

Economic bright spots on horizon

Sometimes in our hope of landing the proverbial whale, we forget that small and mid-sized businesses are the backbone of our rural community. Seeing the success of local businesses and the opportunities that their success brings to residents in our community is a reminder of what they can do.

While it's been tough to find good economic news in rural counties, including Vance, in recent years, last week, word came that several good things are happening on the business front.

Jerry's Artarama, a global source for art supplies, is expanding its business, bringing an expected additional 30 jobs. North Central Medical Transport is going to expand its presence in Henderson, moving its headquarters here from Granville County. It will bring an additional 10 jobs.

And a European-owned grocery store chain is moving forward to open a location in Henderson, part of its first foray into the U.S. That will mean more jobs, from cashiers to stockers to managers.

It also is exciting that Henderson is one of the sites chosen by the company as it looks to move into the United States to face off against its competitor, Aldi.

Each of these businesses will bring more jobs to the Tri-County beyond the employees it will hire. There will be people who help construct and outfit the buildings, putting in wiring, HVAC, flooring and more.

These three events are wins for the Henderson-Vance Economic Development Commission and the people it serves.

Perhaps our proverbial whale is out there, but we need to celebrate and appreciate the successes of businesses here right now that are strengthening our county economically. Our economic development team has done well in retaining local businesses and helping them grow.

Let's hope this past week's good news is a sign of other things on the horizon.