



## Newman: "The airport operation is sound and profitable."

**By Stephanie R. Jones**  
Contributing Writer

It's been a year since Carl D. Newman took the helm at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport. On Monday, he gave a report to Jackson Municipal Airport Authority board members, media and community leaders on where

the airport stands a year later. Newman outlined the stats accumulated during his tenure, painting a picture of what's been going on with the airport. Newman said the airport author-



Jackson Municipal Airport Authority CEO, Carl D. Newman, A.A.E., (center) at the JMAA State of the Airport Address, Feb. 6 at the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport. From left, JMAA Board Commissioner James L. Henley Jr.; Vice Chairman Rosie L.T. Pridgen, Chairman Evelyn O. Reed; Mississippi State Rep. Alyce Clarke; and Commissioner Vernon W. Hartley Sr. PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

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## Baldwin documentary "I Am Not Your Negro" receives Oscar nod



**Baldwin**

**By Lauren Victoria Burke**  
NNPA NewsWire Contributor

On February 1, the first day of Black History Month, the National Museum of African American History and Culture premiered the Oscar-nominated documentary "I Am Not Your Negro," which features commentary by James Baldwin. The film is a tribute to the staggering contribution of one of America's greatest men of letters. Director Raoul Peck spent ten years completing the film. The documentary was inspired by one of Baldwin's unfinished manuscripts regarding his friendships and views on three of his friends: Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. None of the three would live to see their 40th birthday. Medgar Evers was assassinated in 1963 in Jackson, Miss.; Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965 in New York City; King was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, Tenn. At the heart of the film, the jarring documentary provides Baldwin's sociopolitical observations and showcases the writer's eloquence and directness as a communicator. Peck credits Baldwin with changing his life after he read "The Fire Next Time" when he was a teenager.

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# New Hope Baptist Church presents Legacy Night

## Honoring Notable African Americans

**By Janice K. Neal-Vincent**  
Contributing Writer

New Hope Baptist Church began its Sixth Annual Back in the Day Black History Month Celebration Thursday, February 2. The theme was New Hope Legacy Night. A space for racial pride was created with marches, speeches, songs and poems that depicted the saga of the African-American race.

Presiding officers, Eddie and Marie Johnson, laid the evening's foundation by portraying African Americans as a strong people. Backing them was Major Frank Branch who pitched the African-American race as descendants of kings and queens from royalty. Adding to the flavor were youngsters who energized their intellectual and vocal skills.

New Hope Youth Choir ushered in Hezekiah Walker's Every Praise is to our God and the American Negro Spiritual, It's Me O Lord, Standing in the Need of Prayer. Mikayia Faulkner, an 11th grade student at Murrah High School, rendered a special musical feature. New Hope Christian School children celebrated the vital role of African Americans in history.

During that particular phase, the children presented the subtheme titled I Won't Give Up; I Can't Give Up. Historical contributions of the following persons were recognized: prominent scientist and inventor, George Washington Carver; famous



New Hope Christian School boy reminds audience of President Barack Obama's "Yes We Can" appeal for a better America.

basketball player Wilt Chamberlain; first African-American woman evangelist, Amanda Berry Smith; first black Congresswoman and lifelong social activist, Shirley Chisholm; first African-American woman to open a charter bank, Maggie Lena Walker; first African-American President, Barack Obama; and prolific writer, Langston Hughes. The audience's heads were then turned with an uplifting dramatic version of Mychal Wynn's poem I am the Black

Child. These key players demonstrated the team spirit needed to command the audience's attention. Attorney Mike Espy's introduction of the guest speaker, Retired Major General Augustus L. Collins of Jackson, Miss., put a smile on his lips when he referred to Collins as a commander of men. One additional note, however, occurred prior to Collins' podium posture. The Mississippi National Guard rendered an unforgettable

Military Salute. The above were the essential tools Collins needed to remind the audience, "We come together to talk about history that we should never forget, to teach people how we came to where we are today. I would not have been able to accomplish the things I've accomplished had it not been for the people who've gone before me."

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## Jury reaches verdict in Ben Allen's embezzlement trial

### NOT guilty on nine counts; guilty on one

**By Othor Cain**  
Contributing Writer

After a little more than six hours of deliberations, a 12-member jury hearing the embezzlement trial of Downtown Jackson Partners President Ben Allen, found him guilty of only one count in a ten count indictment. That one guilty verdict was for paying \$1,738.37 for his and his wife's cell phone bills using DJP funds.

The ten-count indictment included allegations that Allen misused and embezzled public funds for his personal use. Allen's lawyers maintained throughout the trial that he was given permission by the board of directors and the executive



committee of DJP to operate in the manner in which he did. "Mr. Allen was given this authority and we proved that during this trial," Merrida Coxwell, Allen's attorney said. "While we are pleased with the jury finding Mr. Allen not guilty of nine of the ten counts, I remain frustrated that he wasn't totally

vindicated during this process."

Count IV, in which the jury found Allen guilty of, specifically charged him with: "willfully, unlawfully and feloniously covert to his own use any money or other valuable thing to with a \$1,738.37 for payment of Benjamin Wade Allen III and Susan Allen's personal cell phone bill said \$1,738.37 being the lawful property of Downtown Jackson Partners, a nonprofit corporation, which lawful currency came into his possession by virtue of his employment at Downtown Jackson Partners, a nonprofit corporation, and which monies he did not return to Downtown Jackson Partners in violation of Miss. Code Ann. 97-11-25."

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## Woman who falsely accused Emmett Till will avoid prosecution

**By Erick Johnson**  
The Chicago Crusader/NNPA Member

He's been dead for more than 60 years. Buried with Emmett Till was the truth to what led to the brutal murder in 1955. But the latest development in the case is not going well with the Till's relatives in Chicago, the murder boy's hometown, where schools and streets are named after him.

A new book about the murder is out and the woman whose accusations led to the brutal killing of the 14-year-old confessed that her story was a lie. Like Till's killers, Carolyn Bryant Donham will not be brought to justice or face any charges for perjury.



Till's mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, never found justice for her

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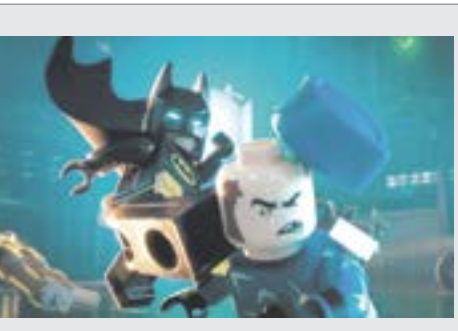
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