

Van crashes through storefront in theft attempt

Police are looking for the person behind a failed attempt to steal a convenience store's ATM in the middle of the night

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Kisan Patel got a rude awakening about 3 a.m. Saturday.

The security company that monitors his Three Points Market and Grill on the Cherryville Highway informed him that he was the victim of a break-in and upon arriving at the convenience store he found a disaster scene.

Police say someone apparently stole a church van from the nearby Penley's Chapel, repeatedly rammed the vehicle into the store and tried to take off with the small ATM inside. The cash machine was bolted down and, thwarted, the would-be thieves rushed off, making off with nothing but leaving a costly mess for Patel to clean up.

Patel, who also owns Grandpa's Store on Bethle-



hem Rd., said the damage to his building and the loss of goods and merchandise total around \$30,000.

Detectives with the Kings Mountain Police De-

partment who are investigating the crime say they've watched the video of the incident.

"The video surveillance shows that the van pulled in

and rammed through the two doors," said Det. Lance Hamrick, "pretty much putting the van all the way inside. The suspect can be seen wearing a ski mask and

dark clothing."

Police say they have no leads about the identity of what appears to be a male suspect but are hoping the van is recovered and more can be learned about who is behind the break-in.

By Monday morning, the store's front entrance had been replaced by a crude plywood wall as locals gathered to have coffee.

The bags of sugar and bottles of wine and other merchandise that were destroyed in the incident have been cleaned up and the rows of shelves have been righted.

"Nothing like this has ever happened to one of our stores before," Patel said. "We always look to see if there is a lot of crime before we even buy a store."

He said he and family members have been sleeping at the store at night until it is fully secure again.

Toys, Games & 'TRAINS'

Exhibit on through Saturday

Do you have friends and family in town visiting, or kids off of school for the holidays? Kings Mountain Historical Museum invites you to bring the whole family to experience the magic of the exhibit, "Toys, Games & Trains," on now until January 4, 2014.

Director and Curator Adria L. Foche said this exhibit fills the museum with model train displays assembled by the Piedmont "S" Gaugers, as well as railroad memorabilia, and antique toys and games. Visitors of all ages will be enchanted as they explore the miniature snow-covered scenes that line the tracks, and discover the interactive features such as the carousel, chocolate factory, hot air balloons, and mailbag pickup. Parents and grandparents will enjoy reminiscing with the children about the toys and games of their childhood, such as cowboy memorabilia, doll houses, marbles, and board games.

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

The museum will be closed New Year's Day.

Admission is free. Donations are appreciated. All donations go toward fulfilling the museum's mission to collect, preserve, and interpret history through exhibits, educational programs, tours, and other appropriate means, in order to foster a deeper understanding of the history of our community and the region. To find out more about upcoming exhibits and events, please visit us at: www.kingsmountainmuseum.org or call (704) 739-1019. You can also follow the museum on Facebook, Twitter, & Pinterest.

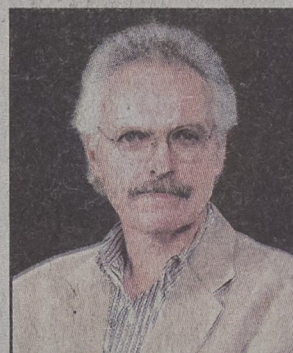
Stars coming to Gaston School of the Arts Bluegrass Project

Renowned Bluegrass and Americana recording artists Darin Aldridge, Terry Baucom, Becky Buller and Jack Lawrence will teach and perform at the Gaston School of the Arts on January 18. They will be in Gastonia for the 3rd Annual Bluegrass Music Project which seeks to advance and preserve the acoustic musical heritage of our area.

Free workshops and jam groups will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. on the school's campus at 825 Union Rd. The daylong activities are open to all ages and experience levels. Young and old beginning pickers are very welcome. Sign-up for these free activities by phone at 704 866-8882 or email to lee@gastonschoolarts.org. Free lunch will be provided for workshop participants



Aldridge



Baucom



Buller



Lawrence

who sign-up in advance.

At 7 pm the faculty will perform a concert, which will be open to the public. Tickets are \$12 and will be available from the GSOA office or through www.TicketsNC.com (704 472-7762). Participants in the workshops will be able to purchase tickets at the discounted rate of \$6. A maximum of 190 tickets will be available and ad-

vance purchase is strongly advised.

The faculty and the performers for the Bluegrass Project are important figures in the national acoustic music scene. Jack Lawrence was the preferred partner of the late Doc Watson for more than 20 years. Terry Baucom was a founding member of three of the most celebrated groups in Bluegrass music history.

Becky Buller sings and plays several instruments on stage but is just as well known and respected for her skills as a songwriter. Darin Aldridge, who dreamed up the idea for the Bluegrass Project, sings and plays a number of instruments well enough to have been a candidate for Guitar Player and Mandolin Player of the year in the same year. He is also a graduate of Leadership Bluegrass.

The four artists are longtime friends but this will be the first time they have taken the stage together for a performance. "Each of us has played a lot of music with each other but this is the only time we have ever been "a band" together. The Bluegrass Project format will allow us to practice

quite a bit before we go on stage so while technically we'll be a Jam Band, we will be more organized and polished because of the time together before the show," says Darin Aldridge. The opportunity to see, hear and interact in an intimate setting with top notch musicians who have, and still are, moving music forward is a rare but always satisfying experience.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Gaston Arts Council. Revenues from the grant and ticket sales for the evening concert allow for the workshops to be free for all participants. The GSOA also thanks the Foundation for Bluegrass Music for their initial funding for the project in 2011.

New signs designate Thread Trail

The Carolina Thread project is an exciting project that's creating a regional network of green ways, trails and blue ways that reaches 15 counties, two states and 23 million people - 135 miles of the trail open to the public.

Recently Mayor Rick Murphrey and city planner Steve Killian were on hand for the placement of new upright signs at Patriots Park and at the corner of Mountain Street and Battleground Avenue and plates with the Blaze logo were embedded in the sidewalks.

"This is part of the segment of the Cleveland County portion of the trail that will run from the trail head at the Gateway Trail up Battleground Avenue," explained Killian. "The trail will lead walkers through Patriots Park and will eventually run from Moss Lake into the city."



Mayor Rick Murphrey, left, and City Planning and Economic Development Director Steve Killian show off the new upright signs that have been placed at Patriots Park and at the corner of Mountain Street and Battleground Avenue. The new Patriots Trail addition to the Carolina Thread Trail is projected through downtown Kings Mountain. Plates with the logo Blaze Site have been embedded in the sidewalks.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

Eating tip

Need a quick pick-me-up? Find out what's in healthy, low-calorie convenience foods using #Food-A-Pedia.

Try a single-serving container of applesauce or yogurt (fat-free or low-fat) or a pre-packaged container of fruit.

Food-A-Pedia shows you what's in other healthy, low-calorie convenience foods!

Check it out at <https://www.supertracker.usda.gov/foodapedia.aspx>

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Kings Mountain Weekend Weather			
Thursday January 2	Friday January 3	Saturday January 4	Sunday January 5
Showers - 55° 50% Chance of precipitation Night time Low 25°	Partly Cloudy - 39° 0% Chance of precipitation Night time Low 20°	Sunny - 44° 0% Chance of precipitation Night time Low 28°	Cloudy - 52° 20% Chance of precipitation Night time Low 38°

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