

CONNECTIONS is an e-newsletter published by the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University, Marty Wiseman, PhD., Executive Director. It is intended for public officials, economic developers and community leaders, although anyone with an interest may subscribe to the list at no cost. Information is provided as a guide only, and is not guaranteed to be accurate. The mailing list is not sold or shared with anyone. To be removed from the list send an e-mail to Phil Hardwick at Phil.Hardwick@msstate.edu or REPLY to this e-mail and type UNSUBSCRIBE CONNECTIONS in the subject line.

February 2008

Greetings:

The 2008 version of the STENNIS-CAPITOL PRESS LUNCHEONS will kick off on February 18 at noon at Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church. We are pleased to announce that Lieutenant Governor Phil Bryant will be our speaker.

Bobby Harrison of the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal and yours truly will be coordinating the gatherings this year. Our plan is to have a luncheon every other Monday during the legislative session and then monthly during the remainder of the year.

The primary purpose of the luncheons is to have public policymakers, newsmakers and the Capitol Press Corps interact on issues of the day. After lunch the public person makes a few comments and then enters into a dialogue with the members of the media. Of course, interested members of the public are invited, and can even ask questions if time permits. We are creating a new mailing list, so IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS OF THE LUNCHEONS send an e-mail to stenniscapitolpress@gmail.com and tell us to add you to the list, or call Phil Hardwick at 601-354-6011.

Two years ago we told you about the KALAMAZOO PROMISE, a plan to get families to move into a declining city by promising a college education to their children if they did so. Is it working? How does 800 new families in the school district, a \$10 million housing development, rising property values and two new schools sound? Read an article about it at

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/02/05/eveningnews/main2436212.shtml>

and check the Promise Web site for more details at

<https://www.kalamazoopromise.com>.

OBSOLETE STATE TAX SYSTEMS are not producing the revenue states need. But what's becoming clear today is that those tax systems are not only failing to keep up with the dramatic shifts in the U.S. economy. They are a drag on economic growth, according to an article in Governing Magazine. Read the story at

<http://www.governing.com/articles/1taxmain.htm>

POLITICAL COMMENTARY BY DR. MARTY WISEMAN, TECHNICAL BRIEFS, POLICY & RESEARCH PUBS, POLITICAL BRIEFS and PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN AND POLITICS are just a few of the publications you can find on the Stennis Institute Web site. It's at www.sig.msstate.edu.

MISSISSIPPI SUPREME COURT SETS SENATE ELECTION FOR NOVEMBER. Read the ruling at <http://www.mssc.state.ms.us/Images/Opinions/CO47168.pdf>

WONDERING ABOUT THE STATUS OF MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATION? Find answers at <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us>

CALENDAR

February 13 (and weekly) - Mississippi Economic Council Legislative Scramblers. More info at www.mec.ms.

February 17 - 19 - Governor's Conference on Tourism. Details at <http://www.mstourism.com/2008governorsconferenceontourism.aspx>

February 18 - Stennis-Capitol Press Luncheon, Jackson; Speaker will be Hon. Phil Bryant, Lt. Governor. To register or receive more info send e-mail to stenniscapitolpress@gmail.com or call Phil Hardwick at 601-354-6011.

February 20 -22 - Mississippi Economic Development Council Winter Conference, Jackson. More info at <http://www.medic.ms/Conferences.html>

March 11 - Primary Elections for Federal Offices. See complete elections calendar at <http://www.sos.state.ms.us/elections/2008/PDF/2008%20Elections%20Calendar%208-28-07.pdf>

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

A good leader is someone who can manage Plan B.

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