

Hilton Head Airport looking to land a new airline

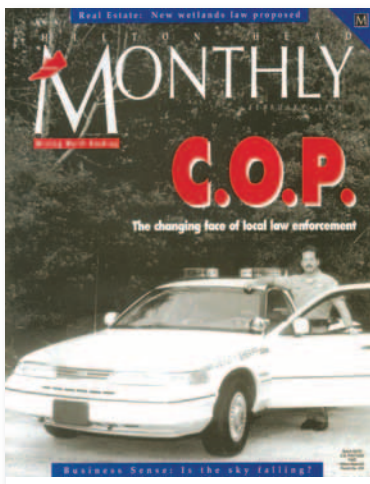
Following questions over U.S. Airways' continued presence at Hilton Head Airport due to the planned phasing out of the small turboprop 'Dash-8' jet, the Beaufort County Aviation Advisory Board is looking to attract one more airline to the airport. While the issue resolved itself with U.S. Airways' decision to keep Dash-8's flying to Hilton Head, that will only last until 2008. Board members believe another carrier flying to the airport would open up opportunities for flights to Jacksonville, Atlanta, and more to compete with Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport. The only hope at this point lies in finding a carrier still using Dash-8's, as a feasibility study to enlarge the runway and allow larger craft was struck down by popular outcry before it even began.

Lawsuit filed in St. Patrick's Day parade accident

A lawsuit filed by a Bluffton woman on behalf of her daughter alleges that an accident at the Town of Hilton Head's St. Patrick's Day Parade has left her daughter with back and neurological injuries. The accident in question occurred when a state employee allowed his 12-year-old son to drive a golf cart provided by the town for members of the parade foundation. The 12-year-old lost control of the cart, striking the plaintiff's daughter and pinning her against a tree. In addition to the city employee whose son was driving the cart, the lawsuit names the Town of Hilton Head and American Golf Corp., the company from whom the carts were on loan.

Bluffton police facility found to be substandard

An independent consultant, brought in to assess the condition of the Bluffton Police Department, gave the department low marks. The majority of the disappointing findings centered around the physical facilities in which the police department is housed, citing the fact that sharing a parking lot with M.C. Riley Elementary School and restroom facilities for prisoners with meeting rooms in town hall present several safety risks. Other issues addressed in the consultant's findings included lack of storage facilities, usable furniture, or radios in police cruisers. Perhaps most shocking was the use of a biological evidence freezer being used to chill buns and cans of soda. The department was praised for outstanding effort, training, and use of limited resources.



10 years ago this month in Monthly

The theme of our February 1994 issue was change, from the announcement of a new Del Webb Sun City 12 miles up the road to the growing trend of self-employment (particularly jobs involved in this newfangled 'Internet'). Another fresh face in February 1994 was Sheriff P.J. Tanner, featured in our cover story on new police techniques.

COUNTY/STATE NEWS

Columbia to make over its image

The Columbia Regional Branding Initiative is looking to citizens of our capital city for assistance in choosing the new slogan and logo for Columbia. By surfing over to www.columbiabranding.com, you too can decide between three options accenting different positive aspects of Columbia.

The first branding option, "New Southern Spirit," praises the city's Southern lifestyle and neighborly spirit, declaring it an example of a forward-thinking New South. The second slogan, "The Big Friendly," plays on another Southern city's nickname to acknowledge the friendly people and hospitable attitude of Columbia. The third slogan, "Now this is Living!" reflects the river, biking trails, and architectural beauty of Columbia.

U.S.S. Oriskany to become artificial reef

A joint proposal from Georgia and South Carolina to the U.S. Navy could result in a new home for countless fish. Upon retiring the 60-year-old aircraft carrier, the Navy announced that it would be used as an artificial reef. Besides the joint South Carolina/Georgia proposal, the Navy received requests came from Texas, Florida, and Mississippi for the ship. If approved, the ship will rest some 75 miles off the shores of Hilton Head and Savannah.

South Carolina receives poor report card

Several national report cards were released this month, and several organizations listed South Carolina as one of their lowest scoring states. The American Lung Association's report card, for example, looked at cigarette taxes, smoking in the workplace, youth access to tobacco laws, and funding for prevention programs to formulate their grade. The group awarded South Carolina F's in all categories for the second year in a row.

A national gun control advocacy group rated the state slightly higher, giving it a C in gun control. The low grade was due to South Carolina's lack of laws holding adults responsible for leaving loaded guns around children, requiring background checks on guns sold at gun shows, or requiring child-safety locks on guns. Other factors included the absence of handgun safety standards and the law allowing concealed weapons.

Emancipation Oak saved from developers

A local legend surrounding a tree in St. Helena Island saved it from the bulldozers laboring on the upcoming Sea Island Parkway. The tree, believed to be the sight of the first local public reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, was slated to be levelled to make room for the intersection of U.S. Route 21 and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. It was saved by a popular outcry that included a 200-name-strong petition and several organized protests.