



## **Newsire for February 2006...**

Providing information on Vision Partner activities, needs, and successes

**Realize Rutherford** is promoting a basketball contest to provide high school students an incentive to stay in school and make good grades. This contest is sponsored by McCurry Deck. Two seniors from the local high schools will have a chance to win a 2005 Pontiac G6. This event will take place February 7, 2006 at R/S High School during half-time of the boy's varsity basketball game. Specific rules may apply.

### **Hospice of Rutherford County February events:**

- Hope Support Group: Begins February 7 for six weeks at 10 am or 6 pm for any adult in Rutherford County who has lost a loved one.
- GRACE Support Group: For anyone caring for a loved one in Rutherford County featuring Hands of Caregiving by nurse Susan Harris. 6 pm at the Hospice House.
- On My Own Series: Scrapbooking memories Thursday, February 9 from 9 am until 12 pm at Hospice.
- Widow/Widowers Lunch Bunch: For anyone who has lost a spouse. Dutch treat lunch at Spindale Restaurant February 17 from 11:30 am until 1 pm. Call 245-0095 to register.

**Trinity School** has met 95% of its goal in cash and pledges for a new multipurpose building. We are hoping to begin construction by late Spring or early summer. Plans are also underway to start a summer mini camp program this summer. This will be open to students all over the county. We are currently looking at offering half day, week long programs in photography, art, science, and sports.

**Rutherford County Department of Social Services** is very pleased to announce joining the other counties in the State in implementing Multiple Response System (MRS) as a part of the child welfare reform. MRS is based on the principles of partnership in Family Centered Practice. This new approach to Child Protective Services (CPS) was implemented in 2004 in 10 pilot counties, increased to 52 in 2005 and has now been expanded to the remaining 48 counties which includes Rutherford in January 2006. This new reform will bring together DSS employees and other child-and family-serving professionals in our community to help improve family support and child welfare.

**Isothermal Community College** is excited about offering a new Customer Service Class, it will be offered on Thursday, February 2, 2006 at ICC. In the Radio Station Building in Room 108. The cost is \$50 and reservations should be made by contacting Dee Spurlin at 286-3636 ext 399. This series of nine classes is being rollout as result of a meeting with 24 leaders in October. They indicated a need for customer service development for their employees. We encourage you to send some one to sample this material and see if it is right for your organization.

**Rutherford County Transit** has employment transportation funding available. We are planning to provide transportation to businesses in Chimney Rock/Lake Lure or other locations. Gene Adair, 287-6153.

## **Economic Development Commission:**

We are very excited about the overwhelming interest in the announcement concerning our newest employer, ECORESIN, in Rutherford County. There has been a great deal of questions concerning the 57 Jobs that were announced on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> for ECORESIN. Below are some questions and answers for your benefit.

1. When will ECORESIN begin hiring: Sometime around March 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Why aren't they hiring immediately? They are performing major building renovations prior to any hiring.
3. Who do I send my resume or application to? All jobs will be posted and hired through the Employment Security Commission. You may contact them at: 139 E. Trade Street, Forest City, NC - (828) 245-9841 or [www.ncesc.com](http://www.ncesc.com).
4. When will I know that the jobs have been posted? All job postings will be located on the Employment Security Commission website at [www.ncesc.com](http://www.ncesc.com) under "Plastics".
5. Should I go to the Employment Security Commission office now or once the jobs have been posted? This is up to each individual. However, no applications will be processed until the jobs are posted around March 1<sup>st</sup>.
6. Do I need to go to the Employment Security Commission office in Forest City? No. You can go to any office in the state of North Carolina.
7. What are the office hours at the Forest City Employment Security Commission office? They are open Monday-Friday from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
8. Are they really paying \$20.89/hour? This wage amount is an average of all 57 jobs. This reflects both hourly and salaried positions. They are moving their corporate headquarters which will result in a higher number of salaried positions.
9. Can I submit my resume to the Economic Development Commission? No. The EDC does not take any resumes. All resumes and applications will be processed through the Employment Security Commission.
10. My company has a service to offer to ECORESIN. How can I give them information about my company? Please go to [www.rutherfordinfo.com](http://www.rutherfordinfo.com) and list your company information for free. The Economic Development Commission directs all clients to this website to find local vendors and services.

**Rutherford Town Revitalization's** board of directors and volunteers are underway with our plans for the 15th annual Mardi Gras Silent Auction to be held on Saturday, March 4, 2006 at the historic Firehouse Inn in Rutherfordton. This festive fundraiser offers great auction items and fun ambiance that includes live music. Reserve your tickets today by call RTR at 828/287-2071. The mayor, town manager and heads of various departments and committee attended a "Rutherfordton Future Visioning" workshop directed by the new Executive Director of Rutherford Town revitalization, John McWhorter. They spent this past Saturday evaluating the changes Rutherfordton is facing and determining a pro-active role to "manage the changes" with a Bob the Builder "Yes, we can!" attitude.

**Rutherford County's Amazin' Shopper** is now- Rutherford Weekly.  
Meet Our New Name- To Better Reflect Our Commitment To The Community.

**Rutherford County Sheriff's Office:** We are happy to report that we continue to work with the county middle schools for career day and job shadowing opportunities. I was also honored to mentor two ERHS SENIORS with their senior projects and Sergeant Bruce Greene also mentored two seniors from ERHS. The presentations were tremendous and we look forward to continued work with our schools.

**Rutherford County Housing Initiative and FDIC** sponsored a "Money Smart" Train-the-Trainer seminar on January 25. Twenty-one persons, many representing local churches, spent the day learning to teach the "Money Smart" curriculum. John Meeks, Community Affairs Specialist for FDIC, led those attending through the ten modules covering topics such as balancing a check book, reading a credit report and preparing for home ownership. This is the second "Money Smart" seminar held in our community in the past five months.

**Rutherford Hospital:** Western North Carolina Health Network today launched a solution that will link 15 area hospitals with Rutherford Hospital, Inc. to electronically share critical patient information.

The innovative solution, which was implemented by IBM and AccessPt., is the first regional health information organization in North Carolina and one of the largest in North America. Four WNCHN hospitals, Angel Medical Center, Haywood Regional Medical Center, Rutherford Hospital and Transylvania Community Hospital, are currently connected, with a total of 16 hospitals scheduled to be linked to system in the coming months.

This solution allows participating doctors and other authorized hospital clinicians to quickly, easily and securely access patient information over the Internet in a matter of seconds. Access to this information will allow participating hospitals to view patient records so they can more accurately and efficiently provide treatment and avoid duplication of costly tests.

“Western North Carolina is at the forefront of creating an integrated approach to healthcare,” said Congressman Charles Taylor, who secured \$2.5 million in federal grants to implement the project. “With 75,000 hospital visits in this region last year, this approach will result in reduced wait times, improve the accuracy and effectiveness of treatment, and help make patient care more affordable. Over time, I hope to see additional hospitals, physicians’ offices and clinics integrated into the system so more and more of our residents can reap the benefits of this innovative solution.”

### **Kidsenses January Activities:**

- Winter Olympics – All month – Join us as we track the Olympic Games from Turin. We’ll be doing medal counts with graphing and tracking the countries where the winners live.
- Presidential Gallery – 1<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>: Find out interesting facts about the Presidents of the United States as we celebrate them throughout the month.
- Be My Valentine - 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>: Get ready for that special day and make a card for someone (or something) that you love.
- Parent’s Night Out: Date Night –10<sup>th</sup>: Hey parents, don’t you wish you could have an evening to yourselves? Have fun while your kids play in a safe and exciting environment. We’ll have special crafts, games, and we’ll even have a special Valentine’s snack. 6pm – 9pm. Pre-registration only.
- Math Olympics: Super Science Saturday – 11<sup>th</sup>: Join us for our Winter Olympics as we make up our events. Our events will test both your body and your mind.
- Dental Health Day: Super Science Saturday – 18<sup>th</sup>: We’re hosting the “Tooth Bus” and will have STIFFEE and Mr. Molar back for fun. We’ll do dance time and give out free dental treats to visitors (while the supplies last). 11am – 2pm
- Presidential Debate: Parents vs. Children – 21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>: Who should lead our country? Voice your opinion and take a stand. It’s presidential week at Kidsenses and we’re tackling the big issues like Crust No Crust, XBOX, Play station, or Nintendo. It all comes in a database on Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm.

**Rutherford County TDA** is in the process of hiring a Marketing Consultant who will among other tasks, identify who is our visitor. More specifically, the visitors who stop by the Hickory Nut Gorge Visitor Center. A second hire will be a Public Relations Consultant to begin a media relationship with national and state newspapers, magazines and local constituents. There are times when advertising and website publicity are not the most effective means to get the story told. With this person on board, any event, activity, project that is news will be broadcast to a much wider audience.

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