

USAR—Urban Search and Rescue ACOG Provides WMD Training to Team

In May, the Appalachian Council of Governments provided Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training to 23 members of the Upstate's **Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team**. Members were given instruction and participated in demonstrations of potential terrorist radiological, chemical, explosive and biological weapons. Students will receive certificates qualifying them for more advanced WMD training at federally sponsored schools across the U.S.



New threats, new solutions... A FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team responding to hurricane Katrina.

ACOG instructors are certified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) to teach the AWR-160 WMD course, awareness level training. ACOG classes include standard USDHS awareness level materials, some operational level information and demonstrations involving actual test equipment and simulated chemicals and weapons. Over 1,400 students have been instructed by ACOG since the program began in 2002.

The primary mission of the **Urban Search and Rescue Team** is to



Members of the SC Region I USAR Team training to deal with a collapsing building.

provide statewide response to large scale disasters involving the collapse or potential buildings or structures. Specifically, USAR teams are responsible for the location, rescue (extrication), and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces. The SC Region I USAR Response Team is hosted by the City of Greenville and is comprised of 24 highly trained volunteers. There are three other regional teams based in Hilton Head Island, Charleston and Myrtle Beach.

To date, the team has been issued over a quarter of a million dollars worth of equipment and is receiving highly specialized urban rescue training courses including: rope operations, confined space rescue, lifting and moving heavy objects and crane operations, basic and advanced collapse shoring, breaching and breaking concrete, burning and cutting metal and Technical (camera) search operations.

For information concerning the

(USAR continued on page 4)

ACOG Welcomes New Staff Member



David Acker has joined the staff of the Appalachian COG as Housing Rehabilitation Specialist in the Grant Services Department, replacing Joe Smith. David has lived in the Upstate for most of his life and has worked in several local government positions since 1969. He served the Anderson County Fire Department for 13 years, including 4 years as Fire Marshal. He served as Fire Chief and Safety Engineer for Michelin Tire Corporation for ten years while also volunteering as an officer and commissioner for the North Spartanburg Fire Department. Over the past several years, David has owned a construction and remodeling business. He brings more than 15 years of construction experience to his new position, along with several decades of serving the public.

David's hobbies include collecting classic cars and motorcycle riding. He is also a licensed FAA private pilot, a PADI certified scuba diver, and is actively involved in his church. David and his wife, Judy, have three sons and three grandchildren and reside in Spartanburg.

Census Bureau Releases Report on Local Government Spending

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released data from its 2005 Annual Survey of State and Local Government Employment and Payroll. This survey measures the number of State, Local and Federal civilian government employees and their gross payrolls for the pay period including March 12, 2005. The survey provides data on employment and payroll statistics for governmental functions such as education, hospitals and health care, police and fire protection, government administration, solid waste management and sewerage, utilities, highways and transportation, among other functions.

A review of the data for South Carolina local governments (county, city, township, special district, school districts) revealed a total March 2005 payroll of more than \$482 million, representing a total full-time equivalent employment of 167,783. Not surprisingly, education spending accounted for more than half of the total payroll, followed by hospitals and health care, police and fire protection, and government administration.

Provided below is a comparison of the spending breakdown by local South Carolina governments versus local governments nationwide.

Government Function	S.C. % of Total	Avg % of Total
Total Payroll	100.0%	100.0%
Elem. & Sec. Education	55.3%	52.2%
Hospitals/Health Care	16.5%	6.7%
Police/Fire Protection	9.5%	12.1%
Gov't Administration	3.4%	3.9%
Waste Mgmt/Sewerage	2.5%	2.0%
Water/Electricity/Gas	2.3%	2.5%
Other and Unallocable	2.0%	2.1%
Judicial and Legal	2.0%	2.3%
Highways/Transp.	1.8%	5.0%
Parks & Rec./Nat'l Res.	1.6%	1.9%
Correction	1.5%	2.1%
Libraries	0.8%	0.9%
Housing & Comm. Dev.	0.7%	1.0%
Public Welfare	0.1%	2.2%

For access to the full data set on federal, state and local government employees and gross payrolls, please visit the following U.S. Census Bureau site:

<http://www.census.gov/govs/www/apesc05.html>, or contact Information Services staff at (864) 242-9733.

Seniors Providing Kincare

In our country, nearly 6 million grandparents have grandchildren in their homes, and at least 2.5 million of these grandparents are the children's primary caregivers. Senior family members providing care to younger relatives are providing "kincare" daily. In the Upstate region, we provide support to these caregivers through the Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP).

To help meet the needs that these caregivers face, the Family Caregiver Support Program encourages senior caregivers of children in the Upstate to call us regarding the possibility of assisting. The summer can be a particularly stressful time for senior caregivers who realize the need for children to take part in outside activities and learn new skills, both socially and physically. The opportunity to take part in camps and special programs can provide these senior caregivers with both respite and ways to enrich the lives of the children in their charge. Funding through the FCSP may be available to meet those needs.

In the Upstate area, there are many opportunities for children of all ages. If you are a senior caring for a child, please call the FCSP regarding activities and possible scholarships for camps and related activities. We can provide information and are happy to

(Kincare continued on page 4)

Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Project

The Appalachia Area Agency on Aging and the Greenville and Spartanburg Councils on Aging, in partnership with the S. C. Department of Social Services and the Department of Agriculture, will be issuing free coupons to individuals age 60 and older who have limited income. The coupons can be used to purchase produce at designated local farmers' markets from June through October 15, 2006. This is the fourth year our agency has administered the program in Greenville and Spartanburg counties. Unfortunately, the grant from USDA was reduced this year, so there will be a reduction in the number of individuals who will be served in each county. The grant is also based on the voucher redemption rate, and the redemption rate for Greenville and Spartanburg counties is in the bottom 5 for the state.

Individuals with a monthly income of \$1476 or less, or who receive SSI or food stamp benefits, are eligible for the coupons. Individuals must apply in person, provide proof of identity, and residency in the county where sign up is being held.

This program is intended to supplement the diets of seniors with fresh, nutritious produce and to support South Carolina's small farmers. South Carolina is one of several states that received USDA funds to operate the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

Oconee older adults can sign up with the United Way of Oconee on June 6-8. Contact the United Way of Oconee at (864) 882-9743 for times. The Anderson County Recreation Department is handling sign up in Anderson County on June 5; contact Anderson County at (864) 231-2237 for location and times. Sign up for Greenville County is June 19-23, and Spartanburg County is June 26-30. For Greenville and Spartanburg Counties' locations and times, contact the Appalachia AAA for additional information.

Ombudsman Corner

Working Together to Create Person-Centered Care Plans

Care planning is a means to an end. The care plan itself is not the desired outcome. The desired outcome is a life worth living. The care planning process connects the plan to this outcome. Care planning is a dynamic process that creates a living plan to guide and direct the way in which the resident is supported. Ideally, the care planning process starts with identification of the care planning team, which consists of the resident, paid staff and the resident's family or significant others. Step one is information gathering; step two is plan design; and step three is regular review and evaluation of the plan. An effective process is reliant on clear communication among team members, a genuine effort by everyone to understand each other's perspectives and opinions and a willingness to learn from one another. Positive and optimistic attitudes of team members, along with the care planning process, will do more for the resident than any amount of clinical expertise alone. Care planning is an exercise of cooperation to which each team member contributes. The lessons learned from working as a group for a common goal come in different ways and at different rates for each of us. Sometimes the process is smooth and even, and at other times there may be tensions and opposing viewpoints.

Know Your Rights!

Resident and families should:

1. Ask for meetings to be held at a time so as to allow them to attend in person or join by telephone, if they choose;
2. Contribute to the design of the plan at whatever level of involvement that is comfortable for them;
3. Ask for a copy of the plan during the review meetings so they can follow along and participate;
4. Write questions and issues on paper prior to the meetings to assure that nothing is left unanswered;

5. Ask clarifying questions during the meeting if they don't understand something or wish changes to be made to the plan;
6. Think about supports and services "outside the box" and be willing to problem solve how to achieve the new service or support; and
7. Have the names and phone numbers of the paid staff and feel free to contact them at any time between meetings to offer suggestions, questions and observations.

The traditional approach to care plans was "what is wrong with this person." The staff would:

1. Assess issues of health and safety first and foremost;
2. Determine what the resident can/cannot do;
3. Write a plan that describes how to keep them healthy and safe;
4. Make token attempts to include CNAs and family members; and
5. Often exclude the resident from meetings.

The more supportive and inclusive approach starts with "how the person wants to live." The staff will:

1. Learn what is important to the person in everyday life;
2. Find out what "health," "safety" and "risk" mean to the resident and to those who know and care about him;
3. Always include the CNAs, family members and residents in the planning and review processes; and
4. Negotiate scheduling of care conferences so it's workable for everyone.

Most family members are never notified of the care plan meeting; some have sadly never heard of this concept. It is with information that the resident and family will have a better life in the facility.

Local Ombudsman: Nancy Hawkins, Jamie Guay, Rhonda Monroe, Sandy Dunagan, Celia Clark and Jessica Arnone; phone 864-242-9733.

Information gathered from: NCCNHR, "Giving Voice to Quality" hand-out.

Regional Mitigation Plan Approved by FEMA

As the need for federal disaster assistance has continued to increase, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of South Carolina have placed renewed emphasis on reducing disaster losses through the implementation of hazard mitigation programs. In accordance with FEMA's Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 legislation, each county has been developing a local disaster mitigation plan. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) enlisted the help of councils of governments across the state to facilitate the development of these plans for each county in their region. That plan recently received its final approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). With FEMA approval, the last step in the process will be for County Council to endorse the plan by resolution. This approval clears the way for the County to begin receiving federal hazard mitigation funds that were made available following the ice storm in December.



The premise of the county hazard mitigation plan is to lay the foundation for individualized county, hazard-specific mitigation measures that ensure local jurisdictions are in the best possible position to minimize damage, expedite the recovery process, and take advantage of federal assistance to individuals and/or public entities. The plan includes a risk assessment that identifies all potential natural hazards, profiles the risks posed by those hazards, and assesses the vulnerability of a community's residents and critical facilities to those hazards. There are also goals and objectives that prioritize where efforts and resources should be focused to maximize the effectiveness of mitigation activities based on the list of assets identified as being at greatest risk. The plan should serve as the focal point and basis for mitigation decisions made in each county in the future.

VIEWPOINT

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Pendleton WIB Announces Staff Change

(Pendleton, SC April 26, 2006) The Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board (WIB) announced today that Teri Cox Gilstrap, currently **Assistant Director** of the Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board, will become the Anderson Local Office Director for the S. C. Employment Security Commission (ESC), effective April 28.

According to WIB Director Julia Hoyle, Gilstrap's duties at the Anderson ESC office will still be closely aligned with the WIB and its mission. "Teri has contributed



greatly to our organization over the past seven years. She will definitely be missed, but her experience at the WIB and her role at the Anderson ESC will no doubt strengthen the pro-



grams of both organizations—to ultimately match people with jobs."

Gilstrap has almost 20 years of experience in non-profit administration in the Tri-County region. In particular, she has seven years experience in the development, planning and implementation of employment and training programs, and worked for three years at the S. C. Employment Commission in the nineties. She earned a BA in Economics from Clemson University and has extensive community service, including graduation from the Leadership programs of Anderson, Pickens and Pendleton.

The Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board is a non-profit organization representing Anderson Oconee and Pickens counties to connect companies to employees.

(USAR continued from page 1)

Region I USAR Team, contact David Wright, Technical Rescue Coordinator, Greenville City Fire Department, email wrightd@greatergreenville.com. For information concerning ACOG's WMD instruction, contact Joe Newton or Mike Sell at ACOG.



(Kincare continued from page 2)

receive new information regarding any related opportunities in the Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg Counties' areas. For further information, call Debra Brown or Sam Wiley at (800) 925-4077 or (864) 242-9733.