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# THE EVENING SUN

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026 | EVENINGSUN.COM

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## Beaver pond at Gettysburg Battlefield now mostly drained



National Park Service staff work with shovels along a beaver dam during the draining of a beaver pond in Plum Run along Crawford Avenue in the Gettysburg National Military Park on Monday. HARRISON JONES/THE EVENING SUN



The recently renovated and rebranded Tommy Johns' Tavern is seen at 15 Center Square, April 2, in downtown Hanover Borough. HARRISON JONES/THE EVENING SUN

## Hotel Hanover reopens

### Business finds new identity as Tommy Johns' Tavern

**Harrison Jones**  
Hanover Evening Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK - PENNSYLVANIA

In downtown Hanover, the Hotel Hanover had built an enduring - and often edgy - reputation as a longtime fixture of Center Square.

In 2026, however, the business at 15 Center Square is turning a new page, with a new vibe, an expanded menu, a fresh look, and most of all, a new name: Tommy Johns' Tavern.

Family owned and operated since 1971, third-generation owner Tommy John Hufnagle III has undertaken an extensive renovation of that once-edgy Hanover watering hole in the hopes of ushering in a new era for the business.

"I think for a long time it was viewed as more of a locals dive bar, more of a rough place," Hufnagle said of the Hotel Hanover, "and honestly, it had its day. It evolved, and it was cleaned up, but that reputation still stood."

"Any old name of this place just references a time that is far gone now," said Hufnagle, "the new name, which still represents my grandfather, my dad, and me, this is the next chapter."

On April 3, 2026, Hufnagle hosted a ribbon cutting for Tommy Johns' Tavern, opening its doors as a newly smoke-free and now family-friendly restaurant, putting an end to the prior 21+ restriction on entry.

"The whole idea was just to create a really warm, inviting space that takes the

See **REOPENS**, Page 2A

## Preserving resources

**Harrison Jones**  
Hanover Evening Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK - PENNSYLVANIA

Roughly two weeks into the estimated two-month draining of a beaver pond on the Gettysburg Battlefield that was ordered by federal officials, much of the pond has already been drained.

While the National Park Service had shared in a statement to The Evening Sun on March 27, 2026, that the draining was expected to take around two months, just 12 days later much of the pond was already gone, as viewed on Monday, April 6.

"The National Park Service will carry

out the work gradually to protect both the cultural and natural resources the park preserves," the March 27 statement read. In a previous statement on March 3, the service had stated that it was "too premature" to answer questions about the future of the beaver dam.

The dam, which had created a sizable beaver pond in a section of the battlefield known as the "Valley of Death" along Crawford Avenue, supports a colony of beavers.

Records indicate that this colony of beavers inhabited the section of Plum Run in the "Valley of Death" for roughly five years, with water levels fluctuating

up and down seasonally.

The process of draining the beaver pond along Plum Run, just off Crawford Avenue, began on Wednesday, March 25, according to the South Mountain Audubon Society. The group has raised concerns over the possible removal of natural wetlands created by the beaver pond, which wildlife advocates note supports several endangered species.

The society first sounded alarms on the potential draining activity on March 1, after members of the society learned from local staff at the

See **BEAVER POND**, Page 6A

## Hanover hydrant flushing starts week of April 13

**Harrison Jones**  
Hanover Evening Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK - PENNSYLVANIA


Semi-annual regular hydrant flushing will take place around the Hanover area in April, according to the Department of Water Resources.

Hydrant flushing is scheduled for public hydrants on the week of April 13 through 16, a release shared, while private hydrants will be flushed on April 21 through 23.

Flushing is planned to begin at 8 a.m. daily and conclude around 4 p.m. each day.

On Monday and Tuesday, April 13 and 14, flushing will be performed on the hydrants and dead-end-lines west of Baltimore and Carlisle streets, including those in McSherrystown Borough and Conewago Township.

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