



American artist Carl Childs with several of his unique wood and metal shields and a customized wooden table. Photo by BETH BROCK

Childs' C15 exhibit is a celebration of women

In celebration of Women's Month American artist Carl Childs, a Gaston College Instructor, has a unique ceramics exhibit called "C15" at Greer Middle School in Gastonia. It will run through May 20, and will be available for viewing at Greer Middle School Library. The exhibit is free.

"When it comes to celebrating women, it shouldn't be just for

birthdays, anniversaries, Mother's Day or Daughter's Day. I believe that 15 minutes of appreciation for every day would show them justice they deserve," said, Childs. "The title of my exhibit is "C15." I want everyone to "see" or "C" that we should love and appreciate each other every day of our life.

"Take 15 minutes each day to remember, acknowledge what has

been done for us!"

Current projects for Childs include writing the book for an upcoming summer class that he will be teaching at Gaston College entitled "Solo Exhibit."

He is currently working the mediums metal and wood to create three different shields.

Childs will also be in Kings Mountain in April painting fire hydrants.

Music Fest!

Darin & Brooke • Gospel Groups • Jimmy Wayne



The duo of Darin and Brooke Aldridge will be performing both Friday and Saturday evenings at the Music Festival being held at the Joy Performance Theatre.

Darin and Brooke Aldridge, one of the hottest and acoustic artists touring today, country music sensation Jimmy Wayne, The Kingsmen, popular, Hall of Fame gospel quartet, "Men Standing for Christ" and the rich and diverse talent of several other local bands will entertain at a big music festival Friday and Saturday at Joy Performance Theatre.

Dubbed the Sweethearts of Country Music, the Aldridges of Cherryville, are sponsoring the concert for which proceeds will benefit the Green Banana project, a non-profit foundation organized by the late publisher of The Herald Ron Isbell and his wife, Wendy, to help instill hope in the lives of needy people.

Tickets are \$20 for the Friday night 7 p.m. concert and \$25 for the Saturday concert at 8 p.m. Friday afternoon a free show will be held at the Joy and will feature music by numerous organizations and students of Darin Aldridge.

The Friday night show will feature three styles of music.

"Men Standing for Christ" will bring the energy and tight harmonies of a cappella African American gospel; Hall of Fame Quartet "The Kingsmen" had the top song on the 2012 gospel chart and Bluegrass artists Darin and Brooke Aldridge will be on the stage both nights. Two bands from Cleveland and Gaston Counties "Harvest" and Unspoken Tradition, will also perform.

Wayne, Kings Mountain native, will headline the Saturday night show along with the Aldridges.

"I'm excited about returning to my hometown for this show," says Wayne, country music singer, songwriter, author, and motivational speaker. Wayne's biggest hit to date was the No. 1 single, "Do you believe me now?" His



Kings Mountain native Jimmy Wayne will headline Saturday nights Music Festival performance at the Joy Performance Theatre.

2002 break-through hit, "Stay Gone," captivated country music fans and "I Love You This Much" and "Paper Angels" followed. He wrote "Paper Angels", a work of fiction that was inspired by his own life. Fans say his live concert appearances are filled with energy and passion.

Among the most beloved bands on the acoustic music scene, Darin and Brooke Aldridge are mainstays on Bluegrass charts and radio with singles lingering in top positions well after their release.

Currently "When He Beckons Me Home" from "Live at Red, White and Bluegrass" is number one on the Singing New Bluegrass Chart. Both highly acclaimed vocalists in their own right, their rich harmonies combine with stellar musicians to create the unmistakable sound that is Darin and Brooke Aldridge.

Tickets are on sale at the Joy Theatre box office, Railroad Avenue; the Kings Mountain Herald, 700 E. Gold St., telephone 704-739-7496, or on line from TicketSNC.com

LAST CHANCE for advance tickets! Don't miss out on seeing the show... get your tickets now!

Spring festivals abound in NC

RALEIGH, N.C. — Festive new events are blooming among the azaleas, dogwoods and rhododendron that color North Carolina's spring landscapes. Joining Merlefest, three steeplechases and other perennial favorites are the inaugural NC Beer Month, the first statewide star party and a grand display of historic vehicles at the first Pinehurst Concours d'Elegance.

Here are some of the season's highlights. Find more reasons to visit at www.VisitNC.com.

Biltmore Festival of Flowers

Now - May 19: Asheville The gardens at George Vanderbilt's 8,000-acre Asheville estate come alive with more than 100,000 tulips as poppies, pansies, snapdragons and acres of azaleas chime in. Roses begin a reign that runs through summer, and natural gardens and walking trails showcase native and exotic blooms. Designer presentations, seminars and accessible experts add take-home value to the experience, which is accompanied by concerts and other activities. www.biltmore.com

NC Beer Month

Now - April 30: With more than 70 breweries, North Carolina is truly the state for Southern beer. All month long, travelers can let their love of ales, porters, stouts and other styles lead them to festivals, tastings,

tours and other adventures from the mountains to the coast — and lodging packages sweeten the deal. Find details at www.ncbeer-month.com.

Triple Steeplechase

Multiple dates: Raeford, Tryon, Mineral Springs Admire the nimble horses that run the course and enjoy the competition for fanciest hat and finest tailgate feast — it's all part of the American jump-racing tradition. North Carolina has three steeplechases: the Stoneybrook Steeplechase, April 6, Raeford (near Pinehurst), www.carolina-horsepark.com; the Blockhouse Steeplechase, April 20, Tryon, www.trhcevents.org; and the Queens Cup Steeplechase, April 27, Mineral Springs (near Charlotte), www.queenscup.org.

North Carolina Azalea Festival

April 10-14: Wilmington The historic city of Wilmington pairs spring's burst of azaleas with a bevy of belles in antebellum gowns, a fleet of visiting boats at the dock, and a pageant with a royal list of past winners (Kelly Ripa, Phylicia A. Rashad, Polly Bergen). Home and garden tours, arts and crafts, a parade and even a circus play into this uncommonly stylish Southern festival. www.ncazaleafestival.org

Blue Ridge Wine & Food Festival

April 10-14: Blowing Rock Amid the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the village of Blowing Rock presents pleasures from regional wineries in tastings, seminars, cooking classes and winemakers' dinners. Highlights include a new Grillin' and Chillin' event with craft beer, the bartenders brawl, a re-creation of the Titanic's last dinner and the final round of the Fire on the Rock Chef Challenge. www.blueridgewinefestival.com

MerleFest

April 25-28: Wilkesboro Upbeat songs and poignant notes will be in the air at Wilkesboro, home of one of the world's finest traditional music festivals. Guitar master Doc Watson created the four-day event in memory of his music partner and son, Merle, who died in 1985. Headliners include North Carolina natives Charlie Daniels and the Avett Brothers plus the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, who worked with Watson on the landmark "Will the Circle Be Unbroken." In what's likely to be the festival's most heart-felt moments, an all-star lineup assembled by mandolin virtuoso Sam Bush will pay tribute to Watson, who died in 2012. www.merlefest.org

Grandfather Mountain Naturalist Weekend

May 17-19: Linville

Observe the rare pink-shell azalea (Rhododendron vaseyi), endangered birds of prey, mountain crayfish and more natural treasures at Grandfather Mountain, an International Biosphere Reserve. The weekend includes a bird count, an owl prowl, a climate workshop, a culture walk, a habitat animal training workshop and other programs — plus a walk across the famous Mile High Swinging Bridge. www.grandfather.com

White Squirrel Festival

May 25-26: Brevard This town on the edge of Pisgah National Forest is best known for music, mountain biking and white squirrels, which are counted in fall and celebrated in spring. Memorial Day weekend's White Squirrel Festival includes music, a gallery walk, a Soap Box Derby down Jailhouse Hill and other events in the delightful downtown. whitesquirrelfestival.com

HISTORIC Kings Mountain

For 2013 events updates, call **704-734-0333** or visit www.CityofKM.com

Saturday, May 18

Thursday, July 4

Saturday, July 20

Saturday, Oct. 12

Gateway to the Parks

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