



The Delta Council Review

Vol. 15, Issue No. 5

JUNE 2022

87TH ANNUAL MEETING OF DELTA COUNCIL TO BE HELD JUNE 17, 2022

BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND SPEAKER DAVID MAGEE TO KEYNOTE MEETING

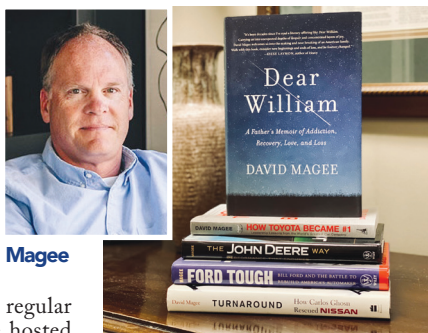
Delta Council President, **Patrick Johnson, Jr.** of Tunica is pleased to announce the 87th Annual Meeting of Delta Council to be held Friday, June 17, 2022, at Delta State University's Bologna Performing Arts Center (BPAC) in Cleveland, Mississippi. Keynoting the business session of the meeting will be bestselling author, motivational speaker, and Oxford native, **David Magee**.

"We are delighted to welcome such an accomplished Mississippian to keynote our Annual Meeting," said Delta Council President, **Patrick Johnson, Jr.** "**David Magee's** personal and professional journeys are both remarkable and diverse, from a local business owner, a councilman in Oxford, to a bestselling author and regular guest on CNBC, all while fighting

personal battles behind the face of success."

David Magee is the bestselling author of the memoir *Dear William*, about intergenerational family addiction and recovery, and an award-winning columnist, author, and TEDx speaker. He's been a daily newspaper publisher, small business owner, a regular guest on CNBC, and once hosted a national cable TV program, *The David Magee Show*. Magee has written several other bestsellers including *How Toyota Became #1*, *Turn Around How Carlos Ghosn Rescued Nissan*, *The John Deere Way*, and *Ford Tough*.

David is currently the Director of Institute Advancement at the University of Mississippi—the role



Magee

he started after helping create and launch The William Magee Center for Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) and Wellness Education at the university, named for his late son who died of a drug overdose. The Magee Center focuses on

MEETING *continued on page 3*

19TH ANNUAL SALUTE TO DELTA HONOR GRADUATES HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH DELTA COUNCIL DAY

On Friday, June 17, 2022, Delta Council will hold its 19th Annual Salute to Delta Honor Graduates event during the 87th Annual Meeting of the regional organization at Delta State University. The event is slated for 9:00 a.m. on the lawn of the Bologna Performing Arts Center. **Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann** will be the keynote speaker for the event.

Raised in Warren County, Mississippi, **Lt. Governor Hosemann** has substantial experience in the private sector as a businessman and tax lawyer. He is a former partner of Phelps Dunbar, LLP. He received his undergraduate degree in



Hosemann

Business from the University of Notre Dame, a law degree from the University of Mississippi, and a Master of Laws in Taxation from New York University. Prior to attending law school, **Lt. Governor Hosemann** served his country in the United States Army Reserve.

The Honorable **Delbert Hosemann** is serving as the 33rd Lieutenant Governor and previously served as Secretary of State. Under his leadership, the Senate has consolidated workforce development efforts, increased training opportunities for high-skill jobs, and retooled economic development incentives to be

competitive and performance-based. In two years, the Legislature has doubled its investment in pre-K, raised teacher pay, increased funding for classroom supplies, and provided every student with a computer or tablet.

He and **Lynn**, his wife of 50 years, are members of St. Richard Catholic Church. They are extremely proud of their three children: **Kristen, Chad, and Mark**; and grandchildren **Grace, Nora Lynn, Carson, Charlie, Manse, Charlotte, and Howard Delbert**.

The Honor Graduate Event is designed to bestow special honor upon two exemplary students from each of the high schools

GRADUATES *cont. on page 3*

MEETING AGENDA

JUNE 17, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
19th ANNUAL SALUTE TO
DELTA HONOR GRADUATES

Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann

Location: Lawn of the
Bologna Performing Arts Center

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

INVOCATION
Dr. Paul E. Husband
Tunica Presbyterian Church

PRESENTATION OF COLORS
Boy Scout Troop 4200
Scoutmaster Dennis Waldo
Greenwood, MS

PATRIOTIC MUSIC
Variety
Cleveland, MS

BUSINESS SESSION

- Recognition of Special Guests
- Wear Cotton Recognition
- Good Middling Community Service Award Recognition
- Recognition of Honor Graduates & Scholarship Recipient
- Introduction of New Officers

INTRODUCTION OF
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Patrick Johnson, President

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
David Magee
Bestselling Author and Speaker

12:00 Noon
Catfish Luncheon

Location: Delta State University
Quadrangle Lawn

RECOGNITION OF 2020-2021
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Patrick Johnson, President



GROWER SOLUTIONS





DELTA COUNCIL

2021–2022 Delta Council Officers

President: PATRICK JOHNSON, Tunica
Vice-President: LA SHON BROOKS, Itta Bena
Vice-President: LAWSON GARY, Greenwood
Vice-President: JAY GORE, Grenade
Vice-President: SHAW JOHNSON, Clarksdale
Vice-President: JOHNNY MCRIGHT, Greenville
Vice-President: TIM TIMBS, Indianola
Treasurer: CRAIG SHIDELER, Senatobia

POSTMASTER:

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P.O. Box 257, Stoneville, MS 38776

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY PATRICK JOHNSON

To conclude my term as President of Delta Council, **Emily** and I would like to thank so many of the members and friends of Delta Council who have reached out to us with encouragement.

Whether it was meetings in Stoneville, somewhere else across the nineteen counties of the Delta, Jackson, or Washington, it has been so encouraging to interact with people who appreciate and are concerned about the work of Delta Council. It is undoubtedly what makes Delta Council and the Delta so special – the people who live and do business here care so passionately about our future and the work that we are investing in to make it better.

We had an outstanding group of officers this year and I would like to thank them for their service to this organization. They included **La Shon Brooks** – Itta Bena, **Lawson Gary** – Greenwood, **Jay Gore** – Grenada, **Shaw Johnson III** – Clarksdale, **Johnny McRight** – Greenville, **Tim Timbs** – Indianola, and **Craig Shideler** – Senatobia. These are people who continue to be invested in the work of Delta Council and while their terms as officers are up, they have much more to give to this organization and to this region.

I hope that all of our members and friends will join us for the 87th Annual Meeting of Delta Council on Friday, June 17th at 10:30 a.m. in the Bologna Performing Arts Center on the campus of Delta State University.

We are excited to continue the tradition of this “Red Letter Day” in the life of the Mississippi Delta, recognize our top Honor Graduates from throughout the region, introduce our new slate of officers for next year, and enjoy a catfish luncheon on the grounds of the Quadrangle at Delta State University. We are also excited that Mississippi native and best-selling author **David Magee** will join us as the featured speaker for the 87th Annual Meeting of Delta Council. **David's** story is one of both tragedy and hope, and I encourage all of you to come out and listen to his speech. While I have found his writing very moving, everyone who has heard him speak live has said that he is even more compelling in person.

I am pleased to announce that **Wade Litton** of Greenwood will become the 87th President of Delta Council for the coming year. **Wade** is someone that I have worked closely with at Delta Council in his number of leadership roles, and I am excited about his upcoming tenure as President. A young energetic CEO, **Wade** brings a tremendous amount of experience and leadership skills to this job. I have no doubt that he will be successful, and I know you join me in extending him best wishes and any support that he needs during his upcoming tenure.

Like me, **Wade** will also have an outstanding team of officers to serve alongside him. They include **Victor Byas** – Indianola, **Julia Clark** – Rolling Fork, **Tim Clements** – Greenville, **Parker**



Emily and Patrick Johnson

England – Greenville, **Hunter Fordice** – Vicksburg, **Lewis Poindexter** – Indianola, and **Craig Shideler** – Senatobia.

When I was nominated to serve as President, many people told me that this was not a one-year sentence, but a life sentence. I laughed about that at the time, but I now understand what they meant. After serving as an officer, you truly begin to see the impact that this organization has on the region, and it allows you to continue to be effective in understanding the region's needs and how to work together to accomplish goals. While my tenure as President is complete, I will join many of you in continuing to make sure that the Delta remains an economically viable place to live and do business.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your President.

HYDE-SMITH TO EPA: ENOUGH TALK, IT'S TIME TO GET YAZOO PUMPS BACK ON TRACK

#FINISHTHEPUMPS

U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith said a “quick resolution” is needed to revive the Yazoo Backwater Area flood control pump project that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stopped last November.

Hyde-Smith directed all her attention to the Yazoo Backwater dilemma during EPA Administrator **Michael Regan's** appearance at a Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee hearing recently.

“If you look at the facts and the science, you can get it done,” **Hyde-Smith** told **Regan** after he said the Yazoo Backwater project is a priority for EPA and other federal agencies.

“It's been a long time coming and I just hope that this is a quick resolution to this and that it's not two or three years more down the road because these people

in the Mississippi Delta need your help,” the Senator continued. “It did come to a screeching halt after it was congressionally approved. So, I think you have a lot of explaining to do. I think you've got a lot of corrections to make.”

Asked by **Hyde-Smith** whether pumps remain an option, **Regan** testified, “There are no options off the table, to your question. Green and gray, hard and natural infrastructure solutions are on the table.”

After **Hyde-Smith** detailed flaws in the EPA interpretation of the Clean Water Act to halt the pump projects, **Regan** evaded explaining how the EPA determined a pump plan vetoed in 2008 is the same as the Corps' 2020 new Proposed Plan.

The administrator instead acknowledged Yazoo Backwater flooding

is a major problem and predicted that agencies participating in an interagency council (EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and White House Council on Environmental Quality) would soon “agree on what we believe to be a legally-sound and engineering-durable solution to the Yazoo pump issue.”

“I want to button this thing up, probably not as much as you do, but I want to button this thing up because it's the right thing to do. And I believe we can get it done,” **Regan** told **Hyde-Smith**.

Regan's testimony on the possibility of fulfilling the 1941 authorization of a Yazoo Backwater Area pumping station, fits with Army Corps testimony in April that “pumps are still in the mix.”

VARIETY TO PERFORM PATRIOTIC MUSIC AT DELTA COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING



Variety: Shara White and Eric Edwards

Variety is the popular 'old school' R&B/soul duo of siblings **Eric Edwards** and **Shara White** from Cleveland, Mississippi. They have been performing together across the country for more than 25 years. Their upbeat repertoire is the kind of music that, according to **Eric**, makes audiences want to 'eat barbecue and drink cold beer.'

In addition to recording projects, **Variety** has shared the stage with **Marvin Sapp**, **Doug Williams**, and multiple GRAMMY® Award winner **Shirley Caesar**. **Eric** has also toured as a musician with **Little Milton Campbell**, **Bobby Rush**, **LaVan Davis**, and the **B.B. King Blues Band**.

MEETING from page 1

substance misuse education and support within the university and the effort is about to grow beyond, into the university's next standalone national institute—the Magee Institute for Student Wellbeing. David and his wife, Kent, reside in Oxford.

The 2022 Delta Council Day will commence with the 19th annual Salute to Delta Honor Graduates event at 9:00 a.m., held outside of the BPAC on the lawn which will welcome the graduates, their families, and school officials and present the graduates with certificates.

At 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the BPAC, after the inaugural presentation of the colors, and God and Country, the Business Session will proceed into the recognition of the 2021-2022 Good

Middling Community Service Award and the tradition of the Wear Cotton contest, followed by a special message from keynote speaker **David Magee**.

The tradition of a fried catfish luncheon and Achievement Awards Ceremony will wrap-up Delta Council Day on the grounds of the Quadrangle on the Delta State University campus. Delta Council invites and encourages all of you to attend and participate in this 87-year-old Delta "red-letter" day.

Sponsors for the meeting are BankPlus, Catfish Farmers of Mississippi, Cotton, Inc., Delta State University, Mississippi Corn Promotion Board, Mississippi Land Bank, Mississippi Rice Promotion Board, Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board, Simplot, and Southern Ag Credit.

MERRILL GREENLEE NAMED GOOD MIDDLEING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Merrill Alexander Greenlee of Greenville has been named the Good Middling Community Service Award Recipient for 2022 and will be recognized at the 87th Annual Meeting of Delta Council on June 17, 2022.

Coined after the term "good middling", the highest grade in quality cotton production, the Good Middling Community Service Award recognizes individuals who have sustained significant

efforts to promote community and economic vitality in the Mississippi Delta.

"**Merrill** is bright, diplomatic, and fully committed to any and every project in which she becomes involved. I can think of no one more deserving than **Merrill Greenlee** to represent Delta Council as the Community Service Recipient for 2022," said Delta Council Arrangements Chairwoman **Irene Long** of Indianola.

Merrill Greenlee is a life-long Greenvillian whose roots in agriculture run as deep as the alluvial soil. She is the daughter of **Murry** and **Anne Alexander** and was raised in the pews of First Baptist Church and followed her family's allegiance to the Mississippi State Bulldogs. Her husband, **John Thomas Greenlee**, now farms the same land at James Crossing that her father farmed for his entire lifetime. **Merrill** and **Thomas** have two sons, **John Murry** and **Warren**. By profession, **Warren** is an attorney, and **John Murry** is a banker; however, **John Murry** also farms on the side, carrying on the legacy of his grandfather for whom he was named. Not only is **Merrill** a member of a three-generation farming family, but she also was active in the Riverside Cotton Wives during its heyday and has used her accounting background to assist with bookkeeping for the farm.

Merrill possesses all of the attributes of a leader, and because her competence is widely recognized, she has served in the capacity



Merrill Greenlee

of both Treasurer and President for almost every organization in Greenville. She was elected to serve as dual offices during her tenure while serving on the boards of Greenville Junior Auxiliary, Greenville Garden Club, Community Counseling Center, Winterville Mounds Association, and Delta Cotton Belles.

Actively involved at First Baptist Church, **Merrill** sings in the choir, is involved in Sunday School leadership, Bible

study and is a Mission Group leader. She has served as the Director of the Finance Committee and on multiple Search Committees. Her level of commitment is obvious in everything she does.

Despite the fact that **Merrill** worked full-time up until the past two years, she always found time to be involved in efforts for the betterment of the community. While her sons were attending Washington School, she chaired the major fund-raising project, the Harvest Fun Festival. As a Rotarian, she was a Paul Harris Fellow and enjoyed investing in the lives of young students by participating as a Reading Buddy at Carrie Stern Elementary for five years. She served selflessly as Child Welfare Chairman for Junior Auxiliary, treasurer of the Greenville Teen Club, and on the Allocations Committee for the King's Daughters and Sons Circle Number Two for many years.

The 87th Annual Meeting of Delta Council will be held in-person on Friday, June 17, 2022, at Delta State University's Bologna Performing Arts Center (BPAC) in Cleveland, Mississippi. Keynoting the business session of the meeting will be author and speaker **David Magee**.

Sponsors for the meeting are BankPlus, Catfish Farmers of Mississippi, Cotton, Inc., Delta State University, Mississippi Corn Promotion Board, Mississippi Land Bank, Mississippi Rice Promotion Board, Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board, Simplot, and Southern Ag Credit.

GRADUATES from page 1

throughout the Mississippi Delta Region, including public, parochial, and private schools. Students are selected by school administrators based on leadership, extra-curricular, scholastic, and community service.

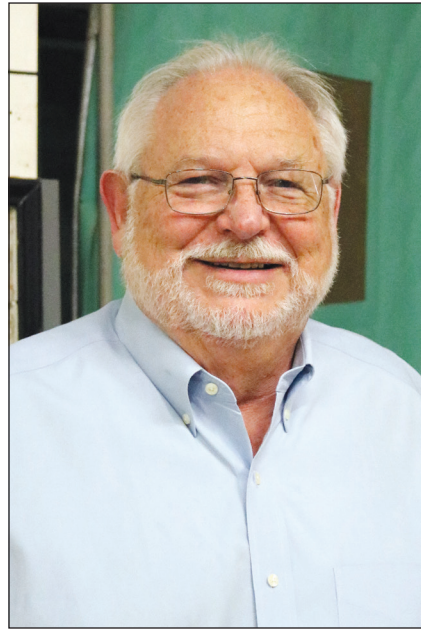
In addition, a \$2,500 scholarship will be

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.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS FOR 2022 ANNUAL MEETING



**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
TO DELTA AQUACULTURE:
Sissy Bridges**



**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
TO COTTON GINNING:
Dr. Joe Thomas**



**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
TO COTTON GINNING:
Dr. Chris Delhom**



**OUTSTANDING
SOYBEAN PRODUCER:
Willard Jack**



**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
TO HARDWOOD FORESTRY:
Steve Burgess**



**OUTSTANDING
RICE PRODUCER:
Patrick Swindoll**



**CONSERVATION
FARMER OF THE YEAR:
Jack Phillips**



**RESEARCHER
OF THE YEAR:
Dr. Jodi Scheffler**

2022 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS



Lewis Poindexter
Southeast Regional
Manager



The J.R. Simplot Company is one of the largest privately held food and agribusiness companies in the nation, though at heart we're as small as a single farmer. We pioneer innovations in plant nutrition and food processing, research new ways to feed animals and sustain ecosystems, and strive to feed a growing global population. At Simplot, we're in the business of Bringing Earth's Resources to Life.



Bill Allen
President
Belzoni Branch



Founded in 1909, BankPlus is one of the Southeast's premier regional banks serving consumers and businesses with the latest technology through a full suite of financial services, including retail banking, commercial banking, mortgage lending and wealth management.



Bart Harris
CEO

For over 100 years, Mississippi Land Bank has been one of the premier lenders for land in the northern 32 counties of Mississippi. From a homesite with a few acres to an agriculture or hunting property with a few thousand acres – we offer long-term financing for land purchases and refinancing, and we

have the knowledge and expertise to meet your financing needs. We also offer financing and refinancing solutions for many other needs that go along with the ownership of rural properties.



William LaForge
President



Delta State University is a four-year public institution whose more than 3,500 students come from most U.S. states and more than 50 countries. The university offers numerous unique programs, including the Delta Music Institute entertainment industry program, and is the only university in Mississippi to offer undergraduate and graduate aviation

programs. Situated in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, which is recognized as the birthplace of American music, Delta State has become the center of music and culture for the state and the region. The university is also the academic center for the blues, offering an online blues studies curriculum that leads to a certificate for advanced study of blues music. In addition, Delta State offers top-notch academic programs in business, arts, sciences, nursing, and education, among other areas.



Phillip D. Morgan
CEO

Southern AgCredit is a full-service cooperative lender that specializes in financing rural land and agricultural operations in Mississippi and Louisiana. It is a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of lending cooperatives that finance agriculture, agribusiness, rural real estate and country homes. For more information, visit www.southernagcredit.com.



Carter Murrell
Rice Board Chairman
Hollandale

Ronnie Aguzzi, Cleveland
James Allison, Sarab
Curtis Berry, Robinsonville
Nolen Canon, Tunica
Marvin Cochran, Avon
Larry Davis, Shaw
Gary Fioranelli, Cleveland
Donald Gant, Merigold
Randy Howarth, Boyle
Gibb Steele, Greenville
Patrick Swindoll, Hernando



Will Long
Corn Board Chairman
Indianola

Preston Arrington, Inverness
Philip Good, Macon
Emile Guedon, Natchez
Jan Hill, Meridian
Mike Graves, Ripley
Larry Killebrew, Lexington
George King, Chatbam
Turner Massey, Clarksdale
Jeffrey Mitchell, Cary
Jack Phillips, Yazoo City
Todd Williams, Olive Branch



Andy Jones
Catfish Board Chairman
Moorhead

Chris McGlawn, President, Swiftown
Will Nobile, Vice President, Moorhead
Andy Prosser, Secretary/Treasurer, Yazoo City
Houston Battle, Tunica
Dan Bradshaw, Yazoo City
Bobby Jones, Glen Allan
Shorty Jones, Glen Allan
Ben Pentecost, Daddsville
Ed Pentecost, Cleveland
Brad Phillips, Eden



Bubba Simmons
Soybean Board Chairman
Arcola

Tim Clements, Greenville
Jan DeRegt, Hollandale
Paul Dees, Leland
Wayne Dulaney, Clarksdale
Louis Guedon, Natchez
Keith Morton, Falkner
Reese Pillow, Greenwood
Jerry Slocum, Coldwater
Jimmy Sneed, Hernando
Bill Ryan Tabb, Cleveland
David Wansley, Valley Park



Lawrence Long
Cotton Inc. State Support
Committee Chairman
Indianola

Coley Bailey III, Grenada
Kendall Garraway, Bolton
Bernie Jordan, Yazoo City

2022 MISSISSIPPI DELTA HONOR GRADUATES

BOLIVAR

Jayda Nichole Anderson McEvans School
Sylvester Cannon, III Cleveland Central High
Devon Harbin Cleveland Central High
Matthew Harris Northside High
Farrah Kathryn Hood Bayou Academy
Treveon Lee West Bolivar High
Vanessa Martinez West Bolivar High
Princess Aria Sanders McEvans School
Kennedy Starks Northside High
Lindsey Grace Strongosky Bayou Academy
Bryce Collier Carroll Academy

CARROLL

Kennedy Johnson J.Z. George High
Georgia Neill Carroll Academy
Jacarra Sherrod J.Z. George High

COAHOMA

Myranda Coleman Clarksdale High
Almilleon Davis Coahoma County High School
Marlene Dimas Clarksdale High
Jett Harrell Lee Academy
Andrea Harris Coahoma County High School
Sara Lutts Lee Academy

DESOTO

Emma Allen Hernando High
Liam Allen Northpoint Christian School
Illiana Barshinger Horn Lake High
Jeffery Chen Desoto Central High
Nicholas Douglas Southaven High
Kyle Heath Center Hill High
Abigail Landon Desoto Central High
Ashley Lowe Olive Branch High
Janel Marquez Horn Lake High
Jenna Munsey Lake Cormorant High
Heath Patterson Olive Branch High
Callia Paulino Center Hill High
Elijah Stage Hernando High
Abigail Stine Northpoint Christian School
Rachel Strickland Lake Cormorant High
Brandon Suh Southaven High
Jaylynn Taylor Lewisburg High

GRENADA

Ainsley Craven Grenada High
Lexie Draper Kirk Academy
Tramiah Leason Grenada High
Mary Wilkinson Kirk Academy

HOLMES

Jurdan Engle Central Holmes Christian School
Zanashia Hawkins Holmes County Central High School
Lillian Lewis Holmes County Central High School
Noah Steen Central Holmes Christian School

HUMPHREYS

Oliva Grace Gorton Humphreys Academy
Andreanna Page Humphreys County High
Ashantis Wigley Humphreys County High
Emily Williams Humphreys Academy

LEFLORE

Joshua Bishop Delta Streets Academy
Dia Chawla Pillow Academy
Gabriel Cordova Delta Streets Academy
Ceniya Christine Glass Amanda Elzy High
Hal Mandel Haney, Jr. Amanda Elzy High
Jakylah Lawrence Greenwood High
Demarius Leflore Leflore County High
Cheyenne Roberts Leflore Christian School
Morgan Stanley Greenwood High
Amber Williams Leflore County High
Christopher Winter Pillow Academy

PANOLA

Sadie Gray North Delta School
Heather Hollins North Delta School
Anna McCain South Panola High
Bethaney Morgan North Panola High
Lamerria Webb North Panola High
TaDarrian Woodard South Panola High

QUITMAN

Nakerrius Eppenger Madison S. Palmer High
Nathaniel Douglas Rushing Delta Academy
Trinity Taylor Madison S. Palmer High
Grant Douglas Wolfe Delta Academy

SHARKEY/ ISSAQUENA

Ja'Kelcey Fuller South Delta High
Imani Barnes South Delta High
Taylor Dean Sharkey-Issaquena Academy
Presley Perry Sharkey-Issaquena Academy

SUNFLOWER

Dylan Bailey Gentry High
Samantha Barham North Sunflower Academy
Don Brown Thomas E Edwards Sr High
Abby Chambers Gentry High
Hamp Judson Indianola Academy
Morgan McKay North Sunflower Academy
Makyria Watkins Thomas E Edwards Sr High
Rosalea Woodard Indianola Academy

TALLAHATCHIE

Razavier Davis West Tallahatchie High
Katavious Gibbs West Tallahatchie High
Sedrick Smith, Jr. Charleston High
Elizabeth Willard Charleston High

TATE

Shelby Besheers Magnolia Heights School
Ana Aguirre Independence High
Djenya Bah Strayhorn High
Tegan Davis Independence High
Joseph Ener Coldwater High
Terrica Mitchell Coldwater High
Sara Frances Neyman Magnolia Heights School
Malcolm Oliver Strayhorn High
Brandon Williams Senatobia High
Mary Elizabeth Winstead Senatobia High

TUNICA

Sarah Goff Tunica Academy
Darnisha Hamilton Rosa Fort High
Arlandria Johnson Rosa Fort High
Hadassa McGee Tunica Academy

WARREN

Mary Katherine Archer River City Early College High
Macey Bufkin Porter's Chapel Academy
Lauren Carson Vicksburg High
Sarah Alice Drinkard Warren Central High
Olivia Masterson Porter's Chapel Academy
Kyleigh Neal Vicksburg High
Henry Hartley Sullivan Warren Central High
Emma Linn Waisner Vicksburg Catholic School
William Watts River City Early College High
Tristan Ross Wilbanks Vicksburg Catholic School

WASHINGTON

Hannah Britton Deer Creek School
Kamiya Clark St Joseph High School
Avery Cole St. Joseph High School
Mariyah Curtis Greenville Christian School
Milly Florian O'Bannon High
Efren Z. Ford, Jr. Unity Christian
Marlee Furr Deer Creek School
Rachel Guynes Greenville High
Lawler Horn Washington School
Nia Symone Kindred Leland High
Jermonique Lloyd Simmons High
Kiara Marsalis Greenville High
Eriana Gabrielle Murphy Leland High
Meri-Kathryn Norris Riverside High
Ann Garner Scott Washington School
Deandria Smith Greenville Christian School
Hunter Wablington Riverside High
Tymon Wells Simmons High
Raven Whitley O'Bannon High

YAZOO

Elizabeth Dianne Carpenter Manchester Academy
Carter Crow Benton Academy
John Harris Benton Academy
De'Shawn Hudson Yazoo County High
Mallory Rhodes Yazoo County High
Kimbrile Sayles Yazoo City High
Jacob Roark Scott Manchester Academy
Marcus Straughter Yazoo City High

News

MISS. DELEGATION WELCOMES \$15 MILLION IN AIP GRANTS FOR MISSISSIPPI AIRPORTS

U.S. Senators Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith, and U.S. Representatives Steven Palazzo and Michael Guest welcomed the announcement of more than \$15 million in new investments from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for enhancement projects at 29 Mississippi airfields.

The grants come from the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), including entitlement and appropriated funding.

“Local airports are a critical part of our state’s economy. Their maintenance ensures that Mississippi can continue to grow and remain competitive,” **Wicker** said. “I appreciate the FAA’s work on these projects and all they do to support aviation in Mississippi.”

“Local airports, which support jobs and bolster economies, require regular rehabilitation, construction, and safety projects,” said **Hyde-Smith**, who serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee. “These FAA awards will fund targeted projects at airports across Mississippi to improve safety and operate more efficiently.”

“Continually improving the aviation infrastructure of Mississippi will aid in expanding tourism, furthering economic development, and

ensuring our airports are safe and able to expand with demand,” said **Palazzo**. “Investments in America’s infrastructure, such as these AIP grants, benefit the local community, the state, and the nation.”

“As a Member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I’ve spoken with airport officials across the Third Congressional District about the important role airports play in economic development. These grants will help make Mississippi’s economy more competitive as we seek to attract and retain new businesses and investments. I join my colleagues in applauding the FAA for their support,” said **Guest**.

Of the 29 AIP grants for Mississippi, several Delta airports include:

- Cleveland Municipal, City of Cleveland – \$225,000 to reconstruct railway lighting
- Ruleville-Drew, City of Drew – \$150,000 to install navigation aid, seal runway and taxiway pavement
- Greenville Mid-Delta, City of Greenville – \$1,150,000 to seal runway pavement
- Indianola Municipal, City of Indianola – \$150,000 to rehabilitate taxiway and seal pavement

MILWAUKEE TOOL HELD A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR ITS NEW FACILITY IN GRENADA CO.



The company is investing over \$60 million to make the expansion happen and creating 1,200 jobs, of which 800 will be at the new facility.

CLEMONS PRESENTED WITH DELTA STATE’S OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD

Delta State University recently announced its 2022 outstanding staff and faculty award winners during the Spring 2022 Commencement Exercise May 5.

Craig Clemons, manager of Custodial Services and Event Management, received the 2022 H.L. Nowell Outstanding Staff Award.

“**Craig** has been a real friend to Delta Council over the years and we applaud his selection on this prestigious award,” said **Frank Howell**, Delta Council Staff.

A native of Duncan, Miss., **Clemons** is a graduate of Broad Street High School in Shelby, Miss. He joined Delta State’s staff in 1997, serving as janitorial service supervisor until 2008 and then custodial manager. He has held his current role since 2013.

“There are many aspects that I enjoy at DSU,

but the most important to me is customer satisfaction,” said **Clemons**. “We not only prepare and sanitize the buildings to keep guests happy and healthy; we also set up events for their enjoyment. In the end, seeing the satisfaction from the students and guests brings me the most joy.”

Clemons is the 29th recipient of this recognition and was presented with a cash award and plaque. In addition, his name will join past recipients on display in the H.L. Nowell Union.



DSU President Bill Laforge and Clemons

HYDE-SMITH LOOKS TO FUNDING NEEDS FOR USDA WATERSHED, FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM

U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith looked to determine a sufficient level of funding for a U.S. Department of Agriculture program that assists Mississippi communities with flood mitigation, water quality improvements, erosion control, and related activities.

The Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee on which **Hyde-Smith** serves hosted **Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack** at a hearing to review the FY2023 budget request for the USDA and related agencies, like the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and its Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program.

“Like many rural communities and landowners across the United States, Mississippi and its people have been hit particularly hard in recent years by excessive rainfall, flooding, and other problems caused by natural disasters,” **Hyde-Smith** said. “The Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program has been invaluable in allowing small towns to recover from these events, and, importantly, to also prepare for the next one because the next one will be coming as well.”

Hyde-Smith sought assurances from **Vilsack** that the NRCS could effectively

use the additional funding sought for the WFPO Program in FY2023, a \$25 million increase over the \$100 million appropriated this year. **Vilsack** endorsed increased funding, adding, “I think the key here is not just increasing the resources, but making sure that you got the staff on the ground to make sure you can implement these resources in a proper way.”

Responding to **Hyde-Smith**, **Vilsack** also said NRCS personnel are now working with local sponsors on using the \$8.4 million in WFPO funding the Senator secured in FY2022 for nine flood control, erosion reduction, and bank stabilization projects in nine Mississippi counties. He also noted additional resources being delivered to the state through the recently enacted infrastructure bill.

“We know that a lot of the sediment issues in Mississippi are not a result of your losing your topsoil. It’s the result of the banks basically eroding over time, creating some challenges. I think you’re going to see significant activity in this space in Mississippi because of the money and resources that have been provided through the appropriations process and the infrastructure law,” **Vilsack** said

ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE APPROVES MEASURE EXTENDING AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING FOR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith supported committee passage of legislation to improve the process for establishing and running National Heritage Areas (NHAs), including extending authorization and funding for sites in Mississippi and across the nation.

Hyde-Smith serves on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that Tuesday unanimously cleared an amended National Heritage Area Act (S.1942) for consideration by the full Senate. **Hyde-Smith** cosponsored the bill.

“Mississippi proudly hosts three National Heritage Areas, which leverage the unique natural and cultural characteristics that make us special. Our committee-passed bill takes a comprehensive approach to addressing issues on establishing and operating these areas,” **Hyde-Smith** said. “I look forward to Senate



consideration of this bill.”

For the Mississippi Delta NHA and Mississippi Hills NHA, whose authorization is set to expire in 2024, the legislation extends the authorization for those and other NHAs through September 2037. The state’s third heritage area is the Mississippi Gulf Coast

NHA.

As amended, S.1942 sets standard criteria to fund, manage, and designate NHAs, and further authorizes National Park Service technical and financial assistance for all NHAs. It also expands the appropriation ceiling for each reauthorized NHA by \$1 million annually through 2037.

Local coordinating entities administer NHAs, which do not affect the private property rights of existing landowners. NHAs receive NPS matching funds but are not National Park units.

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