

Daily World



Delta dream fast becoming a reality

I think it is now safe to say that Phillips County and the rest of the Delta is fast becoming more than just a blip on the radar screen. I know there are people in the area that would say that this area generates some not-so-good news and say that I am way off in my assertion. I have to take this moment and say that the situations that have, for a long time running, put us way behind others, may now be a thing of the past. I say this because, as you folks may or may not remember, one of the first things I witnessed when I set foot in this Delta town was the Delta Bridge Project Conference held at the Malco Theater on Cherry St. It was a big to-do, with faces seldom seen in the area showing up, even though it was not an election year. The unveiling was a smash. I was given the packet of plans to build up the Delta - very thick and very detailed. I know that each project on the list has been completed or is nearing a finalization.



On the Same Page

MICHELE PAGE

Movers and shakers in the region have made deals, put the area first and foremost and have done what they set out to do. So, where is the party? Where is the celebration? Maybe someone will celebrate later. I think any day is a good time to celebrate the uphill battle that has been waged before people forget what exactly has been achieved here. I think that one of the ideas or complaints noted in the project was that the folks down here just couldn't work

together.

Getting the projects finished without bloodshed or a fight is, from what I have learned since I've been here, a very big deal. The people in this area have put aside their differences or problems, came together as one, and did what they set out to do.

A problem in the Delta that has been running and ruining everything for years was the inability to take an idea, and make it happen. The Delta Bridge Dream has come true. I think another list needs to flower and bloom into even more success.

A sweet potato storage, facility, new apartments, the Boys & Girls Club and the bio-diesel feasibility study were all on the list of things that was actually an attempt to bridge a gap that had widened into a mile-wide canyon. I know of more projects fast gaining ground that are on the way to becoming a huge success for the citizens in this area.

I guess after years of

crying and pleading for help the people here got tired of being ignored and took their own fates and destinies by the collar, leading a people into a new direction and future. It is like watching a baby grow into a giant and I have had the good fortune of watching from one of the best seats in the house, the pages of a newspaper.

The new times in the area are from the hard work and dedication of some people that get few accolades. I want to be a person who congratulates you, the community, on the hard work you have put into the many projects surfacing each day. Success breeds even more success.

I think some of the despair has finally left Phillips County and is being methodically replaced by hope and forgiveness. Yes, forgiveness. I know that you can never forget the past but to forgive, that is even better than forgetting because if not forgotten, the future generation will be forced to repeat a tragic past.