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American Contract Bridge League Relocating, MDA Awards Money for Improvement Projects, Bay St. Louis Harbor Project Underway, Three Mississippians Honored at Recent Awards Ceremony, Port of Greenville Expanding

In this issue:

- [American Contract Bridge League Relocating](#)
- [MDA Awards Money for Improvement Projects](#)
- [Bay St. Louis Harbor Project Underway](#)
- [Three Mississippians Honored at Recent Awards Ceremony](#)
- [Port of Greenville Expanding](#)

American Contract Bridge League Relocating from Memphis to Horn Lake; Bringing Approximately 70 Jobs to the Area

The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL), one of the largest organizations in the world dedicated to the game of bridge, has announced it is relocating its headquarters from Memphis to Horn Lake. The move represents a \$3 million investment by the organization, and it will bring approximately 70 jobs to the area. According to Jay Baum, ACBL CEO, a location in Horn Lake will provide the organization the growth opportunities it needs to better serve its members and showcase its history. MDA provided Momentum Mississippi incentives to assist ACBL with its move.

Boasting over 160,000 members living in the United States, Mexico, Canada and Bermuda, ACBL determines the North American rules for the game of bridge, assists with the formulation of international rules and sanctions club and tournament games. Founded in 1937, the not-for-profit organization also encourages participation in the game of bridge at all levels of participation and experience. To learn more, please visit www.acbl.org.

MDA Awards More than \$6 Million for 11 Improvement Projects in State

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded Capital Improvements Revolving Loan (CAP), CDBG Economic Development (ED) and CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding for 11 improvement projects throughout the state. CAP loans are provided to counties or municipalities to finance capital improvements such as water, sewer, industrial draining and fire protection improvements, industrial access roads, construction of multipurpose facilities for tourism development and recreation improvements. CDBG ED funds are designed to help local units of government ensure basic community services, environmental quality and economic opportunities for their residents. In order to receive CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding, a project must prove a particular urgency due

to existing conditions that pose a threat to the health or welfare of a community. The awards, which total over \$6 million, include:

- **CAP Loans**
 - Town of Walnut Grove - \$250,000 for a new fire station
 - Washington County - \$4,000,000 to renovate a publicly-owned building for economic development
- **CDBG ED**
 - City of Batesville (GE Aviation) - \$300,000 for sewer improvements to the city-owned industrial park
 - Washington County (Atlanta Bonded Warehouse) - \$1,000,000 for building improvements
- **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities**
 - Bolivar County - \$21,500 for sewer improvements
 - Calhoun County - \$100,000 for sewer improvements
 - City of Magee - \$100,000 for improvements/repairs to a water well
 - City of West Point - \$100,000 for sewer improvements
 - Holmes County - \$89,685 for sewer improvements
 - Leake County - \$15,295 for sewer repairs
 - Town of Potts Camp - \$85,000 for sewer improvements

To learn more about the funding programs available through MDA's Community Services Division, please visit www.mississippi.org and select the Community and Asset Development link located near the top of the page.

Bay St. Louis Harbor Project Underway; Will Serve as Destination for Businesses and Tourists

The City of Bay St. Louis recently began the Bay St. Louis Harbor Project, a commercial and recreational harbor that will be located along the city's historic waterfront. The project, which was conceived by the citizens of Bay St. Louis to help revitalize the downtown area and restore the city's economy, is using over \$13 million from the state's Katrina Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Economic Development Recovery funds. The Harbor Project is a part of the state's "Ground Zero" initiative, and it is consistent with the overall CDBG disaster recovery goals; it is helping to restore lost business activity and tax base in the hurricane-damaged city. The "Ground Zero" initiative is a series of Katrina recovery projects specifically for Hancock County, which suffered the brunt of the storm.

According to Governor Haley Barbour, the harbor will enable restaurants, shops and other small businesses to once again thrive in an attractive Old Town area which will again be a destination for visitors from throughout the region. The project is being funded primarily through the \$5.4 billion the state received in CDBG Disaster Recovery funds.

Three Mississippians Honored at Recent 2009 James Beard Foundation Awards Ceremony

Three Mississippians - John Currence, John T. Edge and Martha Hall Foose - were recognized recently at the 2009 James Beard Foundation Awards ceremony at the Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall in New York City. The award recognition program is the nation's most prestigious in honoring professionals in the food and beverage industry. This year's event was hosted by Mississippi native and Iron Chef Cat Cora, world renowned chef Emeril Lagasse and award-winning actor Stanley Tucci.

Currence, owner and chef of City Grocery in Oxford, was named "Best Chef: South Category." He received the category's top honor out of a field of chefs hailing from such places as Palm Beach, Miami and New Orleans. John T. Edge, director of Southern Foodways Alliance, was inducted into the coveted "Who's Who in Food and Beverage in America." Edge has written six books and edited seven, and he has written for *Gourmet*, *The New York Times* and the *Oxford American*. Mississippi chef and storyteller Martha Hall Foose was also honored at this year's event, winning the "Book Awards: American Cooking Category" for her cookbook *Screen Doors and Sweet Tea: Recipes and Tales from a Southern Cook*.



Mississippian Martha Hall Foose took home an award in the "Book Awards: American Cooking Category" at the 2009 James Beard Foundation Awards Ceremony

For a complete listing of this year's winners, or to learn more about the James Beard Foundation, please visit www.jamesbeard.org.

Port of Greenville Expanding with Needed Improvements

The Port of Greenville will soon expand with much-needed improvements, creating new jobs in the Greenville area and directly affecting more than 400 farm families in the Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana regions of the Delta.

The improvements will include the addition of an automated grain-handling facility that will quadruple the amount of grain the port can handle and free up dock space for new customers. A new fork truck and front-end loader will also be added in order to handle the increased volume of products moving through the facility. Finally, repairs will be made to the dock's concrete front slab, which has been damaged by time and rising river water.

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