New River Community and Technical College students Jett Bailes and Josh Mullens enjoyed the music and fun that grew out of their project in Dr. Lisa Brewer’s Technical Writing class.

SPECIAL TO THE NICHOLAS CHRONICLE

NEW RIVER STUDENTS TRANSFORM CLASS PROJECT INTO COMMUNITY SERVICE

[Summersville, WV] On Saturday, May 23, the Youth Activity Center at Old Main in Summersville was alive once again with music and young people. And it all started with a class assignment.

A group of New River Community and Technical College students, Jett Bailes, Josh Mullens, Bill Phares, and Robin Singleton, had been working on a collaborative project in Dr. Lisa Brewer’s Technical Writing class. The assignment was to write about a community
problem, need, or opportunity. As part of their research, they interviewed the mayor, the police chief and other local officials.

The student team got so excited about the project that they decided to take it beyond the classroom and put it into action. As a result, young and old alike will have a safe place to go this summer to listen to music, to play pool or just to hang out with friends. The more people who attend these soon-to-be-regular Saturday music events, the more activities the Youth Center will be able to provide.

“I am so proud of my students,” said Dr. Brewer. “When I assign technical writing projects, I want my students to learn how to do research and how to write professional reports, but most of all, I want them to get real world experience and to get involved in their communities. When I walked over to Old Main on Saturday to see the culmination of all the hard work my students had done, I just had to give Josh Mullens and Jett Bailes a big pat on the back. Matthew Todd, the director of the center, is also to be commended for his hard work. Mary Igo and I plan to volunteer to work the door or do whatever they need to help keep the youth center going this summer.”

Because of the efforts of these college students and their interest in music and community service, local young people will have a place to listen to music and to play music for an audience. Everything is done on a volunteer basis. Admission is $3 at the door to defray minor costs, and the music events are closely supervised so that young and old can have fun in a safe, alcohol-free, environment. The kind of music provided will depend on the local musicians who volunteer to play for free.

The next music event at the Youth Center will be on Saturday, June 13. Look for flyers, and bring the kids. If anyone would like additional information, contact Mary Igo at (304) 872-4520 or Lisa Brewer, at (304) 883-2441. Better yet, show up on Saturday evening, hear some music, and find out what is going on at the Youth Center this summer!

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