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INSIDE...

- Obituaries 2
- Police Log 2
- Lifestyles 6

Scenes from Liberty Mountain
See page 7



Mary Grace Keller plays Priscilla Martin in 'Liberty Mountain drama.'

Happy *** INDEPENDENCE DAY**
OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY JULY 3

Kings Mountain HERALD

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“Liberty Mountain” opens with a boom!

Over 700 audience members chose to end our production with a standing ovation, whistling and cheering at the end of Opening Weekend. The climactic and emotional finale, new to the 2015 production, will have you standing on your feet. One audience member said, “With my heart in my throat and tears in my eyes, it reminded me how proud I am to be an American.” Robert Inman’s epic battle drama “Liberty Mountain” has triumphantly returned to Kings Mountain, better and bigger than before.

On Opening Night, Mayor Rick Murphrey stood in front of a full-house at the Joy Performance Center and declared June 26th “Liberty Mountain Day!” This exciting news was just the beginning of an incredibly memorable kickoff weekend. At the Opening Night Gala, I had the opportunity to speak with a great number of the-atre-goers and supporters of the show. Returning audience members loved the new changes and additions in this summer’s production. People that didn’t see last year’s World Premiere were floored by the professional quality of the performances. Audiences for this season are in for a special treat.



Caleb Ryan Sigmon

The artistic and onstage team of over 30 actors and designers are thrilled to have started performances. “It’s exciting... like Christmas!” Says Pete DeGregory, who plays a leading role in the production. “I think of it as a little child that sees the tree being put up, and slowly, presents underneath it. We stay at that level of anticipation. Then, when the audience finally arrives, it’s Christmas morning. We get to open our presents!” Roy Lightfoot, another actor in the show, chimed in. “We get 15 Christmas Mornings! The exciting thing is that each present is very different, as each audience brings a different dynamic to the play.”

You, the audience member, play the most important role. Come immerse yourself in the action. Smell the gunpowder, see the drama. Find yourself caught up in the American Revolution.

Tickets are selling fast for this summer’s production. For specific details, and to order your tickets online, visit: KMLibertyMountain.com

Caleb Ryan Sigmon is the Artistic and Fight Director for “Liberty Mountain – The Revolutionary Drama” by Playwright Robert Inman. Caleb is an Illusionist, Speaker and Theatre Artist from North Carolina. Visit his website at www.CalebSigmon.com.

Saturday night: Bombs bursting in air

DAVE BLANTON
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Scott Neisler, the pyrotechnician who has put on the fireworks show at Kings Mountain’s 4th of July celebration for more than 20 years, said he’s looking to have an audience of close to 20,000 people this weekend.

Although the show is designed to be visible from more than a mile away, Neisler has some advice for those who might decide to watch from Hwy. 74, the Bojangles parking lot or other somewhat distant spots.

“We really want people to get in close to the action,” said Neisler, who works with a small crew and uses soft-

ware to integrate music into the show. “As in years past we’ll be using low-level, mid-level and high-altitude fireworks, and the thing is those dazzling low-level ones are best seen from the walking track and that general area.”

At this year’s Revolutionary Fourth, look for horse tails, bee effects, fans, double breaks (a sequence of two aerial events), falling leaves, ghost shells and the ever-popular star effects, which resemble a giant sphere with hot, tiny, sparking dots comprising its outer edges.

About \$10,000 worth of raw materials alone go into the fireworks show, which is synchronized with a mix of



File photo

thundering rock ‘n’ roll classics and patriotic songs. Can’t get close enough to the action to hear the music? You can always tune into 87.9 to hear the tunes picked to go with the light show in See SATURDAY, Page 9

July 4th events start at 2 pm Saturday

This Independence Day event begins Saturday, July 4, at 2 p.m. with the opening of the Colonial Era Living History Encampment next to the Mayor Rick Murphrey Children’s Park on Cleveland Avenue (Hwy 161), near the YMCA.

Local Revolutionary War militias will gather at the historic encampment and participate with musket and cannon fire demonstrations, a children’s militia muster, and games. Visitors are invited to learn and sign the Declaration of Independence. Colonial craft-making skills will be shared throughout the encampment with opportunities to talk to all the re-enactment groups. The encampment will also be open Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

At 6 p.m., “The Chris Marks Band” will perform at the Neisler Stage at the

park with a concert featuring country and southern rock hits.

Beginning at 9 p.m., there will be a patriotic opening ceremony with a parade featuring the Loch Norman Pipe Band and the colonial militias led by Mayor Murphrey. Cannon nightfire will signal a mock battle between the British and the patriot militias fighting up the “mountain”. The Patriot’s victory signal will start the “Revolutionary 4th” fireworks show.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a blanket or folding chairs to the field within the walking track at the park. Relax and enjoy the live music with fireworks beginning at 9:30 pm. Sponsors for the “Revolutionary 4th” include the City of Kings Mountain and Tourism Development Authority, 238 Cherokee Grill, Bojangle’s, and Gaston Rentals.

Candidate filing opens on Monday

Nineteen municipal and school board seats are up for grabs this year in the Kings Mountain area and candidate filing opens Monday, July 6, at 8 a.m. and closes July 17 at noon at the Cleveland County Board of Elections in Shelby.

In Kings Mountain, the four-year terms of Mayor Rick Murphrey, city councilmen Howard Shipp, Ward I, Rodney Gordon, Ward 4, Rick Moore, Ward 5, and At-large councilman Keith Miller are expiring.

In Grover four of the

five council seats are expiring and also the four-year term of Mayor J.D. Ledford.

Four seats on the Cleveland County Water Board are up this year. They include Dewey Cooke, Pete Petersen, Bill Cameron and Thomas Lewis Jr.

Terms of five members of the nine-member Cleveland County Board of Education are expiring this year. They are Shearra Miller, Dr. John Hamrick, Roger Harris, Richard Hooker and Jerry Hoyle.

60 years on the job, he says no to retirement

DAVE BLANTON
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Think you’ve got seniority? Thirty years on the job, you say? Maybe 40? Meet Harvey Trickel, who got his first paycheck from a custom machine shop in 1955 in Cleveland, Ohio, right around the time he was graduating from high school and looking to enroll in technical school. He has stuck with that company, which would eventually be named Reliance Electric Corporation, for six decades.

Back in those days, when Trickel was a young man fascinated by mathematics, engineering and making things, all designs started with pencil and paper. Now, of course, he uses a multitude of complex computer applications and software to help his company make good on its multi-million dollar jobs.

While holding down a job at Reliance as a young per-



TRICKEL

son, Trickel went to Cleveland Community College in his hometown of Cleveland and graduated a few years later with a degree in electrical engineering.

Although he and his late wife travelled all over the country and the world, one thing in his life remained the same: his employer. When the company set up a manufacturing site in Kings Mountain in 1983, Trickel joined many other employees in the move to the Tar Heel State, where he bought a house in Gastonia. Reliance Electric was eventually

See 60 YEARS, Page 11

Historic post office celebration today

The Kings Mountain Historical Museum is hosting a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the opening of the U. S. Post Office in Kings Mountain at 5:30 p.m. today (Wednesday) and the welcome mat is out for everyone to attend.

Attendees can take an architectural tour of the building and view

See POST OFFICE, Page 9



Three Rotarians win top honors

ELIZABETH STEWART
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Rotarians Dennis Conner, Dr. Jim Mason and Dr. Bryan Baker won top honors from Kings Mountain Rotary Club Thursday night and President Mason passed the gavel to the new president Jimmy Magar.

Conner was honored as Rotary Citizen of the Year for his longtime involvement in the community and in the civic club leadership and Mason and Baker were honored as Paul Harris Fellows for their outstanding service to Rotary, the local club donating \$2,000 to the Rotary Foundation in their honor. When Rotary clubs donate \$1,000 to Rotary Foundation the members use the occasion to name a Paul Harris Fellow establishing a criteria for the selection. This year the club



Doug Satterfield, left, presents Dennis Conner with the Citizen of the Year award from Kings Mountain Rotary Club as club president Jim Mason looks on. The club honored Mason and Dr. Bryan Baker as Paul Harris Fellows, contributing \$2,000 to the Rotary Foundation which presents medallions, lapel pins and certificates to both men. Photo by LIB STEWART

honored two of its members with the distinguished honor. District Governor Richard Theokas challenged members to take personally President Obama’s message following the slaughter of

nine people in Charleston, SC in which he said, “This is not the new way America is to be known.”

“There are many stars among you in this club

See ROTARIANS, Page 11



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