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**STORE SELLING TRAINEES' PRODUCTS  
TO HAVE REGULAR HOURS TO BE OPEN**

HIGH POINT – Chairs produced by displaced workers in an upholstery training class will be available for sale during regular weekday hours in a store building at 1111 S. Main St.

The chairs made in a Guilford Technical Community College class will be on sale from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday and from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Fridays.

Saturday hours will begin this week, with the store being open from 8 a.m. until noon. It will be determined later if the store will be open regularly on Saturdays, according to GTCC's Steve Castelleo.

The store is adjacent to USA Pawn, and is near the GTCC High Point campus at 901 S. Main St. where the training class is being conducted.

Not only are the chairs available in a variety of fabrics, patterns and colors, there also are several sizes of chairs.

The students offering the products are in a 10-month program to learn the upholstery trade and/or how to cut and sew upholstery fabric. They will complete their training in November.

The chairs are made by a crew of 18 people who were selected in February for the CRAFT program sponsored by local furniture manufacturers and the Guilford County-Greensboro-High Point Workforce Development Board.

Trainers for the workers are veteran furniture workers Billy Alston and Thelma Christian.

Proceeds from the sales will go back into the program to help the training continue.

The CRAFT project (an acronym for Combining Resources for the Advancement of the Furniture Trade) is a pilot program developed to help manufacturers have trained workers available to replace retirees. These skilled jobs pay \$11 to \$15 per hour after trainees complete the course.

CRAFT was begun in 2007 with financing provided by the federal WIRED program administered by Piedmont Triad Partnerships and in-kind contributions from the Workforce Development Board, GTCC, City of High Point and High Point furniture manufacturers.

Manufacturers participating in the program are Baker Furniture, Brayton International (KI) and High Point Furniture Industries.

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