

LINCOLN RUNS WITH THE BIG DOGS

Big Dogs Brings Distribution Center and Operations Center to Lincoln County

Retail manufacturer **Big Dogs Holdings, Inc.** (dba: **Big Dog Sportswear** and **The Walking Company**) today announced it will relocate its 143,000 square-foot distribution center from Santa Fe Springs, CA and lease a new 229,000 square-foot center in Lincoln County, N.C. The company will invest \$10.5 million and will initially provide 100 jobs.

"We were initially contacted by the Charlotte Regional Partnership, which allowed us to look at the region as a whole before narrowing our search to Lincoln County," said John Wood, Senior VP of Logistics. "The Charlotte region will provide cost efficiencies not available in our current distribution center. Most importantly, we were pleased with the region's pro-business attitude and overall quality of life aspects."

"We are pleased to welcome another nationally known company to Lincoln County and the additional jobs they will offer to our citizens. We appreciate **Big Dog's** choice of the Lincoln County Industrial Park for their new facility and the contribution they will make to our growing local economy," said Tom Anderson, Chairman of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners.



Big Dogs/The Walking Company

"Lincoln Economic Development Association welcomes **Big Dogs** and **The Walking Company** to Lincoln County and we look forward to a long lasting relationship," said Jr. Howard, Chairman of Lincoln Economic Development Association.

The Keith Corporation is developing and leasing the building to **Big Dogs Holdings, Inc.** Merriman-Schmitt Archi-

itects, Inc. is the project architect, and Choate Construction is the general contractor. The company signed a 10-year lease on a build-to-suit 229,500 square-foot distribution center in the Lincoln County Industrial Park. "This park continues to rise above the froth. We are very pleased to be a role player on Lincoln County's team, and we congratulate **Big Dogs** on their decision to locate here," said Alan Lewis, Industrial Development Partner for The Keith Corporation.

Big Dogs Holdings, Inc. will begin shipping from its new distribution center in January 2007. The new facility will provide additional capacity for the Company's continued growth.

The company operates **Big Dogs** and **The Walking Company**. It develops, markets and retails a branded, lifestyle collection of unique, high-quality, popular-priced consumer products, including active wear, casual sportswear, accessories and gifts.

Lincoln Economic Development Association Private Members

SPECIAL THANK YOU CITY OF LINCOLN/TN LINCOLN COUNTY

ATTORNEYS

Kennedy & Wulffhorst, PA—Todd Wulffhorst

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Geymont Construction—Jerry Geymont
Hope Springs Builders—Walter Clark
Howard Construction—Herman Howard
Denver Construction Co. – Kenneth Tucker
Lincoln County Home Builders

DEVELOPERS

Crescent Resources, Inc.—Jim Short
The Keith Corporation—Alan Lewis
Piedmont Companies—Willie Heafner

INSURANCE

Broker, James M. Moore
Broker, Bo Moore, Jr., CEP, RFC
Nationwide Insurance—Mike Griffin
Watson Insurance Agency – Neal Rhyne

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Rhyme Financial—Jody Rhyme

MEDICAL

Advanced Family Eye Care—Dr. Amanda Barker
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Hamilton & Austin Orthodontics
Dr. John L. Lassiter, DDS, PA
Dr. Richard Pence, DDS, MAGD, PA
Lincoln Medical Center—Pete Acker
Lincolnton Animal Hosp.—Wayne Jones, DVM

REAL ESTATE/WAREHOUSE/IND. PROPERTIES

Anderson Properties—John Anderson
Apple Realty—Marsha Jordan
Carolina Realty – Kevin Cox
Century 21 Hecht—Robert Hecht
Clark Properties—David Clark, Jr.
Ferguson & Associates, Inc. – Neil Ferguson
Lackey & Whitley Realty – Brad Whitley
Lincoln Bonded Warehouse—John Lineberger
Lincoln County Board of Realtors
Prudential Carolinas Realty—Doug Core

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Gaston College—Lincoln Campus
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BellSouth—Todd Lanham
Piedmont Natural Gas – Guy Hartsell
Rutherford EMC—Randy Ward

INDUSTRIES

Actavis Corp.—Vince Webb
Allied Separation Tech, Inc. – Lorie Williams
Anatech Ltd. – George Barr
Cataler North America—Al Alvarez
Catawba Transport Group—Danny Abernathy
Duke Energy—Paul Beatty
Blum, Inc.—Michael Geis
La-Z-Boy—Tommy Casey
Mohican Mills, Inc.—Jerry Deese
National Fruit—L.D. Shockley
Packaging Unlimited – Keith Davis
RSI Home Products – Robert Hunter
R.W. Garcia – Greg Huffstetler
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Robert Bosch Tool Corp.—Shane Jones
S&L Sawmill—Jim Sherrill
Steele Rubber Products—John Dancoff
The Timken Company—Todd Lautzenheiser
Wrap Spun Yarns – Tom Hamrick

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Gregory Cox	Chad Gore	Stephen Stames
Cathy Davis	Mack Harvey	Robert Tull
Brad Desai	Fred Houser	Terry Whitener
Gary Dellinger	Sam Houser	Ann Wilson
		Aaron Wood

Address Correction Requested

Rhonda Hunter, Editor


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Development *Free Thoughts* *Beyond Lincoln*

 **Business Appreciation Week** was celebrated the week of April 16-22. A special thank you to **R.W. Garcia** for hosting an Industrial Open House to give the community a rare opportunity to view its manufacturing process of tortilla chips.

 **American Tire Distributors** was awarded the Blue Diamond Award for best information technology business value.

 In March, LEDA held the **Milestone Achievement Awards** luncheon. Recipients were Collins Engine Works (10), Dellinger Precast (35), Furniture Construction Co. (25), Hof Textiles (15), B.R.Lee Industries (25), Marble Masters of Denver (15), McMurray Fabrics (15), Metal Roofing Systems (5), Normtex (40), Packaging Unlimited (15), Redneck Trailer Supplies (10), Robb & Stucky (5), RSI Dist. (5), Thornburg Machine (65) and Wireway/Husky (25).

 The racing team of **Brack Maggard Racing** will be moving its shop from Mooresville to 3400 Denver Dr. near the post office. The team is moving to have room to grow. The Denver facility is about 15,000 square feet of shop, meeting and office space.

Lincoln County Goes Hollywood
 Check out our new Lincoln County video. The video, located on our website, www.lincolnedata.org is in three parts “The Perfect Place”, “The Perfect Lifestyle” and “The Perfect Business Choice”. On our homepage at the bottom just click on “View Video”. The video was created digitally so that we can continue to update it as needed.

The video is another piece in our marketing puzzle. It now compliments our website and we use it in recruiting new industries that are not familiar with our “Perfect Place” we call Lincoln County.

Speaking of marketing we have been running local ads to help give some WOW factors to the local community in order for them to help us sell Lincoln County even better. You never know who is standing in line next to you when they ask how’s the job market, what do you like best about Lincoln County, if I moved here what kind of schools, hospitals, recreation amenities should me and my family expect? Who better to sell Lincoln County than proud hometown people!

What would you say?

Keeping Lincoln on Their Mind
 In addition to the NC Department of Commerce and the Charlotte Regional Partnership, the Lincoln Economic Development Association (LEDA) works with numerous private companies to recruit new industries. These private entities include real estate brokers, developers, consultants, lawyers and accountants and engineering and construction companies. They are spread throughout the region but are mostly concentrated in the City of Charlotte.

New industry considering locating to the Charlotte Region often consult these private companies if they already have a relationship or have been referred. An example would be a national real estate company that has already helped an industry locate a plant on the west coast is used to site an east coast plant through their Charlotte office.

Because these private companies can influence where a new industry might look, LEDA has developed a new regional advertising campaign to keep Lincoln on their minds. This awareness campaign is not directed at companies but at those who influence them.

The eye-catching ads appeared in the Charlotte Business Journal in March and April and will run at key times during the year.

