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Festival celebrates pottery, new and old

By **Julie n. Chang**

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The festival, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Burke County Fairgrounds on Bost Road, brings together local and regional potters along with talks from archaeologists and musical performances from the Haw Creek Band, Ed Phifer and Burton Berry. The entrance fee is \$4 for adults and children younger than 12-years-old get in for free.

Festival co-organizer Courtney Long said her demonstration last year during the Berry site's annual field day generated a lot of interest from the public, which then led to the pottery festival.

Archaeologists have uncovered Native American and European pottery and shards at the Berry site in the northern part of Burke County. Archaeologists believe the site is Joara, a Native American town that a UNC-TV documentary dubbed, "The First, Lost Colony."

Joara was a major Native American town that Hernando de Soto and Juan Pardo visited. Pardo built Fort San Juan, the oldest European settlement in the interior of the US, in 1567 nearby. Archaeologists have uncovered evidence at the Berry site that indicates the remains are from Joara and Fort San Juan.

Long said the funds raised from ticket sales will benefit the Exploring Joara Foundation, which provides support for archaeological research in the upper Catawba and Yadkin River valleys.

Potters will demonstrate how to throw pots, Long said, as well as sell their wares.

"We all work in so many techniques," Long said. "That's the beautiful thing about today."

Long said she is particularly interested in majolica, a Spanish pottery glaze. Some of the pottery shards discovered at the Berry site were Blue Spanish Majolica.

These shards, along with other pottery discoveries from the site, will be on display at the pottery festival, Long said. Archaeologists will be on hand to talk about the history of the site.

