

SEC JOURNAL

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Terminal of the Future</i> | 1 |
| <i>Louisville Renovations</i> | 1 |
| <i>Airport Restaurant Makeover</i> | 2 |
| <i>Asheville Airport Gets Land</i> | 2 |
| <i>Nashville's Regalado Honored</i> | 3 |
| <i>Private Money to the Rescue</i> | 3 |
| <i>No Vote on Name Change</i> | 4 |

Special points of interest:

- If you missed the 2005 SEC-AAAE Annual Conference in Little Rock, AR, earlier this month, you absolutely missed one of the best conferences in Chapter history. Incoming SEC-AAAE President Tim Doll, AAE, served as this year's conference chairman and he and his team did one outstanding job. As one person said, "This conference wasn't planned, it was choreographed!" Over 200 members came to Little Rock to take in the sights, taste the (excellent) food and attend the workshops and seminars which all were well done and informative. The conference ended with the SEC-AAAE Great Race where the team "On Final Approach" won \$250 for racing through the streets of Little Rock on a scavenger hunt designed by David Jeffrey of Interactive Dynamic Solutions.

THE TERMINAL OF THE FUTURE

Older travelers may find lots to like in the nation's newest airport terminal that is opening in Fort Myers, Florida.

The \$438 million complex at Southwest Florida International Airport has hospital-sized elevators, additional restrooms, added seats in waiting areas, shorter walks from ticket counters to gates, and fewer moving sidewalks which, surveys show, make many older travelers uneasy.

The new terminal, which is twice the size of the one it replaces, may be the first anywhere specifically designed to anticipate the baby boomer retirement wave.

Thanks to a floor plan that uses "intuitive way-finding" logic, signs confirm you are headed in the right direction rather than present a list of possibly confusing choices. And electronic dis-

plays convey the same messages as the public address system for the benefit of those with hearing loss.

There are even such details as the shelf-like ledges that run underneath ticket counters so travelers in wheelchairs have a comfortable place to write or place travel documents.

We've definitely been tuned into the demographics of the community," says Steve Callaway of Tampa-based DMJM Aviation, Inc., which supervised the design and construction of the project. Callaway added, "I'd like to think that these features make it more comfortable for everybody."

In other Fort Myers news, the Lee County Port Authority is contracting with Interspace Airport Advertising to coordinate display advertising at Southwest Florida International Airport's new terminal.

nal.

Interspace Airport Advertising, a privately held company founded in 1974, works with more than 30% of the airports in North America. The company has held the advertising contract in Fort Myers' former terminal since 1989 and plans to introduce many new promotional opportunities in the new facility.

"Our goal is to create a community showcase that provides visitors with a good first impression of all the area offers," says Stephanie Conklin, local sales manager for Interspace. "In addition to wall sponsorships and scrolling and edge-lit signs in the baggage claim area, several Interspace Digital Passenger Assistance Service System (D.P.A.S.S.®) kiosks with touch screen technology will assist visitors to access information and make reservations for accommodations, restaurants and attractions."

\$26 MILLION AIRPORT RENOVATION COMPLETED

After 18 months and \$26 million, the renovation at the Louisville International Airport has been completed.

Mayor Jerry Abramson and airport officials recently rededicated the terminal and unveiled the refurbished Pegasus wire sculp-

ture the airport is known for.

Derby visitors will see a lot of changes since their last visit, including a whole new look throughout the airport and many upgraded facilities. Officials say you can see the changes the minute you step off the plane.

"We have six new regional jet gates with passenger boarding bridges and bag valets so passengers can get back and forth from the terminal to the plane without going outside," says Regional Airport Authority spokesman Phil Lynch.

AIRPORT RESTAURANT TO GET MAKEOVER

The Tri-Cities Regional Airport restaurant will be getting a much needed makeover in the next year.

"When it's done, it's going to be just wonderful," said Melissa Thomas, Director of Marketing for the airport. "It's going to be a huge improvement in service and will be a showcase to the area."

Starting in late July, the restaurant will close for renovations which are scheduled to be completed in early 2006.

The Tri-Cities Regional Airport Commission approved an operating agreement recently between the airport and restaurateur Staci Robinson. She and her husband, Eric, will operate a new Pizza Inn and a bar called Aidan's in place of the current eatery.

The new restaurant will be renovated at a cost of \$667,000, 90 percent of which will be funded through state grants.

The new facility will continue to be divided into three areas. The first will be a food court-style Pizza Inn with offerings for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The second area will be Aidan's bar, serving alcoholic beverages and snack foods such as chicken fingers. The third section, located in the rear of the restaurant, will be a waiting area with a fireplace and cushy chairs. Televisions and flight monitors will be placed throughout the space.

Renovations include replacing the acoustic tile ceiling, furniture, flooring and window treatments, updating the restrooms and changing the walls.

"The color scheme will be natural, with browns, greens and golds and stone accents to present a look in keeping with the mountain scenery," Thomas said.

According to an Airfield Development Committee Report, the goal was to "Incorporate a regional sense of place into the design."

In addition, the restaurant's entrance will have extra seating and a curved canopy for a more open appearance. It will seat 130 people when complete.

The restaurant will be closed certain times during the renovation period, but Thomas said officials hope to have some food options available during times of lighter construction.

SENATOR COCHRAN OF MISSISSIPPI ANNOUNCES SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS FOR GULFPORT-BILOXI

The Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport will be one of three airports in the United States to pilot the next generation of baggage screening technology. The airport will pilot the REVEAL CT-80 Explosive Detection System (EDS). The REVEAL CT-80 was certified by the Transpor-

tation Security Administration in December 2004. The CT-80 units will be delivered to the airport over a 30-90 day period.

The REVEAL CT-80 EDS uses Computed Tomography (CT) technol-

ogy.

The CT-80 is expected to replace the current generation of explosive detection systems. It provides advanced image resolution and the smallest footprint in size of any certified EDS device.

CITY COUNCIL TRANSFERS PROPERTY TO ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT

Asheville Regional Airport customers could see more parking or rental car facilities in the future according to David Edwards, A.A.E., Airport Director.

City Council voted recently to transfer more than 13 acres to the Airport Authority and the transfer comes at a good time for the airport which is experiencing growth in its passenger traffic. Traffic in January was up 39 percent compared to January 2004, Edwards says. Talks about how to use the prop-

erty are ongoing, but additional parking is becoming a need.

The Airport Authority will pay the city \$1.9 million as part of the deal, which includes two tracts along Airport Road. One, a 13.08-acre parcel, includes the site where the FAA tower is located and extends from Fanning Bridge Road almost to Hotel Drive on the east side of Airport Road.

The other tract, a 0.59-acre

parcel, is east of Airport Road and just north of Hotel Drive in front of J&S Cafeteria. Asheville will retain title to the property, which the airport will lease under the Regional Airport Authority agreement. The lease runs through 2017, Edwards says.

"I think we've got a great deal," Edwards said. "It will benefit the city as well as the airport."

REGALADO HONORED WITH STAR SPANGLED SALUTE

Raul L. Regalado, A.A.E., President and CEO of the Metro Nashville Airport Authority was the distinguished and sole honoree for the 2005 Star Spangled Salute, an event benefiting the Donelson Station Senior Center. The 15th Annual Salute was held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center and featured a reception, silent auction, live entertainment and personal video tributes.

"Easy Glider" served as the appropriate theme for the special evening, highlighting Regalado's vast aviation expertise, which includes holding a commercial pilot's license for fixed wing aircraft, helicopters and gliders. He was chosen for this prestigious honor by the Salute Committee because of his prolific community involvement and genuine interest and support of the Donelson Senior Center.

In his position, Regalado directs the overall planning, development and operations of Nashville International Airport

and John C. Tune Airport, a general aviation facility. He has more than 36 years of aviation experience, including 8 years in the private sector and over 23 years in the public sector. He is an Accredited Airport Executive through the American Association of Airport Executives.

"It is a good feeling to be a part of a community, but even better when you can help to make a difference in the community," said Regalado. "I am humbled by this meaningful acknowledgement and grateful for the fact that the Donelson-Hermitage Community embraced me immediately, has supported me and my efforts on behalf of the Authority, and continues their unwavering encouragement of the Airport staff as we strive to ensure Nashville International Airport is a unique and vibrant place through which to travel for all of Middle Tennessee and the Southeast region."

And the celebrations continue as

the Metro Nashville Airport Authority (MNAA) celebrates its 35th birthday.

The Authority recently spearheaded fabulously far out festivities honoring, and in celebration of, MNAA's 35 years of colorful service to Music City and the Southeast region. Amidst all the hoopla of the late 60's, airport authority planners envisioned establishing a system of self-financing governance that would assure all future Nashvillians a safe, efficient and modern airport. This progressive group, led by the late John C. Tune, drafted legislation to authorize the establishment of a non-profit corporation separate from Metro Government which was adopted by the State legislature in 1969. In April 1970, the Metro Council passed resolution 70-872 creating the Metro Nashville Airport Authority.

END IN SIGHT FOR AIRPORT PROJECT

Birmingham airport managers say the air cargo expansion project started in 2001 should be completed by the end of the year.

So far, \$19.2 million has been spent on the \$23.5 million plan to develop a new aircraft parking apron, new roadways and a new taxiway crossing Village Creek for a second

air cargo facility.

That the project's timeline has gone from 18 to 48 months has been a concern, but managers are pleased that the work hasn't left a huge dent in their budget.

With Federal Aviation Administration dollars assisting with the payments, the project has progressed as funding was allocated—hence the timeline.

"That's the price you pay when you can't get all the money at once," said Airport Executive Director Al Denson.

CITY ANNOUNCES PLANS AND FINANCING FOR NEW AIRPORT TERMINAL—PRIVATE MONEY TO THE RESCUE

Mayor Rick Baker recently announced plans for a new \$4 million intermodal general aviation terminal at St. Petersburg's Albert Whitted Municipal Airport, financed through Florida Department of Transportation grants, city matching funds and the generosity of a local aviation enthusiast.

In a November 2003 referendum, 73 percent of city voters overwhelmingly passed a measure to pre-

serve the city's historic airport. Since that time, city leaders have been working to improve the airport and pursue funding to build a new terminal.

The recent announcement came after the city received a commitment of \$3.2 million from the Florida DOT, which requires a 20 percent match, leaving the city with \$800,000 needed to complete the

project. Local philanthropist and aviation enthusiast John Galbraith has stepped forward with a \$400,000 non-refundable donation toward the city's match. Mr. Galbraith also pledged to provide the city with a \$3.2 million interest-free loan to allow construction to commence. Mr. Galbraith would be reimbursed over a six year period as the Florida DOT grants are released to the city.

Southeast Chapter Journal

Robert C. Brammer, Editor
SEC-AAAE
8712 Caspiana Lane
North Charleston, SC 29429

Phone: (843) 425-3878
Fax: (843) 225-1799
Email: secaaae@aol.com

We're on the Web at
www.secaaae.org

FOLKS AVAILABLE

S. Walker Gardner
2703 Arcadia Drive
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 251-9178

B.S. in Aviation Management from Louisiana Tech University.

GPA 3.0 on 4.0 Scale

Interned with Ruston Regional Airport, Ruston, LA in 2004

Experienced in data collection and organization for a flight school with a fleet of various Cessna training aircraft. Skills include problem solving, organization and recordkeeping, customer relations, computer use and repair, fiber optics, emergency medical knowledge (EMT) and firefighting.

Endorsed by Billy Simmons, SAMA and SEC-AAAE Executive Emeritus member.

NO VOTE ON AIRPORT NAME CHANGE

Despite about 2,000 signatures, there will be no vote.

Charles Evers gathered the signatures during a petition drive to add his brother's full name to the Jackson-Evers International Airport. City Council President Leslie McLemore said the council does not plan to put the name change up for a referendum.

"I'm simply asking you to revoke what you did and name it the Jackson-Medgar Evers International Airport. Please do that for us," Evers recently said to the

City Council. "If not, will you please put it on the ballot?"

The push to rename the airport after the slain civil rights leader started nearly a year ago. The council passed a compromise December 21 to use only the Evers surname amid concern from airport officials that taking Jackson out of the title might create confusion for travelers.

"We went on record as a council with a 6-0 vote to accept the compromise agreement," McLemore said recently. "I don't anticipate any

more posturing toward a change of that."

Ward 6 Councilman Marshand Crisler did not participate in the vote because he was in Iraq with his National Guard unit.

Charles Evers has been gathering signatures since the vote. "I've never heard of naming an airport without using the whole name," he said.

Evers added that no council members have supported his push for a referendum, but he plans to speak with each one individually.