

CONNECTIONS

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Greetings:

FOUR RURAL AMERICAS: A Carsey Institute report, *Place Matters - Challenges and Opportunities in Four Rural Americas*, identified four broad types of rural places: amenity-rich, declining resource-dependent, and chronically poor regions, as well as a fourth transitional type characterized by both amenity-driven growth and resource-based decline. This "four rurals" paradigm captures the often contradictory sets of forces that are reshaping rural places, and is particularly useful when analyzing rural trends and conditions, and guiding policy discussion. Read the report at:

http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/Report_PlaceMatters.pdf

REPUBLICAN VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SARAH PALIN, current governor of Alaska and former mayor of Wasilla, Alaska, would, if elected, become only the second mayor to be Vice President. Trivia Question: Who is the only mayor ever elected Vice President? (See answer below) Note: The debate between Palin and Democratic VP nominee Joe Biden will be televised at 8:00 p.m. (CST), Thursday, October 2.

CHANDLER RUSS has joined the Mississippi Development Authority as the Director of the Existing Industry and Business Division (EIB). Russ was formerly a project manager with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

GOING GREEN WITH BICYCLES: Paris and Washington, D.C. did it successfully, and now Mississippi State University is implementing a bicycle fleet program. Unlike the city programs, which charge a fee, the MSU bikes are available for free campus use by students, faculty and staff, 100 two-wheelers will be spread among various locations.

INNOVATION IN RURAL AMERICA: The kinds and amounts of innovation available to a person vary significantly in urban and suburban and rural America, and the degree to which they vary is increasing rapidly, according to Alex Steffen. <http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/008687.html>

SPEAKING OF INNOVATION: The Mississippi Technology Alliance is offering five different workshops on Innovation Led Economic Development (ILED) in October and November. Here's the link to the registration brochure:
http://www.technologyalliance.ms/images/admin/spotedit/attach/0/MTA_Cap_Inov_Brochure_p2.pdf

MUSIC FESTIVALS are bringing in the dough for parks departments in many cities. Read more at:
http://www.austin360.com/music/content/music/acl_fest/stories/2008/0925infested.html

TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER: Calvin Coolidge is the only American mayor to be vice-president. His political career took him from the Mayor's Office of Northampton, Massachusetts to the White House. After serving as vice-president for two years, Coolidge assumed the presidency in 1923 when President Warren Harding died in office. Coolidge remains only the second mayor to become president. The first was Grover Cleveland, former mayor of Buffalo, New York, in 1886.

Source: *citymayors.com*

CALENDAR

October 2 - EPA Region 4 will host an interactive, on-line "Tips & Tricks" Grant-Writing workshop to help applicants write a competitive proposal for the upcoming Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup and Revolving Loan Fund Grants. To register, please visit: www.cluin.org/conf/tio/r4bfgrantwriting

October 6 - Stennis-Capitol Press Luncheon, Noon, University Club, Jackson, MS. Speakers are Oliver Diaz and Randy "Bubba" Pierce, candidates for Mississippi Supreme Court. Registration details at www.stenniscapitolpress.wordpress.com.

October 13 - Stennis-Capitol Press Luncheon, Noon, University Club, Jackson, MS. Speakers are Ceola James, Jim Kitchens, Jim Smith. Registration details at www.stenniscapitolpress.wordpress.com.

October 15 - National Issues Forum: COPING WITH THE COST OF HEALTH CARE - How do we pay for what we need? Jackson, MS; facilitated and sponsored by the Stennis Institute. No cost to attend, but advance registration is required. Info at <http://www.sig.msstate.edu/events.html>

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

*A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.
~ Doug Larson*

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