

BUSINESS FOCUS

Briefs

BB&T donates supplies

BB&T employees collected and donated two tons of school supplies, which included everything from pencils to book bags, to the Graduating Our Future initiative.

The United Way-funded, YMCA-led initiative will improve graduation rates at Parkland Magnet High School and academic success at its main feeder middle school, Philo Magnet Academy.

Donna Jarrell, the BB&T United Way fundraising co-chair, approached Vice President Melissa M. Parnitzke about assisting with the Graduating Our Future drive.

Volunteers gathered and packaged the supplies, shipping them to BB&T's Materials Management Service Center Heather Adams, Graduating Our Future Senior Project Director, accepted the school supplies and will distribute them to Parkland Magnet High School and Philo Magnet Academy.

"We appreciate BB&T's support for Graduating Our Future," said Adams. "The support of our community is key to this initiative's success."

The Graduating Our Future initiative started in January 2008 to improve graduation rates at Parkland High School since it has the lowest graduation rate in Forsyth County and falls below the state average. The YMCA of Northwest North Carolina leads the collaborative effort with assistance from Big Brothers Big Sisters, Family Services and Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools. Graduating Our Future is funded by the United Way of Forsyth County.

For more information on the Graduating Our Future initiative, contact Heather Adams at 336-777-6248 or h.adams@ymcanwnc.org.

Presentation will focus on Goler

The Piedmont Real Estate Council will offer a presentation on the \$100 million mixed-use Goler development at 12 noon on Friday, Oct. 10, at the Piedmont Club, 19th floor of the BB&T Financial Center at 200 W. Second St.

The speaker will be Evon Smith, executive director of Goler Community Development Corp. Networking begins at 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$14 at the door and includes lunch.

Parking is available under the building. The Council is open to the public and meets the second Friday of each month. For more information or to make reservations, call 336-724-7077.

Wendy's 'treats' to support adoption

Through Oct. 31, Wendy's restaurants, in coordination with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, will be selling Trick or Treat Gift Books for \$1 in support of adoption. The book contains 10 Junior Frosty Coupons (a total value of \$7.90).

Proceeds from this annual fundraising effort help support the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program, a signature program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

Children's Home Society receives several Wendy's Wonderful Kids grants, funding staff positions focused on finding permanent families for specific groups of children awaiting adoption in the Charlotte, Greensboro and Wake County area.

"Wendy's has long been a supporter of adoption and foster care and we're proud to support children and families in North Carolina," said Bambi McAlexander, local marketing director for Wendy's.

"We believe in the work of the Children's Home Society and the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program. Our Trick or Treat Gift Book promotion is a wonderful way for our customers to not only get an incredible value, but also to join forces and help provide families for children who desperately need them."

Campbell Soup expanding its Robeson County plant

Campbell Soup Company announced last week that its plans to expand its Maxton plant in Robeson County. It will mean the addition of 50 jobs over the next three years and an investment of \$16.3 million.

The expansion was made possible in part by a \$150,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund, which provides financial assistance through local governments to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state.

Salaries for the 50 new positions will vary by job type, but the average annual wage will be \$41,267, not including benefits. That is more than the Robeson County average annual wage of \$25,116.

"Our opportunities for life-long workforce training, dedicated workers and exceptional quality of life continue to attract companies that want to grow and expand," Gov. Mike Easley said.

Campbell, founded in 1869 and headquartered in New Jersey, is a global manufacturer and marketer of high-quality simple meals, baked snacks and healthy beverages. In addition to its signature soups, Campbell has a collection of leading brands, including Pepperidge Farm, V8, Swanson broth, Pace salsa and Prego pasta sauce.

Its products are distributed in more than 120 countries worldwide. The company, which employs approximately 800 people in Robeson County, will expand capacity at its Maxton facility to produce ready-to-serve soups and broths packaged in cartons.

Local men selected for N.C. leadership program

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Two local men with political ambitions are among the members of the 16th class of Leadership North Carolina, a program with a history of nurturing and cultivating some of the state's brightest and most ambitious people.

John Davenport Jr. is the president of Winston-Salem-based John Davenport Engineering Inc., which also has an office in the Cape Fear area. Davenport is a graduate of N.C. State University and N.C. A&T State University, where he earned a master's degree in engineering. In 2002, the Republican ran for the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. Before that, he ran for City Council. He came up short both times.

Bob Parker is the only other Winston-Salem resident in the current class. Parker is vice



John Davenport Jr.



Bob Parker

president of special operations and community health at North Carolina Baptist Hospital. Parker has twice run for the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners - once as a Democrat and then as a Republican. He too lost both races.

The current Leadership North Carolina class will meet six times over seven months in

cities around the state to explore critically important issues in five key areas - economic development, education, environment, government and politics, and health and human services. The program has more than 650 graduates throughout the state.

To find out more about Leadership North Carolina, visit: www.leadershipnc.org.

N.C. senators called business-friendly

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

U.S. Sens. Richard Burr and Elizabeth Dole have been named Guardians of Small Business for their outstanding voting records on behalf of America's small business owners in the 110th Congress.

They received the honors last week in Washington, D.C., from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) - the nation's leading association for small businesses.

Todd Stottlemeyer, the association's president and CEO, praised the North Carolina Republican senators for "standing for small business."

NFIB says that Dole and Burr have a 100 percent voting record when it comes to NFIB-

friendly issues.

"Small business owners pay close attention to how their lawmakers vote on the issues affecting their businesses and employees and stand by those who stand for them," Stottlemeyer said in presenting the group's coveted award.

In all, NFIB will present Guardian awards to 58 senators and 194 members of the House of Representatives. All the honorees have voted favorably on key small business issues at least 70 percent of the time during the 110th Congress.

NFIB bases the awards on how elected officials voted on 11 key pieces of business legislation that were presented in the last Congressional session.



Sen. Richard Burr



Dole



Smith

BEST IN VOICE



PRNewsFoto/Verizon Wireless

Members of the Southern Baptist Church Praise and Worship Center Choir of Washington, D.C. perform last week during the regional semi-final round of Verizon Wireless' How Sweet The Sound Tour. They were named the region's overall best church choir in a competition sponsored by the mobile phone company and will advance to perform in the grand finale on Nov. 8 in Atlanta, where choirs will compete for a cash prize of up to \$30,000 and the title of best church choir in America.

Small business group to hear about stadium

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

"Baseball Downtown," a presentation about the opportunities that will be available next spring when a new downtown baseball stadium opens, will take place Thursday, Oct. 16 at the Piedmont Club.

The Piedmont Small Business Roundtable will offer the presentation. Scheduled to speak are Kevin Terry, president of Baseball Downtown, which is bringing the new stadium to the heart of the city. Baseball Downtown VP C.J. Johnson will join Terry to offer a preview of next year's season.

The Piedmont Small Business Roundtable offers education and networking opportunities for small business owners and professionals who work with and advise small businesses. The Roundtable



File Photo

Locals look over renderings of the new stadium.

meets the third Thursday of each month at the Piedmont Club, which is on the 19th floor of the BB&T Financial Center at 200 W. Second St. The Roundtable wel-

comes guests. The presentation, which includes lunch, is \$14 at the door. For more information or to make reservations, call 336-724-7077.



Hill Harper

Tour will give students money advice

A&T, Bennett among slated stops

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Both N.C. A&T State University and Bennett College for Women are among the stops on a tour designed to inspire students at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) throughout the nation.

The "Empower Me Tour" is backed by UNCF - the United Negro College Fund - in partnership with The Wachovia Foundation and the Manifest Your Destiny Foundation. Its stated mission is "to motivate and inspire minority students to use education as a tool for achieving their goals and dreams."

Actor-turned-author Hill Harper will be the tour's featured speaker. He will offer students advice on how to save and invest money, volunteer their time, talents and resources, and play active roles in their communities.

"The best investment a young person can make is to pursue the highest level of formal education," said Harper, whose films include "Get on the Bus," "The Skulls" and "He Got Game." "My primary objective for this tour is for students to better understand how a quality education influences their future success, both personally and monetarily. Instilling optimism in today's youth and encouraging them to invest in their futures ultimately results in stronger communities."

The tour kicked off last week with stops at Hampton and Howard universities. It won't conclude until May 23, 2009 with stops at a trio of schools in South Carolina - Benedict College, Allen University and Voorhees College.

Harper, the author of "Letters to a Young Sister" and "Letters to a Young Brother," is scheduled to be at A&T and Bennett on Feb. 7, 2009. The only other North Carolina stop will be Feb. 21 at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte.

"As the nation's largest provider of college financial assistance to minority and low-income students, UNCF is committed to ensuring our students understand the importance of financial responsibility," said Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., UNCF president and CEO. "We are excited to partner with the Wachovia Foundation and the Manifest Your Destiny Foundation to promote and instill financial literacy among students so they can achieve not only their dreams of becoming future doctors, teachers, and entrepreneurs, but also prepare a foundation for a successful, secure financial future."

For more information on the tour and for registration, visit www.empowermetour.org.