

CONFIDENTIAL

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

WOKK Radio, Meridian, Dennis Warren

Radio Interview – 6:30 a.m. – 7:00 a.m.

Call in – 601-485-9191

1. Storm relief for flood victims

- “We are working extremely hard to quickly coordinate assistance for the rebuilding process. Starting today, Robert Latham and the rest of the MEMA team of community relations specialists will visit all 28 Mississippi declared disaster counties to explain state and federal assistance programs to homeowners and business owners who suffered damage during the April 6- 14 severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding.”
- Meridian and other area residents who have suffered storm damage can also apply for state and federal assistance by calling 1-800-621-3362.
- Background:
 - Declared State of Emergency April 7
 - Asked President for assistance April 14
 - Received approval April 24
 - Provides for individual and public assistance in many counties, including Clarke, Lauderdale, and Newton Counties in East Mississippi.
- (FYI in case they ask you - Media availability in Meridian - MEMA, federal and local officials will be available at the Soccer Complex off Old 8th Street Road in Meridian at 10:30 a.m.)

2. East Mississippi/West Alabama Jobs Alliance

- During this national recession, it takes bold creative ideas to provide jobs for our people.
- The East Mississippi/West Alabama jobs alliance is an innovative strategy that combines the economic and political resources of two states that, in the past, have competed against each other for large projects.
- It stems from the Advantage Mississippi Initiative, passed in 2000 by the legislature, which allows regional alliances such as this one.

- We have worked with East Mississippi Business Development Corporation, and area elected officials, Wade Jones and others, for over a year
- Talked to Governor Riley personally in February at NGA
- Went to Montgomery to meet with Governor Riley
- Bob Rohrlack and Neal Wade working together on MOU
- AL has to pass legislation

3. Jobs in Mississippi/ New and Existing companies

Nissan

- Nissan North America \$1.4 billion investment
- More than 5,000 direct jobs
- Most technologically advanced production line in the world, testament to our workers here in Mississippi
- Automotive Suppliers – 25 and counting – across the state, Hattiesburg, Vicksburg, Forest, Saltillo, Grenada, Holly Springs, Greenville, Verona, Olive Branch

Job numbers

Mississippi Rural Economic Impact Authority

Howard Industries, Laurel