

# Y fundraiser draws big crowds, big hats, big money



Chaney Barnes tickles the ivories as guests mingle and sit down to dinner at the seventh annual Moon Over the Mountain fundraising gala for the KM YMCA.

Photo by Emily Weaver

Nearly 150 ladies and gentlemen dressed in their "race track" best attended the Kings Mountain Family YMCA's annual fundraising gala Saturday night at the Neisler Life Enrichment Center. This year's Moon Over the Mountain was inspired by the Kentucky Derby and there were plenty of ladies in hats to prove it.

Attendees gathered with numbered paddles to bet - not on the horses - but on auction items donated to help raise money for the Y's We Build People campaign.

See Y, 7A

## A Gateway to History

**KINGS MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MILITARY PARK**  
Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780

KINGS MOUNTAIN, named for early settlers, is a rocky spur of the Blue Ridge rising 150 feet above the surrounding area. On October 7, 1780, Kings Mountain was surrounded by 900 patriots, also called the overmountain men. Kings Mountain was defended by 1,000 loyalists under the command of Major Patrick Ferguson. The tree-to-tree fighting was sharp and short, lasting only one hour. At the end, both Ferguson's and the British hopes for a quick victory in the South were lost. Thomas Jefferson called the victory "...the joyful annunciation of that turn of the tide of success which terminated the Revolutionary War with the

seal of our independence." Kings Mountain National Military Park was established on March 3, 1931.

The Howser House  
Henry Howser was a stonemason, farmer, landowner, and Revolutionary War veteran from Pennsylvania. Howser and his wife built this house of Germanic architecture in 1803. They had 6 children and 3 slaves. It is part of the park and is open to the public twice a year.

Kings Mountain National Military Park has a 1.5-mile loop trail around the battlefield and a visitor center. The park offers special programs throughout the year and has a system of hiking and horse trails for the outdoor enthusiast.

The Kings Mountain National Military Park is located 7 miles to the south, in South Carolina, just off of Hwy. 161 on Park Road. The Kings Mountain Gateway Trail joins the City of Kings Mountain with Crowders Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain State Park, and the Kings Mountain National Military Park, as well as other trail systems in the region.

The sign honoring the Kings Mountain National Military Park and the historic Revolutionary War Battle there that "turned the tide" of America's revolution.

# Sign to overlook park, honoring historic battle

Part 3 of a 6-part series

**EMILY WEAVER**  
Editor

In this bi-weekly 6-part series, The Herald is unveiling - with the help of the Gateway Trails Inc. Committee - each of the six new informational signs that will soon find a home along the greenway.

Gateway Trails President Shirley Brutko has worked with historians and geologists to bring Kings Mountain's past to present in the signs, which detail local history on a range of topics.

The first sign addressed Kings Mountain's rich geological mining history, highlighting Chemetall Foote Corp., which donated 70 acres to the trail. The second sign, which will be at the end of the Gateway's rail trail or along its plateau path, will feature some of the work of Martin Marietta Mining Company. Martin Marietta also donated land for the trailhead, in a conservation easement, to be used for parking, picnicking and other structures in 2009.

Another sign that is set to overlook Kings Mountain is dedicated to the Kings Mountain National Military Park, in honor of the Revolutionary War Battle fought there on Oct. 7, 1780.

"Kings Mountain, named for early settlers, is a rocky spur of the Blue Ridge rising 150 feet above the surrounding area," according to the sign. "On October 7, 1780, Kings Mountain was surrounded by 900 patriots, also called the overmountain men. Kings Mountain was defended by 1,000 loyalists under the command of Major Patrick Ferguson.

The tree-to-tree fighting was sharp and short, lasting only one hour. At the end, both Ferguson's and the British hopes for a quick victory in the South were lost.

"Thomas Jefferson called the victory, '...the joyful annunciation of that turn of the tide of success which terminated the Revolutionary War with the seal of our independence,'" the sign declares. "Kings Mountain National Military Park was estab-

lished on March 3, 1931."

The sign also features the park's historic Howser House, once lived in by Revolutionary War veteran Henry Howser.

A loop trail, 1.5 miles long, circles the battlefield at the park. Upon its completion, the Gateway Trail will one day connect to the park and its neighbor, South Carolina State Park, by linking up with the Boulders Access at Crowder's Mountain State Park.

As part of the Carolina Thread Trail, the Gateway greenway will not just connect downtown Kings Mountain to three local parks, but is a link in a network of trails and waterways that span 90 miles in the Carolinas.

The informational signs along the KM greenway are being paid for by a \$10,000 Golden Leaf grant the Gateway Trails received last year.



Brad McKee

## Crossing the Finish Line

*McKee braves blistering heat, passes out, ends up in wheelchair but finishes the Boston Marathon*

**KYRA A. TURNER**

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On March 10, Brad McKee conquered Kings Mountain's Hunger Games 5K... but that was just the beginning - a 3.1-mile warmup.

On Monday, April 16, McKee joined nearly 27,000 people and became a part of the oldest and best-known race in the world, the 116th Annual Boston Marathon. This marathon is New England's most widely viewed sporting event, having started with 18 participants in 1897.

Kings Mountain's McKee became a professional runner after graduating from St. Andrew's Presbyterian College, picking up sponsors such as Prescription Plus and Ortho Molecular Products along the way.

"I work at the Eaton Corporation to pay the bills but run for the love of it," McKee said.

McKee, number 5410, took on the 91 degree heat, 90% humidity and all the winding roads of the 26.21875-mile marathon to finish the race. As many as 4,000 of the nearly 27,000 registered runners did not make it to the finish line in what is considered by many as a once-in-a-lifetime event. Last year's winner of the Boston Marathon passed out and quit at mile 13 this year, according to McKee.

"There were people drag-

ging contestants into their yards and hosing them down to drench them off because they had run out of water on the run," McKee said.

He, himself, ran into trouble. At mile 11, he stopped sweating.

"I knew when I stopped sweating, there was a problem," he said. "I passed out at mile 15 and woke up on a stretcher with an oxygen mask (over my mouth)."

Medics told McKee that he was dehydrated and urged him to sit the rest of the race out.

"But I told them I wanted to finish it. I had never not finished a race and this was the first race I ran that I had to walk," he said.

Race organizers said more than 2,000 participants received some level of medical attention at this year's Boston Marathon. Chris Troyanos, medical coordinator for the Boston Athletic Association, said aids in medical tents along the course treated some 800-1,200 more people than they do during a typical Boston Marathon.

In addition, about 120 were taken to hospitals in ambulances. One runner was taken from the course in serious condition, though details were unavailable.

Still, the majority of runners seem to have been able to find one way or another to beat the heat.

See McKEE, 7A

*In Loving Memory of  
Woody Strickland*

*On April 20, 2009, Heaven welcomed a new angel. A loving husband, wonderful father, and a friend to all, went home. Hard working hands were put to rest and God broke our hearts to prove that He only takes the best. You will always be on our minds, and in our hearts forever.*

*We love and miss you.*

*Brandy, Taylor & Hunter Strickland*

## WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

SEE FOR YOURSELF WHEN...

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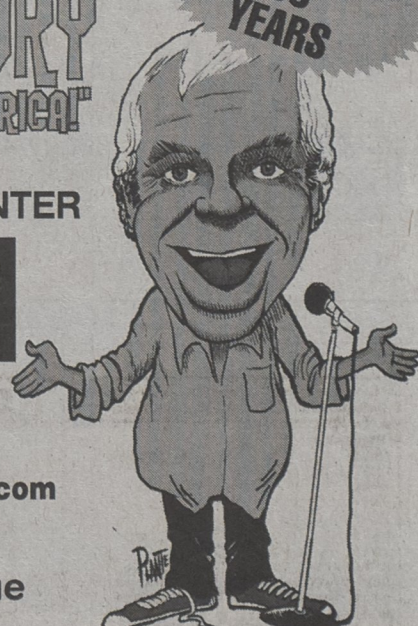
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