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INSIDE
Eupora's baseball season ends with playoff loss to Bruce

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Bi-fuel vehicle studied at MSU

By PAUL SIMS
sdnews@bellsouth.net

A concept which could bring hybrid-electric power and increased fuel efficiency to older vehicles may go to the prototype phase this fall, those studying the concept said recently.

This past semester, two recent Mississippi State University graduates performed a study to determine the feasibility of a business based on a retrofit of an existing used vehicle, said Gerald Nelson the director of the Jack Hatcher Entrepreneurship Program and the Thad Cochran Endowment for Entrepreneurship at MSU.

The mechanical engineering graduates — Forrest Exley and Nick Brimhall, from Jackson and Memphis, Tenn., respectively — used the project to complete their work in the Hatcher program. In the pro-



Paul Sims/SDN

Mark Denton, vice president for business development with Blossman Gas, talks about the features on this 2008 Mercury Grand Marquis, a demonstration vehicle using gasoline and propane as fuels with those gathered under the hood of the car, including recent Mississippi State University graduate Nick Brimhall. Brimhall was among the students who recently studied the feasibility of adding propane and hybrid-electric technology to an older gas-powered vehicle.

Red Cross sees busy month of response

For the Daily News

For most of the month of April, the Oktibbeha County chapter of the American Red Cross has been in a disaster response mode.

"First we had the Cross-gates Apartment fire, then the Campus Trails fire, and then the tornado in Choctaw County," said Carol Moss Red, chapter chair. "Our volunteers and staff have been going full speed for almost a month."

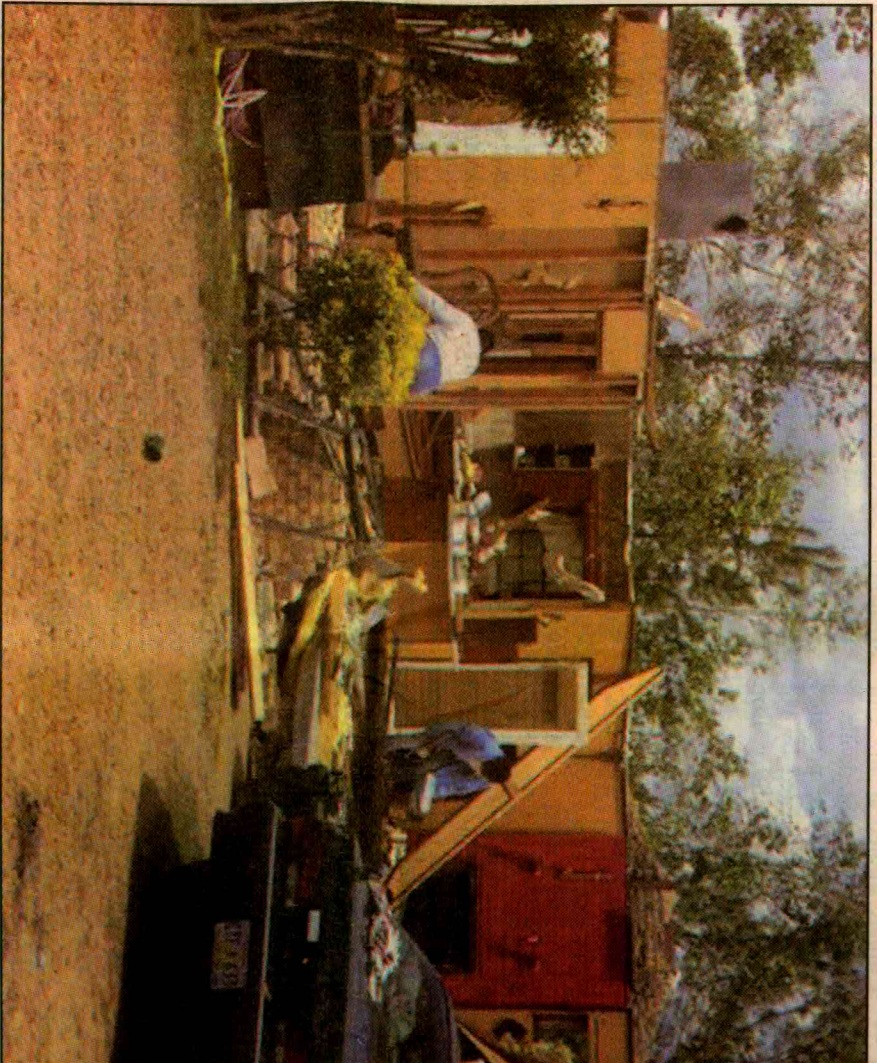
Steve Montgomery, emergency manager for Choctaw County, appreciates the work of the chapter.

"Red Cross was one of the first agencies to arrive here after the tornado. They were Johnny-on-the-spot to help. It's good to know you've got that kind of neighbors," he said.

"We opened a shelter in Ackerman at the Choctaw County Community Center and began providing food within a few hours," said chapter Disaster Chair Dan Jackson. His co-chair, Rosemary Cutchi, was soon driving the emergency response vehicle (ERV) through the devastated community of Chester.

Donna Barnore, the Red Cross Chapter's VISTA worker, was one of the first on the scene; the VISTA executives in Jackson had called and offered more help, if needed.

"I can't say enough about the dedication of our volunteers. People who had worked all week, some volunteers from Louisville, and others — just dropped what they were doing and responded to our call for help," said Parker Wilkes.



Bryan Champlin/
For the SDN

Above, residents of Dotson Road in the Chester community of Choctaw County

work to salvage possessions from the remains of their home damaged by the April 24 tornado. The Oktibbeha County Red Cross provided food, drinks, and snacks for the residents of the area. Left, Patty Tucker, left, director of the Northeast Regional Chapter, talks with Oktibbeha chapter director Becky Wilkes at the Choctaw County Commu-

Developer seeks OK to convert motel into condos

By BRIAN HAWKINS
shneditor@bellsouth.net

One long-time Starkville motel could begin getting a new lease on life as early as this summer if the city's Planning and Zoning Commission approves a conditional use to allow the property to be redeveloped into condominiums.

Tabor Properties LLC is seeking approval of a conditional use to allow the University Inn on Spring Street to be converted into a multi-family residential condominium hotel within a C-2



(general business) district. If the commission gives its OK, the proposed condominium project would then go before the Starkville Board of Aldermen for approval. According to a staff report prepared by City Planner Ben Griffith, the owners of Tabor Properties plan to convert the 100-room University Inn, which recently closed, into 50 residential units to be offered for fee-simple sale.

A condominium association would be established upon approval of a condominium plat, the "recording of which will be required prior to the sale of any real property," Griffith's report states. Initial plans for the property also call for the installation of a privacy fence, landscaping and parking area improvements. The motel's pool area, lobby building and surrounding property are not included in the conditional use request, and Tabor Properties owners are considering multiple redevelopment options for those areas with no definite plans, Griffith's report states.

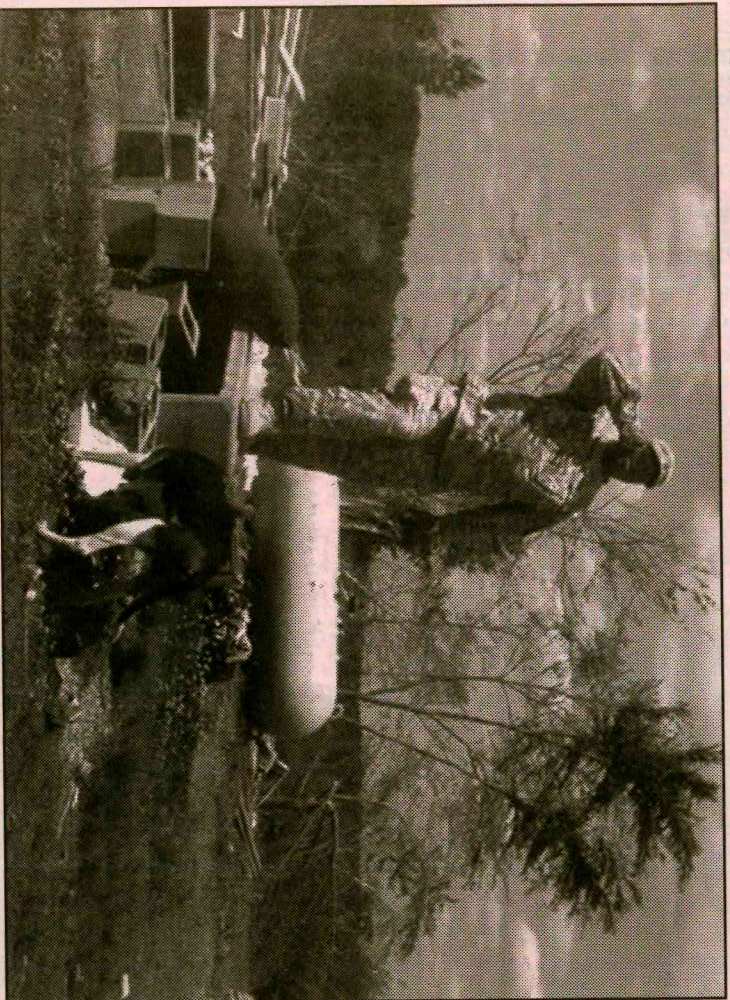
A complete engineering assessment of the site is under way, with renovations scheduled to begin during the summer months, Griffith's report states. A condominium plat would be submitted shortly after the engineering assessment is complete, the report states. The footprint of the existing University Inn buildings will not increase, nor will additional floors be added to those buildings, Griffith's report states.

The only major issue facing the site is a five-foot underground pipe that runs under the hotel building in what was once Catalpa Creek. An easement for long-term maintenance of the pipe will be necessary, and efforts have begun to draft an agreement, Griffith's report states. Thus far, the Building, Codes and Planning Department has received no letters or calls objecting to the proposed project, though some calls have been received inquiring whether the project was a part of the Cotton Mill Marketplace project. The project is not tied to the Cotton Mill Marketplace, Griffith said.

Other items on tonight's agenda for the Planning and Zoning Commission include the following: A public hearing as requested by John Hart-



Bryan Champlin/For the SDN
Left, an unidentified Huard soldier talks on his cell phone from the site of a mobile home that was destroyed in the Choctaw community of Choctaw County by the tornado. Above, the roof of this home in Choctaw County was lifted off the structure during the tornado.



New coverage for young adults will raise premiums

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Letting young adults stay on their parents' health insurance until they turn 26 will nudge premiums nearly 1 percent higher for employer plans, the government said in an estimate released Monday.

The coverage requirement, effective starting later this year, is one of the most anticipated early benefits of President Barack Obama's new health care law.

Many insurers have already started offering extended coverage to families who purchase their coverage directly. And employers say parents have flooded their benefits departments with questions.

The Health and Human Services Department released estimates of the costs and benefits of the requirement as part of a regulation directing employers and insurers how to carry it out.

The new benefit will cost \$3,380 for each dependent, raising premiums by 0.7 percent in 2011 for employer plans, according to the department's mid-range estimate. Some 1.2 million young adults are expected to sign up, more than half of whom would have been uninsured.

Extended coverage will be required starting this fall, for health plan years beginning on or after Sept. 23.

That premium increase will come on top of hikes employers already expect for next year. Large companies forecast that premiums will rise between 6.5 percent and 7 percent without the impact of

the chapter Wednesday to drive an Emergency Response Vehicle from Jackson to help feed the latest storm victims in Tippah and Alcorn Counties.

"It's important that we help those people, because they are the ones who help us when we need it," explained Read. "We appreciate Carl's service and that of all the volunteers who responded in Choctaw County."

To make a \$10 donation to help with the Mississippi tornadoes, text Red Cross to 90999, or send a check to the Oktibbeha County chapter at 100 Felix Long Drive, Starkville, MS.

A Red Cross training session on shelter operations is scheduled for 1 p.m. on May 27 at Bost Extension Center. To register for the event and become a Red Cross volunteer, contact the chapter office at 323-4621.

Phase 4 Revision final subdivision plat located at the northeast intersection of Eudora Welby and Abernathy drives on the eastern side of the Highway 25 bypass.

A report by Griffith is also on tonight's Planning and Zoning Commission agenda. The commission meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall courtroom. Copies of the agenda will be available on the City Hall receptionist's desk prior to the start of the meeting.

MSU Entrepreneurship Center is a resource for companies such as Impower to achieve proof of concept on new market ideas such as this one, Nelson said.

IN THE NEWS

Lenny Kravitz among headliners at benefit

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Musicians rallied to help save Louisiana's coast, its fishermen and its heritage in a benefit concert dubbed Gulf Aid that will feature Lenny Kravitz and Ani DiFranco — two artists who call the Big Easy home.

"It's only fitting that the individuals who are the protectors of our culture, the musicians, come to the aid of those who help supply our culture, the fishermen," Mayor Mitch Landrieu said on Monday.

Landrieu said the concert will help draw attention to "this catastrophic failure that's

happening off our coast." At least 4 million gallons of oil have spilled since the April 20 explosion on the Deepwater Horizon about 50 miles off the Louisiana coast.

At that pace, the spill would surpass the 11 million gallons spilled in the Exxon Valdez disaster by Father's Day.

Sunday's benefit will be held from noon to 10 p.m. CDT at Mardi Gras World River City, which sits dockside to the Mississippi River. Tickets cost \$50 and are available online via Elevate Tickets, www.elevate.com.

Proceeds will go to the Gulf Relief Foundation and will benefit fishermen and their families, whose livelihood depends on the Gulf.

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Response from page 1

chapter director. "When I called Pam Cosby, she said, 'I thought you'd be calling.' Pam had helped with the Katrina response, so her knowledge was very helpful to us."

"Some of these people have lost everything," Quicchi said.

Rosemary did double duty, driving the ERV and assessing the property damage. Her husband, Paul, was a disaster assessment team member, too.

Broken pine trees seemed to stretch for miles. The smell of freshly-cut pine was everywhere. Some houses were completely gone; others had roofs lifted out and moved. The sound of chain saws and utility vehicles filled the air.

Project from page 1

unit development) on property located at 214 S. Washington St. in Ward 7.

A public hearing as requested by PineLake Church to approve a conditional use to allow a church into a C-2 zone located at 200 Highway

Study from page 1

conventional vehicle," said Michael Mazzola, associate director for advanced vehicles at the Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems.

"We are fortunate to have such a strong volunteer base," Jackson said. "It really makes a difference in how our chapter responds."

And Starkville merchants stepped up and helped, too.

"We ordered 200 sausage biscuits and they had them ready for us within half an hour," Read said. "We ordered 250 boxed lunches two different days, and no one said they couldn't handle it or even questioned us — they wanted to help. And we really appreciate them taking on these extra unexpected orders."

Choctaw County residents streamed into the shelter, asking how they could help. Some pulled together bags of peanut butter, jelly, and bread to hand out to storm victims. Others gathered diapers and toiletries.

Some brought checks or cash donations, and some

25 South in Ward 1. This is the former Team Chevrolet car dealership building on the 25 bypass. Team Chevrolet closed the facility more than a month ago.

A request by Mike Brent

One of the reasons the team decided to blend the two technologies is the HEV "allows the vehicle a dramatically-im-

propane as an alternate fuel for vehicles.

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