

## The Town of Pacolet Receives Local Planning Grant

**T**own officials in Pacolet recently received a S. C. Department of Commerce Local Community Planning Grant to develop a revitalization plan for their commercial districts. The project's objective is to develop a community-based strategy that will guide the Town of Pacolet's commercial revitalization efforts. The plan is intended to spur commercial revitalization by stimulating business activity through community improvements in appearance and function of the commercial areas.

Although Pacolet has made some significant improvements to their community in recent years, they still face major challenges to economic growth. Currently, citizens' commercial choices are limited and they must travel to other communities to seek restaurants and businesses they would prefer to have close to home. The plan will provide an analysis of the commercial areas in Pacolet; a community charette facilitated by Community Builders that will provide conceptual designs of the commercial areas; and, a community-based strategy that will guide the Town of Pacolet's commercial revitalization efforts to achieve the vision. The community hopes to initiate public improvements such as improved streets, parking, sidewalks, utilities, lighting, and landscaping to stimulate business development in the community based on recommendations from this plan.

The Local Planning Grant provides an ideal opportunity for the Town to undertake this planning process, providing Pacolet with a vision for their



commercial revitalization, and helping to mobilize the community as part of the ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for its citizens. The Appalachian Council of Governments staff will be working with the community to prepare the plan. For more information on the project, please contact Chip Bentley at 864-242-9733.

## Vote and Vaccinate in South Carolina!

On November 2, 2004, after you **VOTE**, roll your sleeve up for your annual flu **VACCINATION!** Across South Carolina, flu shots are available through local Health Departments or private providers. The **South Carolina Flu Clinic Finder** ([www.MRNC.org](http://www.MRNC.org) or 1-800-922-3089) can direct you to a specific clinic in your local area.

Flu and pneumonia are especially dangerous to older adults and people with health problems such as diabetes. But these illnesses are pre-

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## Military Call-Ups — Still an Issue

**S**tate and local government employees across South Carolina are still being called-up for active military service on a routine basis. Units and individuals are being activated and deactivated regularly to allow for rotation of troops here at home or at a number of hot spots around the world. Local government officials need to be aware that although the "war" in Iraq may be officially over, tens of thousands of part-time



soldiers are leaving from or returning to their civilian employment on a regular basis. In particular, elected officials and human resource managers need to be mindful of their responsibilities under the **Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA)**.

According to figures provided by the Military Reserve Officers Association (ROA), as of July 21, 2004, **the total number of Reserve personnel on Active Duty in support of the partial mobilization is 153,599**, including units and individual augmentees. At any given time, services may mobilize some units and individuals while demobilizing others. As of September, the total number of Army National Guard

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## State Announces Public Building Solar Initiative

The South Carolina Energy Office has announced the Public Building Solar Initiative, a solar water-heating grant program for public entities. The aim of the program is to demonstrate solar water heating technical and economic efficiency in South Carolina's public facilities. Eligible projects are ones that demonstrate the cost effectiveness of solar water heating in publicly owned facilities with kitchen, shower and bath, laundry, and swimming pool needs.

Applicants must document a projected energy cost savings payback of eight years or less. Grants are awarded for 75 percent of the cost of installing a solar water heating system and purchasing a service contract, up to a maximum of \$25,000.

Applications are due to the South Carolina Energy Office in the Budget and Control Board by close of business on December 10, 2004. For more information, or to request an application, contact D'Juana Wilson at [dwilson@gs.sc.gov](mailto:dwilson@gs.sc.gov) or at (803) 737-1706. A blank application may also be obtained by contacting Dirk Reis at the ACOG offices.

## The Family Caregiver Support Program

With the arrival of hurricane season, the Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) advocates had more reason than ever to be sure they had the most up-to-date information on the caregivers that they serve in the Appalachian region. In the event of a major disaster, the FCSP advocates across the state could be called upon to help local emergency workers to find some of the most vulnerable adults affected by power outages, flooding, or whatever the situation might be.

The FCSP is constantly updating its files to be prepared to disseminate information on topics of all types. Currently, the advocates are sending out packages of information to each new client with general help topics for the in-home care of seniors and especially Alzheimer's or dementia patients. With each call, new needs can become evident, and advocates are striving to address the needs of the community.

Within the next three months, a pilot program will begin to provide support for seniors who are raising a relative's minor child or children within their homes. Many seniors find themselves in a parenting role with little or no community support. It is critical that these seniors have contacts to assist them when they need support. The advocates in this region plan to pilot at least three support groups that will provide education, socialization and support opportunities to this population. The needs of seniors caring for children are immense, and the opportunity to have interaction with someone who understands that dilemma is priceless.

If you would like further information regarding any of these topics, please call 1-800-925-4077 and leave a message that includes your name and address for any future mailings. The Family Caregiver Support Program is eager to provide support in any way we can.

## Development Corporation News

Due to a continuing demand for participation, the Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC) has obtained an additional \$750,000 from the Rural and Business Cooperative Services, United States Department of Agriculture, for projects in the rural area of our region. This brings to \$1,500,000 the funds obtained from this source for the revolving loan fund programs of the ADC.

A \$326,000 loan has been approved for Laurel Gynecology Obstetrics & Infertility, PA to provide part

of the permanent financing for their facility in the Simpsonville area. The ADC is funding \$76,000 of the request directly and having the Community Reinvestment Fund provide \$250,000. The project will help create and retain ten to twelve jobs.

A \$1,000,000 loan to Blair Mills, LP was closed and funded with the ADC providing \$200,000 of the funding and the Community Reinvestment Fund providing \$800,000. Fifty additional jobs have been created in Honea Path as a result of this project.

The ADC has been notified by the Small Administration that they have approved \$515,025 in funding for Big Henry's Garden and Lumber Center in Woodruff, and \$350,000 for Blakely Funeral Home in Gaffney.

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and Army Reserve members serving on Active Duty in support of the partial mobilization is approximately 126,856; Naval Reserve, 2,763; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 11,509; Marine Corps Reserve, 10,929; and, the Coast Guard Reserve, 1,542.

The ROA also reports that the federal government is reaffirming its obligation to defend the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. USERRA protects Reserve and National Guard troops from losing their jobs and benefits due to military service. Recently, the U. S. Special Counsel, who is charged with prosecuting federal agencies that do not comply with USERRA, brought its first suit against a federal agency. State and local governments are just as liable for violations of the USERRA Act.

**Upstate elected officials or human resource specialists who are seeking detailed information on USERRA may find information and advice on the Internet at [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org) or by calling 1-800-336-4590.**



## What Are the Rights of Residents?

**W**hen a resident moves into a facility, it's common for everyone BUT the resident to assume a decision making role. This is unfortunate, because the quickest way to send someone into depression is to take away their right to make choices. Your role as a family member is to assist your relative in exercising their rights.

Sadly, many residents are denied their rights by their own inability to make decisions. Experts estimate that 60-80 percent of the people living in facilities have some degree of mental impairment. Still, even people who are forgetful or confused can express their needs and wants. Often a resident who needs help with complex matters may be able to make their own decisions about day-to-day issues. The resident's ability to communicate may be better on some days than others, but such fluctuations shouldn't interfere with the basic right to express feelings and exercise choice to the greatest degree possible.

Under federal standards, residents' rights include the right to:

- \* receive information
- \* participate in planning all aspects of care
- \* make choices and independent personal decisions
- \* enjoy privacy in care and confidentiality regarding medical, personal, or financial affairs
- \* be treated with dignity and respect
- \* know personal possessions are safe and secure
- \* be protected against transfer, unless for specific reasons
- \* raise concerns or complaints

Knowing the rights is an important first step, but it's not enough. The most important step is EXERCISING these rights.

Information retrieved from: [Nursing Homes, getting good care there](#). Burger, Sarah, et al. Second Edition.

From your Local LTC Ombudsman Program: Jamie Guay, Nancy Hawkins, Rhonda Monroe, Celia Clark and Sandy Dunagan (864-242-9733).

## Pendleton District WIB Members Attend Conference

Four Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board (WIB) members attended the Southeastern Employment and Training Association (SETA) Fall Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. The conference was held September 19-22, 2004. Board members Mr. Craig Brandon, Ms. Kristi King, Ms. Joyce Smith and Mr. Eddie Wynn attended the conference along with two staff members.

The conference had a full agenda of workshops, speakers and networking activities for the education and enjoyment of Board members. The agenda included workshops to address the issues of Boards, Case Management, WIA Administration and Finance, One-Stop Centers, Dislocated Workers, Youth, current proposed changes in WIA legislation, and other pertinent concerns to the Workforce Development System. A special tour of the Toyota Manufacturing Plant was offered.

For more than 30 years, SETA has provided up-to-date information and professional growth opportunities to its members. With more than 2,000 members, both nationally and internationally, SETA is comprised of professional and private sector volunteers from all levels of workforce development. Most members are located within the eight southeastern states of U. S. Department of Labor's Region 3, which includes Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. SETA is the largest regional employment and training organization in the nation.

## Notable Resources From ACOG



### REGIONAL DIRECTORY

The *Appalachian Council of Governments Regional Directory* will be available via the Internet at [www.scacog.org](http://www.scacog.org), beginning in January 2005. The directory is a service provided by ACOG to government agencies in the Appalachian region. This comprehensive directory contains names, titles, addresses, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses of elected and appointed officials and administrative staff in the cities and counties in the ACOG region.

### COMING SOON!

The **2004 Greenville County Multi-Family Housing Survey** is scheduled for release in early October! This annual report provides an inventory and analysis of all known conventional and "income-dependent" rental properties with 40 or more units, as well as townhouse and condominium properties with 15 or more units. Stay tuned to [www.scacog.org](http://www.scacog.org) for this upcoming release!

**ESRI AUTHORIZED TRAINING.** ACOG continues to offer two ESRI training courses taught by Authorized ESRI Instructor Ann Sommer. *The two-day classes are conducted at the ACOG in Greenville or at client sites. Introduction to ArcGIS I (for ArcView 9, ArcEditor 9, and ArcInfo 9) is an introductory level course designed for people new to ArcGIS or to geographic information systems (GIS) in general. Migrating from ArcView 3.x to ArcView 8) is an introductory level*

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# VIEWPOINT

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ventable. Flu and pneumonia shots are safe and they work!

Vaccines will be available to anyone eligible to receive them. You do not need to vote in order to receive one, nor do you need to receive one in order to vote. Vaccines are free to Medicare and Medicaid recipients. Remember to bring your Medicare card.

For more information, contact Andrea Fuller ([afuller@scqio.sdps.org](mailto:afuller@scqio.sdps.org) or 1-800-922-3089).

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course geared towards users who have experience with ArcView 3.x and want to learn ArcView 9. Contact Ann Sommer (864-242-9733) to arrange a class for your organization or to sign up for a pre-scheduled class. Seats are still available for classes in October and November!