

LOCAL

J. Oliver's opens in downtown Kings Mountain

EMILY WEAVER

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J. Oliver's opened its doors to customers at 6:30 a.m. on Monday and the public was waiting.

Owner John Harris said that he was pleased with the response and turn-out, especially since the only advertisement they had for their soft opening was by word of mouth and a banner out front.

He said that the banner didn't go up until late Friday. But it was definitely noticed. Karen Davison saw it. She said that she had been waiting on the opening and on Monday afternoon that's where she was with Alex Fields, enjoying coffee out-

side on a pleasant 70 degree winter day. They both agreed that J. Oliver's is a nice hang-out.

Brenda Lovelace and Brittini England shared a scone over a cup of coffee and a fruit smoothie on Monday. They said that they loved the atmosphere of J. Oliver's. Heather Melton and Marlene Smith enjoyed a special coffee shooter during their visit. They loved the coffee.

Customers continued to trickle in around 3 p.m. as people filed in for that late afternoon caffeine boost. "It's been steady. It's been a nice pleasant surprise to open, basically, unannounced for the most part," Harris said.

They are still waiting on a few more pieces of furniture to come in and on their license from the ABC to sell wine. But Harris said that the license should be in within the next 30 days.

Everything is local at J. Oliver's. Pastries and other desserts are imported from the Cup & Saucer Tea Room just a few blocks away. The coffee beans come from the Broad River Coffee Company in Cleveland County. Even the furniture is indigenous to the region.

"I'm trying to keep it all local," Harris said. "The wineries, once we get the license will be Biltmore, Shelton and Childress, which are all North

Carolina wineries. We're trying to keep it all local, whether it's area, county and/or state."

J. Oliver's was also brought to life by the skills of local professionals, including: Bobby Horne as general contractor, Roger Holland as architect, Fred Blackley and Cliff Laurich as landscape architects, Seth Stevens of Broad River Coffee as consultant, Lane Logan as plumber, David Dilling as HVAC specialist, Martin Electric, and Harris' wife Ashley, who helped decorate and create the menu signs for the shop.

The tentative hours of operation for J. Oliver's are Monday-Thursday 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m., and

Saturday 8 a.m.-10 p.m. But the hours may change. Harris said that they plan to use these first three weeks of being open to test the waters. "This will give us an idea of trends and help us be able to construct more permanent hours," he said.

Harris said that they also had an overwhelming response to the contest they held in which to find a name for the coffee shop. "I want to thank all of the people for the time and energy that they spent on that contest and I would like for them to know that we are open and would be privileged to serve them," he said.

J. Oliver's will celebrate a more festive grand opening in about a month.

Cheryl Green begins to stir from coma, children have Christmas

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As Cheryl Green begins to stir from her coma in Carolinas Medical Center the community of Grover has showered her family with gifts of love, extending their Christmas into the New Year.

The Grover Area Woman's Club in conjunction with the Town of Grover, the police department, First Baptist Church and several community members held a "Christmas" benefit for the Greens on Saturday afternoon at the Town Hall. Over 50 people, including about a dozen children, strolled in with arms full of food for the meal and presents to stick under the tree in the community room for Green's three children.

Although it was a tragic event that brought this community together, this benefit was more like a happy reunion as neighbors hugged each other and spoke of old times. But when Matt Green, the three children and Mrs. Green's father and mother, Charley and Ann Robinson walked in, attention was redirected to the real heart of the matter.

The Grover community has rallied behind the family, after Mrs. Green was thrown from the hood of an Isuzu on Christmas morning, apparently attempting to stop two shoplifters escape from the Wilco Travel Plaza, where she works.



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD
Jason Cribb, 8, and Sara Green, 6, unwrap their presents with the help of friends at Grover Town Hall, while father Matt Green and grandmother Ann Robinson (left) look on. The community brought a special Christmas to the kids while Cheryl Green has been fighting for life in a hospital since Christmas.

She has been in a coma ever since the accident. But now her condition has improved from critical to serious. Mrs. Robinson said on Saturday that her daughter has shown great signs of improvement. Her eyes were twitching and moving the last time Mr. Green was by her side and doctors have said those are commonly signs a patient exhibits before waking up.

The Robinsons went to see their daughter on Monday. "She knew who we were," Mrs. Robinson said. "One eye is opening, the right one is not.

But she was well aware of what was going on."

Although Mrs. Green had not fully awoke from her coma, as of press time, she was on her way back. Mrs. Robinson said that she saw a tear escape down her cheek as she looked at her daughter and at one point she tried to pull the wires out. "She's ready to come home," she said.

Her family and hometown is ready too. Her children, Sara Green, 6, Connor Green, 4, and Jason Cribb, 8, were greeted with dozens of presents from neighbors on Saturday as they

sat around a table. Other children ran to bring them their gifts and, at times, even helped them open them.

"I picked this out for you," one girl, beaming with pride, told Sara as she pointed to an unwrapped Barbie doll. There was a quiet excitement among Mrs. Green's children as they opened their new treasures.

Mr. Green and the Robinsons, although pleased, seemed hum-

bled by the love of their neighbors. "I appreciate everybody coming out today. It's really touched mine and Ann's hearts that everybody's just tried to go out of their way to help us. We appreciate and love everyone of you," he said.

Mrs. Robinson said that they are so grateful from the support they have received from people bringing food by and checking

See Green, Page 4

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