

## news briefs

### 'Aquesta Challenge' backs Cain Center

CORNELIUS – With a matching funds commitment of up to \$250,000, Aquesta Bank has joined the effort to make the Cain Center for the Arts a reality.

The Cornelius-based bank has become a foundational partner for the region's new home for arts, entertainment and community gatherings by offering the largest business investment the center's fundraising campaign has received while encouraging other businesses to participate.

The Aquesta Challenge will formally launch March 1 when pledges of \$2,500 to \$10,000 from local or regional businesses will be matched dollar-for-dollar by Aquesta up to the full \$250,000.

"I want to challenge all local business owners to help support this important project to add to the vibrancy and energy of our community," Aquesta President Jim Engle said. "With your pledge during the Aquesta Challenge, you will be doubling your impact at no extra cost to you. Let's get this done."

Aquesta will host an open-to-the-public campaign kick-off event at their Cornelius headquarters at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5.

Aquesta has operated in the Lake Norman community for more than 13 years combining banking services with a commitment to the community, supporting various agencies and efforts including the Ada Jenkins Center, local sports teams, hospice programs and more.

The nonprofit Cain Center for the Arts, established in 2017, is conducting a \$25 million capital campaign to fund construction of the center, to be built on Catawba Avenue.

"We're incredibly excited about this partnership with Aquesta Bank," said Cain Center Executive Director Justin Dionne. "We are so honored to have such a widely respected institution endorse this important project."

The Cain Center will be a home for creativity, learning, entertainment and community for the Lake Norman region. The facility will include a 400-seat theater, gallery space, an outdoor venue and classrooms.

A \$4 million municipal bond project for redeveloping the arts district in the historic downtown Cornelius, combined with a foundational gift of \$5 million from Bill and Erica Cain and other contributions has pushed the center well beyond the halfway point toward its fundraising goal.