

YMCA to see upgraded gym for upcoming basketball season

The Kings Mountain Family YMCA gymnasium is getting a new maple wood floor and matching bleachers at cost of \$106,000 and it's expected to be ready for the opening of basketball season Nov. 15.

Kevin Osborne, YMCA executive, said that the good news also is that the gymnasium renovation will mean that two teams can be playing in the gymnasium at the same

time. The new floor and bleachers replace flooring that was installed at the city's old community center in 1969. The metal in the bleachers was recycled by the city and the wood on five sets of bleachers was given to Kings Mountain High School for use of carpentry students.

A partnership was formed in 1999 be-

tween the YMCA and City of Kings Mountain to provide recreation for Kings Mountain area people, and for the past 14 years thousands of youth and adults have participated in various programs at the YMCA or at other locations in the community.

"The Y and City of Kings Mountain partnership is a win-win for both of us," said Mayor Rick Murphrey. He said that the city budgeted the cost of the flooring and bleachers in capital funds expenditures and that the renovated 10,000 square foot gymnasium will be used by both basketball and volleyball teams.

Two teams will be able to play at the

same time with use of a curtain that will drop to form a court for the teams.

Royalwood & Associates of Raleigh holds the contract for the construction. The Y is one of the bigger gymnasiums that the group has worked, according to Osborne. "The Y gym is a popular recreation spot for young people and adults and we are grateful for the partnership with the city," said Osborne.

Osborne said the activities at the Y spill over to the Mayor Rick Murphrey Children's Park and the new addition that will be disability-friendly for Cleveland County children.

A story of families... 'Liberty Mountain' opens to success



Director Caleb Sigmon, at left, gets an embrace from playwright Robert Inman at the conclusion of the first production of "Liberty Mountain" Friday night at the Joy Theatre. See more photos from the gala event on page 10A.

Photo by DAVE BLANTON

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Liberty Mountain is a story that has long needed telling and Bob Inman, the accomplished author, playwright and the news anchor we watched on WBTV for years, has "done us up right," as one theater-goer said at the close of the world-premier show last Friday night.

If you missed the Saturday and Sunday sell-out performances at the Kings Mountain Little Theatre's Joy Performance Center you missed seeing 57 of your friends and neighbors in 23 scenes in an unbelievable, fast moving 90 minutes in a decisive fight for freedom on the battlefield of Kings Mountain Oct. 7, 1780.

Should there be cancellations or "no shows" at Friday, Saturday and Sunday performances this weekend tickets would be available at the theater door, according to KMLT's Jim Champion.

Show times this weekend are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m.

Presenting sponsor and host of last Friday night's Gala and performance of Liberty Mountain was Patrick Yarns. Brothers Gilbert and Larry Patrick said they wanted, by sponsoring the event, to carry on their family legacy. Their ancestors fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain.

After the premier show Mayor Rick Murphrey commented, "Liberty Mountain made us so proud. The Gala is something that we will long remember and the play is a keeper. We look forward to seeing it many times next summer."

Liberty Mountain is much more than a war story and one violent hour atop Kings Mountain when brother fought brother.

It's a story of families - men, women and children who wanted a home and freedom in America. Bob Inman focused on the Martin family. Their young son, Joseph, joins the Militia and is killed and dies in his father's arms. Our ancestors lived daily with death on the frontier and so they did - in this play - and in real life at the Battle of Kings Mountain which Thomas Jefferson said "turned the tide of success that terminated the Revolutionary War."

Women took up guns too - in real life at the battle and in the play. "It takes a

woman to give a man a little backbone," a statement that generated laughter from the audience as women and young people grabbed their guns.

Kings Mountain's was a crucial battle because in May of 1780 the British appeared to be in total control of the Carolinas. If the Patriots had not destroyed British Major Patrick Ferguson's forces we might all be singing "God Save The Queen." Ferguson was the leader of the Loyalists and the only British soldier in the battle. (I don't know if it is still the custom but many hikers to Kings Mountain used to always add a rock to Ferguson's grave.) The young Redcoat in the play has mastered the British language very well.

And Inman doesn't leave anything out in a remarkable drama which is expected to rival "The Sword of Gideon" and "Then Conquer We Must" which played in the Kings Mountain National Military Park amphitheater years ago.

Caleb Ryan Sigmon, the artistic and fight director, scenic and lighting director, and his fiancée Katy Biser, costume designer, production stage manager, lighting engineer and costume and wig designer deserve kudos. The authentic staging and costuming of this production and the fight scenes brought the battle to life.

Produced by Jim Cham-

pion (who was King George II in the show) with April DeGregory as assistant stage manager, Joe Allen as sound engineer, Nikki Radford as wardrobe assistant, Doug Bell as pyrotechnic supervisor and Casey Eubanks and Suzi Davis as run crew made up a talented production staff that made the show run smoothly.

The cast included, and many with speaking parts, were Erica Carpenter, Pete DeGregory, Nick Howell, Dewi Egan, AnaFaithe Allen, Janey Ollis, Megan Carley, Robert Craig, Greg Dixon, Andy Neisler, Jeremy Homesley, Chris Stone, Jim Champion, Elijah Carroll, Cale McDaniel, Jada McDaniel, Jack Kiser, Chris Stone, Josiah Beman, Isaiah Fox, Patrick Kiser, Moe Ramsey, Mary Grace Keller, Weasel Jenkins, Bridget Allen, and Judy Jones.

The ensemble included Adam Phillips, Ashtyn Martin, Bella Sherrin, Beth Cooke, Cadyn Martin, Caroline Allen, CJ Torrence, Daniel Carley, Daricia Sipe, Deana Sherrin, Doug Bell, Elijah Pressley, Elyse Allen, Hallie Connor, John Deal, Josh Clarke, Kensen Martin, Krista Kiser, Layla Evans, Lyla Allen, Macayla Jackson, Makyla Reid, Matthew Kiser, Melanie Ballard, Phylicia Eubanks, Rebecca DeGregory, Sarah DeGregory, Seth Chappell, Shannon Henderson, Sierra Davis and Vince Jenkins.

Leaf pick up begins Monday

Crews from the city will start picking up leaves left at the roadside curb Monday morning. Only leaves will be vacuumed. All other pickups will remain as scheduled. City officials say you can expect your leaves removed within 7-10 business days.

Notify the Storm Water Department, 704-739-4501 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. if leaves are not picked up within 10 business days.

Place all leaves in the grass area behind the curb and off the roadway. Cooperation from the public will help the City of Kings Mountain comply with a federally required mandate by preventing leaves from washing into the storm drains, causing blockages and increases in sedimentation and other organic materials. Officials stress that following water pollution control guidelines will keep your storm water rates low.



Mayor Rick Murphrey, left, and Kings Mountain Family YMCA Executive Kevin Osborne inspect the construction of the new gymnasium floor expected to be ready for the November 15 opening season of basketball at the Y. The renovation, which includes new bleachers, will mean two basketball/volleyball teams can play at the same time in the gymnasium allowing more participation at the facility.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

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Kings Mountain Weekend Weather

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