



### 'Play On' plays on at Joy Friday

photo courtesy of BRYAN HALLMAN

KMLT actors, l-r, Susan Champion, Janey Ollis, Liz Nichols, Mike Davis, Karen Davison, and Aubrey Hallman act out a scene in the on-going production of "Play On!" at the Joy. Read more about this comedy, page 3A.

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# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Backstreet hopeful



Contributed by MPI

This photograph shows the interior of JAX Backstreet Tavern, a restaurant owned by Nick and Regina LaVecchia that serves fresh gourmet pizzas, sandwiches, sliders and wings in Belmont. JAX opened in Belmont on August 8th. Another JAX Backstreet Tavern is in the works for downtown Kings Mountain, pending the approval of an amended NC Main Street Solutions Fund grant for \$185,000.

## Grant could bring new restaurant to downtown

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff writer

Two small businesses and JAX Backstreet Tavern, a second new restaurant, are eyeing part of the old Plonk Brothers Department Store location on S. Railroad Ave. with a potential of bringing 30 full-time and 11 part-time jobs within a year's time to Kings Mountain.

The project will also provide 70 temporary construction jobs and bring an investment to the downtown of \$600,000 not including the building.

Project developers envision that the previously

announced first tenant of the Plonk property, the Old Stone Steakhouse at 220 Railroad Ave., and the new partner JAX Backstreet Tavern at 218 Railroad Ave., will be complimentary anchors and catalysts for downtown revitalization located close to Patriot's Park, the city's primary festival site. Other formal partners listed in the new grant application are Campbell & Campbell of NC, SG6 Enterprises, and Sparrow Eye Creative.

Kings Mountain City Council gave the green light to an amended Main Street Solutions fund ap-

plication from Mountaineer Partnership Inc. and the new business partners at a special meeting last Wednesday and the application, signed by Mayor Rick Murphrey and MPI president Suzanne Amos, was forwarded Monday to the Raleigh Main Street agency.

If approved, the grant for \$185,000 would be used for a portion of the rehabilitation of the property at 218 Railroad Avenue for a restaurant on the main level and two of a potential five offices on the second floor.

RENOVATION, 7A

## Husband charged in wife's death

Family in shock, leaning on faith

'Perfect marriage' takes tragic turn

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff writer

By MICHAEL E. POWELL  
Special to The Herald

The close-knit Kings Mountain family of Gaylain Degree Crosby, 51, says their Christian faith will sustain them as they grieve for a woman who spent her 23-year career as a counselor helping the troubled, and as they continue to support the husband accused of killing her.

Cleveland County Sheriff's deputies say that Saturday morning around 1 a.m. Joseph Crosby called 911 and told dispatchers that he "may have killed his wife." Crosby, 46, is charged with first degree murder.

"A family who loved one another and were happy always together," that's how Deborah Terry of Kings Mountain remembers her sister, her best friend that she affectionately called "Aggie".

"We can't believe that Joe intentionally killed his wife, we hold no malice toward my brother-in-law. We know his and my sister's

Cherryville natives and brothers Harvey "Boot" Degree and Chris Degree shake their heads and wonder how the "perfect couple"—some said "the perfect marriage"—could have taken the turn it did in the wee morning hours Saturday.

Their sister, Gaylain Degree Crosby, 51 of 323 Mary's Grove Church Road, Kings Mountain, was reported deceased at the home by paramedics who arrived there shortly after an early morning 911 call by her husband, Joseph Crosby. Harvey said he has heard the 911 call in which Crosby stated he thought he might have killed his wife, Gaylain.

Crosby, 46, is currently being held without bond after being charged with first-degree murder Saturday, Aug. 14, according to the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department report to local media



Gaylain Degree Crosby, her husband Joseph Crosby, and their daughter, Tia, then age 6. Joseph Crosby is charged with first degree murder in the death of his wife early Saturday.

'WE HOLD NO MALICE', 7A

FAMILY, 7A

## CLEVELAND COUNTY SCHOOLS Getting ready for school to start

Repairs, renovations underway at local schools for opening day Aug. 25

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff writer

School bells ring next Wednesday, Aug. 25 for the fall term and workmen are putting the finishing touches on plant improvements totaling \$1.6 million at 29 schools.

A visitor to any of the school campuses can see marked renovation - and more to come. Security is top priority.

Completed renovations have included security entrance locks, security walls, perimeter fence work, fire alarm repair, security camera replacement, wheelchair accessible lift, etc., plus paving, window replacements, field house renovation, parking lot and tree removal.

Completed projects at the eight local schools included the following:

Bethware Elementary - asphalt repairs, window replacement storm/insurance, new retaining wall, gym roof repair-storm/insurance, walk-in-cooler coil storm/insurance, exterior steel door for security, canopy repairs, replacement skylights 9, storm/insurance. Two sets of Pella windows, insert blinds, electronic door hardware, and new controlled security entrance are projects in the works.

East Elementary - one wing has been

Painted. A new controlled security entrance and electric door hardware, fabrication duct work and a new roof top on a cafeteria unit are in the works.

SCHOOLS, 7A

### CRIME SCENE

## Vandals strike downtown KM

Police looking into shattered windows

Vandals apparently struck downtown Kings Mountain over the weekend. Kings Mountain Police responded to a call Monday morning and found the windows, of three properties on Battleground Ave., to be shattered.

Damage to property at 213 S. Battleground (owned by Wallace Properties), Body Junction at 309 S. Battleground, and Timms Furniture at 909 S. Battleground, was reportedly caused when windows at the businesses were broken "with an unknown device" sometime over the weekend, according to the police report.

WINDOWS, 2A

## Bethlehem Fire District



LIB STEWART/Herald

Bethlehem Fire Chief John Bridges, left, and board of directors chairman Jeff Dixon, show a map of the "Big B" fire district, at Bethlehem Fire Department.

## 'Big B' fire district meeting set for Aug. 30

Bethlehem "Big B" Fire Department/Fire District will hold an informational meeting Monday, Aug. 30, at 7 p.m. in the Bethlehem Baptist Church fellowship building especially for residents in the York Road and Lake Montonia Road areas of Kings Mountain.

Fire Chief John McDaniel and Board of Directors Chairman Jeff Dixon said that the North Carolina Department of Insurance has

removed York Road (Hwy. 161) and Lake Montonia Road from the Bethlehem fire district because of the distance from the fire department to the southern area of Kings Mountain and those homeowners have seen their fire insurance rates double and triple.

Bethlehem Fire Department is located six miles from York Road (Hwy. 161) and some nine miles from the most distant point on

SATELLITE, 2A



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