

**Bluefield College**  
**Celebrating Appalachian Heritage and Coal Culture**  
**April 3-13, 2017**

**Monday, April 3**

7:30 p.m. ....Appalachian Tale Spinner, Harman Chapel  
Featuring dramatist Charles Reese, professor and chair of the Bluefield College Department of Theatre who has been working as a professional performer for nearly 40 years. One of his many specialties is the telling of Appalachian folk tales, which he will share during a kid friendly evening of fun and laughter as the Appalachian Tale Spinner.

**Tuesday, April 4**

7:30 p.m. ....Appalachian Movie and Storytelling, Harman Chapel  
A viewing of the 1987 movie *Matewan*, filmed in the coal country of West Virginia and celebrating labor unions of the 1920s as they fought the powerful coal companies for the sake of workers' rights. In addition to the movie, local storyteller Fred Powers will provide a presentation on the history of the Coal Wars in the region.

**Thursday, April 6**

7:30 p.m. ....Equinox Little Big Band, Harman Chapel  
Featuring Louisiana natives Jeremy Davis and Clay Johnson and their fiery hot 17-piece big band, well known for its high-energy shows filled with hits from Motown, Ray Charles, Johnny Cash, Elvis, and other musical legends. Fashioned in the style and swagger of legendary entertainers, like Frank Sinatra, Davis and Johnson are putting their own stamp on the Great American songbook with a freshness and relevance that speaks to every soul. Admission for non-Bluefield College and non-Blue Mountain Performing Arts Series members are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.

**Friday, April 7**

6:45 p.m. ....Blue Ridge Mountains Paint Night, Cox Visual Arts Center  
Enjoy a fun paint night with artist Marianne Jackson and create your own work of art that you will take home at the end of the evening. Painting supplies and artist instructions provided. No art experience needed. Cost: \$30 per person.

**Saturday, April 8**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ....Appalachian Festival, Campus Quad  
Featuring local musicians, artists, crafters, cooks, authors, storytellers, and other vendors and talents. Musicians will include champion multi-instrumentalist and award-winning fiddler Ron Mullenex, old time

musician Rory Mullenex, and bagpiper Gavin Scott. Other performers will include Paul Katron, Lanny Lindamood, Landon Harris, Steve Kruger, Casey Lewis, Jim Lloyd, and storyteller Reema Keen. Dozens of vendors are expected to join the variety of musicians and performers selling baked goods, jellies, kettle corn, greeting cards, art, candles, soaps, soaps, lotions, jewelry, quilts, crafts, woodwork and other homemade and handmade goods. Local authors will include Adda Leah Davis, Linda Hudson Hoagland, Kim Headlee, Dana Smith, and Sam Varney.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ....Appalachian Writing Contest, Campus Quad  
Winners of the Third Annual Nora Lockett Memorial Appalachian Writing Contest will be announced during the Appalachian Festival, and winning stories read later during the folk music concert. The writing contest is a tribute to the late Nora Lockett, a 1972 Bluefield College alumna who served as BC's director of library services for 12 years before passing away in 2013. A native of McDowell County, Lockett was a historian of the coal industry and Appalachia. Before BC, she served as a librarian eight years with Mercer County Schools, five years at Craft Memorial Library, and 15 years with the Tazewell County Public Library.

7:30 p.m. ....Folk Music Concert, Harman Chapel  
Featuring Michael Reno Harrell, an award-winning songwriter, storyteller and entertainer whose performances appeal to a very diverse audience. His recordings top the charts and earn awards year after year in Americana, country, and folk circles. His original songs and stories have been described as "Appalachian grit and wit," and his writing reflects an insight into people's experiences that catches the ear like an old friend's voice. His natural knack for storytelling in print, song and spoken word has earned him praise from not only the music community, but also the literary and storytelling worlds. Admission is \$5 for the public and free to Bluefield College students, faculty and staff.

## **Tuesday, April 13**

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. .... Art Show and Demonstration, Lansdell Hall  
Artist Jennifer Phillips Carpenter will present an art show titled "Yes, It's Colored Pencil," and following her show and a reception, she will lead a discussion and demonstration on using colored pencils with an Icarus board. With more than 30 years of experience working with colored pencil, Carpenter creates the illusion of glass and dazzling reflections in her award-winning pencil drawings. Using an Icarus Board -- a heated surface specially designed for colored pencil artists to heat the paper as they work -- she manipulates her wax based pencils in a painterly manner, capturing tiny details that draw viewers closer into her creations.

Established in the fall of 2011, Bluefield College's annual Celebration of Appalachia began as a series of lectures, concerts, exhibits, discussions, movies, theatre, tours, festivals, and other educational and entertaining activities designed to honor the Appalachian heritage. The marquee event, the Appalachian Festival, began in the spring of 2012 to further celebrate the history, culture, people and traditions of Appalachia with music, art, crafts, cuisine, literature and discourse. Acknowledging the importance of coal to the region, the event became A Celebration of Appalachian Heritage and Coal Culture in the spring of 2017. All events are open to the community and are free unless otherwise noted.