

# CAREERS

## Briefs

### Mellow Mushroom opens in Greensboro

Pizza and sub restaurant, Mellow Mushroom, opened last week in the historic South Elm District of Downtown Greensboro at 609 S. Elm St.

The expansive and inviting open space that once occupied the TwoArtChicks studio has a dining capacity of 185 and features concrete flooring, four-seater table tops, bar seating with a view to the kitchen and ornate chandeliers hang above from the warehouse-high ceilings.

The new Downtown Greensboro location is a second venture for owners, Jim and Cindy Waters who also own the Mellow Mushroom located in Downtown Winston-Salem.

### Salem professor to present paper in Ireland

Daniel Prosterman, assistant professor of history at Salem, has had a paper accepted for presentation at the "War and American Identity" conference sponsored by the Clinton Institute for American Studies.

The conference will be held during March 2009 at the University College Dublin, Ireland. Following that appearance, Dr. Prosterman will make a presentation at the Electoral Reform Society in London,



Prosterman

made possible by a grant from the Society's McDougall Trust.

Prosterman's paper, entitled "Join the Sentinels of Liberty!": Popular Culture and Youth Mobilization in World War II," was developed during his teaching of a course on United States diplomatic history at Salem College, where he has been on the faculty since summer 2008. Hailing from Chattanooga, Tenn., Prosterman

holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern University and a master's and a Ph.D. in history from New York University. He comes to Salem from Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y., where he served as faculty fellow in the humanities from 2006-2008. Before Syracuse, he taught a variety of U.S., world and East Asian history courses at New York University, Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women, Pace University and St. Francis College.

### GMAC receives bailout funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury Department said Monday that it will provide \$5 billion to GMAC Financial Services LLC, the ailing financing arm of General Motors Corp., from the \$700 billion bank rescue program.

The government will receive preferred shares that pay an 8 percent dividend and warrants to purchase additional shares in return for the money, the department said.

Treasury also said it will lend up to \$1 billion to General Motors so that the company can purchase additional equity that GMAC is planning to offer as part of its effort to raise more capital.

The assistance is part of a larger government effort to aid the auto industry and is on top of the \$17.4 billion in loans the Bush administration agreed to provide to the industry Dec. 19, a Treasury Department official said.

Analysts had speculated that if GMAC didn't obtain financial help it would have to file for bankruptcy protection or shut down, which would be a serious blow to GM's own chances for survival.

Last week, the Federal Reserve approved GMAC's application to become a bank holding company, which made it eligible to receive money from the financial rescue fund. The Fed's approval was contingent on GMAC raising additional capital.

Separately, GMAC said late Monday that it has accepted all the bonds tendered in a debt-for-equity swap that was also part of its capital-raising efforts.

### Baity named director of Northwest Forsyth Center

Forsyth Technical Community College has chosen Kristie Baity as director of its recently opened Northwest Forsyth Center in King. Baity, who has worked for Forsyth Tech for nine years, had been chair of the Public Safety Technology department.

"The courses here are a good mix of curriculum and non-credit courses," she said. "Our hope is that students who come here for non-credit courses will get a taste of the college experience, and go on to enroll in degree and diploma programs."

In addition to housing Forsyth Tech's public safety training programs, the Northwest Center offers Certified Nursing Assistant training; plumbing, HVAC and other technical skills; and GED courses.

Baity's responsibilities include promoting Forsyth Tech to residents in Stokes County and the northwestern part of Forsyth County, and letting them know that more easily accessible college courses are now available to them. The Northwest Forsyth Center officially opened on July 18.

Kristie Baity earned her B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Eastern Carolina University and her M.A. degree in Social Science from Appalachian State University. She is pursuing a doctorate in business online from Northcentral University.



Baity

## Library is offering resumé help

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

These are tough times for job-seekers.

The week of Christmas, the claims for unemployment rose across the nation to 586,000, the highest level in more than a quarter century. Many of those depending on unemployment benefits are North Carolinians. The state's unemployment rate was 7.9 percent at the end of November (the last numbers available as of press time). That rate is higher than the national average, and the highest level that the state has seen since 1983.

The Forsyth County Public Library is stepping up to do its part to help those who are seeking a new start in this turbulent job market.

This month, the Central Library Branch, which is on Fifth Street downtown, is dedicating time two days a week to providing resumé help. The library's computer lab will be



available from 9 - 11 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday to anyone who needs to create or update a resumé for a job search.

Library staff will also be on-hand to provide any assis-

tance necessary. All levels of computer users are welcome. The staff will also provide tips on how job-seekers can take advantage of the library's many free resources that can not only help residents

research jobs but also show them the keys to constructing effective resumes and cover letters.

For more information, call 336-703-2908.

## Piedmont Natural Gas rates are going down

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Piedmont Natural Gas customers could see their bills decrease beginning this month.

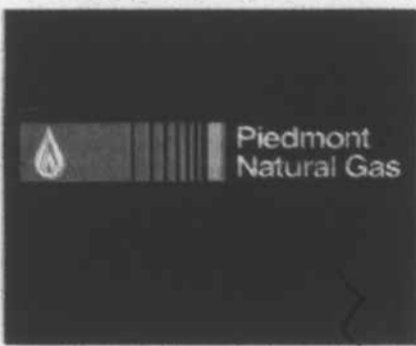
As a result of the plunging price of oil and whole sale natural gas, the Charlotte-based company has filed paperwork with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) and South Carolina's Public Service Commission (PSC) that seeks to lower the customer billing rates. Both the NCUC and PSC must approve any changes in rates. The proposed reductions would each go into effect this month.

Piedmont Natural Gas also provides service to customers in Tennessee. The company filed a request with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority to reduce customer billing rates in early December.

Any reduction would be made in the wholesale gas rate, which fluctuates and is indicated on each customer's bill. The wholesale cost of gas represents the single largest portion of a residential or commercial customer's monthly natural gas bill, typically making up between 65 percent and 70 percent of the total bill.

The company says that as a regulated natural gas distribution company, Piedmont Natural Gas is required to "true-up" or pass through the wholesale cost of gas to its customers on a dollar-for-dollar basis, without adding on any additional profit margin.

Piedmont's proposed reductions would have the effect of reducing residential billing rates by approximately 7 percent in North Carolina, between 7 and 8 percent in South Carolina, and by 15 percent in Tennessee.



## Travel agent looks to grant wishes

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A Charlotte travel agent is on a mission to make dreams come true for chronically and terminally ill children.

Alishah Kier is working to book passengers on a Memorial Day cruise that she hopes will raise \$25,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Kier, owner of Honor and Glory Executive Travel Services, is teaming with Royal Caribbean International for the first-ever Memorial Day Fundraiser Cruise.

Passengers will travel aboard the Royal Caribbean Adventure of the Seas from May 24 - 31. The itinerary for the cruise, which will start in San Juan, Puerto Rico; includes the islands of Antigua, Barbados, Barbuda, St. Croix, St. Lucia and St. Maarten.

"Often, parents give gifts that lose their excitement the very next day. This fundraiser cruise opportunity is an excellent way to give our children the lasting gift of compassion by providing them the chance to take a vacation and help other children with needs," said Kier, who has had tremendous success planning other fundraiser cruises for other agencies and causes.

Two hundred and fifty cabins will have to be booked in order to raise \$25,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions that enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

Royal Caribbean International has also been involved in efforts to raise money and awareness for worthwhile causes. In fact, Kier first became acquainted with Royal Caribbean International's dedication to the Make-A-Wish Foundation during a benefit auction that took place on a Royal Caribbean ship. That auction has inspired her to become involved with Make a Wish.

"We are thrilled to be working with Alishah Kier who is a professional travel expert and always well represents our brand," said Vicki Freed, Royal Caribbean's senior VP of sales, trade and support services.

For more information about the cruise, call 1-800-393-1581 or go to [www.honorandglorycruises.com](http://www.honorandglorycruises.com).



Kier

## BB&T honors former CEO's wife with gift to Scouts

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

COLFAX — The Girl Scouts, Tarheel Triad Council Inc. has received an unrestricted gift of \$250,000 from Winston-Salem-based BB&T Corp., one of the largest financial holding companies in the United States.

The gift was presented in honor of Betty M. Allison, a long-time Girl Scout adviser, supporter and leader at a ceremony at Magnolia Manor, the Tarheel Triad Council's Colfax headquarters. Allison is the wife of BB&T Chairman and Chief Executive Officer John A. Allison, who recently retired as CEO. John Allison is still a member of the BB&T board of directors. He will serve as chairman in 2009. The gift was also made on behalf of John Allison.

The Tarheel Triad Council will use the funds to develop an information-technology network that will greatly enhance communications among Girl Scout councils in the western half of North Carolina and York County, S.C. The gift is the largest donation that the Tarheel Triad Council has received outside of capital



BB&T's Steve Wiggs and Betty Allison are surrounded by Girl Scouts Troops 561, 655 and 1242.

campaign contributions. "We truly appreciate BB&T's investment in our Girl Scouts' futures," Betty Allison said. "This extraordinary gift will build a network that will

allow Girl Scouts, their leaders and councils to have better access to Girl Scout events, programs and ideas. It will ensure that the next generation of Girl Scouts in the western

Carolinians will have the tools that they need to become leaders of tomorrow."

The money will allow the Tarheel Triad Council to move