

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FRIDAY FACTS

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STATE RESPONDS TO LAND OWNER ISSUES

In written correspondence from Attorney James E. Ross, Jr., the Mississippi Major Economic Impact Authority (MMEIA) and the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) received a rejection of the extended Administrative Offers for the following properties: John Smith, Edward Charles Smith, Andrew Archie, Jr., Lonzo and Matilda Archie, and Percy Bouldin.

The original Administrative Offers had been reinstated by the state several days ago. The landowners had until 5 p.m. on August 21 to respond.

Additionally, the state is awaiting a decision from the Mississippi Supreme Court in the Thomas G. Hixon land case whereby 347 acres are needed for a cloverleaf intersection, roadway, detention pond, supplier sites and a university engineering school.

"We're hoping to move forward in all of these cases and to have resolution from the lower court and the Mississippi Supreme Court. We are continuing to receive numerous inquiries from suppliers interested in locating nearby the Nissan project. We are also anxious to begin work with the universities to complete an engineering school that will be vitally important to the state and to the Nissan project. Time is becoming extremely critical for all of these issues, and we want to make sure that we meet our commitments to Nissan so the plant will be in full production during the summer of 2003," said J. C. Burns, Executive Director, MMEIA/MDA.

WIN IN MISSISSIPPI CELEBRATES STATEWIDE ROLLOUT

This week, the Mississippi Development Authority officially activated the Workforce Investment Network (WIN) in Mississippi, an innovative program designed to provide, one-stop employment and training services to employers and job seekers statewide.

"Some of us will do our jobs well and some will not, but we will all be judged by only one thing - the result."

- Vince Lombardi

WIN in Mississippi creates a system that is both convenient and user-friendly by combining federal, state and community workforce programs and services into physical locations and electronic sites. Originally named and announced in Fall 2000, the WIN program is open to everyone.

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998, known as WIA, provides the framework for WIN in Mississippi and is administered by the Employment Training Division of the Mississippi Development Authority.

"Mississippi's greatest resource is its people. WIN in Mississippi will give them more opportunities to obtain good jobs while providing employers with the best qualified workforce," said Governor Ronnie Musgrove. "The new program also stimulates economic development as we focus on attracting new companies to Mississippi and growing existing business through Advantage Mississippi Initiatives."

WIN in Mississippi is delivered locally through six Workforce Investment Areas - the Delta, Gulf Coast, Hinds County, Mississippi Partnership, South Central Mississippi Works and Twin Districts - which receive grants from the Employment Training Division.

Local Workforce Investment boards in each area plan and develop WIN programs based on community needs. These boards are business-led and work in collaboration with elected and community officials, local and state agencies, and the private sector. WIN in Mississippi partners include: local Workforce Investment Areas, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Mississippi Department of Education, State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, Mississippi Department of Human Services, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, local elected officials and Mississippi Development Authority.

"Input and participation at the local level is a hallmark of WIN in Mississippi. It ensures that employers' and job seekers' needs are met through tailored solutions designed to promote local workforce development and economic growth," said Jim Lott, director of Mississippi's Employment Training Division. "Workforce and training needs vary from one region of Mississippi to another, so WIN offers greater flexibility and more choices."

A network of WIN Job Centers is the centerpiece of the new workforce investment system. Located throughout the state, more than sixty-four centers provide customers with easy access to services in the areas of employment, education, training, human services and economic development. This is accomplished through co-location of offices, electronic connectivity, and coordination of existing agency programs and services based on community needs.

"Every WIN Job Center is a local connection that brings together extensive resources and information under one roof," said Lott. "For example, job seekers can access job training, education, and employment services, and employers can post job openings and get current information on the skills their workers will need to be competitive – all at one location."

By consolidating services, WIN in Mississippi offers added efficiencies that make the most of every dollar available for training, retraining and education.

"It is a WIN-WIN for everyone," said J. C. Burns, Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority. "In addition to the more effective use of public resources, WIN in Mississippi helps put people to work creating a broader tax base which in turn grows communities across the state. It is a valuable tool that will allow us to capitalize on

Mississippi's high-quality workforce and increasing economic development opportunities."

To learn more about the WIN Job Center nearest you and the WIN in Mississippi system, visit www.wininmississippi.org or contact one these convenient Workforce Investment Area locations: Hinds County, 601-968-6502; Delta, 662-378-3831; Gulf Coast, 228-897-1881; Mississippi Partnership, 662-489-2415; South Central Mississippi Works, 601-981-1511; or Twin Districts, 601-545-2137.

AMSOUTH PARTNERS WITH MDA TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE MORTGAGES FOR MISSISSIPPI FAMILIES

Public-Private mortgage programs to provide home ownership opportunities to more than 250 families

More than 250 families who ordinarily couldn't afford a home could become homeowners as a result of AmSouth Bank's partnership with the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). AmSouth will tap a \$5 million state-created loan pool to originate and service Housing Revolving Loan Fund (HRL) loans and Home Fund (HF) loans featuring below market rate second mortgage loans for aspiring homeowners in 20 Mississippi communities. This means qualified applicants with incomes at or below 115% (HRL) or 80% (HF) of their community's median family income could be able to buy their first home without making a down payment.

In 1999, the MDA led the successful passage of legislation calling for the creation of the second mortgage loan pool to help low- and moderate-income Mississippians buy affordable housing. If the program is successful, the Mississippi Legislature will consider funding it annually.

AmSouth's Mortgage Division – with the aid of Housing and Finance Services of Jackson, Mississippi, is currently processing applications in Hattiesburg – with closing of the inaugural MHRLF loan slated for September. "We have a tremendous amount of experience serving communities of all sizes throughout Mississippi and the Southeast," said Jeff Gish, AmSouth's corporate community reinvestment manager. "We have learned over the years that helping local residents become homeowners creates a ripple effect across a community's economic growth and, for that matter, spirit."

AmSouth has agreed to be the first mortgage lender and make second mortgages (30 year term) under the program in 12 of the communities selected for the program. AmSouth projects \$16.5 million in mortgage loans will result from the collaborative effort. The program is currently testing pilot programs in Crystal Springs and Hazelhurst (Copiah County) and Hattiesburg (Lamar). Other communities selected for the program include: Canton (Madison), Centerville (Wilkinson), Fayette (Jefferson), Greenville (Washington), Greenwood (LeFlore), Jonestown (Coahoma), Natchez (Adams), Port Gibson (Clairborne) and Tunica (Tunica). AmSouth will also service and originate Home Fund loans in 10 Mississippi communities: Belmont (Tishomingo), Crystal Springs, Booneville (Prentiss), New Albany (Union), Sherman (Pontotoc), Terry (Hinds), Tunica, Monticello (Lawrence), Tylertown (Walthall) and Shannon (Lee).

"Statistics show the number one impediment preventing people from purchasing their first home is the money required to pay the down payment and closing costs," stated Fred Griffin, of Housing and Finance Services. "The Housing Revolving Loan program represents a wonderful opportunity for first time homebuyers making up to \$40,000 per year as it virtually eliminates these expenses."

"Home ownership is a basic ingredient needed for communities to fully realize on their economic development potential. We are pleased to be a partner with those helping to create home ownership," stated J.C. Burns, Mississippi Development Authority's Executive Director.

FRANKLIN SERVES SECOND TERM AS PRESIDENT OF MISSISSIPPI TOURISM ASSOCIATION

Webster Franklin, Executive Director of the Tunica Convention & Visitors Bureau, has been elected President of the 2001-2002 Mississippi Tourism Association (MTA). Webster previously served as MTA President in 1998-1999. Franklin has been an active member of MTA serving as secretary, treasurer, executive vice president and legislative chairman.

The MTA mission is to promote and advocate tourism, to educate the public and to provide services to its members, which will result in increased vitality and a positive image for the State of Mississippi. Today the organization is made up of

275 members and the association represents over 94,000 hospitality and tourism employees across the state.

"I look forward to a new year of challenges and opportunities for the Mississippi Tourism Association. Thank you once again for giving me the honor of serving as this year's president of MTA," stated Franklin.

Darienne Wilson, Director, MDA's Division of Tourism said, "Webster Franklin is one of the most dynamic leaders in the Mississippi tourism industry today and it is only fitting that he is the President of the Mississippi Tourism Association, the state's leading tourism organization. Tourism is growing rapidly and it will take vision and strong leadership to direct that growth and to keep up with the changes that will occur in the coming year. It will be a pleasure to work with Webster as the public and private sector partner on projects that will enhance tourism for Mississippi."

For more information about the Mississippi Tourism Association, visit www.mstourism.com.

MDA STAFF MEMBERS GRADUATE FROM EDI

Two MDA staff members recently graduated from the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute (EDI). Lucy Hetrick, Communications Division, and Joyce Conner, Minority Business Enterprise Division, both completed the course work for the program on August 10, 2001.

EDI is a three-session program, each one week long, which provides a broad spectrum of advanced education for the economic development professional. EDI classes focus on the major topics of "Making Your Community a Marketable Product," "Attracting Investment to Your Community," and "Current and Future Challenges in Economic Development." Students take 120 hours of instruction selected from nearly 70 possible classes, workshops and discussion groups.

Begun nearly 40 years ago, EDI now has over 2,400 graduates. For more information about the program, visit EDI on the World Wide Web at www.occe.ou.edu/edi.

ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM COMING TO CO-LIN

Copiah-Lincoln Community College will host the 2nd Annual Southwest Mississippi Economic Symposium on Sept. 7, 2001 beginning at 8 a.m. at the Billy B. Thames Conference Center on Co-Lin's Wesson campus. The event is being sponsored by Co-Lin, Southwest Mississippi Community College and Alcorn State University's MBA program.

The highlight of this year's event, entitled "Collaboration: Fostering a Sense of Community in Southwest Mississippi," will be U.S. Rep. Ronnie Shows (D-Miss), who will offer his views on economic development in Southwest Mississippi. Also scheduled is an address from Will Mayo of Entergy, and a panel of individuals representing local business and industry, who will share their reasons for locating or expanding in the region.

In its first year, the symposium drew more than 160 participants. Organizers are expecting in excess of 200 attendees at this year's program.

For more information on the symposium, which includes a complimentary lunch, call (601) 643-8703.

OPERATION BEGINS AT ENTERGY'S FIRST GREENFIELD U.S. WHOLESALE POWER PLANT

Commercial operation of Entergy's first newly constructed wholesale power generating facility in the United States was marked Tuesday at the plant site near Vicksburg.

Named after the county in which it is located, the Warren Power Project has capacity to generate 300 megawatts of clean power, enough to serve more than a quarter of a million homes. As a wholesale power facility, Warren Power's output is sold at competitive prices to electricity cooperatives, municipalities, and investor-owned utilities when demand for power exceeds capacity of the region's base-load and intermediate generating facilities. As a peaking facility, the plant operates only when additional power is needed, thereby increasing reliability in Mississippi and the mid-South area. The plant does not replace existing utility generating plans, but rather helps meet higher demands for power, especially in the summer months.

