The McDowell News

God's Pit Crew helps displaced couple move into second fully furnished home in Nebo

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Find out why these contest winners were dressed up in 1996. Hint: It wasn't for Halloween

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ELECTION 2026 For tonight's election results, visit www.mcdowellnews.com.

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The BrightSide

BUILDING THEIR FUTURE

Burke teens spend money, summer, creating AI platform



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED, COLLIN STEDHAM

Collin Stedham, 15, left, and David Stockhan, 13, spent their summer and money creating the new Artificial Intelligence platform, Kove. Stedham is a sophomore at Freedom High School, and Stockhan is a student at Christ Classical Academy.

SHARON MCBRAYER
smcbrayer@morganton.com

Some kids mow lawns or babysit to make spending money, but two students in Burke County have dared to dream bigger.

Collin Stedham, 15, a sophomore at Freedom High School, and David Stockhan, 13, a student at Christ Classical Academy, have created an online AI platform called Kove Cowork. It is an AI workspace that uses an AI model they made called Rohan.

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.

The two started work on the platform in mid-June and initially named it Blink, Collin said. But that name was later changed to Kove to avoid any potential name conflicts, he said. "So we kind of made our own ChatGPT," he said.

So far, the two have spent around $250 from their savings to create the platform. Collin said they used the platform Lovable to make the website that people use to access Kove.

He explained that Artificial Intelligence makes connections in its database to generate responses based on user input. He said AI can be really helpful as an assistant or a coworker to an individual. He said Kove aims to assist both businesses and individuals in various tasks.

The AI workspace can be used for writing and communication for drafts, rewrites, editing, summarizing and translating things such as emails, copy, scripts, posts, long-form writing, notes and internal documents, Collin said.

Please see **FUTURE,** Page A2

Music, art to fill Old Fort event

Explore local businesses or join town's first-ever drum circle this Friday

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Old Fort's First Friday event for November will feature live music, craft beverages and seasonal drinks, trivia games, a scavenger hunt and the town's first-ever drum circle.

The Arrowhead Gallery and the Common Pine announced that Old Fort's November First Friday event will take place Friday, Nov. 6.

This event grew from last year's successful art walks and increased a variety of offerings to visitors to town, according to a news release.

"Art can still be enjoyed at a variety of venues in town, but now you will be able to explore other events as well as enjoy all our local businesses have to offer," reads a statement from the organizers.

Music is being added this year. You can enjoy a bluegrass jam at Old Fort Yoga. A local band, The Happy Enchiladas, will play at Whaley's Farm Brewery. A North Carolina band, The Crystal Fountains, will bring a mix of bluegrass, country, jazz and rock at the AMB/Modern Alchemist, where a distillery tour and tasting will be featured.

Seeker Coffee will be open late, where seasonal drinks can be enjoyed while a DJ spins tunes.

Please see **OLD FORT,** Page A2

Set the table for fall with an elegant and easy mushroom strudel. **LIVELY, D1**

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Weather

Partly sunny
High: 67 **Low:** 55
Forecast: A6

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