

Rodney Bennett's Extravagance

Part 1 – 'Fly Me Out to the Ball Game'

Via a Mississippi Open Records Act request, usmnews.net recently obtained a large batch of documents from USM relating to USM president Rodney Bennett's university aircraft. This series provides analysis of these documents. This installment examines the 7-September-13 trip in the USM airplane made by President Rodney Bennett, Temple Bennett (Rodney's wife), Colby Bennett (Rodney's child?), Logar Bennett (Rodney's child?), Raylayni Branch (a local civil rights activist), and Anne Marie Chilcutt (USM's Student Government Association President). This little group flew over to watch the USM Golden Eagles football team compete (if one can call a 56-13 loss competition) against Nebraska in the season opener.

What was the cost of this fun little jaunt? And, was it worth it?

That's what you may want to consider as usmnews.net reports on the costs of N777AQ over the next few weeks.

The trip from Hattiesburg to Lincoln, Nebraska and back took 5.6 flight hours. The cost per flight hour as reported in USM's records is approximately \$6,712. (Where did this amount come from? It's simple. Just add up all the costs for the period and divide it by the number of reported flight hours.)

The total cost for this fun outing for the President of USM, his family and two others was:

$$\text{\$6,712 X 5.6 = \$37,587}$$

We can only hope they had a good time at the expense of taxpayers and students.

This flight you paid for is just one of many. We'll report more of them over the next few weeks. This expenditure signals the way President Bennett squanders taxpayer and student money. After all, it's not his money. So, it's easy to spend and it appears he is quite willing to enjoy every one of your hard earned dollars.