# The Winchester Star

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# New industrial park being built on Shady Elm Road

Valley Logistics will have 2M square feet of buildings

**By JOSH JANNEY** The Winchester Star

**WINCHESTER** — On Thursday, Fairfax-based Peterson Companies broke ground on Valley Logistics, a new industrial park at 831 Shady Elm Road in Frederick County.

The complex will have up to 2 million square feet of industrial buildings, which will be built on three parcels totaling about 150 acres. The properties, owned by Peterson and zoned for industrial use, are south of the American Woodmark facility.

Katie Oosterbeek, assistant vice president of development for Peterson, said local firm Howard Shockey & Sons is grading the site, turning the acreage from farmland into pads that will be "building-ready." Construction will last at least 12 months.

According to its website, Peterson Companies is one of the D.C. region's largest privately-owned

real estate developers. It has been in business for more than 50 years. The company's portfolio includes National Harbor, Fair Lakes and Fairfax Corner.

Expanding out into the Winchester-Frederick County markets has been a strategic goal for us, and we are really excited to get started on this," Oosterbeek said.

She said the company is in negotiations with several different companies about moving into the planned park, though she could not reveal who they are at this time. She estimates there will be a total of four to six buildings, depending on which tenants agree to utilize the park. She said construction of the buildings probably won't begin until late this year or early next year.

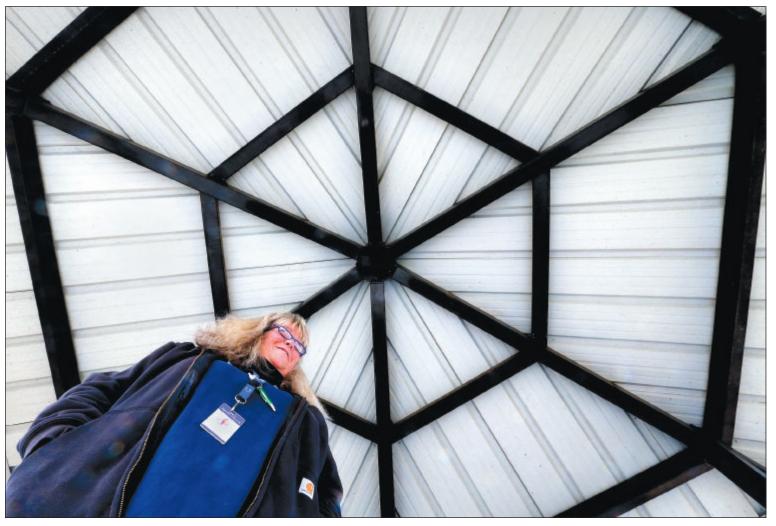
The industrial park will be built on both sides of the planned \$5.2

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JEFF TAYLOR/THE WINCHESTER STAR

Ground was broken Thursday for the new Valley Logistics industrial park that will be built on both sides of the future Renaissance Drive extension in Frederick County. The extension will run between Valley Pike (U.S. 11) south of Va. 37 and Shady Elm Road. Four to six warehouses encompassing 2 million square feet will be built on the 150-acre property. Peterson Companies, builders of National Harbor, are the developers. Shown breaking ground are Thomas Keaton (from left), project manager for Howard Shockey & Sons; Jeff Boehm, president of Howard Shockey & Sons; Patrick Barker, executive director of the Frederick County Economic Development Authority; Ty Lawson, attorney; Katie Oosterbeek, assistant vice president of development for the Peterson Companies; Taylor Chess, president of development for the Peterson Companies; John Dettleff, executive managing director of JLL real estate brokers; Dan Coats, managing director of JLL real estate brokers; Clark Tutwiler, development associate the the Peterson Companies; and Steve Utterback, senior superintendent at Howard Shockey & Sons.



JEFF TAYLOR/THE WINCHESTER STAR

**Getting some fresh air** 

Lord Fairfax Community College daytime custodian Joyce Brown steps outside and into one of the school's pavilions to enjoy the warmer temperatures on her lunch break Wednesday.

# **COVID** cases drop significantly at local hospitals

By JOSETTE KEELOR The Winchester Star

COVID-related hospitalizations are trending down, and Valley Health has been opening its doors to perform more non-emergency procedures.

As of Thursday, Valley Health had 63 COVID-19 hospitalizations across its four Virginia hospitals and two West Virginia hospitals. Among those were 44 patients at Winchester Medical Center, six at Warren Memorial, six at Shenandoah Memorial, and five at Page Memorial.

there were 185 patients across the health system's six hospitals with 22 patients on venti-

Positivity rates for the coronavirus are also in decline, said Dr. Nicolas Restrepo, quality

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# Biden: Russian threat to invade Ukraine still 'very high'

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV. YURAS KARMANAU, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and LORNE COOK Associated Press

Thursday as U.S. President sion an existential threat. Joe Biden warned that Russia days, and violence spiked in a long-running standoff in eastern Ukraine that some worried could provide the spark for wider conflict.

between East and West only seemed to grow, as NATO fears of an attack. Russia is be-claims. lieved to have built up some Ukraine's borders.

West over what exactly Russia is doing with those troops, the pretext — a "so-called ter-

60% of Russia's overall ground a staged drone strike, "a fake, forces. The Kremlin insists it even a real attack ... using has no plans to invade, but it chemical weapons," he said. has long considered Ukraine **KYIV, Ukraine** — Fears of a part of its sphere of influence new war in Europe resurged and NATO's eastward expan-

The U.S. government iscould invade Ukraine within sued some of its starkest, most detailed warnings yet about advancing on Kyiv, a city of what could happen next.

Speaking at the U.N. Security Council, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken revealed World dignitaries raced some conclusions of U.S. intelfor solutions, but suspicions ligence in a strategy that the U.S. and Britain have hoped will expose and pre-empt any allies rejected Russian asser- invasion planning. The U.S. tions it was pulling back troops has declined to reveal much from exercises that had fueled of the evidence underlying its

He told the diplomats that 150,000 military forces around a sudden, seemingly violent event staged by Russia to jus-Concerns escalated in the tify invasion would kick it off.

"We don't know exactly"

which included an estimated rorist bombing" inside Russia,

It would open with cyberattacks, along with missiles and bombs across Ukraine, he said. Painting the U.S. picture further, Blinken described the entry of Russian troops, nearly 3 million, and other

U.S. intelligence indicated Russia also would target "specific groups" of Ukrainians, Blinken said, again without giving details.

In an implicit nod to Secretary of State Colin Powell's appearance before the Security Council in 2003, when he cited unsubstantiated and false S. intelligence to justify the U.S. invasion of Iraq, Blinken added: "Let me be clear. I am here today not to start a war, but to prevent one.'

**Two Sections, 24 Pages** 

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ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO JR/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Military helicopters fly over the Osipovichi training ground during the Union Courage-2022 Russia-Belarus military drills near Osipovichi , Belarus, on Thursday. Russia has deployed troops to its ally Belarus for sweeping joint military drills that run through Sunday, fueling Western concerns that Moscow could use the exercise to attack Ukraine from the north.

### ON WINCHESTERSTAR.COM

So what are you thinking about? Let us know. Comment on stories or opinions you read in today's newspaper after each item on The Star's webpage.



Dear Annie.

.A8 Obituaries.... Sports.... TV listings .....

### TODAY'S FORECAST

HIGH

Mostly sunny skies. Gusty winds in the morning. Morning high of 45F with temps falling to near 35. Winds NW at 20 to 30 mph.

**Full report A11** 



#### **Precipitation** Month 2022 2021 Avg. 3.15 1.77 2.56 January 0.89\* 4.63 2.41 February 1.66 3.45 March 5.32 April 3.37 5.04 3.87 May 6.52 3.61 June 5.26 3.53 July August September 3.74 October 4.50 November 2.02 3.23 December 38.42 **Total** 56.37

\*Rainfall from the City of Winchester

SUNRISE	SUNSET	
7:02 a.m.	5:54 p.m.	
•	•	

**Ultraviolet Index** 0.1.2 minimal - 3.4 low - 5.6 moderate

- 7,8,9 high - 10 up very high

**TODAY** Mostly sunny skies. Temps falling to near

35.

**TONIGHT** Clear skies at night. Winds WSW at 5 to 10 mph. 24

Today's Outlook

**Regional temperatures** 



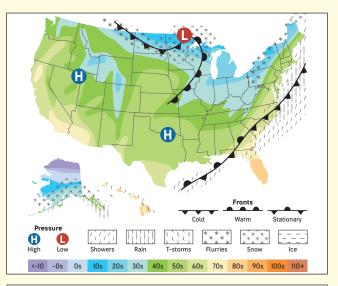
Saturday — Wind increasing. A few clouds from time to time. High: 41, Low: 15 Winds: West at 20 to 30 mph.

Sunday — Partly cloudy in the morning becoming mostly sunny. High: 44, Low: 29

Monday — Mostly sunny. Cloudy at night with occasional rain. High: 61, Low: 41

#### **Across the country**

	Highs/Lows
Anchorage	37/29
Atlanta	50/31
Boston	57/21
Chicago	29/11
Dallas	55/31
Honolulu	80/68
Los Angeles	74/48
New York	59/27



Winchester temperatures				
	High	Low		
Thursday	63	39		
Year ago Thursday	27	22		
Information from the National Weather Service and Weather Underground.				

### **Industrial**

#### From Page A1

million extension of Renaissance Drive west of Valley Pike (U.S. 11), across the CSX railroad tracks, to Shady Elm Road. The extension will provide access from Valley Pike to Shady Elm Road and alleviate traffic congestion on Apple Valley Road.

Oosterbeek said the previous owners of the properties already provided financial contributions toward the Renaissance Drive ex-

tension, which will give an additional access point to the industrial park.

Frederick County Assistant Planning Director John Bishop said the Renaissance Drive project should go to bid within a few months.

For more information about the Peterson Companies, visit: https://www.petersoncos.com.

jjanney@winchesterstar.com

## **COVID**

#### From Page A1

and patient safety officer for the local health system.

As of Wednesday, the Valley Health lab was showing an 11% positivity rate, he said, when about a week earlier it was seeing a 17% rate and in early to mid January about 30%. A positivity rate is the percentage of people who test positive for the virus out of those who have been tested.

With the decrease in numbers, medical staff are better able to receive and care for more patients who don't have COVID, Restrepo said.

These include patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit and those scheduled for complicated but non-emergency surgeries to the hospital with other that require recovery in an inpatient hospital bed. These procedures might have been postponed during the previous month when COVID patients were taking priority.

But while local cases of the omicron variant are going down, the virus remains a serious threat for the unvaccinated, those who did not get a booster shot, and those with other health conditions, Restrepo said.

'We're having some ongoing deaths from COVID and ongoing admissions from COVID," he said.

The virus is a threat to the respiratory system and the body's inflammatory process, Restrepo said.

Overwhelmingly, they're going home," he said of the patients he's seen hospitalized with COVID, but not everyone.

We continue to have people in their 40s, unvaccinated, dying from COVID," he said.

For months, now, Valley Health officials have been saying that about 85% of its COVID hospitalizations have been people who either haven't been fully vaccinated or haven't received their booster shot, and that percentage still holds, Restrepo said.

The remaining 15% are primarily older people or those with underlying health conditions.

Hospitals are seeing very few seriously ill patients who received the

third booster vaccine. With this winter's omicron variant, though many patients were presenting to hospitals with milder symptoms than with the delta variant last fall, that

- Contact Josh Janney at

didn't necessarily make things easier on healthcare staff.

For one thing, omicron is far more contagious, so it was infecting more people at a faster rate and driving people to area hospitals in larger groups. This threatened to overwhelm hospital resources, made it difficult for staff to find available beds for everyone, and also challenged hospital administrators to accept patients from other regional hospitals who needed care that Winchester Medical Center could provide better than

smaller hospitals. During the height of the omicron surge, Valley Health staff also noticed a lot of patients coming — the type of surgeries conditions but then tested positive with COVID as a secondary issue, Restrepo said. Testing positive for COVID complicates patient treatment because they still need to be separated from other patients and staff so they won't spread the virus to others.

Nearly two years into the pandemic and with a second major variant on the decline, Restrepo said he isn't aware of any big insights into the virus other than to say that the community is not through the woods yet.

"It's clearly a novel virus," he said.

### **Ukraine**

#### From Page A1

Biden's own comments on the Russian threat were unusually dire.

Speaking at the White House, he said Washington saw no signs of a promised Russian withdrawal, and said the invasion threat remains "very high" because Russia has moved more troops toward the border with Ukraine instead of pulling them back.

"Every indication we have is they're prepared to go into Ukraine, attack Ukraine," Biden told reporters. He said the U.S. has "reason to believe" that Russia is "engaged in a false flag operation to have an excuse to go in," but did not provide details

Biden also said he had no plans to speak soon with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Renewed fear of an invasion put global financial markets on edge. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell nearly 600 points, or 1.7%. More than 85% of the stocks in the benchmark S&P 500 were in the red.

Even without an attack, the sustained Russian pressure on Ukraine has further hobbled its shaky economy and left an entire nation under constant strain. Eastern Ukraine already has been the site of fighting since 2014 that has killed 14,000, and tensions soared again Thursday.

Separatist authorities in the Luhansk region reported an increase in Ukrainian government shelling along the tense line of contact. Separatist official Rodion Miroshnik said rebel forces returned fire.

Ukraine disputed the claim, saying separatists had shelled its forces but they didn't fire back. The Ukrainian military command said shells hit a kindergarten in Stanytsia Luhanska, wounding two teachers, and cut power to half the town.

The head of the monitoring mission for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Yasar Halit Cevik, said it reported 500 explosions along the contact line from Wednesday evening to Thursday. Cevik told the Security Council tioned the Russian troop pullout claims. the tensions then appeared to ease, with about 30 blasts reported.

enskyy tweeted that the kindergarten provocation.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov countered with the same: "We have repeatedly warned that the excessive concentration of Ukrainian armed forces in the immediate vicinity of the line of demarcation, coupled with possible provocations, could pose a terrible danger."

A 2015 deal brokered by France and Germany helped end the worst of the fighting, but regular skirmishes have continued and a political settlement has stalled.

Western powers scrambled to avert, or prepare for, eventual invasion.



**ASSOCIATED PRESS** 

A kindergarten building after alleged shelling by separatists forces in Stanytsia Luhanska, eastern Ukraine, on Thursday,

NATO's defense ministers discussed field hospital in Belarus. ways to bolster defenses in Eastern Europe, while EU leaders huddled over how ice President Kamala Harris are among in Munich that will see urgent consultations on the crisis.

China, a key Russian geopolitical ally, accused Washington of "playing up and sensationalizing the crisis and escalating tensions." Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the U.S. should "take seriously and address Russia's legitimate and reasonable concerns on security as-

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ques- and didn't say how many returned.

stocking up their blood supplies. You don't do these sort of things for no reason, and ting ready to pack up and go home.'

British Defense Secretary Ben Waltroops over the last 48 hours, up to 7,000." That squared with what a U.S. administration official said a day earlier.

the Russian buildup, reported continued It noted a new pontoon bridge and a new

Russia says the pullout, announced earlier this week, will take time. Russian to punish Russia if it invades. Blinken and Defense Ministry spokesman Maj.-Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Russian tank and political, military and diplomatic leaders infantry units holding drills in the Kursk heading to the annual security conference and Bryansk regions neighboring Ukraine were returning to their bases in the Nizhny Novgorod region. He said some already were back after a 700-kilometer (435-mile) journey.

Troops on maneuvers in Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, have moved back to Russia's North Caucasus, he said, and Russian troops in Belarus will return to their garrisons after war games end Sunday. Konashenkov At NATO headquarters in Brussels, didn't mention how many were deployed

NATO, meanwhile, has moved troops We've seen some of those troops inch and military equipment into Eastern Eucloser to that border. We see them fly in rope in a display of resolve meant to deter Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelmore combat and support aircraft," he any Russian aggression and underline its said. "We see them sharpen their readi-intent to defend NATO's eastern members shelling "by pro-Russian forces is a big ness in the Black Sea. We even see them in the unlikely event that they too become

Russia held out a new offer of diployou certainly don't do them if you're get-macy Thursday, handing the U.S. a response to offers to engage in talks on limiting missile deployments in Europe. lace said the West has seen "an increase of restrictions on military drills and other confidence-building measures.

The response, released by the Foreign Ministry, deplored the West's refusal to Maxar Technologies, a commercial meet the main Russian security and desatellite imagery company monitoring mands and reaffirmed that Moscow could take unspecified "military-technical meaheightened military activity near Ukraine. sures" if the U.S. and its allies continue to stonewall its concerns.



