

New chef at downtown eatery brings southern roots and wide experiences

By Avery Powell

Published: Apr. 29, 2016 at 5:42 AM EDT

Taste of Downtown may be over in Harrisonburg but one restaurant in the downtown area is still cooking up something special, by welcoming a new executive chef.

Isaac Coles is now the new executive chef at Jimmy Madison's restaurant and is bringing an interesting mix of experience to the downtown spot. Coles grew up on a cattle farm in Bedford county, Virginia where his love for food began. He went to school in Vermont but has family in the Valley. Coles says he has traveled the country, experiencing food in Las Vegas, San Francisco and more. Now he hopes to bring some of that flavor to the downtown area.

"(I hope to bring) a lot of culture, a lot of ingredient driven kind of recipes," said Coles. "You've got a little bit of everything I think, going around in Las Vegas and trying to bring it back in to what I grew up cooking."