

LOCAL NEWS

Gateway Festival Saturday in downtown KM

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

Several activities and widespread amusement is set for Saturday at Kings Mountain's annual Gateway Festival, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., downtown.

The Gazebo at Patriot's Park, as in past year's, will be the Gateway to music. "Harvest," a Kings Mountain band, will perform from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. "The Merrows," a Celtic band, will take the stage from 1 p.m.-2 p.m. followed by the Cute Critters Competition from 2-2:30. The Cute Critters categories this year are: best looking, most unusual color, most unique, most unusual looking, and owner look-a-like. Registration for the free pet contest will begin at 1 p.m. Applications will be available at the Information Booth on the corner of Railroad Avenue and Gold Street.

The world-famous bluegrass group, The Dillards, best known as the Darlings on the Andy Griffith Show will grace the stage from 2:30-3:15, returning for a final performance from 4:15-5 p.m. "The Merrows" will give their final performance from 3:15-4:15.

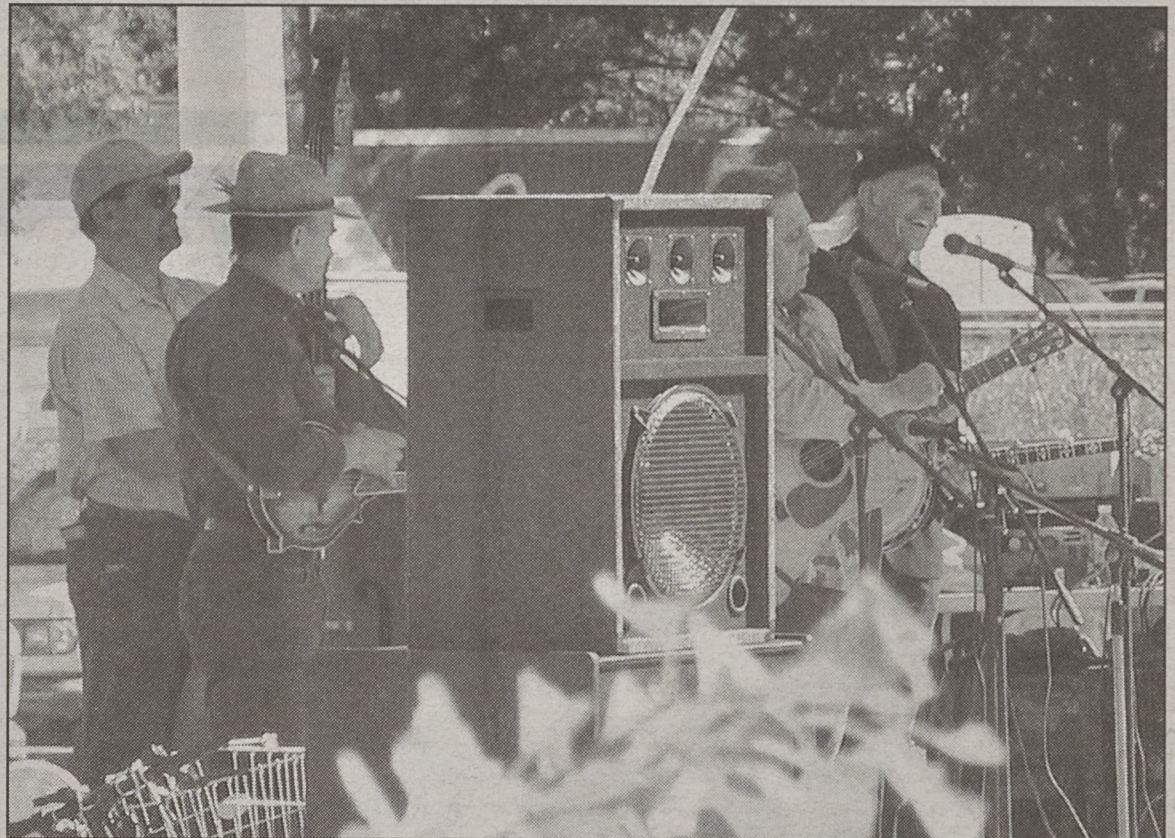
Over 50 crafters will line

Railroad Avenue, from the Joy Performance Center to Patriot's Park, for this year's Crafter's Alley. The alley is sponsored by the KM chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Following the route of the free Lynx Trolley Shuttle, festival-goers can visit any of the other three festival stops. First stop is the Kings Mountain Historical Museum Commons, where the Carolina Foothills Historical Reenactment Society will be encamped. They will be giving early craft and domestic skills demonstrations in the commons, behind the museum. At 11:30 a.m., "The Log Cabin Band" will be in concert at the commons. Baked goods and refreshments will be sold throughout the day.

Next stop is Central United Methodist Church, where for \$5 people can taste-travel the country. The Taste of America fair and bazaar will be held from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the church. Tickets for \$5 will allow people to sample Tex-Mex, New Orleans, Southern and California style foods. Locally produced arts, crafts and baked goods will also be available for purchase or raffled off.

On the way to stop number



HERALD / FILE

The Dillards, better known as the Darlings on the Andy Griffith Show, will be in concert Saturday at the gazebo during the annual Gateway Festival.

three, an interpreter on board the trolley will provide a drive-by tour of the Central High School Historical District. The last stop before heading back to

the Gazebo, is the Kings Mountain Arts Center, where the "Art by the Tracks" juried competition will be held from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Food and beverage

will be available at the Art Center, including a new members exhibit, Gallery Gift Shoppe, and a variety of activities for all ages.

Battle of KM anniversary this weekend

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The 227th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, which "turned the tides" of America's Revolutionary War will be celebrated at the Kings Mountain National Military Park this weekend.

Along the park's wooded trails, on the mountain terrain where bullets once exploded and gunpowder filled the air on October 7, 1780, reenactors with the Back Country Militia and the 84th Highland Regiment will bring the history of that famous battle to life again. The reenactors will be putting on shows throughout the weekend, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Park Ranger Chris Revels said that after the 225th anniversary a couple of years ago, the interest in reenacting

has waned a little bit. He added that all of the reenactors are volunteers, who often times have other responsibilities. But thankfully, the faithful Back Country Militia will continue to entertain and inform the crowds as they have done for the past several years.

The 84th Highland Regiment and Back Country Militia will be camping out at the park over the weekend, working side-by-side to keep history alive on the battleground. From recruiting new soldiers in their mock mustering of arms to historical demonstrations of life during the Revolutionary War, the groups will provide a free history lesson to the park's many spectators.

"We expect a big crowd this weekend," Revels said, adding that he just hopes it doesn't rain.

A wreath-laying ceremony

will be held on October 7 at 11 a.m. at the U.S. monument on top of the mountain.

At 3 p.m. on Sunday, another group of faithful volunteers - the Overmountain Victory Trail Association marchers, will file into the amphitheater for the 227th anniversary ceremony. In the early years, the OVTA used to march the entire 258 mile path of the Overmountain men. "Of the 258 miles from Abingdon, VA to Kings Mountain, SC, less than 100 miles remain that can be safely walked because of highway traffic and speed," according to their website at ovta.org. "Over the years, a 'reenactment route' has emerged that offers walkers a chance to get off highways and into the woods. There are some 40 miles of off road walking. Much of that is on the original roadbed.

"The marchers come together

at each night's campsite. The next morning, we march the Trail on to the next campsite, shuttle back for our vehicles and then repeat the process over again all the way down the trail."

United States South Carolina Congressman John Spratt will be the guest speaker for Sunday afternoon's commemorative ceremony.

The first organized commemorative ceremony at the battlefield was conducted in 1815 by former patriot surgeon Dr. William McLean. According to the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, "After directing the cleanup of the site, which included reburial of soldiers' bones unearthed over the years by erosion and animals, McLean dedicated a monument to the fallen patriot's and to British Major Patrick Ferguson. In 1885

about 15,000 people attended the battle's 75th anniversary celebration. In 1880 a centennial association unveiled a 28-foot monument."

In 1909, an 83-foot U.S. monument was dedicated on the battlefield and in 1931, after campaign efforts of the KM chapter of the Daughters of the Revolutionary War, the Kings Mountain National Military Park was established.

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