

The



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BENEFIT CONCERT

More than 400 attended the Benefit Concert on Friday night, which was held to help raise funds for those directly affected by the destruction of the tornado that hit Big Stone Gap on March 4. The concert and direct donations have raised \$27,933.21 to date.

Donations of all sizes are still being collected. Checks can be made to "Gap Partnership Tornado Relief Fund." The mailing address for donations is: The Gap Partnership, P.O. Box 236, Big Stone Gap VA 24219, or they can be dropped off at the Big Stone Gap Tourist & Information Center.

Concert goers were presented with a wide selection of local talent who donated their time to this community effort. Kicking off the event on stage was master of ceremonies Ron Short with Bill and Nancy Smith, followed by The Midnight Ramblers, MECC's Richard Phillips, Jeff Burluson and Kayla Meade; Dale Jett with Teresa Jett and Oscar Harris; Kaitlyn Baker; Longing for Home, Boozy Creek Stringband and The United Methodist Church Choir.



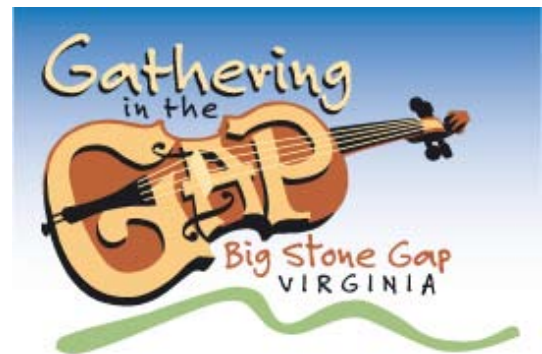


PERFORMANCE

Powell Valley High School will present "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum" on Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5, at 7:00 pm in the PVHS Auditorium. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. They may be purchased at the door.



GATHERING IN THE GAP May 24 - Southwest VA Museum



The second annual "Gathering In The Gap" Music Festival will feature the Carolina Chocolate Drops, Dirk Powell, and Three Fox Drive. Other performers include: Ginny Hawker and Tracy Schwarz, White Top String Band, Boozy Creek String Band, Rich and The Poor Folks, and Ron Short.

When you think of traditional African-American music, the genres that come to mind are gospel, blues and jazz; few people think of old-time string band music. However, the antebellum combination of banjo and fiddle used to be a tradition in most black rural communities in the South. The Carolina Chocolate Drops, a band of three young and talented musicians, are recognized as leading the revival of this venerable musical tradition.

Dirk Powell has expanded on the deeply rooted sounds of his Appalachian heritage to become one of the preeminent traditional American musicians of his generation. In addition to acclaimed releases, he's recorded and performed with Loretta Lynn, Sting, Jack White, Levon Helm, Jewel, T-Bone Burnett, Ralph Stanley, Linda Ronstadt, and others.

Powerful bluegrass harmonies; compelling, original songs; exciting instrumental virtuosity - 3 Fox Drive has all these. Awards are beginning to pile up at their feet - Kim and Barb contributed to the IBMA's Recorded Event of the Year, *Follow Me Back To the Fold* (a tribute to women in bluegrass) CD, and 3 Fox Drive received an IBMA Emerging Artist nomination and the Album of the Year statuette for their participation in *Celebration of Life*.

In addition to the musicians, the festival features workshops, children's area, crafts, and more! Tickets are \$12 adults (\$10 if purchased in advance); \$5 children ages 6-12, and under six years are free. For more information, call 523-1322 or go to www.gatheringinthegap.com

