



**Newsletter From
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Representative Bryant and Senator Jones have visitors for AVID Day at the General Assembly. (Left to Right-Jumangie Smith, Brawley Middle School, Kaelan Evans, Eastman Middle School, Marcell Gorham, William R. Davie Middle School, Representative Bryant, Senator Jones, Melonee Hunter, Brawley Middle School, Dorothy Watkins, Halifax County Schools (Site Coordinator), Lerrie Fleming, William R. Davie Middle School (AVID Elective Teacher) & Christina Williams, Eastman Middle School (Avid Elective Teacher)

I hope you will continue to let me know how you feel about the issues that are being debated by the North Carolina General Assembly and the challenges you and your family are facing each day. By working together, we can make District 7 and all regions of North Carolina a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Sections Below:

- ***In the District***
 - ***Area Grants Received***
 - ***Area Event (Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Presents The Red Carpet Affair; Females Learning to Overcome All Temptations;***
- ***Statewide Events (Various Youth Activities)***
- ***Ethic Tip - Lobbyists***
- ***At the Legislature (Rep. Bryant's Bills that passed the House & moved on to the Senate; Legislative Recap- April 20-23, 2009 & April 27-30, 2009; Senate Joint Resolution to Honor Thomas Ghio "Sonny Boy" Joyner and declare Weldon the "Rock Fish Capital"***
- ***For Your Information (Chowan University-Adult Degree Completion Program; The Roanoke Rapids Employment Security Commission Help Job Seekers; Funding Opportunities; Conferences and Meetings)***
- ***A Moment of Gratitude (Chairman-Halifax County Board of Commissioners)***

In the District

Area Grants Received

- The Town of Littleton was approved for a \$447,137 grant from the Industrial Development Fund to replace and repair public storm water systems in four locations throughout the town.
- The Housing Finance Agency has awarded \$75,000 to make 14 emergency home repairs—who received this grant
- The Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA) of North Carolina will receive \$150,000 to make emergency home repairs for 100 homes in Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton and Nash counties.

Area Events

- **The Rocky Mount Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. presents The Red Carpet Affair:** Come enjoy a “klassy” night of dancing, live jazz music, and hors d’oeuvres on Friday, May 29, 2009 from 8 pm – 12 am. The event will be held at the Imperial Centre in Rocky Mount, NC. Tickets are \$20 and the proceeds from the benefit will go toward the general scholarship fund. For additional information, please contact Damian Tucker at (252) 903-3719 or Thomas Parrish IV at (919) 600- 2928.
- **The F.L.O.A.T. Alliance (Females Learning to Overcome All Temptations) Meetings:** 6:30 pm every second Thursday of the month at SWIM’s Healing Place (327 Eastern Avenue, Rocky Mount, NC 27802). Anyone that provides support, programs, services, employment and trainings for female ex-offenders are welcome to participate. Please call (252) 972-7946 to register.

Statewide Events

- AMF bowling is participating in a Kids Bowl Free event for the summer. For more information, please go to www.kidsbowlfree.com.
- IBM is teaming with area public schools and nonprofit organizations to sponsor two offerings of a two-day technology camp for 32 young women entering the seventh and eighth grades in the fall of 2009. The camps will be held at the IBM Research Triangle Park facility July 23 – 24, 2009 and August 6 – 7, 2009. Each camp will contain a different set of young women, so those selected will attend one of the two offerings. Entirely funded by IBM, the mission of these camps is to introduce young women to the exciting fields of science, math and engineering in a nurturing environment. If selected, you will get to do many interesting activities such as designing and building a web page, taking apart a computer, tour unique laboratories, and possibly even build a robot. For the application click on this link [IBM Technology Camp - PreCamp Questionnaires 2009.doc](#).
- Federal Aviation Administration is taking applications for Air Traffic Controller School. Anyone between the ages of 18-31 with a high school diploma is encouraged to apply. Go to this Website: http://www.faa.gov/jobs/job_opportunities/airtraffic_controllers/ for details and to fill out the application.

Ethics Tips

Please remember that requests for written advisory opinions from the State Ethics Commission, and the opinions themselves, are confidential and not matters of public record. The State Ethics Commission can be reached at 919 – 807 – 4620 or at ethics.commission@ncmail.net.

Lobbyists and lobbyist's principals may give, and legislators and legislative employees may accept, informational materials relevant to their duties. G.S. 138A-32(e)(2)

At the Legislature

Rep. Bryant's Primary Sponsored Bills that passed the House and moved on to the Senate: ADD H 227

April 20-23, 2009

Transportation

The House approved legislation that would allow counties to raise more money for mass transit projects, including rail service and buses. The bill ([HB 148](#)) - <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookup/BillLookup.pl?Session=2009&BillID=h148> would let residents of Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Orange and Wake counties vote whether to increase local sales taxes by ½ cent and car registration fees by up to \$2. Other counties could increase sales taxes by a ¼ cent for such projects. The money would be dedicated to public transportation. The legislation is based on a plan which Mecklenburg County used to finance its new downtown rail line. The proposal now goes to the Senate.

Campaign Finance

The largest cities in North Carolina may soon have the ability to decide whether they want to embrace public campaign financing. The House approved a bill ([HB 120](#)) - <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookup/BillLookup.pl?Session=2009&BillID=h120> this week to create a pilot program through 2016 that would allow cities with more than 50,000 people to use tax money to help pay for political campaigns. Typically, candidates who accept public money agree to accept limited contributions from other donors. Supporters say public campaign financing reduces the amount of money spent on campaigns and the influence of big donors. Critics contend that it's unfair to ask taxpayers to subsidize candidates with whom they may not agree. Races for the state's appellate courts, auditor, insurance commissioner and school superintendent are already eligible for public campaign financing. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Health

The General Assembly has negotiated a bill that will result in smaller rate increases than

originally projected for members of the State Health Plan while also increasing the plan's transparency. The bill ([SB 287](#)) - <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookup/BillLookup.pl?Session=2009&BillID=s287&submitButton=Go>

reduces the premium rate increase for the next two years from 10 percent to 8.9 percent. It also adds coverage for treatment by chiropractors, speech therapists, and mental health and substance abuse professionals. The bill also includes provisions to encourage plan members to stop smoking and to lose weight.

The bill retains language added in the House that calls for an independent audit of the plan, more detailed billing information, as well as increased disclosure of transactional data and administrative costs. The proposal calls for monthly financial reports and establishes a 15-member Blue Ribbon Task Force that will examine the plan's rate structure and governance, among other things. The bill now goes to the governor for her signature.

Domestic Violence

The House has passed legislation that renames the North Carolina Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission to the North Carolina Center for Women, Families, and Domestic Violence and clarifies its mission ([HB 115](#)).

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookup/BillLookup.pl?Session=2009&BillID=h115>

The commission will be asked to consider issues related to sexual assault, domestic violence, employment, education, health, pay equity, housing and child care. The proposal was recommended by the Joint Legislative Committee on Domestic Violence. For more information please visit: <http://www.nccadv.org/>.

Miscellaneous

A new proposal would require the words "National Guard" to be capitalized in the state statutes as a sign of respect for our military. The bill ([HB 632](#)) -

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookup/BillLookup.pl?Session=2009&BillID=h632>

passed unanimously and now goes to the Senate.

Notes

One of my dear colleagues, Sen. Vernon Malone, a longtime leader in education for Wake County and our state, died recently. Sen. Malone was currently serving his fourth term in the General Assembly, but had spent several decades as a school administrator, school board member and county commissioner. He was 77. Sen. Malone was replaced by Rep. Dan Blue of Raleigh, former Speaker of the House.

The House of Representatives elected Samuel Powell of Burlington and K. Ray Bailey of Fairview to the State Board of Community Colleges. Powell is chairman of the Alamance Community College Board of Trustees and was formerly a Burlington City Council member and Alamance County commissioner. Bailey was president of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College until 2007 and was elected as a Buncombe County commissioner in

November.

April 27-30, 2009

Crime

The Insurance Inquiry Commission could soon have the authority to compel people who have pertinent information about a court case to testify. A bill passed the House ([HB 937](#)) - <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=h937> would also allow the head of the Commission to grant limited immunity to the witness from prosecution for previous false statements made under oath in prior proceedings. The bill is now in the Senate.

Lawyers representing inmates on death row may be permitted to meet with their clients on the same day that the court rules on the inmate's appeal. This proposal ([HB 1037](#)) - <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=h1037> helps ensure that death row inmates hear the court's decision from their own lawyer, rather than from another source. The bill passed the House and is now in the Senate.

Alleged criminals who plead guilty or no contest to a criminal offense would be more clearly notified of the limitations on their ability to file an appeal under a bill that passed the House this week ([HB 1039](#)). - <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=H1039>

Education

School officials would be required to make a reasonable attempt to notify a parent or guardian before administering corporal punishment on a student under a bill that passed the House ([HB 442](#)). - <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=h442> The legislation also would allow parents in school districts that permit corporal punishment to exempt their child from corporal punishment all together. If enacted, the law would not outlaw the practice of spanking entirely. Almost one half of North Carolina's 115 school districts permit spanking as a means of punishment. The bill is now in the Senate.

Miscellaneous

Automated calls to protect the public health, safety, or welfare would be allowed under proposed legislation that came out of the House. The system is intended to inform subscribers that they have purchased products or medication that may be subject to a safety recall, that the subscriber has not picked up a filled prescription, or that an account maintained by the subscriber may be subject to potential fraudulent activity. The calls could not be used for any commercial purposes. The bill ([HB 1034](#)) - <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=h1034> now goes to the Senate.

A security audit of the state lottery would be performed every two years instead of annually under a proposed law [\(HB 205\)](#).-

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=h205>

Lottery officials say they already undergo multiple and sometimes duplicative audits.

Legislation that would provide a Survivor's Alternate Benefit for survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty passed the House last week [\(HB 766\)](#).-

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=h766>

If enacted, the principal beneficiary of an officer who has completed 15 years of service would be entitled to the survivor's benefit should that officer be killed in the line of duty. The bill is now in the Senate.

The NC Forestry Association visited the General Assembly. "The NC Forestry Association is a private, nonprofit partnership of more than 4,200 forest managers, landowners, mill operators, loggers, furniture manufacturers, educators and others concerned about the long-term health and productivity of the state's forest resources and the industries they support." For more information, please visit: <http://www.ncforestry.org>.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 110- Honor Thomas Ghio "Sonny Boy" Joyner and Recognize Weldon as the Rockfish Capital of the World

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF THOMAS GHIO
"SONNY BOY" JOYNER, WHILE JOINING THE CITIZENS OF WELDON IN
RECOGNIZING THE TOWN AS THE ROCKFISH CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.

Whereas, in 1873, the United States Fish Commission (USFC) discovered that striped bass, known as rockfish, were good candidates for propagation and could help to restore the dwindling supply of fish used as a food source; and

Whereas, in 1938, the USFC opened the only known Rockfish Hatchery at that time in the Town of Weldon, which is located adjacent to the Roanoke River; and

Whereas, as a result of the hatchery, the rockfish population in the Town of Weldon increased significantly; and

Whereas, each year between the months of March and June, millions of rockfish migrate up the Roanoke River to spawn in the Town of Weldon; and

Whereas, the rockfish migration season attracts thousands of anglers and outdoors enthusiasts from around the world to the Town of Weldon; and

Whereas, various articles published in national newspapers and a film made by 20th Century Fox Film Corporation have documented the Town of Weldon's annual rockfish migration; and

Whereas, around 1947, area business leaders produced a brochure proclaiming Weldon as the Rockfish Capital of the World, a motto the Town has used for more than 60 years;

and

Whereas, the rockfish migration season enhances the economy of Weldon, attracting tourists to the Town and surrounding areas; and

Whereas, the late Thomas Ghio "Sonny Boy" Joyner, who lived in the nearby Town of Garysburg also located on the Roanoke River, was an ardent supporter of Weldon's being recognized as the Rockfish Capital of the World; and

Whereas, Sonny Boy Joyner was born in Northampton County and made a living farming peanuts in Northampton County and selling fertilizer in both Northampton and Halifax Counties; and

Whereas, Sonny Boy Joyner, who was the great grandson of Colonel Andrew Joyner, the first President to the North Carolina Senate, was active in State and local affairs, serving as Mayor of the Town of Garysburg, a Northampton County Commissioner, a campaign worker for many politicians, including former Governors W. Kerr Scott, Terry Sanford, Robert W. Scott, and James B. Hunt, Jr., and as a member of the State Boards of Agriculture and Transportation; and

Whereas, Sonny Boy Joyner tirelessly offered his time, resources, expertise, friendship, and support in service to the advancement of all people; and

Whereas, it is fitting to recognize rockfish as an important natural and economic resource in the Town of Weldon and to recognize those who have supported Weldon becoming the Rockfish Capital of the World; Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

SECTION 1. The General Assembly joins the citizens of Weldon in recognizing the Town as the Rockfish Capital of the World.

SECTION 2. The General Assembly honors the memory of Thomas Ghio "Sonny Boy" Joyner, an admired and respected leader in Northampton and Halifax Counties, and expresses the appreciation of this State and its citizens for his service to his communities.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Mayor of the Town of Weldon and the family of Thomas Ghio "Sonny Boy" Joyner.

SECTION 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 2nd day of March, 2009.

For Your Information

- **Chowan University extends Adult Degree Completion Program by offering a Criminal Justice Degree (bilingual) at the Main Campus in Murfreesboro, NC:** This program will enable adult learners who possess an Associate's Degree or the equivalent (60-64 credit hours from the accredited college or university) to earn a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice (bilingual track) at our Main campus, or Social Sciences at Halifax Community College, during evening hours and online. For additional information, please contact Jose Hernandez at the Office of Admissions at (252)-398-6214 or visit: www.chowan.edu.

- **The Roanoke Rapids Employment Security Commission (ESC)/JobLink Center Offers Assistance for Job Seekers:** Resume guides and computer software are available to help job seekers present their knowledge, experience, and occupational objectives in a way that will motivate employers to want to get to know them through personal interviews. The professional staff of the ESC/JobLink is always available to assist job seekers in obtaining interviews with employers who are most likely interested in their qualifications. Registered applicants may call the JOBS line at 535-9001 to inquire about job openings or visit www.ncesc.com. For further information, please contact Tommy McKnight, ESC/JobLink Manager at 537-4188.

Funding Opportunities

- **Rural Church Division:** Applications due: July 1, 2009. United Methodist Churches that serve communities of 1,500 people or less. Retired United Methodist pastors are invited to apply. Programs and capital projects must support one of three categories: Improving Lives, Strengthening Organizations, and Advancing Innovations. Visit the Duke Endowment website at http://www.dukeendowment.org/ruralchurch/rc_applyforgrants.
- **Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina- Health of Vulnerable Populations Funding Opportunity:** Applications due: August 15, 2009. Proposals sought to increase access to health care for vulnerable populations in NC, or that increase the appropriate consumer use of health care resources by vulnerable populations. Visit BCBSNC website <http://www.bcbsncfoundation.org/health-of-vulnerable-populations/grants/>.
- **NIH Community Participation in Research (R01):** Applications due: June 5, 2009. This Funding Opportunity Announcement seeks proposals in which communities and researchers work jointly to study health promotion, disease prevention, and health disparities. Read the entire funding announcement at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-074.html>.
- **The Duke Endowment Health Care Division Funding Opportunity:** Applications due June 15, 2009. Not-for-profit hospitals, academic health centers, health education centers, and select health organizations in counties without an eligible hospital in North and South Carolina are eligible to apply. Program areas: Improving Lives, Strengthening Organizations, and Advancing Innovation. Visit the Health Care Division's Grants Page at http://www.dukeendowment.org/healthcare/hc_applyforgrants.

Conferences and Meetings for Community and Research Collaborators

- **3rd Annual North Carolina Comprehensive Cancer Program Survivorship Summit:** June 24-26, 2009 at the Greenville Convention Center- Hilton. This is a free summit for Cancer survivors, patients and caregivers. Cancer advocates and health care professional also invited to attend. Please call 919-707-5337 or e-mail Kenisha.Bethea@ncmail.net.

- **CancerCare Telephone Education Workshops**: CancerCare, along with other cancer organizations, offers educational workshops. Of interest to 4CNC partners and friends are:

For more information or to register, visit:

<http://www.cancercare.org/get_help/tew_calendar.php>

A Moment of Gratitude

The Halifax County Commissioners want to express our appreciation to Rep. Bryant for supporting organizations and programs in Halifax County.

Gene W. Minton
Chairman-Halifax County Board of Commissioners