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# **EDC discusses promotion of Vance County**

BY RYAN HEDRICK RTHEDRICK@HENDERSONDISPATCH.COM; 252-436-2839

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.

appointed a promotions com- thus far in its first two meetmittee that would decide what ings. 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

Flash forward to Wedneschairman of the promotions committee, Bob Herford, ing, Chairman Tom Church the committee had discussed companies.

"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 Jourday's meeting where the nal, which promotes the single remaining parcel of property in the Henderson-Vance At the previous meet-reported to the EDC what Industrial Park to prospective

The Triangle Business six months as the industrial 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

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

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** MBATES@HENDERSONDISPATCH.COM;

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**▼** outhern 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 by an unknown gunman 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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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

**BY MILES BATES**MBATES@HENDERSONDISPATCH.COM; 252-436-2837

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

"With the loan, you can make just about any repair vou 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 \$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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ClassifiedsB7-8

#### Weather

**T**ODAY 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

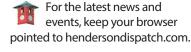
Roy C. Hart Jr., 74

Warrenton William D. Crews, 71

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**Dennis Smith Jr. to make** Friday debut with Wolfpack Page B1

#### **Breaking news online**





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