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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Governor Bev Perdue and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco at Rockingham Speedway

NASCAR returns to 'The Rock'

Governor Bev Perdue and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco went to Richmond County on Sept. 7 to help announce that Rockingham Speedway will once again run a NASCAR-sanctioned event — the Camping World Truck Series.

The race, set for April 15, 2012, is expected to generate an economic impact of \$10.5 million and create more than 230 jobs. Rockingham Speedway opened in 1965 and played host to NASCAR events for more than 40 years.

"When NASCAR disappeared from 'The Rock' it was a big hit to the region," Perdue said. "Come April 15, 2012, that will all change.

"The stands will be filled, the trucks will be lined up, and the flags will wave at the NASCAR-sanctioned Camping World Truck Series right here at Rockingham Speedway, North Carolina."

A Camping World Truck Series event typically draws 30,000 fans, the equivalent to the population of a small city. Perdue pledged to be in that number when NASCAR returns next year.



Governor Bev Perdue takes part in a grand opening ceremony at Capgemini in Charlotte.

Perdue, Crisco celebrate economic development achievements

On Sept. 7, Governor Bev Perdue and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco celebrated economic development achievements in Charlotte.

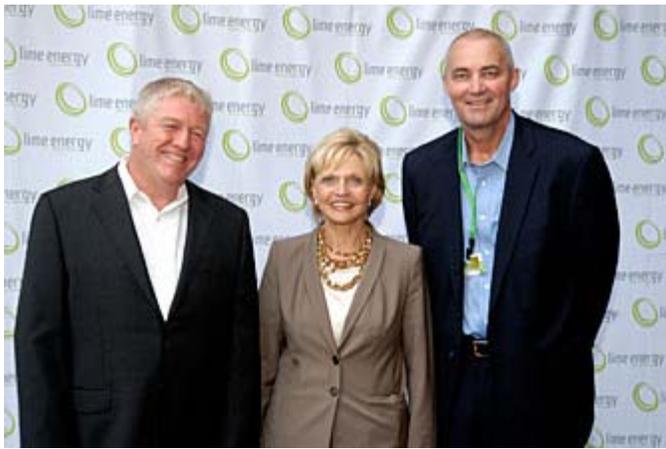
Both took part in the grand opening and ribbon cutting at Capgemini in Charlotte. In January, Perdue announced that Capgemini, a consulting and information technology company headquartered in Paris, planned to create 550 jobs over the next three years and make capital investments of \$4.2 million. [See video from the grand opening.](#)

Thermo Fisher Scientific adding 110 jobs in Asheville

Thermo Fisher Scientific will add 110 workers to its manufacturing plant over the next seven months to help build a new line of temperature controls for scientific equipment.

The jobs will pay an average of \$40,800 and will help lower the county's unemployment rate, which stood last month at 8 percent, said K. Ray Bailey, a Buncombe County commissioner and chairman of the Economic Development Coalition for Asheville-Buncombe County.

[Thermo Fisher Scientific adding 110 jobs in Asheville](#) (The Asheville Citizen-Times, Sept.



(Left-right) Lime Energy President and CEO John O'Rourke, Governor Bev Perdue, Lime Energy Executive Chairman of the Board David Asplund

Corporate expansions create hundreds of jobs across N.C.

From Rockingham to Andrews, hundreds of new jobs were announced in North Carolina over the past week. Industries announcing job expansions included financial, energy, aviation, automotive, manufacturing and retail.

Among the new announcements were expansions in the energy and aviation sectors. Governor Bev Perdue made remarks at the "Splash of Lime" party hosted by Lime Energy on Sept. 7. The company recently announced it is consolidating its technology, accounting and engineering functions through its corporate headquarters move to Huntersville. The restructuring means the creation of 75 jobs over the next two years for the Charlotte area. Lime Energy helps industrial building owners and other customers reduce their energy consumption.

Also expanding its U.S. headquarters is Andritz Hydro Corporation, a leading provider of turbines, pumps, rehabilitation services and turnkey construction for the hydroelectric power industry.

In the aviation sector, TIMCO Aviation will add 50 jobs in its newly opened Wallburg manufacturing site as well as 50 jobs to its Piedmont Triad International Airport location before the end of 2011, with more job expansion expected over the next five years. Also, U.S. Airways announced on September 8 that it will be expanding its reservation center in Winston-Salem. The expansion could mean as many as 200 new jobs. [Read more](#) about new jobs announced across the state.

Lowe's store damaged by tornado reopens

It was an image that gained national attention, and became the face of the April 16 tornado in Sanford — Lowe's Home Improvement, once a large, sturdy facility, collapsed into a twisted heap of metal and debris. Now, less than five months later, a new building stands firm at the same Horner Boulevard site where the original building was destroyed.

Lowe's hosted its grand reopening celebration Sept. 8. Hundreds of people filled the parking lot in anticipation of the doors opening again. At about 10:35 a.m., eager shoppers swarmed the store following remarks from state and local

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Industrial Opportunities Inc. adds 25 jobs

Industrial Opportunities Inc. in Andrews will be adding 25 full-time employees to its payroll. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Cindy Messer was the developer on this project.

The plant was awarded a two-year contract to manufacture A-22 cargo bags for the U.S. military.

The cargo bags will be used to airdrop supplies and equipment to ground troops in Afghanistan. There also is the possibility of the contract being extended for a third year.

[IOI adds 25 jobs](#) (The Andrews Journal, Sept. 12)



Brantley to head Orange EDC

N.C. Department of Commerce Economic Developer Steve Brantley has accepted a position with the [Orange County EDC](#) as the organization's new director. Brantley has been with Commerce for more than 20 years. He has developed a strong reputation as an expert on Asia, and has recently been increasingly involved in green energy.

[Orange County names new eco devo director](#) (Triangle Business Journal, Sept. 8)

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

officials, including Mayor Cornelia Olive, Representative Mike Stone, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and members of the Sanford City Council and Lee County Board of Commissioners.

[Lowe's reopens](#) (*The Sanford Herald*, Sept. 12)

Low-interest disaster loans available through SBA

Low-interest disaster loans for uncompensated losses caused by physical damage to business are available from the U.S. Small Business Administration to all eligible applicants in counties included for Individual Assistance in the federal disaster declaration. For information on loans for businesses, go to [Business Physical Disaster Loans](#) and [Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#).

The designated counties are: Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, Vance, Warren, Washington and Wilson.

Business owners may also receive support from SBA customer service representatives at any [Disaster Recovery Center](#) in North Carolina. For more information, applicants may contact the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955, by emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or visiting the SBA [website](#). Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

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 - Sept. 13, 2011

| | |
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| New projects assigned: | 273 |
| Projects announced: | 114 |
| Jobs announced: | 10,434 |
| Capital investment announced: | \$1.969B |
| Industry visits by existing industry staff: | 1,112 |
| Calls to Business Link N.C.: | 12,852 |

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [President Obama to speak at N.C. State and in Apex](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, Sept. 12)
- [OPEN/net fights to stay on TV](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, Sept. 12)
- [Asheville area a hotbed for green jobs](#) (*The Asheville Citizen-Times*, Sept. 9)

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