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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Governor Bev Perdue at the BSH press conference announcing in New Bern (Photo courtesy Byron Holland/The Sun Journal)

BSH announces investment for new product line in New Bern

Governor Bev Perdue on Dec. 9 joined executives from BSH Home Appliances Corporation in announcing that the company will make an investment into a new dishwasher line in New Bern. This investment is expected to create approximately 100 new jobs over the next four years.

A grant that was awarded to Craven Community College by Golden LEAF Foundation will be used toward the purchase of equipment that will train current and future employees of the BSH factory in New Bern, as well as employees of other industries in Craven and surrounding counties.

"My top priority is creating jobs, and BSH's announcement is another testament to the strong partnership between economic development and education," Perdue said. "Our past commitment to investments in education, workforce development and creating a top-notch business climate are reasons globally competitive companies choose to locate or expand in North Carolina."

[New dishwasher line to bring jobs](#) (The Sun Journal - New Bern, Dec. 9)



AccessNC mobile app adoption growing

The North Carolina Dept. of Commerce's innovative new mobile app to access the state's buildings and sites database approached a new milestone last week. According to download statistics provided by both the Apple App Store and Android Market, nearly 300 people have now downloaded the AccessNC mobile app to their devices. This strong showing is particularly striking as the Department has yet to launch its overall marketing and promotion campaign to support the app. This wider marketing effort is just getting underway now with the new release of the Blackberry Touch version of the app this week.

The AccessNC mobile app, currently available for both Apple and Android platforms, allows you to search available properties from all across the state. The app enables you to build personalized lists of properties for quick reference later, including the ability to create personal notes for each property. Using the mobile device's location tracking abilities, it's also easy to review maps for each property and to generate driving directions to those properties from your present location.

[Download the app today](#) for either the Apple or Android platforms.

AccessNC is also available at its [original home on the World Wide Web](#). AccessNC, previously known as the Economic



N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco presents a State of North Carolina plate to ARB President Ben Succop.

Roller bearing manufacturer to create 231 jobs in Burke and Alexander counties

Governor Bev Perdue announced Dec. 8 that American Roller Bearing Industries Inc. (A.R.B.), a manufacturer of anti-friction bearings for industrial equipment, will expand its operations in Burke and Alexander counties. A.R.B. expects to create 231 new jobs over the next five years and invest between \$3 million and \$5 million per year in land, buildings, machinery and equipment. The announcement was made possible in part by a state [Job Development Investment Grant](#). The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Bill Payne](#) was the developer on this project.

"My top priority is creating jobs, and our top-ranked business climate continues to attract new, high-tech manufacturers and help existing ones expand," Perdue said. "Companies, such as A.R.B., continue to choose North Carolina because our past investments in education have created a highly-skilled workforce."

A.R.B.'s first manufacturing plant was located in Pittsburgh, Pa. in the 1920s. All manufacturing operations for the company moved to North Carolina in the early 1980s and the corporate office relocated to Hickory in 2007. A.R.B. manufactures anti-friction bearings for industrial equipment used in electrical power generation, mining and rock crushing, primary metal making and rolling mills, oilfields, construction, railroads, gear drives, corrugated box and papermaking, and wind energy. The company currently employs more than 340 people in North Carolina.

"North Carolina has dedicated skilled workers who will make our expansion in North Carolina successful," said Ben Succop, president of American Roller Bearing. "We look forward to continuing our long-standing partnership with the State of North Carolina and those we have in Burke and Alexander counties. This grant will enable us to strengthen our operations and to support the needs of our customers."

The total payroll for the new jobs is estimated to be between \$8 million and \$8.9 million. The overall annual wages will exceed the Burke County annual average wage which is \$30,784 and the annual average wage in Alexander County

Development Intelligence System (EDIS), is the state's online resource for business decision makers offering access to the labor, demographic, economic and property information they need when considering North Carolina business locations.



N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll speaks as electric cars charge in the background at a new station in Asheville.

Electric vehicle charging station opens in Asheville

Asheville's first electric vehicle charging station opened to the public Dec. 12 at the Asheville City Public Works Building parking lot. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

This Brightfield™ electric vehicle charging station is the first of four solar power generating stations to be installed throughout Asheville. The station will generate five kilowatts of solar energy annually and will be equipped with three electric vehicle chargers. Additional stations are sited for Land of Sky Regional Council off Leicester Highway, the Reuter Center on the UNC Asheville campus and at the BioWheels store on Coxe Avenue.

Earlier this year, BioWheels RTS, a local renewable energy and alternative transportation company, was awarded a grant from the [N.C. Green Business Fund](#), a fund established by the state to encourage green sector growth. The young start-up has forged public-private partnerships with the City of Asheville, Buncombe County and UNCA to bring the Brightfield™ charging stations to market, illustrating how western North Carolina is becoming a hub for the clean energy industry, creating quality jobs and strengthening communities.

Commerce leads sponsorship effort at new Aviation Week conference

The State of North Carolina will enjoy high-profile visibility at a global aerospace conference coming to Charlotte in May of next

which is \$26,728. [Read more.](#)

[American Roller Bearing creating 231 jobs](#) (*The News Herald - Burke County*)



Connie Russ (center), manager of the Certified Retirement Community Office in Lumberton, speaks as Lynn Minges (left) and Charlie Thompson (standing at right) look on.

Communities learn about the Certified Retirement Community Program

Nearly 80 officials from more than 50 communities attended the N.C. Department of Commerce's information session on Certified Retirement Communities Dec. 7 in Raleigh. They saw an overview of the program, learned details of the application process from the Division of Community Assistance, heard about the Division of Tourism's potential marketing initiatives, gained insight into Lumberton's experiences as the state's first Certified Retirement Community and had an opportunity to ask questions.

During its last session, the General Assembly charged the Division of Tourism with marketing the state's Certified Retirement Communities, which have been officially recognized for positioning themselves to attract retirees as an economic and community development strategy. During September's regional Mid-Year Marketing Updates, communities across the state expressed an interest in marketing to retirees. The Certified Retirement Community program is for communities that are positioning themselves for retiree attraction as an economic and community development strategy. North Carolina currently enjoys a robust in-migration of retirees to the state, and the program seeks to attract retirees and those planning to retire to make their homes here. The program encourages mature market travel to North Carolina to evaluate future retirement desirability and to visit those who have chosen to retire in North Carolina. [See the presentation from Tourism, Film and Sports Development.](#) [See the general N.C. Department of Commerce presentation.](#)

The North Carolina General Assembly, during the 2008 short session, recognized the inherent panopoly of quality living that the state offers and established the N.C. Certified Retirement Community Program (SB 1627) as a vehicle to designate communities that offer this unprecedented, quality of living that is sought by the mature community. [Learn more.](#)

year. The Civil Aviation Manufacturing Conference is a new conference being organized by *Aviation Week*, the industry's largest media information and services provider. Aviation Week conferences typically draw senior business executives from leading companies across the sector. The focus of the new CAM conference will be to bring together the leaders of major manufacturers and suppliers to discuss manufacturing capabilities -- examining, evaluating, and where possible, putting common solutions and best practices into place. This subject matter was proposed by Aviation Week's corporate advisory board as a key issue facing the commercial sector's leaders over the next five years.

Joining with The N.C. Department of Commerce to support the state sponsorship will be the [Charlotte Regional Partnership](#), [North Carolina's Eastern Region](#), the [N.C. Global TransPark](#), and the [Piedmont Triad Partnership](#).

The conference will be held May 8-9, 2012, at The Renaissance Charlotte Suites in Charlotte. Read more about the conference online, including the proposed agenda at [Aviation Week's website.](#)



N.C. Energy Office Director Ward Lenz conducts an outreach session.

Energy Office conducts outreach

Over three days, Dec. 5-7, The N.C. Department of Commerce's Energy Office conducted nine outreach meetings with agencies, advocacy groups and the general public to discuss the June 2011 consent decree in Alabama, Kentucky, North Carolina



The wing spars at Port of Wilmington

Spirit's first ocean shipment of wing spars arrives at Port of Wilmington

Spirit AeroSystems' first ocean shipment of wing spars from its aircraft composite facility at the Global TransPark was delivered to the Port of Wilmington on Dec. 6, and packed into a special Independent Container Line (ICL) 45-ft container. From Wilmington, the wing spars will travel to Prestwick, Scotland, for sub-assembly and then on to France for final assembly of the Airbus A350 XWB.

Perdue boosts business effort in Greenville

Gov. Beverly Perdue is visiting downtown Greenville today (Dec. 13) to recognize the city's Small Business Plan Competition.

Perdue arrived after 11 a.m. to visit Appogee, a new Apple computer service center, and the Scullery, a restaurant and coffee shop.

[Perdue boosts business effort](#) (*The Daily Reflector* - Greenville, Dec. 13)

Main Street Conference scheduled for January

The 2012 [N.C. Main Street Conference](#) will be in Clayton Jan. 25-27. The theme, "Main Street: Tips, Tools & Techniques for Downtown," aims to provide attendees with strategies that can be easily implemented in any community. Demographic changes including baby boomers who are retiring and millennials who are entering the workforce are creating shifts in what downtowns need, how and when downtowns are used and the goods and services that are sustainable in the economy. Localism, green technology, tech-savvy users, and community principles are intersecting with historic preservation, entertainment and culture, recreation and urban living in ways that have never before experienced, creating complex, interesting downtown destinations. The deadline for early bird registration is Dec. 16.

Atala hailed by *Time* magazine

Dr. Anthony Atala's medical developments at the Wake Forest Institute of Regenerative Medicine have been lauded by *Time* magazine, which made his efforts No. 5 on its list of Top 10 Medical Breakthroughs. [Learn more.](#)

and Tennessee v. Tennessee Valley Authority (Civil Action No. 3:11-cv-00170). Specific focus was on the \$11.2 million designated in the decree for use by North Carolina for projects broadly outlined and to be distributed over the next five years. Turnout for the nine sessions included about 160 representatives of local governments and public schools, public agencies, private businesses and non-profit groups. Ward Lenz, director of the Energy Office, led the hearings. Jon Williams, assistant secretary of Commerce for Energy, participated in sessions on Monday in Murphy while N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll opened the sessions on Tuesday in Waynesville and on Wednesday in Boone.

C.R. Onsrud announces \$5.5 M Troutman expansion

Troutman-based CNC machinery manufacturer C.R. Onsrud, Inc. announced Dec. 12 it will be investing \$5.5 million over three years in a major expansion project at its facility in Troutman, North Carolina, where the company has been located since its founding in 1915.

The project will include a 30,000 square foot expansion of the company's current building at 120 Technology Drive and the addition of new capital equipment and fixtures throughout the facility. [Read more.](#)

Perdue signs bill aimed at expanding craft brewery industry

Governor Bev Perdue on Dec. 8 signed H796, which will help expand the craft brewery industry in North Carolina, creating new jobs and further improving the state's overall business climate.

The legislation will allow all breweries to offer tastings and sell their products on site, a change aimed at drawing new breweries – and new jobs – into North Carolina. In recent years, the state has seen a sharp growth in small craft breweries, and the new law will help attract new operations interested in opening breweries that also serve as tourist destinations. [Read more.](#)



Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering holds grand opening

[The Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering](#), a joint school between the UNC-Greensboro and N.C. A&T State University, has been years in the making, and on Dec. 7, it officially opened.

With construction finished on a second research facility at Gateway University Research Park's South Campus, the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering became official. A ceremony, which included Governor Bev Perdue, marked the grand opening.

According to a news release, the new two-story, 105,000 square ft facility will feature extensive labs, a clean room, a 3-D visualization suite and a large suite of high-tech tools including a Carl Zeiss SMT Orion Helium Ion microscope, which is the one of only six in the United States, and the only one of its kind in the Southeast.

University officials expect that over the next 10 years, Gateway University Research Park will provide \$500 million in economic impact to the region.

[Joint School Of Nanoscience & Engineering opens in Greensboro](#) (WFMY - Greensboro, Dec. 7)

[Nanotechnology School Opens in Greensboro](#) (WUNC - Chapel Hill, Dec. 7)



N.C. issues 2012 economic development tier rankings

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco announced on Nov. 30 the county tier designations for 2012. The designations, which are mandated by state law, determine



In SYNC: David Spratley

Economic Developer [David Spratley](#) was raised in Ohio and moved to North Carolina in 1990. He has lived in Charlotte, Wilmington and Raleigh, and has been with the N.C. Department of Commerce for a total of 12 years. During his time in North Carolina he has also worked with KPMG's site selection/incentives group.

Most recently he was the developer involved in the recruitment of [Chiquita Brands'](#) international headquarters to Charlotte. Spratley says that the drivers that led Chiquita to choose Charlotte included the low cost of doing business, the area's pro-business environment with seamless interaction between business and government, and a thriving international hub airport.

"North Carolina is a wonderful product with any number of attractive attributes and competitive advantages," Spratley says. "It's my job to know those attributes and advantages, and that of my competitor, inside and out and to articulate and quantify them for the client. If I do that effectively, North Carolina sells itself."

When not recruiting business to the state, Spratley enjoys spending time with his "two awesome kids" 10-year-old Madison and 8-year-old Brady, and woodworking, golf and poker.

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

a variety of state funding opportunities to assist in economic development.

"Our goal is to encourage economic development statewide so all of our residents can find good jobs regardless of their location in our state," Crisco said. "These tier rankings provide important tools that help attract or retain businesses in all parts of North Carolina."

Using a statutory formula outlined in the 2006 Tax Credits for Growing Businesses (more commonly referred to as Article 3J tax credits), the N.C. Department of Commerce assembles required statistics for each of North Carolina's 100 counties, applies the formula and assigns a tier designation ranking from one to three. Tier 1 counties are the most economically distressed and Tier 3 counties are the least. Eligible businesses that locate in lower-tiered counties are eligible for some grant programs and larger tax credits than those that locate in higher-ranked areas. [Read more.](#)

Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

Jan. 1 - Dec. 13, 2011

New projects assigned:	381
Projects announced:	158
Jobs announced:	14,213
Capital investment announced:	\$2.811B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	1,367
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	16,812

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [President, First Lady to visit Fort Bragg Wednesday](#) (WNCN - Raleigh, Dec. 12)
- [Progress-Duke merger could get federal OK Thursday](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, Dec. 10)
- [At 19,193, N.C. leads in board-certified teachers](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, Dec. 8)
- [N.C. Zoo protects old longleaf pine forest](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, Dec. 1)

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