



Senate votes for airport takeover

Opponents aren't backing down

By Stephanie R. Jones
Contributing Writer

Phase One of an attempted takeover of the Medgar Wiley Evers-Jackson International Airport has succeeded. The Mississippi Senate voted 29-18 to approve Senate Bill 2162, despite vehement objections from Jackson and state officials.

The bill filed by Sen. Josh Harkins, R-Flowood would create a nine-member regional committee to oversee the airport, which Harkins himself admits is running just fine as it. Jackson owns the land but Harkins and other Republicans want a say in governance.

Democratic senators, namely John Horhn, David Blount and Sollie B. Norwood, spoke against the measure, which now moves to the House of Representatives.

"The bill sponsored by Rankin County Senators to take the Jackson airport is a blatant attempt to take property that was bought and built under the law," said Blount. "The bill is not in the best interest of the airport, the people who use it, and the long-term growth of the metro area. The Jackson delegation is united in opposition to this bill and we will use every means at our disposal to fight it."

Mayor Tony Yarber said city officials are dismayed and disheartened by the "blatant abuse of power that some legislators have taken in an attempt to strip away power that rests within the hands of our citizens who made the sacrifice of investment in our municipal airports over 60 years ago."

He added, "Sadly, we are once again reminded of the divisive abuse of power by some elected officials who would deprive Jackson of such rights. We will continue to work with our state representatives to ensure that what is best for the city of Jackson is the focus and remains at the forefront of the conversation."

City Council President Melvin Priestler Jr. posted comments on his Facebook page regarding the matter. Read his comments below:

"The 'hostile' takeover is a fight over money; more specifically, this is a money fight over the development of land. For years, Jackson and the Airport Authority have owned land that wasn't worth much of anything because there were no roads to access that land. What's changed is that there is a new road that cuts straight through the city and airport's property on the east side of the airport. Because of this new road, all the city land that was useless is now ripe for significant development.

Priester went on to say, "The road is the East Metro Parkway. The East Metro Parkway has been in the works for decades but only really got interesting in 2011. Phase One opened in March 2013

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'Bring it down!'

Moore, supporters seek removal of state flag



Carlos Moore, (at podium) addresses the crowd during the rally. With him are Rep. Justin Bamberg - S.C., (from left), Jackson Mayor Tony Yarber, Pastor Jamal Bryant and Attorney J. Wyndal Gordon. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

By Shanderia K. Posey
Editor

Carlos Moore, a Grenada attorney who filed a federal lawsuit Feb. 29, against Gov. Phil Bryant to remove the Confederate emblem of the state flag, was joined by about 300 supporters Tuesday at the state Capitol for a change-the-flag rally.

Notable individuals on hand to lend their support were South Carolina Rep. Justin Bamberg, Pastor Jamal Bryant of Empowerment Temple in Baltimore, Md., Attorney J. Wyndal Gordon also of Baltimore, Md., Vicki Slater, former Mississippi governor candidate; and Jackson Mayor Tony Yarber.

At various times during the rally, Yarber, Moore, and Pastor Bryant led the crowd in chants to "bring it down!"

"For 151 years since the Civil War ended, Mississippi has not seen the light," Moore said as he addressed the crowd. He described the flag as treacherous and a relic of slavery. "Enough is enough is enough," he said.

Though Moore has not heard directly from Bryant regarding the lawsuit, he is aware of the governor's comments to media alleging that only the state Legislature can change or remove the flag.

"I heard that and that's a bold-faced lie," Moore said. He then pointed to the flag flying at the Capitol. "You see the flags are flying at half-staff. He (the governor) ordered the flags to fly at half-staff in memory of Nancy Reagan. The governor is over the flag. He can order it taken down at any point. He's the chief executive of this state."



Rally participants display anti-Confederate flag poster during the event. PHOTO BY JAY JOHNSON

Mississippi is the only state that continues to incorporate the Confederate emblem as part of its state flag.

Moore revealed that Judge Carlton Reeves is the justice who will make the decision in his lawsuit against Bryant. Reeves is a graduate of Jackson State University and was appointed by President Barack Obama in 2010.

In his comments, Gordon talked about the concerns his parents and family had about him coming to Mississippi on Tuesday, but he came anyway. "For many the Confederate battle emblem represents pure anathema. It's extremely divisive and serves as a constant reminder of this country's permanently stained history

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Black businesses attend expo



Latisha Holmes of Damsel in Defense demonstrates a product to a customer. PHOTO BY DIAMOND WILLIAMS

By Diamond Williams
Mississippi Link Intern

The second Annual IMS/Trensek Black Business Expo on March 5, was filled wall to wall with black-owned business vendors at Tougaloo College's Owens Health and Wellness Center.

Ninety-five vendors had the opportunity to network with and promote fellow entrepreneurs of the metro area.

The expo included a multi-complexity of vendors like Damsel in Defense, which sells safety products; Mace a Difference, Safety Products Plus LLC; Blue Skyz Still Waters, which offers massage therapy; clothing and accessory vendors such as Origami Owl Custom Jewelry, Kamies Kreations, Chic4Cheap Boutique and food vendors such as Back in Time, Delectable Delights, Pesto's Vegetarian Cui-

sine and Catering and Catering by Andrew.

Some first-time and several returning vendors not only marketed but also had an opportunity to get educated about black-owned businesses and recycling of currency within the black community.

Two first-time vendors Alexandria Powel of Mace a Difference and Latish Holmes of Damsel in Defense both heard about the expo last year and could not pass up the opportunity to participate this year. "I am enjoying it so far," said Powel. "I look forward to networking with my brother and sister business owners."

Holmes expressed the same gratitude. "I love how there are so many vendors in one spot. I won-

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Clinton wins by losing; Trump scores 3 big wins

By Calvin Woodward
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump is spoiling for the big fight ahead, especially in Florida, now that he's fresh off victories in the industrial Midwest, the South and Hawaii.

Hillary Clinton has pushed over the halfway mark in delegates needed for the Democratic presidential nomination, showing she can win even by losing.

A late-night cliffhanger in Michigan ended in Bernie Sanders' favor, giving him bragging rights to a big race Clinton was expected to win. She progressed regardless, thanks to an earlier victory in Mississippi on Tuesday night and a close split of delegates shared with Sanders in Michigan.

Trump took Mississippi, Michigan and Hawaii while yielding to Cruz in Idaho.

Florida and Ohio are coming up next Tuesday, and they are crucial for Republicans.

The Republican contests will be winner-take-all for the first time. Trump is itching to take out Florida Sen.

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Mayors rally at Tougaloo to support Hillary

By Chinyere Lavina Brown
Special to The Mississippi Link

The outcome of the Mississippi primaries shows that rallies like the one on March 3, at Tougaloo College were successful.

The Hillary for Mississippi supporters and volunteers joined mayors from across the state at the historic Woolworth Chapel on campus to launch its final stretch before the March 8 primaries to "Get Out The Vote" in Mississippi.

The Hillary for America campaign stop at Tougaloo College hosted mayors from across the state who came to show publically their endorsement of the candidate. They were introduced by Gloria Williams of the Hillary Finance Team.

Williams proudly pointed to her lapel pin announcing "I am a Hill Starter" as she announced that 54 mayors in Mississippi had endorsed Clinton for President.

Students and community residents joined the cam-

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Education career was the right move

By Judy Willis
Special to The Mississippi Link

Education is the focus of part two of this series. Stacey Aileen Donaldson, national board project manager at the Mississippi Board of Education is featured. She has chosen Irma Scott Griffith as her "shero" and Sarah Nicholson as a future shining star in the profession.

"I was a quiet child, afraid of speaking in front of people," says Stacey Aileen Donaldson. "Mrs. Griffith helped me overcome my shyness and rise above my fear. She saw my potential and was willing to put that extra time into me. She was a great teacher. She was my shero."

Irma Scott Griffith always went above and beyond the call of duty. A business education teacher at Bassfield High School, she molded her students

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