

BUSINESS



Johnny Harris' newly remodeled office at former Rexall Drug Store.

BANK

From 1A

reinvest in this community," said Ayscue, who grew up in Kings Mountain, the son of Bobby Ayscue and Jean Ayscue Adcock and recalled walking from West School as a boy to First National Bank where his mother was a teller and where he got interested in a banking career. A 1983 graduate of Kings Mountain High School and a 1989 graduate of Appalachian State University, he began his banking career after college graduation. He is married to Gina Holmes Ayscue and they have three children, Devin, Emma and Reese. His stepmother is Helen Owens Ayscue.

Ayscue said the new bank building will be a scaled down version of the Shelby DeKalb Street bank, 2600 square feet with drive-through and ATM

facilities. Work stations, customer service representative, loan offices and teller lines will be featured in the new facility as well as the leased office downtown. "We wanted to have an immediate presence in Kings Mountain and after seeing what Johnny Harris is doing to revitalize downtown we picked the perfect spot because this space, 2650 square feet, lends itself well to our needs," said Ayscue.

Ayscue said Alliance Bank Branch & Trust has assets of \$100 million.

This week workmen were putting the finishing touches on the first floor of the Harris building which will house the bank. The walls were being painted in a taupe color with black ceiling and track lighting. Awnings were up at the two big front windows and planters of fall flowers will go up later in the week.

The second floor of the old

drug store housed a medical practice some years ago but Harris said the area had been unused for many years and workmen are still refinishing, staining the original floors, and readying the 1150 square feet of floor space for Harris' offices where he will focus on property development. The layout will include a conference room, reception area with occasional sofas, desks and TV, plenty of storage space and rest rooms. Window boxes of seasonal flowers will also be featured from windows on the second level. Harris said he wanted to keep the character of the building in the restoration.

Harris, president of J. O. Harris Interests, is investing \$250,000 in refurbishing the old Rexall Drug. A "loft look" is how he describes the second floor restoration which he says he can hardly wait to finish.



Kristi Anthony hard at work at Summit Place.

Nursing was always in Kristi Anthony's dreams

EMILY WEAVER

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Kristi Anthony knew she wanted to go into Nursing by her 10th grade year in high school, but what she didn't know then, was that one day she would be the executive director of a nursing facility.

She graduated from Western Carolina University as a Registered Nurse in 1984 and worked for two years as an RN in a nearby hospital. In 1986, she became the director of nursing services in a long-term care facility and 11 years later, moved into nursing home administration. In September of 2000, she joined the staff at Summit Place, an assisted living facility in Kings Mountain, as the executive director.

But throughout this whirlwind of promotions and advancements, she has not forgotten why she got into the business in the first place. "I knew that I liked helping people, so I went into the healthcare field," Anthony said. "Then somehow or another, I just kind of migrated away from the actual hands-on nursing and got into the business part of running a business that takes care of senior citizens." She now says that she would not want to work in any other field. "I'm just so thankful that I chose something that I really like doing. I like caring for other people and even though I'm more on the business side, I still get to use my skills as a nurse here. We're still caring for people," she said. "I'm not completely far-removed from what I went to school to do."

Even though it only took her a few years to move into management after college, climbing the career ladder was not always an easy task. For some years, she found herself struggling to balance the priorities of motherhood, marriage, and career.

"When my children were little, it was very challenging to try to be in this position (at work) and have this much responsibility and have two little boys at home," Anthony said. Now that her two sons, Zeke, 16, and Evan, 14, are older, life is becoming a little easier. She admits that even though she loves her job, her sons have always been her first priority.

In her life, Anthony wears a lot of hats. She is a mother to her sons, a caregiver to her residents, an executive director to her staff, a president to the Kings Mountain Business & Professionals Association and a friend to many in the community. But being an economically active, working mom, is not for the faint of heart. She said that being a business mother and especially, an advancing one, takes a lot of hard work and enthusiasm.

For all of the young women out there deciding which career path to pursue, Anthony said, "Choose something that you have passion for and that you enjoy. Work life and business life is challenging. If you don't like what you're doing, you sure have to spend a whole lot of hours a week doing it." She said that every one who can, should choose a job they like doing and one that they would consider doing even if they were not being paid to do it. "You can spend a long time in a career that you're very unhappy in, but you do it because it is a way to make money and to make a living, yet you're not really happy," she said.

Her next career goal will probably be to hold a regional position, perhaps as area manager for the Western North Carolina division of assisted living facilities. But that time will come after her sons are in college. Anthony was born and raised in Gastonia and now lives with her two sons in Cherryville.

COMPANY

From 1A

new jobs will be \$565 plus benefits, which is higher than the Cleveland County average weekly wage of \$552 not including benefits," said Chamber official Adrian Camp in a press release.

"We want to welcome Kitchen Ventilation Systems and we will work with them to expedite the start-up of their company," Murphrey said. Kitchen Ventilation Systems is working with the city to obtain the necessary permits and to get their utilities set up, so that the company may begin production right away. Interested applicants for the possible 86 new jobs should call the North Carolina Employment Security office at 704-480-5414 or drop by 404 E. Marion Street in Shelby.

"I am pleased that our efforts in the legislature to recruit new and higher paying jobs are resulting in new opportunities for Cleveland County," said Rep. Tim Moore (R-Cleveland County). "The Cleveland Chamber and county commis-

sion deserve a pat on the back for putting together the details to bring this company here and I am grateful the state was in a position to offer the economic development assistance to help seal the deal."

"Kitchen Ventilation Systems, decision to locate in Cleveland County is a testament to our No. 1 ranked business climate," said Gov. Mike Easley in a press release. "We will continue to make the necessary investments in work-force development and education so that we remain the top choice for companies wanting to relocate or expand."

The move to Kings Mountain is an expansion for the family-owned kitchen ventilation business. Due to the company's exponential growth, it will continue to expand to fill the needs of its many customers.

"During the past several months we have had a team working to identify and recommend a site for our regional manufacturing operation in the Southeastern United States," said Brian Ranney, president of Kitchen Ventilation Systems. "After completing an extensive search and evaluation process

we are excited to make Cleveland County our new manufacturing home. Key factors in our decision process were the ability to ship products within the region in two days or less, access to a skilled work-force, training and education opportunities, an expandable high quality facility, and aggressive economic development teams at the state, regional, county, and local level."

A possibility of a \$25,000/year incentive for the new factory that carried the code name of "Project Lombardi" on the last Cleveland County Commission's agenda will be discussed at a public hearing on November 7.

According to Camp, "The One North Carolina Fund assists the state in industry recruitment and expansion by providing financial assistance through local governments to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. One North Carolina Fund grants require and are contingent upon a local match. Through the use of this Fund, more than 20,000 jobs and \$3 billion in investment have been created since 2001."

ELECTION

From 1A

Moore is opposed by Betsy Fonvielle, a former member of

Shelby City Council. In the Senate race, Wes Westmoreland of Shelby, former Chairman of the Cleveland County Republican Party, is opposing longtime Senator Walter Dalton

of Rutherford County. On the national level, U.S. Representative Patrick McHenry of Cherryville faces a challenge from Democrat Richard Carsner.

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