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A battle rages at the Joy Theatre with the Friday evening premier of 'Liberty Mountain'

By Robert Inman
Special to the Herald

It's curtain time!
After months of hard work, the curtain rises this Friday evening at 7:30 for the world premier of "Liberty Mountain," the Revolutionary Drama, at Kings Mountain's Joy Performance Center.

Opening night is an invitation-only Gala performance for sponsors who have contributed support for the premier production. Public performances are Saturday night at 7:30 and Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. A second round of public performances comes the following weekend with Friday and Saturday evening shows and

a Sunday matinee. "Liberty Mountain" tells the story of the hardy pilgrims who settled the Carolina frontier in the 1700's, many of them Scots-Irish Presbyterians who migrated from Northern Ireland. Life there had been hard, and they sought new opportunity to work, raise families, and worship as they pleased. Some were loyal to the British government, others were fervent supporters of America's struggle for independence, and many wished to remain neutral. But all were caught up in the often-savage warfare that swept the backcountry of the Carolinas and the land beyond the Blue Ridge mountains.

The crucial battle was at Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780. Fewer than a thousand Patriots from both Carolinas, Virginia and Georgia defeated a larger, well-trained force of Loyalists under the command of British major Patrick Ferguson. Ferguson's force was destroyed - killed, wounded and captured - and the outcome turned the tide of the



Bella Sherrin, Mary Grace Keller, Stetson McDaniel and Greg Dixon, left to right, are ready for the opening of Robert Inman's drama, "Liberty Mountain," which opens to the public for a two weekend run Saturday night by the Kings Mountain Little Theatre.

Photo by LIB STEWART

It's fair time!



A young handler queues up for the judge's critical eye in the Catawba Valley Livestock Showmanship Circuit market lamb event Monday evening at the Cleveland County Fair, which runs through Oct. 5.

Photo by DAVE BLANTON

Robinson safe after Silver Alert

Harold Robinson, 81, is back at home at Summit Place after a 2 1/2 hour scare Thursday night when he walked away and became lost in the woods near the Phifer Road facility.

Kings Mountain police were called at 8:43 p.m. and a Silver Alert went out. Eight county agencies assisted in the search. Robinson, a dementia patient, was found in a thicket in the woods at 11:14 p.m. with scratches and bruises.

Summit Place Executive Director Tabrina Watford thanked police and all who assisted in the search for the senior resident. "Robinson's safe return is testament to the positive working relationship between all the agencies in the county," said

KMPD Chief Melvin Proctor.

Also assisting in the search were Emergency Management, Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department, Grover Fire Department, Kings Mountain Fire Department, Cleveland County EMS, Cleveland County Search and Rescue and the Fire Marshal's Office.

A pinning ceremony and reception Sunday at the Kings Mountain National Guard Armory honored Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marvin Smith. Smith, 44, is among the youngest National Guardsmen in the state to hold the rank of CW4.

He was pinned by Major Veronica Beltran. His wife, Ann and their daughters, MacKenzie and Montana, and his parents, Rocky and Janet Smith, were among those attending the special ceremony.

Smith joined the Kings Mountain National Guard in December 1992. He works full time with 17 Guard Units in the state headquartered in Raleigh and served two deployments: Iraq in 2005-2006 and Afghanistan 2011-2012.

A 1988 graduate of Kings Mountain High School, CW4 Smith worked at Ronald's Garage before joining the Na-



CW4 Smith is pictured with his family, daughter Montana, left, Ann, Marvin and daughter MacKenzie.

tional Guard.

His wife, Anne Hawkins Smith, has

taught first grade at Grover Elementary School for 24 years.

Music will sound throughout Kings Mountain for Gateway Fest

Music, Muskets and Merriment! That's the focus in Kings Mountain for the annual Gateway Festival Saturday, October 11 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Patriots Park in Kings Mountain.

This year's musical line up will feature musicians who have performed in Kings Mountain in the past and musicians who are featured for the first time. There will be three venues that will feature regional music, the Gazebo at Patriots Park, in the Commons

area at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum and the Gateway Trail.

"The music of the Foothills is a part of life here in Kings Mountain, whether it's a family reunion, a pig pickin', in church or at a festival like our own Gateway Festival, and a real treasure for our community," said Mayor Rick Murphrey. And reflecting the music of the region, a variety of folk, gospel, bluegrass and country music will be heard throughout Kings Mountain

during the day. All music venues will be connected by a free shuttle running continuously during the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Gazebo will serve as the main stage at Patriots Park with a performance by bluegrass gospel musicians and local favorites, Timberidge at Noon. Another regional bluegrass band, the Oak Grove String Band, will bring their music to the Gazebo at 1 p.m. At 2 p.m., the stage will be filled with a large group of bluegrass

musicians. Threescore10 from Boiling Springs and points in Western North Carolina. Dirty Grass Soul and their unique blend of music will be on stage at 3 p.m. followed by the lyrical, country style music from Angela Easterling & the Be-guilers.

From 1 p.m. until 3 p.m., the dulcet tones of the Log Cabin String Band will transport visitors back in time as they tour the early 1800's Barber Log House on the Museum Commons. At

the Gateway Trail, near the trail head from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., there will be a "Porch Pickin'" with a variety of local bluegrass musicians and a perfect opportunity for visiting musicians to sit in on the session that will enhance activities and the tours scheduled on the trail.

The free Gateway Shuttle will provide transportation to all music venues as well as the Joy Performance

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