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Christy Pritchett/The Mississippi Press

Chet Lott performed Thursday night at Scranton's in downtown Pascagoula.

## Chet Lott performs at Scranton's

By BRAD CROCKER

The Mississippi Press

PASCAGOULA—Nearly 100 people gathered in Scranton's in downtown Pascagoula Thursday night to hear Chet Lott sing away the blues he encompassed as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Lott, son of U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, revisited Pascagoula and also the ruins of the family's property on Beach Boulevard, which was swept away by Katrina's currents.

The devastation prompted Lott to record his first album, amply titled, "Erased it," which relates to Katrina's fury on Lott's childhood neighborhood, where he spent summers growing up, and the entire Gulf region.

"This whole project stemmed from that one song," Lott said.

All the proceeds from the 14-track album go directly to the Southeast Mississippi Chapter of the American Red Cross,

which serves Jackson and George counties.

The title surfaced, Lott said, when he realized that his childhood neighborhood and his friends' and neighbors' homes "had just been erased" by the Aug. 29, 2005, storm.

"It's emotional. It's so strange and surreal to see all these buildings you once knew and memories you had just gone now."

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It took 11 months to record the album, which contains original songs from Lott, as well as him covering tunes by Van Morrison, Bob Dylan and The Doors, among others.

With a mixture of blues, country and rock, Lott touches all the senses, trying to highlight the ups and downs Katrina survivors have faced.

"It's a little bit of gumbo. We mix it up in there," he said.

Lott began playing guitar when he was 8 and remembers gazing out into the Mississippi Sound from his front porch for inspiration.

"There's something about the water, especially our little part of the world," Lott noted. "It's peaceful and serene. It's still hard to imagine all that

destruction came from such a calm setting."

One of the big hitters and musicians on the album is J.P. Pennington, an original member of the band "Exile," who enjoyed gold-selling status with hits like "The Closer You Get" and "Kiss You All Over."

The CD was mastered by Jim DeMain, who has worked on the last six albums by Pascagoula native Jimmy Buffett.

"We did it right in every sense of the word," Lott said.

Feedback has been positive, Lott said, even from his high school chum, Dave Grohl, the drummer for Nirvana and guitarist and lead singer for Foo Fighters.

"His mom was my 10th grade English teacher," Lott said,

recounting his high school days in Virginia while his father was serving in Washington.

Lott said he's trying to surpass "the old man's" singing career, which was prominent a few years back when Trent Lott was the baritone for The Singing Senators.

One of Chet Lott's biggest fans is Paige Roberts, executive director of the Southeast Mississippi Chapter of the American Red Cross. The organization's building is named after Dr. Perry Thompson Jr., father of Tricia Lott, Sen. Lott's wife.

Roberts had a message from Tricia Lott about Chet's music and assistance.

"It was all Chet's idea, and for him to want to benefit the community says a lot about our organization and his family and

### CHET LOTT'S ALBUM ONLINE

www.chetlott.com  
e-mail: cd@cheltott.com  
Cost: \$5

All proceeds go to Southeast Mississippi Chapter of the American Red Cross

it's kind of the biggest thing we could get," Roberts said.

Roberts has had the CD since November, and purchased numerous copies to give as Christmas presents.

"I've had it in my CD player every day, and I love it," Roberts said. "It's a great CD."

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