



## TEAM gets agriculture grant, glass recycling, storm expo

Louis Cooper • lcooper@pnj.com • April 14, 2010

The TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council has received a \$175,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a new glass recycling process comes to Santa Rosa and a hurricane preparedness expo is set for Milton on June 5.

### TEAM Santa Rosa gets federal ag grant

The TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council has been approved for a \$175,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant that will create a revolving loan fund to help farmers move into specialty crops.

Local farmers who want to produce specialty crops such as peppers, squash and watermelons — instead of traditional row crops such as peanuts and cotton — would be eligible for the loans, said Ildi Hosman, spokeswoman for TEAM.

"Specialty crops are more profitable than traditional row crops because they are in demand by the local consumer, have a short transportation requirement and do not require a government subsidy," Hosman said.

The loans will be awarded by TEAM's new Revolving Loan Fund Committee.

The program will be active after the Agriculture Department releases the funds, which could be several months out, Hosman said. In the meantime, the Revolving Loan Fund Committee will draw up policies and procedures along with forms that will

be used for distributing the loans, she said.

### Santa Rosa welcomes new glass recycling

Old glass will get a new life in Santa Rosa County, thanks to a machine purchased through a grant from IMPACT 100 Pensacola Bay Area.

Santa Rosa County welcomed its new glass-pulverizing machine in a ceremony on Thursday. The new machine will enable the county to use an estimated 160,000 pounds of discarded glass that had gone into the county landfill every month.

The machine — an Andela Glass Pulverizer GP-05L — was purchased through a \$102,800 grant from IMPACT 100 awarded to the Santa Rosa Clean Community System. It is located the Central Landfill in Milton.

It turns glass into smooth pebbles suitable for landscaping and sand suitable to be used as aggregate in concrete.

"You can walk on it. Kids can play on it, and they don't get cut," said John Tonkin, executive director of the Clean Community System.

Initially, the recycled glass will be used at various government and nonprofit sites to introduce the many uses of recycled glass to the public.

Eventually, the materials will be marketed and sold.

Glass to be recycled may be taken to any of Santa Rosa's 27 public recycling areas throughout the county. Listings and maps are available at [www.santarosa.fl.gov/recycle](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/recycle).

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## SAFER Santa Rosa plans preparedness expo

The first week of the 2010 hurricane season will include an opportunity to get better prepared for weather-related disasters.

The Santa Rosa County Preparedness Expo is set for June 5 at the Santa Rosa County Auditorium in Milton. Hurricane season begins June 1.

The expo will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the nonprofit Support Alliance For Emergency Readiness, or SAFER.

It is intended to offer attendees critical information in order to ensure their homes and businesses are protected against disaster, according to a news release from SAFER.

Exhibitor space is still available at \$150 per space. For more information, go to [www.SaferSantaRosa.org](http://www.SaferSantaRosa.org).

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