

The Herald

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Crosswalk drama begins Friday

Over 200 volunteers retell Jesus' passion week story

ELIZABETH STEWART
Herald Correspondent

The "Jesus" in the Easter season Passion play, "CrossWalk," will never be worthy of the name, says Eddie Parker. Every day he says he finds it hard to live up to the challenge.

Parker has portrayed The Messiah for six of

the seven years that Regal Ventures Creative Ministries has presented the outdoor drama - at a literal cross walk on five blocks of downtown Kings Mountain transformed by over 200 volunteers into the Holy City of Jerusalem where the Passion of the Christ becomes alive for several thousand each year who witness the recreation of that Holy Week over 2,000 years ago.

The large cast, under the direction of Rev. Reg Alexander, will present the drama eight times the next two weekends - beginning Friday and Saturday, March 23-24 and again on Friday and Saturday, March 30-31 at 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. each evening. A concert by Cross Reference will precede each evening's show. Tickets at \$5 are available at See CrossWalk, 6A

Donna Deaton portrays Mary Magdalene in the Easter passion drama CrossWalk, which will open for a two-weekend run Friday in downtown Kings Mountain.



Two men in custody, another sought in shooting

EMILY WEAVER

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Three Charlotte men are charged in an early Sunday morning shooting incident in



STEPHENS



ISLEY

Kings Mountain that left two men hospitalized.

According to Kings Mountain Police, Gabriel Correa, Juan Tinoco Boutista and two unnamed persons arrived at their home at 800 E. Ridge Street to find that they had been followed. The men who had allegedly followed them all the way from Charlotte were brandishing a gun and demanding money. The four complied and emptied their pockets. Two of them were shot.

KMPD Officers arrived on the scene and got a description of the suspects' vehicle. They sent out a BOLO (Be On the Look Out) for the vehicle to other law enforcement agencies. A chase began in Lowell when the police there noticed what looked like the description of the wanted vehicle. The officers followed the vehicle to Charlotte, where the suspects then abandoned the car and started running. Chavaz Chamaal Stephens and Antoine Lamont Isley, both of Charlotte, were caught and transported back to the KMPD.

According to police, during interviews they gave the detectives another lead to the shooting - suspect #3 Ronnie Jerome Davis, of Charlotte. All three have been charged with two counts of Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill Inflicting Serious Injury, two counts of Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill, one count of Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon, one count of Felony Conspiracy, and one count of Discharge of a Firearm in an Occupied Property.

KMPD Chief Melvin Proctor said that this type of crime does not usually occur in Kings Mountain. However, he said that they have noticed an increase in crimes, similar to this one, in Charlotte where Hispanics are being targeted.

Correa and Boutista were transported to the hospital. Correa was discharged from See Shooting, 2A

'A National Landmark'



GARY STEWART / HERALD

Old one-lane overhead bridge in Kings Mountain is one of the oldest T-Beam-built bridges in North Carolina.

Old overhead bridge included in National Register of Historic Places

ELIZABETH STEWART
Herald Correspondent

The old Southern Railroad reinforced concrete Tee-Beam bridge built in 1919 at North Battleground and Railroad Avenue has been designated a Historic Place on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mayor Rick Murphrey was notified of the bridge selection this week by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources State Historic Preservation Office. Jeffrey Crow, State Historic Preservation Officer, said the entry in the register was approved by the Department of the Interior.

The federal program is administered by the North Carolina Park Service in partnership with state government to protect property of historical significance.

The overhead bridge on West King street is already listed as an Historic Place in the National Register. Kings Mountain's historical committee has been working for

months to preserve these type landmarks and other Kings Mountain landmarks in keeping with Kings Mountain's tradition as a historical city, said the mayor.

The original bridge was built in 1872 as a wood bridge by Atlanta and Richmond Airline Railroad and the newer bridge in 1919 when the railroad expanded the track to a double track opening up industrialization in this area and expansion of the railroad to Charlotte and Spartanburg and beyond.

The North Battleground bridge is one of the six oldest Tee-Beam-built bridges in North Carolina, one of only four built by Southern Railroad Company and one of two surviving bridges virtually unaltered since construction in 1919. The other surviving bridge is in Bessemer City and is scheduled for replacement.

The bridge was important, according to the July 24, 1919 Kings Mountain Herald, because of double tracking between Washington, DC and Atlanta which opened up this area. The bridge required

17 people to construct and two months to get it open to increased automobile and truck traffic in Kings Mountain. The town's first passenger station and first depot was erected on the track side and became the commercial center of Kings Mountain, according to another story in The Herald. In the winter of 1918-19, according to the Herald, repair work was done on the Depot for passenger and freight service. In an editorial in The Herald January 16, 1919 the writer wrote that "the rattle trap (depot) was condemned because it's a fire trap and a new depot is needed." The new brick passenger station at the Depot was built in 1925.

The mayor said as soon as a certificate of authenticity is received from the Department of Cultural Resources that a proper ceremony will be held at the bridge, which is located across the street from another landmark, the restored home of Kings Mountain's first mayor W. A. Mauney.

East Elementary mourns death of popular teacher Dorcas Beasley

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Monday was a sad day at East Elementary School as family, staff and students said goodbye to their beloved 3rd grade teacher Mrs. Dorcas Beasley. She taught her last lessons on Monday. She took her last breath on the following Sunday, March 18. After beating and surviving it twice, she succumbed to the cancer that had

attacked her with lethal intentions for the past 30 years.

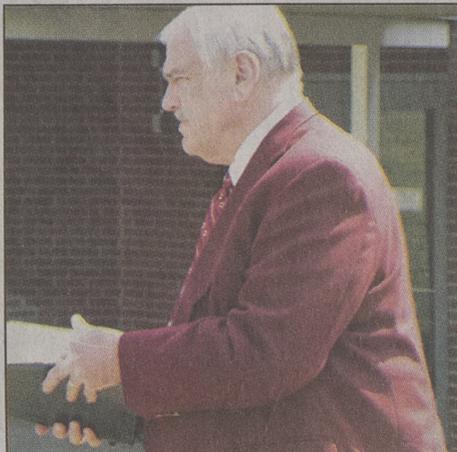
Longtime friend and volunteer assistant Wanda Wilson asked the crowd to sing with her at the school's memorial service held on Monday afternoon. Their voices softly filled the air on the front lawn of East Elementary with "Jesus Loves Me," and other children's hymns.

East Elementary Principal Jerry Hoyle told every one that

they should all "strive to be like Mrs. Beasley. We shouldn't cry for her, but should be happy for her as she is now in a better place," he said.

Beasley's mother Mrs. Francis Elizabeth Martin Golightly, fighting back the tears underneath her dark shades, agreed that "our loss is Heaven's gain." Pink and purple Relay for Life balloons, held by Beasley's students and staff, were

See Beasley, 6A



East School Principal Jerry Hoyle speaks at Monday morning ceremony honoring longtime teacher Dorcas Beasley, who died after a lengthy bout with cancer.

EMILY WEAVER / HERALD

Apartment proposal on agenda for City Council

ELIZABETH STEWART
Herald Correspondent

Faunce Realty is proposing to build a 38-apartment complex for the elderly and 48 rental units at market rate on 11 acres of land at the corner of Gold and Ruppe Streets.

Kings Mountain Planning and Zoning Director Steve Killian said the city's Planning and Zoning Board is recommending the site plan and will recommend to City Council rezoning of the property. Pendergraph of Raleigh is the developer.

Several rezoning requests are on the agenda for the Tuesday 7 p.m. meeting of City Council at City Hall.

The Planning Board also unanimously recommended at its recent meeting that Council approve a zoning map and ordinance text amendment that would create protection and enhancement overlays for most of the arterial entrances and the downtown area. The ordinance would cover particularly US 74 Business and NC 161, Cleveland Avenue and York Road, and the downtown area.

A public hearing will also be held on rezoning requests by Dianna Allen to rezone property at the intersection of Blair Drive and Shelby Road from Residential to Residential Office, and Laura Fannin for properties on Cansler Street between its intersections with Morris Street and Waco Road from R-6 and Neighborhood Business to RS-6. Co-applicants include Mary Tesseneer, Helen R. Tate, Oliver Tate, Kenneth Kitzmiller, Joseph Tesseneer Jr., Judy Tesseneer, Joseph Tesseneer Sr., Michael Dess, Joyce Howell and Ray Howell. Council will also consider budgeting \$117,000 for footings and railings for a Marine Travel Hoist, a boat lift at Moss Lake. Mayor Rick Murphrey said Council had received a \$200,000 grant for the equipment.