

An evening of Patsy Cline

Sold out concert event
commemorates music legend

By Travis I Sivart

Michael Snider, president of Westmoreland Players Theatre, welcomed the sold out house to the theatre, thanking everyone for coming before introducing the band. The stage lights came up the crowd hushed as the drummer, Mike Hockaday, announced Patsy Hockaday's entrance. A woman strutted onto the stage, her bright red shirt with white tassels – matching her white hair with a red accent - moving and swaying as she broke into a rendition of "Back in Baby's Arms" by Patsy Cline. Her energy and talent captured the audience immediately.

After the opening number, Patsy (her birth name) Hockaday joked about the pressure of a full house, and then explained the concept of the show for the evening. "I want to take you on a journey of a classic country music fan," she explained, and continued by saying, "I hope you leave here with a greater appreciation." Patsy went on to tell folks that she doesn't sound like Patsy Cline, because no one sounds like Patsy Cline. She told a bit of history of the country music icon, talking about Cline's parents

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and childhood, and how Cline auditioned at the Grand Ol Opry at the age of 16 but never received a call back. She then began our musical journey with Cline's 1957 hit, "Walkin' After Midnight."

The band consisted of Patsy Hockaday as lead vocals; her husband Mike Hockaday on drums and vocals; Donald Hockaday on bass guitar and vocals; Jeff Wadford on lead guitar; Bobby Edenton on steel guitar and vocals; and Stephanie Randall sitting in for Billy Rupprecht on keyboard. Together they make a dazzling addition to the country music scene.

Patsy danced across the stage as she sang, moving with an enthusiasm that spoke of someone who is more than a performer, she showed the talent of a true entertainer. During each break between songs she gave the audience more history and stories, a little bit about each musician whose music she and the Country Classics performed. Drummer Mike Hockaday sang many of the male lead vocals, but Bobby Edenton sang his fair share also. One gentleman in the audience was heard saying, "That steel guitar player is amazing, I want to take him home."

Patsy introduced each song, and went through a playlist of who's who in classic country music, playing songs from Barbara Mandrell, Loretta Lynn, Conway Twitty, Ray Price, Johnny Paycheck, Willie Nelson, Harper Valley PTA by Tom T. Hall, and Hank Cochran all before the intermission.

The band returned with renewed energy after the break, and the crowd responded in kind. Patsy playfully joked about her torn pantyhose, to which Edenton replied, "It's the kind of leg I like; a foot on one end, and a woman on the other," causing the audience to laugh.

Covering songs from Tammy Wynette, Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Reba McEntyre, and others, Patsy included down-home wisdom from Cline, like, "If you can't do it with emotion, don't do it at all," in reference to performing a song, and described the country legend as "cocky, brassy, and a rough woman who carried a pint of whiskey in her purse and swore like a sailor."

The singer then turned somber and began



Band members from left to right
Jeff Wadford, Stephanie Randall,

Patsy Hockaday, Mike Hockaday,
Donald Hockaday and Billy Rupprecht

Bobby Edenton

to recollect the last days of Patsy Cline, quoting, "I'm a prisoner of my own ambition," when telling the story of the tragic plane crash that claimed Cline's life and other country legends of the time. Hockaday told the events so well, members of the audience dabbed at their eyes with emotion. She closed the show with "Sweet Dreams" by Patsy Cline, but returned for an encore. Hockaday said that since it was Sunday it was only right to close the show with a little gospel, and sang "I'll Fly Away" as the crowd clapped along. The band left the stage to a standing ovation, and made their way to the floor to meet and mingle with the crowd.

Patsy & the Country Classics do keep busy; their next gig is Saturday, October 21 at the Bowling Green Harvest Festival, and that same day at Doswell Ruritan Club. They can be found online at PatsyCountryClassics.com and reached at (571) 436-7244.

The Westmoreland Players Theatre is located at 16217 Richmond Road, Callao and can be reached at (804) 529-9345. They can be found online at WestmorelandPlayers.org. Their next production, Neil Simon's Barefoot in the Park, opens November 4.

NOTICE OF OYSTER GROUND APPLICATION

Anthony O. Holmes, (2017112) has applied for approximately 5.28 +/- acres of oyster planting ground in Coan River situated in Northumberland City/County and described as follows:
North Bv MLW Warren PF #18427