

Windsor resident completing her first eco-friendly building

By SUZANNE R. STONE
Staff writer

WINDSOR — Joanie Schisler has almost completed her first experiment in all eco-friendly building. Schisler owns six acres in Windsor and for the past year has worked with architect Martin Buckley and contractor J.D. Cooper on plans for a guest house using fully green materials and construction techniques. Construction began four months ago, and they expect to complete work in early July. The 1,020-square-foot building has a corrugated metal exterior, an open floor plan with loft space for cross ventilation and no interior doors or duct work. Sixty-five percent of the house's power will come from a solar pump. Once the guest house is completed, it will become a prototype for the main house Schisler plans to build on the property.



Staff photo by Suzanne Stone

Architect Martin Buckley, contractor J.D. Cooper and client Joanie Schisler show off what little scrap material is left from their nearly completed environmentally friendly building project.

"The whole idea was to be as ecologically cutting-edge as we possibly could," she said. "We set our parameters and then we lived with them, which wasn't always easy." "There were certain compromises obviously, but we're getting there," Buckley said. "The exterior is about 68 percent reflective, which keeps it cool in the summer. The reflectants mean that the heat goes off into the environment. The second thing is natural ventilation, a stack effect where warm air can escape up high and cooler air can come in low. It's a cross-ventilation thing that happens a lot around New Orleans; they're better at this there than we are. The other thing is the insulation, and, even more important, the building being very tight and infiltra-

tion being cut down." Cooper had to plan ahead for the construction work. Schisler took her time collecting all recycled wood, metal and other building materials and bought only as much as the plan demanded. Cuts had to be precise, and virtually every scrap went into the building. "It's been a great privilege to work with Martin and Joan on this project because it's different and it's cutting-edge," said Cooper. "The details concerning insulation and exterior wall construction and roof construction were well thought out by Martin, and it's very economical. There was no waste; every stick of lumber

was used to the maximum length. We're only going to have a pile of sawdust left when we're done." "The encapsulation of the foundation insulation was unique. It's never been done before that we're aware of," Cooper continued. "We went down below the slab 24 inches and insulated so the ground transfer of temperature would be controlled and not create drastic swings on the temperature of the slab which would radiate into the house. The insulation is rigid, which gives it structure and strength, 96 percent efficient at temperature transfer, and the roof is a similar situation. The metal techniques, the insulation techniques

— it's all new to all of us, so it's been fun." All fixtures, plumbing and appliances will be recycled, either from Habitat for Humanity's resale store or another reseller, Schisler said. "All the little pieces have to work together, and they all help each other out," Buckley said. "The whole idea here is not minimal as something you have to live with, but minimal as a quality-oriented goal," Schisler said. "That's what we're all after, and we wanted to do it with our economy and ecology in mind." Contact Suzanne Stone at sstone@aikenstandard.com.



Staff photo by Ben Baugh

The Aiken Equine Ambulance was delivered Tuesday. The 21-foot long trailer will be a presence of many equestrian sporting events in the area.

Community's help makes ambulance reality, not dream

By BEN BAUGH
Staff writer

After more than five years in the making, the dream and vision of the Aiken Equine Ambulance has become a reality. The 2011 Exiss 21-foot long, 5,200-pound aluminum trailer was delivered Tuesday morning to Carolina Equine Clinic and will be a benefit to the area's equine community, said Jeff Wilson, Aiken Department of Public Safety animal control officer. "We'll be able to assist the horses a lot better," said Wilson. "It's a bigger trailer."

The trailer has a storage area and a LP8500 12-volt DC Electric Winch with an 8,500-pound capacity. "The trailer will have the equipment on it to pick up a horse and stabilize it on its feet," he said. Raising the money for the ambulance was a challenge the community gladly accepted when the need became apparent, said Jack Wetzel with the Aiken Equine Ambulance committee.

"As always is the case in Aiken, when we decide to do something, we find a way to get it done," he said. "If you want something done and explain to people why it's necessary and that you need their help, you're able to get them involved. People have really stepped forward. We've had help from a number of people and organizations including the Aiken SPCA, the horse show grounds, and, with Dr. Lisa Handy's (Carolina Equine Clinic) leadership as a veterinarian, it helped us to get across the need for an equine ambulance to the public more quickly." The Aiken Equine Ambulance will also be safer for the horses in distress and for the people

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Jack Wetzel
Aiken Equine Ambulance committee

involved with transporting them, said Handy. "It's a great way to take care of the animals and to be able to treat them properly," she said. "It will be used anytime the city or county gets a call regarding a loose, hurt or neglected horse. It will be available at any horse event, especially during the large spectator competitions."

There is still a need to raise funds to outfit the trailer as an equine ambulance, said Handy. The items needed include an Anderson sling, portable dolly, generator, water tank and hose, Kimsey splints and cabinets will need to be installed to organize the supplies, she said. The support from the community has been overwhelming, and Handy said she doesn't know of any other area where individuals have banded together to raise money for an equine ambulance and make the vision into a reality. "I'm really proud of how well we've done and look forward to reaching our goal," she said. Contact Ben Baugh at bbaugh@aikenstandard.com.

Learn right, wrong ways to treat fire ants

By SUZANNE R. STONE
Staff writer

The Master Gardeners of Aiken take on the menace of fire ants in the group's next Lunch Box Lecture. Clemson Extension consumer horticulture agent Vicky Bertagnoli will give the one-hour lunchtime lecture at noon Monday at the Aiken County Agricultural Services Building, 1555 Richland Ave. E., in the Aiken Master Gardeners classroom. Bertagnoli, who recently replaced new retiree Suzanne Holmes as the local Clemson Extension Service agent, is nearing completion of her master's thesis on fire ants. "I'm looking forward to

this; I've probably done a hundred or so presentations on fire ants in my career," Bertagnoli said. "We get asked about fire ants quite a bit. They're a major problem in the Southeastern United States and beyond — they're a worldwide invasive insect." The lecture will cover the biology of fire ants, chemical methods of controlling infestations and, if time allows, biological control methods, she said. It will also address myths and old wives' tales about the pests. "You don't pour grits on a fire ant mound. That's a myth, and it won't kill them — neither will coffee grounds or cat litter or cornmeal. A lot of people

want to pour gasoline or kerosene on fire ant mounds, but one, that's illegal, and two, there are much safer ways to kill fire ants," she said. "Fire ants are not resistant to pesticides, and the pesticides used for fire ants are extremely safe, if used properly. The key is to read, understand and follow the directions on the labels." Admission to the lecture is free, and brown bag lunches are welcome. For more information about the Lunch Box Lecture series or to ask gardening questions, call the Clemson Extension office at 649-6297, ext. 122. Contact Suzanne Stone at sstone@aikenstandard.com.

Want to go?
 ▶ **What?** Lunch Box Lecture on fire ants
 ▶ **When?** Monday at noon
 ▶ **Where?** Aiken County Agricultural Services Building, 1555 Richland Ave. E., in the Aiken Master Gardeners classroom
 ▶ **Cost:** Free
 ▶ For more information, call the Clemson Extension office at 649-6297, ext. 122. Brown bag lunches are welcome.

How your U.S. lawmakers voted

Y - Voted yes
N - Voted no
O - Did not vote

SOUTH CAROLINA Tally For the week ending May 13
By Thomas Voting Reports, Inc.

Y Y Y Y Y N	Gulf of Mexico Drilling: Members voted, 263-163, to restore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico to levels comparable to those in effect before the BP-Deepwater Horizon oil spill last year. A yes vote backed a bill (HR 1229) requiring prompt federal action on at least 40 pending permit applications.
N N N N N Y	Blowout Prevention: Members defeated, 176-237, a bid to expand HR 1229 (above) to include safety proposals by the panel that investigated last year's BP oil spill. A yes vote was to codify proposals such as improving equipment to prevent blowouts and adding safety redundancies to oil rigs.
Y O Y Y Y N	Offshore Drilling: Members approved, 243-179, energy drilling in several Outer Continental Shelf areas where it is barred for environmental reasons. A yes vote backed a bill (HR 1231) to start drilling, in part, off much of the Atlantic Coast, southern California and the eastern Gulf of Mexico.
N O N N N Y	Oil-Export Ban: Members defeated, 180-243, a bid by Democrats to bar energy firms from exporting the Outer Continental Shelf oil and natural gas they extract under U.S. leases. A yes vote backed the prohibition over arguments the president already can block overseas sales. (HR 1231)
Y O Y Y Y Y	Intelligence Budget: Members passed, 392-15, a secret U.S. intelligence budget estimated at \$55 billion or more for fiscal 2011. A yes vote backed a bill to fund civilian and military spy agencies such as the CIA, National Security Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency. (HR 754)
N N	Judge Edward Chen: Senators confirmed, 56-42, Edward H. Chen, 58, as a federal judge for the Northern District of California. A yes vote supported Chen over GOP arguments he would be a "judicial activist" because he once worked as a staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union.

KEY VOTES AHEAD
 ■ In the week of May 16, the House will be in recess, while the Senate will debate judicial nominations and a bill to rescind billions of dollars in tax breaks for the oil industry.

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