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Mississippi cottages



William Colgin/The Mississippi Press

Danny Jones, owner of Pelican Park, and Alicia Hollifield, property manager, are accepting applications to rent lots for Mississippi Cottage placement at their St. Martin property. The cottage placement program is open to those who were Coast residents prior to Hurricane Katrina and who are currently living in FEMA trailers. The property has five cottages set up and about 35 more spaces available for rent.

MEMA offers alternative to FEMA trailers

By SARA FRYE
The Mississippi Press

GAUTIER — Thousands of FEMA trailer residents will receive an opportunity to participate in the Mississippi alternative housing pilot program.

"The alternative housing pilot program is to show a relatively inexpensive alternative to FEMA trailers," Mike Womack, executive director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, said.

MEMA mailed a letter to the residents of all 13,300 Federal Emergency Management Agency provided travel trailers and mobile homes in Jackson, Harrison and Hancock counties to notify them of the program.

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"We now know that we can build units that are safer and more livable, and we know how much they cost."

— Mike Womack, executive director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency

Originally MEMA randomly selected about 4,000 FEMA trailer residents to receive a cottage, but because of the low level of response they have now widened the program.

Many of the letters were returned unopened, and some who were selected chose not to participate because they soon will be moving into a permanent home, according to MEMA.

The program is funded through a \$280 million



William Colgin/The Mississippi Press

A one bedroom Mississippi Cottage stands ready for a tenant at Pelican Park in St. Martin. There are three versions of the Mississippi Cottage, a one-bedroom, a two-bedroom and a three-bedroom.

grant and is run by MEMA. It was created to test an alternative to travel trailers in case of a future disaster, Womack said.

"We already consider the program a success," Womack said. "We now know

that we can build units that are safer and more livable, and we know how much they cost."

The major concern for MEMA is whether the cost to maintain the all-electric

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William Colgin/The Mississippi Press

Faye and David Smith and their granddaughter, Britni Walker, take shelter under umbrellas Saturday as they wait for the rain to stop at the RiverFest in Moss Point.

RiverFest turns wet

■ Gulf Coast Symphony performs, but crowd cut by stormy weather

By AMBER CRAIG
The Mississippi Press

MOSS POINT — Stormy weather threatened to put a hold on the city's first RiverFest, but the show went on last night for about 500 audience members who showed up to enjoy the concert.

The show featuring the Gulf Coast Symphony started later than scheduled because of rain that started about 6 p.m. Then a downpour sent people scattering for

tents, trees or other shelter, but the first act, Chickin' Daddy and the Hotwings, was performing on a barge over the Escatawpa River by 7:10 p.m.

Kathy Scarbrough, RiverFest chairwoman, said organizers originally expected 2,000 people to show up for the evening of concert with musicians playing Southern gospel, jazz and blues styles, but the weather Saturday and in the previous week likely kept some people at home.

"I do believe the unpredictable weather we've had all week has caused people not to attend," Scarbrough said.

Rosetta Jones and her See RIVERFEST, Page 10-A



William Colgin/The Mississippi Press

Chickin' Daddy and the Hotwings perform Saturday at the Moss Point RiverFest.

Historic Pascagoula buildings making comebacks

By BRAD CROCKER
The Mississippi Press

PASCAGOULA — Two historic buildings in Pascagoula are making steady comebacks in the two-year wake of Hurricane Katrina, city officials said.

The Jolly P. McCarty Art Depot downtown is expected to reopen in about a month, said Pascagoula Community Development Director Betty Bensey.

Work has also begun at the La Pointe-Krebs House, also known as Old Spanish Fort, which the city assumed con-

trol of earlier this year for the first time in nearly 70 years.

The depot was "kind of twisted in a way," Bensey said when Katrina's flood waters came underneath the structure but left no water marks.

The hardwood floors shifted when they became damp, Bensey said, but now the building has been reset, carpet reinstalled, brick decking replaced and other interior and exterior repairs.

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William Colgin/The Mississippi Press

Jolly P. McCarty Art Depot



William Colgin/The Mississippi Press

La Pointe-Krebs House

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