



Posted on Mon, May. 12, 2008

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Frames for the future

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BILOXI -- When the dust settles this Friday at the close of the Habitat for Humanity Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project, 60 Coast families will have new or rehabilitated homes.

Yet, beyond the homes built by 2,000 volunteers, are the backbones of 48 others. A framing blitz is going on all week at the Biloxi Lighthouse.

Each day this week volunteers will build 12 house frames a day, made of about 1,000 pieces of wood each. The pieces will eventually be shipped off to other parts of the Coast, to create 48 new houses by year's end.

"This Habitat week is not the end of it," said President Carter said at the Pascagoula building site Monday morning. "Thousands still need homes."

The building site is festive, with rock music blaring from speakers that barely hide the thumping of hundreds of hammers. At one corner is a large wood house, and from it flies the flag of every state. Many of the volunteers are from the Home Depot Foundation, which regularly participates in Habitat projects, said Habitat staff members onsite.

By 4 p.m. Monday, eight frames were ready, and the 100 or so volunteers were chopping and hammering away at the other four. Shortly thereafter, the Carters arrived to meet and greet more of their volunteer effort. It was a closed session.

In tomorrow's print edition: The Sun Herald talks with Jimmy Carter about the need for housing along the Coast.



WILLIAM COLGIN/SUN HERALD

Volunteer Rae Brown, from Jacksonville, Fla., hammers sheeting to the wall of a new home under construction in Biloxi.

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