

# Business Pulse

MARK HIBBS, EDITOR

## Winners named in Veneer Tech's 2013 Challenge

Jarrett Bay yacht tops cabinetry category

**LAS VEGAS** — An art deco entry table was the grand prize-winner and a Beaufort-built yacht interior was recognized as a category winner in the 2013 Veneer Tech Craftsman's Challenge sponsored by Veneer Technologies Inc. of Newport.

The announcement came during the Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers' AWFS Fair held July 24-27 in Las Vegas, Nev.

The grand-prizewinning piece features a pau ferro veneer exterior, a quilted maple veneer top bordered with Gabon ebony inlay and 15 different types of wood veneer for the trompe l'oeil interior. Craig Thibodeau of CT Fine Furniture of San Diego, Calif., was awarded \$3,000 for his creation that topped the ninth annual design competition recognizing excellence in veneer woodworking.

Herzog Veneer of High Point is the materials supplier for the project and receives \$2,000. Sales representative Julienne Barata receives \$1,000 in recognition of her participation in the supply chain.

Sam Parisette-Herzog of Herzog Veneer said the company appreciates Veneer Tech's

sponsorship of the challenge.

"They have consistently supported the creators, the suppliers and the salespeople in the veneer industries for what is a love of a fine natural material. When it comes to beautiful wood and beautiful workmanship, they have continually led the way," he said.

The category winners in this year's competition, each receiving \$1,000, are:

**Cabinetry** — Jarrett Bay Boatworks of Beaufort for the interior of the custom 77-foot sportfishing yacht *Blank Check*.

**Architectural woodworking** — Savante Wine Cellars of Denver, Colo., for "Promenade Wine Room."

**Furniture** — Studio of Michael P. McDunn, Greenville, S.C., for table "Illusion Series No. 3."

**Specialty Items** — Colin Smith, Long Beach, Calif., for display case "Memories of Russia."

**Student Design** — Matthew Stoltz, College of the Redwoods, San Francisco, Calif., for his table "Widowink."

The judges awarded special honorable mention to Chuck Sharbaugh, Holly, Mich., for his



The winning piece features a pau ferro veneer exterior, a quilted maple veneer top bordered with Gabon ebony inlay. Inset: The piece features 15 different types of wood veneer for the trompe l'oeil interior. Craig Thibodeau of CT Fine Furniture of San Diego, Calif., was awarded \$3,000 for his creation. (Contributed photos)

cabinet on a stand, "UP."

An additional 11 entries merited honorable mention:

**Architectural Woodworking** — Tahiti Cabinets, Inc., Anaheim, Calif., for "Whittier Law."

**Cabinetry** — Don Rizzie, Jersey Shore Originals, Farmingdale, N.J., for "Beverage Credenza;" and Douglas Harris, Lake Country Woodworkers, Middlesex, N.Y., for "Floral Kitchen Island."

**Furniture** — Anthony Balzer, Sooke, British Columbia, for "Satinwood Desk;" Scott Grove, Green Grove Design, Rochester, N.Y., for "Relationship;" and Craig Thibodeau, CT Fine Furniture, San Diego, Calif., for "Art Deco Club Chairs."

**Specialty Items** — Steve Bartholomew Studio, Cedar City, Utah, for "Day Break Pedestal;" Rob Milam, Veneer Images, Sandy Springs, Ga., for "Charlie;" and Don Rizzie, Jersey Shore Originals, Farmingdale, N.J., for "Tackle/Fly Box."

**Student Design** — Justin Inkson, Okanagan College, Ituna, Saskatchewan, for "Lewis Table;" and Nucharin Wangphongsawasd, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, N.Y., for "FLEX:

Room Divider."

All entries can be viewed on the Veneer Technologies website at [www.veneertech.com](http://www.veneertech.com). There is also an archive of 2005-12 entries.

Experts from the fields of woodworking media, furniture making and manufacturing and woodworking education formed the panel of judges for the 2013 Veneer Tech Craftsman's Challenge:

- Dale Broholm designs and makes custom furniture out of his Boston area studio and is senior critic in the Department of Furniture Design at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, R.I.

- WoodLINKS USA representative Tim Fixmer of CCI Media is publisher of CabinetMaker+FDM, the co-sponsor of the Veneer Tech Craftsman's Challenge.

- Thomas Tuck, also a WoodLINKS USA representative, is product and distribution manager with equipment supplier Casadei-Busellato.

Judges' decisions are in large part based on the quality of execution and the greatest opti-

mization of material.

"Technique is important, as is the originality of the work piece," said Mr. Tuck. "Really, we look for functional design that is unusual and bends the boundaries, expressing something that hasn't been done before."

Mr. Fixmer said the entries represent the very best of the industry, from the students to the time-tested pros.

"In the final analysis, the winners in each category were chosen by only fractions of a point separating them from the majority of the other entrants. It was that close in every category," he said.

The Veneer Tech Craftsman's Challenge entries for 2014 will be accepted beginning the first of January. Competition results will be announced at International Woodworking Fair in Atlanta, Ga.

Veneer Technologies of Newport is one of the industry's largest manufacturers of high-quality face veneer, sheet veneer and edgebanding. Veneer Tech sources wood species world-wide.

## Fro-yo stores' scales checked

**RALEIGH** — Gummy bears or brownie bites, chocolate sauce or whipped cream, frozen yogurt shops allow customers to fill up a cup with frozen yogurt, top it as they please and then pay based on weight.

Inspectors from the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are busy inspecting scales at these establishments to make sure customers are getting what they pay for.

Customers are supposed to pay only for the weight of the contents of their filled cup, not the weight of the cup. The packaging weight is referred to as a tare weight, and it must be removed from the product weight.

"We urge consumers to be vigilant and check their receipt or ask the salesperson if the cost of the cup has been deducted from the sale," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Our job is to protect consumers, and one of the ways we do this is to make sure you pay only for product, not packaging. If you think you have been charged for the packaging weight or if a business is using a scale that has not been inspected, you can report this at 919-707-3225."

The NCDA&CS Standards Division inspects scales at all retail establishments that sell products to customers by weight. These include grocery stores, coffee shops, buffet restaurants and candy stores.

Commercial scales at point of sale should be in view of customers and show a seal of approval from the Standards Division. All retail establishments are required to notify the Standards Division after installing a scale. Inspectors make sure the scale is operating properly and that store employees know how to correctly set a tare weight to deduct the cost of packaging from the sale.

Inspectors from the NCDA&CS Standards Division are spread out across the state.

"We are working with businesses to make sure they know the rules," said Stephen Benjamin, director. "In the case of the frozen yogurt containers, it could add up to 40 cents per cup to the total price. That adds up if you are buying for a family of four."

If a store is found to be in violation, the first step is to educate business owners and make sure they and their employees know how to use the scale and how to set a tare weight. The second offense results in a notice of violation, and the third offense carries a civil penalty of up to \$5,000.

Office hours are from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. The chamber accepts cash, personal check, MasterCard and VISA. To order by telephone, call the Chamber at 726-6350.

For information about the Reverse Drawing, contact Tracey Brinson, director of administrative services at the chamber, via email at [tracey@nccoastchamber.com](mailto:tracey@nccoastchamber.com).

"The Reverse Drawing is the chamber's primary source of non-dues revenue, which is a fun way to raise funds without increasing our members' dues," Mr. Wagoner said.



Jarrett Bay Boatworks of Beaufort won the cabinetry category for the interior of the sportfishing yacht *Blank Check*. (Contributed photo)

## Chamber set to host annual fundraiser

**MOREHEAD CITY** — "Surfin' Safari: A Tropical Fantasy" is the theme for the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce' 2013 Reverse Drawing.

The event is set for 6 p.m. Aug. 17 at the Crystal Coast Civic Center. It's open to the public, and each \$100 ticket admits two people to the party. The grand prize is \$10,000.

"The Reverse Drawing is one of the highlights of the year for chamber members and their guests, and we are going retro, into the era when the Beach Boys recorded the hit song 'Surfin' Safari' in 1962," said Carteret County Chamber of Commerce President Mike Wagoner.

Appropriate attire for the event is "beach casual," Mr. Wagoner said, but a costume contest is planned with prizes for those who want to "dress to impress" to coincide with the theme.

You do not have to be present to win the big money, but typically about 450 choose to attend to enjoy an evening of fun.

Back by popular demand is the Crystal Coast Photo Booth, which is offering free portraits of partygoers.

The Catering Company is catering a full buffet dinner.

Other amenities include an open bar, silent auction, dancing, games, sidebar drawings and a free cab ride home to any

location within Carteret County, courtesy of Carteret Cab.

"Entertainment will be provided by Morris Willis, who is working up his repertoire," Mr. Wagoner said. "Expect to hear a few selections from some of the best surf music bands in the land — the Beach Boys, Jan & Dean, The Belairs, The Sentinals, The Del-Tones, The Chantays, The Surfaris, The Lively Ones and Forgotten Rebels."

"The person holding the last ticket number drawn that night wins the \$10,000 grand prize," Wagoner said. "Only 325 tickets will be sold, so the odds are much better than winning the lottery."

The chamber's decorations

committee is set to transform the civic center into a lush tropical forest, with tropical plants, lanterns, tiki bars and grass huts inside and woodies parked outside. Torches will light the entranceway.

Attendees can enter the friendly corn hole games, participate in the hula-hoop contest and ride the simulated surfboard.

The event will also feature a social media component as photos of the festivities will be included as part of an Instagram feed. Search on Instagram for the hashtag #reverseraffle.

Tickets to the Reverse Drawing are available at chamber headquarters, 801 Arendell

St., Morehead City. Office hours are from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. The chamber accepts cash, personal check, MasterCard and VISA. To order by telephone, call the Chamber at 726-6350.

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## County's jobless rate dips

**RALEIGH** — Carteret County's unemployment rate dropped to 7.7 percent in June, down from 7.9 percent in May, according to figures released Tuesday by the N.C. Commerce Department's Labor and Economic Analysis Division.

The county's unemployment rate was also lower than the 8.1 percent rate recorded for June 2012.

Unemployment rates not seasonally adjusted increased in 81 of North Carolina's counties in June decreased in 14 and remained the same in five.

All 14 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases.

Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 16.2 percent while Currituck County had the lowest at 5.8 percent.

Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 13.3 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville at 7.1 percent had the lowest.

The June not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 9.3 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 12 counties, fell in 85 and remained unchanged in three.

One metro area experienced a rate increase, while 13 experienced rate decreases.

In Carteret County, 2,669 were unemployed out of a labor force of 34,560 during June. The county had the 12<sup>th</sup> lowest unemployment rate in the state. The county ranked 13<sup>th</sup> lowest in May.

The number of workers employed statewide not seasonally adjusted decreased in June by 16,445 to 4,303,424, while those unemployed increased 16,163 to 439,793.

Since June 2012, the number of workers employed statewide increased 11,966, while those unemployed decreased 26,257.

## BUSINESS HAPPENINGS

### American Media upgrades gear

American Media Productions, a full-service advertising agency and production facility in Morehead City recently installed a new high-definition broadcast television video and audio editing system.

The new Adobe Premier Pro CS6 system works in conjunction with the firm's existing Apple Final Cut Pro HD system, digital audio mixing consoles, signal processing equipment, and multiple format recorders.

The system was designed, engineered, and installed by Technical Video Systems of Cary. Technical Video Systems also has broadcast service offices in Charlotte, Greensboro, Wilmington and Fort Mill, S.C.

"The American Media Productions system is one of the most sophisticated high-definition editing systems in the state. It incorporates all of the Adobe software capabilities and

outputs tapeless digital uploads for both broadcast television and cable systems," said Murphy Gurganus, senior sales engineer at American Media Productions.

Phillip Scoggins, broadcast sales engineer, said the system is "on the cutting-edge of television production technology."

American Media Productions owners John and Judi Creech said that they were committed to continued investment in Carteret County.

"We've been producing videos here since 1984, Judi is a native of Beaufort, and our three children all graduated from West Carteret," Mr. Creech said. "We have a stake in Morehead City and Carteret County, and we are proud to represent select local and regional retail and professional clients, institutions, local events and nonprofit civic organizations and though we produce videos nationwide, Carteret County is our home."

For more information, visit [www.ampmedia.pro](http://www.ampmedia.pro).

### Sound Bank marks branch opening

Sound Bank recently celebrated the grand opening of its Cedar Point branch with a ribbon cutting and pig picking.

The new "coastal cottage style" full-service branch is at 1150 Cedar Point Blvd. (Highway 24) in Cedar Point.

"I am overwhelmed with the community support," said branch manager, Terri Ashby. "Everyone has been so interested in watching our progress during the construction process and we are excited to be settled in our bright, beautiful new building."

Mrs. Ashby joined the bank in August 2012 as manager of the Cedar Point branch, which closed with the July 10 opening of the new facility.

Also staffing the Cedar Point branch are customer service representative, Amanda Christie and tellers, Heather Leffingwell, Teresa Miller and Karen Kitchens.

Weekly Health Tips

Rob Williams  
PHARMACIST

HEALTH NUTS

Walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts, peanuts, Brazil nuts and cashews can help reduce LDL (bad) cholesterol, which can have a heart-protective effect. They are also rich in the amino acid arginine, which converts to nitric oxide, which helps relax blood vessels. Nuts can help with weight management because they help you feel fuller longer. The selenium in Brazil nuts may protect against advanced prostate cancer; men with high levels of selenium had a 60% lower risk. Nuts are rich in vitamin E, which may help prevent cognitive decline. Peanuts are high in folate, which improves neural health. The latest study on walnuts found they may help improve sperm quality in younger men.

MEDICAL PARK

PHARMACY & HOME MEDICAL

Rob Williams, R.Ph. & George Peal, R.Ph.

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