

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

June 2016

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement, P.O. Box 397, Richlands, VA
24641

www.supportappalachia.org Email: info@supportappalachia.org

Appalachia Streaming on Display at Regional S.O.A.R. Meeting in Pikeville, KY

The SOAR (Supporting Our Appalachian Region) 2016 Innovation Summit was held on June 6th in Pikeville, Kentucky. The summit was held to connect innovators from around the region with the simple mission of refusing to accept the risk of doing nothing to build economic diversification in the wake of the severe decline of the coal industry.

There were numerous corporate sponsors that helped in the effort to bring about this summit. The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement was present at this event to promote our overall mission and to promote our project Appalachia Streaming.

“It was a great day and was a great opportunity to spread our mission throughout Central Appalachia,” said Dr. Gary Stratton, Vice President of the Foundation. He was joined at the event with the web developer for the program, Adam Mason. “We are building up a lot of interest in our Foundation and about this program. This event was a success and we saw approximately 1,500 or so individuals stop by the summit to see firsthand what S.O.A.R. is all about.” We will provide photos from the event on our Facebook page.

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*The best way to predict
the future is to create it.*

FAA Awards First Ever Scholarship!

Congratulations to Emily Goodman, 2016 graduate of Richlands High School for being the first ever recipient of our Appalachian Scholarship Fund! Ms. Goodman graduated with a GPA of 3.725 and will begin her studies in the nursing program this fall at Southwest Virginia Community College.

We are planning to make scholarship awards each year to regional students as funds are available. If you'd like to make a tax deductible donation to this program, donations can be made to Foundation For Appalachian Advancement and mailed to P.O. Box 397, Richlands, VA 24641 or you can donate online at www.supportappalachia.org.

4th of July Right Around the Corner

There are numerous events all around Appalachia to celebrate Independence Day. Live music, public barbecues, festivals and fireworks can be found in nearly every town. One of the larger events in Central Appalachia is the annual fireworks display at Freedom Hall Civic Center in Johnson City, TN. This year will mark the 31st year of the event and festivities begin on the grounds of Freedom Hall at 5 p.m.

This event sees several thousand visitors each year and early arrival is encouraged. There will be arts and crafts displays as well as food from local restaurants and organizations. There will also be games for children. Transit to and from the event is free from the Park and Ride locations listed on the events website. For more information visit <http://pepsi-fireworks.com/#schedule>.

**Visit Us Online
at**

www.supportappalachia.org.

**Make an online
donation today!**

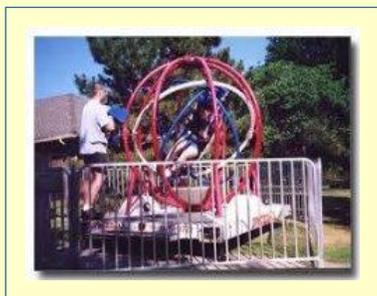
Richlands Freedom Festival

June 24-25

The fourth annual Richlands Freedom Festival 5K will begin at 8:00 AM on June 25th. There are scheduled musical appearances by Marcus Boyd, Bad Ridge, Victor Lawson & Boogie Chillen, and Seeking Refuge.

Also planned is free swimming, a motorcycle bike night, and a children's zone that will include rides such as the Space Ball and the Wonderland Express Train. If you're looking for some exercise other than the annual race you'll find a rock climbing wall. Vendors are set up all over town and include craftmakers, authors, musicians and other artists. Once again, stop by and support our local artists!

For a full schedule of planned events visit online at <http://www.richlandsfreedomfestival.com/>.



Spaceball: 2015 Richlands Freedom Festival

Breaks Interstate Park—A Great Local Getaway!

It is that time of year when many in Central Appalachia start looking for places to enjoy a weekend getaway or a day long adventure close to home. We are blessed to have such a beautiful natural environment and unlimited things to do right here in our own backyard, so to speak.

The Breaks Interstate Park is located in Jefferson National Forest and stretches along the VA/KY state border of Southwest Virginia and Eastern Kentucky. You'll find all you need to fill a weekend with biking, hiking, whitewater rafting, pedal boats, a water park and lakefront cabins or cottages in the forest. For details you can visit them online at www.breakspark.com.

Artist of the Month—Belinda Anderson

Belinda Anderson, author of *The Bingo Cheaters* and *Buckle Up, Buttercup*, is a passionate writer that falls back on her Appalachian heritage as inspiration for her impressive body of work.

Part of Belinda's passion is in helping new writers learn the craft. She has been named Master Artist by the West Virginia Commission For the Arts for her work in mentoring emerging writers over the years. Her short story works are award winning books and she often travels speaking to kids in their classrooms and teaching fiction and non-fiction workshops around the region. One key question she focuses on in her teaching and in her writing is the question "What if?" She believes that all great story telling comes from this simple idea, and she's right.

We recently asked her if she had a favorite book or character she has written about. "Every book has a favorite aspect about it. *The Well Ain't Dry Yet*, because it was the first, and because I love the character of *Twilight Dawn* so much."

Belinda cites her region and the people in it as inspiration for her work. "In my stories, characters are caught up in universal themes, facing adversity with resilience, humor and hope, which I think is particularly distinctive of Appalachians."

You will find Belinda at the Lewisberg Literary Festival on August 5-6 in Lewisburg, WV and also at the West Virginia Book Festival on October 29th in Charleston. Make sure to follow her work and schedule at www.belindaanderson.com.

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The Spirit of Giving

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

Thanks to those that have supported us this year with donations and through word of mouth. There are many great charities out there to support and like most of us, we tend to support things that have a special meaning to us or charities that are close to home. We Appalachians are a hard working people and a very generous people. Friends helping friends. Neighbors helping neighbors.

Many of us will choose to support cancer research, children's hospitals, or local animal shelters. As you consider your donations this time of year, we ask that you consider a small donation to the Foundation For Appalachian Advancement. Whether it is for the Appalachian Scholarship Fund, promoting economic diversification, or promoting our arts and culture, we care about

every donor and every penny given in good spirit. We strive to be good stewards of your generosity and use the donations as efficiently as possible. Those of us that are involved are all volunteers. No Director or Officer is salaried. That gives us the flexibility to make sure that your donations are spent wisely and effectively to support the programs that you believe in.

We appreciate your support and ask that you consider our mission statement and our goals throughout Appalachia to help those in need and promote our culture to the best of our ability.

Thank you.

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