

Amphitheater aspirations

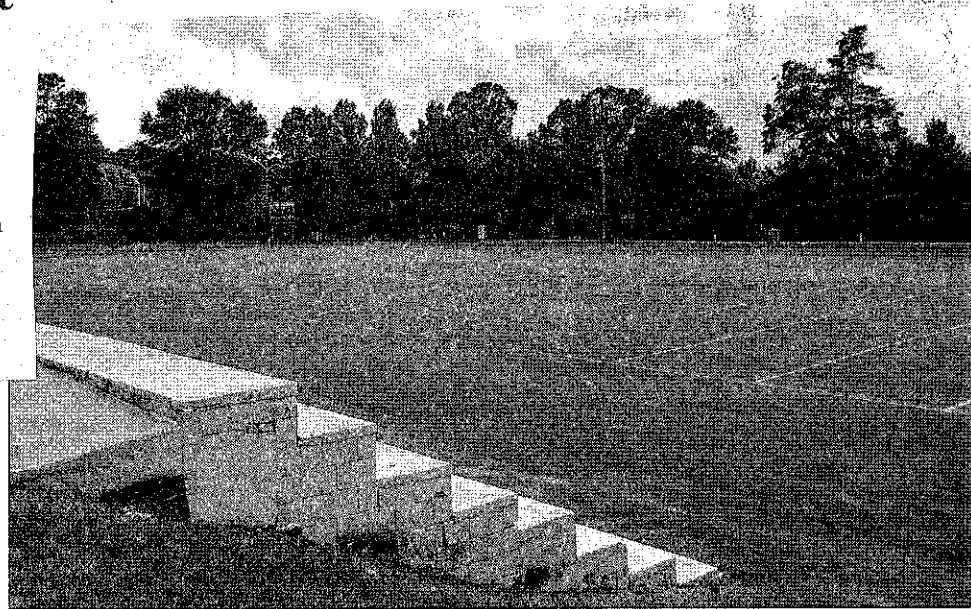
Seneca close to submitting grant for \$1M-plus project

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Seneca is preparing to submit a matching-funds grant request for \$500,000 to build a new 2,000-plus capacity amphitheater on city property.

In a news release on Tuesday afternoon, Seneca city administrator Scott Moulder said the request will be sent to the Appalachian Regional Commission for consideration by

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Seneca city administrator Scott Moulder said a potential outdoor amphitheater in the city would be located near Gignilliat Field.

PROJECT: 'The time is now'

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the end of January. The organization works as an economic development partnership agency of various federal and state governments in the Appalachian region. Word on approval is expected to take four to six months.

Moulder told The Journal the potential outdoor amphitheater would be located near Gignilliat Field.

"We expect an amphitheater of this size to have a dramatic impact on the economic prosperity of our area," he said in the release. "New

visitors and revenue streams from other areas will not only provide increased revenue to our existing businesses, but will also provide an opportunity for the creation of new jobs, new businesses and new investment in all areas of the city."

Mayor Dan Alexander said an amphitheater has been a top priority for council, dating back to a 2020 strategic planning session.

"Seneca has a beautiful backdrop of mountains and lakes, now it's time to move forward with an investment that addresses the values

our community places on arts and culture," Alexander said. "It's an exciting time for Seneca. For some time now, we've wanted to add an outdoor venue to provide an inviting and usable space for performing arts and entertainment events. We feel like the time is now."

The release noted Seneca has taken advantage of past grant money to demolish old properties and buildings, such as the former Kellett school building and the Harper's and Kimbrell's stores.