

## Annual KMHM fundraiser Sept. 13

Each year in September, Kings Mountain Historical Museum hosts an annual fundraiser to generate revenue needed to provide quality exhibits and other educational programming free of charge to visitors.

Now in its 11th year, the "Tracks Through Time" annual reverse raffle and auctions event also serves as a festive and memorable community get-together and will be held September 13 at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center for which tickets are on sale.

In 2013, over 4,500 visitors benefited from the exhibits, special events, field trips, tours, and outreach programs offered by the Museum at no cost. This represents a 25% increase in visitation from the previous year. As visitation continues to steadily increase, so do the Museum's funding needs. That is why the annual fundraiser committee strives to make each year's event a little bigger and better than the last, says Museum Director Adria Focht.

Focht says that fortunately the Museum receives a tremendous amount of support from local community members. It seems that everyone can (and does) contribute something.

Local artists like Jerry Depew and Lynn Eskridge generously donate their hand-crafted wares such as basketry and carved wooden spoons for the Silent Auction. Local bakers like Patsy Rountree and Carolyn Armstrong offer made-from-scratch cakes and pies for the baked goods auction. Local jewelry makers like Bridget Martin and Susan Gibbs donate beautiful handmade necklaces and bracelets.

Individuals representing local businesses also donate a wide variety of specialty goods and services. Cliff Laurich of Ceejay's Landscapes offers "two men for a day" in lawn services, and Lou Dellinger of Dellinger's Jewel Shop donates stunning jewelry; these high-end items contribute greatly to live auctions. Gifted florist Susan Patterson of InSeason Florals donates all of the floral arrangements and centerpiece designs for the evening, and her son, Brandon Patterson of Design 1:26, provides professional graphic design work for the event brochures. Judy Falls of Flowers by the Falls donates unique seasonal wreaths and Mary Ann



Jason Rhodes of Rhodesdale Farm is supplying NC-grown apples for the Sept. 13 Kings Mountain Historical Museum fundraiser, thematic of "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" and healthy living.

Photos by ADRIA FOCHT

Hendricks offers distinctive pheasant feather wreaths.

Other individuals such as Margaret Mauney Boheler, Wendy Neisler, and Russ and Jenna Putnam volunteer their time to help make sure the event runs smoothly.

New donors this year, Bill and Jeanie Carney of Waxhaw, NC offered a ProPluger, a clever 5-in-1 Planting Tool which was developed by Bill Carney, is manufactured in Waxhaw, and will soon be using steel produced at a plant in Kings Mountain.

"We try to focus on 'local' for this event," said Fundraiser Chair Priscilla Mauney. "We know our community members want to support local businesses, artists, and manufacturers — as do we."

The folks who contribute help refine the theme for the event as well. Each year the event is themed after the Museum's current exhibit. This year's exhibit, "Say Ahh!" focuses on the medical history of the region.

No matter what their assets or talents, the Kings Mountain community continues to contribute what they can to support the Museum, which in turn allows us to support the community through free educational opportunities.

"We are so grateful for the patronage we receive. Each one of these sponsors, donors, and volunteers is essential to keeping the Museum operational. It is wonderful to know that so



Ronnie Hawkins of Harris Funeral Home, Founder Level sponsor for many years of the annual fundraisers by the Kings Mountain Historical Museum, demonstrates his famous "undertaker handshake," checking the pulse of Museum President Susan Champion as she receives a sponsorship donation.

many people believe in the importance of their local history museum and are willing to support it however they can," said Champion.

Tickets will be on sale at the Museum from now until the night of the raffle. One in 300 ticket holders will win \$10,000, and 1 in 5 will win a fabulous door prize.

To find out more, visit [www.kingsmountainmuseum.org](http://www.kingsmountainmuseum.org) or call (704) 739-1019.

You can also follow on Facebook, Twitter, & Pinterest.



Artistic Director Caleb Sigmon coaches Cale McDaniel, left, and Jeremy Homesley in a fight scene from "Liberty Mountain."

## Stage combat to play a major role in 'Liberty Mountain'

By Robert Inman  
Special to the Herald

"Liberty Mountain," the Revolutionary War drama now in rehearsals at Kings Mountain's Joy Performance Center, is about more than just the Battle of Kings Mountain that turned the tide of the American Revolution. It's about the people who settled the Carolinas, established homes and raised families, and lived through the struggle for American independence from Great Britain. But if not for the battle itself, there would be no reason for the drama.

So the savage conflict that took place between Loyalist and Patriot forces on October 7, 1780 is an integral part of the story. And bringing that battle to life is the work of artistic director Caleb Sigmon and his talented cast and crew. There are several combat sequences in the play, and each must be carefully choreographed.

"Safety is absolutely our first concern," Caleb says. "The cast members will be using real weapons, including rifles, tomahawks, knives and swords. Some of the rifles will fire blank rounds. Used improperly, these weapons can be dangerous. Used correctly, they are safe and add critical authenticity to the scenes. We will be using the entire auditorium as our stage, including the aisles. We will bring our audiences intimately

into the play, and audience safety is critical."

Caleb is an expert in stage combat and teaches classes in that aspect of theatre art, so he's uniquely qualified to lead actors and crew through the fight scenes. "It's like a ballet with a large company," he says. "Every person on stage must know where every other person is, and everyone's movements must be carefully timed so that the action is seamless and provides the audience with a gripping experience."

"Liberty Mountain" premieres on Friday, October 3 with a gala performance for sponsors who have underwritten the cost of the production. Public performances start on Saturday, October 4 and continue on October 5, 10, 11, and 12. Tickets for those performances will go on sale to the public in mid-September.

Pre-production planning is also underway for the first summer run of "Liberty Mountain," starting on June 26, 2015. Organizers expect summer productions in the future to draw large crowds to Kings Mountain.

"It's a great opportunity for Kings Mountain's economy," says Shirley Brutko, a member of the "Liberty Mountain" steering committee and former Director of the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce. "We expect visitors from all over the world to come here to see this piece of history brought to life."

## Therapist thanks city at ribbon cutting



Members of the Cleveland Chamber join Katherine Gordon (holding scissors) at the ribbon cutting for her mental health counseling business Thursday.

City and county leaders, as well as fellow downtown business owners joined the Cleveland Chamber in welcoming Katherine Gordon to her new location on Battleground Ave. Thursday morning. As her small office filled with guests, Gordon, who is

a licensed counselor and therapist, said she's excited to be part of the town's business community.

"I want to thank the city's Main Street office for helping me get up and running," she said minutes before a ceremonial ribboncutting out-

side her front door near the corner of Gold St. and Battleground Ave. "This has been an especially warm welcome."

Gordon opened her doors in the new space in a few months earlier. She opened up her practice a little over a year ago, but in a different address further south on Battleground Ave. The new location, she said, gives her and her clients more privacy.

Gordon has 20 years of experience in mental health, and has been working as a licensed counselor for about four years. She left a local mental health agency in 2013 to start out on her own, and now serves about 40 clients.

Gordon, a Gastonia native, holds a bachelor's and a masters in psychology from Gardner-Webb University.

After brief speeches by Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey and Cleveland Chamber Chairperson Micki Pageant, her guests took to a lunchtime snack of fresh fruits, vegetables and roast beef, ham and turkey sandwich fixings, as talk turned to initiatives to drive more businesses and traffic to down-

town.

She provides therapy for depression and anxiety, couples counseling, family counseling, parenting support, grief counseling, work and career issues, stress management, addiction and recovery, conflict resolution and group therapy. A brochure in Gordon's office reads, in part, "While we can't change difficult situations of the past, we can work together to better understand and resolve challenges in your life."

Gordon said that reduced fee services are available on a limited basis. More information about Gordon and her practice is available at [www.kgordontherapy.com](http://www.kgordontherapy.com).

## SAR to meet Sept. 9

Award-winning author and storyteller Randell Jones will be the speaker at the fall meeting Tuesday, Sept. 9 of the Battle of Kings Mountain Sons of the American Revolution at 6:30 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Tickets for dinner are \$15 and reservations can be made by calling Doyle Campbell at 704-739-5485.

"With all the excitement surrounding the upcoming Liberty Mountain production and the 234th anniversary of the Battle of Kings

Mountain on Oct. 7, we thought some of our local citizens would be interested in how the Overmountain Men arrived in Kings Mountain," said SAR member David Allen.

the SAR is a non-profit organization of descendants of actual Patriots who supported the cause for freedom, a main focus of the organization is education about our Nation's foundation.

All meetings are open to the public.

## Free computer classes

The Mauney Memorial Library will begin hosting a drop-in Open Computer Lab on Mondays from 10 AM to noon in the Library Community Room.

Sample topics include: How to navigate the Internet; How to create an email

address; How to format a Microsoft Word document; How to create formulas in Excel; How to create a mail merge document; and more.

Bring your questions and come learn tips to enhance your computer experience.

## Girl Scouts open to new members

It's back to school time and with that comes the anticipation for girls to join Girl Scouts.

Girls can become a member for \$15 and participation in program events is immediate but placement in a troop is based on availability. Girl Scouts are in need of dedicated adults to take on the role of troop leaders. Each troop is led by at least two non-related registered leaders.

Girls and parents are invited to attend

one of the following Express Events in this area: Sept. 16 at Oak Grove Rescue Squad, 838 Oak Grove Road; Sept. 18 El Bethel United Methodist Church, 122 El Bethel Road, Kings Mountain; and Sept. 22 Boyce Memorial ARP Church, 111 Edgemont Ave., Kings Mountain.

All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact local recruitment manager Debbie Brown at 704-864-3245.

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