



SPORTS

THE FILLIES WERE ON A ROLL
LAST WEEK, DEFEATING
HOLMES, LEXINGTON CATHOLIC
AND BEECHWOOD.

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The Cynthiana Democrat

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Christmas on the Farm this weekend

BY DEVON WILLIAMS
NEWS REPORTER

This weekend is the return of the now annual Christmas on the Farm event at Ashford Acres Inn.

The holiday tradition will take place over the course of two days: Saturday, Dec. 20, from noon to 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 21, from noon to 6 p.m.

Entry will be \$10 per attendee, with tickets available at the gate and on their website.

Tickets will earn access to so many holiday themed activities, such as cozy carriage rides, a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, a bouncy house, Christmas music and warm fire pits.

There will be plenty of vendors set up as well, selling holiday gifts of homemade crafts, food trucks and a crazy assortment of sweet treats (hot chocolate, kettle corn, s'mores, etc.).

And on Saturday evening there will be a free fireworks show.

Sign up for Licking Valley Singers

Never let it be said that the Licking Valley Singers let the grass grow under their feet. Having just finished their most recent concert, the Singers are already looking ahead to spring.

Registration for the Spring 2026 Licking Valley Singers concert session is now open and runs through Jan. 2, 2026. Rehearsals begin Thursday, Jan. 22 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at MCTC-LVC.

The musical theme for the upcoming session is "Songs for the People." The Singers will again be under the direction of Ross Haney.

Concert performance dates are April 24 and April 26.

LVS is an all-comers community choir; no auditions are necessary. Please visit our Facebook page for more information and link to the registration form.

<https://forms.gle/Y4Hv5LLjUoe46SRq6>

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OBITUARIES

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Planning commission denies zoning change request for The Cottages at Flat Run

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

A standing room only crowd was in attendance at the Extension Office for the Dec. 11 meeting of the Cynthiana-Harrison County-Berry Joint Planning Commission. The majority of the audience members were there in opposition to two zoning change requests brought by the GAH Foundation (GAH), owner of The Cottages at Flat Run. The first application was postponed; the second denied.

The first agenda item—a public hearing on a request for a zoning change from A-1 (Agricultural One) to Business Two (B-2) for 6.58 acres at 25 Flat Run

Drive (Wellness Center and adjoining land)—was postponed at the applicant's request.

The second agenda item, a public hearing on GAH Foundation's request for a zone change from R-1 (Residential One) to Residential Three (R-3) for 20.16 acres at 25 Flat Run Drive (Senior Living Homes), was discussed by attorneys and commented on by members of the public before coming to a vote.

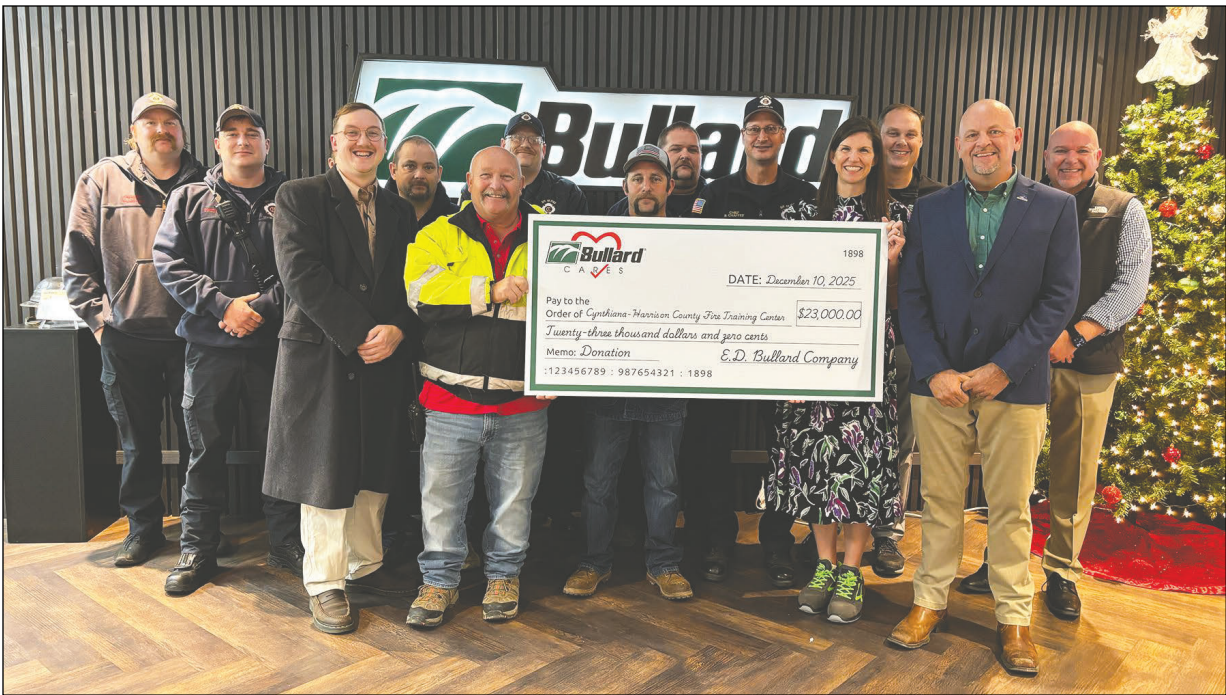
The Cottages was originally developed by Harrison Memorial Hospital as a senior living community and currently has 25 single-family homes a wellness center. The entire property was purchased by GAH for \$7.8 million in July.

Speaking on behalf of GAH, attorney

Hanna Stettner claimed, "HMH was forced to abandon the project and sell the property due to it being unsustainable financially ... and it was due to this negative cash flow that even the purchase required a cash buyer. And honestly, if not for a member of the foundation [Linda Grizzle] being a Powerball winner, it's likely to have been partitioned off and the lots individually sold."

Stettner went on to say GAH's goal was to maintain the property as a senior living community but do it in a sustainable manner in order to be profitable. That, she said, would require rezoning from R-1 to R-3 in order to allow GAH to

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Betsy Smith

A happy mix of firefighters, local government officials and Bullard personnel pose with the giant \$23,000 check that will go toward the new fire training facility at the Business Park.

Bullard donates \$23,000 for new fire training facility

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

Wednesday, Dec. 10, was supposed to have been the day for the groundbreaking ceremony at the Cynthiana-Harrison County Business Park for the new fire training facility. Mother Nature had other ideas, however; cold, rainy weather forced the event inside, turning it into a joyful check presentation at Bullard. And a big check it was, both literally and figuratively. The company made a \$23,000 donation to the training facility.

Danita Ecklar, of Bullard's HR department, welcomed everyone and explained that backs in June, Harrison County Fire Chief Charles Carson

and Cynthiana Fire Chief Bob Chaffee met with Bullard officials and also reached out to CEO Wells Bullard about the new venture to "strengthen our fire services," hoping to establish a partnership with the company.

"We were happy to do that," Ecklar said.

Bubbling with enthusiasm, Wells Bullard said, "So what do we do here at Bullard, right? We protect people, and we are so proud and so grateful to be protected by the finest of Cynthiana and Harrison County; and we're just so lucky that we get to invest in this, which keeps our community and our teammates and, obviously, our business safe. And obviously, we make safety equipment for firefighters, and we're very proud

to protect you all, too."

As a company that makes tools and protective equipment used by firefighters, she said Bullard is excited to invest in the training facility. "It's so important that you guys are always honing your skills that you can keep our community and our people as safe as possible ... We are grateful that you will then use those skills to help keep our community and our people and our business safe."

"Obviously, we love live fire. We love looking at at hot flames and testing out our equipment and being able to see how we can put things to the limits to make sure that we're constantly innovating for your all's

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Ham radio operators make radio contact with North Pole

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR



Betsy Smith

The Harrison County Amateur Radio Club gave children an opportunity to talk to Santa on Dec. 6. Here, young Ben tries his hand at ham radio under the supervision of Rick Mattox, club president.

The Harrison County Amateur Radio Club was fortunate to have a strong signal from the North Pole on Saturday. The ham radio operators had arranged with Santa Claus to make radio contact with them in the lobby of the Rohs Opera House so that children could talk to the jolly old elf on the mic.

Each participant was given a commemorative card for making a long range North Pole contact via ham radio. This was not just any old card; this was a QSL card.

QSL cards are postcards exchanged by ham radio operators not just around the country but around the globe. They confirm two-way radio contact has been made and

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A statement from Harrison Memorial Hospital

Harrison Memorial Hospital recognizes and respects the history of The Cottages at the Flat Run and the important role the property has played in our community. We understand that The Cottages hold meaning for many, and we approached the decision regarding its future with great care, thoughtful discussion, and deep consideration. The transfer of ownership, approved by the HMH Board of Directors, was not made lightly.

Over time, it became clear that The Cottages were operating at a financial loss each year when factoring in the outstanding loan on the property and the low rental fees. While the sale allowed the hospital to fully pay off the remaining loan, it did not recover the total investment made in the property. Continuing to operate The Cottages would have required ongoing significant financial support that ultimately diverted resources away from patient care and the hospital's core mission.

As Harrison Memorial Hospital continues to evaluate aging equipment and infrastructure, clinical space needs, and the increasing demand for healthcare services, we are sometimes faced with difficult but necessary decisions. As a nonprofit organization, HMH has a responsibility to be careful stewards of the resources entrusted to us so that we can sustain high-quality healthcare for our community now and into the future.

At the same time, HMH remains deeply committed to charitable and community-focused efforts. This includes operating the Care-A-Van patient transport service, providing a high-quality EMS service for the entire city and county, offering free health screenings, and supporting local schools and communities through initiatives such as free admission to Harrison and Pendleton County sporting events, among many other outreach efforts.

The decision to sell The Cottages was not a departure from the vision of providing a quality, senior living option, but an effort to allow the property to continue fulfilling its intended purpose. From the outset, the site was envisioned as a senior living community. While early plans included duplex-style housing, those plans were revised to single-family homes in response to concerns raised by neighboring residents. The sale was made with the intent that the property remains a senior living community and that the new owner carries forward the legacy established by previous administrations, including the continued development of homes to serve seniors in Harrison County and surrounding areas.

As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, Harrison Memorial Hospital remains committed to our patients, employees, and the long-term health of our communities. We value the trust placed in us and remain dedicated to being a community partner while focusing on our primary mission of providing high-quality healthcare for years to come.



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