



## EDC discusses promotion of Vance County

**BY RYAN HEDRICK**  
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When the Henderson-Vance County Economic Development Commission met for its regular monthly meeting Wednesday morning, it continued its conversation that started at last month's meeting about promoting the county to prospective businesses across the region.

At the previous meeting, Chairman Tom Church

appointed a promotions committee that would decide what newly available funds should be used for. The general consensus at the time was that the money should go toward updating the county's website or aggressive marketing of the county.

Flash forward to Wednesday's meeting where the chairman of the promotions committee, Bob Herford, reported to the EDC what the committee had discussed

thus far in its first two meetings.

"We are doing a whole lot of studying, but we have one urgent issue and that was to determine whether or not, and how, to continue doing this ad," Herford said referencing an advertisement in the Triangle Business Journal, which promotes the single remaining parcel of property in the Henderson-Vance Industrial Park to prospective companies.

The Triangle Business Journal is a weekly publication, but the industrial park ad only appears once a month. The ad was originally funded by the industrial park itself, which spent \$10,000 to run it once a month for six months.

Herford suggested to the board that the EDC pay an additional \$10,000, taken from the EDC's budget, to ensure that the ad run in the publication for an additional

six months as the industrial park's original payment for the ad expires.

"The money is in our budget, is available and it's not all of the budget," Herford said. "Beyond that we are continuing to study the Richmond market and we've had a mention of Charlotte, but we have not begun to discuss if that market has such a place to advertise."

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## WALK TO REMEMBER



PHOTOS BY NANCY WYKLE / Dispatch staff

Family and friends of Ahmad Campbell and Alisia Dieunonne lead marchers around the track at Southern Vance High School during an anti-violence rally. Both Campbell and Dieunonne, who attended A&T University, were killed at an off-campus party this fall. No arrests have been made. The families have asked anyone with information to come forward to help solve the crime.

## March aims to prevent violence, honor memory of former student

**BY MILES BATES**  
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Southern Vance High School held an assembly and Campell Anti-Violence Walk walk for violence prevention in honor of a former student.

Ahmad Campbell, who grew up in Kittrell and attended Southern, and Alisia Dieudonne, who was from Illinois, attended A&T University. Both were slain this fall after an altercation broke out at an off-campus party. Police said both Dieudonne and Campbell were not involved in the altercation — they were

innocent bystanders who got caught in the gunfire. No arrests have been made in the case.

As students assembled in the gym before the walk, they heard from several speakers who cautioned against violence in stark terms.

"We're trying to stop [the violence]. ... We're trying to let you all live," Lt. Lloyd Watkins of the Vance County Sheriff's Department said.

He posed a question to SVHS students repeatedly: How much is your life worth?

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NANCY WYKLE / Dispatch staff

Gang Free founder Melissa Elliott directly addresses the families of slain A&T University students Ahmad Campbell and Alisia Dieudonne during an anti-violence rally at Southern Vance High School on Thursday.

## USDA offers loans for home repairs

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering loans to low-income families who need assistance with home repairs.

Kimberly Hunt, USDA rural development area specialist in Henderson site, discussed the program earlier this week at the Vance County Board of Commissioners meeting.

"With the loan, you can make just about any repair you want, unless it's an addition," Hunt said. "We have added bathrooms to homes that do not have indoor plumbing or an indoor bathroom. So, we can add something like that."

To qualify for the loan, residents need to meet an income guideline on the combined earnings of all residents in the home. For residents in Vance County who have a household of one to four people, the maximum household income is \$25,400. A house with eight people, the maximum income is \$33,550.

Residents can borrow \$7,499 with a 1 percent rate for 20 years.

Hunt said there isn't a processing or application fee.

"If you get the loan and you pay it down, then you can always come back and reapply for additional loan funds," Hunt said.

When applying for the loan, there is a credit check.

"It's not as strict as if you were purchasing a home," Hunt said. "We waive all medical. If you do have some personal collections, or any derogatory personal collections, or any personal derogatory credit on your credit report, we will address it. If you can explain it to us, we will work with you."

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### Weather

#### TODAY

Sunny  
High: 68, Low: 37



#### TOMORROW

Sunny  
High: 53, Low: 31



Details, A2

### Deaths

#### Baltimore, Maryland

Lula L. Jones, 88  
Evans, Georgia  
James W. Jones  
Henderson  
Jacqueline Coley, 47  
Donald S. Johnson Jr., 39

#### Macon

Gladys Henderson, 70  
Stovall  
Roy C. Hart Jr., 74  
Warrenton  
William D. Crews, 71

Obituaries, A4

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