

*Dear usmnews.net*

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Fyi...new USM president used the airplane and two pilots this past weekend to fly himself, wife, and his two kids to the Nebraska football game at a cost of over \$4400. Would be good to see that on the front page of the hattiesburg American.

Name withheld

Thanks for the heads-up [Name withheld]. We just asked for another Mississippi Open Records request to update the cost of N777AQ, USM's airplane. Given the \$4400 cost that USM put on its invoice, which is not the total cost they report on their internal records, the actual cost is approximately \$33,000. They use an inaccurate measure for public consumption of \$800 cost per flight hours. So, the flight was 5.5 flight hours; their actual costs have averaged (over the past several years) approximately \$6,000 per flight hour.

Local newspapers act in their interest, which they believe is tied to USM's status quo. In other words, reporters may be "tough" sometimes, they will never report the really hard news about USM.