

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FRIDAY FACTS

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WINSTON COUNTY AND DEKALB RECEIVE ARC GRANTS

Winston County and the City of DeKalb have landed grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

Winston County received an ARC grant of \$44,096 for the construction of the Winston County Loading Dock. The new docking area will allow existing manufacturer Hewlett Industries to receive and ship goods more efficiently. As a result, Hewlett, which is housed in a county-owned facility, will retain 15 current employees and add 20 new jobs. The total cost of the loading dock project is \$55,120. Local sources will provide matching funds of \$11,024.

The City of DeKalb was awarded an ARC grant of \$320,000 for the construction of a new water treatment plant and other improvements. The project is expected to create 100 temporary and 30 permanent full-time jobs. When completed, the new treatment facility will provide more potable water to DeKalb and the surrounding area and make the area more attractive to industrial concerns. Total cost of the DeKalb project is \$400,000. The city will provide \$80,000 in matching funds.

The Appalachian Regional Commission is a partnership of federal, state and local governments that serves portion of 13 states. The ARC program in Mississippi serves 22 contiguous counties in the northeast and east central portion of the state. ARC's mission is to be an advocate for and partner with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life. The program provides matching funds for project in five broad areas of development, including healthcare, education, physical infrastructure, leadership development and financial/technical assistance.

Mississippi's ARC office is located in the Mississippi Development Authority's Northeast Field Office in Tupelo. The staff works to fulfill both the mission of the ARC and the economic goals and objectives of MDA.

NATCHEZ NAMED U.S.'S MOST LIVABLE CITY

The City of Natchez was named the most livable small city in America by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

"This is a tremendous recognition of our city for what we have done for making the quality of life better for citizens," said Natchez Mayor F.L. "Hank" Smith.

"It speaks well of all of us in city government past and present," Smith said. "Mayors from other parts of the country want to come to Natchez for a visit. It's just another feather in our cap to let folks know what we're about."

The award was based on the city's much-touted LUMPS program. LUMPS (Large Unused Municipal Properties) is a program the city created in the early 1990s to refurbish and utilize an abundance of vacant public buildings.

"It's really a unique program that a lot of other cities don't have," said City Planner David Preziosi, who wrote the winning application. "It's why we wanted to showcase it." He said the city has won similar awards in the past, but this award is different because it's a national award.

The city competed with dozens of other cities in the 100,000 and under category.

"We are either progressing or retrograding all the while. There is no such thing as remaining stationary in this life."

- James Freeman Clarke

STATE BENEFITS FROM EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR SERIES PRODUCED BY MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Minority and Small Business Coordinators Hosted Series of Meetings to Discuss Economic Opportunities with Nissan Project

Through a series of ten seminars held across the state over 450 disadvantaged and small businesses were able to gain insight in identifying methods and strategies to facilitate potential participation in the contracts for the state related work with Nissan and potentially additional Nissan contracts.

The Minority Business Enterprise Division of the Mississippi Development Authority in cooperation with Systems Consultants Associates, Inc. held the series of meetings to educate the community as they prepare themselves to conduct business with the Nissan Corporation.

"It was a memorable experience to be a part of this opportunity to assist a number of Mississippians create a brighter future for them and their families. It was evident by the excitement and the interest displayed by the participants at each of the seminars they, too, were serious about economic development for Mississippi. The tremendous support we received from state and local officials was evidence of how all of us working together can make a difference. The Nissan project has afforded a tremendous opportunity for a number of individuals, not only as a workforce but as business partners," said Gennie Lacy Jones, Director, MDA Minority Business Enterprise Division.

In addition to discussing Nissan, MDA officials also discussed the agency's services for minority and women-owned businesses, including the loan program and business planning.

Participating with the program, Systems Consultants Associates, Inc. is tasked to work closely with prime contractors, minority contractors, and disadvantaged contractors to facilitate potential participation in the contracts awarded by the state.

The seminars were offered at no charge to participating companies to assist them in identifying methods and strategies for involving minority, disadvantaged, and small business participation in the execution of the work with the Nissan project.

PICAYUNE SELECTED AS SITE FOR AVIATION MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

Officials with the Mississippi Development Authority announced Wednesday, Chevron U.S.A. Production Co. will relocate its aviation maintenance operations currently based at New Orleans Lakefront Airport to the Picayune Municipal Airport in Mississippi.

"We are delighted to welcome Chevron U.S.A. Production Co. to Picayune. This project will boost Mississippi's growth and economic positioning for this area of our state. These kinds of economic opportunities only happen when people work together to make a difference. I commend and thank the various company officials along with our elected officials for making today a reality," said J.C. Burns, Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority.

Chevron recently signed a seven-year lease with Magnolia Air I, for use of apron space and a new 37,847 square-foot maintenance and office building, to be built by Magnolia Air. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held today. Chevron plans to complete the move by the end of March 2002.

According to Steve Sabree, Chevron aviation operations manager, the move inland to higher ground in Mississippi is intended to eliminate the likelihood that maintenance equipment, spare parts and aircraft could be damaged by flooding, as occurred during Hurricane Georges in 1998.

"The new facility in Picayune will provide us with the confidence and peace of mind that we will be able to provide reliable support to our offshore aircraft operations," said Sabree. "That's especially important during those critical times when we're evacuating offshore employees from the potential threat of a hurricane or tropical storm and during redeployment following a storm."

Currently, seventy-three Chevron employees and three contract personnel perform maintenance and administrative tasks at the Lakefront facility supporting company-owned aircraft used for oil and gas exploration and development operations in the Gulf of Mexico.

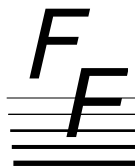
EUROPEAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY RECEPTIVE TO SALES MISSION

Representatives of the Mississippi Development Authority along with various officials from economic development organizations in Mississippi have returned from a successful European sales mission. Countries targeted for a focused marketing approach included: Germany, United Kingdom, and France.

“Through a combination of meetings and sales presentations with various governmental officials and industry executives we were able to explain Mississippi’s new vision for economic development, the Advantage Mississippi Initiative. By making dramatic changes in our economic plan, we have made Mississippi competitive. Mississippi now tops the list for large, international companies for possible site locations. The Advantage Mississippi Initiative sent a signal to the world that Mississippi is serious about business,” said Jay Moon, Deputy Director, MDA.

The participants through a series of pre-scheduled appointments met with decision makers of operations having the potential of locating or expanding their operations in Mississippi. Sales presentations were made during two events, one for the CCC (French Department of Trade and Industry) and the FIEV (Automotive Equipment Federation) & GIFAS (Aerospace Federation).

“We are encouraged by the interest shown in international companies conducting business with Mississippi. We were pleased to hear often that our combination of strategic location, infrastructure capabilities and collaborative, targeted approach to economic development places us on their list for consideration. In fact, the sales mission has already produced seven investment prospects, two of which will be visiting the state within the next two months,” Moon added.



LAST CHANCE FOR CED STUDY PROGRAM

The last chance to register for the Certified Economic Developer (CED) Study Program is approaching fast! Economic developers planning to take the CED exam are encouraged to take the program, offered August 28 and 29 at the Oasis Hotel of the Grand Casino in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Sponsored by the University of Southern Mississippi, the two-day workshop is part of a three-part CED exam preparation program that includes: a pre-workshop self-guided study, the two-day workshop and a post-workshop follow-up.

The preferred date for applying for the study program is *July 13, 2001*. The cost is \$500. The CED exam will be offered at three sites in the remainder of 2001: Kansas City, Missouri on September 22, Albuquerque, New Mexico on October 20 and New Orleans, Louisiana on November 3.

The CED Program recognizes the professional economic developer and sets the standard of excellence for the profession. A Certified Economic Developer has attained proficiency with the professional competency standards identified and adopted by American Economic Development Council and demonstrates a commitment to provide the highest quality professional economic development services available.

VASSEL NAMED TO POST WITH DELTA COUNCIL-MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Daniel Vassel of Clarksdale has been selected as the Industrial and Business Outreach Coordinator for the Delta Project, which is a partnership between Delta Council and Mississippi State University. The Delta Project is a federal-state-regional effort to help promote economic development in the region.

“Daniel has an impressive track record in community development and is going to be a tremendous asset to the goal of enhancing economic development in the Mississippi Delta,” said Delta Council Development Department Chairman, Al Rankins of Greenville. “This project has already provided tremendous benefit to the region through the Delta Data Center and Daniel’s efforts will only serve to increase its effectiveness.”

A graduate of Alcorn State University, Vassel was previously employed with the Mississippi Extension Service. Daniel has been extensively involved in local and regional civic activities -- member of the Clarksdale/Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Board member of the Clarksdale Public School System, President of Clarksdale Habitat for Humanity; member of the Clarksdale Rotary Club; and Past President of the Northwest Community College District Workforce Council.

He has been recognized for his many contributions. He is a graduate of Leadership Mississippi and Leadership Clarksdale; a graduate of the Extension Service Leadership Academy; a recipient of the Goals 2000 Distinguished Service Award; a recipient of the Tunica County Youth Opportunities Distinguished Service Award; and a recipient of the Coahoma Community College ABE-GED Outstanding Service Award.

OLIVIER NAMED TO EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Michael Olivier, Executive Director of the Harrison County Development Commission, has been named to the Editorial Advisory Board of *Business Xpansion Journal (BXJ)*, one of the leading development publications in the United States. The board is made up of experts in real estate, tenant representation, site consulting, economic development and incentive negotiation from around the country. Olivier is one of two public sector development officials selected for the national board.

“We are extremely fortunate to have a group of this caliber advising and guiding us as we help educate our readers,” says Lee Hurley, *BXJ* editor in chief. “Collectively, this board represents several decades of experience in expansion and relocation initiatives.”

Olivier joins the following board members:

- Brian Corde, Director of Proactive Services, Mintax International Group
- Dennis Donovan, Senior Managing Partner, The Wadley-Donovan Group
- Paul C. Giese, Product Development & Consulting Services, Runzheimer International
- Mike Henderson, Location Analysis, Cushman & Wakefield
- Thomas A. Kucharski, President & CEO, Buffalo Niagara Enterprises
- Alison McMahon, Manager, antus/Deloitte & Touche
- Rosey Miller, Senior Managing Director, Julien J. Studley, Inc.
- Bill Schaperkotter, Global Location Strategies Group, Fluor Corporation