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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Wake County Commission Chair Paul Coble, Net App Senior VP Denise Cox, Governor Bev Perdue, NetApp Senior Director Mark Skiff and RTP Foundation President Bob Geolas

NetApp to create 460 jobs in Wake County

Governor Bev Perdue announced July 23 that NetApp, one of the largest providers of innovative storage and data management solutions, will expand its Wake County operations. The company plans to create 460 new jobs over four years and invest more than \$75 million into a new R & D facility in Research Triangle Park. The project was made possible in part by a state grant from the Job Development Investment Grant. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Vivian Powell](#) was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs is what motivates me every day," said Perdue. "North Carolina is a tremendous place to do business and our highly-skilled workforce is equipped to support high tech companies like NetApp in their desire to expand here."

Founded in 1992, NetApp provides solutions that deliver outstanding cost efficiency and accelerate business breakthroughs for customers across various industries, including media and entertainment, Internet, healthcare, IT, and financial services. Data ONTAP® software, NetApp's core operating system, is also the world's most widely adopted storage and data management platform.

Headquartered in California, NetApp is a Fortune 500 company that employs over 12,000 individuals in more than 170 offices worldwide, including more than 1,400 employees in its RTP facility. In 2011 NetApp ranked No. 1 on the *Triangle Business Journal's* annual "Best Places to Work" in RTP list. It marked the seventh time that NetApp has appeared on the list



(Left-right) Cotton Inc. Director of Physiology, Genetics, Biotechnology, and Plant Pathology Don Jones and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco at the new greenhouse ribbon-cutting (photo courtesy of AgWired)

Bayer CropScience opens new greenhouse in RTP

Bayer CropScience formally opened its doors at the ribbon-cutting of its new \$20 million greenhouse in Research Triangle Park on July 20. The massive facility, located at 2 T.W. Alexander Drive, covers 60,000 square feet and stands three stories tall. The company, which bases its North American headquarters in RTP, will focus on corn and soybean research and development, including molecular breeding, at the facility.

Bayer CropScience North America President and CEO Jim Blome and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco attended the event.

The facility includes 30,000 square feet of greenhouse space, more than 3,500 square feet of office and meeting space, and 2,400 square feet of growth chambers. A laboratory, seed handling and storage areas, as well as a 70,000 gallon underground water storage tank, are part of the greenhouse. [Read more.](#)

Commerce leaders participate in jobs summit

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Assistant Secretary for Workforce Solutions Roger Shackelford participated in the "North Carolina Back to Work Jobs Summit" on July 20 at the N.C.

and the third time it has been ranked No. 1.

"NetApp has had a long and successful presence in RTP and we are excited to build on our relationship with the state of North Carolina, Wake County, and the surrounding area," said Denise Cox, senior vice president of global support for NetApp. "NetApp takes pride in attracting and retaining the industry's best people and our expansion in RTP will enable us to continue to help our customers achieve business success. Our company culture of living our values and embracing strong principles while treating employees as our greatest asset is at the core of why we are widely considered a best place to work." [Read more.](#)

B&I team meets with partners from Ashe County

Economic developers from Ashe County gave an update on economic development activities in their area during a meeting with the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business & Industry Development. The meeting took place at the Commerce Department's main office in Raleigh on July 23.

Furniture Export Office presents at annual home furnishings meetings

On June 28, N.C. Department of Commerce N.C. Furniture Export Office Director Mike Padjen gave a presentation to the annual American Home Furnishing Alliance Sales and Marketing Meeting in Charlotte. The presentation, titled "Marketing for Export," focused on the processes of determining export markets, developing and choosing distributors, and relating those tasks directly to eventual marketing strategies.

The major focuses of the meeting were women defining the home furnishing marketplace, social media, public relations and crisis management, regulatory affairs, and exporting. This was the second time Padjen has presented to this group of sales and marketing executives from the home furnishings industry.



N.C. Ports end FY 12 with volume and revenue increases

The N.C. State Ports Authority posted increased cargo movement and operating revenues for the fiscal year ending

Rural Economic Development Center in Raleigh. Economic and education officials talked about what needs to happen to create more jobs in North Carolina. The summit was organized by U.S. Senator Kay Hagan and included SEPI Engineering Owner Sepi Asefnia, U.S. Small Business Administration District Director Lynn Douthett, N.C. Rural Economic Development Center President Billy Ray Hall, N.C. STEM Education Center President and CEO Sam Houston, N.C. Community College System President Scott Ralls, and Randolph County Economic Development Corp. President Bonnie Renfro.

Growing biodiesel from local fields

Farmers, area restaurants and energy-conscious drivers could benefit from a pilot program to develop homegrown biofuels in the mountains. Blue Ridge Biofuels, AdvantageWest Economic Development Group, Biltmore Estate and other partners have been awarded a \$130,000 grant from the [Biofuels Center of North Carolina](#) for a yearlong study of the F3 or "Field to Fryer to Fuel" program. Blue Ridge Biofuels will produce edible oils from regionally grown oil seeds, sell these oils to restaurant partners for their frying needs and then recycle the used fryer oil into biodiesel.

Under the pilot program, Biltmore Estate will plant 50 acres of canola, expecting to harvest 126,000 pounds of canola seeds next spring. Appalachian State University and N.C. State Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center will offer their expertise in growing oilseed crops. ASU will lease its mobile oil pressing equipment to Blue Ridge Biofuels, and the first bottles of pressed oil could be used in Biltmore's restaurants and other local dining establishments next summer. Blue Ridge Biofuels would then collect the used oil and recycle it into more than 5,000 gallons of biodiesel. The Biofuels Center of North Carolina is interested in seeing if the program could work elsewhere in the state. The center received 34 applications for projects. The AdvantageWest-sponsored project was one of only 12 projects receiving some \$1.5 million in funding.

[Growing biodiesel from local fields](#) (*The Citizen-Times* – Asheville, July 17)



"Revolution" begins filming in

June 30 compared to last year. Top-line revenues continue to recover following the economic downturn with a 7 percent increase year over year, realizing a net profit for the fiscal year. Increased bulk cargo volumes at both the Ports of Wilmington and Morehead City contributed largely to revenues with combined 37 percent volume growth over FY11.

"New business within our bulk division, our ability to diversify our cargo interests, and our continued cost containment measures have placed N.C. Ports in our strongest financial position since 2008," said N.C. State Ports Authority Interim Executive Director Jeff Strader. "We project this growth trend to continue into our next fiscal year as we pursue further opportunities to support North Carolina businesses and commodities."

New and expanding business in the bulk commodities sector at both seaports has contributed largely to the NC Ports net gains. The exportation of North Carolina wood chips from both seaports has been a significant new business opportunity for N.C. Ports. The Port of Morehead City exported more than 208,000 tons of chips in FY 12 while the Port of Wilmington handled nearly 320,000 tons. Southern yellow pine grown in North Carolina is a desirable material around the globe for the manufacture of medium density fiber board and flooring products. [Read more.](#)

[State ports pull out of slump, post a profit](#) (*StarNews* – Wilmington, July 17)



Durham Performing Arts Center

N.C. venues among Pollstar's top-selling theaters

Concert industry magazine *Pollstar* has released its list of the Top 100 ticket-selling theaters in the world for Jan. 1- June 30, and three sites are in North Carolina. Coming in at No. 2 in the world is Durham Performing Arts Center, whose tickets sold rank behind only Mexico City's Auditorio Nacional. That makes DPAC No. 1 in the United States, ahead of fabled venues including Los Angeles' Nokia Theatre (No. 3 worldwide), Atlanta's Fox Theatre (No. 5) and New York City's Radio City Music Hall (No. 14). Belk Theatre in Charlotte ranked No. 26 worldwide. And for the first time in its history, the Carolina Theatre of Durham made the list, coming in at No. 88. By placing DPAC and the Carolina on the list, Durham is one of only a handful of cities with multiple venues in the Top 100. The rankings include all theaters, regardless of capacity, that have reported attendance for live events - including concerts, comedy and theatrical presentations.

Wilmington

The new TV series "Revolution" began filming last week in the Wilmington area. After considering a number of filming locations, the show's creator, Warner Bros. Television, decided on the region because of its locations, experienced local crew and vendors, and North Carolina's film incentives program, according to the Wilmington Regional Film Commission. The production is expected to hire 125 film industry workers and hundreds of extras to work part time, the commission has said.

The sci-fi adventure will tell an apocalyptic tale about a world where all forms of energy have mysteriously disappeared, leaving everyone in total darkness and separation. It is scheduled to premiere on NBC on Sept. 27. The series joins local productions "Iron Man 3" and "Safe Haven," which began filming in late May, and "We're the Millers," which begins principal photography at the end of July.

[TV show filming set to begin this week](#) (*StarNews* – Wilmington, July 14)

Year-to-date Metrics

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry Development 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 24, 2012

New projects assigned:	224
Projects announced:	73
Jobs announced:	8,998
Capital investment announced:	\$2.05B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	717
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	11,274

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Montgomery County business incubator lands \\$1.2M grant](#) (*Triad Business Journal*, July 20)
- [Apple building new, smaller data center in Maiden](#) (*Hickory Daily Record*, July 19)
- [RDU begins renovation of Terminal 1](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, July 19)
- [Chip maker expanding plant, adding jobs](#)

[Carolina Theatre makes Pollstar ranking](#) (*The Herald-Sun* – Durham, July 17)

(*Gaston Gazette*, July 19)

- [Lowe's to add 175 jobs in Wilkesboro](#) (*Triad Business Journal*, July 19)

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