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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.

In contrast, in mid-January there were 185 patients across the health system’s six hospitals with 22 patients on ventilators.

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

KYIV, Ukraine — Fears of a new war in Europe resurged Thursday as U.S. President Joe Biden warned that Russia could invade Ukraine within days, and violence spiked in a long-running standoff in eastern Ukraine that some worried could provide the spark for wider conflict.

World dignitaries raced for solutions, but suspicions between East and West only seemed to grow, as NATO allies rejected Russian assertions it was pulling back troops from exercises that had fueled fears of an attack. Russia is believed to have built up some 150,000 military forces around Ukraine’s borders.

Concerns escalated in the West over what exactly Russia is doing with those troops,

which included an estimated 60% of Russia’s overall ground forces. The Kremlin insists it has no plans to invade, but it has long considered Ukraine part of its sphere of influence and NATO’s eastward expansion an existential threat.

The U.S. government issued some of its starkest, most detailed warnings yet about what could happen next.

Speaking at the U.N. Security Council, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken revealed some conclusions of U.S. intelligence in a strategy that the U.S. and Britain have hoped will expose and pre-empt any invasion planning. The U.S. has declined to reveal much of the evidence underlying its claims.

He told the diplomats that a sudden, seemingly violent event staged by Russia to justify invasion would kick it off.

“We don’t know exactly” the pretext — a “so-called ter-

rorist bombing” inside Russia, a staged drone strike, “a fake, even a real attack ... using chemical weapons,” he said.

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, advancing on Kyiv, a city of nearly 3 million, and other key targets.

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 U.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.”

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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.



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TODAY’S FORECAST

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.

45
HIGH

Full report **A11**



24
LOW

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