**HCC Series to launch new decade**

**JAZZ IT UP**

The Preston Arts Center is presenting three great jazz ensembles this winter as part of its 2019-2020 On Stage Series. It is also presenting a concert by the Air National Guard “Band of the South” in January, which is a free concert. The jazz band concerts are offered as a package for $25, and individual show tickets ($10) will go on sale on Jan. 3. Audience members will be seated on stage so seating is limited.

### Air National Guard “Band of the South”
7:30 p.m., Jan. 17

### Murray State Faculty Jazz Band
7:30 p.m., Jan. 25

### University of Evansville Jazz Ensemble
7:30 p.m., Feb. 8

### Western Kentucky Jazz Band
7:30 p.m., Feb. 28

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**FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED**
Sometimes life gets in the way of a college degree. Weddings, children, bills and work can all cause a student to shelve school until later. What if “later” could be “now?” Henderson Community College will offer six $500 scholarships to help adult learners re-start their education this spring semester. All former students who left HCC in academic good standing without earning a credential — and have not received a degree from another college — will be automatically considered for this scholarship. The college will also host a special admissions event from 1-6 p.m. on Dec. 30 in the START Center on the second floor of Sullivan Technology Center. Information: contact Admissions Dept., 270-827-6158.

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**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:** City of Henderson Municipal Center and all other administrative offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 20, for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. For details of your holiday week trash collection schedule visit and scroll to the schedule link: www.cityofhendersonky.org/224//Sanitation-Collection.

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**On stage next**
You probably read it in high school. Now, 75 years after publishing, Aquila Theatre will bring George Orwell’s cautionary novel “1984” to the Preston Arts Center stage. It will open Act II in the Henderson Area Arts Alliance’s 26th performing arts season at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21. Tickets: 270-826-5916 or haaa.org.

The answer is ... All warmed up from all those Monday nights competing in Trivia Night at Rockhouse on the River? Then you should be ready for the Henderson Rotary Club’s annual Trivia Night competition. Tables for 8 competitors are available for $300 and includes dinner and a fun night of trivia. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners. There will be a silent auction and cash bar. For tables: Mark Chumbler, 270-826-3102.

More winter fundraising As it has for many, many years, the Henderson Lions Club will have its annual auction in February (Feb. 10-14). It started as a radio auction decades ago, but in today’s world it is televised, live-streamed on Facebook and has an on-line component. All of the net proceeds fund sight conservation programs and other charitable work. There’s also a live auction on Saturday, Feb. 15 at Rookies Banquet Hall. Tickets: $50 or $75 for two, hendersoncitylions@gmail.com.

When The Light Comes Tour Contemporary Christian band Big Daddy Weave will bring its “When The Light Comes” Tour to Preston Arts Center on Feb. 19. Bethel Music artists The McClures will be the opening act for the 7 p.m. event. Ticket information is available at Eventbrite.com. Price: $19.95-$76.
Don’t let winter storm sneak up on you

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.

- Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking, and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.
- Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms.
- Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person’s specific needs, including medication. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.
- Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Keep the gas tank full.
- Learn the signs of, and basic treatments for, frostbite and hypothermia.

WELCOME HOME

Habitat dedicates 65th house

A brand new home — Habitat for Humanity of Henderson’s 65th — was dedicated on Dec. 4 at 215 Letcher St. in Henderson’s East End.

The new house, the first of a three-home development across from East End Park, is the residence of Crystal Butler and her two young sons Camden and Cararion. Ms. Butler is the manager at Habitat’s ReStore. In her position with Habitat, she has seen many families receive a home when she really needed one.

“Crystal has spent many years helping us raise money for other family’s homes and now it is her time to get a home that she and her children really need. Crystal has supported all of our families and it is our time to support her in her homeownership journey,” said Britney Smith, executive director for Habitat.

The Butler Family home project is part of a collaboration between the City of Henderson and Habitat on Letcher Street to help create a resurgence of homeownership in the East End.

“As a city, it is great to work with a community organization like Habitat as we partner to make our community a better place to live and raise a family,” said Mayor Steve Austin.

Other collaborators were the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Field and Main Bank and the Kentucky Housing Corporation.

Homeowners for the other two residences in the Letcher Street development have already been selected.

POW! announces grant winners

Habitat for Humanity of Henderson was the top grant recipient when the Partnership of Women (POW!) announced its winners on Nov. 6. Habitat received $15,000 to help grow their voucher program that supplies beds and other household items to low-income families in Henderson Co.

The Gathering Place/Henderson Senior Center and Spottsville Volunteer Fire Department were each awarded a $3,000 secondary grant at a banquet that took place at Farmer & Frenchman Winery.

POW! membership information, contact Susan Sauls at susan@volunteerhenderson.org.

VOLUNTEER & INFORMATION CENTER

VITA available on Jan. 25

The Volunteer and Information Center and United Way of Henderson County will again provide the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Last year, volunteers in the VITA program were able to help more than 1,500 people in Henderson County get their taxes prepared for free and deposited nearly $1 million in local banks from returns.

Some details about the coming year’s program:

-- The Henderson County VITA site is located at the Housing Authority of Henderson, 111 S. Adams St. Site hours are 3 to 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday evenings and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.
-- Opening day for tax preparation is Saturday, Jan. 25, and the final day is Tuesday, April 14.
-- An additional VITA location will be at the Gathering Place (Senior Citizens Center), 1817 N. Elm St. Hours there will be Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. starting on Wednesday, Jan. 29.
-- Find details about how you can qualify and what you should bring to the VITA site at www.volunteerhenderson.org/vita/. Call VIC for more info: 270-831-2273.
BRINGING HOME THE BACON

‘Homegrown Series’ wins awards

The Henderson Tourist Commission received three prestigious Traverse Awards for Excellence in Tourism Marketing from the Kentucky Travel Industry Association (KTIA). The awards were presented at the Kentucky Travel Industry Association 2019 Annual Conference in Covington on Nov. 7.

Abby Dixon, executive director of the Henderson Tourist Commission, accepted a Gold Traverse Award for the “Homegrown Series” digital campaign that featured local individuals and families in Henderson County’s thriving agriculture community; a Silver Traverse Awards for the “Homegrown is my nature…” print advertisement in the 2019 Kentucky Official Visitors Guide; a Silver Traverse Award for the “Henderson for the Holidays” Christmas tree ornament, a specialty gift shop item in collaboration with local artist Kaylynn Poole.

Kentucky travel and tourism organizations and attractions can submit entries in multiple categories in the annual Traverse Awards competition. A panel of judges consists of marketing, public relations, and tourism experts whose work is conducted outside of Kentucky. Award criteria include concept, design, creativity, and measurable impact. More than 250 entries were submitted from throughout Kentucky for the 2019 competition.

“Creatively telling our story remains a priority of the organization, and being recognized as top in the state reinforces that we’re doing just that,” Dixon said.

The Kentucky Travel Industry Association represents all segments of Kentucky’s $14.5 billion tourism industry, the third largest industry in the state. In Henderson County, total expenditures by visitors in 2018 generated $76.47 million back into the local economy, a number that has steadily grown over the past six years.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Furniture at The Perch stained

Hats off to the Tri-county Council of Labor, whose members completed their work at The Perch pocket park in November by staining the furniture they constructed last year. The organization was honored at the Dec. 10 Board of Commissioners meeting for the 450 volunteer hours they devoted to The Perch project. They received a plaque from the Kentucky Chapter of the American Public Works Association for their community contribution.

State government

Legislature gearing up for session

The 2020 regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly is set. Officials say the session is scheduled to convene on Jan. 7 and adjourn April 15. It is expected to last 60 legislative days — the maximum allowed by the state constitution in even-numbered years. March 2 will be the final day that House bills can be introduced and March 3 will be the final day for the introduction of Senate bills. Bills that have been introduced by these deadlines will be able to continue moving through the legislative process until the session adjourns.

The Henderson Chamber of Commerce will host a Legislative Preview Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 13, at the Big Rivers Electric Training Facility, 314 Water St. RSVP to info@kyndle.us.
**YOUR GOVERNMENT**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS**
2nd and 4th Tuesdays • 5:30 p.m.
Assembly Room, Municipal Center
222 First St., Henderson, Ky. 42420

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION**
3rd Tuesdays, as needed • 5:30 p.m.
Assembly Room, Municipal Center

**CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD MEETINGS**
4th Mondays • 5:30 p.m.
Assembly Room, Municipal Center

**CITY BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT MEETINGS**
2nd Wednesday • 5 p.m.
Assembly Room, Municipal Center

**HENDERSON COUNTY FISCAL COURT MEETINGS**
2nd and 4th Tuesdays • 9:30 a.m.
HC Fiscal Courtroom
Henderson County Courthouse

**STAYING INFORMED**

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- Meeting notices
- Meeting agendas

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**THINGS TO DO LIST**
**January-February 2020**

**FIRST DAY HIKE 2020**
1 p.m., Jan. 1, Audubon State Park

“PEACE IN THE VALLEY” CALL FOR ART
Jan. 1-Feb. 19, Audubon Museum

“COMMUNICATING VISUALLY” OHIO VALLEY ART LEAGUE EXHIBIT
Through Jan. 6, Citi-Center Gallery

“PORTRAITS OF THE PAST II” EXHIBIT
Through Feb. 16, Audubon Museum

GROUP RUN
6:15 p.m. each Tuesday
Henderson Brewing Co.

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP
4:30 p.m., Jan. 2, Jan. 16, Feb. 6,
Henderson Co. Public Library

“WALK ON THE WILD SIDE”
10 a.m., Jan. 8, Feb. 12,
Henderson Co. Public Library

ROTARY TRIVIA NIGHT
5:30 p.m., Feb. 1, Holy Name School

LITTLE REMBRANDTS VALENTINES ART
10:30 a.m., Feb. 1, Audubon Museum

**MID-WINTER HIKE**
2 p.m., Feb. 8, Audubon State Park

HENDERSON LIONS CLUB AUCTION
7 p.m., Feb. 10-14, Audubon Mill Park

HENDERSON LIONS CLUB LIVE AUCTION
6:30 p.m., Feb. 15, Rookies Banquet Room

BIG DADDY WEAVE
7 p.m. Feb. 19, Preston Arts Center

AQUILA THEATRE: “1984”
7:30 p.m. Feb. 21, Preston Arts Center

ADULT ARTIST RETREAT
9 a.m. Feb. 21, Audubon Museum

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY JAZZ BAND CONCERT
7:30 p.m., Feb. 28, Preston Arts Center

**TAKE-A-HIKE.** Naturalist’s staff at John James Audubon State Park has fall/winter walks planned in its hiking series for January and February. **JANUARY:** First Day Hike 2020 will start a new decade off right. It’s free and starts at 1 p.m. on Jan. 1. **FEBRUARY:** Mid-Winter Hike at 2 p.m. on Feb. 8 will explore the wooded trails.

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New refuge established

**WILDLIFE**

The nation’s 568th national wildlife refuge was officially created on Nov. 22 in Henderson County. It is only the second such area completely inside the Commonwealth of Kentucky.


It is the state’s first national wildlife refuge since Clarks River near Benton, Ky., became a reality.

The Conservation Partnership Area for the refuge -- areas here where land could be converted into the refuge by willing sellers -- includes a wide swath of Henderson County. The CPA is more than 52,000 acres -- mostly made up of land along the Ohio and Green rivers and the river bottomland areas that are heavily influenced by the rise and fall of those waterways.

But the actual refuge is definitely starting small.

It debuted on Nov. 22 with a 10-acre tract on Green River Road No. 2 donated by Southern Conservation Corp., a non-profit land trust focused on protecting and restoring native wildlife habitat in the southeastern United States.

**TAKING OF THE VOWS**
Saturday, Feb. 8 at 6 p.m.
Audubon Mill Park

**Canvas Date Night**
Feb. 14

**Valentines Dinner/Canvas Date Night**
Feb. 14

**FACULTY JAZZ BAND CONCERT**
7:30 p.m., Jan. 25, Preston Arts Center

**“BAND OF THE SOUTH” CONCERT**
7:30 p.m., Jan. 17, Preston Arts Center

**“1984”**
7 p.m., Feb. 21, Preston Arts Center

**BIG DADDY WEAVE**
7 p.m. Feb. 19, Preston Arts Center

**AQUILA THEATRE**
7:30 p.m. Feb. 21, Preston Arts Center

**FISCAL COURT MEETINGS**
2nd and 4th Tuesdays • 9:30 a.m.
HC Fiscal Courtroom
Henderson County Courthouse