



## Myrlie Evers-Williams opposes airport legislation

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

The Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport bears the name of civil rights activist and pioneer Medgar Wiley Evers who was assassinated in his driveway in Jackson on June 12, 1963. Evers was the field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

On March 24, 2016, legislators in



**Evers-Williams**  
Myrlie Evers-Williams, is among many community leaders concerned about the future and direc-

tion of the airport that bears her late husband's name.

The state Senate already has passed the airport bill (Senate Bill 2162); however, both the full House and full Senate must approve an amended bill and send it to Gov. Phil Bryant for his signature to become law.

Currently, Jackson's mayor appoints the Jackson Municipal Airport Au-

thority's five board of commissioners. Board members set airport policy, and the chief executive officer manages its day-to-day operations. The author of the airport legislation, State Sen. Josh Harkins, (R-Flowood), believes a nine-member, regional airport board should control the Jackson-owned airport. If the bill passes, the state would appoint the majority of the new board members.

Evers-Williams said, "I learned from Mr. Carl Newman, the Jackson airport's CEO, that the airport is financially sound and being well-run. As such, I stand with CEO Newman and the Jackson Municipal Airport against any takeover of the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport by the State

*Airport*  
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## Sentencing delayed for Epps again

By Othor Cain  
Contributing Writer

Former Mississippi Department of Corrections Commissioner Chris Epps appeared again in federal court Monday before Judge Henry T. Wingate to learn his fate -- what he learned -- was that he would have to wait.

Wingate delayed sentencing Epps until July 18 because of bombshells dropped by the prosecution.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Darren LaMarca shared in court that his team has discovered nearly 16 additional contracts connected to the MDOC kickback-bribery scandal that took Epps down in 2014.

The new contract discoveries could increase the gross value to \$800 million from the initial \$300 mil-



**Epps**  
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## Morgan's career comes full circle

JSU grad inspires during journalism banquet



DeMarco Morgan was the keynote speaker at the JSU School of Journalism and Media Studies Student Recognition Banquet last Friday night. PHOTO BY CHARLES A. SMITH/UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

By Shanderia K. Posey  
Editor

Jackson State alumnus DeMarco Morgan offered tons of inspiration to the university's journalism students last Friday night as the keynote speaker for the Student Recognition Banquet.

The banquet marked the final event for JSU's inaugural School of Journalism and Media Studies Conference held April 7-8. The

conference theme was "Multimedia Platforms in the Digital Age" and several national and state media professionals shared their expertise with students on how to achieve successful careers in communication.

In her introduction of Morgan, Sylvia Watley, Special Projects Coordinator for the School of Journalism and Media Studies, said a perfect song to describe Morgan's

life would be "I Believe I Can Fly." "He is so real in his journey to living his dream," Watley said.

Morgan, a 2001 JSU graduate, dreamed of becoming a successful news anchor since he was a child. He was particularly interested and intrigued by the work of Dan Rather. Today, Morgan is a national correspondent for CBS news headquartered in New York. He's worked in Atlanta, Miami, Mil-

waukee, Wis., and for WJTV-TV in Jackson. Achieving his dreams didn't come easy.

His father died when Morgan was 10, so he grew up in a single-parent home. His older brother took their father's death so hard he starting getting into trouble — crime and drugs.

The Tulsa, Okla., native shared

*Morgan*  
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Founders of Students of Cinema Jaleesa Harris, (from left), Dashawna Wright, and Orionna Brumfield (far right) are shown on the set with Rob Jay of JSU TV, where they discussed their film, Season of Revenge, that will debut at 7 p.m. Friday.

## JSU Students of Cinema hosts first film fest

Special to The Mississippi Link

There are times when opportunities have to be created by people who will not sit around and wait for others to make them.

Three Jackson State University students — Dashawna Wright, Jaleesa Harris, and Orionna Brumfield — did just that when they became the founders of Students of Cinema in January.

Students of Cinema was established on campus to provide outlets for students interested in any aspect of filmmaking: writing, producing, acting and so on.

The founders are in the early stages of the organization, but that did not stop them from inducting the first members into the organization this semester to work on their first film, "Season of Revenge," and to plan their first film festival set for 7 p.m. April 15, at

*Cinema*  
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## Byram artist opens Crafters, offers paint classes

By Shanderia K. Posey  
Editor

What is faith?

Well for 23 year-old Brianna Graham of Byram, faith is leaving a full-time job to start your own business.

Graham, a naturally talented painter/artist, held a grand opening for her new store called Crafters April 9, in Byram. The store is located off Siwell Road next to Kroger.

"God just placed this on my heart to do ... and we need something in

Byram to do because we always have to travel so far to do things," Graham said. Around September of last year, she had the idea to open Crafters.

Crafters offers children paint parties and adult paint parties to celebrate birthdays or just a "girls night out." Children parties for those 16 and younger are \$10 per person and each child gets an 11 x 14 canvas to create artwork. Adult parties are \$16 per person and each



Brianna Graham is owner of Crafters in Byram that offers paint classes and paint parties for adults and children. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

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