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VCCS Chancellor Stops in Area

Glenn DuBois – Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System makes a stop at the Crossroads Institute as part of his bicycle tour to various community colleges across the state in promoting his educational aid program for foster children.

While he's riding his bicycle all across the Commonwealth, Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System Glenn DuBois decided to schedule a stop during his tour in promoting an educational program for foster children at the Crossroads Institute on June 30.

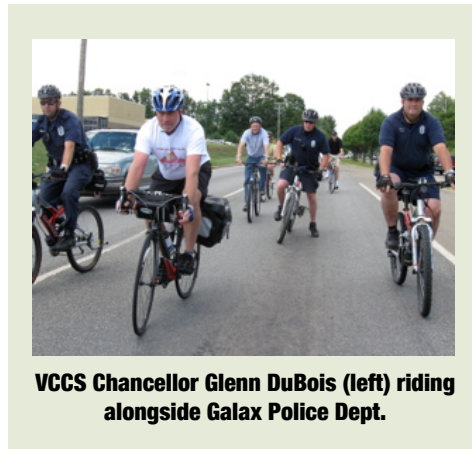
"I'm thrilled to be here," said DuBois while commenting on the warm welcome he received from representatives from Wytheville Community College, workers from the area's social services, Galax Mayor C.M. Mitchell and a bike escort from the Galax Police Department. Mava Vass – Carroll representative on WCC's College Board and on WCC's Educational Foundation Board was also in attendance.

Dr. Charlie White – President of Wytheville Community College rode on his bike alongside with DuBois.

DuBois is currently taking his personal vacation time, Jun. 27 – July 11 for a bicycle tour to Virginia's community colleges in promoting Great Expectations, a program implemented by the

Virginia Foundation for Community College Education. The program is designed to enable foster youth to successfully pursue a postsecondary education through the community college system.

According to the Foundation, there are currently 8,085 children in Virginia's foster care



VCCS Chancellor Glenn DuBois (left) riding alongside Galax Police Dept.

system and more than 50% of them are teenagers. Only 20% 19 or older will take advantage of the educational programs available while only less than 3% will earn a college degree.

Great Expectations will help at-risk foster care youth gain access to a community college education and also pilots after school programs at five community colleges for younger foster care youth. Tuition grants are currently available in Virginia for students who were in foster care or in custody of social services at the time of graduating high school or receiving a GED.

Currently, the nearest community college to Carroll offering the after school program is New River Community College in Dublin. DuBois said that as the program is expanding to other community colleges in Virginia, he hopes to have one started at Wytheville Community College within the next year.

"We're really going to get our act together and help these people in getting them closer to receiving their [college] education," said DuBois.

When completing his tour, DuBois will have had 8 stops with traveling over 300 miles on bike. The tour started on June 27 at the Luray campus of Lord Fairfax Community College and will end at Tidewater Community College in Eastern Virginia.

For more information on the Great Expectations program, log onto www.greatexpectations.vccs.edu.

Simple Tech LLC Looks To Bring Technological Advances To Area

As a small business striving to become successful in the business incubator program, Simple Tech LLC is looking to bring many technological advances to the Twin County area.
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(from page 1) After visiting relatives in the area in 2006, Ruth Bennett and her husband Jerrold fell in love with the Twin County area and with that, decided to move to Carroll County and open up their own business – Simple Tech LLC.



“We’re here to help businesses that are already in place as well as new businesses reach their technological goals,” said Jerrold Bennett – Manager of Simple Tech LLC.

Simple Tech LLC is a new small business that is currently in its incubator stages at the Southwest Regional Enterprise Center at the Crossroads Institute in Galax. The business specializes in five specific areas:

- Offering business information technology assessment and solutions for local businesses
- Providing services for the recovery of data after a disaster
- Networking computers and other equipment to the Internet and World Wide Web
- Installing and instructing how to successfully use major software programs and informing about the laws attached to them
- Building and upgrading computer hardware

“There are so many computers in today’s world that have multiple capabilities that are running inefficiently. There are ways in which a business owner can save and in turn, make their business highly profitable. We want people to realize the technological goals out there in which they can choose from,” Bennett said.

Bennett received his B.S. of Information Technologies from the University of Phoenix and gives a lot of credit to his technological skills by working for his father-in-law for 12 years. “When you have an IT degree, you seem to get a lot of phone calls from people wanting you to come fix equipment and whatnot,” Bennett said.

Also, Bennett stated that as he and his wife continue to reside in the county area, they both see a lot of opportunities for advancement in technology for the Twin County area thanks to projects like the Wired Road and others.

By forming their business, Bennett hopes that Simple Tech LLC can offer the latest technology services and inform as many as possible about the latest technological advances and critical laws out there pertaining to networking, software and other aspects.

The Bennetts’ give thanks to the

Southwest Regional Enterprise Center for their assistance in getting their business started and for their continuing support through the business incubator program. “They are willing to work with you even when things get tight,” Bennett said.

For more information on Simple Tech LLC, please call Jerrold Bennett at (276) 733-0555 or log on to <http://www.simpletllc.com>.

GOVERNOR KAINE ANNOUNCES TOP NATIONAL RANKING FOR MOVING VIRGINIANS FROM PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO WORK

(from the Office of the Governor)

Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced that Virginia has been ranked **highest in the nation** for job entry rates for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients for federal fiscal years 2005 and 2006, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Additionally, Virginia had the second highest job retention rate for each of those years. This marks the third year in a row that Virginia has ranked so highly.

“Virginia leads the nation in helping people transition away from public assistance and into the workforce because of our innovative programs and the dedication of our staff,” Governor Kaine said. “We’re training TANF recipients for jobs in fields with growing workforce needs, helping secure job placement and retention, while meeting a crucial need in for the Commonwealth’s health care system.”

Through a program launched in 2007, TANF recipients are trained to become Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), filling the growing need for long-term care and direct-care health professionals. In the last two years, 446 TANF recipients have graduated from CNA programs, and today, nearly 100 TANF participants are currently enrolled in CNA programs.

“Virginia, like the nation as a whole, is faced with a shortage of health care professionals,” said Secretary of Health and Human Resources Marilyn Tavenner. “As the population ages, the need for nursing support and personal care services grows, and a well-trained workforce is paramount

to providing the long-term care Virginians need now and in the future.”

TANF recipients receive job training and education through the Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare (VIEW) program. Virginia’s job entry success has been bolstered by a wide range of programs that address barriers to employment. For example, Bridges to Success in Fairfax assists TANF clients who have “hidden” disabilities, such as cognitive impairments.

Local governments have also been active participants in the training programs. For example, in the Montgomery area, Partners for Self-Sufficiency has organized community resources and employers to help clients move into the workforce.

“The dedication of local staff in helping TANF recipients with training and job placements has been critical to Virginia’s success,” said VDSS Commissioner Anthony Conyers Jr. “People want to be self-sufficient. They just need the skills and the opportunity to become so.”

Historical Society Preserves the Past

With over 25 years of collecting and preserving the county’s history, the Carroll County Historical Society receives 3 to 4,000 visitors a year at the club’s museum and hosts seminars to educate the public on the history of Carroll.



With artifacts, ancient documents and other forms of historical findings, the Carroll County Historical Society strives to preserve the county’s history and serve the citizens by operating a museum, printing off a person’s family tree, and providing other historical forms of service.

“So much of our history is being lost,” said Shelby Puckett – member of the Carroll County Historical Society.



The Society started in February 1982 after a few individuals came together and felt the need to start a historical society in order to preserve historical findings and artifacts that throughout time, would soon be lost and never found.

With now being over 25 years since the club was first founded, the Society currently has approximately 250 members with operating a museum at its new location - the Historic Carroll

(continued from page 2) County Courthouse in Hillsville, which receives approximately 4,000 visitors a year.

By touring the museum, there are currently 6 categories for a person to tour pertaining to the history of the county. The first category features the county's natural history, such as providing



information on geographic regions and displaying a rock collection that was donated by a local citizen, which features the many rocks and gems that are found in the county area..

Second, the museum has a fauna and flora section featuring mounted animals that are normally spotted in Carroll, along with photos and information on some of the plants and trees that are found in the county area.

The third section is labeled as the cultural development, displaying antique musical instruments, radios and religious artifacts found in Carroll, in

addition to having a school section displaying antique school desks and other items that were found in some of Carroll's historic schools.



With the fourth section, artifacts from major U.S. wars donated by individuals in the county are displayed. As it serves being the most popular historical topic discussed about the county, however, the fifth section displays photos, artifacts and a diorama display of the Carroll County courthouse tragedy in 1912.



The sixth section of the museum is labeled as the "economic development" section, displaying antique farm tools, doctoral instruments, and others.

Plans are underway to have a local government section to the museum in the near future, featuring antique voting booths, historic governmental documents, and other artifacts pertaining to the history of the governmental system of Carroll.

"We appreciate the huge effort from a whole lot of people in the county. The museum couldn't expand and the Historical Society could not be in operation without the overwhelming support of the members of the Society and the citizens of Carroll," Puckett said.

Puckett also thanks the Carroll County Board of Supervisors and the Town of Hillsville for

their continuing support of the museum as well.

In addition to operating the museum, the Historical Society also publishes *Chronicles* – a quarterly journal featuring articles and photos pertaining to the history of the county that are distributed within members of the Historical Society. Also, the club holds Monday night history sessions and plans are underway to host another "Did You Know?" seminar at Carroll's Historic Courthouse. and plans are underway to host another "Did You Know?" seminar at Carroll's Historic Courthouse.

As a service to citizens, the Historical Society also prints off an individual's family tree in which goes back 7 generations. A \$5 donation, however, is asked to cover the cost of printing.

For more information on the Carroll County Historical Society or if you would like to join, please call (276) 728-4113.

Devil's Den – A "Natural" Attraction

Located in Fancy Gap, the Devils Den Nature Preserve consists of approximately 250 acres featuring hiking trails, picnic areas, a cave and even a historic homestead.



Where will a person find hiking trails where one of them leads to an actual cave and another to a historic homestead – you'll find it at the Devil's Den Nature Preserve in Fancy Gap.

The Devil's Den Nature Preserve is a park containing 250 acres on the top of Fancy Gap Mountain near the Blue Ridge Parkway.



areas.

It consists of 3 hiking trails, an overlook featuring views of the Piedmont area of North Carolina, a fault cave consisting of rocks approximately 40 to 50 feet high, a historic homestead and designated picnic

According to the official Devil's Den brochure, Edward Carlan, a native of Carroll, left the approximate 250 acres of land he owned to the general public "to be used for cultural and intellectual purposes...de-

emphasizing athletics, money and profit" as stated in his will.

The historic homestead featured at the nature preserve, the Harris homestead, was Carlan's mother's childhood home.

Devil's Den is operated by the Devil's Den Nature Preserve Foundation consisting of a Board of Directors of citizens in the county area.



According to Donnie Turner – Director of Tourism for Carroll County, natural grass and specific trees natural to the area have been recently planted at the nature preserve.

Directions to the Devil's Den Nature Preserve: From I-77 North or South, take exit 8 at Fancy Gap and follow the signs leading to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Go under the Parkway bridge and turn right onto Old Appalachian Trail - state Route 608 and go approximately 1.25 miles. The entrance to the preserve is on your left.

For more information, contact the Carroll County Office of Tourism at (276) 730-3100.

Cannery Information

The Carroll County Cannery will be open beginning July 24, 2008 through December 19, 2008. Hours of operation are 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Contact the Cannery at 276.728.7571 on or after July 24th.

Effective July 1 - ALL County Facilities Will Be Smoke Free

As started July 1, 2008, ALL county facilities will be smoke free during all hours of the week. This means that no smoking will be allowed inside ANY facility or building that is owned or maintained by the County of Carroll. These facilities include the Carroll County Governmental Center, the Public Service Authority/County Maintenance/EMS building, Carroll-Grayson-Galax Solid Waste Authority, and others. This regulation has been officially made by the Carroll County Board of Supervisors.