

NEWS-HERALD

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New industry could bring 282 jobs

Loudon considering potential next steps for multiuse community center

BY HUGH G. WILLETT
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A potential new industry in Loudon could create hundreds of jobs. Jack Qualls, Loudon County Economic Development Agency executive director, told Loudon City Council at a Sept. 12 meeting that a business, known

only by code name "Project Washington," would be requesting a five-year Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement with the city. The company, which Qualls said is related to the electric vehicle industry, would create an estimated 282 jobs with an average pay of about \$46,000 per year.

The manufacturing facility, representing an estimated \$82 million investment, would be located off Highway 72 in the Huntington Business Park near the CVS warehouse. Qualls said a traffic light might need to be installed at the intersection of Highway 72 to handle increased traffic.

Council also heard more about progress on a community center planned for downtown Loudon. Bud Guider, a member of the Recreational Center Advisory committee, said the group has been meeting regularly with people in the community to gather information

about what activities they would like to see at the center. Employees of architectural firm Michael Brady Inc., have also been attending and will use the information to hopefully create architectural plans, Guider said. "We have had brainstorming sessions and

have had schematics created," he said. Guider said community feedback indicated the most popular usage of the building, in addition to sports, would be events such as weddings and parties. He said a much larger community

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LUB to spend \$1 million

Utility would pay for new water tank at Tennessee National

BY HUGH G. WILLETT
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Loudon Utilities Board discussed at a workshop last week a memorandum of understanding to support a water infrastructure project at Tennessee National. The proposal was presented for approval Aug. 22, but the board declined to take action, citing the need for more due diligence. The MOU, which would remain in effect until Aug. 22, 2024, sets forth various water facility improvements a recent water model indicates are needed for the continued buildout of the housing development. The MOU

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Lenoir City lands downtown brewery

Taproom, restaurant, manufacturing facility planned for spring 2024 opening

BY KAYLI MARTIN
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After years of trying and at least one failed attempt, Lenoir City will soon have a new location to taste craft beer. Tennessee Brew Works announced Sept. 13 the company plans to open Lenoir City Barrel House in spring 2024 in the former fire station at 200 E. Depot St. The location will feature a manufacturing facility and taproom. The company opened in 2013 and is an independently owned and operated craft brewery. Their stated mission is to create high quality craft beer that pays homage to the land, traditions and culture of Tennessee. The brewery created the state's first All-Tennessee grain beers in 2018 and has previously partnered with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Tennessee State Parks. Specialty beers will be fermented in a range of ways, including stainless steel vessels to oak barrels. The venue will also offer food, live music and indoor and outdoor seating. "It's going to be a production brewery creating mixed fermentation, sours, wild ales, kind of esoteric beers and some small batch indie-style beers and also showcase our culinary style, which is brewing, inspired by and often utilizing our own craft beers in the food as well," Christian Spears, founder and presi-



KAYLI MARTIN | NEWS-HERALD

Susan Williams, left, gets a free beer from Tim Shields in celebration of the upcoming new location in downtown Lenoir City of Tennessee Brew Works.

dent of Tennessee Brew Works, said. "We'll be putting a live music venue out here, so we're going to showcase live musical acts from the area and beyond. Then ultimately our goal is to create a very community-focused, family friendly environment." Spears said the city was ideal for opening a new location.

"With a restaurant-style, people tend to look for more urban areas and so forth, but for us, we wanted a community," Spears said. "We already have a more urban-style taproom in Nashville, and what we don't have is the community immediately around us. Lenoir City really gave that to us, and it gave us the opportunity to open another

production site. Production facilities, manufacturing, you tend to want to go in more rural areas, and the city just made it accommodating for us to really do it here. We get the best of both worlds. "We get a community without this big city feel to it, but it's got

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OBITUARIES

James W. 'Jim' Hamilton Sr.
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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Staff members from Eaton Elementary School celebrate being recognized by the state as a Reward School.

Highland Park, Eaton stand out

State names both Reward Schools for academic performance, improvement

BY HUGH G. WILLETT
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Two Loudon County schools were recognized by the state as high performing for the 2021-2022 school year. Highland Park and Eaton elementary schools were both named Reward Schools, according to Director of Schools Mike Garren. Garren said schools earn the achievement by demonstrating high levels of performance and improvement in meeting annual measurable objectives. "The Reward School distinction places

significant emphasis on improvement from the prior school year," he said. The Tennessee Department of Education announced 427 schools from 92 districts earned the designation. Garren said faculty and staff at Highland Park have done an amazing job to sustain the status five consecutive times. "The staff takes great pride in providing high quality instruction for their students and, with support from their administration, the students have benefited greatly," he said.

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