



The Delta Council Review

Vol. 13, Issue No. 5

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

May 2018

DELTA COUNCIL TO HOST 83RD ANNUAL MEETING THIS FRIDAY, JUNE 1

Delta Council President, **George King** of Chatham, is pleased to announce the organization's 83rd Annual Meeting to be held Friday, June 1, 2018. The Annual Meeting of the Delta's regional business and agriculture organization will be hosted at Delta State University's Bologna Performing Arts Center (BPAC) in Cleveland, Mississippi.

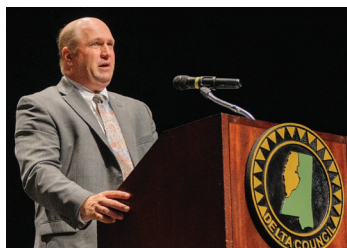
"We are excited to announced our Annual Meeting and are looking forward to our annual celebration of regional cooperation through the work of Delta Council," said **King**, a producer in South Washington County. "In addition to all of the traditional activities that are a part of Delta Council Day, we are also looking forward to having a high-profile, Cabinet-level

member of the **Trump Administration** join us to give the keynote address."

The 2018 Delta Council Annual Meeting itinerary will commence with the 15th annual Salute to Delta Honor Graduates Event at 9:00 a.m., held outside of the Bologna Performing Arts Center on the lawn.

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 2018 Good Middling Lady and the tradition of the Wear Cotton contest. Most men and women who attend the meeting are dressed in the latest fashions made of cotton.

Following this recognition will be a



King

special tribute to recently retired, 45-year **U.S. Senator Thad Cochran**, a beloved friend to the Delta and advocate for the

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15TH ANNUAL SALUTE TO DELTA HONOR GRADUATES HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH DELTA COUNCIL DAY

**Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr. To Serve
as Keynote Speaker**



Rankins



Hopson

Delta Council will hold its 15th Annual Salute to Delta Honor Graduates Event during the 83rd Annual Meeting. The Honor Graduate event is slated for 9:00 a.m. on the lawn of the Bologna Per-

forming Arts Center. **Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr.** will be the keynote speaker for the event. Mississippi **Senator Briggs Hopson** will serve as co-host for the event and introduce **Dr. Rankins**.

Dr. Alfred Rankins is the 19th president of Alcorn State University, where he serves as the chief executive officer of the Nation's oldest public land-grant HBCU. He previously served as deputy commissioner for the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL), where he served as the IHL system's chief academic and student affairs officer. While serving as deputy commissioner, **Dr. Rankins** also served as acting president of Mississippi Valley State University. He is currently the commissioner-elect for IHL.

"We are glad that our regions best and

brightest high school students will get to hear from two of our State's top thought leaders," said Delta Council Educational Committee chair, **Cass Pennington** of Indianola.

A native of Greenville, Mississippi, **Dr. Rankins** received a Bachelor of Science degree from Alcorn State University and both Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Mississippi State University. He is married to **Juandalyn Rankins**.

Co-hosting the event will be **Mississippi State Senator Briggs Hopson**. **Senator Hopson** is currently the Chair of the Judiciary, Division A, Committee and Vice-Chair of the Appropriations Committee. Other committees **Senator Hop-**

GRADUATES continued on page 3

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

June 1, 2018

BOLOGNA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

2018 SALUTE TO
DELTA HONOR GRADUATES

Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr.

President

Alcorn State University

Senator Briggs Hopson

MS State Senate

Location: Lawn of the
Bologna Performing Arts Center

10:30 a.m.

WELCOME AND
OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Vernell Bennet

Vice-President of Student Affairs

Delta State University

INVOCATION

Rev. Britt Williamson

First Baptist Church

Rolling Fork

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Boy Scout Troop 200

Greenwood

PATRIOTIC MUSIC

First Presbyterian Church of

Greenwood Choral Group

Ray Smithee, Choir Director

BUSINESS SESSION

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

SPECIAL TRIBUTE
TO LEADERSHIP

INTRODUCTION OF
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
U.S. Senator Roger Wicker

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Trump Administration Official

12:00 NOON
CATFISH LUNCHEON

Location: Delta State University
Quadrangle Lawn

RECOGNITION OF
2018 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
George King
President

MAKE WEEDS BEG FOR MERCY.
FOR 6-8 WEEKS.



FIERCE
HERBICIDE



DELTA COUNCIL

2017–2018 Delta Council Officers

President: GEORGE KING, Chatham

Vice-President: CANDY DAVIS, Shaw

Vice-President: JOHN MURRY GREENLEE, Yazoo City

Vice-President: MARK SEARD, Greenville

Vice-President: SCOTT FLOWERS, Clarksdale

Vice-President: TERRY MAXWELL, Inverness

Vice-President: WILL HOOKER, Cleveland

Treasurer: ANDY ANDERSON, Rolling Fork

POSTMASTER:

Send all address changes to

Delta Council

P.O. Box 257, Stoneville, MS 38776

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY GEORGE KING

Producer, Washington County



King

Ounce for ounce and hour for hour, I do not believe there is any place in this Country where people strive to work together as much as the Delta.

I note that those things which draw us together the most, are oftentimes issues which are somewhat unique to the Delta—workforce preparedness, in a region that has a majority first-generation workforce-prepared population; a region that possesses the oldest State and local road and bridge infrastructure in Mississippi; flood control and drainage; the stewardship of our alluvial aquifer, which is the heartbeat of crop production and yields in this region; and a region of people who bind together to make a difference to make the Delta Strong.

There were several *high water marks* which we experienced in the past year:

- Significant funding was registered for channel enlargement of the **Yazoo Headwater** system as it makes its path toward the

flood-stricken areas of Quitman County;

- As we enter the second year of our **Delta Strong initiative**, which is being supported by private dollars focused on the recruitment of jobs and workforce preparedness, we have been encouraged by the number of prospective projects that have indicated an interest in making visits to the Delta;
- The **catfish industry** got a shot in the arm by receiving additional funds for the Stoneville-based aquaculture research and education center and received a stronger federal commitment toward reducing damages caused by fish-eating birds;
- The **National Center for Alluvial Aquifer Research and Education** has been established through a partnership between the USDA-Agricultural Research Service and the Delta Research and Extension Center-Mississippi State University. 8-12 science and education specialists will focus sharply on plants systems and irrigation strategies that maintain crop yields, while conserving our abundant supply of water resources;
- The future of row crop agriculture in the Delta was secured this year, when the Con-

gress amended the current **Farm Bill to include cotton** as a *covered commodity*;

- Through the work of our State and Federal partners (Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service-USDA, Agricultural Research Service-USDA, U.S. Geological Survey, the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District, the Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies- Delta State University, the Delta Research and Extension Center-MSU, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality), the Delta is working together to utilize evidence-based research and education initiatives and farm demonstration projects with farmer cooperators to process information being gathered so that we can make the **most responsible and economically viable ways to approach our groundwater challenge**;
- A number of important and urgent watershed protection projects have been initiated

PRESIDENT *continued on page 3*

DEQ OFFICIAL: TASK FORCE MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

BY KAY WHITTINGTON

Director of the Office of Land & Water Resources, MDEQ



Whittington

The sustainability of the Delta's water resources is a goal shared by a variety of groups including producers, state and federal agencies, sportsmen, and academia.

Promoting efficient water use and other conservation practices is the impetus behind the creation of the Delta Sustainable Water Resources Task Force and a recognition from not only the Delta but all over the state that measures must be taken to preserve this resource. The State Legislature too recognized the importance of the state's water resources and decided years ago that all water resources belong to the people of the state, not to individual landowners, farm operators, commercial or industrial permit holders who might use the water for a (beneficial use). The law mandates conservation and prevention of "the waste or unreasonable use" of water and requires that a permit be issued by the Mississippi Environmental Quality Permit Board before a well is drilled or water is used. The permit is the regulatory tool for assuring that water use is reasonable, sustainable, and not wasteful.

Since 2011, all permits for wells in the Mississippi River Valley Alluvial Aquifer (MRVA) have required permit holders to implement irrigation efficiency practices. Within three years after the permit is issued, the permit holder must verify to MDEQ that the required practices have been implemented. Some of the permits issued in 2011 have now expired and the permit holders

have applied for permit renewals. So far, a total of 4,385 of these renewal applications have been reviewed by MDEQ for compliance with the self-verification requirement, and 97 percent were in compliance. MDEQ is taking actions to bring the others into compliance, including issuing Agreed Orders when necessary.

For the permitting program to be effective, permit data must be accurate. The Geospatial Information Technologies Department at Delta State University, through a contract with Delta F.A.R.M. funded by NRCS, has just completed a project using satellite imagery to correct well locations, elevations, and landowner identifications for as many of the almost 24,000 permitted MRVA wells as possible. Data from this project will help correct permit data on existing wells, but additional actions are necessary. By early summer, MDEQ and YMD will begin using a new permit database that will help reduce data errors. In addition, the two agencies will implement more rigorous internal application review and permitting procedures and protocols, which will also require more time and attention from the permittees.

Since 2014, MDEQ and the USGS have worked together under a memorandum of understanding to enhance the USGS's regional groundwater model and use the enhanced model to help the Delta Sustainable Water Resources Task Force develop management strategies. MDEQ leads the Task Force, which also includes representatives from Delta Council, Delta F.A.R.M., Farm Bureau, the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, YMD, the Corps of Engineers, and NRCS. In 2016, the USGS received multi-year funding for a new scientific initiative to assess water availability issues within the multi-

state Mississippi Alluvial Plain (MAP). Sixty USGS scientists nationwide are working on the MAP project. The data collected will be used to improve the regional groundwater model.

Much of the MAP project work to date has been in the Delta. In 2016 and 2017, USGS scientists mapped the geophysical properties of near-surface geologic materials in the Delta, including over 100 miles of river beds. Earlier this year, an electromagnetic instrument towed beneath a low-flying helicopter was used to collect geophysical data down to about 200 feet below land surface in an area just north of Greenwood. This helicopter-based geophysical survey was the first phase of a multi-year geophysical airborne survey of the entire MAP region. The airborne data will enable the USGS to improve the hydro-geologic framework of the regional model.

The water use data collected through MDEQ's voluntary metering program are critical to improving the model. In addition, the USGS has recently installed equipment to collect continuous real-time data from 26 meters in the voluntary metering program.

The MAP team is also working to develop more accurate data on aquifer recharge and interactions of groundwater and surface water. With the data being collected through the MAP program, the USGS expects by early fall of 2019 to have an improved model that can be used to make more accurate predictions of future water levels in the Delta under various scenarios. This will help the Task Force, MDEQ, YMD, and individual producers make better informed decisions for managing the Delta's water.

Promoting efficient water use and other

TASK FORCE *continued on page 3*

MURRELL NAMED 2018 GOOD MIDDLING RECIPIENT

Jamie Murrell of Arcola has been named the Good Middling Recipient for 2018.

Jamie will be recognized at the 83rd Annual Delta Council Day. 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.

“**Jamie Murrell** epitomizes what leadership, hard work, and creativity can bring to our communities and organizations,” said Delta Council Arrangements Chairwoman **Irene Long** of Indianola. “When **Jamie** is involved in something, you know that it will be both meaningful and well-organized. The Delta is fortunate to have this West Point native in so many positions of leadership.”

Jamie currently serves on the Board of Directors for several community organizations throughout the Mid-Delta

including the United Way of Washington County, B.B. King Museum, Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and The Gray Center, and she has served as President of the Washington School Board of Trustees, Delta Children’s Museum and Greenville Arts Council. She is also a member of the Rotary Club of Indianola, a Red Carpet Guild Member for the Grammy Museum, a Life Member of Greenville Junior Auxiliary, and has served as a Vice-President of Delta Council.

In addition to the dedication to the Delta she exemplifies through these organizations, **Jamie** still finds time to serve as Race Director for the Hotter than Hades Half Marathon, which benefits Special Session Camp for Camp Bratton Green, and is a Festival Coordinator for Mighty Mississippi Music Festival.

Jamie is the First Vice-President of Marketing for Planters Bank and Trust Company, where she has worked for over ten years.



Murrell

Jamie is a Mississippi State University alumna, and a member of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Leland where she has acted as Senior Warden and Treasurer. She is married to **Carter Murrell**, and they have two children, **Keeton** and **Caroline**.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS FOR 2018 ANNUAL MEETING



Outstanding Rice Producer:
Ransom Myers
Myers Farms
Dundee



Outstanding Soybean Producer:
James C. “Buddy” Morgan III
Morgan City



Outstanding Cotton Ginner:
Johnny Laney, Jr.
Big Creek Gin Co.
Lyon



Outstanding Contributions to Hardwood Forestry:
Mike Staten
Anderson-Tully
Lake Village, AR



Conservation Farmer:
Mike Wagner
Two Brooks Farm
Sumner



Researcher of the Year:
Wayne Ebelhar
Delta Research & Extension
Center
Stoneville



Pace-Setter Award:
B. Jones
Tchula



Outstanding Contributions to Aquaculture:
Dr. David Wise
Thad Cochran National
Warmwater Aquaculture Center
Stoneville

GRADUATES from page 1

son serves on include Accountability, Efficiency and Transparency; Education; Energy; Environment Prot, Cons and Water Res; Judiciary, Division B; Public Health and Welfare; Tourism; and Universities and Colleges. He is an attorney by occupation and adjunct professor at Mississippi College Law School.

Senator Hopson resides in Vicksburg and is married to the former **Alison Quaid**.

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 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.

MEETING from page 1

region. Among other features of the Business Session, including a recap of the year’s challenges and opportunities as well as the introduction of the 2018-19 Officers.

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 campus.

Delta Council invites and encourages all of you to attend and participate in this 83-year-old Delta “red-letter” day.

Sponsors for the meeting are **BankPlus, Catfish Farmers of Mississippi, Cotton Inc., Sanders, Mississippi Corn Promotion Board, Mississippi Rice Promotion Board, Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board, and Southern Ag Credit/Mississippi Land Bank.**

PRESIDENT from page 2

in five counties of the Delta. The **Carter-Rocky Watershed** in Yazoo-Humphreys County is among those projects and it is designed to prevent the type of Mississippi River backwater flooding that has occurred five times since 2008 in that region.

As always there have also been some *lows* during the past year. Among them are:

- Due to an 11th-hour action by a Congressional Conference Committee, a provision which would have ensured that equitable flood relief, would be extended to the South Delta was denied;
- Another year has passed without Mississippi taking any action to address our **deteriorating road and bridge system** throughout Mississippi;
- The slow pace of federal funds to bring **100-year flood protection to the City of Marks and surrounding areas in Quitman and Tallahatchie Counties** have inflicted

ed yet another flood on that region and its economy during 2018;

- And finally, it was with great sadness that a longtime friend of the Mississippi Delta and Delta agriculture stepped down from his elected position this year due to health reasons. After a 45-year career in Congress, it is right and just to point out that while many organizations, Federal and State agencies, and elected officials work daily to help address the Delta’s priorities, the entire **summary of my highs and lows** for the 2017-18 term of Delta Council **would have reflected a much different scorecard had it not been for U.S. Senator Thad Cochran’s service in the Congress.**

The **Friday, June 1, Delta Council Day** at Delta State University is a time of celebration and renewing friendships from every part of Mississippi, our neighboring states and our federal partners. We have a great program planned for our members and guests, and the noon catfish luncheon is sure to be a time of relaxation and fellowship. We hope to see each of you there.

FORCE from page 2

conservation practices is the highest priority for MDEQ and the Task Force. However, such practices alone cannot achieve sustainable water resources for the Delta. For that reason, the Task Force is investigating other alternatives. One of these is a USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) pilot project to

pump groundwater from a well near the Tallahatchie River in the Shellmound community, pipe the water two miles to the west, and re-inject it to enhance aquifer recharge. ARS has contracted with the Corps of Engineers to construct the project. Construction is scheduled for this fall. Project research should begin in early 2019, and results will be available by late 2020 or early 2021.

UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, BILL NORTHEY, VISITS STONEVILLE



Under Secretary Bill Northey, Archie Tucker, Dr. Craig Tucker



Dan Branton, Bobby Carson, Delta Council President George King, Under Secretary Bill Northey, Patrick Johnson, Bubba Simmons

Wednesday, May 2nd, USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey visited Stoneville to gain insight on the science and research being conducted at MSU and USDA facilities as well as solicit input from area producers. Northey's position oversees the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA),

and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

The day began with an overview of the Stoneville Agricultural Research Complex provided by Delta Council President George King and staff. Dr. Jeff Gore then led Northey to the field to see first-hand some of the MSU field trials being conducted before moving to the USDA Cotton Ginning Laboratory

and Thad Cochran Warm Water Aquaculture Center Pond Complex to visit with Archie Tucker and Dr. Craig Tucker about USDA-ARS research.

The visit was concluded as Under Secretary Northey had a private lunch with area producers to have open dialog about various issues related to NRCS, FSA, and RMA. Much of

the discussion centered on the need for additional staff in county FSA Offices and conservation programs including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).



Dr. Jeff Gore, Bill Northey

COPPER THEFT IS RAMPANT IN THE DELTA

Report it to the MS Delta Ag Theft Task Force!

A number of area producers and building owners are reporting copper theft directly related to tractors, ATVs, trailers, irrigation wells and many other items that are targets for scrap metal and wiring. If you experience any loss or see any suspicious activity, in order for the Delta Ag Theft Task Force to be effective, the following steps should be taken:

1. Call your local county sheriff's office to investigate where the crime occurred and determine an estimated timeframe.
2. Get the deputy's name and badge number.
3. Ask for a report number.
4. Call and/or email the MS Delta Ag Theft Task Force with all the details including the report numbers and/or the officer's badge number and name.

Larry Nesbit has recently been announced as the newest investigator assigned to the Delta Ag Theft Task Force. Please direct any thefts or suspicious activity to Larry's attention by calling him at 601-359-9055.

If you are a victim of copper theft,



or any other agricultural theft, Delta Council urges you to contact the Task Force at ag_taskforce@sos.ms.gov, or call 601-359-9055. All reports, including law enforcement reports, go directly to the Task Force, and alerts are sent out to all enforcement, scrap dealers and participants in MS, LA, AR, and TN through the collaborative effort.

The Delta Ag Theft Task Force, established in December 2015, is a collaboration between law enforcement and metal recyclers in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee that uses a common database to keep track of every

piece of scrap metal sold. To combat metal theft crimes, the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office provides law enforcement free unlimited access to the LeadsOnline Metal Theft Investigations System. Over 480 businesses in Mississippi and 30,000 businesses nationwide report transactions electronically via LeadsOnline. The early-alert email system is a proactive approach for the Task Force to be able to detect, develop leads, successfully prosecute and hopefully deter and reduce agricultural theft in the Delta farming community.

USDA LAUNCHES WEBPAGE TO HELP RURAL COMMUNITIES ADDRESS OPIOID CRISIS



Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett unveiled a new webpage featuring resources to help rural communities respond to the opioid crisis.

A November 2017 report from the USDA Economic Research Service revealed rising mortality rates among working age adults living in rural America, stemming in part from prescription drug and heroin misuse. A December 2017 survey by the National Farmers Union and the American Farm Bureau Federation found that as many as 74% of farmers have been directly

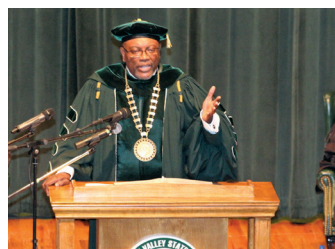
impacted by the opioid crisis.

"While no corner of the country has gone untouched by the opioid crisis, small towns and rural places have been particularly hard hit," Hazlett said. "The webpage we are launching will help rural leaders build a response that is tailored to meet the needs of their community."

USDA is playing an important role to help rural communities address this national problem at the local level through program investment, strategic partnerships and best practice implementation. Visit www.usda.gov/topics/opioids for more details.

AROUND DELTA FIELDS

MVSU CELEBRATES THE INAUGURATION OF ITS EIGHTH PRESIDENT



Briggs

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) capped off its 2018 Founder's Week by marking another important milestone in the legacy and advancement of the University—the installation of its eighth president, **Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr.**

During the investiture ceremony, **Briggs** was formally invested with the responsibility and authority as president of MVSU by Commissioner of Higher Education **Glenn F. Boyce** and President of the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning **C.D. Smith Jr.**

"This is a special moment in the history of this outstanding institution," said **Boyce**. **Briggs** is a man with a wealth of experience in higher education and truly understands students and the services and support they need to be successful both on campus and in life."

Reflecting on the institution's transformation from a cotton field into a flourishing institution of higher learning, **Boyce** said **Briggs** has the skill set needed to continue moving the University forward. During his inaugural address, **Briggs** accepted the charge and said he considers it a privilege to serve the University.

FERAL SWINE AERIAL OPERATION COMPLETE



USDA APHIS Wildlife Services State Director, **Kris Godwin**, reported the successful completion

of the feral swine aerial removal operation as of March 9. Over a two-week period, there was a confirmed removal of 1,104 feral swine from the South Delta to the North Delta on private, state and federal lands. **Godwin** and the team plan to continue to serve co-operators by assisting in reducing feral swine damage to agriculture and natural resources.

As one of the largest projects the Mississippi Program of USDA APHIS Wildlife Services spearheads, sincere thanks goes to the partnering landowners and managers, staffs at Panther Swamp, Theodore Roosevelt and Dahomey NWR, MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, Yazoo County Airport and Cleveland Airport, local law enforcement and the swine team. For further information, contact **Kris Godwin** at kris.godwin@aphis.usda.gov.

SENATOR HYDE-SMITH: WORKFORCE TRAINING HELPS FUEL MISS. JOB GROWTH



Senator Hyde-Smith, Todd Donald, Tom Gresham

U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith said workforce training and development is necessary to boost Mississippi's economic growth, a significant portion of which is based on small businesses doing well.

Hyde-Smith on Thursday visited Mississippi Delta Community College to be updated on the workforce training capabilities of the Charles W. Capps, Jr. Technology Center. The visit was made in conjunction with National Small Business Week. "We appreciate **Senator Hyde-Smith** meeting with us at the Capps Center as we discussed our Economic Development efforts of Delta Strong and the

workforce training that is taking place at the Capps Center," said **Tom Gresham**, Chairman of the Delta Council Development Department.

The Capps Center offers short-term classes, customized training solutions for business and industry, nationally recognized certifications, and job readiness training. In addition, the Delta Strong initiative works to promote new economic development in the Mississippi Delta, in part, by promoting the availability of a trained and available workforce.

Hyde-Smith serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee and its subcommittee with funding jurisdiction over the U.S. Department of Labor and programs authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

MSU EXTENSION TO OFFER DICAMBA TRAINING COURSES



In response to new EPA regulations on the use of the herbicide dicamba, the MSU Extension Service is developing two online training courses to help cotton and soybean farmers follow the new rules. The two new online training courses are available at <http://auxintraining.com>. One course will be similar to last year's training module for individuals purchasing restricted-use pesticides. The second course covers the label requirements for applicator training.

PRODUCERS CAN SIGN UP FOR COTTON GINNING COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Producers can sign up for the newly announced Cotton Ginning Cost Share program until May 11, 2018. Although producers now are receiving in the mail their prefilled applications for the CGCS program, they also have the option of completing that application at their local FSA office. More information about the CGCS program can be obtained by contacting local FSA offices or visiting www.fsa.usda.gov/cgcs.

SYNGENTA SUSTAINABILITY TEAM VISITS THE DELTA



Tim Huggins, Delta F.A.R.M. staff with Mark White, Dan Campbell and Caydee Savinelli with the Syngenta Sustainability Team on the banks of the Sunflower River near Doddsville, MS.

Syngenta has been active in advancing sustainable agriculture in the Mississippi Delta for decades. Some such efforts include its long-standing support of Delta F.A.R.M. and other projects in the region that help producers better steward natural resources in the region.

The purpose of this visit was to examine on-going efforts to provide additional pollinator habitat through Syngenta's Operation Pollinator Program and begin developing a new pilot project aimed at empowering producers to make extra efforts to help improve habitat for endangered species in the region, including two mussels that occur in the Sunflower River and Pondberry found near wetlands.

STAPLCOTN ACQUIRES 50% INTEREST IN TJ BEALL COMPANY



Staplcotn.

Staple Cotton Cooperative Association (Staplcotn) has purchased a 50% stake in Gary Beall Enterprises, LLC, which conducts business as TJ Beall Company. The transaction was completed effective March 31, 2018. Wildwood Gin, LLC, a Money, Mississippi-based company, owns the other 50% stake in Gary Beall Enterprises, LLC. "Staplcotn is excited to partner with Wildwood Gin and Tommy and Lawson Gary. This partnership will be beneficial to TJ Beall and support Staplcotn's core mission of enhancing our members' incomes," said **Meredith Allen**, Staplcotn's president and CEO.

MDOT'S FREIGHT PLAN RANKED ONE OF THE BEST IN U.S.



The Mississippi Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Freight Plan was ranked third in the nation (tied with California) by the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI). ATRI released its report on best practices in freight planning at the state level to help state's better address critical freight planning issues nationwide. The institute evaluated state freight plans based on a number of criteria, including freight congestion mitigation, freight policies, innovative strategies and multimodal rural freight corridors.

SWIB HIRES DR. LAURIE SMITH AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) Executive Committee selected **Laurie J. Smith, Ph.D.**, as the new SWIB Executive Director. **Dr. Smith** has served as **Governor Bryant's**



Smith

workforce development advisor, so she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the SWIB.

EPA PROPOSES RULE TO IMPROVE SCIENCE USED IN REGULATIONS

On April 24, EPA Administrator **Scott Pruitt** proposed a rule to strengthen the science used in regulations issues by EPA. According to EPA's release, the rule will ensure that the regulatory science underlying Agency actions is fully transparent, and that underlying scientific information is publicly available in a manner sufficient for independent validation.

"The era of secret science at EPA is coming to an end," said **Pruitt**. "The ability to test, authenticate, and reproduce scientific findings is vital for the integrity of rulemaking process. Americans deserve to assess the legitimacy of the science underpinning EPA decisions that may impact their lives."

ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS



BRYAN JONES
BANKPLUS SENIOR
EXECUTIVE
VICE-PRESIDENT,

BankPlus began as a community-focused bank in 1909 in Belzoni, Mississippi. After more than a hundred years of serving communities throughout the state of Mississippi, BankPlus has grown to operate 57 locations in 34 communities. The bank also employs more than 700 people throughout the state and has donated millions of dollars to local charities as part of its core mission.



JOE HAYMAN
SOUTHERN
AG CREDIT,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER



ABBOTT MYERS
MS LAND BANK
BOARD
CHAIRMAN

Mississippi Land Bank and Southern Ag Credit provide long term and short term financing solutions for land, operation capital, equipment and farm equity.



Part Of The Farm Credit System



DEAN WILLIAMS
SANDERS
EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT OF
DISTRIBUTION

Sanders, established in 1953 and acquired in 2012 by Pinnacle Agriculture, is a multifaceted business that specializes in first in class retail distribution business. We specialize in seed production, crop protection – including the full line of quality products from Innvictis Crop Care, LLC, fertilizer, and precision agriculture services that utilize our award winning OptiGro platform. Sanders, Before Seed – Beyond Harvest



COTTON INCORPORATED



Mississippi Soybean
Promotion Board



**CORN BOARD
CHAIRMAN**
Turner Massey,
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Preston Arrington, Inverness
Phillip Good, Macon
Jan Hill, Meridian
Mike Graves, Ripley
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George King, Chatham
Will Long, Indianola
Turner Massey, Rich
Danny Murphy, Canton
Darrington Seward, Louise
Todd Williams, Olive Branch



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Gary Fioranelli, Cleveland
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Randy Howarth, Boyle
Carter Murrell, Hollandale
Gibb Steele, Hollandale



Coley Bailey III, Grenada
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Tripp Hayes, Clarksdale
B. Jones, Tchula
Lawrence Long, Holly Ridge

**COTTON
INC. STATE
SUPPORT
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Yazoo City



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

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CHAIRMAN**
Andy Jones,
Moorhead



**SOYBEAN
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Louis Guedon, Natchez
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Keith Morton, Falkner
Reese Pillow, Greenwood
Bubba Simmons, Hollandale
Jerry Slocum, Coldwater
Jimmy Sneed, Hernando
Bill Ryan Tabb, Cleveland
David Wansley, Valley Park

2018 MISSISSIPPI DELTA HONOR GRADUATES

BOLIVAR

Kayla Birdlong, Shaw High
Korderrick Edwards, West Bolivar High
Destiny Hall, Broad Street High
Olecia James, Cleveland Central High
Takeyionna Johnson, West Bolivar High
Dynasty Latham, John F Kennedy High
Watesha McKnight, John F Kennedy High
Kyesha Miller, Ray Brooks
Amidius Sigle, Broad Street High
Lillie Thornton, Bayou Academy
Victoria Waldbieser, Cleveland Central High
Erin Wilson, Bayou Academy
Leroy Woods, IV, Shaw High
Zepporian Young, Ray Brooks

CARROLL

Elena Bolanus, J.Z. George High
Taylor Everett, J.Z. George High
Sage McNamara, Carroll Academy
Graycen Wiltshire, Carroll Academy

COAHOMA

Laysha Ba, Coahoma Early College High
Lamaria Banks, Coahoma County High
Leslie Anne Bell, Lee Academy
Brianna Burchfield, Coahoma County High
Aerial Glasper, Clarksdale High
Taylor Harris, Clarksdale High
Hetel Shingrani, Lee Academy
George Taylor IV, Coahoma Early College High

DESOTO

Austin Dalton, Southaven High
Jordan Ennis, Hernando High
Donovan Gordon, Lewisburg High
Rachel Greer, Hernando High
Brooke Hull, Northpoint Christian School
Kamiya Ingram, Horn Lake High
Bailey Jones, Lewisburg High
Emma Peacock, Desoto Central High
Priscilla Edith Ramirez, Horn Lake High
Abigail Ransom, Desoto Central High
Hannah Taylor, Southaven High
Matthew Whiting, Northpoint Christian School

HOLMES

Jon'na Bailey, Holmes County Central High
Hannah Brown, Central Holmes Christian
Stephen Coleman Frank, Central Holmes Christian
Cianna Hooker, Holmes County Central High School
Ke'Shaela Parker, Durant High
Rha'Leijah Roberson, Durant High

HUMPHREYS

Jordan Foster, Humphreys Academy
Lajada James, Humphreys Co. High
Olivia Lloyd, Humphreys Academy
Shakira Posey, Humphreys Co. High

LEFLORE

Pleasant Banks, Greenwood High
Tajuan Beckworth, Amanda Elzy High
Jokobe Brown, Greenwood High
Kyla Cole, Amanda Elzy High

Jasmine Green, Leflore County High
Frednijah Harris, Leflore County High
Smith Lyon, Pillow Academy
Vraj Patel, North New Summit School
Helen Olmsted Singleton, Pillow Academy
Andrea Taylor, North New Summit School

PANOLA

De'Yampert Brame Garner, South Panola High
Anne Ellen Hodge, North Delta School
Caroline Hodge, North Delta School
Amayia Rhodes, North Panola High
Franeisha Williams, North Panola High
Tori Beth Wolfe, South Panola High

QUITMAN

Matthew Jackson, Delta Academy
Korteria Rudd, Madison S. Palmer High
William Vonallmen, Delta Academy
Kieona Williams, Madison S. Palmer High

SHARKEY/ISSAQUENA

Richard Walker Holcomb, Sharkey-Issaquena Academy
Anderson Jones, Jr., South Delta High
Samantha Jade Merritt, Sharkey-Issaquena Academy
Yarnell Page, South Delta High

SUNFLOWER

Mykala Barnes, Ruleville Central High
Jack Dodd, Indianola Academy
Kaityn Jones, Gentry High
Arin McIntyre, North Sunflower Academy
Clarissa Prince, Gentry High
Jamie Taylor Reed, Indianola Academy

Mary Stafford Shurden, North Sunflower Academy
Myesha Stovall, Ruleville Central High

TALLAHATCHIE

Da'nyria Allison, West Tallahatchie High
Jessica Herron, Charleston High
Chandler Morris, Strider Academy
Lexanna Newsom, Charleston High
Jermyron Rice, West Tallahatchie High
Hayden Ross, Strider Academy

TATE

Nuriya Bonner, Coldwater Attendance Center
Amiracle Smith, Independence High
Hunter Spencer, Magnolia Heights School
Gabrielle Spratlin, Senatobia High
Caroline Taylor, Magnolia Heights School
Kaylyn Trundle, Coldwater Attendance Center
Jakeria Wilson, Senatobia High
Juan Quinonez Zepeda, Independence High

TUNICA

Kyonna Hubbard, Rosa Fort High
Asma Obad, Tunica Academy
Miracle Proctor, Rosa Fort High
Matt Sullivan, Tunica Academy

WARREN

Josh Arias, Porter's Chapel Academy
Adrienne Eckstein, St Aloysius High
Andrew Paul Hood, Warren Central High
Ryan Jarratt, St Aloysius High
Hope Isabella Lee, Warren Central High
Cody Lyons, Porter's Chapel Academy

Zachary Moore, Vicksburg High
Valina Ariel Thutha, Vicksburg High

WASHINGTON

Brianna Buggs, O'Bannon High
James Robert Duncan, St Joseph High School
Jakayla Edwards, Riverside High
Phillip Fontenot, Deer Creek School
Jeremy Hunter, Deer Creek School
"Lacey" Aliyah Lucas, Greenville Christian
McKenzie McDavid, Washington School
Baylee Palasini, Washington School
Dixitkumar Patel, O'Bannon High
"Allie" Deanne Powers, Greenville Christian
Jennifer Rich, Greenville High
Leanna Sheppard, Riverside High
Sarah Tonos, St Joseph High School
Cora Tyler, Simmons High
Jimmie Warren, Jr., Leland High
Kassidy Wells, Simmons High
David White, Leland High
Jayda Williams, Greenville High

YAZOO

Devin Ammons, Yazoo County High
Jhanel Greene, Yazoo City High
Sarah Elizabeth Hardy, Benton Academy
David "Blake" Humphreys, Manchester Academy
Isaiah Jones, Yazoo City High
Mary Russell Perry, Manchester Academy
Bruce Ellis Ruschewski, Benton Academy
Manyga Swinney, Yazoo County High

DON'T MISS DELTA COUNCIL DAY...CELEBRATING THE REGION



Ronnie Lee, Laura Clark, the late Elizabeth Cook and Marvin Saulter pause after the day comes to an end in a past Delta Council Day event.



"Captain Catfish" A key component to every Delta Council Day is prominent among the celebrities in the crowd, thanks to Catfish Farmers of America.



"Chicken Will" serves up the Annual Meeting staple of the past, chicken (served for 52 years), in the days prior to Delta farm-raised catfish taking the region. Boil it in a 55 gallon drum, place it on a pit, baste it for an hour-and-a-half, and flip it four times.



The late Lil Carson of Marks, Maggie Parker of Inverness, Janet Flowers of Tunica, and Eleanor Dean of Leland are pictured here as they prepare as hostesses for the Fashion Show at the 42nd Annual Meeting of Delta Council.



The oil starts warming up 3 hours before 1500-2000 guests are served in 35 minutes by the Catfish Cooking Team.



Name these four front row platform guests from the 46th Annual Meeting! (send your response to swhatley@deltacouncil.org. The first responder will receive a gift at the Delta Council office in the BPAC on June 1, if in attendance.)



Delta Council President Griffin Norquist (L) (1997-98) and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R), congratulate a Delta Council member who was recognized from the podium for his 102nd birthday.

Delta Council

433 Stoneville Rd
P.O. Box 257
Stoneville, MS 38776

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2018-2019 DELTA COUNCIL OFFICERS



Woods Eastland
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Indianola



Stanley Ayres
Vice-President
Leland



**John Rodgers
Bashier**
Vice-President
Indianola



Pete Hunter
Vice-President
Clarksdale



B. Jones
Vice-President
Tchula



Floyd Melton III
Vice-President
Greenwood



Ransom Myers
Vice-President
Dundee



Andy Anderson
Treasurer
Anguilla

MAKE WEEDS BEG FOR MERCY.
FOR 6-8 WEEKS.



FIERCE
HERBICIDE