



Players act out a scene in KMLT's upcoming production of 'Arsenic and Old Lace'. Left to right, Officer O'Hara (Greg Dixon), Jonathan (Seth Fox) and Dr. Einstein (David Baez) upstairs, and Mortimer Brewster (Michael Medlin), Abby Brewster (Georgiana Wright) and Martha Brewster (Teresa Williams).

photos by EMILY WEAVER  
Mortimer Brewster (Michael Medlin) finds something rather interesting in the window seat.

# KMLT's 'Arsenic and Old Lace' opens Friday

Kings Mountain Little Theatre and its corporate sponsor, Kings Mountain Hospital, will present the spine-tingling, rib-tickling "Arsenic and Old Lace" at the Joy Performance Center on May 11, 12, 18, and 19 at 7:30 p.m. and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 13. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and senior citizens. Reservations can be made at 704-730-9408.

A talented cast is set to bring the crazy characters in this play to life. "Arsenic and Old Lace" was written by American playwright Joseph Kesselring in 1939. It has become best known through its film adaptation starring Cary Grant and directed by Frank Capra.

The play is a farcical, black comedy revolving around Mortimer Brewster (Michael Medlin), a drama critic who must deal with his crazy, homicidal family and local police in Brooklyn, NY. The plot develops as Mortimer debates whether to go through with his recent promise to marry the woman he loves, Elaine Harper (Dawn Rickus) while her father Rev.

Harper (Jim Champion, Andy Neisler) is leery of his daughter's involvement with someone involved in the theatre.

Mortimer's family includes two dear spinster aunts Abby and Martha (Georgiana Wright and Teresa Williams) and two brothers, Teddy (Jim Carsen) and Jonathan (Seth Fox).

Abby and Martha have taken as a charitable hobby the murdering of lonely old men by poisoning them with a glass of homemade elderberry wine laced with arsenic, strychnine, and "just a pinch" of cyanide. Teddy believes he is Teddy Roosevelt and digs locks for the Panama Canal in the cellar of the Brewster home (which then serve as graves for the aunts' victims) and a murderous brother.

The murderous Jonathan has received plastic surgery performed by an alcoholic accomplice, Dr. Einstein (David Baez), to conceal his identity and now looks like horror-film actor Boris Karloff. The KMLT cast also includes Officer O'Hara (Greg Dixon), a frustrated playwright working as a po-

liceman; Officers Klein (Matthew Belk) and Brophy (Drew Neisler), dear friends of the spinster sisters; Mr. Gibbs (Matt Crabtree), the unsuspecting possible boarder; Lt. Rooney (Jon Poston) the bumbling policeman who just wants Teddy to stop blowing that bugle; and Mr. Witherspoon (Matt Crabtree), the superintendent of Happy Dale Retirement Home who may be the last poison victim.

April Moreles is the property mistress and Nikki Wood is the stage manager/producer.

Betsy Wells, veteran Kings Mountain High School and KMLT director, is delighted to bring this play to the KMLT stage, and she invites the community to attend for a performance filled with laughter and comic relief at the antics of these two charming and innocent sisters who populate their cellar with remains of unhappy widowers and lonely old men. The show is sure to be an ideal treat for your mother, mother-in-law, or grandmother during Mother's Day weekend.



photo by BRYAN HALLMAN  
Teresa Williams and Georgiana Wright act out a scene in the upcoming KMLT play.

## Down Home Festival Saturday

BESSEMER CITY - In Bessemer City, "there's no place like home" and no Spring festival quite like the city's 24th annual Down Home Festival to celebrate the place "where the heart is". The two-day festival kicks off Friday at 6 p.m. downtown and will feature rides, concerts, fireworks, a cornhole tournament, a pageant, history, art, food and fun

for the entire family. Concerts featuring Preston Long (at 6:15 p.m.), Billy Thomas in a "Tribute to Elvis" (at 7:45), and 74 Southbound (at 8:30 p.m.) will be held opening night on the Parsons Insurance Group stage on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The festival will start at noon on Saturday, ending with a fireworks display at 9 p.m. Throughout the festival food, craft and merchandise vendors will fill downtown along with booths for games, face painting, bake sales and more.

Entertainment will be offered on two stages Saturday. To see a line-up of events visit [http://www.bessemercity.com/festivals\\_events.php](http://www.bessemercity.com/festivals_events.php)

## Relay for Life this weekend

Everyone will be seeing purple this weekend. Why? It's that time of year again when Kings Mountain celebrates Relay for Life.

Relay for Life will start Friday night, May 11, at the opening ceremony at 6 p.m. and will conclude at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning, May 12. All events will be held at the walking track behind the Kings Mountain Family YMCA on Cleveland Ave.

Twenty-nine teams had signed up to participate, as of Monday. Most of the teams will sell different refreshments such as nachos and cheese, hamburgers and hotdogs, BBQ, BBQ ribs, ICEEs and much more.

Tammy White is the chair of Kings Mountain's 14th annual Relay for Life. Chief Frank Burns sits as co-chair and Mike

Philbeck is in charge of entertainment.

The following events are planned for this year's Relay:

- Opening Ceremonies at 6 p.m.
- Survivors lap at 6:15 p.m.
- The "Harvest Players" at 6:30 p.m.
- "Little Petite Performers" at 8 p.m.
- A Zumba performance at 8:20 p.m.
- "Dance Magic" at 8:40 p.m.
- The annual luminary service at 9 p.m.
- "Open Mic" at 9:15 p.m.
- The Womanless Beauty Pageant at 10 p.m.
- The Hillbilly Fashion Show at 11 p.m.
- Adult tricycle race (no tricycles under 24" high) at 11:30 p.m.

- Celebrity lap at midnight
  - Disney character at 12:30 a.m.
  - Poker lap at 1 a.m.
  - Pajama lap at 1:30 a.m.
  - Movie time at 2 a.m.
  - Scavenger hunt at 3:30 a.m.
  - Crazy wig lap at 4 a.m.
  - Camouflage lap at 4:30 a.m.
  - Patriots lap at 5 a.m.
  - Animal print lap at 6 a.m.
  - Crazy wig lap at 6:30 a.m.
  - Breakfast at 7 a.m.
  - Closing ceremonies at 8 a.m.
- Chief Burns encourages everyone to come out. "There will be good entertainment and lots of fun," Burns said. "Also the event is free of charge."

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I read an article you printed recently that was penned by my good friend, Roger Goins. In that article, Roger wrote about the Kings Mountain Crisis Center and its ministry.

For forty-two years I have been a resident of Kings Mountain and I've seen the work of that ministry. It is amazing what the citizens of Kings Mountain have done through your Crisis Ministry. You citizens have fed the hungry, clothed the needy, given warmth in the winter months to the cold, helped the stranded travelers and counseled the hurting, and many other things through your loving and open generosity.

Individuals, organizations, clubs, churches and others in our city have joined together to... "give to the least (most needy one) of these your brothers."

Now, the Crisis Ministry needs our help like never before because of the economic conditions in our country. I know that you will come through like you always have. I know that you will respond with love to this need.

May I suggest that each individual think about what your response will be. That each fam-

ily talk about how your family could give to help your neighbor. That each church consider placing this ministry in your budget and if you already are doing so, that you prayerfully consider increasing the amount you now give.

I am a witness to the effectiveness of your support to this Ministry over the years. Thank you for your past giving. Now, we need to dig deeper into our hearts and pockets to continue to help our friends who have come upon a crisis in their lives and need a hand-up.

Several years ago I made a New Year's resolution to put all my pocket change aside each day, for our church's annual Mission offering in December. I was hoping that all those days of nickels, dimes and quarters would add up to the amount I had been giving each December. It did! In fact, I was able to double, almost triple the amount. One day's change did not amount to much, but 365 days of change really made a difference.

One person can help, but all of us working together can really make a difference.

Gene Land  
Kings Mountain, NC

### Your 'Fruitful' Tips

with Jason Rhodes

#### Strawberry Spinach Salad

Ingredients:

- \* 2 tablespoons sesame seeds
- \* 1/2 cup white sugar
- \* 1/4 cup distilled white vinegar
- \* 1/4 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- \* 10 ounces fresh spinach - rinsed, dried and torn into bite-size pieces
- \* 1 quart strawberries - cleaned, hulled and sliced
- \* 1/4 cup almonds, blanched and slivered
- \* 1 tablespoon poppy seeds
- \* 1/2 cup olive oil
- \* 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- \* 1 tablespoon minced onion

Directions:

In a medium bowl, whisk together the sesame seeds, poppy seeds, sugar, olive oil, vinegar, paprika, Worcestershire sauce and onion. Cover, and chill for one hour.

In a large bowl, combine the spinach, strawberries and almonds. Pour dressing over salad and toss. Refrigerate 10 to 15 minutes before serving.

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