

Airport Authority hires new administrative assistant

By **RICK HAYES**

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MT. VERNON — Sheila Jolly-Scrivner, controller for Withers Broadcasting for 23 years, has been hired as the new administrative assistant at the Mt. Vernon Airport.

Following a short executive session on Tuesday night, the Airport Authority on a unanimous vote hired Scrivner, who begins her new duties on Thursday.

Scrivner, a resident of Bluford, resigned her position at Withers Broadcasting in September due to a family member with health issues. Scrivner said the family member has recovered well enough that she feels she can now

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return to the workforce. Scrivner is heavily involved in the local Girl Scout organization — a troop leader for Troop 8643 and serves as the Jefferson County service director.

Board Chairman Greg Martin said the Airport Authority received about 15 applications and narrowed it down to seven finalists. Interviews were conducted Tuesday through Saturday, except Friday, of last week.

“We had some outstanding candidates, especially the last five. They were of high quality,” said Commis-

sioner Gary Chesney.

Scrivner replaces Mary Barnett-Johnson, who submitted her resignation on Feb. 25, and accepted by the commissioners officially the next day.

Barnett-Johnson pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in February to the theft of government funds in the form of Social Security benefits from her deceased mother. Barnett-Johnson reportedly received \$85,353 in Social Security payments from August 2003 through September 2011. Her mother died in 2003.

Barnett-Johnson had been employed by the Airport Authority just shy of six years, according to Manager Chris Collins. 3-6-13