

Officials investigating if 13-foot alligator was shot legally
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SunHerald

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI'S NEWSPAPER

\$1.50 VOL. 127, NO. 266

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2011

WWW.SUNHERALD.COM

Sub vets want USS Mississippi commissioned here

\$2 billion submarine will be ready next year

By **MICHAEL NEWSOM**
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South Mississippi veterans are lobbying the U.S. Navy to have the new \$2 billion USS Mississippi submarine commissioned on the Coast in 2012. The U.S. Submarine Veterans' Tullibee Base, which is based on the Coast, is hoping the Navy will de-

cide to have the new Virginia-class sub commissioned in Mississippi, with the Port of Gulfport being the most likely site. Navy submarine vet C.L. "Harv" Harvey is helping organize the vets' effort and said his group has talked with naval officials about the ceremony being in Mississippi when the sub is ready about a year from now.

They've received no answer.

Harvey said the group has brought the likely commanding officer of the sub, Navy Cmdr. John McGrath, to the Coast for meetings and has met with other Navy officials.

"We're all anxious to get it here," Harvey said. "But we've got a lot of hoops to jump through."

Considerations aplenty

The vessel will be christened at an event its builders control. The commissioning is a separate event, which the Navy controls, and the decision about where to have the ceremony is up to U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, a former governor of Mississippi.

SUBMARINE TO 14A



More photos online at SunHerald.com



COURTESY GENERAL DYNAMICS ELECTRIC BOAT
 The sub's crew stand in front of the weapons-handling module, left, before it is inserted into the USS Mississippi, right, at the main assembly building at General Dynamics Electric Boat's shipyard in Groton, Conn.

summer of 10s

Top 10 tourist attractions on Coast

By **NICOLE DOW**
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A growing number of visitors area coming to the Mississippi Coast each year. Tourism is one of the region's top industries; it brought in \$1.62 billion in fiscal year 2010, according to Mississippi Development Authority's Office of Tourism Research.

These top 10 Coast attractions are favorites not only for tourists, but also for locals.

1. Casinos: South Mississippi is home to 11 casinos — nine in Harrison County and two in Hancock County. Tourists can enjoy gambling, live entertainment, fine dining and lodging.

2. Beaches: The Coast has 26 miles of beautiful beaches where visitors can soak up the sun, rent personal watercraft, go fishing in the Sound and more.

3. Festivals and events: There always seems to be something going on in South Mississippi, bringing tourists here by the droves. There's the Crawfish Festival, Blessing of the Fleet, the Southern Miss Jazz and Blues Festival, Bay BridgeFest, the Biloxi Seafood Festival, Cruisin' The Coast, WaveFest and the Peter Anderson Festival — just to name a few.

4. Mardi Gras: The Mississippi Coast truly knows how to "let the good times

ATTRACTIONS TO 13A



More photos online at SunHerald.com

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



JAMES EDWARD BATES/SUN HERALD

An Eastern Red Fox takes a bird back to its den near Shearwater Drive in Ocean Springs on the evening of May 11, 2010. Fox and coyote populations are growing nationwide. They thrive in many residential areas and have moved onto overgrown lots left vacant after Hurricane Katrina.



COURTESY THE CRITTER CATCHER

This Barred Owl was caught in an open factory in Jackson.



COURTESY THE CRITTER CATCHER

Mike McDowell, owner of Critter Catcher, removed this opossum from an attic in Gluckstadt.



More photos online at SunHerald.com

Vacant lots give foxes, coyotes more room to roam

By **ANITA LEE**
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He saw the first fox in March as it streaked past his house, headed to a vacant beachfront lot one block east.

"We saw him every evening for about a week, and we just kept watching where he was going and then I got the binoculars out and started looking for him one evening," said Randall Broussard, who lives in Biloxi's central beach area. "That's when we saw the pups. We started sitting out here every evening with the neighbors. It became a traditional thing every evening to watch the foxes. The foxes would come out and play."

The fox den sat under an old oak, surrounded by scrub bushes, less than 20 feet from the busy beach highway. One of the three pups eventually disappeared. The mother and remaining pups established a second den on the vacant lot in front of the Broussard's house. Papa fox comes and goes. He once ran by with a stiff squirrel in his mouth, roadkill Broussard had spotted earlier on the street beside his house.

Broussard finally examined their den. He found a couple of mullet carcasses, a catfish head and some bird feathers. He assumes the foxes have been picking up dead fish on the beach.

"We sit here and watch them and enjoy them," Broussard said. "We have not fed

ANIMALS TO 14A

SETTING SAIL
LEUKEMIA CUP REGATTA SCHEDULED IN PASS
YOUR LIFE, 1F

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High 91
 Low 78
 Partly cloudy

