

■ Buck Ham planning for retirement

Scott's Jewelry to reopen Monday; closed since late October robbery

Scott's Jewelry on North Piedmont Avenue will reopen Monday, Dec. 7.

The store has been closed for repairs since a late-October robbery by two teenagers who bludgeoned the store owner, Buck Ham. They took \$8,000 worth of merchandise, according to Ham, who has recuperated from injury to his head and nose. Ham and his son, Scott, have been busy rebuilding show cases and cleaning up.

"I am not angry at the boys," said Ham, 77. He said one of the suspects had been in the store several times before the robbery and on the day of the robbery came back almost at closing time with another 16-year-old on pretense of buying jewelry.

Ham said one of the boys struck him with a calculator from the counter and knocked him to the floor while the other boy smashed cases and took jewelry.

Witnesses saw the boys leave the store and called Crime Stoppers. Both boys were behind bars shortly after. One of the suspects was taken into custody by police at his residence on Oct. 29 and the other boy was charged with felonies the day after.

Ham purchased the former Rippy Jew-

elry Store from his uncle, Frank Rippy, in 1985. Mr. Rippy had owned and operated the business since 1946.

"I don't think there's ever been anything like this (robbery) in this store before," said Ham who worked at Sears for 25 years in jewelry management. A professional watchmaker, he also does watch repairs.

Scott Ham worked at the old Rippy's for some time with his great-uncle and also with the senior Ham. He will follow in his Dad's footsteps as manager of the business. Buck Ham plans to take semi-retirement soon, he said this week, but will continue to help with his expertise in watch repair.

Buck Ham has three children: Rev. Roger Ham and wife Shirley of Gaffney, SC, Becky Hardin and husband Steve of Concord, and Scott Ham of Kings Mountain. He also has two grandsons, Brandon Johnston of the US Marine Corps who has served in Iraq twice and Gregory Ham, nuclear technician with the US Navy; and two great-grandsons, Joshua and Wyatt Ham. He is a member of Broad River Baptist Church in Smyrna, SC.

"We are proud to be in this business



LIB STEWART/HERALD
Buck Ham, left, and his son, Scott Ham are getting Scott's Jewelry ready for its grand reopening Monday, bouncing back from a break-in last Oct. and invite the public to come by and see our redecorated store," said Buck Ham.

Bankers House Christmas tour Friday in Shelby

The Bankers House in Shelby will be open for a special Christmas tour Friday, Dec. 4, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

A trolley will pick up tourists at the intersection of Washington and Marion streets on the historic court square in Uptown Shelby to carry them to the house. The cost for each person to tour the Bankers House will be a donation of \$8 to bene-

fit the Historic Shelby Foundation and preserve the house.

Carriage rides and wagon rides are also offered in Shelby on Friday evenings. For more information call 704-484-3100.

Osborne named new executive director of KM Family YMCA

Kevin Osborne has been hired as the new executive director for the Kings Mountain Family YMCA, according to Cameron Corder, CEO of the Cleveland County Family YMCA.

He will start January 4, 2010.

Gina Collias, a YMCA board member and chair of the search committee noted, "I am very excited about welcoming Kevin to our community and am looking forward to Kevin's leadership."

Osborne is a graduate of Appalachian State University. A 10-year YMCA veteran, he started his career with the YMCA of Iredell County in Statesville. He has spent the last seven years with the Catawba Valley YMCA in Hickory. Most recently he has been the associate executive of the Hickory Foundation Branch. Osborne is a certified senior director with the YMCA of the USA and is an active member with the Association of YMCA Professionals.

Prior to his YMCA career, Kevin worked in the camping industry with the United Methodist Church.

Kevin and his wife Jennifer have a 4-year-old son, Eli, and a 2-year-old daughter, Ruby.

Corder added, "Kevin is highly regarded in the YMCA movement. He has a strong history of successful work and comes from a great YMCA operation. We are so excited to welcome such a wonderful young family to our community."

The Cleveland County Family YMCA has served Cleveland County since 1992 and continues to ex-



Kevin Osborne

pand its network to meet the ever-changing needs of the local community. The YMCA has facility branches in Kings Mountain, Shelby and Boiling Springs; two program centers called the Girls Club YMCA and the Gardner-Webb Student YMCA; and also operates the River Bend Golf Club.

Currently, the Cleveland County Family YMCA serves close to 20,000 individuals, from toddlers to seniors, in its programs. The organization is dedicated to enriching the lives of all people through facilities and programs that strengthen spirit, mind and body.

Gordon Brothers Farms, Proffitt Farms join American Angus Assoc.

Gordon Brothers Farms and Proffitt Farms, both of Kings Mountain, are new members of the American Angus Association, reports Bryce Schumann, CEO of the national breed registry organization in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

The American Angus Association, with nearly 33,000 active adult and junior members, is the largest beef cattle registry Association in the world. Its computerized records include detailed information on nearly 16 million registered Angus.

The Association records ancestral information and keeps production records on individual animals for its members. These permanent records help members select and mate the best animals in their herds to produce high quality, efficient breeding cattle which are then recorded with the American Angus Association.



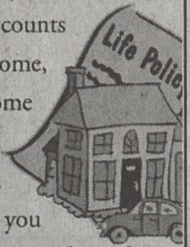
LIB STEWART photo
SNOWMAN AND FRIEND - Alyssa Newton, 7, daughter of Leigh Anne and Steve Newton, has a new friend - the snowman in Grover's Christmas parade Saturday. A large crowd turned out for the holiday event.



LIB STEWART photo
MR. AND MRS. CLAUS -- Santa and Mrs. Claus were stars of the annual Grover Christmas parade Saturday.

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