

Delta Council

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The Delta Council Review

Vol. 7, Issue No. 3

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

May 2011

Delta Council Day to Feature Political Roundtable Under Tent in Quad Pundits to Handicap Races

A recent addition to the Delta Council Annual Meeting lineup will be continued this year with a political roundtable “under the tent” at the Delta State University Quadrangle in advance of the organization’s Business Session.

Delta 1000 members are serving as host for “The Commentary on the 2011 Elections: From the Left, From the Right,



Jere Nash



Marty Wiseman



Arnie Hederman

and From the Ivory Tower”, featuring Mississippi State University professor Marty Wiseman (“ivory tower”) and political strategists Arnie Hederman

(“right”) and Jere Nash (“left”) at 9:15 a.m. under a tent on the Delta State Quadrangle.

“With the primary and general election season less than three months away, interest in all of our races — from Governor to Sheriff — will be at a fever pitch,” said Delta Council President Cass Pennington of Indianola. “Marty, Arnie, and Jere will break down the races in a manner that will be both informative and entertaining.”

Certainly, candidates of all stripes will

MEETING continued on page 6

Delta Campaign Surpasses All Previous Membership Records

Despite economic uncertainties associated with a fragile U.S. and World economy, the 2011 Delta Council membership campaign continues to exceed expectations and previous membership revenue over a 76-year history.

“There is a calming effect which takes place when we witness our membership campaign progressing as it has this year, and we salute our county membership

chairmen for the continued support which they continue to gather throughout the 18 counties of Northwest Mississippi,” stated Travis Satterfield, the farmer-leader from Bolivar County, who serves as Chairman of the Executive Committee of Delta Council.

“Following one of the better crop years which the Delta has experienced in the past

CAMPAIGN continued on page 6

Kennedy Named 2011 Good Middling Award Recipient

Lanny Kennedy has been named the 2011 Good Middling Award Recipient of the Year. She will be recognized at the 76th Annual Delta Council Meeting on Friday, May 6, 2011 at the Bologna Performing Arts Center in Cleveland.

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. “The individuals who have received this recognition in the past are the workers throughout every community who make things happen and give of their time to improve the Delta,” said Delta Council President Cass Pennington of Indianola.



Lanny Kennedy

Kennedy retired after thirty years at Central Delta Academy (CDA) where she was the Research Teacher helping countless children with learning disabilities and other special needs. Since retirement from CDA, she has taught in the GED program at Mississippi Delta Community College and been an instructor for Delta Council’s Adult Literacy program. Kennedy also started the Indianola Chapter of the McLean Center where she serves as a

counselor and volunteer in the grief program. She is a member of the Twentieth Century Club of Indianola serving most recently as Secretary. Kennedy is a member of DAR and the Methodist Church in Inverness.

Kennedy is the wife of Bill Kennedy and they have one son Larkin. He and his wife Jenny Ruth have identical twin girls who are one year old. Their daughter Sally Love is deceased.

“Lanny is a gifted teacher who has graciously shared her gifts with her community, especially those with limited resources and opportunities,” said Dr. Connie Schimmel, President of the Fairview Learning Center. “Lanny’s optimism, warmth, good humor, kindness, and never-ending willingness to contribute to the Delta help provide a future we can look forward to with reassurance and hope.” Dr. Schimmel went on to convey, “Lanny is such an amazing person that finding the right words to describe her resilience and wonderful personality is difficult. From the first day I met Lanny I felt like I’d known her all my life. She’s that kind of person.”



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Schedule of Events

Delta 1000 Political Tent Event 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Commentary on the 2011 Elections:
From the Left, From the Right, and From the Ivory Tower
Featuring Jere Nash, Arnie Hederman, and Marty Wiseman
Location: Under the Tent on Quadrangle

2011 Salute to Delta Honor Graduates 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Lt. Governor Phil Bryant & Dr. John Hilpert, Co-hosts
Location: East Side of Bologna Performing Arts Center

Business Session 10:30 a.m. -12:00 Noon

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Cass Pennington, President
Presentation of Colors
Boy Scout Troop 91, Belzoni
Invocation
Rev. Herron Wilson
Delta Missions, Indianola
Patriotic Music
The Cast of Mont Helena: A Dream Revisited

- Recognition of Special Guests
- Achievement Awards
- Recognition of Delta’s Top Honor Graduate
- Wear Cotton Recognition
- Good Middling Lady Presentation
- In Memoriam
- Delta Council Annual Report
- Introduction of New Officers

Keynote Address

Jim Barksdale,
President and Chairman of Barksdale Management Corporation

Catfish Luncheon

12:00 Noon
Delta State University, Quadrangle Lawn





DELTA COUNCIL

2010-11 Delta Council Officers

- President: CASS PENNINGTON, Indianola
- Vice-President: CLAY ADCOCK, Holly Bluff
- Vice-President: BUCK CLARKE, Hollandale
- Vice-President: ANGELA CURRY, Greenwood
- Vice-President: RODGE RODGERS, Clarksdale
- Vice-President: BUTCH SCIPPER, Marks
- Vice-President: NOTT WHEELER JR., Cleveland
- Treasurer: CALVIN DYE, Cleveland

POSTMASTER:

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Delta Council

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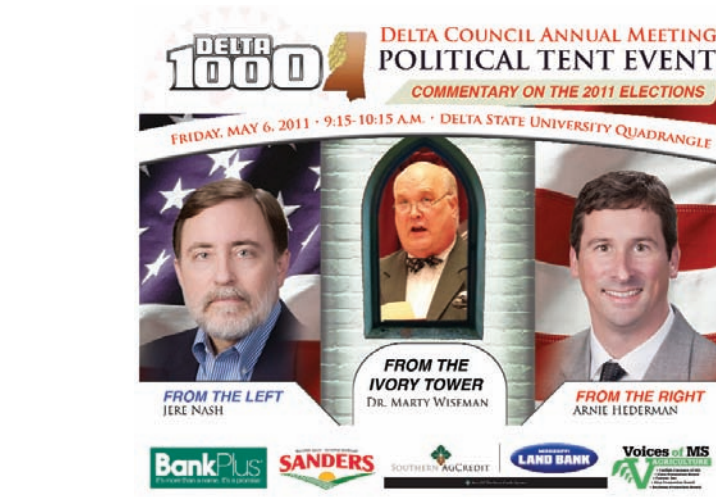
Message from the President



Cass Pennington, President Delta Council

First, we want to welcome **Donna and Jim Barksdale** to the Delta on Friday, for Delta Council Day. Also, we invite you, our faithful, to join us for the events that will unfold Friday morning and conclude with a catfish luncheon.

The morning will start with poli-



tics under the tent on the Quadrangle, as Political Analyst, Marty Wiseman from the Stennis Institute of Government at MSU, will talk with the *Left*, Jere Nash, and the *Right*, Arnie Hederman **about the tough political issues surrounding Re-districting** of Legislative districts in Mississippi. They will also **handicap the various races** around the State from the top of the ticket,

to all of the local legislative districts in question.

One of the key highlights of the morning session will be at the **Delta Honor Graduate** tent outside the Bologna Center. More than 125 honor graduates and their families will join in this moment when these young high school students are rec-

PRESIDENT continued on page 3

NOTE TO CONGRESS: Reducing Pell Grants is a Mistake

By **John M. Hilpert**

President of Delta State University

Nearly everyone I know expects elected officials to address excesses in government. The results of the November 2010 elections awakened a passion for decreased spending among members of the United States Congress. During the first few months of 2011, we've witnessed



Hilpert

Republicans and Democrats arguing over the size of proposed cutbacks and the programs to be targeted. Several billion dollars have left the federal budget and there are apparently larger reductions to come.

I'm not disappointed that our senators and representatives are accepting the responsibility for greater efficiency in government, though some of the reductions recently adopted make no sense to me. Right at the top of that list are rollbacks in Pell Grants. Even worse, this program that is so important to America's future appears to be targeted for deeper cuts in the near future.

Beginning in the years following World War II, the federal government identified universal access to higher education as a national goal. The G.I. Bill supported many veterans in their progress toward college degrees. In the 1970s a new Basic Educational Opportunity Grant (BEOG) program broadened the federal commitment to access, particularly for those whose family

resources made college enrollment unlikely. Renamed Pell Grants in honor of Rhode Island Senator Claiborne Pell, the original BEOG program has grown to serve nearly nine million students each academic year, and the annual funding has increased to more than \$30 billion.

Since the federal government has always restricted Pell Grants to recipients with demonstrated financial need, the significant growth in the program over its 40 years represents a success story. Millions of college graduates are making outstanding contributions to our communities because the Pell Grant program offered them the help required to meet basic college costs, such as tuition and books.

HILPERT continued on page 7

Pennington Testifies Before MS River Commission

In testimony before the Mississippi River Commission, Delta Council President Cass Pennington thanked the members for their positive work that has been performed by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers over the past three-quarters of a century in flood control, navigation, and port development activities.

However, the bulk of Pennington's remarks were to underscore how unfortunate that **Congress has chosen to drastically cut the Nation's commitment to maintenance or construction of infrastructure projects.**

"It has appalled us that instead of including all defense and entitlement spending as a full partner in our efforts to reduce the deficit, the Congress has essentially chosen to identify a small percentage of those discretionary accounts of the federal government and either drastically reduced or

eliminated them," said Pennington. "Rather than talking about the accomplishments of the Corps of Engineers in establishing a new "gold standard" for achieving higher water quality through a channel enlarge-



Pennington with fellow Officers Butch Skipper, Clay Adcock, and Calvin Dye on the recent High Water Inspection Tour of the Mississippi River Commission.

ment project on Steele Bayou in Mississippi today, we are saddened to report that the

continued progress which has been registered by the Corps of Engineers in improving water quality on major tributaries of the Mississippi River is being eliminated due to the political rhetoric surrounding the elimination of Congressional directives.

"Delta Council views that Congressionally-authorized activities which are major pieces of a comprehensive plan for performing flood protection and environmental restoration in a balanced approach, does not represent the type of deficit-reduction which many people envisioned when they went to the polls last November."

Pennington concluded his remarks with a plea for a more balanced and realistic view of cutting federal spending, especially as it relates to the economic progress of not only the Mississippi Delta, but the entire United States.

Pennington exclaimed, "It is our view

that instead of crippling our Nation's infrastructure improvements which include highways, navigation, port development, flood protection, and ecosystems restoration, the people in our region are telling us that all federal spending should be considered for the purposes of deficit reduction, not just those Congressionally-authorized projects which constitute less than .7% of the total federal outlays of the Nation. Even our Nation's Pell grant programs in higher education, which have enabled a large percentage of our rural population to attend 2 year and 4 year colleges, are proposed for drastic cuts. 85% of all federal spending is consumed by defense and entitlement outlays. If these two budget items do not proportionally participate in deficit reduction, **it is our view that the ongoing Congressional debate about deficit reduction is disingenuous.**"

Delta Council to Salute Top Delta Graduates

For the 9th consecutive year, Delta Council will recognize high school graduates in the Mississippi Delta at Delta Council's Annual Meeting, Friday, May 6th at the Bologna Performing Arts Center. The honor graduates were nominated by their school administrators based on their academic achievement and community involvement.

At the Salute to Delta Honor Graduates, Lt. Governor Phil Bryant, a Moorhead native, will host the ceremony along with Dr. John Hilpert, President of Delta State University, and they will impress upon Delta honor students that they can remain in Mississippi and the Delta and make a

difference. Two selected seniors from each school district in the Delta, including public, parochial and private school nominees, will join with their parents, beginning at 9:00 a.m. outside the Bologna Performing Arts Center for the 76th Annual Meeting of Delta Council. After visiting with the Lt. Governor and other public officials and civic leaders from the Mississippi Delta, the Honor Graduates will be presented a certificate from Lt. Governor Bryant and Dr. Hilpert.

"Lt. Governor Bryant and Dr. John Hilpert are very aware of the roles students will potentially lead in the Mississippi Delta after graduation, and we are pleased

that they are sending the message to our best and brightest that, after going to college and gaining a degree, they can come back home to make a difference," said Delta Council President Cass Pennington of Indianola. The selected seniors were chosen by their school administrators based on outstanding scholastic achievement and dedicated community involvement. In addition, a \$2,500 schol-



Lt. Governor Bryant addressing the 2010 honor graduates.

arship will be awarded to the top Delta Honor Graduate as selected by higher education officials in the Delta. This scholarship, which has been presented the last eight years, will be used 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.

HILPERT from page 2

President Lyndon Johnson made the argument in a 1965 speech to Congress: "Every child must be encouraged to get as much education as he has the ability to take. We want this not only for his sake, but for the nation's sake. Nothing matters more to the future of our country."

As the 2011 Congress has dealt with funding issues for the current budget year, reductions to the Pell Grant program have

already begun. After this summer, for instance, there will be no Pell support for students who wish to accelerate progress toward their degrees by enrolling in summer terms.

Things could become even more difficult for students in Fiscal Year '12. The latest drafts of that federal budget suggest billions of dollars in Pell reductions. Some analysts have estimated these measures could pare the maximum grant to the neediest students from \$5,550 to \$2,100. The

proposed actions could also make far fewer students eligible for Pell support.

These decisions will negatively affect thousands of students already studying at the universities or community colleges in the Mississippi Delta. Many may not be able to continue. It will also destroy the dreams of youngsters in our high schools preparing to make the transition to college.

Our nation's leaders have said for decades that limiting access to college to students from families for whom higher

education is affordable would be unjust social policy. Yet, that is the logical outcome of cuts to the Pell Grant program. Furthermore, we risk failing to achieve the national goal that we will produce more college graduates, thereby advancing — or at least maintaining — the competitive position of the United States within the world economy.

I urge everyone to join me in supporting funding stability for the Pell Grant program.

Burrows Paper Corporation Completes Rebuild

Burrows Paper Corporation, a worldwide supplier of light weight specialty paper and packaging solutions, has completed work on the extensive rebuild of its #41 paper machine in Pickens. The project was completed in December and included the installation of a new 15' MG (machine glaze) cylinder and integrated MG hood. The newly rebuilt MG paper machine stands two stories tall and is nearly 150 feet long.

President and Chief Operating Officer Mike Lengvasky said the project represents a significant investment

by the company and a strong vote of confidence in the employees at the mill.

"Our customers will benefit from faster order fulfillment, the introduction of new grades of paper, industry-leading sheet quality, and competitive pricing," Lengvasky said. "In addition, the new machine requires less energy to operate, meaning we have successfully enhanced our production process while reducing our impact on the environment."

Burrows operates five paper machines in four mills

throughout New York State and Mississippi, maintaining the highest standards with ISO and FSC certifications. Burrows is one of only a few companies capable of producing very light weight printable tissue paper from 7.5 pounds up to 30 pounds. Burrows offers MG and MF paper grades that are used in a variety of applications that include medical and food packaging, as well as many industrial grade papers.

For additional information, visit www.burrowspaper.com.

U.S. House Passes Pesticide Legislation, Moves to Senate

The House of Representatives passed by a margin of 292-134 a procedural rule that allowed for H.R. 872, a bill that would eliminate the burdensome and overlapping permit requirements from an earlier legal interpretation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA). The legislation clarifies that Clean Water Act permits are not needed when a pesticide is applied in accordance with a FIFRA-approved label. This week, Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas, ranking member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, introduced companion legislation, (S.718), which Senator Thad Cochran is a co-sponsor. As reported recently, Representatives' Bennie Thompson, Gregg Harper, Alan Nunnelee, and Steven Palazzo, all co-sponsored the measure in the U.S. House.

In June 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency released a draft general permit for pesticide applications in response to a federal court decision requiring pesticides to be permitted under the Clean Water Act. Under this proposed draft, approximately 35,000 pesticide applicators will need permits to cover about 500,000 applications per year. EPA estimates the permit will cost states, local entities and pesticide applicators \$50 million and require one million hours to implement per year. Under the Clean Water Act, unlawful discharges are subject to \$37,500 per day in fines. In addition to the burdensome and duplicative requirements that would affect agriculture, the draft permit is of particular concern for public health officials who are now restricted in their ability to control mosquitoes, and the spread of diseases like the West Nile virus.

Delta Wildlife Board Elects New Leadership

The Delta Wildlife Board of Directors recently elected a new slate of Officers to lead the organization into its 21st year of service. New Officers include President, Bill Litton and Vice Presidents, Emily Carter, Paul Dees, and Allan Grittmann.

In Mississippi, Bill Litton is more known for his work with John Deere than White-tailed deer. However, Litton has always been an avid outdoorsman, sportsman and conservationist. He has worked hard to help develop and manage quality habitats for both native and migra-

tory species in north Leflore County. He also has a special affinity for clean water and lakes as he spends much of his free time on the banks of a Mississippi River oxbow lake.

Austin Jones, immediate past-President, feels confident that Bill Litton will serve Delta Wildlife well. "Between his experience in growing a successful business in Mississippi and his passion for wildlife in the region, Bill is uniquely qualified to lead Delta Wildlife."

WILDLIFE continued on page 6

PRESIDENT from page 2

ognized for their achievements. Lieutenant Governor Phil Bryant and Delta State University President, John Hilpert, will serve as co-hosts for the Delta Honor Graduate event, which concludes with the award of a \$2500 scholarship presented to the top Delta Honor Graduate for 2011. The scholarship award ceremony will be held during the business session inside the Bologna Performing Arts immediately prior

to Mr. Barksdale's keynote.

Some of the top business and agricultural leaders in the Nation will be honored with Delta Council achievement awards and recognition during the business session, and the 2011 Good Middling recipient, Lanny Kennedy of Inverness, will be recognized from the platform.

As we approach the 2011 election season, and especially the upcoming August primaries for offices extending from our Courthouses to the Governor's

Mansion, we open our arms to candidates for public office. We hope that our membership enjoys meeting and personally visiting with the various candidates that will be on the grounds for our noon luncheon. It is certain to start with enthusiasm at 9:00 a.m., when Jere Nash (the Left) and Arnie Hederman (the Right) square off to discuss the strengths and the weaknesses of their candidates for public office.

I look forward to seeing you on Friday, May 6.

CAMPAIGN from page 1

year, combined with strong commodity prices, there is optimism reflected throughout the Delta Council membership campaign and we are grateful that the Mississippi Delta continues to give this organization its vote of confidence," added Satterfield.

MEETING from page 1

likely join the members of Delta 1000, the Delta Council Board of Directors, and other invited guests under the tent with the RC Colas, the Fried Peanuts, the Fans, and the cotton suits.

Delta 1000 is a program begun by Delta Council over 40 years ago that includes a special group of Delta Council members who recognize the value of our regional approach to further development of the region. For more information on the Delta 1000 program, please visit www.deltacouncil.org.

WILDLIFE from page 3

The position of President of Delta Wildlife carries with it many responsibilities. However, Litton will find ample help from his three Vice Presidents. Delta Wildlife's first female Vice-President is Emily Carter. Carter has been on the Delta Wildlife Board for 3-years, actively serving on the Magazine, Education, and Public Relations Committee. While Emily and her family reside near Glen Allan, MS, she spends much of her time in Rolling Fork where she works at MSU Extension Service and her husband farms. With her professional background in Extension, she helped institute many of the changes that strengthen both the content and look of the current *Delta Wildlife Magazine*.

Paul Dees of Greenville and Allan Grittmann of Cleveland will also be serving as Vice Presidents

Delta Health Alliance and Project HOPE Collaborate to Improve Health Care

The free medical supplies arrived at Greenville's Good Samaritan Center recently. And there is more to come thanks to a newly formed agreement between Project HOPE and the Delta Health Alliance. Project HOPE is an international health education and humanitarian assistance organization that provides free medical supplies and equipment to needy clinics. After hearing about the work of the Delta Health Alliance, and the needs in the Mississippi Delta, they decided to offer their assistance.

Dr. John Howe, CEO of Project HOPE, remarked after signing the agreement with Delta Health Alliance, "There is a great need to continue improving access and providing health care to the residents of the Mississippi Delta and I am confident that the combined skills and



Dr. Howe on a recent visit to the Good Samaritan Clinic in Greenville

experience of Project HOPE and the Delta Health Alliance will help build stronger, healthier communities in the future. The partnership is another example of HOPE's commitment to provide health opportunities for people everywhere, including at home in the United States."

Howe and his team toured the Delta several weeks ago, met with Governor Barbour and Lt. Governor Phil Bryant, and visited many of the clinics supported by the Delta Health Alliance. After witnessing firsthand the opportunities for help, Project HOPE signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Delta Health Alliance and pledged to explore opportunities to develop and implement health programs in the Delta and pursue financial resources to support these programs.

of Delta Wildlife. Dees and Grittmann share many things in common. Both are rice and soybean farmers, both share a passion for waterfowl and wing-shooting, and both actively manage their lands for wildlife.

In addition to the new Officers, Ann Ruscoe and Gibb Steele were elected to serve on the Board of Directors for a three-year term. Ruscoe is best known for her decorated career as the Coahoma County Extension Agent and Director where she served as an instructor for MDWFP Hunter Safety classes and lead NRCS Earth Teams. Today, Ann works for Delta Plastics and resides in Clarksdale, MS. Steele is a partner in Steele Farms west of Hollandale, MS where he actively manages thousands of acres for migratory waterfowl habitat and works diligently with numerous commodity groups as an advocate for agriculture. Steele resides in Glen Allan, MS.



Bill Litton, Greenwood
President



Emily Carter, Glen Allan
Vice-President



Paul Dees, Greenville
Vice-President



Allan Grittmann, Drew
Vice-President



Ann Ruscoe, Clarksdale
Director



Gibb Steele, Glen Allan
Director

Deltan On The Move: Warden Bruce Pearson

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Bruce Pearson was born and raised in the small town of Goodwater, Alabama, and graduated from N.F. Nunnally Technical College in 1981. After spending over six years in private industry textiles, with Russell Athletics Corporation, he began his career with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in 1986. After six posts around the country, he was selected as Associate Warden at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Yazoo City. After spending 3 1/2 years in that position



and realizing that most of his work experience in private and public sector had been in industries, he accepted the position of Deputy Assistant Director, Industries, Education and Vocational Training in the Bureau of Prison's Central Office in Washington D.C. In 2004, Pearson was selected as Warden and served in this capacity at Federal Correctional Institutions in Coleman, Florida; Memphis, Tennessee; and currently at the Federal Correctional Complex in Yazoo City.

CURRENT JOB TITLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Pearson is the Complex Warden at the Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) in Yazoo City. His responsibilities include ultimate oversight for the safety, security and management of the Federal Correctional Complex which consist of three facilities: Minimum, Low and Medium security institutions with a total inmate population of 3700 and a staff compliment of 600. Pearson is responsible for an annual complex budget of approximately \$56 million dollars and buildings and equipment valued at over \$200 million dollars. FCC protects the public by confining offenders in institutions that are safe, secure, and humane. FCC provides meaningful education, work, wellness,

and treatment programs and services to inmates in order to better prepare them for re-entry into our communities and to become productive law-abiding citizens.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

"I enjoy being in a position where I have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others and I love working with people. Understanding, that during my nearly 25 year career, you might only see a total life changing experience in less than one percent of those you have encountered. But, just the fact that through my day to day interactions, I have an opportunity to do or say something that another person may think about one day and cause them to take a different path, avoid trouble and not end up in prison.

I see myself as a people person, and I believe somehow I was destined to be in this line of work. I often refer to it as the people business. Our offenders are our business and without them we are out of business. I truly enjoy the extremely dedicated, competent and brave staff here at FCC Yazoo City. They are second to none that I have seen. I can say that with conviction after working in the Bureau for almost 25 years, 9 Institutions, working in all 6 Regions, and the Central Office. They are the 'Spirit of Yazoo'."

WHAT DOES THE DELTA SAY ABOUT BRUCE?

"It is obvious to those of us who live around the prison or visited the facility that Warden Pearson runs a first class operation. With his long history in the corrections industry, the correctional complex in Yazoo City is being operated in a secure and efficient manner," said Delta Council Vice President Clay Adcock.

UPDATE

Catfish Petition

The USDA has determined there is a clear need for a strong catfish food safety inspection system. Delta Council urges you to support the USDA's strongest possible safety option, which includes all domestic and imported catfish, described in the regulation as "all species in the order Siluriformes, with the three families typically consumed as food, including Ictaluridae, Pangasius, and Clariidae."

Comments must be received on or before June 24, 2011, and may be submitted per the following: through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov, by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, FSIS Docket Clerk, Room 2-2127, George Washington Carver Center, 5601 Sunnyside Ave., Mailstop 5272, Beltsville, MD 20705; or by e-mail to fsis.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov. All comments must identify FSIS and docket number FSIS-2008-0031. Comments will be available for viewing on the FSIS website at www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_and_policies/proposed_rules/index.asp. In addition to a public comment period, FSIS intends to hold public meetings on the proposed rule, which will be announced at a later date.

Appropriations Chairman Restores Proposed Cuts to MSU Ag Units

In a final hour attempt to reverse an additional \$5 Million cut to MSU Ag Units (Experiment Station, Forestry, Veterinary Medicine, and Extension), Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Doug Davis (Hernando) and House Chairman Johnny Stringer (Montrose), concurred in maintaining the Ag Units of Mississippi State at the equivalent level of other higher education budgets. This restoration was in response to the Ag Units sustaining an additional \$5 million in further budget cuts proposed by the executive branch.

An agricultural coalition of 48 agriculture and natural resource organizations across the State co-signed a letter to the Lt. Governor, the Speaker, Davis, and Stringer urging them to refrain from any further cuts to the Ag Budgets of MSU.

Budget Resolution Includes \$30 million for Promise Neighborhoods

The House Appropriations Committee recently released the continuing resolution for FY 2011, which will fund the government until September 30, 2011. The budget resolution includes \$30 million for Promise Neighborhoods, which represents a three-fold increase from FY 2010. The Promise Neighborhoods Institute at Policy Link applauds Congress and the Obama administration for expanding funding for this program during these tough fiscal times. Communities across the country are doing exciting work to create Promise Neighborhoods. Indianola is one of the 21 communities who received planning grants last year.

Mississippi College Honors Whittington

Mississippi College will soon name a student center in honor of Delta Council Past President Aven Whittington of Greenwood and other members of his family.

In 1907, Mississippi College had only one female graduate, Ms. Anna Ward Aven, who was a 1909 graduate of MC and mother of Mr. Aven Whittington. Mr. Whittington's generosity to the Mississippi College School of Business continues his long-standing relationship with MC and service to the college as a long-time member of the MC Board of Trustees.

In honor of Ms. Anna Ward Aven's early accomplishments in education and her son's continued support, MC plans to name the new Student Business Center in her memory and in honor of Mr. Aven Whittington.

"The campus already has Whittington Dorm and Aven Hall in honor of his family. We are excited to add this business student center on the first floor of Self Hall," said Katrina Pace, Director of Development, School of Business of Mississippi College.

Nominations for American Farm Mom of the Year

Behind every American farm family is the backbone of the operation: The American Farm

Mom. Now's your chance to honor her contributions with the opportunity to win \$7,500 from a program sponsored by Monsanto. Nominations end May 8, 2011. Five regional winners will be announced in mid-May. American Agri-Women will select the five regional winners. Each winner will receive a \$5,000 prize. The national winner will receive an additional \$2,500. To complete an application, go to <http://www.monsanto.com/americas-farmers/Pages/mom-of-the-year.aspx>.



Sanders Named President of Planters Bank, Greenville

Planters Bank recently announced Andy Sanders as president of the Greenville office. He succeeds Charles A. Jordan Jr., who has served in this role for over 31 years. Sanders began his career with Planters Bank as an intern during college and officially joined the bank in 1999. He has previously served the bank as a loan officer and as senior vice president.



Sanders

Sanders is a Greenville native and a graduate of Washington School. He returned to Greenville after receiving his BBA in banking and finance from Mississippi State University. He is a graduate of the Mississippi School of Banking and Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

Garner to Serve as State Conservationist

Long-time USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service employee Al Garner was recently selected to head the federal agency's Mississippi office this year, serving as State Conservationist. The Brandon, Miss. resident has worked for NRCS since 1980.



Garner

Garner began his career as a soil conservationist in Corinth and has served as a district

conservationist and resource conservationist in various locations before being tapped to serve as Assistant State Conservationist in 1998. His responsibilities have included both operations and program management.

Franklin Earns Certified Wildlife Biologist Title

Congratulations to Sam Franklin, Delta Wildlife Biologist. He received the highest level of accreditation awarded to wildlife biologists. This accreditation is given by The Wildlife Society, only after candidates complete 1) adequate college course work in



Franklin

wildlife biology and management, 2) 5-years professional experience and 3) a peer review of accomplishments and achievements over that 5-year period. This accreditation grants Franklin the official title of "Certified Wildlife Biologist" which will be recognizable as the initials CWB will follow his name hence forth.

Gutter Named Acting Deputy Undersecretary

Karis T. Gutter was recently named Acting Deputy Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Service (FFAS), which is primarily responsible for the domestic programs within the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Risk Management Agency (RMA) and Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS). The FSA and the RMA help to keep America's farmers and ranchers in business as they face the uncertainties of weather and markets. These two agencies deliver commodity, credit, conservation, disaster, and emergency assistance, as well as crop insurance — programs that help improve the stability and strength of the domestic agricultural economy. The FAS links U.S. agriculture to the world to enhance export opportunities and global food security.



Gutter



Douglas Kamien has recently retired after working with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for 33 years. Mr. Kamien was the Chief of Programs and Project Management, Deputy for Programs and Project Management for the Vicksburg District of the USACE.



J.J. McClain Jr. High School student shows off his certificate of his recent accomplishment — completion of the D.A.R.E. class, co-sponsored by Delta Health Alliance and Delta Council.



Son Hood of Tunica (center) visits with Bruce Brumfield of Inverness (right) and Frank Mitchener of Sumner (left) at a recent Delta Council Nominating Committee meeting.



Catfish Farmers of America educated people at the recent Belzoni Catfish Festival about the dangers of imported catfish. Petitions to support better regulation and inspections of all catfish, imported and domestic, were available. At the event, CFA collected 351 signatures on the petitions, representing 15 different states.



Mississippi Delta Community College's second Electrical Linemen Training class is well underway. Students have earned their Commercial Driver License (CDL) permit and will soon be completing the driving portion to obtain the CDL — Class A.



Ruleville Middle School D.A.R.E. graduates along with Principal Kermit McAdory, Sunflower County Sheriff Department D.A.R.E. officer Gloria Hayes and Sunflower School District D.A.R.E. Officer Sherod Reed, teacher Cassandra Green and community member.



To celebrate Earth Day, the United States Department of Agriculture — Agriculture Research Service recently held an Environmental Fair at Stoneville.



Panola County Justice Court District 1 Judge Mike Wilson encourages North Panola Jr. High School students during recent D.A.R.E. graduation.

If you want a civic club presentation on Higher Education funding, Workforce training, Delta Health Alliance, D.A.R.E., Delta Heritage Area, Washington and Jackson Capitol issues affecting the Delta, call Delta Council at 662-686-3350.

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