

A High School Diploma or GED Credential Makes a Difference

The National Assessment of Adult Literacy (*National Center for Education Statistics*) reveals that:

- Adults with lower literacy skills are more likely to rely on public assistance.
- Children of adults who participate in literacy programs improve their grades, test scores and are less likely to drop out of school.
- Probationers who receive literacy training have significantly lower re-arrest rates. Those who obtain a GED credential have an even lower re-arrest rate.

Moreover, national data from the Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate:

- The unemployment rate for those with no HS diploma or GED credential is almost six percent higher.

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YOUTH PROGRAMS

On January 5, 2012, the White House announced Summer Jobs+, a new call to action for businesses, non-profits, and government to work together to provide pathways to employment for low-income and disconnected youth in the summer of 2012. The President proposed \$1.5 billion for high-impact summer jobs and year-round employment for low-income youth ages 16-24 in the American Jobs Act as part of the Pathways Back to Work fund.

When Congress failed to act, the Federal government and private sector came together to commit to creating nearly 180,000 employment opportunities for low-income youth in the summer of 2012, with a goal of reaching 250,000 employment opportunities by the start of summer, at least 100,000 of which will be placements in paid jobs and internships. Visit Summer Jobs+ at <http://social.dol.gov/blog/hangout-with-labor-secretary-hilda-solis/> for additional information.

Business News & Expansions Around the Region

LOWE'S DISTRIBUTION CENTER continues work on its new facility in Floyd County. According to the Rome News Tribune over the weekend, the center will be 1.4 million square feet and cost \$125 million to build. Its projected completion date is April, 2013. It is expected to create approximately 600 new jobs by 2016. The center will serve 130 to 150 Lowe's stores in Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana.

– Jimmy Holbrook, AM1180 radio

MOHAWK made news when it announced it would be expanding the Summerville plant with a \$180 million investment over the next several years bringing a better outlook to the county's economic future than has been seen in many years. The first phase of expansion is expected to get underway this year with around \$50 million in new equipment coming to the plant in Summerville. This should create between 60 to 80 new jobs this year. Already the county has seen a decreasing unemployment rate over the past several months and with the addition of the new Mohawk jobs, that number should fall even more.

Georgia Power will be installing a new substation at the Summerville Industrial Park to supply the energy needs of the new expansion. The City of Summerville is donating four acres for the substation where work on the substation is already underway by Georgia Power.

– Jimmy Holbrook, AM1180 radio

REAL BRIGHT SUNRAE WATER will be relocating to Walker County, taking over an existing 200,000 square foot facility and bringing the promise of solid job growth. The former Barwick Archer building in Kensington will be the new home for the company, which plans to start production the first week of July and will eventually bottle about 2.5 million 16- and 20-ounce bottles of water a year, with an additional 150,000 five gallon containers for home and commercial use once full production starts. President Mike Schieck said of the company's decision to locate there, "We considered

several locations for our company but felt Walker County was the right place."

"I am so pleased to welcome this new company to Walker County," said Walker County Commissioner Bebe Heiskell. "We continue to receive wonderful news of businesses choosing to invest in our county. We hope Sunrae will have a long and prosperous relationship with Walker County."

Sunrae plans to distribute nationally and is currently developing plans to locate other projects in Walker County as well, according to Schieck. The details regarding those plans are not being disclosed by the company for now.

"They will hire twenty people to start, and then more as production ramps up and the facility expands," said Walker County Economic Development Director Larry Brooks.

– Gary Poole, www.wrcbtv.com

PHILLIPS BROS. MACHINE CO., after 37 years, is leaving its 50,000 square-foot facility in Rossville, according to Plant Manager Michael Phillips. The family-owned heavy equipment parts manufacturer is purchasing the 280,000 square-foot former Bluebird school bus manufacturing plant in LaFayette, Ga.

"Demand has doubled in the past four years for Phillips Bros.' products," Phillips said.

The company produces arms that lift trash cans into garbage trucks for the Heil garbage truck manufacturing plant in Fort Payne, AL. Other customers include the Alstom generator plant in Chattanooga. Phillips expects to hire 10 to 15 employees right away and to eventually introduce more products and hire more employees.

To facilitate the purchase, the Walker County Development Authority will issue \$3 million in 20-year bonds financed through the Bank of LaFayette. A superior court judge will review the bond proposal in public on June 19th. The county won't pay anything out of pocket for the bonds as Phillips Bros. will be paying the mortgage and retaining a first-right-of-refusal to buy the remaining 85 acres if needed for expansion.

– Tim Omarzu, *Times Free Press*

CareerDepot.org Newsletter

Meetings & Dates to Remember

For ALL meetings, unless otherwise noted, please RSVP to Terri Morgan at (706) 295-6485 or tmorgan@nwgrc.org

NWGA Youth Council

July 11, 2012 — 12:00 noon
Calhoun Convention Center

NWGA Workforce Investment Board

July 18, 2012 — 12:00 noon
Calhoun Convention Center

Chief Elected Officials of NWGA

To Be Announced
Calhoun Convention Center

Tri-State Meeting

July 20, 2012
Alabama

DIFFERENCE

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- Their income is approximately \$10,000 per year less.
- On average, households headed by a high school graduate accumulate ten times more wealth than households headed by a high school dropout.

The total cost for the five-part test will be \$160 and goes into effect on July 1, 2012, after the TCSG, its colleges, and the local testing centers work to inform Georgians about the price change.

Northwest Georgia One-Stop System

An equal opportunity program/ equal opportunity employer of the NW Georgia Workforce Investment Board and Coosa Valley/North Georgia Council of Chief Elected Officials and a proud partner of America's Workforce Network. Auxiliary aids available upon request.



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Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital (NGRH) Transition Center



Carolyn Barrett, NWGRC staff member at the NGRH transition center, reported that on March 29th, the Northwest Georgia

Opportunity Fair was attended by former NGRH employees. The fair was located at the Goodwill location on Hicks Drive, Rome, Ga. Refreshments were provided to attendees along with a drawing for door prizes. Services offered that day were workshops on:

- Dress for Success
- Why Haven't I found a Job
- Interviewing
- Resumes

Facilitators included training providers, Georgia Department of Labor, Goodwill Industries, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation, local temporary agencies, and NWGRC's WIA unit.

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GOODWILL PROVIDES CAREER ASSISTANCE

Goodwill Career Centers throughout Northwest Georgia offer access to phones, job boards and job fairs. Individuals can use their internet-ready computers and fax machines, receive resumé and cover letter writing assistance, and have a career coach. Goodwill provides everything needed for a successful job search.

Goodwill Career Centers help deliver an edge over the competition and in life. They knock down barriers and help provide the confidence needed to find a job. Review their [calendar](#) and take advantage of their training resources by visiting:

<http://www.goodwillng.org/get-training/calendar.aspxcsd=6/14/2012>