

# SEC JOURNAL

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## MIKE HAINSEY RECEIVES FAA AWARD

Mike Hainsey, executive director of the Golden Triangle Regional Airport, has been named the “2007 Commercial Airport Manager of the Year” by the Federal Aviation Administration Southern Region Airports Division.

Hainsey competed for the award with other managers of commercial airports around the Southeast.

The Airport Manager of the year award is presented to an airport director for exceptional aviation leadership and promotion of the aviation industry.

“Hainsey has led the Mississippi airport during times of phenomenal economic growth on and around the airport, ensuring proper growth without im-

pacting airport safety and operations,” according to an FAA press release announcing his award.

“Under his leadership, Hainsey administered over \$5 million in grants from federal, state and local sources to maintain and improve the airport infrastructure,” the press release continued. “He developed a comprehensive plan to ensure the existing and future infrastructure of the airport will meet the demand of the industrial boom in the Golden Triangle area of northern Mississippi.”

Hainsey manages all aspects of the airport operations including executive management, operations, safety, maintenance, marketing, administration, air carrier operations, general aviation, retail, re-

cruitment, economic development and community relations.

“Faced with nearly \$3 billion in industrial growth on and immediately adjacent to the airport, he developed a close working relationship with the economic developers for the three surrounding counties and was appointed to the Board of Directors of all three groups,” noted the FAA release. “This insured the airport was involved in all aspects of the development and helped minimize any negative impact of airport operations and safety.”

Hainsey completed all three phases of the Accredited Airport Executive program in less than six months, earning him professional accreditation by AAAE.

## FBI: MAN WAS KIDNAPPED AND HELD FOR RANSOM

Lakeland, Fla.—Somebody nabbed a Polk County man and is apparently demanding a ransom. Robert Wiles, 26, hasn't been seen since leaving his job at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport on April 1.

The FBI says his family was sent a ransom note two days later. The family complied with the demands, but Wiles was not returned.

Now the family is pleading with the kidnapers to contact them again. They are asking the kidnapers to use the same name the original note was signed with.

They are also offering a \$10,000 reward to the public for information pertaining to the case.

Wiles worked as a pilot at his family's business at Lakeland Linder Airport called National Flight Services. As a pilot, he flew all the time.

Neighbors say his apartment was normally very neat, but when the FBI came to search, it was a mess.

"It was very disheveled. Everything was out of place. Cushions were off the couch. Even on a bad day, I don't think that people just throw cushions off their couch, and say I am going on a business trip and I'll be back. It was a deliberate attempt for someone to find something. Paperwork was thrown all over the stairs when before, it was in an accordion folder," offered Brooke Holcombe.

Holcombe is Wiles upstairs

neighbor. They live in an apartment building on East Charles Street, not far from downtown Lakeland. She says she once went out to a club with Wiles and some of his friends.

"No pretention about him. He was just a very nice guy. He is the guy next door. In my case, the guy downstairs," she explained.

She noticed that he wasn't checking into his MySpace account and had left his porch light on for weeks. Then FBI agents showed up to question her.

The FBI is checking leads throughout Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and Thailand, but refused to discuss the case further.

## West Virginia Airports Get Federal Funds

No less than nine West Virginia airports are getting federal funding for runway improvements and other aviation-related projects of vital importance to the state.

U.S. Senators Robert C. Byrd and Jay Rockefeller say the Federal Aviation Administration has awarded \$1.9 million to Yeager Airport and \$65,174 to the Mason County Airport.

Upshur County Regional Airport in Buckhannon and the Braxton County Airport in Sutton also are receiving \$111,240 each—Upshur to build hangars and Braxton to install an updated instrument landing system.

The Wyoming County Kee Field Airport in Pineville will develop a master plan and install four new apron lights with its grant of \$188,575.

Marshall County Airport in Moundsville will receive \$142,490, the Elkins-Randolph County Airport will receive \$236,240 and the Barbour County Regional Airport in Philippi will obtain \$137,295—all to purchase property.

In addition to runway improvements, Yeager Airport plans to remove a hilltop currently obstructing a runway.

## BARTOW MAY OPERATE RESTAURANT

The City of Bartow may be about to get into the restaurant business.

Again.

Chris and Susie Scott, operators of the Flight Line Grill at Bartow Municipal Airport, have recently given notice to Airport Manager Cynthia Barrow that one way or another, they want to give up ownership of the restaurant.

The restaurant is located in Bartow Airport's beautiful, and relatively new, airport terminal building.

The Scotts have proposed three alternatives:

- Close the restaurant on either April 30 or May 31 and forfeit their deposit to pay the rent.
- Sell the equipment, furnishings and inventory they have purchased to the airport and

assist the airport management in keeping the restaurant running during a transition period.

- Consider any proposal that the city commission, sitting as the airport authority, might take.

The city already operates Mulligan's, the restaurant and bar at the Bartow Golf Course.

Commissioners have instructed Airport Manager Barrow to have a used restaurant supply house place a value on the equipment and furnishings at the Flight Line Grill and to explore ways of keeping the restaurant running either under private management or management by the airport.

The Scotts, who previously operated a much smaller restaurant at the airport for the convenience of industrial park tenants, said they have not been

able to make a financial success of the restaurant and bar that overlooks the runways at the airport and has a parking apron for pilots.

Mayor Brian Hinton, attending his last airport authority meeting, said the restaurant is an asset to the airport in that it offers service to both pilots visiting the airport and industrial park employees.

"There is a big advantage to having it here," he said. "The restaurant makes the airport a destination for pilots."

He proposed that the airport obtain an estimate of the value of the furnishings and equipment, purchase it from the Scotts and offer a lower lease rate for the operation of the facility.

## Airport Director to Retire From Jackson-Madison Co., Tenn.

Rodney Hendrix will retire from his position as executive director of the Jackson-Madison County Airport Authority on June 30.

Hendrix was appointed executive director of Jackson's McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport in 1987. He is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the airport, its annual budget, planning and obtaining federal and state funding for projects when

available and he is also responsible for administering those funds.

Hendrix says he has no specific plans for retirement at this time other than to enjoy spending more time with his family.

"Each morning when I wake up, I will write a plan for that day," he said.

In his 20 years at McKellar-Sipes, Hendrix has helped secure funding for the airport's air traffic control tower, extensive renovations to the terminal, a new entrance off Tennessee 223, a new area for corporate hangar expansion and he helped secure the Tennessee Army National Guard facility at the airport.

**Southeast Chapter—AAAE**

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**Sue Stevens, A.A.E., Takes Top Honor at  
Louisville Along With Hartsfield-Jackson  
Atlanta International Airport**

Susan M. Stevens, A.A.E., has been named Airport Professional of the Year by the Southeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives during its 2008 Annual Conference recently held in Louisville, Kentucky.

Stevens, Director of Airports in Charleston, South Carolina, was presented the award based on her accomplishments with the Chapter as well as the many planned improvements for the airports under her management that include Charleston International Airport, Charleston Executive Airport and Mount Pleasant Regional Airport.

Stevens has been with the Charleston County Aviation Authority for 20 years and was promoted to Director of Airports last year when Sam Hoerter, A.A.E., retired.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport was awarded Airport Project of the Year—Commercial Airport, for its Taxiway “V” End Around Project that has saved air carriers thousands of dollars in fuel costs and air travelers hours of taxi time. The project was considered by the judges to have a positive impact on world-wide travel.

Thanks go to Claudia Holliway with LPA Group, Inc., for spearheading the awards program.

**SAMA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
AWARDS 2008 SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Southeastern Airport Managers’ Association (SAMA) Educational Foundation, Inc., managed by the Board of Directors of the SEC-AAAE, has recently awarded its scholarships for 2008.

“Jeff Gray, A.A.E., has done a most outstanding job in chairing the Scholarship Committee for the SEC-AAAE this year,” said President Lew Bleiweis, A.A.E., during the Association’s most

recent Board of Directors’ Meeting. “His dedication to the process has never been exceeded, and I once chaired that committee!”

Mr. Gray was pleased to announce the recipients for this year’s awards that included:

- Dustin Danflous, Senior at Louisiana Technical University majoring in Aviation Management
- Kyle Dunbar, Senior

at Fairmont State University (WV) majoring in Aviation Management

- Braeden Kehoe, Senior at Middle Tennessee State University majoring in Aerospace/ Professional Pilot
- Timothy Smith, Junior at Eastern Kentucky University majoring in Aerospace Management

Considerable thanks go to Mr. Gray for his dedication to the success of this year’s scholarship program.