

ArtSmart program aiming to help kids

Mississippi artist to teach at the Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center for two weeks.

By JANE HOLAHAN
New Era Staff Writer

Roberta Little makes "journal jewelry."

They are necklaces — all different — that feature a small, hinged, blank journal.

Beginning on First Friday and running through April, Little will be selling her necklaces at the Chest-

nut Hill Cafe, 532 W. Chestnut St.

But neither Little nor the Chestnut Hill Cafe will make a penny from the necklaces, which will be selling for \$40.

All proceeds will go toward the cost of bringing Mississippi artist Bill Myers to Lancaster to teach kids at the Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center for two weeks.

Little, who also is from Mississippi, and moved to Lancaster in late 2005 after her house was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, hopes it's the beginning of many artists' visits to the intervention center.

"Bill will be coming in June. He will be sharing his experience with the storm, what he lost and how he expresses that loss through his art," Little says.

"Many of the children (at the intervention center) have had great loss in their lives, that's why they act out," she says. "Art is a wonderful avenue for expressing emo-

tions."

Myers works with found objects, and he has taught before.

"He did a program very similar to what he's going to do up here and he loved it," Little said.

Little will be teaching at the center before Myers comes, and she hopes to bring other artists to the facility.

Little founded Shoo Fly Moon Pie, a group dedicated to cultivating cultural connections. She hopes Lancaster artists will go to the Gulf Coast and teach.

Through Shoo Fly Moon Pie, Little helped develop

ArtSmart with the intervention center. She hopes other artists will want to participate, either by teaching or offering art supplies.

As she says on her Web site, "Artists will guide participants in a wide range of art projects with an emphasis on healing of the mind, body and spirit by offering a life line drawn through art."

For more information, call Little at 391-6219 or go to www.shooflymoonpie.com and click on special projects.