

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Monday-Friday

12-1 p.m., Brown Bagging the Arts, Cleveland County Arts Center, 111 S. Washington St., Shelby. Free one-hour art demonstrations and lectures. Take bag lunch. Drink and dessert furnished. For more information or to reserve a seat call 484-2787.

Mondays

6-8 p.m., every Monday, East Gaston YMCA, Belmont, karate for adults and children ages 6-over. Youth class 6-7:30; adults 6-8. \$20 per month for YMCA members, \$30 for non-members. Call 825-9104 for more information.

7 p.m. - Second Monday of each month, Kings Mountain Board of Education, Central School, 105 East Ridge St.

10 a.m. - Beginning line dance, every Monday, Shelby Senior Center.

10-11 a.m. - Sitting for Fitness, every Monday, Shelby Senior Center.

12 noon - Boiling Springs Rotary Club, Ritch Banquet Hall, Gardner-Webb University.

4:15-5:15 p.m. - Cardio tone class, every Monday, Shelby City Park.

5:30-6:30 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous, every Monday, Central United Methodist Church, Kings Mountain.

5:30-6:30 p.m. - Early Evening Aerobics, every Monday, Shelby City Park.

7-8 p.m. - Evening Aerobics, every Monday, Shelby City Park.

7 p.m. - Parents Without Partners, every Monday, Shelby Presbyterian Church. For more information call Alan Smith at 481-2986.

7 p.m. - Hurting Families Support Group, every Monday, Christopher Road Baptist Church, Shelby. For information call 538-0410.

8 p.m. - AA Big Book Study, every Monday, Serenity Club, Highway 74 at Bethlehem Road, Kings Mountain.

Tuesdays

6 p.m. - Cleveland County Board of Commissioners, first and third Tuesdays, County Administration Building, Shelby.

7 p.m. - Kings Mountain City Council, last Tuesday of the month, City Hall, East Gold St.

Thursdays

10-11 a.m., every Thursday, Sitting For Fitness, Shelby Senior Center.

11 a.m. - every Thursday, Self Care Program, Bliss Center in Lawndale, Kings Mountain Senior Center, Boiling Springs United Methodist Church, and Charles Place, Shelby. Call Amanda Helms at 482-3488 for information.

12 noon - Kings Mountain Rotary Club, Ramada Ltd.

1 p.m. - Every Thursday, Aerobics, Shelby Senior Center.

6 p.m. - Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club, Central United Methodist Church.

7 p.m. - Broad River Genealogical Society, fourth Thursday, Senior Center in Shelby.

Saturdays

Planetarium Programs at Schiele Museum, Gastonia:

1 p.m. - Planet Quest. Explore planets and discover special nature of Earth. \$2.50 adults, \$1 seniors and students. Children under 3 free.

2 p.m. - The Voice of Night: American Indian Star Legends of the Southeast. Discover the night sky through the eyes of American Indians and learn about their history, legend and lore. \$2.50 adults, \$1 seniors and students. Children under 3 free.

3 p.m. - Sky Over Gastonia. Find out what's in the night sky, planets and other sights. \$2.50 adults, \$1 seniors and students. Children 3 free

Thursday, April 6

6-9 p.m. - Mini workshops at Dallas campus and Lincoln Center of Gaston College. Three sessions of 45 minutes with 15-minute break between sessions. Admission is free. Pre-register by calling 922-6200.

Friday, April 7

7 p.m. - Lifeskills Adult Education graduation, Myers Center Auditorium, Gaston College. For more information call 922-6200.

Saturday, April 8

10 a.m.-12 p.m. - Student Workshop on Aquatic Life, Schiele Museum, Gastonia. Children 8-11 will explore pond and nature trail, use a net to catch creatures beneath the surface and study them under microscope. \$10. Register by April 7 by calling Steve Pin at 866-6910.

10 a.m.-5 p.m. - Dallas Heritage Day, downtown Dallas. Music, crafts and food, contests for all ages. Horse and buggy tours, art and craft show and sale, costumed guides. Vendors, crafters, performers, contestants may call Sue Unnasch at 923-8103 for information.

2-3 p.m. - Medicinal Uses of Plants, Crowders Mountain State Park. Many plants have medicinal uses. Walk through the park and explore medicinal plants, some of which are wildflowers. Meet at the visitor center lobby.

Sunday, April 9

2 p.m. - Guided Mountain Bicycle Ride, Broad River Greenway, Hwy. 150, Boiling Springs. Meet at parking lot. Take bike and ride trails with experienced guide.

Tuesday, April 11

6:30 p.m. - Kings Mountain Schools Health Council meeting, Teacher Center, 105 E. Ridge St. (Central School).

LIFESTYLES

Herald/Times

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Fighting 55th

Cleveland County Confederates made history at Gettysburg



Photo courtesy of NC Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development.

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

The month of April marks the 135th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War. A tragic struggle that saw over 600,000 men die for the causes they believed in, the Civil War still holds us in its grip through movies, books, videos, and reenactments.

North Carolina played a vital role in the Confederacy. During the years 1861-1865, over 123,000 Tar Heels served in the Confederate military. Of this number, 40,000 would die from disease or wounds. North Carolina contributed more men to the Southern armies than any other state - and lost more as well. North Carolina's 20,000 combat deaths were more than the states of Virginia and South Carolina combined.

Men from Cleveland County also shouldered their share of muskets during the Civil War. Of the companies raised in Cleveland County during the war, companies "C" and "D" of the 55th North Carolina would go on to make history in a way that many people today are not even aware of. These two companies, named the "Cleveland Grays" and the "Cleveland Farmers" respectively, can truly lay claim to being the high tide of the Confederate army at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Reading a roster of the Grays and Farmers is like looking at a who's who of the present day families in Cleveland County. Surnames that appear on the company lists include Hamrick, Bridges, Cabanis, Mooney (Mauney), Moss, Hendrick, and Lovelace. As evidence of the sacrifices Cleveland County boys made at Gettysburg, an account states that at least one dozen men with the surname Hamrick were killed or wounded during the battle.

Fought on the first three days of July, 1863,

Gettysburg has had more written about it than any other battle in American history. Each year, hundreds of thousands of tourists visit the hallowed fields in that Pennsylvania town in hopes of somehow connecting with the past. In 1998, over 20,000 Civil War reenactors fought a three day replay of the battle that included a full-scale Pickett's Charge on Sunday afternoon.

Raised at Camp Mangum near Raleigh in May, 1862, the 55th Regiment N.C. Troops had already seen hard service in eastern North Carolina and Virginia before it began its long march towards Gettysburg in June, 1863, as part of Davis's Brigade, Heth's Division, A.P. Hill's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia.

The first day of battle at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863, saw the 55th and other members of Heth's Division engaged along the Chambersburg Pike just west of town. During this first day of fighting, the 55th and Davis's Brigade almost ceased to exist. After engaging federal troops of the 6th Wisconsin, the 55th and other units in Davis's command were suddenly overwhelmed by Yankee reinforcements and retreated to a nearby railroad gully for cover.

Going for the railroad cut was a fatal mistake. Instead of protection, the cut made the 55th like fish in a barrel. Mercifully, the federals who stood at the top of the ditch ordered Davis's men to throw down their muskets and took them prisoner in a situation that could have been a bloodbath. At least 200 Confederates were captured in the cut, the rest escaping.

After a day of rest on July 2, 1863, the 55th was called upon on the afternoon of July 3 to take part in the legendary "Pickett's Charge." The idea was to break the federal lines on Cemetery Ridge south of Gettysburg with a massive frontal assault by over 12,000 Confederates. In this action, the Southerners would have to cross over a mile of

open ground under musket and artillery fire from Union soldiers poised behind a stone wall.

Following an hour long artillery bombardment by Confederate cannons, the 41 rebel regiments stepped off to immortality. Under fire almost the entire 1,300 yards, the Confederates would lose over one-third of their men in the failed attack.

For its part in Pickett's Charge, the 55th would have to wait over 130 years to get the credit they deserved. For many decades it was assumed that the 26th North Carolina Regiment had penetrated the Union lines farthest that fateful day before falling back. Indeed, the saying that North Carolinians were "farthest to the front" at Gettysburg was based on the 26th claim. Now, new evidence has shown that it was actually the 55th, including boys from Cleveland County, who can claim that honor.

In her recently published book "Pickett's Charge in History and Memory" author Carol Reardon has uncovered evidence that supports the 55th's right to be called the "high tide" of the Confederacy at Gettysburg. Reardon's research shows that the location of several dead Confederates farthest across the stone wall were members of the 55th.

Though they made history at Gettysburg, the Cleveland Grays and Cleveland Farmers suffered with the rest of the 55th and their fellow rebels. During the battle, the 55th lost over 400 men killed, captured or wounded. Total rebel losses exceeded 28,000.

Though the Civil War was a heartbreaking affair for all involved, it was also a time when words like courage, honor, and sacrifice were the code by which men lived. Residents of Cleveland County today, and especially those who had ancestors in the 55th North Carolina, can be proud of the bravery those boys in gray displayed on the green fields of Pennsylvania so long ago.

What's Cookin'

Barbecue kings coming from miles around for KM Firehouse cook-off

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

The heady aroma of slow cooked barbecue will be wafting over the Kings Mountain walking track on April 14 and 15 when the 4th Annual Firehouse Cookoff gets going.

Put on by the Kings Mountain Fire Department, the cookoff will feature over 25 professional barbecue teams from as far away as Tennessee. The teams will be competing for prizes and money and will be selling their fresh cooked barbecue goodness beginning Friday afternoon April 14, and continuing until 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 15. In addition to sandwiches and plates, the teams will also be selling butts for \$25 and shoulders for \$35.

Just a few of the teams that will be coming to the cookoff include Flaming Pig, Pampered Pig Barbecue, Bubbas Bar-Be-Cue Team, and Harley Hog and the Cookers. Each team uses their own unique cookers and recipes to turn out some of the best 'cue under the sun. All profits from the cookoff will go to help the Kings Mountain Fire Museum and their goal of restoring a 1938 Ford fire truck to new condition. The final cost to restore the truck will be \$10,000.

"The fire department decided to have the event in the spring because there aren't any other festival type events in town during that time of year," said Kings Mountain fire chief Frank Burns. "The Firehouse Cookoff is a national level cooking event. All of the contestants take their barbecue cooking very seriously."

The cookoff is sanctioned by the Kansas City

Barbecue Society. The largest international organization of barbecue enthusiasts in the world, the KCBS is dedicated to promoting and educating those interested in the barbecue fields. In the coming years, the Kings Mountain Firehouse Cookoff is sure to gain stature in the barbecue world.

"Last year we barely broke even on the cookoff," Burns said. "But we needed to make sure the contestants were offered enough prize money to draw the top teams to Kings Mountain. This year will be another building block so that next season the event will have gained national attention and we can see some positive financial results."

For more information on the Kings Mountain Firehouse Cookoff, contact any Kings Mountain fireman, or call 734-0555.