



Jackson airport gets support from coalition

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

The Coalition for Economic Justice has joined a list of supporters against legislation that would lead to the state taking over the Jackson-Medger Wiley Evers International Airport.

The coalition, which includes members of the Legislative Black Caucus and other organizations such as Cooperation Jackson, held a press conference Tuesday

at the State Capitol announcing its stance against Senate Bill 2162 authored by Sen. Josh Harkins of Flowood.

The legislation would change the makeup of the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority's Board of Commissioners by allowing the governor to appoint two people from Hinds County, two people from Rankin County, and two people from Madison County, and an at-large member.

Currently, JMAA's board consists of five people appointed by Jackson's mayor and confirmed by the Jackson City Council.

"We believe that this bill represents politics of old," said Attorney Chokwe Lumumba Jr., who is a coalition member. Lumumba also emphasized the airport is now operating "in the black."

Akil Bakari, a business owner and coalition spokesperson, said Harkins' bill is a "false flag" and

it's introduction "doesn't make logical sense." He noted that supporters of the legislation have indicated use of airport revenue beyond Jackson would be fair. However, Bakari said he doesn't recall officials of Madison and Rankin counties finding it necessary to discuss those counties' revenue with the city of Jackson.



Attorney Chokwe Lumumba Jr. speaks to the media against legislation allowing the state to take control of the Jackson-Medger Wiley Evers International Airport. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

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Legislators endorse Clinton



Rep. Earle Banks (at podium) and other state Legislators endorsed Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential primary at the State Capitol Wednesday.

Mississippi Link Newswire

More than 20 Mississippi legislative leaders announced their support Wednesday at the state Capitol for Hillary Clinton in the Democratic presidential primary.

The senators and representatives endorsed Clinton citing her commitment to taking on the issues that Mississippi families face every day. "Hillary Clinton has a proven record of fighting for children and fami-

lies," said Rep. Earle Banks, the leader of the Legislative Black Caucus. "From helping achieve the Children's Health Insurance Program, which covers more than 8 million kids, to her commitment in this campaign to raise wages, she has continually worked to expand opportunity for all Americans. I am proud to stand behind her as she offers real solutions to problems that face our communities every day."

"As the youngest African American elected to a Legislature in U.S. history, I am proud to support Hillary Clinton because she has a proven record of advocating for quality public education for all students and ensuring access to affordable higher education. In addition, she's a progressive thinker. I am confident that she will represent the interests of all Mississippians, instead of just a select few," said Rep. Jeramey Anderson.

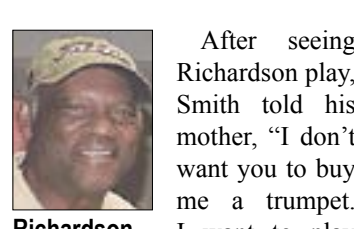
"From working to provide everyone access to quality, affordable health care to expanding voting rights, Hillary Clinton has proved time and time again that she'll stand up for us. That's why I'm supporting Hillary Clinton for President," said Rep. Jarvis Dortch.

"Hillary Clinton will get things done for Mississippi. I'm

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JSU, NFL legend — Richardson remembered

By Stephanie R. Jones
Contributing Writer



Richardson

Before Willie L. Richardson Jr. left his imprint on Jackson State University, before he made his mark in the National Football League, the young wide receiver from Coleman High School in Greenville made an impression on other high schools boys in a game against Lanier High School in 1959.

After seeing Richardson play, Smith told his mother, "I don't want you to buy me a trumpet. I want to play football."

"Willie was a one-man show that day," Smith said of Richardson, who scored six touchdowns. "He was my biggest inspiration."

That's when retired NFL player Noland Smith said he knew he wanted to play football.

Smith said he went to that game to see the band and convince his mother to buy him a trumpet.

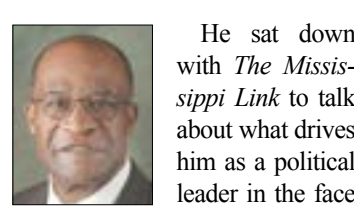
Richardson, an NFL Pro-Bowler and member of the JSU Hall of Fame, SWAC Hall of Fame, Mississippi Sports Hall

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Mayor Dupree on diversity



By Natalie Bell
Special to The Mississippi Link



Dupree

Currently serving his fourth term as mayor of Mississippi's fourth largest city, Johnny L. Dupree, Ph.D. walks into a room with a sense of urgency, visibly and audibly excited about the possibilities for success for Hattiesburg and all of Mississippi.

He sat down with *The Mississippi Link* to talk about what drives him as a political leader in the face of obvious challenges in Mississippi — a state with 37-percent African-American population and the highest number of black elected officials, but still has not elected a black politician to statewide office since Reconstruction. Mississippi is the poorest state in the nation and one of

He is Hattiesburg's first black mayor, first elected in 2001, and still going strong, focusing on what he sees as his purpose — building healthy families and putting them in stable homes, where the door to prosperity is open.

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Senator Jordan discusses book

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer



Sen. David Jordan signs book for attendee. PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History kicked off events this month featuring Sen. David Jordan discussing his book *From the Mississippi Cotton Fields to the State Senate: A Memoir*.

The program was a part of MDAH's History is Lunch series.

At the event, Attorney Mike Espy, former Secretary of Ag-

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Priester shares black history

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

During New Hope Baptist Church's first program for its month-long Back in the Day Black History series, guest speaker Attorney Charlene Stimley Priester reflected on voting rights, civil rights icons, and survival tools for today's youth.



Attorney Charlene Priester was the keynote speaker. PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

At the outset of the Feb. 4, program Priester said it was essential to harness self-respect, to cherish and to nourish the black race by remembering bridges like Fannie Lou Hamer, Medgar Wiley Evers, and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and family members who have been proponents for the betterment of humankind. When she was a child, Priester had conversed with her father who was called "boy" by a young portal worker. She asked her audience: "How old does a man have to be before he stops being a boy?"

As she expounded on tough times, the attorney said, "If we tried to vote, we put our lives at

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