

PVCC Theatre Department Presents *West Side Story*

A look at rehearsals
 of *West Side Story*
 on page 9

Madison Weikle, staff writer

Love in a time of discrimination. The Academy-Award-winning musical *West Side Story* is a story about star-crossed lovers from two rival gangs, the Jets and Sharks, in New York City.

The PVCC Theatre Department has been working on bringing the story to life and will be performing it April 5, 6, and 7 at 7:30 p.m. and April 8 at 2:30 p.m.

West Side Story's tale comes from the Shakespearean play *Romeo and Juliet*, which Stoller directed last fall.

While the play was originally written in 1957, the co-director, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts Brad Stoller, believes the production touches on social issues that are still present today. Stoller is co-directing with Shelley Cole.

“We’re dealing with gun violence as a major issue in our society ... it also deals with immigration which is also another major issue,” Stoller said. The cast and crew are focused on using the show to highlight those two issues so society can start to make a change for the better.

“We weren’t able to get many Hispanics in the show, and I tried, which shows that there is so much work that needs to be done in our community regarding racial issues,” said Stoller. He hopes that this production will encourage diversity in the theatrical world and the PVCC Theatre Department.

Stoller said, “There is something else we need to do to create an environment that is inclusive to all races ... the end of the play where the two gangs say this isn’t worth it and come together is really a healing moment and that can be a thing.”



Shane Rose posing on a seesaw set piece during rehearsal.
 Photography by Madison Weikle

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DATES TO REMEMBER

— *West Side Story* ^ —

April 5 - April 7, 7:30 p.m.; April 8, 2:30 p.m.,
Dickinson Main Stage

— **Civic Leadership Conference** * —

April 6 and April 7, Main Building

— **International Student Discussion** * —

April 9, 12-1 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

— **International Food Festival** —

April 11, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

— **Academic Leadership Awards Convocation** * —

April 10, 4-7 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— **One Mic Stand** * —

April 12, 7 p.m. Dickinson Building

— **SGA Talent Show** * —

April 13, 7-9:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— **The Refugee Experience Discussion** * —

April 16, 12-1 p.m., M229, Main Building

— **Peep-O-Rama voting** * —

April 16, 12-1 p.m., Bolick Center, Main Building

— **Eat & Meet Career Panel: Psychology** * —

April 18, 12-1 p.m., Bolick Center, Main Building

— **Annual Student Exhibition and Seventh Annual
Chocolate Chow Down** * —

April 20, 5-7 p.m., Dickinson Building

— **Third Fridays Improv** * —

April 20, 5:30 p.m., Dickinson Building

— **Free Movie Friday: *The Post*** * —

April 20, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— **The Hunts Concert** ^ —

April 21, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

— **PVCC Chorus Spring Concert** * —

April 29, 3 p.m., Dickinson Main Stage

* Free Event ^ Student Vouchers Available

PVCC Student Success Day

Deadra Miller, staff writer

Feb. 28, a wonderful day to succeed as a student at PVCC. PVCC's Student Success Day was organized by the Student Success Office in M132. The advisors involved were David Lerman, Kristen Holt, Deanne Browning, and Kristy Simpkins. D'Ann Griego, a Student Success Office assistant, and Andy Hoffmann, the Student Success Office intern, were also involved.

Between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. there was a resource fair containing PVCC resources and services.

The fair included the PVCC Diversity table, which had a hand in organizing the premiere of *I'm Not Racist ... Am I?* later that night. Students that investigated the table had the chance to take a picture with a dry erase board stating what they stand against.

PVCC student Adam Rayburn asked, "What is stand against all about?" The Phi Theta Kappa members sitting at this table explained it is a way for students to voice what they stand against in today's society. Students wrote things such as discrimination, inequality, racism, sexism, stereotypes, and hate.

The SGA had a table as well for recruiting new members and advertising the upcoming Talent Show (April 13) and Spring Fling (April 4). The current president of SGA, Michael Apgar, was manning the table and conversing with perspective SGA newcomers.

The Student Success Office would like to encourage any student who wants to meet with a student success advisor to come by the offices located in M132.



Student Government Association News



SGA Talent Show April 13

Amber Monroe, staff writer

On Friday, April 13, the Student Government Association (SGA) will be hosting the Third Annual Talent Show. The show will be in the V. Earl Dickinson Building, on PVCC's Main Campus.

PVCC SGA has held the talent show for multiple years; it provides an opportunity to showcase student talents.

Students competing against each other have the opportunity to take home \$150. All contestants will receive a free Stonefield movie ticket. Each act will be judged by a panel of students and faculty. SGA member, Shawn Anderson says, "We are looking for talented and passionate students to be a part of our third annual Talent Show."

Audition dates have been announced. Auditions are every Friday leading up to the show.

March 16, 12-3p.m., North Mall Meeting Room.

March 30, 12-3p.m., North Mall Meeting Room.

April 6, 12-3 p.m. Auditorium M229.

Sign up for auditions through a link on the SGA's Facebook Page. [Facebook.com/pvccstudentgov](https://www.facebook.com/pvccstudentgov).

Email SGA President Michael Apgar at mra25518@email.vccs.edu with any questions about the audition or show.

Fred Rogers: Inspiration to Many

Andrew Ferralli, staff writer

Fred Rogers has been an inspiration to many; he has let children know they truly matter, but most importantly loved everyone the way they are. Fred Rogers' television program *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood* hit its 50th anniversary this year with what would be Roger's 90th birthday.

Mr. Rogers has touched the hearts of many, including PVCC students. "Mr. Rogers is one of the greatest humans that ever lived," said student Ivan Hernandez.

Mr. Rogers cared deeply about children and wanted everyone to know they are important. He never judged others and had a kind heart to share with all.

His television show featured many children from all walks of life to show their talents, disabilities, and hardships. He talked about serious topics as well as happy ones. In terrible times, Mr. Rogers used to say, "Look for the helpers."

"To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers," he said.

Mr. Rogers demonstrated to his television neighbors that it is okay to have feelings. Mr. Rogers said, "It takes strength to talk about our feelings and to reach out for help and comfort when we need it."

He wanted everyone to know the importance of those feelings and to share them with others. Fred Rogers is like a strong foundation. He taught

the core principles on how to be a good person and have a happy and healthy life.

It is nice to know Mr. Rogers would have loved you just the way you are. Rogers shared the importance of diversity and friendship; he dug deep into our hearts and showed that it is what is on the inside that matters.

"He was really a pure guy. I imagine you'll get the same response out of everyone," said Hernandez.

Many different generations share similar thoughts.

PVCC transfer advisor Kemper Steele said, "I love Mr. Rogers." Steele stated how he just loves the catchy jingle, "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood." Steele also added that Mr. Rogers' program was at a time when television was wholesome and simple.

PVCC Administrative Assistant Abby Washington said Mr. Rogers

was "better TV than what kids watch today." She distinctly remembers his smile and sweaters.

Robyn Lane, another administrative assistant, shared how she appreciates his values and respects him. "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood was safe programming for children," said Lane.

Fred closed his episodes by telling his viewers that "there is only one person in the whole world like you, that's you yourself."

He demonstrated that all lives matter and actions speak louder than words. If only he was still around to see how he has impacted the lives of many and to see the dedication of his USPS Forever Stamp.



The New Threat Against Students

Madison Weikle, staff writer

Cold winds bit through the heaviest of jackets as students, teachers, and citizens gathered on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington D.C. Saturday, March 24, 2018, to promote stricter gun control. The March For Our Lives was organized by students advocating for gun control after a school shooting that left 17 dead at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on Feb. 14.

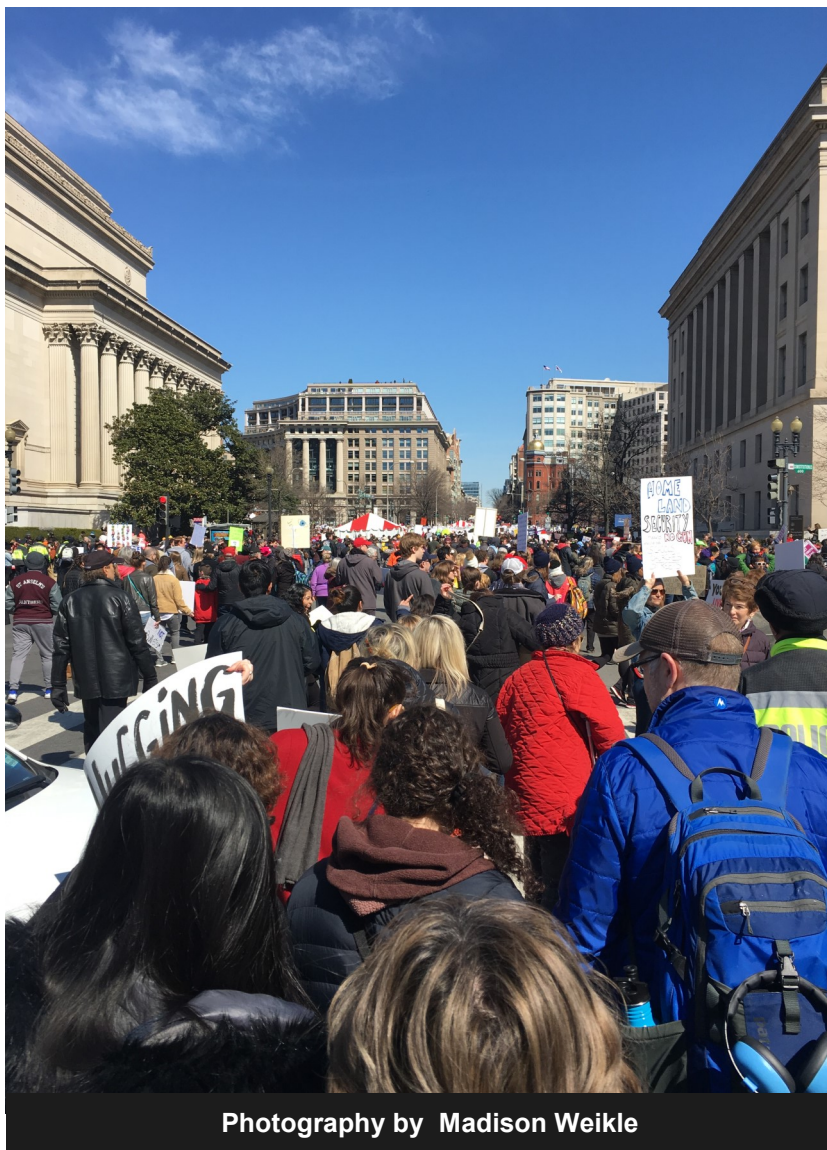
PVCC student Rachel Richardson attended the march. She said, “It is a problem that impacts all students--including me. If going meant I could help make a difference, even just by being a body, I would be there.” Richardson was not the only one who felt this way. *Time* magazine estimated around 800,000 people in attendance, making it the largest single-day protest in D.C., according to *USA Today*.

The rally began a few minutes after noon and lasted about three hours. During this time, many speakers spoke, popular singers shared their voices through song, and statistical videos played. Singer Andra Day kicked off the event with her hit single “Rise Up.” Parkland survivor Cameron Kasky followed Day’s performance. Kasky took the stage by welcoming us to the revolution. Speaker after speaker delivered their powerful words to the enraptured audience. Every speaker was a survivor of gun violence, and no one who spoke was over the age of 18.

The last speaker, Parkland survivor Emma Gonzalez, stood on stage and spoke for a minute and fifty seconds before falling silent. Her silence stunned the audience. The crowd tried desperately to encourage her to speak again by chanting “Never again” and “We love you Emma.” But she held strong, staring forward as tears streamed from her eyes. Suddenly,

beeps from a stop watch broke the silence, and Gonzalez explained, “Since the time that I came out here, it has been six minutes and 20 seconds; the shooter has ceased shooting and will soon abandon his rifle, blend in with the students as they escape, and walk free for an hour before arrest. Fight for your lives before it’s someone else’s job.”

Although Gonzalez stood silent on stage, her presence itself was not silent at all. Richardson said, “The fact that it is these teenagers, these ones who take a stand and risk their lives to fight for a cause, when so many have remained silent for so long, is why I believe in these students. They are the first to refuse to be silent.”



Photography by Madison Weikle

Virginia21: Millennials and Politics

John Matthews, staff writer.

Virginia21 is a non-profit organization whose goal is to get millennials more involved in both local and national politics. Virginia21 helps the younger generation get registered to vote. It also helps keep them informed on government legislature.

Connie Jorgensen, assistant professor of Political Science at PVCC said Virginia21 “makes politics relatable to students.” Whether it is about school tuition, books, and more that directly impact the lives of millennials.

Virginia21 was at PVCC’s Student Success Day event on Wednesday Feb. 28 informing students exactly what they do and sharing the requirements to become a registered voter in Virginia.

They also had information on the upcoming Midterm elections that contained a Senate race as well as a House of Representatives race.

The Virginia21 volunteers also had statistics on the growth of millennial involvement in the

political system in Virginia.

More information on Virginia21 can be found on their website, virginia21.org, which contains information on how to join them if you’re interested.

They also contain current and recent legislature bills that are happening in Virginia retaining to college affordability, campus safety, voter rights, and more.

Links for more information on bills and committee schedules are also available on their website.

Virginia21 can also be followed on twitter @Virginia21 or on Facebook.



Photography by John Matthews

The Patterns Of Life and Feminism

Jesus Duran Reyes, staff writer

Gender equality, a rising movement in every generation, started with their right to vote. From women’s suffrage during the early 20th century to the women’s march during Donald Trump’s presidency, females have united around the common goal to overcome inequality. Artist Judy McLeod says, “Women live in patterns.”

From Feb. 23 to April 11, 2018, Dickinson’s North and South galleries will showcase McLeod’s *Patterns of Life*, a collection of paintings and sculptures made from the 1980s to 1990s, demonstrating the patterns of women she has interacted with throughout her life.

McLeod’s purpose is to help people understand the story of women through irregularities, the weight they carry, and how they have overcome obstacles.

She says, “I was there in times when feminism was really striving during the 80s, the early stages. Times have changed now, and this is the story.” She believes women pick up a routine,

the same routine every or most women have. Although most works are from female points of view, there is also work related to life and the rhythm of it.

As one of Charlottesville’s most appreciated artists, McLeod teaches at various institutions to inspire new artists. She taught Art Foundations, Drawing, and Painting & Printmaking at Virginia Commonwealth University for about 20 years and at the University of Virginia in various Arts Education courses.

As coordinator, teacher, and program director, McLeod has worked in the Charlottesville City Schools programs of visual arts.

She has been the recipient of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Fellowship Grant twice. Regionally, she was awarded a Piedmont Council of the Arts Award for outstanding achievement in arts education.

McLeod said, “Whenever I have students, I tell them that art is an idea. And an idea comes from real life. They have to look deep into their life and know what is important to them.”

Different, Similar, Daringly Diverse

Madison Weikle, staff writer

The first Diversity Awareness week was held at PVCC from Feb. 26 to March 2. Throughout the week, students were encouraged to gather in the Bolick Student Center and stand up for what they stand against with the “PVCC Stands Against” Campaign.

To participate, students were asked to write down a word or phrase representing what they stand against and then take a picture with their sign to be posted in the student center later in the week.

“What we’re trying to do is make sure to provide students, faculty, and staff with more opportunities to engage in conversation about diversity,” said Coordinator of Student Engagement and Student Life Shawn Anderson. He believes the importance of talking about diversity promotes a better understanding of everyone being brought up differently and having different backgrounds.

A person’s background can directly influence the way they perceive the world. Diversity week promotes the discussion of different viewpoints in order to reach a better understanding and connect through the similarities between every person at PVCC.

The PVCC Stands Against movement was inspired by the USA Network’s campaign “I Won’t Stand For.”

The campaign, according to the USA website, was put in place to fight racism, bullying, religious intolerance, sexism, homophobia, ableism, or any other form of discrimination.

PVCC was also using their campaign to promote the film *I’m Not Racist ... Am I?* shown on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Anderson said, “Progress, from my perspective, would be if we could all come to a consensus or understanding about differences and being able to respect those differences I think that’s progress.”



Shawn Anderson and D’Ann Griego pose with the Stand Against Sign. Photography by Madison Weikle

Phi Theta Kappa: Honors and Excellence



Madison Weikle, staff writer

PVCC's Honors Society Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is transforming the world one student at a time. PTK is an exclusive honors society within PVCC that helps organize volunteer opportunities and offers students transfer scholarships in order to get into the school of their dreams.

According to the PVCC website, a fundamental part of PTK is all about participation. Members are often seen working and volunteering around the school and community in food and toy drives, charity walks, and environmental activities.

PTK's Vice President of Scholarship Marissa Hall spoke about her experience, "PTK gives me the environment I need with other like-minded individuals in helping the community in any way possible while still having fun."

However, joining PTK can be difficult. Eligible members are invited through email by the society and sent a code giving them access to register online. The eligibility of a student is determined from a various number of factors. Members must be enrolled as a full-time student at PVCC.

Depending on how many credits have been

completed, members must have a certain GPA. Those who have completed 12 to 30 credits must have at least a 3.5 GPA; while if students have completed 30 or more credits, they are required to have a 3.25 GPA.

There are many benefits for being involved in PTK. Members have access to certain scholarships, conventions, and seminars not offered to other students. They are also invited to a special picnic in the Spring where they are recognized by the PVCC staff including the president of the college. Finally PTK brings committed students together to form friendship in a motivating and supportive setting.

Hall said, "I have made some of the greatest connections of my life through PTK, and I hope that same message resonates with current and incoming members for years and years. Being in a leadership role has changed my perspective. It has given me the deeper appreciation through teaching me not only academic skills but time management and enhancing my teamwork abilities. The best work has been done when it has been a collaborative effort."

PTK will have its official induction ceremony to celebrate its newest members from 3:30-6:30 p.m. on April 5, 2018.

Behind the Scenes at *West Side Story*

Logan Browder, staff writer

West Side Story, a musical written by Stephen Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein and directed by Jerome Robbins, debuted in 1957. Since then, there have been many adaptations of the musical. Now, *West Side Story* is coming to PVCC. Directors Brad Stoller and Shelley Cole are bringing the musical to life April 5, 6, and 7 at 7:30 p.m. and April 8 at 2:30 p.m.

West Side Story is a reimagining of the classic story *Romeo and Juliet*. Set in 1950s New York City, *West Side Story* shows the rivalry of two gangs the Jets, a white gang, and the Sharks, a Puerto Rican gang. Tony and Maria are the star-crossed lovers. Tony is a former member of the Jets who falls in love with Maria, the sister of the Sharks' leader Bernardo.

Jonah Goodman is set to play Tony in PVCC's production of *West Side Story*. Goodman is a dual enrollment student at PVCC. *West Side Story* will be his first production with the school. Goodman said the role of Tony is overly romanticized and that the role of Tony is actually a bit creepy. Goodman further explained there was a great deal of innocence behind Tony's intentions, but they often came off as creepy. He said, "He is weird, but doesn't really know he's being weird."

January marked the beginning of rehearsals for the show. The cast has been meeting every week since then to work on the musical. Any actor not on the stage is working on another part of the show either on their own or with a partner. Actors were scattered throughout the hallway behind the theater running lines and cues, while others rehearsed choreography.

Goodman said, "There are a couple types of production. There will be ones where everything is cut and dry and everyone knows exactly what they are doing all the way through, then there are the ones that are kind of chaotic right until the last

moment and they end up kind of being awesome, and I feel like that's sort of what's going on here."

Before rehearsal began, the cast gathered in the black box theater next to the main theater. Everyone was quiet. Many of the actors stretched, while some sat patiently.

Onstage, the actors worked on the first act. At first, the cast was unsure of the blocking due to lack of attendance. In the following scenes, actors maneuvered five large seesaws to the middle of the stage where members of the cast balanced on either side. The seesaws were modular and doubled as benches later in the show. The actors then worked on blocking a small fight sequence between a police officer and a gang member; to make the hits and blows look real both actors must be in sync with each other.

In some scenes where actors were absent, the co-director Brad Stoller would jump into their roles. He was able to act while keeping his mind present enough to give others notes. Attendance is often an issue at rehearsals since members have other commitments like work and school. Stephen Payne, who plays Diesel, a member of the Jets, is a second-year student at PVCC. *West Side Story* is his third show with PVCC. Payne said, "There have been issues with me missing a lot of rehearsals due to work."

Stephen Payne said his favorite part of the show was learning the choreography, since many of his previous roles did not have much.

To anyone on the fence about seeing *West Side Story*, Payne said, "It's a

real humdinger of a play. It touches on a lot of social issues like racism and living in impoverished conditions. A story about how people, despite conflicts, in times of tragedy people will come together. And it's important that we break down those barriers in such a creative way."



Anya Risner, who plays Maria, poses after singing "I Feel Pretty." Photography by Madison Weikle

German Club Kicks Off International Week

John Matthews, staff writer

The German Club has been around for about six years. The club meets every Monday at noon for an hour. The students choose the platform on what they want the club to do. From learning German history, to speaking German, to playing German-based games like Scrabble the German club engages in a variety of entertaining and educational activities.

At the Feb. 26 meeting, they watched clips of the German-made film from 1943 *Munchausen*. The club members discussed what was occurring in the film. Patricia Jassmann, adjunct assistant professor of German at PVCC, led the discussion.

Nathan Duncan, the



International Week Events

Round Table Discussion with International Students
(hosted by the German Club)
Monday, April 9th, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
North Mall Meeting Room

International Foods Festival
Wednesday, April 11th, 11:30-1:00
North Mall Meeting Room

The Refugee Experience...how much do you know?
Panel discussion with the Office of Human Rights,
the International Rescue Committee, and
International Neighbors.
Monday, April 16th, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Main Building Auditorium (M229)

club's president, said he joined the German club because he is planning on visiting the country. His joy for their music and sports also influenced his decision.

Duncan described the club's upcoming event that they have scheduled for Monday, April 9.

The Round Table Discussion with International Students will take place from 12-1 p.m. in the North Mall Meeting Room, kicking off PVCC's International week. The panel will focus on how they felt about moving to the United States.

For more information on the German Club or their events, contact Nathan Duncan at nld2027@email.vccs.edu.

Disability Services, Here to Help

Jesus Duran Reyes, staff writer

Disability Services counselor Susan Hannifan can be found in room M125 in PVCC's main building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday.

She also offers services through email any day of the week. Those seeking aid will have to provide documentation of either psychological, educational, or medical evaluations to be eligible.

Disability services focuses on providing help depending on the student's situation. One service is assistive technology, in which laptops are given with certain programs to assist the student. One of the programs is Jaws, a screen reader for those with vision difficulty or loss. Another form of help is sign language interpreters for the hearing impaired.

Accommodations are a major part of this service as well, to make sure every student has peace of mind and the tools to succeed. Hannifan also meets with students to improve time management strategies, study skills, or who just

want to talk.

"I love being able to see these wonderful people overcome their barriers and achieve their goals and more when you know them personally," she said.

She encourages students to seek help in advance so arrangements can be made properly. Reading, learning, writing, walking, seeing, hearing or speaking difficulties are all handled with the best aid that can be provided. Hannifan became a counselor because "you spend most of your days working, so if you're not happy working, why do it?"

In her Sociology class during her junior year of college in Rhode Island, she found herself surrounded by personal stories of orphans while volunteering for community service at a local foster home. This moment changed her perspective on what she loved most and that was to help people.

Disability Services is one of the many support features at PVCC.

Workout More Than Brain Cells on Campus

Frances Humes, staff writer

The PVCC Fitness Center is open for all PVCC students, faculty, and staff. The Fitness Center is open six days out of the week, excluding Sunday. Monday and Wednesday the opening times are 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. and 6:45-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday the hours range 7:30-9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. This leaves a lot of open times for those two days.

On Friday, the fitness center is open from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. The last day of the week the fitness center is open is Saturday, with hours only ranging from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Certain exceptions are made during fitness class times, which are also provided by PVCC.

Upon entering the fitness center you have to read and sign the pink risk form. This form can be found in front of the fitness center on the black

rack. It states that you are a current student and asks for an emergency contact name and number in case of a tragedy. The risk of an injury in the fitness center is personal. Any lost or stolen property is your own responsibility.

Lockers are provided, although you must provide a lock. Food is not allowed in the fitness center. Drinks are only allowed if in a metal or plastic container.

There will be an attendant on duty if you have any questions about the use of equipment or broken machinery.

Some Physical Education and Recreation courses are also taught in the Fitness Center. There are six courses to choose from, varying from fundamentals to Zumba, jazz and aerobic fitness.

Training and lifting are also monitored and recorded in the weight room.



The fitness center is in M173a on main campus. Photography by Frances Humes

Black History Month Continues

Mathew Fragola, staff writer

Black History Month was in February, but for Charlottesville it remains a trending topic in the community.

The Jefferson school African American heritage center hosted three Anisfield-Wolf Book Award recipients, Peter Ho Davies (*The Fortunes*), Tyehimba Jess (*Olio*), Margot Lee Shetterly (*Hidden Figures*) and Pulitzer Prize winner and Poet Laureate Rita Dove for a hour and half to end the week-long Virginia Festival of the Book.

The event, called Writing the American Story: Diverse Voices in Distinguished Books, was a packed event that was filled with energy.

“Diversity is a word that I have trouble with,” said Shetterly. The statement chilled the audience as she continued to speak about how black history is not just something that should be celebrated for the shortest month of the year, but something that

should be ingrained in our culture along with other minorities.

“Books taught me a lot more than my parents,” Davies said answering a question about what made him want to write. For the event, the authors talked about their work followed by questions from the audience.

They all took turns answering the same question. Three of the four speakers were of African-American descent and one was of Asian descent. This led to different viewpoints, but they had the same central idea that more than just white culture is going to help the country grow in times of distress similar to now. They all agreed on not using social media when heavy into their works and all agreed with Davies about books being their greatest mentors.

After the talk ended, the audience had the opportunity to purchase books the authors have written and participate in a meet and greet with them.

Exploring Our Relationships with Animals

Amber Monroe, staff writer

The 24th annual Festival of the Book was held March 21-25, in Charlottesville. The Festival has continued attracting audiences impacting the local economy. The festival is a time to discover new authors and their books. Readers are able to dive deeper into some of their favorite books or genres and explore authors’ influences behind their stories.

Barnes & Noble brought readers and writers together for five days of events, including author readings, book signings, and panel discussions. On Friday, March 23, Barnes & Noble in the Barracks Road Shopping Center hosted the event Hidden Lives: Exploring Our Relationships with Animals.

Forty-five people filled the chairs, leaving only two empty. The authors sat in the front of the audience in a panel. Three authors sat at a long table with their featured books displayed in front of them.

The event created an up-close experience with authors Barbara King, Abbie Gascho Landis and Maryn McKenna. They each provided personal and professional background information and

their intention behind their books.

King highlights the intelligence and personality of animals using humor. Landis said she hoped to bring awareness to the link between mussels and water health.

Landis said, “Learning about mussels and their impact in the rivers was not depressing. My hope is that the book will serve as an invitation to get others to explore some of the animals in rivers and our efforts to provide cleaner waters.”

McKenna said she tried to give a voice to scientists and farmers who have studied the effects of antibiotic-drugged chickens on the American diet.

The book discusses how people can change. Through raising awareness of the impact we have on the world and our relationship with animals, readers discover what it takes to change and how some people have already started successful alternatives.

The festival program established a list of authors ranging from international bestsellers to topical specialists to debut authors. The program provided book discussions in every genre for every level of reader, offering deeply engaging discussions of current issues.

The Journey to a Better and Free Life

Matthew Chaney, staff writer

In America today, people take for granted the certain unalienable rights they receive when being born here. From across the globe, millions of people try to gain these rights and start anew when immigrating here. The promise and chance of a new life is more than appealing to these immigrants. At the Virginia Festival of the Book on March 22, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Performing Arts Center, Khizr Khan discussed his book and what he experienced coming to America and living here.

The theatre was packed full of people. As the lights dimmed, the theatre got eerily quiet. There were over 500 people waiting intently for Khan to tell his story.

Douglass Bland walked out on the stage and introduced Khan before he conducted the interview. He gave a short introduction on how he got to know Khan.

As Khan walked out on the stage, a deafening round of applause filled the theatre. He put his hands together from the countless praises from Bland and the audience. Then it was his time to tell his story.

He grew up in a small town in Pakistan, where he witnessed tyrannies and regimes controlling his country. When he first started writing for the newspaper in Pakistan, he was scared to even speak out due to the threat of the dictator's wrath. He then moved to America where he seemed to instantly lighten up. When he received his official US citizenship certificate, he was overcome with a sense of freedom and clarity.

Khan said, "Getting my US citizenship certificate, my eyes saw it as a 'Human Dignity Certificate.'"

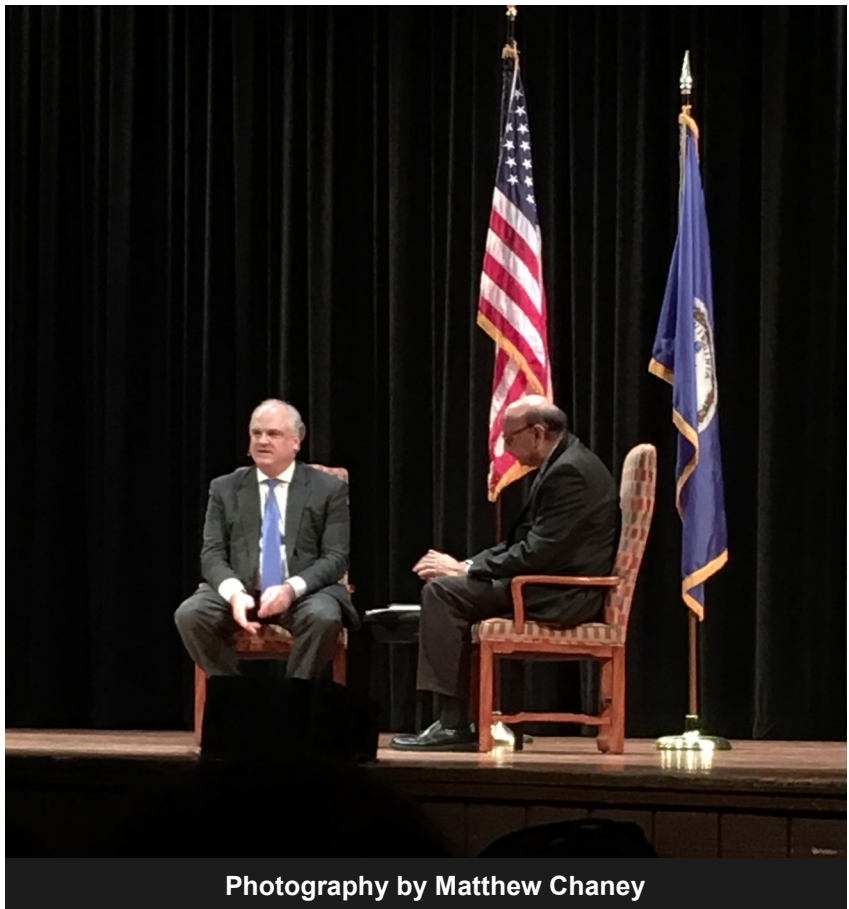
Khan said reading the Declaration of Independence made him appreciate his new rights even more. He said he read it multiple times with other government

unifying historical documents.

Then he got in a serious tone when asked about his son, who was a University of Virginia graduate and US Army Captain but was killed in Iraq in 2004. He then explained how grateful and thankful he was for his rights as an American citizen, saying he believes everybody should have to read the US Constitution.

Going into more detail, he believes it is important to safeguard these beliefs and rights as American citizens. One of the rights he gained as an American citizen was the freedom of religion. It was obvious that this was a soft and passionate spot for Khan. Khan said his religion of Islam should not have been hijacked and misconstrued around the world because of a radical and extremist group.

Interested people that would like to read more on Khan's experiences and life can in his book *An American Family: A Memoir of Hope and Sacrifice*.



Photography by Matthew Chaney

Real Love and How to Find It

Bryn Dotson, staff writer

“That’s life: starting over, one breath at a time,” said Sharon Salzberg, author of *Real Love* and guest speaker at the Virginia Festival of the Book. People of all walks of life gathered in their wool scarves and heavy winter coats on March 21 to hear Salzberg discuss her book and provide guidance in the quest to establish wholesome relationships.

The roads were vacant, save for a few patrolling snow plows. Traffic was light and easy to navigate. The event began at 6 p.m. and was hosted by the Virginia Festival of the Book. Due to the small size of the parking lot and the high demand of parking spots, finding a spot to park was not easy. Many people had to park in the church’s neighboring parking lots, which also quickly reached full capacity.

Once everyone had parked and shuffled into the building, they were greeted by friendly staff members of the festival. Before entering the large, open room that Salzberg would be speaking in, the crowd was handed small note cards and pens to write thoughts, ideas, and questions on.

There was animated chatter in the grand room. Many people brought a copy of the book Salzberg would be discussing, *Real Love*.

The crowd grew silent as the lights dimmed. The stage was lit with spotlights. As Salzberg made her way to the stage, the quiet room erupted with claps, whistles, and hoots. Salzberg had a large, genuine smile on her face as she sat in her chair and faced the eager audience.

The room became quiet once more as Salzberg immediately opened with meditation.

After the meditation, she thanked the audience for the warm welcome and jumped right into answering questions from a

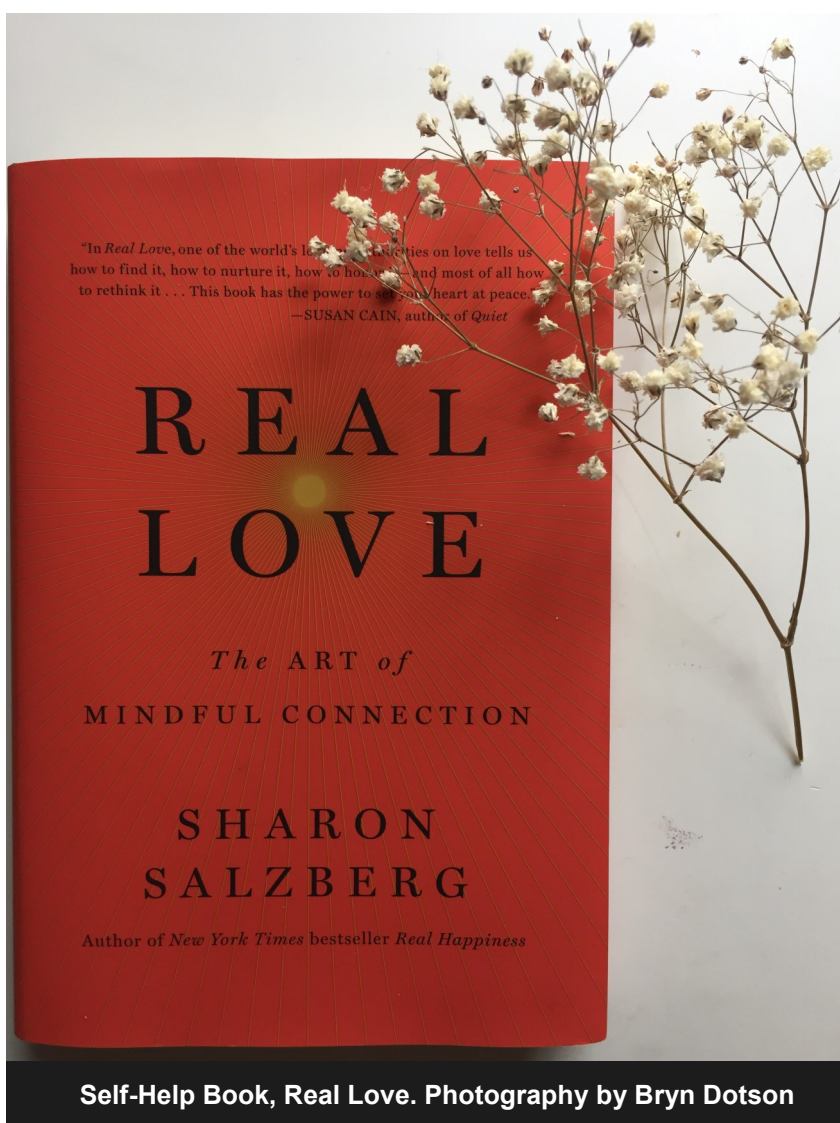
member of the festival that was on stage with her.

Salzberg explored many topics about love and the mindfulness that goes into building relationships. She discussed the concept of self-love and the importance of taking time for oneself in order to better one’s relationships.

“If we really and truly loved ourselves, we wouldn’t harm others. That is a truly revolutionary mode of self-care,” Salzberg explained.

She concluded the event with another meditation and sent the audience off with well wishes. She opened a table to greet people at and sign their copies of the book.

Salzberg radiated kindness and gave personalized messages with her signature.



Self-Help Book, Real Love. Photography by Bryn Dotson

Letters About Literature

Tyler Gaines, staff writer

Festival of the Book is a local event in central Virginia that brings people together to celebrate their appreciation of literature. According to the Virginia Festival of the Book's website, David Barclay Moore, the author of *The Stars Beneath Our Feet*, was called on to give honorary remarks in celebration of Virginia students selected as winners and honorable mentions in the state-wide 2018 Letters About Literature competition.

Moore's introduction extensively talked about the inspiration behind his work and how he became a writer. He grew up in a small town in Missouri with his family before moving to New York, becoming a "Brooklynite," as he put it.

He wanted characters in his novel that represented himself and others that felt the same way at a time African Americans lacked that representation. As he grew up, he noticed that the older his siblings and friends got, the more they seemed to lose their sense of imagination and dreams. *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeline L'engle,

inspired Moore to write *The Stars Beneath Our Feet*.

Lolly, the main character of *The Stars Beneath Our Feet*, is a young adolescent in conflict with the idea of growing up and still being the kid he is. For example, he loves to play with Legos. Lolly's conflict with being one of the weird, nerdy kids who do not feel like they are "normal" or they should be more mature at a certain age. Having all of this and dealing with the death of his older brother is a lot for anyone, especially an adolescent, to take on. Moore said, "My hope is that *The Stars Beneath Our Feet*, like *A Wrinkle in Time* before it, will help children from all walks of life to learn something about themselves, and to accept themselves for whom they truly are."

Swarms of people showed up to the event, some portions of the event even streamed online. Parents looked on and took pictures of their children receiving their rewards from fourth grade all the way to 12th.

Everyone spoke elegantly about the stories and authors that have inspired them to write. Each story the young writers told had meaning behind them.

It was nice to see young writers express their passion for literature.



Photography by Tyler Gaines



Level 2 honorable mentions and winner.
Photography by Tyler Gaines

The Opportunity of a Lifetime

Bryn Dotson, staff writer

Charlottesville has a population of 46 thousand. It is a booming community with many mouths to feed. Hunger is a reality in our community that many may not know about. According to the Loaves & Fishes website, the food insecurity rate—meaning the number of people in Charlottesville and surrounding counties that do not know if they will have enough food for their families—is as high as 17 percent.

While this is an extremely high percentage, Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry is doing the best that they can to eradicate the hunger in our local community.

The food pantry was originally run out of a closet in an elementary school in an afterschool classroom, where it distributed foods like rice and oatmeal on weekends.

In 2015, the pantry purchased and moved to a warehouse in Greenbrier. The shift from the classroom closet to a large building enabled the pantry to distribute not only dry foods but also

fresh foods like meat and bread.

Jane Mills, the executive director of the pantry, explained that Loaves & Fishes is a volunteer-based nonprofit organization. People volunteer for a variety of reasons such as school requirements or court ordered time.

Mills stated, “Everyone who volunteers here has, I would say without a doubt, an open heart. They want to be able to help other people.” This altruism is incredibly supportive of the pantry’s mission, which is stated on the Loaves & Fishes website as, “Give food with kindness to give back to the community.”

Mills stated that the pantry could not run without its volunteers. Despite having many willing volunteers, the pantry is always in need of more. Two committed groups from UVA volunteer at the pantry, but when spring and summer break take place, the pantry loses many of its local volunteers.

People interested in volunteering at the pantry, you can visit the Loaves & Fishes website at www.cvilleloavesandfishes.org/index.php and find the “Volunteer Now!” link.



Photography by Bryn Dotson

Runners Take the Mark for Cville 10 Miler

Richard Hollis, staff writer

The Charlottesville 10 Miler, also known as “The Area’s Oldest Foot Race,” was held on March 24, 2018. According to their website, they are a non-profit race that raises money for local charities such as The Building Goodness Foundation who builds health centers, education centers, and housing for distraught communities. Charlottesville Track Club has put on the annual race for over 40 years.

Every year the race brings new runners and seasoned veterans. But a few of them ran with a new motivation this year. They ran for a fellow runner who would not be crossing the finish line with them, Andy Yost.

Team Andy, consisting of 25 runners and over 75 supporters, both family and friends ran in honor of Yost, a local family man and runner who has completed numerous races of all distances.

While running on a back road training for the Charlottesville 10 Miler, he was hit by a vehicle that fled the scene. After being discovered, he was transported to UVA medical center to receive treatment, but the accident injured him too greatly and he died.

“This time was different though; I was running for Andy. It was emotional. Lee Yost (his wife) was there; it was also training for the Boston Marathon but at heart it was all for Andy,” said runner and Team Andy member Barry Young.

The race was more than a competition for the runners and supporters of Team Andy they were there to bond as family and friends.



Photography courtesy of Cathy Young

VMFA: Terracotta Army Exhibit

Tyler Gaines, staff writer

The Virginia Museum for Arts, located in Richmond, Virginia, is home to a wide variety of artwork locally and internationally, including the Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor of China. This exhibition lasted from Nov. 17, 2017, through March 11, 2018. The exhibition referenced the dynasties in power when the Terracotta Army figures were constructed.

A tour scheduled for March 4, 2018, provided an opportunity for a popular Sunday outing. Crowds of people poured into the exhibition. For those who enjoy listening to tour guides, the museum offered an optional auditory guide. The tour was setup in a maze-like setting, sectioning off certain areas of the exhibition cleverly building up anticipation for the end. To kick things off, visitors could observe how the army, chariots, and equipment were set up and decorated with valuable currency and creatures significant to Chinese mythology.

The second portion of the tour featured some common household items, like wine carriers, gutters for houses, and helmets for soldiers. Many people viewed the various objects



Qin Dynasty armor.
Photography by Tyler Gaines

and contemplated what they meant in context to the Qin dynasty. The materials used to make these items made them last hundreds of years. The objects displayed intentional and innovative designs even in the most mundane tools.

Finally, the last area of the tour included the Terracotta Army.

According to the tour descriptions, they excavated the delicate and sturdy figures around 1974. An estimated 8,000 of the soldiers surrounded the grave of the Qin Shi Huang, the First Emperor of China. They depicted the army in great detail, and some posed in their given roles.

Unfortunately, most of these statues suffered from water damage over the years and are severely damaged. However, the museum has restored most of them and years later the mausoleum of Qin Shi Huang was transformed into a museum in 1979.

The tour at the Virginia Museum of Arts had 10 to 15 soldiers on display. The whole exhibition brought in a consistently large crowd with people eager to observe these immortal warriors. The whole exhibition brought in a consistently large crowd with people eager to observe these immortal warriors.



General with horse.
Photography by Tyler Gaines

MoviePass: What's the catch?

Andrew Ferralli, staff writer

Do you remember the first movie you saw in theaters? Do you recall an awkward date with that unforgettable buttery popcorn? Whether you recall fond or negative memories, movie theaters hold a special place in the hearts of children and adults. There is one problem though, most people do not want to spend \$12 to see a movie they can get from the Redbox months later for a dollar.

2018 holds more than 100 new movie releases with 30 coming out in March. A matinee ticket is about \$10 at Regal Stonefield, so if you wanted to see every film, you would be spending \$300 for March alone. What if you were able to see a single movie for only 27 cents? In that case, watching 30 new films would only cost \$7.95.

This cost of 27 cents is now a reality with a subscription called MoviePass. MoviePass is a yearly subscription service allowing customers to see one 2D film a day, every day for a year.

According to MoviePass' website, the service requires customers to pay the full cost of the year (\$95.40) plus a \$9.95 processing fee. Although the initial cost is a fair bit of money, the savings are noteworthy.

MoviePass' website says over 91 percent of theaters accept their service. All three

Charlottesville theatres accept MoviePass, including the recently built theatre, Alamo Drafthouse. This means you can see *Incredibles 2* while on vacation over the summer.

The concept is unique. Customers receive a debit card and use the MoviePass service to select a movie to see that day at the theater. Once selected, all the user needs to do is purchase the ticket with the card.

In the fine print of MoviePass' terms, it states they have the right to increase their prices. This may be a concern to some, but as long as you pay upfront then you are locked in for that year.

The only complaint heard among college students, including former PVCC student Michael Caldwell, is the wait to receive the debit card in the mail. The site claims it only takes two weeks, but some have waited for over a month.

If you love movies and want to see more in theaters, MoviePass is a nice option. Although the service appears too good to be true, it is not. If interested, jumping on the current upfront cost of \$105.35 for 12 months will save you money. The service's prices have fluctuated over the past few years but are currently one of the lowest ever.

"I love MoviePass," Caldwell said. He said he is going to see a movie in New York City using MoviePass.

Review: Hardywood Park Craft Brewery

Amber Monroe, staff writer

Originating in Richmond, Hardywood has been in Charlottesville for a little over one year. Hardywood's Tap Room and Brewery is now conveniently located in Downtown Charlottesville in the lower level of the student apartment building at 100 W. Main St. The quaint and modern craft room floor consists of relaxing lounge type seating, a bar top, and a few tables for larger parties. The brewery lounge has a spectacular view of 16 unique draft lines, all surrounded by large stainless steel barrels. You are front row to the magic being brewed.

When visiting, the draft choices can be hard to navigate through if you're not an avid beer drinker. The bartender recommended, "One of the most popular beverages has been said to be the Raspberry Stout. This beer is a dark chocolate, full bodied stout, with a pleasantly sweet, tart

raspberry laced finish. The Raspberry Stout was brewed with hundreds of pounds of local red raspberries."

The taproom features 12 brewed on site Hardywood draft beers. Since opening in 2016, the brewery has served in addition to beer, nitro cold brew coffee and kombucha; brewed right in the facility. The heavy beer tends to influence an appetite but, unfortunately, Hardywood does not have a kitchen. However, fresh-baked soft pretzels are available along with a small selection of prepackaged snack options.

Free marked retail parking is available in marked spaces on the 11th Street side of the Uncommon Building, approximately at 118 11th St SW, as well as, Old Albemarle Hotel at 617 W. Main St. The brewery is closed on Monday, but open on Tuesday and Wednesday from 3-9 p.m. On Thursday and Friday it is open from 12-11 p.m. Sunday hours are 2-10 p.m..



Tony O'Brien posed with his influence. Photography Courtesy of Bella O'Brien

From Family Man to Chairman

Mathew Fragola, staff writer

Tony O'Brien has come a long way from having a political career in high school. O'Brien is the current representative of the Rivanna district for the Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors. While in his second term as a member, he has many tasks at hand, such as fixing the budget and having clarity among board members.

"I chose to run as an independent because I believe the issues are not Republican or Democrat issues, rather Fluvanna issues," says O'Brien with a radiating smile on his face. Throughout whole conversation, his smile never changed.

His daughter was the biggest influence on his decision to run for the local position. O'Brien went to the supervisor's public meetings and realized there were some issues; Fluvanna did not invest as much into its future. Knowing his daughter would be impacted from the underfunded school system, he decided to attempt

to make a change, run for the board, and learn on the way.

Just like many, O'Brien has a family and a very demanding job. He graduated from the University of Virginia and is the primary owner of Computer Helix Systems, which opened 20 years ago. With the help of his wife and daughter, he was able to run a successful campaign for The Board of Supervisors position.

Being a member is no easy task. For O'Brien, the biggest obstacle to overcome is keeping transparency throughout the board, and knowing that some decisions he makes might impact people he knows personally. In the end, his goal is to stay true to the vision on hand.

With the image of Fluvanna growing since O'Brien's position, he was reelected for a second term.

With the help of his family and the community, he will continue to help Fluvanna grow and to become a sought out place in central Virginia.

First Came Guitars, Then Came Chickapig

John Matthews, staff writer

Brian Calhoun, the co-founder of Rockbridge Guitars Company and the creator of the board game Chickapig, is an easy-going, kind man who lives his life doing what he loves.

Calhoun has been building guitars for eighteen years. Though he made mandolins and violins at the beginning, Calhoun found more enjoyment in making guitars because he can play the instrument.

Calhoun co-founded Rockbridge Guitars Company, located just off the downtown mall, in 2002 with Randal Ray. Calhoun originally never planned on starting a guitar making business; it was just something he enjoyed doing.

“I like making things, and I liked music, was going to do as a hobby or side job,” said Calhoun. What started as a hobby has turned into a sixteen-year-old business with guitars in high demand. Rockbridge Guitars are played by not just local Charlottesville musicians, but that of well-known musicians like Dave Matthews, Keith Urban, Jason Mraz, and Warren Hayes.

“What makes them unique is they are unique,” stated Calhoun. Not following the usual trend of replicating previous models, he focuses on

making the guitars how he and Ray want to make them. The resulting instruments “end up with [their] own sound.”

Calhoun’s desires would continue on with the success of his guitars. He brought to life another creation of his, Chickapig, a board game enjoyable for both adults and children. The idea of creating his own board game arose after playing a game he found to be boring.

Calhoun, who enjoys playing chess, said what he had wanted a game “with a little bit strategy, a little bit chess-like, but was much sillier.” Narrowing down with the farm theme came the arrival of Chickapig, the combination of a chicken and a pig, a pooping cow and hay bales.

Chickapig has come a long way since its creation, recently being labelled “Amazon’s Choice” for board games to buy.

Calhoun gets joy and satisfaction from the feedback he receives. He expressed how parents and teachers described the game as “good for the students.”

Another parent told him, “Our teenage boys put down their cellphones to play the game.”

From making high-end guitars to the creation of a family-friendly board game, Calhoun has taken his passion and made it available to all.



Brian Calhoun poses with the game he invented. Photography by John Matthews

Mike Guard, a Local Live Edge Slab Artisan

Amber Monroe, staff writer

Mike Guard is 25 years old, born and raised in Fluvanna County. He is a Fluvanna High School graduate, a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, and a commercial construction site superintendent for Hunnicutt Construction. Aside from all of his demands, Guard finds time to pursue his passion. He is a woodworking artisan who found success in his hand crafted, locally sourced, furniture business.

Guard has been designing and building live-edge furniture since 2015. It began as a hobby but rapidly grew into a business. Guard's most expensive piece has sold for \$4,000.

"I was eventually overrun with inquiries and questions about my pieces. So, many people were interested in what I was doing," he said.

Guard began pondering the idea of making more pieces for profit. The shop where Guard makes his pieces is not full of fancy or expensive tools. Instead there is a small, practical, woodshop at his grandparents' property. The sound of his grinder whines and the scent of freshly cut oak fills the air. Classical music plays softly in the background. Guard is head down, grinder in hand, and zoned in.

"My dream is to see my work in some of the

locally, private owned breweries and restaurants," the entrepreneur said. "I am inspired by the founders' stories and it would be a huge honor and accomplishment to make it into large scale distribution. I would love to see my furniture sold nationwide. I've received inquiries for guitar racks, bar tops and even kitchen countertops. I can not wait for the opportunity to complete these projects. It's become one of my biggest goals. When you set your mind on something you love, put in all your efforts and refuse to look back, you'll be surprised the outcome."

His furniture is made of custom, live edge slabs. It can be found at The Lazy Daisy, a repurposed furniture and home décor store located in Short Pump, Va., online, and in homes around the county.

Guard's live edge designs highlight the surfaces of wood by leaving the original bark, gnarled pieces, as well as knots and holes, bringing out the natural shape of the tree. All his furniture is constructed passionately, preserving the trees in and around the Blue Ridge. The trees are often dead or already fallen, sometimes on tree farms or on locals' property.

What does it take to get past a hobby level? Guard adjusted his hat and said, "Well, in order to surpass being mediocre, you've gotta put in some good 'ol honest, hard work. You've gotta wake up earlier than everyone else. If you get out, network. Leave an impact and build relationships. I've got support because of the honest relationships I've made and reputation I've built. Shake hands, be positive, and surround yourself with like-minded people. Be willing to re-adjust, pick up your head and walk in confidence, even when doubted."

Readers can follow Guard's accomplishments and work on Instagram @southjameslumberco.



Photography courtesy of Mike Guard



Photography by Amber Monroe

CVILLE Restaurant Week: A Vision, A Mission

Amber Monroe, staff writer

There is enough food to go around, but not everyone gets fed. Numbers and statistics continue to fluctuate, but hunger and malnutrition are major issues world wide. According to Blue Ridge Food bank statistics, 1 in 5 children in America face hunger.

Once a year, Charlottesville hosts Restaurant Week. This year it was held from Jan. 19 to Jan. 28. Many speak of the event as a time to grab a cheap meal or save a few bucks at your favorite local restaurant but, in fact, the purpose deserves large scale recognition.

According to Cville Restaurant week website, each year the city partners with new charities.

This year, Blue Ridge Area Food Bank will benefit. Diners get to choose from a large list of participating restaurants such as Shadwells, The

Melting Pot, Three Notch'd Craft Kitchen and Brewery, The Whiskey Jar, and many more.

The special fixed price includes a three-course meal to include an appetizer, an entrée and dessert for just \$25 or \$35. A full list can be found on the website: www.c-villeresaurantweek.com.

While enjoying the event at Shadwells, I spoke to the manager.

The manager said, "Charlottesville continues to support Blue Ridge Area Food Bank because they work with so many community partners to help solve hunger in central Virginia. One dollar from each meal would be donated to the food bank and distributed throughout the community."

The food bank's website mission reads as follows, "Blue Ridge Area Food Bank serves 25 counties and e cities providing nutrition to 105,000 people monthly. The Vision is that everyone has enough to eat."

Classifieds

Hosted by:
PVCC
Career Services

**Bolick
Student Center**

April 2018

**CAREER
AWARENESS
MONTH**

**Tuesday Events
12:00-1:00pm**
Resume/Cover Letter Writing
Workshop - 4/3
Job Search Workshop - 4/10
Interview Prep Workshop - 4/17
Networking/LinkedIn
Workshop - 4/24

Wednesday Events
Resume/Cover Letter Feedback
with Employers
4/11, 3:00-5:00pm (Must Sign Up)
Mental Health Careers Panel w/ Psych Club
4/18, 12:00-1:00pm
Mock Interviews
with Employers
4/25, 3:00-5:00pm (Must Sign Up)

No Appointment Necessary!
Drop-In, Job-Win
Assistance
4/3, 4:30-6:30pm



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