Page County's Gordon thriving at Penn State

Page B1

Time for Rhythm and Boots line dancing

Page B2

Index

Obituaries....A6
Religion....B5
Sports....B1
Classifieds....B6

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PAGE NEWS and COURIER

Page County's Newspaper Since 1867

'Memorable experience'

Contributed Photo by Charleen Johnson

Balcony view of The Lee Blanton Band.

The Lee Blanton Band shines at Daughter of the Stars Theater

By GABRIELE PAONESSA
Page News and Courier

Stanley, VA – On June 1, the historic Daughter of the Stars Theater in Stanley, Virginia, echoed with the soulful tunes of The Lee Blanton Band, delivering a night of unforgettable blues music to a full house. The concert not only showcased the band's musical prowess but also celebrated the rich cultural heritage of the Shenandoah Valley.

"Fantastic combination of personable performers," remarked Patrick Burns, owner of the Daughter of the Stars Theater. "Their earthy vibe just totally fits the grittiness and fun of life. Truly an entertaining and memorable experience."

See MEMORABLE, Page A6

Contributed Photo by The Lee Blanton Band

The Lee Blanton Band pictured from left to right: Keith Traylor, Jim Lagasse, and Lee Blanton.

Youngkin: General fund revenues are slightly ahead of forecast

By GABRIELE PAONESSA
Page News and Courier

Richmond, VA — Governor Glenn Youngkin today announced that general fund revenues for May 2024 increased 14.2 percent versus the same period last year and remain slightly ahead of the revenue forecast that was revised upward as part of the budget approved on May 13, 2024, reinforcing the Common Ground budget forecasts.

"With more Virginians working than ever before, Virginia's job market continues to fuel the economic engine of the Commonwealth," said Governor Glenn Youngkin. "We are pleased with the underlying strength of Virginia's business climate and job growth, but with inflation at the federal level remaining persistent we will continue to exercise caution in our forecast and planning."

"May was a strong month for revenue collections, with revenues exceeding the revised forecast," said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. "Throughout fiscal year 2024, revenue growth has exceeded expectations, supported by strong economic fundamentals which gives us confidence in the near term. But, with stubbornly high inflation and the outlook for higher interest rates for longer, we will be closely monitoring conditions for any signs of weakening in coming months."

With one month remaining in FY24, year-to-date collections are up 5.9 percent and remain ahead of the revised forecast, driven primarily by higher than projected net individual income tax collections.

The full May 2024 revenue report is available at https://www.finance.virginia.gov/key-documents/master-reports-list/

Contact Gabriele Paonessa at gpaonessa@pagenewspaper.com.

Thriller 'Poison Tree' premiers at Trackside Theater in Luray

By GABRIELE PAONESSA

ginia. The event is scheduled for milestone for Crocker and his cially in smaller communities,"

Editor's Note Regarding The Fourth of July

This year the Fourth of July falls

Memorable

FROM PAGE A1

The evening broke the theater's attendance record, with fans filling every seat and some even dancing in the aisles. Flyers promoting upcoming events were distributed to all attendees, ensuring the excitement continues in the future.

"Wonderful concert, guys. You sounded great," said Charleen Johnson, a fan and ticket holder. "Many people enjoyed the loose banter from the band and their interplay with the audience."

After Lee Blanton introduced Jim Lagasse as his drummer, Jim a once stand up comic joked, "I've been playing drums since I was twelve. I said to my mother years before that, 'Mommy, when I grow up I'm going to be a drummer!' My mother replied, 'Oh honey, you can't be both!'" The crowd chuckled with laughter.

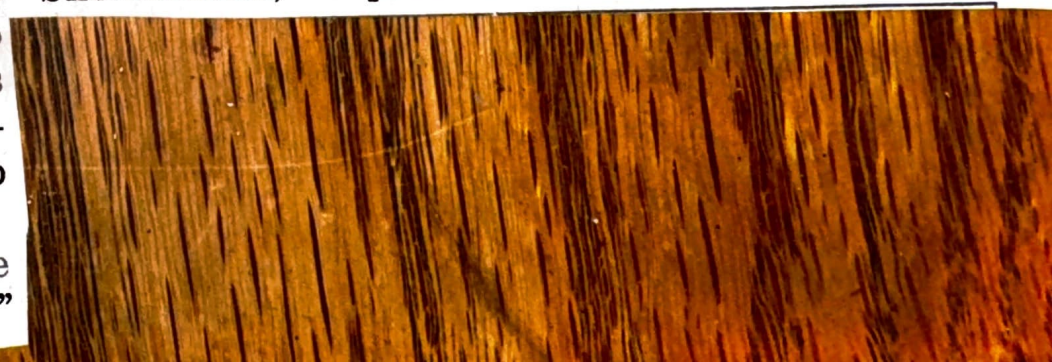
The concert featured two 45-minute sets with a 10-minute intermission. The band performed a diverse playlist that included classics like "Driftin and Driftin" by Johnny Moore and "16 Tons" by Merle Travis, alongside original songs by Lee Blanton such as "Are You Blue" and "Bad Dream." The encore song, "Rolling in My Sweet Babe's Arms," left the audience cheering for more.

In between songs, Lee Blanton took the time to introduce his bandmates, upright bass player Keith Traylor and drummer Jim Lagasse, adding a personal touch to the performance. The concert also saw the presence of Blanton's mother and sister, who traveled from North Carolina to support him.

"The band's performance was fantastic blues music!" added Burns. "It was an enjoyable time, and we are definitely going to have them back."

The Daughter of the Stars Theater, nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, has a storied history dating back to 1926 when it was originally a cinema showing Westerns and war films. Today, the theater's mission is to bring the rich, diverse history, music, art, and cultures of the Shenandoah Valley to a wider audience, both on stage and through their YouTube channel.

"The name 'Daughter of the Stars' comes from the Indian translation of the word 'Shenandoah,'" explained Burns. "We began work on restoring the theater in the spring of 2021 and aim to continue bringing live entertainment that reflects the culture of the Shenandoah Valley."

The concert by The Lee Blanton Band was a testament to the theater's commitment to this mission, offering an evening that was both entertaining and culturally enriching. As the audience left, many were already looking forward to the band's next performance at this iconic venue.

For more information about upcoming events at the Daughter of the Stars Theater, visit their website or subscribe to their YouTube channel.