

**Old Crab**  
 Congratulations to all those young-at-heart winners during the Old Settlers Day at the Jackson County Fair.



**FOOTBALL PREVIEWS**  
**Ole Miss counting on Senquez Golson to fill the void**  
**SPORTS/1B**



**Panthers, Gators clash in Singing River Classic/1B**

# THE MISSISSIPPI PRESS

FRIDAY **gulf live** Mississippi Edition of the PRESS-REGISTER **50 Cents** October 21, 2011

**JACKSON COUNTY FAIR**  
**Old Settlers tradition continues**  
**COAST/LOCAL, 1C**



Mamie Halthon, chairwoman of Old Settlers Day, presents a plant to Rosie Lee Austin, 105, who was named the oldest woman in Jackson County on Thursday. Austin is cared for by her granddaughter, Rose Mary Chestang, standing center.

## GADHAFI DEAD

Rebel fighters shoot former Libyan leader

**PAGE 7A**



**COAST/LOCAL: COLORFUL KOI FISH ON DISPLAY THIS WEEKEND DURING COASTAL POND TOUR/1C**

**VT HALTER MARINE**  
**Egyptian naval vessel launched**

Fast missile craft is first of four being built at Pascagoula yard

By **APRIL M. HAVENS**  
 ahavens@themiississippi.com

VT Halter Marine's Pascagoula yard launched the first of four Egyptian navy fast missile craft Thursday, marking a milestone in the ship's construction.

The four-vessel contract represents an \$807 million deal for the local shipbuilder.



**Skinner**

"It's clearly a great day," Halter Marine Chief Executive Officer Bill Skinner said. "This is the first of four, and it's been a great program for us, one that's provided hundreds of jobs."

Skinner said the first vessel is on track for a fourth-quarter delivery next year.

The fast missile craft is designed to perform coastal patrol, surveillance, interdiction, surface strike and naval battle group support.

These high-speed, agile craft can reach speeds of greater than 34 knots, provide berthing for a crew of up to 40 sailors and operate up to eight days independently at sea.

See Halter Page 4A

**Today** 71° Sunny  
**Tonight** 43° Clear  
**Complete Weather 6C**

7 02045 09905 5  
 Vol. 198 No. 166 Mobile, Ala. 50 pages 6 sections

**ST. MARTIN**

## \$7K reward in arson case



**JOSHUA DAHL/Correspondent**

Sheriff Mike Byrd speaks Thursday during a news conference announcing a reward for information on the arsonist that set fire to Rose Farm Custom Cycle in St. Martin. At right is Joel Lee of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Officials seek public's help in fire that destroyed Rose Farm Custom Cycle

By **CHERIE WARD**  
 cward@themiississippi.com

**ST. MARTIN** — A \$7,000 reward was offered Thursday morning for anyone who provides details about who set a fire at 1 a.m. Sept. 12 that destroyed Rose Farm Custom Cycle.

The reward is a collaboration of \$5,000 from the U.S. Justice Department's Gulfport Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; \$1,000 from the Mississippi Coast Crimes Stoppers; and \$1,000 from the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's office.

Those agencies, as well as the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, are jointly investigating the fire, which has been ruled arson. The information must lead to an arrest and conviction in order to claim the cash.

Joel Lee, resident agent in charge at the bureau, said the person responsible could face state and federal charges.

"This is being investigated as a team of state, county and federal law enforcement," Lee said. "I encourage anyone with information about this arson to come forward. Arson

is a violent crime that will not be tolerated." Lee said tipsters would remain anonymous.

Boyce Nix, owner of the cycle shop, said he awoke at 1:20 a.m. Sept. 12 to his phone ringing and learned from authorities that his shop was on fire. The blaze did \$400,000 in damage, which is considered a total loss. Nix said he opened the shop in that location just six weeks prior to the fire.

"I got out here and saw nothing but flames and fire trucks," Nix said. "I watched it burn as they worked to put it out. It was my birthday."

Nix said he has no major enemies. "I have the standard disgruntled customer; no one mad enough to do this," he said.

Authorities have few leads, which is why they are reaching out for the public's assistance.

"Every crime has a victim," Sheriff Mike Byrd said. "We really need the public's help to solve this."

Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney, who is also the state's fire marshal, said every time an arson is committed, insurance rates climb. "We're here today to help stop it," Chaney said. "We're not going to tolerate this in this county or the state of Mississippi."

**GOT A TIP?**  
 A \$7,000 reward was offered Thursday morning for anyone who can provide details about who set a fire at 1 a.m. Sept. 12 that destroyed Rose Farm Custom Cycle in St. Martin. Anyone with information can call:

- U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives at 888-283-3473.
- Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers at 877-787-5898.
- Mississippi State Fire Marshal's office at 888-648-0877.

See Reward Page 4A

**DOWNTOWN PASCAGOULA**

## Historic buildings donated

Redevelopment Authority to market sites to potential occupants

By **KAIJA WILKINSON**  
 kwilkinson@themiississippi.com

**PASCAGOULA** — A pair of adjacent properties that once were part of a bustling downtown changed hands Thursday and could soon be part of the city's revitalization.

Heidelberg Steinberger Colmer & Burrow law firm donated the former Parker Jewelry and Parsley's Barber Shop buildings at the corner of Delmas Avenue and Canty Street to the Pascagoula Redevelopment Authority during a recessed meeting at City Hall.

The authority will market the properties to potential occupants.

When the law firm was deciding what to do with the property, there was "no doubt about who it would go to," Karl Steinberger told the authority board.

He was joined by Stephen Burrow at the meeting.

The property was originally going to be donated to the city, but city leaders recommended it go directly to the authority, which they created this past spring.

The purpose of the authority is to spur development, since it can act more like a private developer and avoid much of the red tape involved in city-led projects.

"A lot of people have fond memories of these buildings, and they've got great potential," Steinberger said. "Hopefully, you guys will find the resources to make them something spectacular, when it's all said and done."

He pointed out that Parker Jewelry once featured gigantic glass windows.

Authority Director Harry Schmidt told the board that city leaders have set aside \$50,000 in economic development funds toward redeveloping the buildings.



**KAIJA WILKINSON/Press-Register**

These downtown buildings at the corner of Delmas Avenue and Canty Street have been donated to the Pascagoula Redevelopment Authority.

**GREATER GULF STATE THE FAIR** **OCT 21-30**  
**OPENS 4PM TODAY**  
**BUDWEISER GRANDSTAND SHOWS**  
 SAT OCT 22 - 7pm **JUKEBOX SUPERHERO**  
 SUN OCT 23 - 7pm **BRET MICHAELS**  
 THU Oct 27 - 7pm **SAMMY KERSHAW**  
**WWW.MOBILEFAIR.COM**  
**FREE PARKING. FREE ENTERTAINMENT. 251-344-4573**