect with fellow nature enthusiasts and explore how you can contribute to preserving our local environment.

Then, we will welcome Doug Inkley, Station Manager at the Lambs Knoll Master Banding Station, for an engaging look at the research and conservation efforts focused on the Northern Saw-whet Owl. Operated entirely by volunteers, Lambs Knoll is part of Project OwlNet, a continent-wide monitoring program that has helped reveal important patterns in owl populations and migration. Doug will show how the team of research volunteers conducts the owl monitoring work at Lamb's Knoll. He will also discuss the broader findings and impacts of Project OwlNet research, uncovering where these tiny owls travel and the challenges they face. Join us to learn more about how we

Saw-whet Owl Monitoring
Banding and Research at Lamb's Knoll, MD



PVAS Monthly Program
Lecture Series
In-person (Shepherd University) & on Zoom
Refreshments at 6:30, Talk at 7



learn about these tiny nocturnal predators swooping over ridges in darkness on their fall migratory path.

The PVMN open house will begin at 6 p.m.; the PVAS program will begin at 6:30 p.m. with social time and light refreshments. To reduce waste, we are asking that people take their own mugs.

The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. There will be time for discussion and questions at the end of the presentation, which will conclude around 8 p.m.

For additional details, including the Zoom link, go to <https://www.potomacaudubon.org/event/monthly-program-2026-october/>



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