

# The McDowell News

Thursday, April 23, 2026

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The  
**BrightSide**

## A CONCERT THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN



SARAH C. JOHNSON, RECORD

Bobby Canipe Jr., left, and tattoo artist Alvin Ward pose together in Ward's tattoo studio and Studio Tattoo & Gallery in Newton.

### Man who started rumor of Fred Durst concert in Morganton gets tatted for 10-year anniversary

**SARAH C. JOHNSON**  
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A Newton filmmaker commemorated the 10-year anniversary of a Fred Durst concert in Morganton with a permanent tattoo on his right lower leg. But the concert never actually happened.

The Bright Side highlights uplifting moments across our community. Visit our website to read more and share your ideas.

**The Bright Side:**  
Where good news lives.

Bobby Canipe Jr. was getting inked at Studio Tattoo & Gallery when artist Alvin Ward approached him with the Durst design. Ward drew the design about four years prior. Canipe thought the tattoo would be perfect to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of a hoax in Morganton, when rumors of a Durst concert

spread online, he said.

The year was 2016. Canipe and his friends were playing on their Xboxes and having funny conversations. One topic that came up was the 1990s band Limp Bizkit.

"I made the joke of, 'I wonder what, you know, Fred Durst is doing these days,' and we're laughing," Canipe said. "And I think I said something along the lines of, 'I wouldn't be surprised if they show up at like, a meet and greet or a concert at the Roses Discount Store.'"

After logging off the video game, Canipe was scrolling on his phone in bed and decided to create an event on social media to send to his friends about Durst performing at Roses in Morganton. What Canipe didn't realize at the time was that the post he made as an inside joke was set to post publicly, he said.

"The next day, I woke up and it was like 120 people going (on Facebook), and I was

like, 'Oh, man, that's hilarious,'" Canipe said. "I just kind of laughed about it. I went to work, and throughout the day, my phone kept dinging. More people kept, you know, saying, 'Is this real?' And then I messaged my friends, and they were laughing about it. They're like, 'Are you going to tell them it ain't real?' And I'm like, 'Nah, I'm not going to tell them that, you know. I'm going to keep it going.'"

A small crowd turned up at Roses on the day of the event, according to a News Herald article from March 19, 2016. Those who attended said they knew Durst wouldn't be there, but still went to show support.

According to the article, a Twitter post to Durst said about 1,800 people had RSVP'd to the event and that he should "Give them what they want." The article said Durst replied, "If we were not in South America, we would."

Please see **TATTOO**, Page A2

### McDowell gets \$580,000 grant for recycling equipment

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

McDowell County will receive \$580,000 in federal grant money to purchase new recycling equipment at all seven of its convenience centers, state environmental officials announced earlier this month — an investment driven by a sustained surge in waste volumes following Hurricane Helene.

The North Carolina

Department of Environmental Quality awarded the money through its Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grant program, with money flowing to the county as pass-through federal dollars from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the American Relief Act of 2025, according to a news release from McDowell County.

Though Helene did not destroy

recycling equipment, the storm changed the county's operating conditions, the release said. Garbage and recycling volumes at convenience centers spiked roughly 20% in the immediate aftermath of the storm and have since stabilized at more than 13% above pre-storm levels — straining equipment beyond its intended capacity and increasing maintenance demands and

hauling frequency, the county said.

"This award is a significant step forward for McDowell County," said County Manager Ashley Wooten. "Investing in recycling infrastructure serves both our environmental goals and our long-term economic resilience."

Please see **RECYCLING**, Page A2

Wood paneling is fashionable again. 10 tips for getting it right. **LIVELY, D1**

#### Inside

360	C1	Comics	D3-4
Advice	D5	Entertainment	D6
Business	C5	Sports	B1
Classifieds	B5	What to Watch	D5

#### Weather

Mostly sunny  
**High 82**  
**Low 49**  
Forecast • A6

