



**For Immediate Release
May 17, 2006**

Moore County, NC

New Industry Relocating to Robbins

After recently being selected for the NC Rural Center's Small Towns Economic Prosperity (STEP) program, the Town of Robbins now has another reason to celebrate: a new industry is coming to town. American Growler, Inc. announced today that it will be relocating its manufacturing plant from Ocala, Florida to Robbins.

American Growler, Inc. is a privately-held manufacturer of military vehicles used primarily by the United States Marine Corps and Special Operations Command. As a subcontractor, the company was recently awarded a contract to build 570 vehicles that are internally transportable in the V22 Osprey aircraft.

The company is owned by Bill Crisp and Terry Crews. Crisp is a retired General Electric executive with a home in Vass. He currently splits his time between Vass and Ocala. Crews is a retired Marine Colonel living in Alexandria, Virginia, who plans to move to Moore County.

The company has purchased the 50,000 square-foot former Carolina Lace building on North Green Street in Robbins and plans to completely renovate the 45-year old building. The Robbins facility will be about 30,000 square feet larger than the facility in Ocala that American Growler is now leasing.

Crisp commented, "The building in Robbins is large enough for us to expand our manufacturing and bring work in-house that is currently being subcontracted. By owning our building instead of leasing, and bringing certain processes in-house, we can improve the quality and reduce the overall cost of our products. We can focus not only on fulfilling our current contract, but also on competing for additional contracts and on developing new products. With a great business climate and an ample supply of labor, Moore County is a good location for us to accomplish these goals. We look forward to setting up our operations here."

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American Growler, Inc.

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American Growler anticipates hiring approximately 25 people initially and growing to 40 employees within 3 years.

The company has applied for a One North Carolina Fund grant through the NC Department of Commerce, which would help offset the costs of renovating the building in Robbins and moving equipment from Ocala. At their April 17th meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners agreed to provide the matching funds required by the grant.

“We are thrilled that American Growler is bringing its manufacturing operations to Robbins”, said Mickey Brown, Mayor of Robbins. “They’ve purchased a building that has been vacant for some time, so we’re looking forward to seeing it refurbished and functional again. And obviously we are also looking forward to the new jobs and investment that the company will be bringing to our community. American Growler’s announcement is great news, and Robbins will be welcoming them with open arms.”

Ray Ogden, Executive Director of Moore County Partners in Progress, said, “American Growler is definitely a bright spot for Robbins, but it’s also a positive for all of Moore County. They will be creating jobs that pay above Moore County’s average weekly wage. And the company represents a promising industry sector for us: military contractors and support businesses, especially those looking for close proximity to Fort Bragg.”

“Our Board of Commissioners has done a great job of showing support to companies like American Growler”, Ogden added. “It will be exciting to see American Growler up and running in Robbins.”

Partners in Progress is the non-profit economic development organization representing all of Moore County. For more information, visit www.moorebusiness.org.

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