



The Delta Council Review

Vol. 13, Issue No. 2

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

June 2017

Secretary Sonny Perdue to Keynote 82nd Annual Meeting of Delta Council This Friday

Delta Council President Harry Simmons, of Yazoo City, announced today that U.S. Secretary of Agriculture George Ervin "Sonny" Perdue will be the Featured Guest and Keynote Speaker for the 82nd Annual Meeting of Delta Council to be held on the Delta State University Campus at 10:30 am, this Friday, June 9, 2017, at the Bologna Performing Arts Center in Cleveland.

"We are so pleased that agriculture's friend from Georgia, **Sonny Perdue**, will be the featured speaker for this year's Delta Council Annual Meeting," said **Simmons**, an aquaculture and row crop farmer and catfish processor. "**Secretary Perdue** has an impressive background as an agribusiness man



Cochran and Perdue

and two-term successful Governor of Georgia, and we look forward to the opportunity to meet with him and hear his thoughts on the future of America's agricultural industry."

Perdue, a native of Perry, Georgia, earned

a doctorate in veterinary medicine from the University of Georgia. While still in school, **Perdue** volunteered to serve his country in the U.S. Air Force, receiving an honorable discharge in 1974 with the rank of captain. Following a brief tenure as a practicing veterinarian, **Perdue** started two businesses from the ground up, concentrating in agribusiness and transportation.

His public service began in the 1980s when he served on the Houston County Planning and Zoning Board. He then successfully ran for the state senate, becoming majority leader in just four years, followed by his election as president pro tempore.

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PERDUE continued on page 2

14th Annual Salute to Delta Honor Graduates Held In Conjunction with Delta Council Day

On this Friday, June 9, 2017, Delta Council will hold its 14th Salute to Delta Honor Graduates Event during the 82nd Annual Meeting of the regional organization at Delta State University. The Honor Graduate event is slated for 9:00 a.m. in a tent on the parking lot outside the east entrance of the Bologna Performing Arts Center. U.S. Senator **Roger Wicker** will be the keynote speaker for the event. United States Department of Agriculture senior executive **Archie Tucker** will serve as Co-Host for the event and introduce **Senator Wicker**.

"We are pleased that two exceptional Mississippi leaders — **Senator Wicker** and **Mr.**

Tucker — will be there to underscore the importance of continuing their educational and professional pursuits to these top young men and women of the Delta," said Delta Council Educational Policy Chairman **Cass Pennington** of Indianola. "The Delta Honor Graduate event is designed to raise the level of awareness of parents, teachers, and our local communities of the importance of bringing these bright young minds back to the Delta after they have completed their formal and advanced education."

Senator Roger Wicker, a native of Pontotoc and resident of Tupelo, has represented Mississippi in the United States Sen-



Wicker

Tucker

ate since December, 2007. **Wicker** serves as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and he chairs the Subcommittee on Seapower. He is a member of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, serv-

.....
GRADUATES continued on page 3

2017 ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 9, 2017

Bologna Performing Arts Center
Delta State University

9:00-10:00 a.m.
DELTA 1000 EVENT
Marshall Ramsey, Editorial
Cartoonist, *The Clarion-Ledger*

Carlisle Clarke, Special
Presentation

Location: McPherson
Recital Hall

9:00-10:15 a.m.
**2017 SALUTE TO DELTA
HONOR GRADUATES**
Archie Tucker, Associate
Director of USDA-ARS

**The Honorable Roger
Wicker**, U.S. Senate (MS)

Location: "Under the
Tent" on the East Side of
the Bologna Performing
Arts Center

10:30 a.m.
**WELCOME AND
OPENING REMARKS**
**President William
LaForge**, Delta State
University

INVOCATION
Reverend Herron Wilson,
Delta Missions

**PRESENTATION
OF COLORS**
Boy Scout Troop 200,
Greenwood

PATRIOTIC MUSIC
B.B. King Museum
Allstars, directed by
Harvey Jackson

BUSINESS SESSION

- Recognition of Special Guests
- Good Middling Lady Recipient Recognition
- Wear Cotton Recognition
- Recognition of Honor Graduates, Scholarship Recipient
- Introduction of New Officers

**INTRODUCTION OF
KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
**The Honorable Roger
Wicker**, U.S. Senate (MS)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Sonny Perdue, U.S.
Secretary of Agriculture

**12:00 Noon
CATFISH LUNCHEON**
Location: Delta State
University, Quadrangle
Lawn

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ACHIEVEMENT
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2016-2017 Delta Council Officers

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Vice-President: CINDY BAIRD, Indianola
Vice-President: REESE PILLOW, Greenwood
Vice-President: JIM THOMAS, Cruger
Vice-President: HUE TOWNSEND, Belzoni
Vice-President: MARK HARGETT, Cleveland
Treasurer: CLAY MCWILLIAMS, Cleveland

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Outlook

Marshall Ramsey, Carlisle Clarke to Address Members of Delta 1000 During Delta Council Day on This Friday

Marshall Ramsey, a two time Pulitzer finalist and noted Mississippi cartoonist and analyst, will address Delta 1000 members at the June 9th, Delta Council Annual Meeting in Cleveland in a standing-room only crowd before the beginning of the Business Session. **Ramsey** will also be joined by **Carlisle Clarke**, the Majority Clerk for the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, Agriculture Subcommittee, who will give the group a special presentation on the budget pressures facing farm policy in Washington.



Ramsey



Clarke

"We are so pleased that **Marshall** and **Carlisle** will join us to enlighten the members of Delta 1000 and other special guests at the 82nd Annual Meeting," said **Harry Simmons**, the Yazoo City businessman who serves as President of Delta Council. "**Marshall's** address will focus on his wit and wisdom concerning Mississippi's unique political and cultural foibles, and in our opinion, there is no one who does that better, whether it is in a speech or his famous cartoons. **Carlisle's** message on the budget pressures facing farm policy and rural development in Congress, while not as light-hearted, is critically important for civic leaders in the Delta to be aware of."

Delta 1000 is a program begun by Delta



Council over 30 years ago to ask all of the members of Delta Council to pay \$100 above and beyond their regular membership dues. This support through the "Delta 1000" Program has helped Delta Council maintain one of the most effective area-wide economic development programs in the entire nation.

Their address will begin at 9:00 a.m. in

the McPherson Recital Hall of the Bologna Center and the 82nd Annual Meeting of Delta Council will begin at 10:30 a.m. This year's meeting will include an address by **United States Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue** and other activities traditionally associated with the meeting of the region's economic development organization.

PERDUE from page 1

In January 2003, **Perdue** was elected to serve as Georgia's governor and he won reelection by an overwhelming margin in November 2006. As governor, **Perdue** focused on improving education, providing better access to health care, creating quality jobs for Georgians, and increasing resources for stronger, safer communities. He was appointed by **President Trump** to be the 31st Secretary of Agriculture and confirmed in late May by the United States Senate.

In addition to the Keynote by **Secretary Perdue**, Delta Council will honor more than 140 high school seniors as Delta Honor Graduates with the ceremony begin-

ning at 9:00 a.m., located 'under the tent' next to the Bologna Performing Arts Center. Dignitaries will welcome the Honor Graduates, their families, and school officials, to the Annual Meeting of Delta Council and present them with engraved certificates recognizing them as 2017 Honor Graduates. The top Honor Graduate will be selected by higher education officials and presented a \$2,500 scholarship during the 10:30 a.m. business session.

"The Delta Honor Graduate event is designed to raise the level of awareness of parents, teachers, and our local communities of the importance of bringing these bright young minds back to the Delta after they have completed their formal and advanced

education," stated **Cass Pennington** of Indianola, who serves as Chairman of the Delta Council Education and Health Policy Committee.

The tradition of a fried catfish luncheon will conclude the program for the 82nd annual event on the grounds of the Quadrangle on the Delta State University Campus.

Sponsors for the 82nd Annual Meeting include: BankPlus, Catfish Farmers of Mississippi, Cotton, Inc., Sanders, Inc., Mississippi Corn Promotion Board, Mississippi Rice Promotion Board, Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board, and Southern Ag Credit/Mississippi Land Bank.

Pillow Named 2017 Good Middling Recipient

Kim Pillow of Greenwood has been named the Good Middling Recipient for 2017.

Pillow will be recognized at the 82nd Annual Delta Council Day on Friday, June 9, 2017 at Delta State University's Bologna Performing Arts Center in Cleveland, MS. Coined after the term "good middling," the highest grade in quality cotton production, the Good Middling Award recognizes individuals who have sustained significant efforts to promote community and economic vitality in the Mississippi Delta.

Pillow, an employee of Westminster Presbyterian Church and former insurance agent, is a recognized Delta civic leader. She is President of the Delta Cotton Wives, Past President of the Delta Garden Club, Past Board Member of Main Street Greenwood, and a member of the Pillow Academy Parent Association Board, among many other community activities.

For six years, **Pillow** has been the Coordinator for the Delta Grief Share Ministry, a non-denominational grief recovery support group. The program is offered once a year and is a 13-week program, with participants coming from around the entire Delta region.

She is married to Leflore County farmer **Stephen Pillow**, and they live on their family farm at Shellmound, north of Greenwood. They have two children – a daughter, **Mary Dudley**, and a son, **Baylor**.

"It is an honor for me to present the Good Middling Recipient award to my friend **Kim Pillow**, who I watched grow up in Indianola," said **Irene Long** of Indianola, Chairman of the Delta Council Arrangements Committee. "It is gratifying to see what an accomplished and respected leader she has become in Greenwood, Leflore County, and the Delta."



Pillow

GRADUATES from page 1

ing as chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet; Environment and Public Works Committee; and the Rules Committee. **Wicker** is also a member of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Congressional Board of Visitors.

Co-hosting the event will be **Archie Tucker** of Greenville, who is the deputy administrator of USDA's largest Agricultural Research Service regional location in the country. **Archie's** exten-

sive professional and civic activities have led to personal recognition including the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005 and the Herbert White Preeminence Award for Achievement in Excellence from Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU), a resolution from the Mississippi House of Representatives and Parent of the Year for the 1999-2000 school year from the Mississippi State Board of Education. Additionally, **Tucker** is a member of several organizations including the Advisory Board of the National Society for Minorities in Agriculture, Executive Board of

Alcorn State University and the National Alumni Association for MVSU.

The Honor Graduate Event is designed to bestow special honor upon two exemplary students from each of the high schools throughout the Mississippi Delta Region, including public, parochial and private schools. Students are selected by school administrators based on grade point average, extracurricular activities, and community service.

In addition, a \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded to the top Delta Honor Graduate as selected by higher education officials in the Delta,

to help defray tuition and expenses as the student's college of choice sees fit. The top Delta Honor Graduate will be recognized from the stage of the Annual Meeting during the Business Session, which begins at 10:30 a.m. **Senator Wicker** will also be on hand to introduce the keynote speaker for the 82nd Annual Meeting of Delta Council - United States Secretary of Agriculture **Sonny Perdue**.



B.B. King Museum AllStar Choir to Perform Music at Annual Meeting

Pictured are the members of the choir from left to right: **Faith Love**, **Sapphire Jefferson**, **Drucilla Robertson**, **Durga Sassendran**, **Ikia Crisler** and **Tae'Angelo Carter**.

The choir is under the direction of **Harvey Jackson, Jr.**

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Champions of Mississippi Agriculture represent the farmer-funded research and market development efforts of the five major commodities produced in the Mississippi Delta — catfish, corn, cotton, rice and soybeans. These farmer funded programs work to invest in the future of agriculture, so that the Ag part of our Delta Gross Domestic Product (GDP) continues to generate a positive cash flow on the farm and provide a major contribution to the State's economy.



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Mike Pannell, New Albany
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Preston Arrington, Inverness
Todd Williams, Olive Branch

Carter Murrell, Hollandale
Curtis Berry, Robinsonville
Gary Fioranelli, Cleveland
Randy Howarth, Boyle
Donald Gant, Merigold
Gip Carter, Rolling Fork
James Allison, Sarah
Gibb Steele, Hollandale
Nolen Canon, Tunica
Ronald Aguzzi, Cleveland
Tom Hollingsworth, Hollandale

Tripp Hayes, Clarksdale
Kendall Garraway, Bolton
Lawrence Long, Holly Ridge
Coley Bailey III, Grenada
Bryan Jones, Yazoo City

Bobby Jones, Glen Allan
Shorty Jones, Leland
Chris McGlawn, Swiftown
Will Nobile, Moorhead
Houston Battle, Tunica
Joe Oglesby, Indianola
Ben Pentecost, Doddsville
Ed Pentecost, Cleveland
Andy Prosser, Yazoo City
Louie Thompson, Tchula

Bubba Simmons, Hollandale
Wayne Dulaney, Clarksdale
Bill Ryan Tabb, Cleveland
Keith Morton, Falkner
Louis Guedon, Natchez
Jerry Slocum, Coldwater
Jimmy Sneed, Hernando
David Wansley, Valley Park
Jan DeRegt, Hollandale
Jeremy Jack, Belzoni
Tim Clements, Greenville

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Yazoo City, MS



CONSERVATION FARMER:
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Avon, MS



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Ralph Pearce
Isola, MS



**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO
AQUACULTURE:**
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Itta Bena, MS



RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR:
Craig Tucker
USDA-ARS
Warmwater Aquaculture
Research Unit
Stoneville, MS



PACE-SETTER AWARD:
John Bush Schlater, MS
Wade Litton Greenwood, MS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHARLES W CAPPS ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM AT DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY



The Mississippi Highway Patrol show off their new motorcycles at the 1938 Annual Meeting of Delta Council at Delta State University.



Dr. Wayne Blansett and **Dr. Michelle Roberts** of Delta State are pictured at an Annual Meeting in the late 1990s.



Kenneth Hood (left) hands over the gavel of the Delta Council Presidency at the 2001 Annual Meeting.



Can you identify either of these gentlemen on the stage of the Delta Council Annual Meeting? The first one to email info@deltacouncil.org with the right answer receives a Delta Wildlife hat.



The 1938 Annual Meeting of Delta Council was held on the football field at Delta State University, then Delta Teachers College.



According to the back of this picture, Delta State student **Billie Rossi** plays to the camera with some of the famous BBQ chicken at a 1950s Annual Meeting.



Delta State students, from left, **George Fountain** of Yazoo City, **Martin King, Jr.**, of Vicksburg, and **Jane Blain** of Mount Olive welcome **Senator Harry Byrd** and the crowd to the 1950 Annual Meeting.



Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman at the 2001 Annual Meeting. Including this year's featured guest, **Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue**, how many Secretaries of Agriculture have spoken at Delta Council? The first one to email info@deltacouncil.org with the right answer receives a Delta Wildlife hat.



Cooks prepare the famous BBQ chicken served at the Annual Meeting up until the 1980s, when catfish became the featured food. Name the chef at Delta State who oversaw the cooking of the chicken and the first one to email info@deltacouncil.org with the right answer receives a Delta Wildlife hat.



Young employees of Denton's Ice Cream in Cleveland enjoy the BBQ chicken in the 1950s. Can anyone identify any of the young men in the photograph? Email info@deltacouncil.org with any of the identities and receive a Delta Wildlife hat.



2017 DELTA HONOR GRADUATES

BOLIVAR

Abalama, T'Kerra, West Bolivar High
Bass, Jayda, East Side High
Cummins, Ashlyn, Bayou Academy
Davis, Jr., Anthony, Shaw High
Griham, JaWanda, West Bolivar High
Holmes, Nakeveyonia, Ray Brooks
Horn, Kertrina, Broad Street High
Jurnett, Ambria, East Side High
Lee, K'yana, John F Kennedy High
Lindsey, Deneshia, Ray Brooks
Lofton, Kailyn, Bayou Academy
Norwood, Hunter, Cleveland High
Porter, Kyndal, Broad Street High
Scott, Lillian, Shaw High
Smith, Alex, Cleveland High
Strickland, Khalil, John F Kennedy High

CARROLL

Clark, Ashley, Carroll Academy
McKay, Mary Alana, J.Z. George High
Randle, Justin, J.Z. George High
Whitfield, Ava, Carroll Academy

COAHOMA

Agostinelli, Lauren, Lee Academy
Coley, Jerome, Coahoma Co. Agricultural High
Fullilove, Alison, Lee Academy
Furdge, Ahkenaton, Clarksdale High
George, Terrell, Coahoma County High
Scott, Amber, Coahoma Co. Agricultural High
Smith, Jahari, Coahoma County High
Stasher, Amber, Clarksdale High

DESOTO

Bond, Taylor, Lewisburg High
Brunson, Taylor, Desoto Central High
Cavitt, Kathryn, Hernando High
Clasen, Emily, Horn Lake High
Daniel, Jacob, Southaven High
Droke, Annalee, Center Hill High
Hankins, Makayla, Lake Cormorant High
Howell, Megan, Olive Branch High
Lyles, Malika, Lake Cormorant High
Muniz, Irene, Southaven High
Patel, Grishma, Desoto Central High
Reeves, Garrett, Lewisburg High
Stark, Casheu, Hernando High
Wadsworth, Mary Addison, Northpoint Christian School
Waldrup, Blake, Northpoint Christian School
Walker, Rachel, Center Hill High
Wiseman, Carson, Olive Branch High
Woiteseck, Jacquelyn, Horn Lake High

HOLMES

Johnson, Luke, Central Holmes Christian School
Lofton, Jazsmine, Holmes County Central High School
Roby, Lakendra, Durant High

Thomas, Nephateria, Durant High

Wade, Allijahjuan, Holmes County Central High School

HUMPHREYS

Brown, Amelia, Humphreys Co. High
Moss, Breanna, Humphreys Academy
Thomas, Kimberly, Humphreys Co. High
Turner, Hannah, Humphreys Academy

LEFLORE

Gilmore, Jacoby, Greenwood High
Jackson, Kalyn, Leflore County High
Jones, A'Keeriyanna, Greenwood High
Pillow, Swayze, Pillow Academy
Ross, Tyler, Leflore County High
Short, Collin, Pillow Academy
Stanford, Jimia, Amanda Elzy High
Staten, Christina, Amanda Elzy High
Wright, Dawn, North New Summit School

PANOLA

Coleman, Carly, South Panola High
Haley, Margo, North Delta School
Howell, Nelson, North Delta School
Seay, Caitlin, South Panola High
Shorter, Mercedes, North Panola High
Wheatley, Tearia, North Panola High

QUITMAN

Schmidt, Brie, Delta Academy
Scipper, Addie, Delta Academy
Williams, Isha, Madison S. Palmer High
Wright, Kennedy, Madison S. Palmer High

SHARKEY/ISSAQUENA

Ewing, Samantha, Sharkey-Issaquena Academy
Martin, Livvie, Sharkey-Issaquena Academy
Taylor, D'Asia, South Delta High
Washington, De'Essence, South Delta High

SUNFLOWER

Andrews, Lane, North Sunflower Academy
Burnett, Nathan, North Sunflower Academy
Hannah, Christian, Gentry High
McGee, Lakeiton, Ruleville Central High
Pitts, Coursey, Indianola Academy
Pitts, Mitchell, Indianola Academy
Primer, Lachyna, Ruleville Central High
Williams, Creshaundra, Gentry High

TALLAHATCHIE

Anderson, Kaylea, Charleston High
Citchens, Janice, West Tallahatchie High
Gosnell, Janice, Strider Academy
Holt, Alexia, Charleston High
Jackson, Hayden Cole, Strider Academy
Thomas, Keundra, West Tallahatchie High

TATE

Bailey, Alexis, Strayhorn High
Butts, Kosha, Senatobia High
Crockett, Gracie, Independence High
Farmer, Nylah, Coldwater Attendance Center
Johnson, Takia, Coldwater Attendance Center
Lee, Khiara, Independence High
Norwood, Avery, Magnolia Heights School
Roberson, Kristen, Strayhorn High
Van Every, Easton, Magnolia Heights School
Williams, Mary Elizabeth, Senatobia High

TUNICA

Boyd, Tanner, Tunica Academy
Jackson, Rashawn, Rosa Fort High
Smith, Kayla, Rosa Fort High
Sullivan, Tom, Tunica Academy

WARREN

Chiple, Sarah, Warren Central High
Collins, Ryan Christopher, Porter's Chapel Academy
Crosta, Nicholas, Vicksburg High
Hayes, Holly, St Aloysius High School
Howington, Michelle, St Aloysius High School
Neal, Zaria, Vicksburg High
Rogers, Rebekah Elizabeth, Porter's Chapel Academy
Velazquez, Alex, Warren Central High

WASHINGTON

Bailey, Terriyana, O'Bannon High
Colbert, Amaya, Riverside High
Fontenot, Molly, Washington School
Gibbs, Kalie N, Greenville Christian School
Harden, Asia, St Joseph High School
Hollin, Kyanna, Riverside High
Howard, Steteria, Simmons High
Jarrett, Julia, Washington School
Johnson, Shakarra, Simmons High
Lawson, Johnny, Greenville High
Mansour, Jennifer, St Joseph High School
Manus, Hart, Deer Creek School
Peyton, Anne Bailey, Deer Creek School
Ray, Kayla B, Leland High
Rhodes, Devontae M, Greenville Christian School
Thompson, Zy'Miria, Leland High
Wells, Alicia, Greenville High
Williams, Khalifa, O'Bannon High

YAZOO

Anderson, William Logan, Benton Academy
Hill, Ayanna, Yazoo County High
Lewis, Tyler, Yazoo City High
Liddon, Matthew Clark, Manchester Academy
Newman, Michael Eugene, Manchester Academy
Shipp, Vivian Lake, Benton Academy
Tardy, Kayla, Yazoo City High
Uthoff, Katherine, Yazoo County High

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