Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's J.E. Broyhill Civic Center will host the 15th Annual Traditional Musicians Showcase on Saturday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. The theme for the show is "Cecil Palmer: A True Guitar Man." Cecil Palmer is a Caldwell County guitarist whose professional career has spanned over 50 years. He is a master of country, jazz, pop and rockabilly music.

Palmer will be joined on stage by family members and a few of the many musicians he has influenced over the years. Strictly Clean and Decent band members Patrick Crouch, Ron Shuffler and Kay Crouch, who say they have enjoyed and learned from Cecil's playing for many years, will host the evening. Popular Caldwell County act, The Harris Brothers, which includes Palmer's nephews, Ryan and Reggie Harris, will appear on the showcase. The Nautical Wheelers, consisting of Palmer's son Chet Palmer, great-nephew Ricky Cannon, and bassist Steve Pritchard will be guests on the show and will perform with Palmer. Cecil Palmer's son Brent Palmer will be featured, along with the elder Palmer's granddaughters, Shelby and Lauren Moore.

Wes McCall, who was a well-known drummer and vocalist in Palmer's Quest band, will be featured. Gloria Coffey, who is known for her work with Gloria Coffey and the Old Hat Band, will be on the program. She has collaborated with Palmer on musical projects since she was 9 years old. David Edmisten will perform on a tribute to Cecil. David has spent the last six years as a professional musician touring the United States and beyond, and he cites Palmer as one of his main guitar influences.

Jaret Carter will be featured throughout the evening as he has in many recent showcases. Carter cites Palmer's musical phrasing and melodic approach to the guitar as major influences in his own playing.

Derrell Johnson has been involved behind the scenes in every Caldwell Traditional Musicians Showcase as recording engineer, electronic technician and artistic consultant. Audiences will be pleased to see him perform on stage with Palmer this year.

Finally, Palmer will be joined by Carolina Ray Whisnant. The two began playing live music together in the 1950s.

The Traditional Musicians Showcase is supported by Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, Caldwell County television, Foothills Radio Group and the Caldwell Arts Council.

The show is set for Saturday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children. For more information, or for tickets, call the Civic Center Box Office at 828.726.2242 or visit www.broyhillcenter.com.

Photo Cutline:
Pictured in this photo, provided courtesy of David Cortner, is guitarist Cecil Palmer.