

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FRIDAY FACTS

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GOVERNOR MUSGROVE HONORS COOPER LIGHTING FOR SAFETY MILESTONE

Governor Ronnie Musgrove recently recognized Cooper Lighting in Vicksburg for more than 4 million man-hours without a lost-time accident. The presentation was held on Monday, February 18, 2002, at the plant located on Highway 61 South.

“Mississippi’s workforce is among the most skilled and dedicated in the nation. Cooper Lighting’s milestone recognizes that our workers put safety first and are committed to maintaining a productive, successful work environment,” said Governor Musgrove.

Overall, Cooper’s plants are among the safest in the United States with accident rates approximately half the nationwide average for the manufacturing sector. Among these plants, the Cooper Lighting plant in Vicksburg is a true pacesetter having one of the lowest accident rates in the company.

“Our 2001 safety performance is a tribute to our employees and recognizes their efforts to make this plant a success,” said Mickey Robertson, Director of Operations. “Being honored by the Governor is a great way to acknowledge the importance of manufacturing to Mississippi’s economy and this plant’s efforts to set the standard for worker safety, environmental protection, product quality and service to our customers.”

Cooper Lighting, a division of Cooper Industries, manufactures fluorescent, incandescent and HID lighting fixtures for indoor and outdoor use. Products are used worldwide in homes and commercial buildings, including landscapes, shopping centers, sports facilities, parking lots, high-security areas and industrial plants. Headquartered in Peachtree City, Georgia, Cooper Lighting has manufacturing facilities in 13 domestic and four international locations, including the Vicksburg operation. The Vicksburg facility currently employs 800 people.

“Success comes from knowing that you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming.”

- John Wooden

MDA SPONSORS TRADE MISSION TO MEXICO

From March 10 – 12, 2002, the International Trade Office of the Mississippi Development Authority will sponsor a trade mission to Merida, Mexico for business leaders seeking distributors or end users for their products and services in Mexico.

The trade mission is open to any industry or trade sector interested in building business relationships in Mexico.

This mission is one of three similar trips planned for 2002. Upcoming trips are scheduled for June, July and December.

For more information on this trade mission or other international networking opportunities, contact Marta Miri at (601) 359-3045 or visit MDA’s website at www.mississippi.org

EXPORT FINANCE TRAINING PROGRAM SET FOR GULFPORT

The Mississippi Export Assistance Center (MEAC), in conjunction with the International Trade Club and the Mississippi Development Authority, will host a seminar on the fundamentals of financing international transactions March

15, 2002, at the Great Southern Club in Gulfport.

The event will feature regional speakers talking on a wide range of international trade financing issues. Seminar topics planned for discussion are methods of payment, export credit insurance and pre-export financing programs provided by the federal government.

"How you get paid is perhaps the most basic question in international sales, and at the same time it is one of the most under-managed aspects of international business," said Bill Scaggs, director of MEAC. "No matter the method of payment, mitigating the risks involved in international trade is not free of charge."

The cost of the event is \$55 per participant, which includes handouts and lunch. For more information or to register, call MEAC at (601) 965-4130.

FILM PRESERVATION TOUR COMING TO MISSISSIPPI

The Crossroads Film Festival, in conjunction with American Movie Classics, will celebrate more than 100 years of film making with a stop in Central Mississippi of The Library of Congress Film Preservation Tour. The event will be held Feb. 28-March 5, 2002, at United Artists Parkway Cinema in Flowood.

Noted screen actress Janet Leigh will be in Jackson to promote the tour and talk about her role in Orson Welles' "Touch of Evil," the tour's opening night film. Some of the other titles scheduled for showing include "Duck Soup," "Easy Rider," "Chinatown" and "All Quiet on the Western Front."

This event kicks off the Crossroads Film Festival, which will be held in Jackson from April 4 - 7, 2002. The Mississippi Film Office, a division of the Mississippi Development Authority, is a sponsor of the festival and supports other related activities.

Admission is \$50. Members of the Crossroads Film Society can attend all screenings for free. For more information, visit the Crossroads Film Festival Web site at www.crossroadsfilmfest.com.

GULF COAST CASINOS SET RECORDS IN JANUARY

Mississippi casinos received a 7 percent gross revenue boost in January 2002. On the Coast, the casinos took in more than \$100 million in a record-breaking month.

The 30 state-regulated casinos won \$243.5 million from gamblers last month, up from \$227.6 million in January 2001, according to figures released Wednesday by the Mississippi Tax Commission.

The 12 casinos on the Coast won \$100.6 million and for the first time since legalized gambling began 10 years ago topped \$100 million in January. The figure was 3 percent more than the same month in 2001.

The 18 casinos on the Mississippi River in Tunica, Lula, Greenville, Vicksburg and Natchez posted \$142.9 million in gross revenue, 10 percent more than last January. Unusually cold weather and ice storms chilled business significantly in the region a year ago.

PEPPER AWARDED THE 2002 HENNING TROPHY

The American Academy of Certified Public Managers (AACPM) recently selected Barbara C. Pepper, CPM, as recipient of the 2002 Henning Trophy.

Barbara was one of Mississippi's first CPM graduates, has held state and national offices, and is the first Mississippian to earn the Henning Trophy. She has been employed at the Mississippi Development Authority since 1989 and serves as the Office Operations Bureau Manager.

AACPM is a professional organization comprised of government managers from throughout the U.S. who have earned their certification from a nationally accredited certified public management program. Nominees for the Henning Trophy are judged numerically according to their career accomplishments, state society and Academy activities, innovations and contributions to management, and community service.

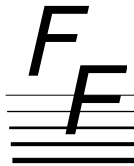
GOLF DIGEST MAGAZINE PLACES DANCING RABBIT IN TOP 75

Golf Digest has named Dancing Rabbit Golf Club at the Pearl River Resort to "America's Top 75 Golf Resorts." The award was announced in the March 2002 issue.

A first for *Golf Digest*, the ratings are based on a number of criteria, including the quality of the golf courses, dining facilities, recreational and leisure opportunities and other resort amenities. According to Dancing Rabbit, it was a unanimous choice among the 700 participants in the *Golf Digest* ratings.

"We continue to be excited that people across America are discovering Dancing Rabbit," said Chief Phillip Martin of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, which owns the Pearl River Resort. In 1998, *Golf Digest* named Dancing Rabbit one of the 10 best new courses in the nation. It has made top courses lists in three other golf publications, including this month when *Golf & Travel* named it one of its 11 "Hidden Gems."

Dancing Rabbit was recently featured in the "Golfing the World" video series, which aired on the Fox Sports Network in November and December 2001.



The Mississippi Development Authority's *Friday Facts* is distributed to MDA staff, economic and community development professionals, legislators and other interested parties. Inquiries regarding this publication or information should be submitted to Sherry Vance, Communications Office, telephone 601.359.3041, fax 601.359.3596, email svance@mississippi.org. Visit us on the World Wide Web at www.mississippi.org.