

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Healthbeat

Radiothon for Brenner

Radio station 99.5 WMAG-FM will broadcast a two-day radiothon to benefit Brenner Children's Hospital at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center on Thursday, Dec. 5 and Friday, Dec. 6.

On-air personalities Lora Songster and Chris Fox will lead the event, which will be broadcast from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. The funds raised will be used to advance patient care at Brenner.

This year's radiothon also will receive support from the following:

- Triad-area Burger King locations, which will provide coupon books at its restaurants in exchange for a \$1 donation
- Triad-area Great Clips locations, which will donate a percentage of haircut sales from the month of November and sell pin-up signs in its salons
- The Moscow Ballet, which will donate a portion of ticket sales from its performance of "The Great Russian Nutcracker," scheduled for 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 20, at the Greensboro Coliseum
- The musical group Trans-Siberian Orchestra, which will donate a portion of ticket sales from its shows scheduled for 3 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 24, at the Greensboro Coliseum
- PF Plumbing Contractors Inc. of Winston-Salem, which will challenge its clients and competitors to match or exceed a donation amount to be announced by the company.



Songster

Novant hires Brunstetter

Novant Health has hired Peter S. Brunstetter as the new executive vice president and chief legal counsel for the organization. Brunstetter has been an attorney for nearly 30 years and has served in the North Carolina State Senate since 2006. He announced last week that he is leaving the Senate Dec. 15. He replaces Larry McGee, who recently retired from Novant Health.



Brunstetter

"Pete comes to Novant Health at a time when the healthcare industry is facing unprecedented change and challenge," said Carl S. Armato, president and CEO of Novant Health. "His knowledge of our organization and the regulatory environment will be a great asset to Novant Health."

Previously, Brunstetter served as a member of the Novant Health Board of Trustees, including three years as chair. He was appointed as an initial board member with Novant Health when the organization formed in 1997 and continued to serve in a variety of capacities on the board for the next 10 years.

"Novant Health is committed to its communities and to its patients," said Brunstetter. "I'm excited to re-join the organization at a time when it is accelerating its focus and commitment to making healthcare remarkable. With an eye on the future, Novant Health is one of the most innovative and exciting healthcare companies in the country, ensuring at all times that the patient remains at the center of healthcare."

More help for vets

U.S. Senator Kay Hagan has announced that disabled veterans and surviving spouses and children of disabled veterans will receive a 1.5 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for compensation effective Dec. 1, with the increase reflected on checks beginning Jan. 1.

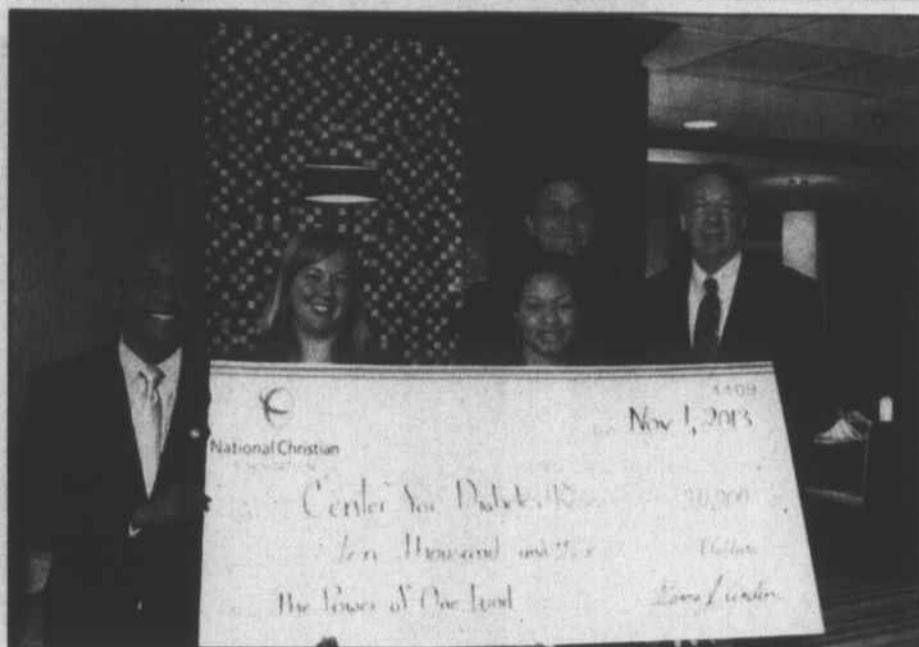
Hagan also announced that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is receiving an increase of \$294 million from last year's funding that will be used to help veterans transition to civilian life and clear the backlog of veterans' claims, including the backlog that has developed at the Winston-Salem Regional VA Office, which serves most of North Carolina's 740,000 veterans.

Funds were appropriated as part of the bipartisan legislation that was signed into law last month funding the government through early next year.

Hagan announced in September that the backlog of two-year-old claims at the Winston-Salem office had been completely eliminated, and that the VA had reduced by 48 percent the number of veterans waiting more than a year for a decision on their claim. On average, it takes the Veterans Benefits Administration's claims office in Winston-Salem approximately 193 days to process a claim, down from 329 days in September.



Hagan



(From left) Algenon Cash, Alanna Linden, Andrea Bryant-Jenkins, Dr. Ronny Bell and Dr. Donald Bowden take part in the check presentation.

Diabetes series brings firm, Medical Center together

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Wharton Gladden & Company, a Greensboro-based real estate investment banking firm, will partner with Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center to present an annual lecture series on diabetes research and prevention. The announcement came at the company's 10th anniversary party on Friday, Nov. 1 at the Piedmont Club in Winston-Salem.

The \$10,000 grant to fund the Irene Wharton Diabetes Lecture Series comes from the Power of One Fund, the charitable fund that Wharton Gladden established in 2009. The fund is administered by the National Christian Foundation in

Raleigh.

Wharton Gladden Managing Director Algenon Cash was joined by Alanna Linden, president of the National Christian Foundation's Raleigh branch, in presenting a check for \$10,000 to Dr. Ronny Bell, director of the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and Dr. Donald Bowden, director of the medical center's Center for Diabetes Research. Dr. Bowden will present the series' first talk in November as a seminar for the school's faculty. A public lecture by Dr. Bell is planned for next year.

See Diabetes on A7

Number of N.C. recycling jobs increasing

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Recycling jobs in North Carolina's private sector have increased by nearly 12 percent since 2010, as recycling businesses in the Tarheel State continue to grow and thrive, according to a study released by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"This study shows that North Carolina's recycling businesses are thriving, creating jobs and investing for the long-term," said John Skvarla, secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. "By participating in recycling at home, at work, and on-the-go, North Carolinians help us grow the economy while protecting the state's environment."



Skvarla

The research, conducted by DENR's Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service, is the latest in a series of studies spanning nearly two decades demonstrating the ongoing contribution of recycling to the state's economic growth. Results published in 1994, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2010 and this year show increases in recycling employment in North Carolina over time.

The study's major findings include the following:

- There are more than 17,000 direct private sector recycling-related jobs in North Carolina.
- Private sector recycling jobs have increased by 11.95 percent since 2010.
- The total estimated annual payroll for North Carolina recycling businesses is \$442 million.
- Forty-five percent of recycling businesses surveyed anticipate creating more jobs during the next two years.
- Eighty-one recycling businesses reported spending \$79.6 million in equipment, facilities and land investments from 2011-13.
- Fifty-one percent of recycling businesses surveyed plan on investing \$47.3 million in equipment, facilities or land in the next two years.
- Twenty-eight percent of businesses surveyed report manufacturing a product, using a combined 2,264,565 tons of recycled materials.
- Recycling businesses target a wide variety of recyclables for collection, processing or use in manufacturing. No single commodity dominates the state's recycling economy.

NCCU Tackles Nursing Shortage



NCCU Photo

North Carolina Central University Chancellor Dr. Debra Saunders-White and Dr. T. Eston Marchant, president of Sanford's Central Carolina Community College, sign an agreement to work together to train students through the new Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses program. Nursing students will be trained at both NCCU and Central Carolina.

Law enforcement to be watchful this holiday weekend

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Research indicates that during the Thanksgiving holiday period, the most heavily traveled times are 12 p.m. - 12 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27 and 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 1.

To ensure a safe and uneventful driving environment, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol will join forces with numerous highway patrol and state police agencies across the nation in an enforcement campaign concentrated solely on I-40.

During the two-day operation, North Carolina troopers, along with other states, will be patrolling along the I-40 corridor every 20 miles from coast to coast. The constant visibility from state to state will hopefully create a safe driving environ-

ment for all motorists but more importantly save lives and prevent injuries.

Last year, during the Thanksgiving holiday, the highway patrol investigated 11 fatal collisions, 432 injury collisions and 1,457 property damage collisions. Many of these collisions were attributed to excessive speed. Speed remains the leading cause of traffic collisions and fatalities in North Carolina as well as across the country. Last year, the Highway Patrol investigated 1,801 fatal collisions in North Carolina. Of those, 245 deaths were attributed to speed, compared to 244 deaths in 2011.

Motorists are being urged to contact the State Highway Patrol at *Hp or *47 on their cellular phones should they observe motorists who are driving in a careless and reckless manner.



Lawmakers applauded for push to stop drunk drivers

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has announced its 2013 Legislative Champions.

State Reps. Jonathan Jordan, Darren Jackson and John Faircloth and State Sens. Bill Rabon, Jim Davis and Tom Apodaca were honored for their efforts to push legislative efforts to stop drunk driving.

"MADD thanks these lawmakers for their dedication and commitment to advancing MADD's mission in North Carolina. MADD appreciates their tireless efforts to improving North Carolina's DWI law and to working to save lives," said MADD National President Jan Withers.

In 2013, Reps. Jordan, Jackson and Faircloth were primary sponsors of H 536 that required ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers. Sen. Rabon authored a similar measure - S 434.

"We can't prevent every road fatality, but every driving while impaired fatality is 100 percent preventable. Mandatory interlocks for all offenders is a policy worth continuing to fight for," said Jackson. "We can prevent people from becoming repeat offenders. We can prevent someone from being able to start their car if they have been drinking. We can make a difference."

As part of MADD's Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving that was launched in 2006, MADD advocates for laws requiring all convicted drunk drivers to use an ignition interlock for at least six months. Prior to the Campaign, only one state (New Mexico), required ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers. Today, 20 states require ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers. North Carolina requires these devices for all repeat, refusals and first-time offenders with a blood alcohol concentration of .15 or greater.

Also this year, Sens. Davis and Apodaca authored SB 3, which provides for all hospitals to test for blood alcohol concentration (BAC) and provides for 19 new toxicology positions. For years, the law enforcement community, hand-in-hand with MADD Western North Carolina, has campaigned for a full-service crime lab in the area. Up to 48 percent of DWI cases involving blood testing have been dismissed annually, due to the 2009 Melendez v Diaz ruling, along with inadequate resources at the state lab.

"It is both satisfying and an honor to have made a difference in drafting legislation to help," said Sen. Davis. "The real credit goes to those in the field who brought the issue to my attention and provided a practical remedy. I am proud to be associated with such remarkable public servants!"

