



# The Scots' Piper

A publication of The Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce

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## March, 2011

### U.S. Chamber— National Business Forecast

#### A Plan for Economic Renewal

The U.S. Chamber federation was tested like never before in 2010—a faltering economy, huge policy battles, and an aggressive campaign to vilify the business community, divide it against itself, and silence our voice in the political process. I'm pleased to say that by standing together and speaking with a united voice on the big issues, we made a tremendous impact. But our work is far from over—in 2011, we must redouble our efforts to revitalize the economy and put Americans back to work.

We've already observed the big changes that can take place in a single year. In January 2010, we worried about the possibility of a double-dip recession. Today, the state of American business has improved. This is due to both the impressive resilience of our economy and the enactment of the tax relief package in late December. For these reasons, the Chamber projects that the economy will enjoy solid growth in 2011.

Although our economy is improving, the recovery is fragile and we still face many significant challenges. Foremost among these challenges is un-

employment, which has exceeded 9 percent for 20 consecutive months. That hasn't happened since the 1930s. Next, our nation must contend with unprecedented competitive challenges as other countries race to implement pro-growth reforms. Finally, America faces unsustainable long-term financial burdens—massive deficits, runaway entitlements, and unfunded public employee obligations at all levels of government.

Overcoming these challenges requires a multifaceted approach. Four areas will be among the business communities' priorities in 2011—reining in excessive regulations, expanding American trade, rebuilding our economic foundation and reducing deficits and debt.

First, we must restrain excessive regulation while reforming the regulatory process. At the federal level alone, regulations already fill 150,000 pages of fine-print text and cost Americans \$1.7 trillion a year. In recent years, we have seen an explosion of new regulatory activity that is simply unprecedented. This regulatory tsunami poses, in our view, the single biggest challenge to jobs, our global competitiveness and the future of American free enterprise.

Second, we will fight to advance a pro-America trade agenda with the goal of doubling exports in five years and creating millions of new jobs. Many Americans,

regrettably, think that trade agreements kill jobs—that foreign investment and immigration threaten our national sovereignty and U.S. jobs. To change these misperceptions, we'll soon launch a major initiative to educate citizens and policymakers on trade that will clearly link global engagement to American jobs.

Third, we must make it a priority to rebuild the country's economic foundation. Roads, bridges, rail and mass transit networks, airports and air transport systems must be modernized. Broadband capacity, power generation, and water supplies must be expanded. At the same time, we must recommit ourselves to developing our human capital by reforming education and training programs.

Last, businesses, like all Americans, must do its part to help address another defining challenge of our times—the expansion of government spending and entitlements, and with it, the explosion of government debt. Conventional wisdom says that no effort to address deficits will be considered until after the 2012 elections. We can't wait that long. At the very least, a serious down payment on bringing deficits and debt under control should be made this year. The Chamber will support congressional efforts to reduce spending, even if we don't like all the details.

These are challenging times and I can't thank you enough for your continued support of this organization. Our strength doesn't reside in a building made of marble and stone—it comes from our network of state and local chambers and the grassroots activism of their members. If, in the days ahead, the Chamber federation remains united, there is no limit to what we can achieve on behalf of our members.

The challenges facing us this year are big—but so are the opportunities. Throughout it all, the business community will lead the way.

**By Thomas J. Donohue  
President and CEO, U.S.  
Chamber of Commerce**

### **Editor's Note:**

*Please remember our membership investments with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, North Carolina Chamber of Commerce and Carolina Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in no part support any lobbying efforts.*

*- Theresa Lamson*

## Re-energize, Renew and Refine Your Mind, Skills and Talents

## Meet New Board Member - Maria Bingham

### 2011 Chick-Fil-A LeaderCast Announced!

We are once again offering the nation's premier conference designed to improve leadership skills and motivate us as professionals. The Chick-Fil-A LeaderCast gives attendees the opportunity to hear from a variety of national leaders in the business, sports and publishing worlds.

#### Speakers scheduled include:

**Dave Ramsey** - Best-selling author of *The Total Money Makeover* & radio personality

**Muhtar Kent** - President of The Coca-Cola Company

**Robin Roberts** - Anchor of ABC's *Good Morning America*

**Suzy Welch** - Best-selling author, television commentator and business journalist

The seminar is scheduled for Friday, May 6 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Cole Auditorium, Richmond Community College. Tickets are \$75 per person for Chamber members, \$100 for active military personnel and \$125 for non-chamber members.

### Entrepreneur Network Kick-off

The first regional networking event for entrepreneurs will be held on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at Hudson Brothers Deli, Rockingham beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The event will feature special guests, Jerome and Hettie Davis, owners and operators of S.L.I.P. Management, D.B.A. McDonald's. This event will be hosted by the Hoke, Moore, Richmond and Scotland County Chambers.

The Entrepreneur Network offers individuals interested in starting their own business and current entrepreneurs access to the regions resources, programs and service providers. Come see what all the buzz it about.

### E3 Initiative

E3 - Economy, Energy and Environment is a sustainable manufacturing program that focuses on the "triple bottom line" of financial profitability and growth; environmental integrity and commitment; and social equity and workforce development.

We'd like to invite you to a presentation to learn more about what E3 can do for you as a manufacturer.

Join us for a breakfast meeting March 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. in the William R. Dulin Center to hear from the Scotland County team what manufacturers have to gain from this program.



A Laurinburg native, Maria began her career in 1983 as a small business owner in Laurinburg, operating Laurinburg School of Dance Arts; and then teaching dance and theater in the Scotland County Schools.

After leaving the public schools in 1997, Maria began a marketing career, working for Scotland Health Care System. For 11 years Maria worked in the marketing department and as marketing director at Hospice of Scotland County.

Since 2008 she has been director of marketing at Scottish Food Systems, Inc. A local restaurant management company, Scottish Food Systems was started in 1964 by parent company ZV Pate, Inc., located in Laurel Hill.

After much growth in the 1970's and 80's, today Scottish Food Systems operates 26 Kentucky Fried Chicken and 6 Pizza Inn restaurants located in North and South Carolina.

Maria is married to Richard Bingham, a Senior Regional Account Executive with TransFirst. The couple live in Laurinburg and have two daughters. The family is active in their church, Saint Luke United Methodist and in the Scotland County Area Relay for Life. Maria enjoys being active in the Chamber, serving for many years on the membership and ShowBiz committees and most recently on the Oyster Roast committee. She is looking forward to serving on the board of directors as it will provide the opportunity to work with others for the chamber's mission and betterment of our community - exciting new possibilities.

#### ***Maria's Tip:***

"When marketing a business of any kind knowing the other business people in your community is a great asset. Networking puts you in touch with the people who need your product or service and have what you need."

LISTEN  
To Hometown Radio WLNC  
on  
AM 1300  
OR ON THE INTERNET  
at  
[www.wlncradio.com](http://www.wlncradio.com)

### Please note our Mail Change

As of June 1, 2011 the Chamber will no longer be using the P.O. Box address.

All payments and correspondence should be mailed to 606 S. Atkinson Street, Laurinburg, NC 28352.

## \$\$ Let's Talk About GREEN \$\$

*brought to you by the GREEN Committee*

The Green Committee is a group of committed community members who work to educate, promote and develop relationships and partnerships which enhance the health, well-being and sustainability of Scotland County.

Green initiatives strive to make a positive impact on the environment and community. Businesses and individuals who develop and practice strategies which go beyond regulations, and demonstrate commitment to a healthy and sustainable future are what "green" is all about.

One of our initiatives is to develop and promote the projects and programs already in place in our community. That's where we need your help! Does your church, civic group, social club, school or business have a project which promotes the "greening" of our county? Projects ranging from litter pick up to community gardens; clean water initiatives to alternative fuel sources. We want to hear your ideas – and share them with others. Green practices enhance public image, community relations and good will.

We all know that going green can save you money but it can also win you \$25,000! Members of the environmental community and Green Giant are recognizing individuals making a giant difference in communities across the country. The Green Awards is a way to get your green idea some recognition. Submit your green idea/project in one of four categories: Green Civic Leader; Green Entrepreneur; Green Local Organizer; Green Parent and you could win! You must hurry – entries are due by March 6<sup>th</sup>. Visit the website for all the details – [www.THEGreenAwards.com](http://www.THEGreenAwards.com).

Volunteers are needed for the Green Committee. Come join us on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon in the Chamber Board Room. Bring your ideas, energy and enthusiasm as we work to build a greener, healthier Scotland County.



Mark your  
calendars!  
April 16<sup>th</sup>

The Green Committee is happy to announce the date for the Spring Litter Sweep. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. There are lots of changes to the biannual event this year including prizes awarded for the most trash collected. Grab your friends, get outdoors, enjoy some exercise and the spring weather when we clean up Scotland County on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers needed for all five transfer stations in Scotland County from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Watch for more details.

## An Update from the BRAC Regional Task Force...

The BRAC Regional Task Force was formed to assist the counties surrounding Fort Bragg and Pope AFB accommodate and benefit from the growth due to the relocation of two major commands (US Army FORSCOM and US Army Reserve Command) from Fort McPherson, G.A. Projects encompass regional planning (including infrastructure, schools, and emergency preparedness), healthcare, workforce and education initiatives. For instance, our Regional Planning staff worked with Scotland County officials to form a Working Lands Protection Plan for the county. This plan, available [here](#), gives the county and entities within the county priority status when pursuing funding from the state trust funds such as the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund, N.C. Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, and the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund, for working land preservation projects. This priority status can result in reduced match requirements for some of these grants.

In addition, just this month, the BRAC-RTF received an additional \$800,000 ARRA grant from the NC Department of Commerce Division of Workforce Development to expand the Enhanced Technology Classrooms (ETCs) throughout the BRAC Regional Task Force's eleven counties. The ETCs allow for 3D graphics in science and technology related classes to be shown and manipulated by students and teachers. The classrooms are also equipped for videoconferencing, allowing guest instructors from around the nation (and globe!) to visit Scotland County.

These education initiatives are in line with the BRAC-RTF's workforce initiatives focused on ensuring our workforce is ready and able to pursue high-skill employment in our region. PipelineNC is another project, funded through a U.S. Department of Labor grant, to allow for career exploration, job matching, and talent acquisition. Students, job-seekers, and employers can connect at [PipelineNC.com](http://PipelineNC.com) via interactive profiles and job postings. Students and job seekers can view day-in-the-life videos for both companies and careers that they may be interested in pursuing. PipelineNC is connected with various social media platforms and hosts community pages for interaction amongst job seekers, and even employers. Job postings are always free, and until June 1st, advanced features - like automated postcards to potential candidates - will be free as well.

## Meet Your New Media & Communications Assistant



*Greetings!*

*My name is April Smith and it is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to you as the new media and communications assistant for YOUR Chamber of Commerce.*

*As a native of Laurinburg, N.C., I am excited to return to such an exciting and growing community. In May 2010, I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in communications and a concentration in public relations from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. During my tenure at UNC Charlotte, I had the opportunity to strengthen and further develop my leadership, writing, communications and interpersonal skills through various campus organizations and internships, and I look forward to sharing these skills and experiences with such a thriving organization.*

*While this will be a new experience for me, I am excited about this journey in starting a new and exciting career, and I thank you in advance for your guidance, patience and encouragement! I look forward to working each of you. Thank you again!*

Best,

April Smith



### Chamber Discoveries Discover & Explore **Imperial Splendors**

With the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce

Departing October 26, 2011

**Highlights:**

- Round trip scheduled airfare
- 2 nights Budapest • 2 nights Vienna
- 2 nights Prague • Breakfast Daily
- City tours of Vienna, Budapest, and Prague
- Prague's amazing old town • Charles Bridge
- Entrance fees per itinerary.

**Only \$2,299 per person!\***

For more information, please contact  
Theresa Lamson at (910) 276-7420

## Thank you for Renewing Your Investment!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| AllState Glass                          | Moser, Garner & Bruner                          |
| American Red Cross                      | Murphy Brown                                    |
| Averitt's Electric Motor Repair         | Nic's Pik Kwik                                  |
| Beasley Broadcast Group                 | One Hour Cleaners                               |
| Bella Aqua Spa                          | Piedmont Natural Gas                            |
| BlueScope Buildings Manufacturing       | Pilkington                                      |
| Bob's Jewel Shop, Inc.                  | Pizza Inn                                       |
| Captain D's                             | Plaza Terrace Apartments                        |
| Carolina Container                      | Precision Contractors, Inc.                     |
| Carolina Eye Assoc., P.A.               | Progress Energy Co.                             |
| Charles Craft, Inc.                     | The Purcell Clinic                              |
| Clark and Harris Construction           | Quality Oil                                     |
| Comfort Inn                             | R A Jeffreys                                    |
| CommunityOne                            | RBC   |
| Edward D. Jones & Co.                   | Richmond Community College                      |
| Electrical Equipment                    | Ken Ritch, CPA                                  |
| The Ficklin Company                     | Frank E. Roofe, III, OD, P.A.                   |
| First Bank                              | Scotch Meadows Country Club                     |
| First Capital Bank                      | Scotia Village                                  |
| G B Baines and Associates, P.A.         | Scotland Community Credit Union                 |
| General McArthur's Restaurant           | Scotland County ABC Board                       |
| Gibson Oil & Gas Company, Inc.          | Scotland County Farm Bureau                     |
| Gordon, Hicks and Floyd, P.A.           | Scotland Health Care System                     |
| Graham Grubbs & Associates Realty World | Scotland Manufacturing                          |
| Gustaf C. Lundin & Company, LLP         | Scotland Orthopedics, PA                        |
| Habitat for Humanity                    | Scottish Food Systems                           |
| Haney's Tire Company                    | Service Thread Manufacturing                    |
| Harley's Tuxedo and Gifts               | Southeast Farm Equipment                        |
| HealthKeeperz - Pembroke                | Sportrax  |
| Herald Office Supply of Cheraw          | State Employee's Credit Union                   |
| Highland Electric Company, Inc.         | Storytelling Arts Center of the Southeast, Inc. |
| Mohawk                                  | Taco Bell                                       |
| The Morgan Company                      | Umicore AutoCatalyst Recycling                  |
| Housing Authority of Laurinburg         | The UPS Store                                   |
| Jackie's Hallmark Shop                  | Village Cleaners                                |
| KFC                                     | Wachovia Bank                                   |
| Korsda, Inc.                            | Ward's Heating and Cooling                      |
| LDRC                                    | Williason, Dean, Williamson,                    |
| Laurinburg Machine Company, Inc.        | Sojka, LLC                                      |
| Laurinburg-Maxton Airport               | Z. V. Pate, Inc.                                |
| Lumbee River Electric Membership        |   |
| Mac McIntyre Insurance Agency, Inc.     |   |
| The Mason Company                       |   |
| McDonald's Restaurant                   |   |
| McKenzie Supply Company                 |   |
| McNair Town & Country                   |   |
| Medicine Shoppe                         |   |
| Mega Force                              |   |
| Miller Supply Company                   |   |

# In Other News...

## Scotland Cancer Treatment Center Earns Accreditation

The hard work and dedication of the Scotland Cancer Treatment Center staff were recently validated when the Center earned accreditation with commendation as a Community Comprehensive Cancer program by the American College of Surgeons (ACoS).

By undertaking this voluntary evaluation, Scotland Cancer Treatment Center has demonstrated its commitment to quality care, ongoing improvement, and public accountability.

Dr. Kelvin Raybon, medical oncologist, commented on the purpose of accreditation. "Accreditation as a Community Comprehensive Cancer Center is a major milestone for Scotland Cancer Treatment Center. This validates and recognizes that our facility delivers the most up-to-date, state-of-the-art cancer treatment available, and does so in a convenient, friendly community setting. All aspects of cancer diagnosis, care, and management are happening everyday here in Laurinburg by a staff of professionals who are exceptionally well trained and experienced."

## Progress Energy Announces...

It is my pleasure to announce that David McNeill has been named Progress Energy's new Community Relations Manager for the Sandhills region, effective February 28.

In his new role, David will be working with you on our shared goal of engaging and supporting our communities in the following counties: Anson, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland and Stanly.

David, who is originally from Aberdeen, N.C., has been with Progress Energy and CP&L since 1983, serving in a variety of positions within our Corporate Communications group. He brings excellent communications skills, strategic thinking and outstanding customer service to this position.

We are excited to welcome David to our Community Relations and Economic Development team and he looks forward to working with you and relocating to the area in the near future.

With kind regards,

*Katherine K. Thomas*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### **ALL-POINTS WASTE SERVICE**

Contact: Jimmy Thigpen  
21620 Andrew Jackson Hwy  
Maxton, NC 28364  
Phone: 910-276-2515  
Email: [Jimmy.Thigpen@allpointswasteservice.com](mailto:Jimmy.Thigpen@allpointswasteservice.com)

### **GOODY'S**

Contact: Julia Pietras  
1361 Scotland Crossing Drive  
Laurinburg, NC 28352  
Phone: 910-874-8588  
Email: [Juliacpietras@gmail.com](mailto:Juliacpietras@gmail.com)

### **SCOTLAND RIDING ACADEMY**

Contact: Cackie Stephenson  
21560 Marston Road  
Laurel Hill, NC 28351  
Phone: 910-462-3526  
Email: [Cackie@Scotlandsaddlebreds.com](mailto:Cackie@Scotlandsaddlebreds.com)

### **THE LAURINBURG INSTITUTE**

Contact: Bishop McDuffie  
125 McGirt Bridge Road  
Laurinburg, NC 28352  
Phone: 910-318-5323  
Email: [Tiger11nii@yahoo.com](mailto:Tiger11nii@yahoo.com)

## The Chamber Network of Success Continues to Build...



Legislative Reception



Junior Leadership



Career Day

Sycamore Lane



Recycling Seminar



State of the City/County



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Thrift Store



Small Business Day Event

## Dates to Remember

(Go to [www.laurinburgchamber.com](http://www.laurinburgchamber.com) to see an updated listing)

March 1	Tango Buenos Airies 8:00 p.m. Givens Performing Arts Center
March 8, 22, 29	Job Shadowing Carver Middle School - March 8th Spring Hill Middle School - March 22nd Sycamore Lane Middle School - March 29th
March 17, 18	Secrets of Great Customer Service Seminar 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. RCC Campus (Cole Auditorium)  &  The Wiz Production 6:00 p.m. (March 17th-18th) Scotland High School Auditorium
March 19	North Carolina Cooperative Extension Community Shred Day 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Scotland High School Parking Lot  &  Operation Medicine Drop Day (kick-off for National Poison Prevention Week) Scotland High School Parking Lot
March 29	E3 Manufacturers Breakfast 8:00 a.m. William R. Dulin Center

## The Scots' Piper March 2011

### 2011 Board of Directors

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City of Laurinburg

#### Chair-Elect

Becca Hughes  
State Farm Insurance

#### Immediate Past Chair

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Williamson, Dean, Williamson & Sojka

#### VP, Community Development

David McLamb  
Comfort Inn

#### VP, Merchants

Harley Norris  
Harley's Tuxedo and Gifts

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Maria Bingham  
Scottish Food Systems

Ed Burchins  
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Lee Howell  
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Aletha Poole  
Individual Member

Matt Pracht  
Scotland Healthcare

Larry Schulz  
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Nick Sojka  
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Rick Stout  
Scotland County Schools

Mike Vinson  
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