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Weekly highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, Mecklenburg County Commission Chairwoman Jennifer Roberts, Governor Bev Perdue, Executive VP of TWC's East Region Carol Hevey, Charlotte City Councilman James Mitchell, and Time Warner Cable Executive VP of National Network Operations and Engineering Jim Ludington

## Perdue announces 225 jobs with Time Warner Cable

Governor Bev Perdue on July 11 joined executives from [Time Warner Cable](#) Inc., the second largest cable operator in the U.S., in Charlotte to announce that the company will expand its operations and build a national data center on its Charlotte campus. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Ron Leitch was the developer on this project.

The company plans to create 225 jobs over the next three years with a \$101 million capital investment in Charlotte. The project was made possible in part by a state grant from the Job Development Investment Grant program.

"Time Warner Cable looked around the country, and they chose North Carolina," Perdue said. "Time Warner Cable is a devoted corporate citizen in Charlotte and North Carolina, and company leaders continue to bring jobs to our state because they realize that the investments we make in education produce the skilled, creative and capable employees they need." [Read more.](#)

[Time Warner bringing 225 jobs to Charlotte](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, July 11)



(Photo courtesy of WLOS)

## Linamar holds first job fair in Asheville

On July 5 and 6, auto component supplier [Linamar](#) held the first in a series of planned job fairs in order to staff its new facility in Asheville. The company's plans call for hiring 400 employees and investing \$120 million in advanced manufacturing equipment at the former Volvo Construction Equipment facility in Buncombe County. Governor Bev Perdue led a group of state and local leaders in [announcing the project](#) on June 30. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll visited the first part of the job fair to thank the Linamar HR executives for holding the event so promptly after the plant announcement. The company plans to have the plant operational in the first quarter of 2012.

[Linamar job fair](#) (WLOS - Asheville, July 5)

## Sheetz to hire 200 at distribution center

[Sheetz](#)'s expansion plans for North Carolina include opening a large distribution facility by 2014 to serve its increasing collection of convenience stores.

The Pennsylvania chain will begin looking for a site during the next six months, in a location that makes it easy to reach the Triangle and Triad, where most of its stores in this state are concentrated, CEO Stan Sheetz said in a phone interview. The company expects to seek local or state incentives to help pay for the project, which will create about 200 jobs.

## Lord Corp. to add 117 jobs at Cary HQ

Gov. Bev Perdue on July 12 joined leaders from LORD Corporation in Cary to announce 117 new jobs and a \$20 million investment as part of an expansion project in North Carolina. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Vivial Powell was the developer on this project.

LORD Corporation is a diversified technology company that develops breakthrough adhesive, coating and motion management technologies. Corporate functions to be included at the site are sales, technical service, marketing, R&D, purchasing and product development.

The project was made possible in part by a state grant from the Job Development Investment Grant program. To meet the targets established in this performance-based grant, the company plans to create 117 jobs over five years beginning in 2012 and make a capital investment of \$20 million in Wake County.

"LORD Corporation, like a growing number of international companies, recognizes the advantages of an educated, job-ready workforce," Perdue said. "Today's announcement is testament to why we fought so hard against education cuts this year. LORD Corporation found what they needed in North Carolina because of the investments we have made in our schools, our community colleges, our universities – our people." [Read more.](#)

[Lord Corp. to add 117 jobs at Cary HQ](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, July 12)



Raleigh is No. 2 on the *Forbes* list of Next Big Boom Towns in the United States.

## Two N.C. cities make *Forbes* list of Next Big Boom Towns

Two North Carolina cities, Raleigh and Charlotte, made the Top 10 of the recently released *Forbes* list of Next Big Boom Towns in the U.S. Raleigh, which is No. 2 on the list, was touted for its affordable housing, short commute times and its advantages for families with young children. Charlotte, which is No. 8 on the list, was also praised for low housing prices and short commute times, as well as its bustling airport.

[The Next Big Boom Towns in the U.S.](#) (*Forbes*, July 6)

[Sheetz has bigger plans in N.C.](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, July 7)



*The Inn on Biltmore Estate*

## *Travel+Leisure's* World's Best Awards 2011 include several N.C. sites

*Travel + Leisure* has announced the winners of the [World's Best Awards 2011](#) and several N.C. sites are on the list. Among the [Top Resorts in the U.S./Canada](#), the Inn on Biltmore Estate in Asheville was ranked No. 28 with the Sanderling Resort & Spa in Duck at No. 32. The Umstead Hotel and Spa in Cary ranked No. 10 among the [Top Large City Hotels in U.S./Canada](#). Among the [Top Family Hotels in U.S./Canada](#), the Sanderling Resort & Spa ranked No. 2. The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa in Asheville ranked No. 17 among the [Top Hotel Spas in U.S./Canada](#). And the Westglow Resort & Spa in Blowing Rock ranked No. 2 among [Top Destination Spas](#). In its 16th year, *Travel + Leisure's* World's Best Awards, which includes the top hotels, cruise lines, airlines, and other tourism-related entities, as voted by readers, is an essential index of the places to go.



*The N.C. booth at BIO 2011*

## N.C. among the best booths at BIO

M2 Multimedia Communications included North Carolina in its list of the [Best Booths of the BIO 2011 Convention](#). The North Carolina booth included a mini golf course where participants could practice putting. Those who stopped by the booth also had the opportunity



Charlotte is No. 8 on the Forbes list.



Governor Bev Perdue inspects Appalachian State University's entry to the Solar Decathlon international energy efficiency competition. (Photo courtesy of [goblueridge.net](http://goblueridge.net))

## Perdue inspects ASU Solar Decathlon entry

Governor Bev Perdue on July 7 inspected Appalachian State University's entry to the Solar Decathlon international energy efficiency competition set for September in Washington, D.C. Perdue met with the ASU students and faculty designing and building the entry and heard of locally grown innovation that will hopefully take the ASU entry to the top.

[Governor inspects ASU decathlon entry \(goblueridge.net](http://goblueridge.net), July 7)

## Celgard announces grand opening of Concord facility

[Celgard](http://www.celgard.com), a major supplier of microporous separators used in the lithium-ion battery industry, has announced a grand opening ceremony for their Concord-based expansion building in the [International Business Park](http://www.internationalbusinesspark.com). Slated for July 25, the event will herald an increase of its prosperous growth in the electric drive vehicle market. Currently, Celgard also maintains a strong presence in the microporous separator markets which affect digital cameras, laptop computers and cell phones. Celgard's updated presence in the International

to win a trip to Pinehurst Resort. [Read more.](#)

## N.C. Economic Overview for June released

The Monthly Overview of North Carolina's Economy has been released for June 2011. North Carolina's economy has been in a holding pattern for the last few months with the unemployment rate being unchanged since March. Nationally, indicators show continued slow growth. Real GDP growth was revised to 1.9 percent in the 1st quarter of 2011 and analysts expect similar growth for the 2nd quarter. Consumer confidence fell 3 points in May but housing authorizations increased 2.5 percent from the revised April estimate.

The Monthly Overview is compiled by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Policy, Research and Strategic Planning. [Read the report.](#)

## Incumbent Worker Award announced

The North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development recently announced grant awards totaling \$474,476 through the [Incumbent Worker Development Training Program](#). The funds will allow recipient firms to support educational and skills training for their workers. The employees of 28 companies throughout North Carolina will benefit from this round of training grants. A total of 40 proposals were submitted in May 2011 from 15 local area Workforce Development Boards. Of the 28 firms funded, 89 percent are small companies with fewer than 100 employees. The firms are also investing \$630,839 of their own money to supplement the training funds they have been awarded.

[Learn more](#) about the North Carolina Incumbent Worker Development Training Program.

## Rural Center offering scholarships for rural small businesses

The [N.C. Rural Economic Development Center](#) is offering 25 full scholarships for rural small businesses in North Carolina to participate in the Institute for Sustainable Development's Green Plus program. The Rural Center and the Institute have partnered to help businesses in the state's 85 rural counties improve their bottom lines, linking Green Plus sustainable business practices access to capital for sustainable



Business Park is expected to create more than 200 new jobs. The additional jobs are expected to be created by a combination of both the expansion in Charlotte and the new facility in Concord. The majority of jobs will be in Concord.

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## KDS to create 10 jobs in Henderson County

Governor Bev Perdue on July 6 announced that [Kiln Drying Systems & Components](#) Inc. will expand in Henderson County. The company plans to create 10 jobs and invest \$1.4 million during the next three years in Etowah. The project was made possible in part by a \$19,700 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Bill Payne was the developer on this project.

"We must support North Carolina-based businesses that are looking to grow and create jobs," said Perdue. "It's important that we keep innovative companies like KDS right here and likewise, KDS knows North Carolina has the workforce and strong business climate that will help their company continue to succeed into the future."

KDS is a North Carolina-based company specializing in the lumber drying industry. The company currently employs 32 people in Henderson County. In the past few years, new drying technologies that are faster and more energy efficient have helped KDS expand its business despite the economic recession and its negative effects on the entire lumber industry. A facility and workforce expansion is required to help KDS keep up with demand and stay ahead of their competition.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$50,500 plus benefits. The Henderson County average annual wage is \$32,240. [Read more.](#)

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## Plymouth Small Town Main Street Committee moves forward on history museum

Members of the [Plymouth Small Town Main Street Committee](#) spent several mornings recently cleaning out a landmark downtown house that will become an African-American history museum. Committee members Albert Downing, Marvin Spencer, Steve Hoggard and Chairman Willie Drye removed old carpet, mattresses, and dilapidated furniture from the Picot-Armistead-Pettiford House, which has not been occupied since 2000. The effort was part of Plymouth's annual Community Cleanup Week.

The effort to stabilize and restore the 197-year-old house has been gaining momentum since Plymouth's Small Town Main Street Committee took on the project last winter.

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## Textile equipment maker to bring jobs to Moore County

MMC Textiles announced in June that it will move to Carthage, creating 27 jobs in the process. MMC is a subsidiary of the Monroe-based McCoy-Ellison Inc. The company will lease space in the former Carthage Fabrics building in Carthage. Ray Ogden, director of Partners in Progress, estimated the tax value of the plant's equipment and fixtures at \$250,000.

[County OKs incentive for Carthage industry](#) (*The Pilot* -

improvements and business lines. The initiative seeks to connect sustainable small business practices with economic development. After completing the first stage of Green Plus, participating businesses may be eligible for micro loans of up to \$25,000 through the Rural Center to implement new sustainable business lines or environmentally sound business practices that may save them money.

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## Biofuels Center head testifies before U.S. House subcommittee

Steven Burke, president and CEO of the [Biofuels Center of North Carolina](#), addressed a hearing on E15 by the Energy & Environment Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. E15 is a blend of 15 percent ethanol in gasoline. With oil near \$100 a barrel and the United States considering its energy future at a time of economic constraint, the committee heard a range of different perspectives on the growth of biofuels in the marketplace. The hearing, titled "Hitting the Ethanol Blend Wall: Examining the Science on E15," was called to hear feedback on draft legislative language on mid-level ethanol blends of up to 15 percent ethanol in gasoline. This year, the EPA provided waivers allowing E15 for motor vehicles built after 2001 under certain conditions. [Learn more.](#)

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## Tourism moves forward with new ad agency

As of July 1, the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development has transitioned to its new full-service marketing, communications and advertising agency, [Luquire George Andrews](#) of Charlotte in partnership with DCI Communications. The focus of the Division's marketing program remains to bring more visitors, and have them stay longer and spend more money. The new agency will assist with the development and enhancement of technology-based and research-driven strategies and programs that market the state's tourism industry.

LGA/DCI is now charged to meet all of the goals of the Division's advertising including enhancing the state's iconic brand, reaching its core audience, and meeting strategic business objectives. [VisitNC.com](#), print and paid online advertising opportunities for partners remain the same as were announced during the 2011 N.C. Governor's Conference on Hospitality & Tourism. An overview of the advertising opportunities can be found [here](#). If you have any questions about partner opportunities, advertising, marketing or [VisitNC.com](#), contact [Wit Tuttell](#) at (919) 733-

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## PPD awarded \$45.5M defense contract

[PPD Inc.](#) on May 31 announced it has been awarded the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity: Regulatory Affairs & Compliance Support contract to provide global regulatory and biostatistical services for a range of clinical development programs funded by the U.S. Army.

The award is a multi-year, indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract with a ceiling value of \$45.5 million over a five-year period beginning April 15, 2011.

PPD is a global contract research organization providing drug discovery, development and lifecycle management services. The company's clients and partners include pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, academic and government organizations. The company has offices in 44 countries, including one in Research Triangle Park.

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## Greensboro company to appear on TV show

Standard Tools and Equipment Co, a manufacturer in the automotive aftermarket industry, announced May 18 that it has been selected by How 2 Media to be a part of the popular television series "[World's Greatest ...](#)", featuring their paint booths. The show airs on the ION Network.

The company goes to market as Tools USA, Eagle Equipment and [paint-booths.com](#), to sell hundreds of products through its mail-order catalog and its various websites. Products include auto lifts, frame machines, pulling posts and clamps, tire equipment, powder coating equipment and, of course, its paint booths. [Read more.](#)



## Video: Deere-Hitachi on N.C.'s transportation network

Bryan Swerbinsky, vice president and chief financial officer for [Deere-Hitachi](#) in [Kernersville](#), talks about East Coast corridors and how crucial the North Carolina transportation infrastructure is to their business operations. [See the video.](#)

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## Year-to-date Metrics

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry that illustrate some of the recent activities of the Division. The metrics include the number of new economic development projects assigned to B&I development staff; the number of economic development project announcements; the number of announced jobs created and capital invested; the number of interactions existing industry staff had with businesses throughout the state; and the number of contacts received by the Business Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

Jan. 1 - July 12, 2011

New projects assigned:	196
Projects announced:	90
Jobs announced:	8,623
Capital investment Announced:	\$1.46B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	867
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	10,289

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## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [N.C. gov's energy panel meeting in Raleigh](#) (The Associated Press, July 11)
- [OBX beach driving rules open for comment](#) (WUNC - July 11)
- [Asheville climate change talk set for July 20 at A-B Tech](#) (The Citizen-Times - Asheville, July 10)
- [N.C. to mark site of mass 1963 civil rights protests](#) (The Associated Press, July 10)

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