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## SERVING THE MID-SHORE FOR 220 YEARS EASTON, MARYLAND \$1.50

PAGE B1

**THURSDAY** JUNE 11, 2020

VOL. 219 NO. 204

**LOCAL** 

### **KIA** memorial project nears completion

Organizers have raised over half the money needed to erect a monument honoring fallen local heroes from three 20th century wars. They're asking for the community's help to complete it.

Page A2

# 'What a Lady'

Longtime executive director of Channel Marker and former Waterfowl Festival President Debbye Jackson succumbs to cancer at 60

> By WILLIAM HAUFE bhaufe@stardem.com

She preferred to direct quietly and without a spotlight. She always wanted a better life for those she served.

And when challenges surfaced, she easily became the voice of reason, steadying those around her while continuing to shepherd the mission on a positive course.

That steady voice fell silent early Friday morning, June 5, 2020, when Debbye Jackson, longtime executive director of Channel Marker Inc. and former president of Waterfowl Festival Inc., passed away in her sleep at her Easton home after a valiant two-year battle with cancer. She was 60.

"What a lady," said Tolbert Rowe, executive director for the Channel

See JACKSON

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Debbye Jackson, third from right, the former executive director of Channel Marker, poses with, from left, Cathy Cassell; Marty Cassell; Sen. Addie Eckardt, R-37-Mid-Shore; Molly Burgoyne; Del. Johnny Mautz, R-37B-Talbot; and Easton Mayor Bob Willey during a 2017 donation photo.

**WEATHER** 



**Thunderstorms** High **82** Low **68** Scattered storms tonight **Full Weather Page A7** 

LOCAL

### **Maryland History Day** 2020 winners announced

Nearly 600 middle and high school students submitted projects online to present their extensive historical research at the 2020 Maryland History Day competition.

Page A2

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Newly elected Easton Town Council President Megan Cook stands outside the town office following the certification of the special election on

## **Cook wins Easton** council presidency

By JESSICA DUERSTINE iduerstine@chespub.com

Wednesday, June 10.

**EASTON** — Megan Cook is the Council, receiving 516 votes in the special election held on Tuesday, June 9.

Cook was first elected to the council in 2009 as the councilwoman for Easton's Fourth

Though Cook has run successful campaigns before, this one was different.

"It was a difficult campaign with COVID-19 and not being able to go door-to-door," Cook said. "You push all this information out, but you don't know if it's getting to the voters. It's almost like campaigning in a void."

Cook's opponent in the race, Ron Engle, who won 193 votes, is the councilman for Easton's Third Ward. He served as interim council president after former president John Ford became ill in mid-November 2019. Ford passed away on Feb. 4.

Engle," Cook said. "He's a great online at https://eastonmd.gov.

person. We work together on many projects outside of the council on different committees, we have lunch together, we're first woman to hold the position friends. He's a wonderful man, of president of the Easton Town and I appreciate everything he's done.

> Al Silverstein, councilman for Easton's First Ward, echoed Cook's words.

"Both were great choices," he said. "We're going to keep moving forward and keep working together. It's a great example for other politicians."

With Cook vacating her seat as council member for the Fourth Ward to fill the president's position, town officials will decide how to fill the vacancy.

"There are a couple of choices by the town charter," Town Manager Don Richardson said. "The mayor could appoint a replacement for that ward up to the next election, or we could leave that seat vacant because the next election is within a year period."

Cook officially takes on her new position at the Monday, June 15, council meeting. The "I really want to thank Mr. meeting agenda can be viewed

## Hogan: Indoor dining can resume in Maryland

Gyms, casinos can reopen next Friday

By WILLIAM CARROLL wcarroll@chespub.com

**ANNAPOLIS** — Restaurants and other businesses got more good news Wednesday as Gov. Larry Hogan announced that more businesses could open their doors this coming Friday and next Friday as part of the state's ongoing Roadmap to Recovery.

Hogan announced June 10 that indoor dining across the state will be able to resume at 50% capacity beginning Fri- conference that school tary of Health Fran Philpusinesses continue to requirements. Hogan also encouraged school systems throughout the state to hold safe outdoor graduation ceremonies.

Hogan also announced that outdoor activities such as miniature golf, and rides such as gocart riding may resume. Hogan also announced the expansion of outdoor pools to 50% capacity.

On June 19 at 5 p.m. several additional businesses including gyms and other indoor studiobased fitness activities may also begin to reopen at 50%. In addition to gyms, casinos, arcades and malls may also resume operations on that

State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Salmon announced during Wednesday's press



Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan announced Wednesday, June 10, further developments in the state's Roadmap to Re-

day at 5 p.m., so long as systems will be able to lips, in part to provide small groups of bring follow strict public health students and staff into school buildings summer school pro-According gramming. to Salmon, this means a maximum of 10 to 15 individuals in rooms.

Salmon also announced that non-public special education schools may also reopen to serve students with disabilities.

All childcare providers may also reopen and will be allowed to have up to 15 children in individual rooms, according to Salmon. Sports, specifically outdoor high school sports, may resume practice and training activities within approved guidelines previously announced for youth sports programs.

Limitations on restaurants

brought in Hogan Maryland Deputy Secre-

information on the announcements regarding business reopenings that Hogan announced earlier in the press conference Wednesday.

Phillips said that the department of health would issue orders Wednesday that would provide facilities with the guidance they need. With respect to indoor dining, Phillips said that in addition to keeping capacity at 50%, customers will need to be seated at least six feet apart, with no more than six people at a table unless they are members of the same household.

Phillips said that the orders would require customers and staff to wear masks as much as possible. No buffets or self-serve dining options

> See **HOGAN** Page A6

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## Applications trickle in for Talbot's \$1M in individual relief funds



The CARES Individual Assistance Program provides emergency cash assistance for individuals who are out of work or whose income has been reduced because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The program can also assist those who are unable to meet the cost of a COVID-19-related expense. CARES assistance can help with rent, mortgage or other housing costs, utilities, and other emerg payments are made directly to the landlord, mortgage company, utility company or othe The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress to pr nomic assistance for workers, families, and small businesses, and preserve jobs. Some of these fund

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By CANDICE SPECTOR cspector@chespub.com

**EASTON** — Of its \$6.4 million share of the federal government's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds, Talbot County set aside \$1 million to go directly to residents who are in need of financial help due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The application for residents seeking such assistance opened at the end of May. Talbot Finance Director Angela Lane, during a Talbot County Council meeting Tuesday, June 9, said 17 people had submitted applications as of

Tuesday morning.

Lane said the Individual Assistance Program was established to "provide emergency cash assistance to individuals who have been impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency, primarily those who are out of work, have lost their job or whose incomes have been dramatically reduced because of responses to the public health emergency."

The money can be used to help with rent, mortgage, utility payments, other housing costs, and

> See **FUNDS** Page A6

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### **EXTENDED FORECAST**

Friday: Partly cloudy. High 86. Friday night: Clear skies. Low 64 Saturday: Sunny with a few clouds in the af-

ternoon. High 83. Saturday night: Increasingly cloudy. Low 63. Sunday: Mostly cloudy with PM showers.

Sunday night: Some showers. Low 62.

#### Chesapeake Bay **Pooles Island to Drum Point**

Thursday: SW winds 10 to 15 kt with gusts to 20 kt. Waves 2 to 3 ft. Tstms and showers likely.

Thursday night: NW winds 5 to 10 kt. Waves 1 ft.

### **MOON PHASES**

Last New Quarter

**JUN 13** 











First

Ouarter

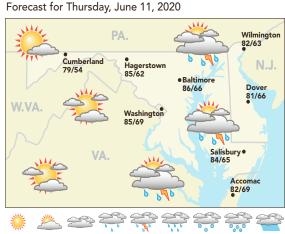
Full

Moon

## at www.stardem.com

**REGIONAL WEATHER** 





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### **CHESAPEAKE BAY TIDES**

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020					FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2020					
SUNRISE: 5:39 am SUNSET: 8:29 pm				SUNRISE: 5:39 am SUNSET: 8:30 pm						
Location	High	Low	High	Low	Location	High	Low	High	Low	
St. Michaels	9:37 am	3:23 am	10:17 pm	4:58 pm	St. Michaels	10:26 am	4:30 am	11:14 pm	5:37 pm	
Easton Point	9:04 am	2:50 am	9:44 pm	4:25 pm	Easton Point	9:53 am	3:57 am	10:41 pm	5:04 pm	
Dover Bridge	11:31 am	4:44 am	_	6:19 pm	Dover Bridge	12:11 am	5:51 am	12:20 pm	6:58 pm	
Chestertown	12:37 am	6:01 am	12:52 pm	7:36 pm	Chestertown	1:32 am	7:08 am	1:41 pm	8:15 pm	
Oxford	8:59 am	2:40 am	9:39 pm	4:15 pm	Oxford	9:48 am	3:47 am	10:36 pm	4:54 pm	
Cambridge	9:17 am	3:10 am	9:59 pm	4:16 pm	Cambridge	10:09 am	4:08 am	10:59 pm	5:00 pm	
Vienna	9:21 am	3:08 am	9:52 pm	3:45 pm	Vienna	10:10 am	3:59 am	10:46 pm	4:33 pm	
Hooper Island	7:09 am	12:46 am	7:49 pm	2:21 pm	Hooper Island	7:58 am	1:53 am	8:46 pm	3:00 pm	
Kent Narrows	10:19 am	4:02 am	10:59 pm	5:37 pm	Kent Narrows	11:08 am	5:09 am	11:56 pm	6:16 pm	
Claiborne	9:23 am	2:57 am	10:03 pm	4:32 pm	Claiborne	10:12 am	4:04 am	11:00 pm	5:11 pm	
Centreville	12:09 pm	5:39 am	_	7:14 pm	Centreville	12:49 am	6:46 am	12:58 pm	7:53 pm	
Queenstown	11:54 am	5:17 am	_	6:52 pm	Queenstown	12:34 am	6:24 am	12:43 pm	7:31 pm	
Matapeake	10:19 am	3:40 am	11:12 pm	5:08 pm	Matapeake	11:08 am	4:41 am	_	5:49 pm	
Love Point	11:25 am	4:53 am	_	6:14 pm	Love Point	12:10 am	5:54 am	12:10 pm	6:49 pm	
Bloody Point	9:30 am	3:10 am	10:09 pm	4:17 pm	Bloody Point	10:17 am	4:09 am	11:08 pm	5:00 pm	
Deep Landing	11:51 am	5:21 am	_	6:56 pm	Deep Landing	12:31 am	6:28 am	12:40 pm	7:35 pm	
Betterton	2:32 am	7:55 am	2:11 pm	9:01 pm	Betterton	3:22 am	8:55 am	3:06 pm	9:43 pm	
©2020; Foreca	sts provided	by AccuWeat	her DOWNLO							

#### **LOTTERY UPDATE**

Maryland

BALTIMORE (AP) - These Maryland lotteries

were drawn Wednesday: Pick 3 Midday: 8-9-5 Pick 4 Midday: 2-4-9-2 Pick 3 Evening: 6-6-8 Pick 4 Evening: 9-5-1-0

Bonus Match 5: 01-14-18-19-32, Bonus 13

#### **Delaware**

DOVER, DEL. (AP) - These Delaware lotteries

were drawn Wednesday: Play 3 Midday: 3-9-5 Play 4 Midday: 0-3-3-0 Play 3 Evening: 3-7-9

Play 4 Evening: 8-7-0-0 Multi-Win Lotto: 05-09-22-25-28-29

## **JACKSON**

Page A1

Marker Foundation, who as a volunteer and board member worked with Jackson for over 30 years. "I still can't believe she's gone. It's a big loss."

"A truly selfless leader," said John McQuaid, board president for Channel Marker Inc.

"It's just really hard to put in words, and I'm never at a loss for words," said Cathy Cassell, who had worked with Jackson at Channel Marker since 1991 and takes over as the agency's acting interim executive director. "She was just the heart and soul of that agency. She had the answers.

"For me personally, she We're a good team.' I was the other part of her work brain. And I sit here and think, 'You didn't leave instructions. How am I supposed to do that other part? She was good. And she was quiet at being that good. She was not a bragger. She did not take credit, and there's so much credit due to her," Cassell said.

A longtime Channel Markmember, State Sen. Addie Eckardt. R-37-Mid-Shore ranks and help shape Channel Marker, a behavioral health agency that focuses on psychiatric rehabilitation services for youths and adults in Talbot, Caroline and Dorchester counties.

Eckardt said. champion. "She actually has been a reason." visionary and stabilizer for Channel Marker for a long time. I've seen it at its best, and I've seen it when I thought we were going to be closing the doors. She brought financial stability. leadership. But her leadership style has been very much a team leadership, a shared authority and responsibility from the board to the staff to the foundation. One of the soundest organizations that I've worked with that did an amazing turnaround over time."

R. Perry of Easton, and the late William Arthur Perry, Debra Lynn Perry was a 1977 graduate of Easton High. She received her associate's degree from Chesapeake College in 1979, then earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Salisbury University

in 1981. She married William Edward Jackson at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Easton on July 23, 1983, and had two children, Courtney Jackson Moore (Christopher) of Salisbury, and Brady P. Jackson of Easton.

Platters: \$9.00

spending her first 11 years as a unit coordinator. She went on to serve as Talbot County coordinator, a case management resource coordinator, and program director coordinator before being named executive director of Channel Marker Inc. in 2003 — a position she held longer than any-

WEATHER

Today's weather

one in the agency's history. Just a year later, she faced one of her biggest challenges, when a major reduction to youth psychiatric rehabilitation rates made by the state resulted in major layoffs at Channel Marker, leaving some to wonder if the agency would survive.

"She really guided us through that financially, emotionally," Cassell said. "And we made a good comeback. We had to make cuts in the would always tell people, youth program at that time with staff. We lost (some of) the staff. We lost referrals."

But Channel Marker survived, slowly recovered and today serves around 200 clients a year over three coun-

"She's been a mentor and a friend to me, and a boss; everything for 30 years," Cassell said. "She's very much of an introvert. She's not er board and foundation flashy, but she was a warrior. A silent warrior. Strong, confident, calm. I mean, any watched Jackson climb the crisis that rolled through that agency, and Lord knows over 35 years that she worked for us, we've seen fire and rain. But Debbye was always calm. When we're all like, 'What?', or 'This happened', she was like, 'All right. I'll be right "Debbye was just such a there. All right, we got this." She was always the voice of

> She also had a vision for Channel Marker's future.

Channel Marker was located in the basement of the Grace Lutheran Church when Jackson started work there. The Easton agency grew and moved to 222 Port Street. In 2010, Jackson decided the time was right to integrate physical and mental health, and hired a part-time nurse practitioner to aid with client wellness. In March 2013, a group practice with therapy and medication prescribing was added. Seven The daughter of Elizabeth months later, the agency added health home, a medical case management service, which incorporated a fulltime registered nurse and a practitioner consultant.

Jackson wanted still more for the clientele and in November 2016 watched as Channel Marker began phase one of its move into its current Easton location on

Glebe Park Drive. "That's where her and I were involved," Rowe said. "Debbye would see opportunities for housing, for commercial use properties. The Glebe building, that was her She began a 35-year career idea. It started with a phone at Channel Marker in 1985, call that she made to me. And



PHOTO BY RICHARD POLK

Debbye Jackson, left, former executive director of Channel Marker, poses for a photo with Liz Freedlander and John Mc-Quaid, president of the board of directors in 2017.

those kind of things became a brainstorm and ended up a whirlwind in a tornado. All in a good wav.

The thing that just captured me as I've reflected on Debbye, and what she did and how she did it, she had an incredible ability to get people to use their talents and expertise for the benefit of furthering the mission to provide for the clients of Channel Marker; to make

their lives better," Rowe said. Liz Freedlander got an upclose look at Jackson's vision in progress when she was invited to join Channel Marker as a fundraising and developmental consultant in August 2017, helping with the Glebe Park Drive project.

"Debbye was a servant leader," Freedlander said.
"Her style was to emphasize the service of Channel Marker to a group of people in our community with significant mental health challenges. There was nothing about her style that brought any focus on her. It was always about providing service and building a culture in her staff of family that transmitted to Channel Marker clients, their inclusion in that family."

The driving force who forever seemed to deflect praise, Jackson would have been the first to point out one of the biggest reasons for Channel Marker's ability to rebound from the 2004 crisis and steadily build to the point of sustained success was the staff she helped assemble at the agency.

"You can tell a lot about the person who runs an operation, or a business, by the quality and tenure of those that are closest to her in their position," Rowe said. You look at Marty (Cassell), you look at Cathy (Cassell). They've been there for 25 years; everybody at the upper level.

"Now you have the turnover with those boots-onthe-ground people that are direct service providers with the clients," Rowe continued. "People will leave because they can make \$4,000 at another place. But I'm talking about people that are committed to the mission of the business or the association and commit themselves to it. And the proof of it is, how long has Marty been there? How long's Cathy been there? How long's Kelly (Holden) been there? How long's Mandy (Trivits) been there? You've got a half dozen, eight people (including Dr. Tia Bell, Laura Higgins) that have been there for 15 or 20 years. You don't put a management team together with that kind of tenure unless you

have the respect, compas-

sion and care of the people that are under you. Because those people could have left. They could have gone and made more money probably multiple times. But look at them. To me that proves an awful lot."

That culture of dedication and loyalty has been among the biggest reasons for Channel Marker's success, according to Eckardt.

"She's built such a creative team and inspired people," Eckardt said. "And taken advantage of using the people that she worked with, using their best of abilities and talents and developing, I would call it a ministry, but developing this service that Channel Marker provides.'

Cathy Cassell said that team concept led directly back to lackson.

"She was truly the kind of leader that put everybody in place that could do the job even if she isn't there," Cassell said. "And isn't that the way it should be? That everything isn't dependent on her;

she could walk away.' And while Jackson would have done almost anything for her clients, Cassell emphasized her boss was selec-

"She didn't want us to be known as the agency that went out and did everything, like. Let me get this grant. Let me do that service. Let me do this. Let me be everywhere," Cassell said. "She wanted to make sure what we did, we researched it well, and that we could do it well. or we wouldn't do it. If we were going to do something we were going to do it well. Quality was a big deal for her and accountability.

A devoted wife and mother who adored her grandchildren, Jackson was also deeply committed to the Waterfowl Festival, co-founded by her father in 1970. A volunteer since childhood, she was one of the festival's first ducksitters, annually working the November tradition with her family, and in 2018 served as president of the Waterfowl Festival. She enjoyed other various roles with the festival, including being on the Festival's Board of Directors for several years, and chairing the Festival's Carving Exhibit.

"I don't think I've ever met somebody who was so well-organized and driven to promote the agenda of the Waterfowl Festival, and to promote the legacy of her father — make sure what he had envisioned was coming to pass," said Rich Smoker, a hall of fame carver who served on the Festival's Carving Committee with Jackson.

"She started the scholarship

program with the cocktail decoys that most of the carvers would donate. That really has gone well. I don't think there's anyone in this world that would say anything against her.' Margaret Enloe, executive

director of Waterfowl Chesapeake — the conservation arm of the festival — worked with Jackson for five years, and invited her to be the festival board's representative on the grants committee in 2017.

"She always had really thoughtful comments to make and thoughtful questions to ask." Enloe said. "And then for a couple of years we tried to think about how we might spruce up the cocktail decoy auction, bring it some more visibility to our premier night folks. Debbye was always willing to consider something different. She loved the traditions, but she was always open to how can we market this better? How can we increase visibility? She was just such a pleasure to work with on things like that.'

Current Waterfowl Chesapeake president and former, longtime Waterfowl Festival president Albert Pritchett volunteered side by side with Jackson for years.

"She may be the only past president of the Waterfowl Festival that was also a ducksitter. She was there in the beginning, right?" Pritchett asked rhetorically. "She was always sort of the go-to person for me. Always a great again sne's one of those individuals that was there when it started. So she had a unique and valuable perspective on not only the history of the festival, but its place in Easton and its importance. Whenever I needed perspective or a little bit of encouragement, Debbye was always there."

Pritchett also noted Jackson's leadership qualities with Waterfowl very much mirrored those of Channel Marker.

"Her leadership was truly unselfish," Pritchett said. "It was one of those things, she did not care who got the credit for anything as long as the organization, or the team, or the festival, or wherever it was, was succeeding. You can accomplish great things when you're not fighting over who's getting the credit, right? And that was her lead-

ership style." Iackson was diagnosed with leiomyosarcoma, a rare, aggressive form of cancer, in the spring of 2018. Despite that diagnosis, she continued her work at Channel Marker and at the Waterfowl Festival, where her friendship with Smoker may have become stronger as they tried to boost each other's spirits.

"Her and I, we more or less buoyed each other up a lot," said Smoker, who is battling cancer a third time. "She always had a way of lifting you up. And you tried to lift her up too. It was a big thing."

While her colleagues at Channel Marker knew she was in pain, Jackson soldiered on and was busy working on the agency's latest initiative of expanding the Caroline County campus for more room for youth services.

"She was a warrior through that illness and through anything Channel Marker," Cassell said. "She was one of the biggest fighters, whether it was for advocacy for clients, the new building we're in. She just lived and breathed Channel Marker. It was as important to her as anything in her life. Always thinking about the agency. Always worrying about the agency. Always wanting something better for the clients than what they have.

"We sent her home on March the 10th because of COVID," Cassell said of the globe-sweeping virus. had chemo on March 13th. We were like, 'Her resistance is low. She doesn't need to be here. She needs to be one of the ones quarantining.' And we never saw her again."

Jackson had surgery in early April at Anne Arundel Medical Center, where she remained almost three weeks before returning home.

"When you talked to Debbye she'd say, 'Yeah, the oncologist, they're hopeful. They're positive," Cassell said. "Someone said today, 'I wonder if Debbye did that on purpose because she didn't want people to worry.'

"I can tell you the board, the staff, they wanted to hold the fort down until she could return to it," Cassell said. "Because she never said she wasn't returning. Her goal was to come back to work. 'I just need to go out for a short period of time. I will be back.' Where some people might say, 'Uh, you know this is a bad diagnosis. I want to spend some time in other areas.' She never gave it up. She wasn't going to do it to Channel Marker. But she put capable people in place and she knew she could trust everyone. But it is shocking to all of us. We're just trying to pick up the pieces and figure out what the heck just happened."

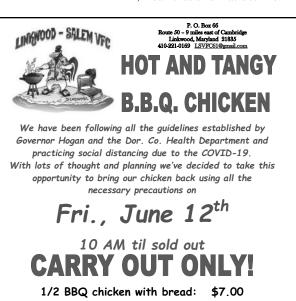
Chad Hill, Channel Marker voice of experience and in- Inc. board member, wrote in sight into the festival because an email, "Debbye had a passionate and boundless spirit to serve others. Through Channel Marker, she leaves a legacy of having made a profound and wonderfully positive impact on the lives of so many in our community who live with mental illness. We have lost a special leader and friend and I will miss her greatly.'

> In addition to her husband and children, Mrs. Jackson is survived by two brothers, Bruce Haden Perry (Louise), and Bruce Edward Perry (Patricia), both of Easton; two sisters, Kimberly Perry Whiteley (Tyler Sr.), and Denise Perry Riley, both of Easton; two grandchildren, Calleesi Moore and J. Finn Moore, both of Salisbury; a sister-in-law, Mary Jackson O'Brien (Jack) of Queen Anne; a brother-in-law, Joseph Jackson of Pocomoke; six nieces, Katherine Perry Ewers, and Colin Perry, both of Easton, Caroline Spurry of Arlington, Va., Amber Perry of Gaithersburg, and Faith Whiteley and Kamryn Whiteley, both of Easton; six nephews, Nolan O'Brien of Queen Anne, Seamus O'Brien of Columbia, Jay Jackson of Melbourne, Fla., Dean Jackson of HI; Joshua Perry of Smithfield, N.C., and Tyler Whiteley Jr. of Easton.

Friends may call at Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home, 200 S. Harrison St., Easton, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 13. Masks are required. A private memorial service will be held Saturday afternoon. The service will be livestreamed; for instructions, please contact: Justin@fhnfuneralhome.com.

'She touched so many people. I mean so many people, Rowe said. "The love and affection for her will be felt in this community for a long time. And she impacted a tremendous amount of lives. As I previously said, very, very quietly and without credit.'

"She's been a rock," Eckardt said. "And now everybody's going to have to be that for her and her family. She will be missed. But she will not be forgotten. She will be in all our hearts and heads for a very long time."



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1/2 BBQ chicken & bread

with homemade macaroni

salad and bag of chips

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