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# The Advocate Messenger

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## City approves \$4.5M health insurance renewal for employees

By **Josely Labarrere**  
Advocate Messenger

minutes from previous meetings.

highlighting its long-standing service to the community and contributions to local and international projects.

In personnel matters, commissioners approved an appointment to the Danville-Boyle County Human Rights Commission, noting the candidate's qualifications and background.

the record and present the requests at a future meeting before any action is taken.

Commissioners approved a proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, emphasizing the importance of safe and supportive environments for children and encouraging community involvement in prevention efforts.

The commission also approved banner requests for the Rotary Club's anniversary and an upcoming Earth Day event scheduled for April 18 at Constitution Square Park. Organizers said the event will include educational booths, live music, and activities focused on environmental awareness.

Two zoning change requests were tabled after commissioners raised concerns about incomplete or unclear documentation. Officials said the Planning and Zoning Commission will be asked to clarify

The commission approved a health insurance renewal for the upcoming fiscal year, maintaining current coverage providers and plan structures. Officials said the city is budgeting approximately \$4.5 million for employee health care, with projected

See **CITY**, 2A

DANVILLE — The Danville City Commission approved multiple proclamations, a health insurance renewal and several resolutions while tabling zoning requests during its March 23 meeting.

The meeting opened with approval of the agenda, with one item removed due to illness, followed by approval of



DANVILLE SCHOOLS

School staff excavate a time capsule buried at John W. Bate Middle School during the 2000-01 school year.

## Time capsule project resurfaces at Bate 25 years later

*Most contents damaged, but lessons remain*

By **Josely Labarrere**  
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE — A classroom project from the early 2000s recently resurfaced at John W. Bate Middle School, as a 25-year-old time capsule was unearthed on campus, according to a Danville Independent Schools press release.

The capsule was originally buried during the 2000-01 school year by seventh-grade students in social studies teacher Jeff Gulle's class. This year, Gulle worked with the district's maintenance team to locate and remove the container.

According to the press release, the project began as part of a unit focused on



DANVILLE SCHOOLS

The time capsule container is removed from the ground after being buried for 25 years at Bate Middle School.

See **TIME**, 2A

## Historical society discusses cemetery conditions, upcoming events

By **Josely Labarrere**  
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE — Members of the Danville Boyle County African American Historical Society reviewed cemetery conditions, community events and ongoing projects during their March meeting.

The group met March 17 at its North Second Street location, where President Michael Hughes called the meeting to order with seven members present. The secretary's and financial reports were presented and approved.

During the meeting, Bill Stocker provided an update on several cemeteries in the area. At Meadow Lane Cemetery, additional work is still needed on the McAfee headstone.

At Wilsonville Cemetery, members noted continued deterioration of structures, including a chapel that is in poor condition and a nearby school building that is nearly gone. Fallen trees were also reported throughout the site.

Updates at Hilldale Cemetery included the installation of section markers, plans to post updated regulations and ongoing discussion about the addition of a columbarium. The city is also

considering the purchase of additional land for cemetery use.

At Shelby City Cemetery, volunteers from Centre College and others have been working to clear limbs, with assistance expected from a jail work crew to remove debris.

The society also discussed research efforts, including plans to gather information on Boyle County members of the Harlem Hellfighters, which will be shared with Hughes.

Additional updates included plans to place informational posters at the Jennie Rogers Community Center and support from the city of Danville for an upcoming Juneteenth celebration at the center.

Members also discussed operational matters, including reviewing the cost of internet service, which is expected to exceed \$200 per month by September. Alternatives are being explored.

The group also noted a recent feature article on Anne Sleet of Perryville published in "Boyle Neighbors."

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14 at 6 p.m.

## Heritage board tackles downtown property concerns

By **Josely Labarrere**  
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE — The Danville Architectural Heritage Board addressed a deteriorating downtown property, signage enforcement and upcoming public engagement efforts during its March 18 meeting. Members approved minutes

from a previous meeting before turning attention to a property at 204 W. Main St., where concerns have been raised about the condition of wooden windows and ongoing deterioration.

Board members discussed the status of the property, which is facing potential

See **HERITAGE**, 2A

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