

**EARNHARDT TALKS PAST WIN AT 'THE PAPERCLIP'**

» SPORTS, B1



**DALLAS SLAMMED BY TORNADO**

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# Danville Register & Bee

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DANVILLE

## Money pours into betting measure

Company gives \$150K to pari-mutuel campaign, says city is 'growing and vibrant community'

By John R. Crane  
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More than \$200,000 has been contributed to the campaign to convince voters to allow pari-mutuel betting in Danville on Nov. 5.

Peninsula Pacific Entertainment LLC gave \$150,000 to the political action committee Dan-

ville Wins with Pari-Mutuel on Oct. 15, according to the Virginia Department of Elections website. A vote in favor of pari-mutuel betting would open the door for the company to establish its off-track betting facility Rosie's Gaming Emporium in Danville.

Previously, Peninsula Pacific and its subsidiary, Colonial

Downs, had given a combined \$58,000 to the political action committee Danville Wins with Pari-Mutuel. Of that money, \$50,000 came from Peninsula Pacific Entertainment on Oct. 2 and the remaining \$8,000 came from Colonial Downs Group.

"The funds are supporting ... traditional campaign education and awareness activities like mailers, signs, radio ads, website and social media, door knocking," Colonial Downs spokesman Mark Hubbard said.

**INSIDE**

» Bristol casino developers donate to Virginia campaigns. A3

Jonathan Swain, principal at Peninsula Pacific Entertainment, wrote via email Monday the company is pouring money into the city "because we believe Danville is a growing and vibrant community."

"Our Virginia operation, Colonial Downs Group, has created over 1,000 jobs, generated signif-

icant tax revenue and is bringing new entertainment and fun to numerous localities in Virginia," Swain wrote. "Danville offers a great opportunity for us to continue building."

Peninsula Pacific Entertainment, based in Los Angeles, operates gaming facilities in Iowa, New York and Louisiana.

Another referendum political action committee, Dumfries Wins with Pari-Mutuel, received

SEE MONEY | A5



## AVERETT HOSTS DAY TO ENGAGE

Averett University held its annual "Day to Engage: Back to the Block" event at the green space Monday behind Head Start in the Westmoreland neighborhood off Holbrook and Sycamore streets. The event included a cookout and students, faculty and staff working to beautify the area. Projects included improving the basketball court, landscaping and rock painting with the children from Head Start. Also, Averett President Tiffany Franks announced the school's Center for Community Engagement and Career Competitiveness has been granted a \$1.73 million continuation award from the Danville Regional Foundation. The money enables the center to continue its efforts in the community during the next five years.



PHOTOS BY JOHN R. CRANE/REGISTER & BEE

**FEDERAL GANG CASE**

## Documents: 4 out of 8 defendants strike deals

Plea agreements, expected today, arrive after trial grinds to halt over missing key court records

By Alex McCarthy  
Special to the Register & Bee

ROANOKE — At least four defendants in the Danville gang case have reached plea agreements with federal prosecutors, court filings suggest.

Kevin Lamont Trent Jr., Shabba Larun Chandler, Kanas Lamont'e Trent and Phillip Dae-kwon Miles — four of eight defendants facing gang-related charges — are expected to plead guilty throughout the day today, according to notices filed Monday. The four defendants initially pleaded not guilty to such charges as racketeering and murder and were poised to go through a drawn out, weeks-long trial.

Details of the plea agreements were not publicly available Monday. Six of the defendants — including the four who filed for plea deals Monday — were facing charges that carried mandatory life sentences.

As of 5 p.m. Monday, those four were the only defendants to schedule hearings to change their pleas. The jury is scheduled to return Wednesday, according to motions filed in the case.

The plea deals come after the trial ground to a halt just days after a jury had been sworn in.

The case has been at a standstill since last Wednesday after it came to light federal prosecutors had not supplied an unknown number of potentially key court records to defense attorneys. The records in question are transcripts of interviews given to a state special grand jury in Danville about alleged gang activity in the area.

Later in the week, Danville Commonwealth's Attorney Michael Newman admitted he had presided over these special and multi-jurisdictional grand jury hearings and had not supplied the transcripts to federal prosecutors. Newman, who was part of the federal prosecution team in the case, withdrew from the team Friday.

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Rain and t-storms throughout the day. A5



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**COMING TOMORROW:**  
Get to know about the oleander: a pink flowering shrub.