

Around Town

Cherokee potter will share knowledge with UNCA students

Potter **Tara McCoy**, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, will work with UNC Asheville students as the first artist funded through the Celebrating Cherokee Heritage through Art and Making grant. The grant is a collaboration between the National Endowment for the Arts and UNCA.

In the role, McCoy will create educational experiences for UNCA students and “set the stage for empowering Cherokee artists by expanding the knowledge of pottery practices thousands of years old,” according to a UNCA media release. University officials hope the partnership marks the beginning of an ongoing Cherokee artist residency.

“Cherokee pottery is one of the oldest art forms in North America,” McCoy said in the press release. “Colonization and forced assimilation are devastating to our cultural preservation. We have lost a lot, and a lot of it was taken from us purposefully, but we are also trying to revitalize a lot of culture and pottery is one way we are doing that.”

McCoy has previously hosted UNCA students on the Qualla Boundary in Cherokee, where they engaged with local artists about the history of Cherokee pottery and art and visited the Qualla Arts and Crafts and the Museum of the Cherokee People. She also has demonstrated hand-building techniques to students, offered lessons on incorporating story into art and hosted a pit firing with **Matt West**, lecturer of art at UNCA.

“Cherokee people who are not involved in academia still have a lot



ART LESSONS: Tara McCoy demonstrates shaping pottery using Cherokee tools and techniques with a class of UNC Asheville students. Photo courtesy of Kilyne Oocumma/The Center for Native Health

of education or cultural knowledge that is overlooked because they do not have degrees,” McCoy said in the release. “Projects like this one allow for that knowledge to be utilized and passed on. I hope the students realize that Cherokee people are alive and thriving [and] learn about our culture from us and hear us tell our stories and history.”

An exhibit featuring some of McCoy’s work, as well as student work done as part of the collaboration, will be Thursday, Feb. 8-Thursday, Feb. 22 at Highsmith Gallery, 1 University Heights on UNCA’s campus. For more information, go to avl.mx/d88.

JAM Kids benefit

Grammy Award winner **Jim Lauderdale** will headline an annual fundraising concert for the Junior Appalachian Music Kids of Henderson County program at Trailside Brewing Co. on Wednesday, Dec. 27. The JAM Kids will play from 7-7:45 p.m. before Lauderdale takes the stage at 8:15 p.m.

Sponsored by the French Broad Valley Music Association, JAM Kids

is a program of twice weekly after-school classes in fiddle, clawhammer banjo, guitar, singing, dance and band for students ages 8-17. About 30 students participate in the program, which is held at the Henderson County Parks and Recreation Center and taught by regional musicians.

“Students learn songs and dance tunes, participate in group ‘all-play’ and string band classes, developing listening skills, learning to work together and making new friends,” says **Carol Rifkin**, lead instructor. “Performance is a big part of the program, first learning songs, arranging them, working together to present them. It brings a lot of skills into play. Folk music is simple but is the root of more complex music, and JAM sets the stage for kids to move forward into many styles of music.”

Participants have played at the Cradle of Forestry, the Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands, the Carl Sandburg Home in Flat Rock and more.

Founded four years ago, Henderson County JAM is an affiliate of the parent organization Junior Appalachian Music but is locally operated and funded. This is the second straight



SHOP US FOR:
PROTECTIVE GEAR
BEARINGS
SKATES
WHEELS

FISHBRAINS

39 Glendale Ave, Unit 101
828-404-9949

MANGUM POTTERY



Holiday Sale!

November 27 -
December 30

10 - 30% off everything



16 N Main St. Weaverville
9-5 m-f 10-4 sat 645-4929





**Factory Direct
Best Quality Best Price**

ARTLANTIC
Unique Handicrafts

10:30 - 6:30pm Daily

925 Silver Gemstones & Costume Jewelry
~ Carpet ~ Lighting ~ Tableware

908.842.3021 | artlantic.us | 317 N. Main Street in Hendersonville

f @