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**Abby Manufacturing Expands Operations Creating 35 New Jobs,
MDA Assists Furniture Industries Creating 80 New Jobs, Marty
Stuart Opens Exhibit as Part of Elvis' 75th Birthday Celebration**

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**Abby Manufacturing Expands Operations into Benton County;
Creates 35 New Jobs**

Abby Manufacturing, a fabricated structural metal manufacturer, has expanded its operations into a Benton County-owned building in Ashland, Miss. A nearly \$556,000 investment by the company, the expansion will create approximately 35 new jobs at the facility. Twenty-five of those are already in place.

To assist with the expansion, MDA provided the City of Ashland with Capital Improvements Revolving Loan Program funds and the county with Community Development Block Grant funds in the amounts of \$90,000 and \$353,000, respectively. The funds will be used for infrastructure improvements.

In addition to the company's new facility in Benton County, Abby Manufacturing has a facility in Walnut, Miss., in Tippah County. A private company, Abby Manufacturing provides operations and maintenance solutions to numerous freight airline companies, including FedEx. The company also fabricates motor mounts, all-terrain vehicle implements and trailers. For more information, please visit the Abby Manufacturing Web site at www.abby-usa.com.

**MDA Assists Furniture Industries Resulting in a Total of 80 New
Jobs**

Southern Motion, a reclining furniture manufacturer located in Pontotoc,

has announced it is expanding its operations in order to increase production capacity. The expansion will add 70 new jobs and new manufacturing lines at the facility. MDA certified the company for the 70 jobs through the Existing Manufacturers Job Rebate Program. In early 2009, the company underwent an expansion which added 65 new jobs, new lines and new equipment. For that project, MDA provided workforce training assistance and guidance regarding state and county tax incentives available to the company.

Additionally, MDA recently provided American Furniture Manufacturing in Pontotoc with \$103,000 in Rural Impact Funds (RIF) for infrastructure improvements, and the Appalachian Regional Commission provided \$165,000 to the company, also for infrastructure improvements. As a result, 10 new jobs will be created at the site.

To learn more about programs offered by MDA to assist businesses around the state, please visit www.mississippi.org.

Mississippi Native, Country Singer Marty Stuart Opens Exhibit in Tupelo as Part of Elvis' 75th Birthday Celebration

Philadelphia, Miss., native and country music artist Marty Stuart was in Tupelo last week to celebrate the opening of the "Sparkle & Twang: Marty Stuart's American Musical Odyssey" exhibit at the Tupelo Automobile Museum. The exhibit, which is part of Elvis Presley's 75th birthday celebration, features a collection of performance costumes, accessories, handwritten lyrics, personal letters and instruments belonging to Stuart. It also showcases costumes, instruments, lyrics and other unique items from well-known recording artists, including a sweater belonging to Elvis Presley, Patsy Cline's makeup case, Johnny Cash's "Man in Black" suit and Hank Williams' handwritten "Your Cheatin' Heart" lyrics.

According to MDA Tourism Division Director Mary Beth Wilkerson, the vibrant exhibit is full of historic costumes and key artifacts and is a must-see for music lovers. She added that Stuart continues to be an ambassador for his home state of Mississippi, and he plays a very important role in the promotion of Mississippi through his music and his life.

Stuart's exhibit will remain at the Tupelo Automobile Museum through June 30, 2010. On July 10, the exhibit will reopen at the Mississippi State University Riley Center for Education and Performing Arts in Meridian, where it will remain until September 26. For more information about the exhibit, please visit www.sparkleandtwang.info. For more about tourism opportunities and upcoming events in Mississippi, please visit www.visitmississippi.org.

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