

What's Up Man sought in robbery of BB&T here

Surplus food
Fredell residents who wish to receive government surplus food at the September distribution and who do not receive food stamps will need to file an application before Sept. 13. Applications will be processed 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the Department of Social Services, 349 N. Center St., in Statesville.

Food Stamp recipients should receive a precertification form by mail during the first week of September and will not need to file another application.

The food distribution will take place on Friday, Sept. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the War Memorial building in Mooresville.

Antique boat show

The Blue Ridge Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, Piedmont British Motor Club, and Queens Landing will host the Fourth Annual Greater Charlotte Antique & Classic Boat Festival and the Sixth Annual Loch Norman British Car Festival from Sept. 6-9 at Queens Landing on Lake Norman. Admission is free. The event will include a variety of wooden and classic boats, as well as classic cars. For details, call Queens Landing at (704) 663-2628.

Aluminum can drive

Cub Scout Pack #173 in Mt. Mourne will hold an aluminum can drive on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the parking lot of Fair View United Methodist Church on N.C. 115 in Mt. Mourne.

Relay for Life

The Mooresville "Relay for Life" will be held on Friday, Sept. 14 and Saturday, Sept. 15 at Mooresville High School. The two-day event will include a lap around the school's track in honor of cancer survivors, a ceremony to honor cancer patients, and fundraising to help fight cancer. For details, call Paisley Payton at (704) 376-1659 or Joe Cullen at (704) 660-6397.

MS self-help

A self-help group for people with multiple sclerosis will be held on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Central United Methodist Church. A doctor will be present to answer questions about MS, and light refreshments will be served. For more information, call Kristi Ogle at (704) 660-7597.

Parking

Continued from page 1A

of Education to allocate \$623,100 for the new lot, which will provide 170 new parking spaces for students and people attending athletic events.

The recent rainy weather has slowed the construction down a bit, but Assistant Supt. Roger Hyatt said he's still looking at early October for the parking lot to be complete.

In the meantime, parking will be a little chaotic, especially for this Friday's MHS home football opener. Hyatt said the initial plan was to have gravel on part of the parking lot by this weekend, but since rain is expected the majority of the week, chances are, that won't happen.

He recommends getting to the field early and parking along Fieldstone Road, in front of Mooresville Middle or in the high school student parking lot on Blue Devil Boulevard.

By NANCY BAKER

Police are searching for the man who robbed the BB&T on Plaza Drive last Friday.

According to Mooresville police reports, a man walked into the BB&T around 10 a.m. Friday and, after approaching one of the tellers, handed over a note stating "This is a robbery" and demanding money.

The teller handed over an undisclosed amount of cash from the cash drawer and the man left the bank.

Detective Shad Berthrong said the man did not show a weapon. "He just showed a note. There was no weapon involved. He was very polite in his actions," he said.

A K-9 unit, Officer Ryan Powers and Gypsy, searched the area around the bank for the suspect, but were unable to locate him.

The police are working in cooperation with the FBI, said Berthrong. BB&T is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC), which insures the

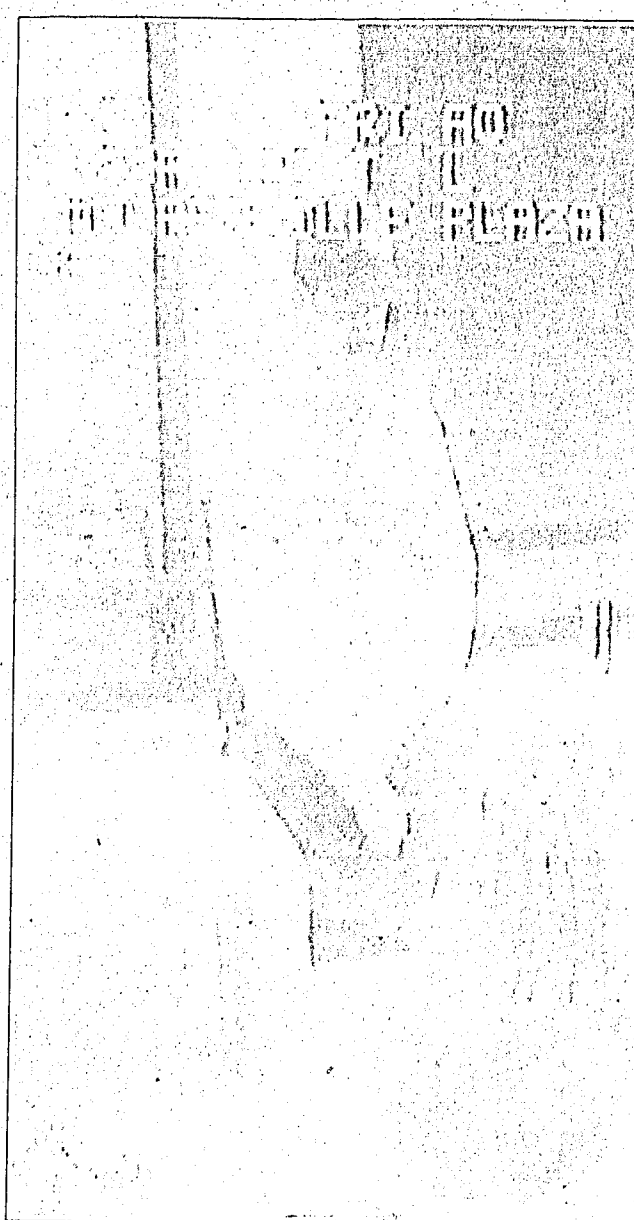
bank's deposits. The FBI becomes involved in the investigation of any robbery of a federally insured bank, according to Berthrong.

The man is described as a white male in his early to mid 40's, five-foot eight inches to five-foot ten inches in height and weighing approximately 175 pounds. He had dark brown curly hair and a mustache and was wearing a dark colored baseball cap, a light blue shirt, dark blue pants and a multi-design tie.

Anyone with information about the identity of this individual may be eligible for a cash reward and should contact Detective Berthrong at the Mooresville Police Department, 704-664-8045, or FBI Special Agent Tom Giorloso at 828-322-8513.

The robbery was third of a Mooresville bank in less than five weeks. Mooresville Savings Bank in downtown Mooresville was held up July 31, followed on Aug. 3 by the robbery of First Charter Bank at Exit 36.

Arrests have been made in the latter two hold-ups.



A bank surveillance camera captured this photo of a man who police believe robbed a BB&T branch in Mooresville last Friday.

Seen' NC

Continued from page 1A

plot of land he owned in Catawba County, creating the 1840's Carolina Village.

Hart's Carolina Village is a model of how a pioneer village would have been in Catawba County in the 1840's. It includes a general store, complete with 1800's merchandise on display, a doctor's office, an apothecary, a blacksmith shop, tavern, a print shop, a grist mill, even a hidden still, and much more. Through research Hart has kept the buildings true to history. He's done most of the work himself, because, this is not only his hobby, but also his passion. This will be the 16th year of the one-day festival — scheduled for Oct. 27.

This is such a unique place it's hard to describe the feelings I had walking through these old cabins and barns, talking with the craftsmen as they worked at their trades. There are so many interesting things to see and enjoy, such as, a pre-Civil War working cotton gin, one of only a few remaining in the United States, and a working grist

mill. There are two churches: the Chapel of Peace is reached by crossing the Walker Covered Bridge, and a 200-year-old barn that was reconstructed as a chapel and consecrated as St. Marks Episcopal Church.

Some of the items made in the shops during the festival include violins, baskets, wooden bowls carved from a split log, chair bottoms, and shingles. Watch the wheelwrights firing a wheel, and barrels, pails and vessels being made at the cooper shop. Or smell the aroma of pork being cooked in the smokehouse, and view the mile-powered wood saw cutting lumber, the molasses mill, woodwright shop, tin smith shop, shoemaker shop and many more.

You can pan for gold at the panning trough, and listen as the Possum Holler musical group plays some of the old pioneer tunes. Taste the apple butter, Brunswick stew and peanuts cooking over the fires.

Enter the schoolhouse and sit where the boys sat on one side and the girls on the other. Look at the 100-year-old canvas map of North

Carolina hanging almost the length of the back wall. There's even a primitive playground—compare it with a modern playground? Unlike museums, Hart's cabins are not roped off from the public inside. When you go through these cabins, or watch the craftsmen at their trades, you start thinking how it must have been to live in the 18th century. At the Probst Cabin, which is a reconstructed apothecary shop, there's a rope bed for the sick, a spinning wheel, 18th century pill rollers, 18th century apothecary chest with early surgical instruments, letters dated in the 1800's and a cupboard with late 1700's apothecary jars.

While Hart was collecting the buildings — all built between 1782 and 1860 — he was also collecting the names of artisans to help create this 1840's pioneer life exhibit. On the one day a year it's open there are more than 200 volunteers, working either as artisans or helpers. Asked why it isn't open more days, Becky Hart explained, "We couldn't ask our friends to help more than one day a year, and some artisans

come from a long distance, and all volunteer their time and talent."

At this village, history is relived as you walk in the footsteps of the early settlers. The 1840's Carolina Village, which started as a wildlife preserve, ended up preserving a lot of human history. It has resurrected the pioneer spirit not only in the Catawba Valley, but also for all who attend this event.

If you'd like to go: Tickets are on sale one day only, Oct. 1. Only 3,000 tickets are sold, and it's usually a complete sell out by 11 a.m. Call 828-465-0383 on Oct. 1, or get in line by at least 7 a.m. at the Catawba County Historical Association office, 30 N. College St. in Newton. All tickets are \$20, with proceeds going to the Catawba County Historical Association. The 1840's Carolina Village is open on Saturday, Oct. 27.

Festival Location: The 1840's Carolina Village is in Hickory, about 60 miles from Mooresville. A map with directions will be included with your ticket.

Trees

Continued from page 1A

Because the ordinance was a new step for the town, Tim Brown, the town's current Planning Director, said some challenges should have been expected during the ordinance's first year of implementation.

"There have been growing pains," said Brown. But, he added, "That we have a tree ordinance is a milestone accomplishment."

Martha Barber, who serves on the tree board said she has been generally satisfied with the board's work, as well as developers' willingness to work for the betterment of the town when approaching the board.

But she said she thinks there is room for improvement. The board has had a fair amount of turnover, many the result of professional conflicts. Barber said she thinks one key to improving the board is to work on stabilizing its membership.

She also said she wants the board to play a more educational role in the future. "I'm hoping to go the educational route," she said, to help teach people how to care for their trees and how to preserve what vegetation is already planted.

The tree ordinance established the board in part to promote such educational endeavors, but the board has yet to partake in those activities.

She agreed with the town's Brown that there have been some challenges in getting the board fully functioning, but she also attributed those difficulties to growing pains. "We're still learning right now," she said.

Tree board member George Morris said he has been generally satisfied with the board and ordinance. "We've really made some strides to get some philosophies changed," he said.

He added that he has also appreciated developers who are willing to work with the board to preserve trees.

Morris said he thinks one weakness of the ordinance as it is currently written is the penalties that can be doled out to people who illegally remove trees. The ordinance allows the tree board to fine a developer \$500 for every tree that is illegally removed.

Brown said the town's planning staff is now considering ways to improve the ordinance to make it more effective. He said there are several approaches the planners are considering.

Among those is the desire to have the town's planning staff more involved in the initial design of site plans, thereby preventing developers from submitting plans that require the unnecessary removal of trees. He also said the penalties for illegally removing trees may be revised. To promote a more holistic approach to preserving the town's trees and other vegetation, he said planners may consider combining the tree preservation, environmental conservation, and landscaping ordinances. He also said the role of the tree board will likely be reviewed.

Brown stressed that no decisions have been made about how to revise the ordinance and that the planning staff will make any revisions at the guidance of the town board. For now, he says, the changes being considered constitute a "potential vision" of what a retooled tree ordinance may offer the town.

Blackwelder previously told the Tribune that there could be no compromise on the proposed changes.

He added that although the office and institutional zoning allows 23 different uses of property by right, the proposed neighborhood residential zoning only allows 10 uses by right. Brown, the town's planning director, said that many of the 23 uses in the office and institutional zoning are included under more general categories in the proposed neighborhood residential zoning.

Although Blackwelder did not speak at last week's meeting, he said he and those he represents will speak at the town board's Sept. 10 meeting, when commissioners will consider adopting the plan.

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Looking to the future

Work crews demolish the former Winn-Dixie building at the Mooresville Marketplace shopping center on Plaza Drive, in preparation for the construction of a Bi-Lo supermarket. The new store will be the latest addition to the shopping center, which is seeking to rebound from the closings of several stores, including Wal-Mart. (Photo by Mitze Bender)

Retailers stocking less for holidays

Media General News Service

It may be early in the year to start thinking about the holiday-shopping season, but retail-industry watchers are doing just that as the economy continues to sputter.

Their findings: Many stores are not planning on stocking as much holiday inventory, and some economists predict that sales will be better than what many retailers expect.

So don't wait too long. Popular gifts might be in short supply this year. "The risk retailers run is they won't have enough goods," said Bob Allsbrook, the chief economist for AmSouth Bank.

An increasingly dismal economy and dwindling consumer confidence are feeding fears that customers may not be giving as many gifts as they have in Christmases past.

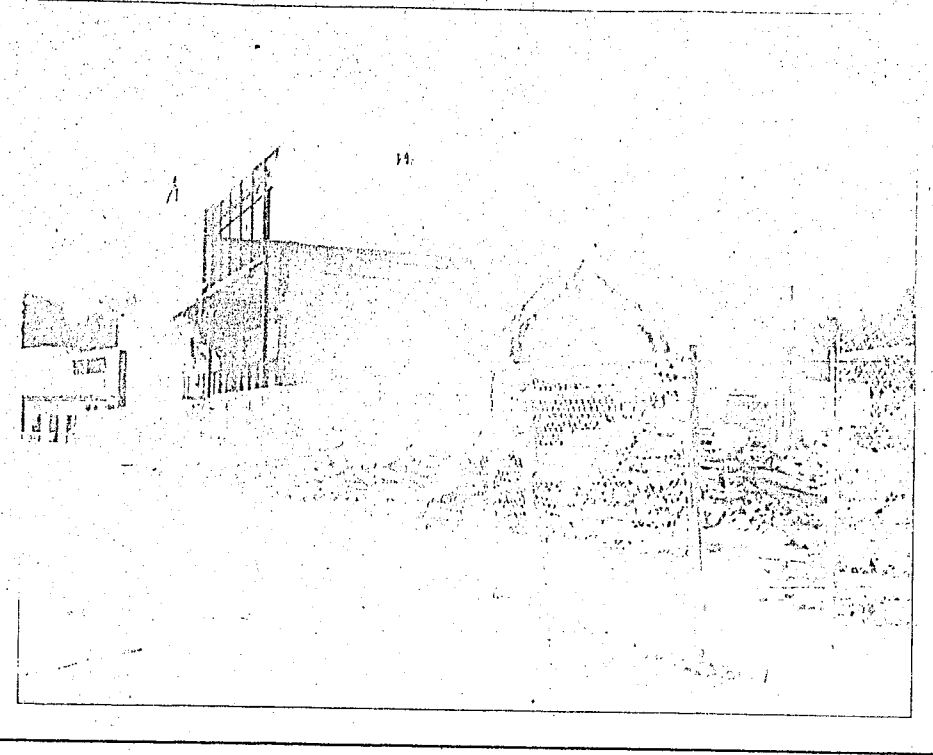
Last year, when holiday sales gains — excluding automobiles and gasoline — fell to 4.5 percent after two years of more robust increases, some companies were caught off guard. So this year, stores are being more cautious.

Better inventory management and just-in-time delivery systems are allowing them to order conservatively. But manufacturers warn that merchandise that requires time to make or ship won't make it to stores in time if shops don't order enough.

One early indicator of how much retailers plan to buy: Christmas ornament orders.

Allsbrook tracks how many ornaments are being unloaded from ships. This year, he said, stores are not ordering as many holiday decorations, a clue that some retailers are not as optimistic as they have been in the past.

Kurt S. Adler, one of the



"In some ways it is a self-fulfilling prophecy — you order less, of course you're going to sell less."

Bob Frank, owner
Robert's Christmas Wonderland
Clearwater, Fla.

The company, based in New York, expects that some stores did not order enough.

"I think they'll be short at Christmas time," Howard Adler, the company president, said.

Another indicator: toy orders.

More than half of all toys are sold during the Christmas season, according to the main trade group for toy-makers, the Toy Industry Association. But this year, toy sellers are trying to cut deals with manufacturers to return what doesn't get sold and are ordering more conservatively.

However, according to Allsbrook the economy is picking up momentum. Evidence of this is in the low national and state unemployment figures, a sign that there are not as many unemployed workers as well-publicized layoffs might suggest, he said.

More evidence: corrugated box orders have increased rapidly since July, at least according to Allsbrook's sources. Like ornament orders, which hint at how much retailers expect to sell during the holiday season, box orders are a good gauge of

order less, of course you're going to sell less," Frank said.

Some retailers, however, are willing to take that chance. "The bigger concern is they might get stuck with lots of merchandise on their shelves," said Frank Badillo, a senior retail economist at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

"What I see happening is there's a slowdown in the economy," Badillo said. "The impact seems to be lagging in consumer spending."

The reason for this is merchandise prices have been going down, not up, Badillo said.

He expects demand to taper off, predicting that fourth-quarter retail sales will grow just 2.5 percent, the least in 10 years. If he is right, retailers will not have to take a big hit on after-Christmas discounts.

But if he is wrong, you'd better start making your list now.

"It's not complete doom and gloom," association spokesman Scott Krugman said.

If early sales at Robert's Christmas Wonderland in Clearwater, Fla., are any indication, the trade group might be right.

Bob Frank, the owner of the 30-year-old holiday store, said that he and other retailers have been more conservative with merchandise orders this year.

Eighty percent of his sales are made in the last three months of the year. So far, his sales point to a "decent" Christmas season, he said.

But if stores don't order enough to sell, they could be hurting themselves.

"In some ways it is a self-fulfilling prophecy — you

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