

# The Hartsville Vidette

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Started by Civil War General John Hunt Morgan, bringing Trousdale County's news for more than 150 years and counting

## Commission eyes \$100K play surface

BY CHRIS GREGORY  
MANAGING EDITOR

The County Commission will vote Monday evening on approving up to \$100,000 in funding for replacement of the surface in the Trey Park playground.

The Parks & Recreation Committee held multiple discussions last year on replacing the current grass surface, and indi-

cated a preference for rubber mulch instead of wood chips. The mayor's office has received estimates into the cost, but will have to bid the job out.

County Mayor Stephen Chambers noted that the \$100,000 would come from a Local Government Support Grant received by the state in 2021.

Replacing the Trey Park surface will coincide with work

done on a grant received last year for adding handicapped-accessible play equipment in the playground. The Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, which awarded the grant, is requiring the remainder of the play surface be replaced as a condition of receiving the grant.

"TDEC wants (material that meets) an international stan-

dard... If we don't meet that standard, TDEC might refuse to reimburse us that \$90,000 we got through the grant. This seems to be one of those situations where he who has the fiddle calls the tune," Chambers said.

Other budget amendments up for votes Monday will include:

- \$7,104 for increases in health insurance premiums;

- \$10,090 on bonus cleanups for the workhouse and clerk's office;

- \$8,550 in insurance recovery for the sheriff's department;

- \$5,000 in grant funding for equipment at the Senior Center;

- \$27,500 grant funding for books, equipment and computers at the library;

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## Fundraising duck visits Hartsville

Mr. Vanderquack hitting all 50 states to benefit St. Jude's

BY CHRIS GREGORY  
MANAGING EDITOR

Hartsville played host last weekend to a unique fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital — Mr. Vanderquack.

Mr. Vanderquack is a 20-inch stuffed duck that is traveling to all 50 states as part of a campaign to raise awareness and funds for St. Jude's. The hospital, located in Memphis, has been among the leading pediatric cancer facilities in the U.S. since its founding in 1962. Parents are not billed for children's treatment and the hospital is funded through nearly \$1.5 billion in annual donations.

Susie Wymer of Lebanon is among the group of volunteers nationwide participating in Mr. Vanderquack's travels. She picked up the stuffed duck, which is equipped with a GPS tracker, at Nashville's Nissan Stadium last Friday evening and came through Hartsville before continuing on to Columbia, Ky., where she was to pass Mr. Vanderquack on to his next carrier. From there, he was headed into Ohio, West Virginia and Virginia. His journey has hit over 30 states thus far and is scheduled to end in Memphis in September.

Mr. Vanderquack's travels can be followed online at [mrvanderquack.com](http://mrvanderquack.com) or through the Mr. Vanderquack Facebook page.

"They have state coordinators who organize legs of the drive. People volunteer to drive the duck; it's all volunteer-based," Wymer said. "He was coming from the Clarksville area and I took him around to get various photo ops."

While in Hartsville, Wymer met up with Mark Presley and the pair took photos at multiple local landmarks such as the train depot, the courthouse and the TVA nuclear tower. They also stopped by Wilson Bank & Trust on Saturday morning to get photos with employees there before Wymer left for Kentucky.

Donations can be made at [mrvanderquack.com](http://mrvanderquack.com) and go entirely toward St. Jude's mission, Wymer noted. The stated goal is to raise \$100,000 through the duck's travels across the U.S.

"They'll present St. Jude's with a check for the donations at the end," she said.

Wymer said she found out about Mr. Vanderquack through an online group chat in a Jeep



Chris Gregory / Hartsville Vidette  
Mark Presley and Susie Wymer pose with Mr. Vanderquack outside Wilson Bank & Trust's Hartsville branch. The stuffed duck is traveling through all 50 states as part of an effort to raise funds for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

group she follows and was inspired to participate.

"I felt it's a great cause and I wanted to be a part of it," she said. "I saw they were going through Nashville and signed up for it."

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## Overman seeks 5th District seat

BY CHRIS GREGORY  
MANAGING EDITOR



Lesley Overman

County commissioners will vote Monday evening on filling a vacancy in the 5th District.

Lesley Overman has put forth her name to fill the vacant seat left by the resignation of Coy Dickey, who stepped down in December. If appointed, Overman would serve the remainder of the current term, which expires in August.

"Nobody else is doing it. I complain a lot, so I might as well put my money where my mouth

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## Weaver talks 2022 legislative agenda

BY CHRIS GREGORY  
MANAGING EDITOR

State Rep. Terri Lynn Weaver kicked off her 2022 "Coffee & Conversations" visits last week with a stop at Hartsville's Early Bird Café.

Weaver spoke on various issues facing the legislature in its 2022 session, which began last week. Beside ongoing debates over COVID-19 restrictions, the legislature is also tackling redistricting and the governor's wish to update the formula for education funding.



Rep. Terri Lynn Weaver

While acknowledging the need to update the Basic Education Program, the formula which has funded Tennessee schools for over 30 years, Weaver said she had concerns over what a new formula might look like and its effect on rural schools in her district.

"I just think it's way too much change, too quick," she said. "We've had a formula for all these years and now we want to vote on something? I think that's not wise."

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## Committee to vote on courthouse's \$820K HVAC bill

BY CHRIS GREGORY  
MANAGING EDITOR

Trousdale County's Commission will vote Monday on approving an \$820,000 estimate for replacing the heating and cooling units at the old courthouse.

At the County Buildings Committee meeting on Jan. 13, County Mayor Stephen Chambers discussed the estimate with commissioners and the need for repairs to the century-old building.

While the courthouse is no longer used for its original purpose, the County Commission still holds meetings there and the Election Commission will be moving into the building at some point in the near future. Other

uses have previously been discussed as well.

Representatives from Trane Co. looked over the building and came up with the estimate.

"Based on the system that's over 50 years old, we've put together replacing the existing system and also increased filtration and other items that make it eligible for American Rescue funds," said Brian Bolin, Account Manager for Trane.

Trousdale County is expected to receive almost \$5.2 million from the American Rescue Plan passed in 2021, and improving air quality of existing facilities to make them less likely to spread COVID is considered an acceptable use for funds under current

U.S. Treasury guidance.

Bolin noted that the current system has to be switched from heating to cooling and can not do both at a time. "In the fall and spring when there are swing days, you can't switch," he noted.

An updated system would eliminate that problem, he said, and also make the building considerably more energy efficient.

"This probably will match up with the historical aspects of the building and retain them more than any other system," said commissioner Dwight Jewell, who noted that the county had looked at other possibilities as well. "Plus it was probably the

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Chris Gregory / Hartsville Vidette

Replacing the antiquated heating and cooling units in Trousdale County's century-old courthouse will cost an estimated \$820,000. The county is looking to use federal relief money to shoulder the cost.

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### THE PEOPLE'S AGENDA

The School Board will meet on Thursday, Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. in the office of the Board of Education, 103 Lock Six Road. The Parks &

Recreation Committee will meet on Thursday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom of the courthouse to continue discussions on the Trey Park playground.

### MORE INSIDE



Jackets, Lady Jackets each pick up two district victories.

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