

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker Welcomes New Ag. Secretary to Mississippi

Former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue Addresses Delta Council

Sonny Perdue was sworn in as the 31st Secretary of Agriculture less than two months ago, but he has already made a trip to Mississippi, delivering a forward-looking address at this year's Delta Council meeting. The former governor of Georgia and first Southerner to head the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in more than two decades shared his commitment to future prosperity and growth in rural America.



June 22 - Jeanette Gilbert, Linda Keith, Charles Barrett, Brandon Cothran, Marshall Smith, Kristen Joe, Keaton Bates, Tish Stewart, Kristen Yawn, Isabella Lloyd, Violet Lloyd

June 23 - Sarah Horton, Matthew Lawson, Melanie Davis, Jolynn White, Carlton Aldridge, Amber McBride

June 24 - James Gusta Watson, Jr., Katie Diggs, Coleman Smith, Josh Macko, Brittany Blackstock

June 25 - Brian Gilmore, Anthony Newton, Wayne Bishop, Sherman Partain, Noah Burton, Nadine Marshall, Chris Hammett, Megan Macko, Joanne Jones, Doris June Jones

June 26 - Shaniyah Simmons, Patty Hood, James Mitchell, Jeff Holmes, Cindy Ainsworth Lunsford, Kelly J. Strider, Gage Hynum, Kelly Dodd, Regina Thornton

June 27 - Pam Langford, Elisabeth Floyd, Aden Lewis, Adam Lewis, Stacie Sizemore, Glenda D. Branscome, James Brown

June 28 - Brittany LaShay Baker, Marilyn Walker, Calvin McAdams, Hunter Hutchison, Sheila Hammett, Bluford Taylor

*County

(Continued from page 1.) our commitment to enhancing economic development," Moore said. "We're investing in our communities so our customers can have opportunities without having to leave the state. Through this program, we're helping people stay and thrive in Mississippi."

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It was an honor for me to introduce him at the event.

The Delta Council has been promoting agriculture and economic development in our state's 18 Delta counties since the Great Depression. In his speech, Secretary Perdue commended the organization's long history, its support for improving lives, and the example it sets for civic responsibility. He also praised the partnership between USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Mississippi State University in Stoneville, remarking during his speech that he had "never seen a better collaboration between state and federal partners."

Heart, Soul, and Rolled-Up Sleeves

The Trump Administration's attention to the unique challenges and needs of rural communities should be encouraging to Mississippians in all parts of our



June 22 - Richard and Stephanie Barrett, Clayton and Brittany Edwards, Willie and Melissa Hooker, Brian and Tiffany Robinson

June 23 - David and Anna Lloyd, Tommy and Carla Garrett

June 24 - Ralph and Mary G. Hall, Andrew and Faye Roy

June 25 - Cham and Angie Blain, Billy and Beverly Hathcock, Ray and Jeri Jo McCleskey

June 26 - Billy and Sylvia Wigley, Michael and Kacie Sanford

June 27 - Robert and Dawn Ashley

June 28 - Wayne and Pat Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Danny Robertson, Frankie and Robin McCrory

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; fax 662-834-1074; email to hcherald@gmail.com; or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington. No phone calls, please.

state, not just the Delta. As the Secretary noted, the recovery from the Great Recession has been slow in rural areas of the country, with high rates of poverty and dwindling populations. To reverse that trend, he told the crowd, "You've got my heart, soul, and my rolled-up-sleeves hard work to make sure rural America gets its fair share and prospers over the next decade in this United States of America."

Secretary Perdue also outlined a broad plan for this success. He promised to support solution-driven collaboration in the federal government, the elimination of onerous regulations, innovation in rural areas such as broadband development, and market access for U.S. agriculture through free and fair trade. I support these goals, and I look forward to working with Secretary Perdue and the entire Administration to achieve them.

As chairman of the Senate subcommittee for Internet issues, I am pleased with the Secretary's interest in rural broadband deployment. Not only can this infrastructure help spur economic growth, but it also paves the way for advancements in telehealth and precision agriculture.



Mrs. Mary Hodges, mother of Elder Hodges, was able to attend church on Sunday, June 11. Mrs. Hodges has been sick and home bound for quite a

Congress Turns to USDA Budget, Farm Bill

Just a few days after delivering the Delta Council's keynote address, Secretary Perdue appeared before the agriculture subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee to discuss the President's Fiscal Year 2018 budget for USDA. In that hearing, he underscored his role as a voice for rural America. He also noted strategic changes to the organization of the department, with the Rural Development program now reporting directly to the Secretary's office. He reiterated in his prepared testimony that the "economic vitality of small towns across America is crucial to the future of the agriculture economy."

Alongside budget and appropriations considerations, Congress and USDA are looking ahead to the next Farm Bill. The negotiations surrounding this important piece of legislation are crucial to our state and our farmers, who produce food and fiber for the nation and world. As these talks progress, I am glad the new agriculture secretary has already had a chance to hear directly from Mississippians during his time in the Delta. I am hopeful it will be one of many visits.



Real Love Changes People

Paul writes, "Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15 NASB). Do you want to plumb the depths of your love for someone? How do you feel when that person succeeds? Do you rejoice or are you jealous? And when he or she stumbles or falls into misfortune? Are you really sorry? Or are you secretly pleased?

Love never celebrates misfortune. Never! Real love changes people. Didn't God's love change you? You know your love is real when you weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. Do you want to know what love is? "This is what real love is— It is not our love for God;

it is God's love for us. He sent his Son to die in our place to take away our sins" (1 John 4:10).

God passes the test! And well he should --he drafted it! He rejoices with you; may you rejoice with others.

From *A Love Worth Giving*.
UpWords, with Max Lucado is a popular daily Bible devotion. This Max Lucado devotional offers wisdom and insight for applying Biblical truths to the ups and downs of everyday life. Reading daily devotions provides strength and encouragement in your daily walk with Jesus Christ.
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Little annoyances shouldn't bother you

By Gary Andrews
gary@gadevotionals.com

Are you one of those people who gets frustrated if things aren't just so? Do you look at the little things in your life and say, "if I could only get past these bothersome problems?"

Little things or annoyances in our lives can really be special. It is all how we decide to look at them and solve them.

We need to remember the saying, "Sometimes we are so busy adding up our troubles that we forget to count our blessings."

Remember the terrorist attacks of 9-11 in 2001? Think about the little things that hindered some of the employees from getting to work on time.

One woman was late because her alarm clock didn't go off. Another missed the attack by being stuck in a traffic jam. One missed his bus and another couldn't get a taxi. One man bought a new pair of shoes and stopped before he got to work, because he developed a blister on his foot, at a drug store to buy a band-aid.

Like the man whose turn it was to bring doughnuts for the office staff and the father who took his son to kindergarten

pitals in Jackson having some tests done.

Mrs. Eula V. (Honey) Smith of the Acona Community passed Thursday night, June 15. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at the time this news was submitted.

Mrs. Everlena Shaffer of Tchula was able to come home from the hospital and stay at home for a while. But now she is back in the hospital. She has been sick for quite a while. Pray for Mrs. Shaffer; she is in and out of the hospital in Jackson quite often.

Mrs. Lou Ethel Morgan is still in the hospital in Lexington

that day, life goes on because of small things that were part of their lives.

All of us need to remember that God is in control and puts us exactly where He wants us to be, even though we get frustrated and don't understand why life has all of these minor inconveniences.

The next time something bothers you or you can't find your car keys, or you miss an elevator, or maybe stuck in traffic, God has you there for a reason. Who knows? He may be saving you from a fiery destruction and allowing you to live a few more days or years on this earth.

God is good, and we need to give Him praise and thanks for His daily blessings and guidance.

Prayer: Father thank you for being with me even when I am frustrated and don't understand my situation. I pray for your guidance and I thank you for your love and forgiveness. Amen.

Suggested daily Bible readings: Sunday - Psalm 77:1-15; Monday - Genesis 41:28-32; Tuesday - James 1:16-17; Wednesday - Romans 11:11-12; Thursday - Nehemiah 9:25; Friday - Matthew 5:11-12; Saturday - Acts 1:6-7.

Gary Andrews is the author of Encouraging Words: 30-days in God's Word. To obtain a copy go to his website www.gadevotionals.com.

ton taking therapy. She only broke one hip.

The vegetable market at the Multi-Purpose building in Lexington is doing good business. The vegetable market is open on Friday mornings.

The Village Band will perform at the ceremony for the installation of the new mayor of Lexington, Robin McCrory, on June 23.



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