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Weekly highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce



N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco at the announcement that Daimler Trucks will add nearly 1,200 jobs in North Carolina this year.

## Daimler Trucks to add nearly 1,200 jobs in N.C. this year

Governor Bev Perdue on Jan. 12 joined Daimler Trucks North America in announcing plans to add a second shift at its Freightliner Truck Manufacturing Plant in Cleveland. The expansion will create more than 1,100 jobs by the end of 2012. DTNA also plans to hire 100 employees at its nearby Components and Logistics Plant in Gastonia. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Martyn Johnson](#) was the developer on this project.

"My top priority is creating jobs, and today's announcement shows that our strategy is working," said Perdue. "Globally competitive companies like Daimler realize the value of North Carolina's highly skilled workforce and our customized training programs. We look forward to continuing our long-standing partnership with Daimler."

A majority of the positions in Cleveland will be filled with recalled workers who were laid off in 2009. The plant exclusively produces Class 8 on-highway truck models, including the Cascadia, Columbia and Argosy product lines. Hiring of new employees is expected to begin in February and the new production shift is slated to be at full capacity by September 2012.

Daimler Trucks North America LLC, headquartered in Portland, Ore., is a leading manufacturer of medium- and



Former Person County Economic Development Director Jim Stovall accepts the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award from Lieutenant Governor Walter Dalton. (Photo courtesy of *The Courier-Times*)

## Stovall honored for leadership in economic development

On Jan. 10, former Person County Economic Development Director Jim Stovall of Roxboro received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award during a ceremony in the N.C. Department of Commerce's board room in Raleigh.

N.C. Representative W. A. (Winkie) Wilkins served as the master of ceremonies and Lieutenant Governor Walter Dalton made the presentation on behalf of Governor Bev Perdue. Dalton and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll shared numerous examples of Stovall's corporate citizenship and leadership in economic development throughout his career.

['Mr. Economic Development' awarded Order of the Long Leaf Pine](#) (*The Courier-Times* - Person County, Jan. 10)

## Chiquita Classic to be held in Charlotte

The Chiquita Classic, a two-year-old Nationwide Tour event formerly held in Cincinnati, will be played Sept. 24-30 at the Club at Longview in the Charlotte suburb of Weddington, N.C., it was announced at a

heavy-duty trucks. The company currently employs more than 4,800 people at its facilities in Cleveland, Gastonia, High Point and Mount Holly. [Read more.](#)



*N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll presents the department's priorities at Solar Exchange East 2011 by Siemens (Photo courtesy the N.C. Solar Center)*

## Commerce featured on 'Carolina Newsmaker' program

On Jan. 14 and 15, the N.C. Department of Commerce was featured on the "Carolina Newsmaker" public affairs radio show, which is broadcast across North Carolina. Host Don Curtis, founder of the Curtis Media Group based in Raleigh, conducted an in-depth interview with N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll. The Q&A included topics ranging from performance-based incentives to the Commerce – ESC merger to Commerce's diversified economic development approach with examples of small business, tourism, agribusiness, international trade and industry clusters. The interview can be heard on-demand via the ["Carolina Newsmakers" blog](#).

## Forsyth Tech. set to open Transportation Technology Center

The transformation of the former Pinebrook Shopping Center into Forsyth Technical Community College's Transportation Technology Center will be officially unveiled today (Jan. 17), according to a press release from the college.

The state-of-the-art facility will house six automotive programs, including Richard Childress Race Car Technology, Collision Repair and Refinishing, and Motorcycle Maintenance, in the uniquely designed 139,000 square feet of space. "We are extremely proud of our new Transportation Technology Center and the advanced training and educational opportunities it offers our transportation students," said Dr. Gary Green, president, Forsyth Tech., in the release. [Read more.](#)

press conference Wednesday.

A three-year tournament agreement is in place.

The announcement comes six weeks after [Chiquita decided to relocate its global headquarters to Charlotte](#). Chiquita chairman and chief executive officer Fernando Aguirre says the company was determined to make a positive impact in the Charlotte community and "bringing a fantastic golf tournament here will do just that."

[Chiquita Classic to be held in Charlotte, N.C.](#) (The Associated Press, Jan. 11)



*Van Brown, owner of Carolina Prime Pets, talks to Caldwell County officials during an announcement about his company's move to Lenoir. The company has plans to hire up to 150 workers over the next two to three years. (Photo courtesy of The Hickory Daily Record)*

## Carolina Prime Pets chooses to stay in N.C.

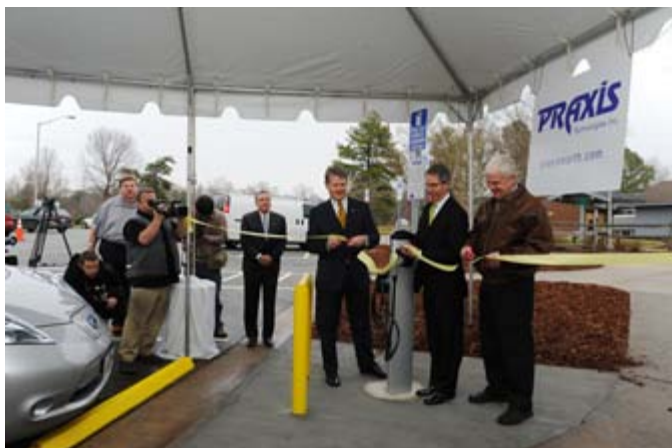
Good utility rates and the area's people were the driving force behind a company relocating to Lenoir and creating new jobs. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Cindy Messer](#) was the developer on this project.

Van Brown, owner of Carolina Prime Pets, said Jan. 10 that the move also coincided with more personal reasons to be in the area.

Brown was the man of the hour at the Broyhill Civic Center on Jan. 10 during the official announcement that he's moving his company into the former NACCO Industries building on Morganton Boulevard SW, in Lenoir. It will create around 150 jobs within the next two to three years. Carolina Prime Pets, which makes pet treats, currently leases a 60,000-square-foot space in Murphy and employs around 25 workers, Brown said.

The company plans to buy and renovate the 277,411-square-foot NACCO Industries building for around \$4.5 million. Its major customers include PetSmart, Petco and Costco, as well as private labels for grocery chains, Brown said.

[Workforce, utility rates got firm to Lenoir](#) (The Hickory Daily Record, Jan. 10)



(Foreground, left-right) Mike Fox, member of N.C. Board of Transportation, John Hardin, executive director of the N.C. Department of Commerce Office of Science and Technology, and Skip Kurz, CEO of Praxis Technologies, cut the ribbon on the charging station.

## First charging station for electric vehicles at N.C. rest area formally opens to public

History was made last week as officials from the N.C. Department of Transportation, N.C. Department of Commerce and Praxis Technologies Inc. joined together to cut the ribbon on one of the first electric vehicle charging stations at a state rest area. The ceremony took place at the Alamance County Rest Area on I-40/I-85 near Burlington, which is now the site of two charging stations. A Nissan Leaf from Michael Jordan Nissan of Durham was on site to provide a demonstration of the charging stations.

The electric vehicle charging stations, as well as accompanying educational signage, were provided by Raleigh-based Praxis Technologies Inc. through a grant from the N.C. Department of Commerce Green Business Fund Program. In addition to the charging stations at the Alamance County Rest Area, Praxis provided two more charging stations to NCDOT, which were recently installed at the rest area located along I-40 at the I-95 junction near Benson. The charging stations are classified as "Level 2," which means they can fully charge a vehicle in 6-7 hours. There is no cost for using the stations.

The N.C. Department of Commerce grant, which totaled \$247,000, has enabled Praxis to place 20 electric vehicle charging stations in key markets around North Carolina over the past eight months. [Read more](#). [See a Flickr gallery](#) of the event.

## NanoBusiness Commercialization Association to co-host N.C. Nano conference

The NanoBusiness Commercialization Association has joined the N.C. Department of Commerce and the Center of Innovation for Nanobiotechnology (COIN) to co-host the Nanotechnology Commercialization Conference a groundbreaking event for international nanotechnology stakeholders. Preeminent nanotechnology innovators, cutting edge start-ups, leading researchers, and visionary investors are expected April 4-5 at the American Tobacco Campus in Durham.

Over the last decade, the nanotechnology field has turned the corner from science fiction to multi-billion dollar business, rapidly becoming the center of the materials science field, and has made major game-changing innovations in clean energy, electronics and biotechnology.

"We are very pleased to be teaming with COIN on this exciting event," noted Vincent Caprio, executive director of the NanoBCA. "North Carolina is a hotbed for nanotechnology, particularly in the biotechnology sector. There are over 40 nanobio companies located in North Carolina with leading research undertaken at Duke, UNC, NC State, Wake Forest and the region's other universities."

## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [Four in N.C. win Good Food Awards](#) (Good Food Awards, Jan. 17)
- [N.C. shows the money, and film industry comes](#) (Charlotte Observer, Jan. 17)
- [Two healthiest U.S. cities are in North Carolina, Vermont](#) (MSNBC, Jan. 10)

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