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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte will host the PGA Championship in 2017.

Charlotte to host PGA Championship

The PGA of America has selected Quail Hollow Club of Charlotte as the site of the 99th PGA Championship in August 2017, making it the third venue in North Carolina to host the Season's Final Major. Gov. Bev Perdue, N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco and Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx were on hand in Charlotte Tuesday morning (Aug. 31) for the official announcement.

"It is with great pleasure that we bring the PGA Championship back to North Carolina, and to make our first visit to Quail Hollow Club, a venue and a community that has demonstrated its skill in hosting premier golf," said PGA of America President Jim Remy. "In 2017, the PGA Championship will once again attract golf's finest players worldwide to compete at a course well respected among the best players in the game and challenge for the Wanamaker Trophy."

Golf plays an important role in North Carolina's economy, and the PGA Championship will generate a wealth of international media exposure. Golf-related tourism spending is estimated at \$507.8 million (as of 2007), and the direct, indirect and induced economic impact for the state's golf industry is totaled at \$5.3 billion (2007).

Quail Hollow Club, founded in 1959 and designed by George Cobb in 1961, received renovations by Tom Fazio in 1997 and 2003, which enabled it to continue a heritage of hosting premier events. Beginning in 1969, Quail Hollow has hosted Tour events in four of the past five decades, which includes the Kemper Open (1969-79); the World Seniors Invitational (1980-89); and the Quail Hollow Championship (formerly the Wachovia Championship), which began in 2003. [Learn more.](#)



Gov. Bev Perdue and N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco confer during a panel at the Southern Governors' Association annual meeting.

Perdue, Crisco speak at SGA

Gov. Bev Perdue and N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco attended the Southern Governors' Association annual meeting Aug. 27-30 in Birmingham, Ala. Crisco spoke at a roundtable discussion on exploring trade opportunities in targeted industries. Specifically he spoke of opportunities for partnering and trade with China in agribusiness and biotechnology.

N.C. Biotechnology Center President and CEO Norris Tolson also served as a panelist for a business session on the role of technology in the South's economic future.

Also at the conference, Perdue announced that North Carolina will host the 2011 conference in Asheville. Perdue was also selected to chair the SGA in the coming year.

Founded in 1934, the SGA is the oldest and historically the largest of the regional governors' associations. Since its inception, SGA has represented the common interests of Southern states' chief executives and provided a vehicle for promoting them. SGA supports the work of Southern governors by providing a bipartisan, regional forum to help shape and implement national policy and solve regional problems.

[Charlotte lands PGA Championship](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, Aug. 31)

N.C. small firms get bigger slice of stimulus

Small contractors have had more opportunities in North Carolina than they have nationally, at least when it comes to reaping the benefits of the federal stimulus bill, according to data provided by the Washington, D.C.-based National Association of Small Business Contractors.

Of the \$64.9 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds that have been awarded through federal contracts, 19.2 percent has gone to small businesses, according to NASBC data.

In North Carolina, that percentage is more than double. Of the \$350 million in projects awarded by the federal government to North Carolina contractors, 52.8 percent has been secured by small businesses.

[N.C. small firms get bigger slice of stimulus](#) (The Mecklenburg Times, Aug. 24)

House-Autry celebrates 200 years

Johnston County "breaders" producer House-Autry Mills is preparing to celebrate its 200th anniversary.

"As we approach the brand's 200th anniversary in 2012, it is an opportune time to celebrate and, more importantly, establish a value for the brand's incredible longevity," said House-Autry's CEO Craig Hapgood.

[House-Autry Mills to mark 200th year](#) (The News & Observer, Aug. 25)



Sept. is N.C. Wine & Grape Appreciation Month

In a proclamation praising North Carolina as a significant producer of grapes and wine, Gov. Bev Perdue has declared September as Wine & Grape Appreciation Month in North Carolina.



N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco (center) chats with partners at the Atlanta reception, which was sponsored by the Friends of North Carolina program.

Site consultants learn about N.C. at Atlanta event

The [Friends of North Carolina](#) program sponsored a reception and presentation for site consultants at Ventantas in Atlanta on Aug. 24. N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco was among the economic development leaders from across the state on hand to update the consultants on North Carolina's programs and activities. Approximately 60 consultants and 30 partners attended the event.

Commerce to help conduct Export University

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce is among those conducting the upcoming Export University 201, an eight-week export-training seminar designed to give businesses the basic tools to expand into international markets. The Export Assistance Centers in Charlotte, and in Columbia, S.C., the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the N.C. District Export Council are also conducting this program.

The classes will meet each Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 28, and ending Nov. 16, at the OKUMA USA, Partners in Thinc facility in Charlotte. Topics will include international risk assessment, harmonized tariff codes and how to develop an international marketing plan. [Learn more.](#)

DreamWorks to run on Red Hat

Raleigh-based Linux software company Red Hat announced Aug. 25 that DreamWorks Animation -- the Hollywood studio behind the Shrek franchise and a host of other animated hits -- plans to use Red Hat's cloud computing software to help produce animated films.

DreamWorks has been at the forefront of cloud computing and is "building one of the world's largest private clouds with Red Hat," Paul Cormier, president of products and

Perdue urges restaurants and retailers to help support the growing wine industry by promoting local North Carolina wines throughout the month of September.

[Read the governor's proclamation](#) of Wine & Grape Appreciation Month, and her letters to restaurants and retailers.

NCBIO meeting to focus on N.C.'s vaccine cluster

The N.C. Biosciences Organization's 2010 annual membership meeting will feature a three-hour program profiling North Carolina's exploding vaccine cluster. The program will be Oct. 6, and will feature keynote remarks by Philip R. Dormitzer, M.D., Ph.D., senior project leader for Viral Vaccine Research at Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics in Cambridge, Mass. He will discuss trends in vaccine technology. The N.C. Biotechnology Center is co-hosting the event with NCBIO. [Learn more.](#)

Trident hiring for new call center

A Southern Pines-based call-center operator is hiring 45 sales agents to staff a new center opening next month in Morrisville. Trident Marketing, which employs 350 in Southern Pines, is opening a 6,600-square-foot facility in Morrisville in the first week of September.

The company hopes to expand the call center next year to add marketing and technology functions.

[Trident is hiring for new call center](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Aug. 26)

Our State highlights N.C. Research Campus

In its latest edition, *Our State* magazine profiles the N.C. Research Campus in Kannapolis. The writer talks to founder David Murdock, and traces the campus' rise from the ashes of Cannon Mills, which was the scene of the largest layoff in state history in 2003. The article also traces the work history of Randy Crowell, who went to work at the mill at 16. After the layoff, he trained to become a lab technician and now works at the campus.

[Textiles to Technology](#) (Our State magazine, September)

AdvantageWest Econ Summit announced

AdvantageWest will hold its next Economic Summit on the evening of Nov. 15 at Diana Wortham Theatre in downtown Asheville. Once again, columnist and TV host D.G. Martin will serve as moderator. Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton has already committed to join the panel of distinguished guests.

N.C. wins Race to the Top funds

Gov. Bev Perdue on Aug. 24 announced North Carolina will receive approximately \$400 million in federal Race to the Top grant money. The award will fund continued implementation of Perdue's Career and College: Ready, Set, Go! program,

technology at Red Hat, said during a conference call to discuss the company's cloud computing strategy and technology. Cloud computing allows access to networks of servers over the Internet. A private cloud is for a company's internal-use only.

[DreamWorks to run on Red Hat](#) (The News & Observer, Aug. 26)

Steel tubing maker offering 50 jobs opens Aug. 31

Solaris Industries, an international manufacturer of steel tubing, officially opened its plant in Kings Mountain Tuesday (Aug. 31).

The company announced in February its intentions to locate to a facility on Industrial Drive, just off I-85. It will open in a 100,000-square-foot facility previously home to Tube Enterprises and Commonwealth Aluminum.

Company officials plan to hire about 50 employees over the next two years.

[New industry offering 50 jobs to open Tuesday](#) (The Star - Shelby, Aug. 31)

Rural Center announces \$5M in grants

The N.C. Rural Economic Development Center has awarded 67 grants totaling \$5.2 million to create jobs and address clean water needs throughout North Carolina. The grants will assist communities in 46 rural counties and create 375 jobs.

The center's board of directors approved the grants Aug. 25. The grants were made possible by appropriations of the N.C. General Assembly. [Learn more.](#)

Furniture facility, jobs coming to High Point

A Canadian company expanding to High Point will provide an injection of furniture manufacturing and office jobs, the High Point Economic Development Corp. announced Aug. 26.

NLnovalink, based in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, bought a 5.6-acre site at the corner of Mendenhall Oaks Parkway and Heron Place with plans to build a 53,000-square-foot manufacturing, corporate and client service center facility, according to a release from the company. Its U.S. headquarters will be housed there.

About 30 people will be hired initially, but the company plans to grow its employment base in the city to 75.

including:

- Recruiting and retaining quality teachers and administrators
- A comprehensive turnaround plan for low performing schools
- 21st century technology for assessing students' needs

"North Carolina's children today are one step closer to being guaranteed the best public education possible – something every child deserves. This grant will give us the resources to more aggressively implement our plan to ensure that all of our children graduate ready for a career, college or technical training," said Gov. Perdue.

"It won't matter where they live; it won't matter what their school looks like; it won't matter what their parents do for a living. What will matter is that North Carolina leaders have joined together to support the best and most innovative approaches to public education this state has seen in a decade" said Perdue. [Learn more.](#)

WNC community colleges win grant for green workforce training

Gov. Bev Perdue, U.S. Rep Heath Shuler, and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Federal Co-Chair Earl F. Gohl recently announced a \$300,000 grant to the Southwestern N.C. Planning & Economic Development Commission to assist Haywood, Southwestern and Tri-County community colleges in developing a green workforce training program. It will be matched by another \$494,000 in local funding for a total of \$794,000 to develop the training program, which will include civil engineering, sustainable technology, green weatherization and retrofitting, biofuel production, sustainable horticulture and hybrid automotive technology. [Learn more.](#)

Nu Tech to hold AgBiotech round table

Nu Tech will hold an AgBiotech Industry Round Table Oct. 22 and the N.C. Biotechnology Center. Industry speakers from Sygenta Biotechnology, Inc., Monsanto and BASF are scheduled to speak.

Founded by Nagoya University in 2007, Nu Tech's mission is to promote and support the transfer of technology between Japan and the U.S., particularly North Carolina. [Learn more.](#)

[Furniture facility. jobs coming to High Point](#) (High Point Enterprise, Aug. 27)

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Dept. 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 - Aug. 30, 2010

New projects assigned:	288
Projects announced:	87
Jobs created:	11,450
Capital invested:	\$2.27B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	915
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	15,796

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Emerging green business conference planned in Wrightsville Beach](#) (The Star-News - Wilmington, Aug. 30)
- [Software-maker raises \\$40M](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Aug. 30)
- [State nets \\$2 million extra for weatherization](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Aug. 30)
- [DuPont snips ribbon for Fayetteville plant expansion](#) (The Fayetteville Observer, Aug. 26)

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