Volunteer Experience Takes Off in Support of Kentucky Veterans

A little more than a year ago, a small group of students from Eastern Kentucky University’s Aviation Program arrived at Blue Grass Airport with the understanding they would be helping a local organization setup for an event to honor veterans. The instructions were simple: show up, volunteer for a few hours, and go home. Little did the students know, however, just how profound of an impact those few hours would have on their careers and ultimately their lives.

Each year, Honor Flight Kentucky flies hundreds of veterans to Washington D.C. for one day to see their memorials, at no cost to them. Veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War are all eligible to participate on the flights. The flights are widely viewed as a “once in a lifetime experience” for the veterans, many of whom have never received such recognition for their service and as it turns out, volunteers are often left with the same impressions.

“Honor Flight was an organization I had enjoyed working with for a number of years,” said Kyle Knezevich, Assistant Professor in the Aviation Program at EKU. “When the airport said they might have an opportunity to get students involved with their events, I couldn’t sign us up fast enough. The only question that remained was how the students would respond.”

(Continued Next Page)
“Honor Flight was an organization I had enjoyed working with for a number of years,” said Kyle Knezevich, Assistant Professor in the Aviation Program at EKU. “When the airport said they might have an opportunity to get students involved with their events, I couldn’t sign us up fast enough. The only question that remained was how the students would respond.”

That response, says Knezevich, has been overwhelming. To date, more than 100 aviation students have volunteered for the flights, which typically occur three times each year and can attract crowds of more than 2,000 visitors to the airport on top of their normal operations. That, according to senior Adam Ackermann, is exactly the kind of experience students need before they head off to a career in aviation.

“A lot of planning goes on beforehand to make it all possible. Parking plans and shuttles need to be arranged, crowd control in place, and coordination with TSA and the affected airline schedules can be tricky,” says Ackermann. “Being able to see and assist airport staff with this coordinated effort will help me when I work for an airport after graduation.” Ackermann is also the president of the student chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) at EKU, which coordinates the student volunteer efforts for each flight.

Once plans are in place, students organize volunteers and coordinate shifts to make sure that all of the event’s needs are met. On the day before the flight, the first students arrive at the airport to begin assisting with the setup of the terminal, which includes taking delivery of tables, chairs, and dozens of wheelchairs for the veterans traveling the next day. Travis Crilly, Operations Manager at the airport even notes how in some cases, students have taken on leadership roles for the event with little or no immediate supervision.
“Student volunteers have filled critical task gaps and even served in lead roles where they successfully managed specific special event positions with limited or no direction from airport staff. That helps our efficiency as a staff.”

When the day of the flight finally arrives, the veterans depart Lexington with little to no idea of the welcome home celebration that will take place when they return. As the afternoon sets in, the student volunteers begin to arrive and the work begins once again. The group has just hours to prepare for the veteran’s arrival and no details are left to chance. Teams of students are assigned to manage parking and shuttle operations while others work alongside airport personnel in the terminal to finalize the setup and welcome visitors.

Dustin Haubner, another senior aviation student volunteer and intern at the airport says which job they are assigned doesn’t make a difference, but the effort does. “No matter the job, it has been one of the most rewarding things I have done since I came to EKU. Alongside my peers, I have been able to give back in a very small way, to those who have done so much for our country. We would do anything for this group and these veterans”

Then it happens. The highly anticipated arrival is met with cheers and applause from the thousands in attendance. Family members of the veterans, local organizations, and members of the public all form a reception line the length of the terminal concourse where they display signs, salute, and shake the hands of the arriving
Christian Nelson, Operations Supervisor for the airport and a graduate of the EKU Aviation Program notes that while the students’ help with setup and logistics is important, they are also accomplishing much more in their efforts. “Many times the EKU students are the first and last seen by the attendees so their positive attitudes can make a lasting impression,” he says. “It makes our job much easier when we know we can always rely on EKU to be there.”

Once the celebration comes to a close, the students jump back into action assisting veterans and visitors back to their vehicles, stowing supplies, and getting the terminal spaces ready for another day of operations in the morning.

“They are smiling from start to finish,” says Knezevich. “No one has ever complained about the work because I think they understand what they are doing for these veterans. They take the success of this event personally and that is a powerful thing to watch.”

Looking ahead to 2020, the group already has their sights set on the next Honor Flight in May with the potential for even more next fall.

“It’s not about us, just about giving back to the community,” suggests Clay Rogers, one student has volunteered for each of the flights since the partnership began. “These men and women have done so much to keep our country free, it’s the least we could do.”

Honor Flight has also praised the partnership with the EKU student volunteers.

“No university has given Honor Flight more support than the students at Eastern Kentucky University,” said Jeff Hohman, President of Honor Flight Kentucky. “Their passion and patriotism has been an inspiration to all of us at Honor Flight Kentucky. We can’t thank them enough for caring for our veterans.”

For more information on EKU Aviation, visit www.aviation.eku.edu.

Published on November 11, 2019
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AVL'S BLEIWEIS NAMED AXN'S DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR, SMALL AIRPORTS CATEGORY

Airport Experience News is pleased to announce that Lew Bleiweis, executive director of the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority, which oversees Asheville Regional Airport (AVL), has been named its 2019 Director of the Year in the small airports category.

“The choice of Lew Bleiweis is an obvious one,” says Ramon Lo, publisher of Airport Experience News. “Lew’s time in the industry has been one of transformation. His tenure at AVL has been marked by strong passenger and air service growth, resulting in a transition for AVL from a non-hub to a small hub airport. In addition, he has worked with ACI-NA and AAAE to transform the industry for passengers as well as airport stakeholders.”

“I am humbled and honored to receive this award,” says Bleiweis. “I have dedicated my career to the airport industry – its growth, success, a focus on service for customers and the airport network’s importance to the national and global economy. It has been hugely rewarding to collaborate with consultants, concessionaires, tenants and others who are integral to the airport industry, and I have especially enjoyed sharing successes along the way with many talented, skilled and visionary colleagues. This recognition is meaningful and appreciated, and I look forward to many more years of exciting things to come for our industry.”

Bleiweis has more than 30 years of aviation industry experience, during which time he has focused on various aspects of the airport, such as airport management, properties, operations, maintenance, risk management and purchasing. Prior to joining the GARAA, Bleiweis served as the director of properties for the Louisville Regional Airport Authority.
Charleston airport wants to buy airspace near flight path to limit development
Charleston Post Courier

The state’s largest airport wants to buy airspace above nearby private property to keep development at bay. But the price, well, it’s up in the air.

Officials, Guests Wooed by Sneak Preview of New Fayetteville Airport Concourse Project
AviationPros.com

As he stood behind the podium and looked out at the audience of city officials and invited guests, Fayetteville Regional Airport Director Bradley Whited ...

Virginia Airport Prepares For Ebola’s Arrival
Vax Before Travel

The DailyMail.com article published on November 6, 2019, reported 'It's unclear if the Dulles Airport previously employed Ebola screeners.'.

You can go now go past security at three US airports without a ticket; here’s how it works
USA TODAY

You can do it a Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT), and you can do it at Tampa International Airport (TPA). Now Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County ...

Bringing your pet to Lee County airport terminals could land you up to 60 days in jail under new pet ...
The News-Press

Port Authority Executive Director Jeff Mulder told commissioners at that session that in the planned new expansion of the airport, a “pet relief area” ...

North Carolina’s PTI Airport targets aerospace, logistics
American Journal of Transportation (blog)

It must have been music to the ears of economic development and airport folks in the Greensboro-High Point area of North Carolina. Over the summer ...
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PRESS RELEASE

BNA’s Kreulen Named Tennessee Aviation Person of the Year
Only 4th Recipient Since Award’s Inception

NASHVILLE – November 4, 2019 - The Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame (TAHF) has recognized Nashville International Airport’s President and CEO, Douglas E. Kreulen, A.A.E., as “TENNESSEE’S 2019 AVIATION PERSON OF THE YEAR.” Mr. Kreulen received the award at the 18th Annual Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame Gala and Inductions Ceremony on Saturday evening.

The TAHF Board of Directors established its “Aviation Person of the Year” award in 2011 to recognize special accomplishments benefiting aviation in Tennessee. Mr. Kreulen is only the fourth person to be honored since the award was established.

TAHF Chairman Allen Howell, the CEO of Azure Flight Support at Smyrna Rutherford County Airport who presented the award, said: “Doug Kreulen has brought a special talent, leadership and a skilled management style to BNA that are invaluable as Nashville’s airport experiences this phenomenal growth. His communications savvy and tireless advocacy are benefiting our entire system of airports in Tennessee.”

“I am deeply appreciative for this recognition from the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame and am honored to accept the award on behalf of the outstanding men and woman at BNA who work each day to provide a great airport for our community,” said Mr. Kreulen. “Our goal is to provide a world-class experience to all travelers and build a bigger and better airport for Nashville and the region we serve.”

The evening concluded with the induction and enshrinement of the TAHF Class of 2019: Mrs. Deborah Baugh of Lebanon, Adventurer Steve Fossett (1944-2007) of Jackson, Mr. Scott M. Niswonger of Greeneville and Col. Ben J. Welch, USAF Ret. of Crossville.

The Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame was founded in 1997. The General Assembly designated it as Tennessee’s Official Aviation Hall of Fame and Repository & Archive for Aviation History in 2003 (TCA 4-1-326). Since its inaugural inductions event in 2002, 76 extraordinary individuals have been enshrined. Their bios reside in the institution’s website www.tnaviationhof.org

Contact:
Bob Minter, email: minter.bob@gmail.com, Tele: (615) 452-3696

The Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame has been designated by the General Assembly as our state’s Official Aviation Hall of Fame and as Tennessee’s Official Repository and Archive for Aviation History (TCA 4-1-326)

The Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame, Inc. is a non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to preserving Tennessee's aviation history, advancing aviation education, and to honoring those who have made extraordinary contributions to aviation and aerospace.

Federal I.D. No. 26-0122592

Tennessee Charitable Reg. No. 9540
North Central WV Airport on track for another historic year
WV News
BRIDGEPORT — North Central West Virginia Airport is on pace to see a record number of passengers by the end of the year, according to officials.

Louisville airport sets new passenger records on way to busiest year ever
Louisville Business First
The Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport maintained its momentum in the third quarter, setting new records for passenger traffic, the airport ...

Passenger Traffic Continues to Grow at ROA
AviationPros.com
The Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport continues to see 2019 traffic ... A.A.E., executive director of the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission.

SC airport employee, deputies create care package for 8-year-old suffering from rare illness
WRDW-TV
The care package started with Horry County Police Department collectibles. Then news about it quickly spread around the airport. Items from the Horry ...

Greenbrier tabs industry veteran to guide airport
Beckley Register-Herald
MAXWELTON — Pending fulfillment of a handful of technical requirements, the Greenbrier Valley Airport will have a new manager by the first of next ...
Sarasota-Bradenton Airport Opens Cell Phone Lot

Due to record growth, SRQ Airport has opened up a cell phone parking lot. The cell phone parking lot will allow people to park for free while they wait ...

Longtime Chesterfield County airport operator gets approval for expansion

Richmond.com

A longtime operator at the Chesterfield County Airport is building more hangar space to accommodate its growing business after a divided Board of ...

Lynchburg Regional Airport remains only city-governed airport in Virginia

Lynchburg News and Advance

Lynchburg Regional Airport is in the midst of pursuing a transition to an independent authority, a choice that would remove it from being a department ...

Washington DC's Dulles Airport hires Ebola virus screeners

New York Post

Is Ebola about to make a comeback? Washington Dulles International Airport has hired part-time crew to screen travelers for the virus, according to the ...

Those Bins in the Airport Security Line Are Germ-Infested Cesspools

Mental Floss

Here's something to add to your list of travel concerns: Those plastic bins that send your phone, shoes, and wallet through airport X-rays are teeming ...

10 Facts You May Not Know About National Airport

DCist

Tucked just across the Potomac from Washington, Ronald Reagan National Airport is hub of activity — especially with a $1 billion construction ...

Everything passengers need to know as new terminal prepares to open at New Orleans' airport

WDSU New Orleans

Passengers coming from west of the airport will take I-10 East and exit at Loyola Drive. Turn right at Loyola Drive and continue straight across ...

Leesburg Airport's Remote Tower Program Funded in Senate Bill

Loudoun Now

The first airport in the nation to use the technology, the remote tower system places cameras and other equipment all around the airport, but rather ...

Ocala International Airport's taxiway set to receive pavement upgrade

WCJB

Ocala International Airport's taxiway set to receive pavement upgrade ... so taxiway alpha is the last major paving project," said Airport Director Matt ...
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Airports are an invaluable part of a community. They play an important role in the vitality of an economy, and when well maintained, they land viable new businesses and tourism opening doors for communities to flourish.

With a jazzy fanfare, New Orleans' new airport terminal is open for business
The Points Guy (blog)
New Orleans' stunning new 35-gate, state-of-the-art terminal is open for business. Located on the north side of the airfield, the $1.3 billion, Cesar ...

Kenner police: At least 5 accidents on interstate caused by new airport terminal traffic
WDSU New Orleans
The Kenner Police Department said it responded to five accidents on the interstate Wednesday morning due to an influx of traffic near the new airport ...

Henry County to submit capital improvement plan to FAA concerning Atlanta Speedway Airport
Henry Herald
The plan was heard as part of a presentation at Tuesday's Board of Commissioners meeting given by Lynn Planchon, manager of the airport. The plan ...

Coastal Carolina Regional Airport to expand
WCTI12.com
Airport Director Andrew Shorter says the $81 million dollar project could mean more jobs and economic output, possibly doubling within 20 years.

The Airport Road Tornado: 30 Years Later
whnt.com
HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – November 15, 2019, marks the 30th anniversary of one of Huntsville’s deadliest days. Three decades ago, an F-4 ...
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Birmingham Airport to cut carbon emissions to net zero by 2033

The UK’s Birmingham Airport is committed to reaching a net zero carbon emissions target by 2033, placing more focus on zero-carbon airport ...

Sanford airport’s 1st air show in 25 years opens ticket sales nearly a year early

Tickets to the first air show at Sanford’s airport in 25 years went on sale Friday morning, with organizers offering a 40% Veterans Day weekend ...

RDU board’s lease of airport land for a quarry was legal, judge rules

The Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority acted legally when it approved a lease last spring that will allow a stone company to operate a quarry on 105 ...

Manassas Regional Airport Director discusses infrastructure improvement project

Manassas Regional Airport Director discusses infrastructure improvement project. Nov 8, 2019 | Local DVM, News · Manassas Regional Airport ...

Federal Agents Seize Thousands Of Counterfeit Backpacks, Purses At Dulles Airport

DULLES, Va. (WJZ) — Over $2 million in counterfeit designer backpacks and purses were seized at Dulles Airport. Over 3,000 items included knockoff ...

Hartsfield-Jackson relocates drop-offs for hotel shuttles, shared ride shuttles

Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport has relocated drop-offs for hotel shuttles and local and regional shared ride shuttles. The hotel shuttles and ...

Kissimmee Gateway Airport celebrates its 3 millionth operation

The Kissimmee Gateway Airport celebrated its 3 millionth operation reached on Nov. 1. The 3 millionth flight arrived at Odyssey Aviation on Friday, ...

Will Artificial Intelligence Replace Airport Security?

Checking travelers property at airports demands skilled staff. A startup will develop a proof-of-concept for an artificial intelligence (AI)-based object ...

Wings for All program takes off at Blue Grass Airport

LEX18 Lexington KY News
LEXINGTON, Ky. (LEX 18) — Close to 70 adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities gathered at Blue Grass Airport Saturday ...

Nashville Airport Displays Art Exhibit by MTSU Professor

rutherfordsource.com
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Allegiant Announces New Nonstop Service to Richmond, VA
Punta Gorda Airport
12, 2019 — Allegiant (NASDAQ: ALGT) today announces service to Punta Gorda Airport (PGD), from Richmond, Virginia via Richmond International ...

Myrtle Beach airport gets extended non-stop flight between Minneapolis
WBTW
MYRTLE BEACH, SC (WBTW) – Sun Country Airlines announced its extended non-stop air service between Minneapolis and Myrtle Beach for the ...

How Miami International Airport reaches—and teaches—harried travelers
Ragan Communications
Amid this nonstop cauldron of activity, the high-flying communications and digital marketing team at Miami International Airport saw an opportunity.

Small Tampa Bay area airports work to prevent fueling mistakes
WFLA
The FAA doesn't oversee the training or supervision of the maintenance technicians at these airports. The facilities are responsible for training and ...

Let's all go to the movies - at Miami International Airport
Stuck at the Airport
Miami International Airport (MIA) offers a quarterly screening series featuring contemporary art and image-making by South Florida-based...
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BNA Vision is transforming Nashville International Airport with expanded concourses and parking, new concessions and amenities, additional security screening and more.

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Shelby announces new Southwest Alabama Regional Airport
WKRG News 5
today announced that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has authorized a new regional airport in Thomasville, Alabama, for residents across ...

Dulles International Airport ranks among nation’s priciest
WTOP
Quarterly data from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics says the average domestic air fare at Dulles International Airport in the second quarter of ...

Orlando International Airport’s fast-growing homeless problem
WESH Orlando
Authorities at Orlando International Airport are struggling to deal with rising numbers of homeless people arriving at the airport, seeking ...

Boone County Regional Airport in Arkansas now better connected
KY3
But getting to the Boone County Regional Airport always was a hassle. "I usually go American. I always go to Dallas first because my kids live there, ...

Maness to Retire as Airport Manager — Again
Southern Pines Pilot
The Moore County Airport Authority has announced that airport manager Ron Maness, who has been a fixture at the airport for almost two decades, ...
Allegiant offers nonstop service to Florida airport for as cheap as $47 one way
WAVY.com
NORFOLK, Va. (WAVY) — Allegiant airlines has announced new flights out of Norfolk — this time nonstop to Punta Gorda Airport in Florida. The new ...

Charleston airport passenger count rises above 4 million for year through October
Charleston Post Courier
Charleston International is closing in on landing a new passenger record. Through the first 10 months of this year, South Carolina's busiest airport ...

How airlines are planning more perks for Fort Lauderdale fliers
Sun Sentinel
2 at the airport in terms of passengers carried, announced its move last month. Management said it will spend $250 million building a new campus ...

Horry County's sole air-ambulance company shuts down
wpde.com
Officials at several of the area's fire departments said they had been notified that ... cardboard boxes into several vehicles before driving away from the airport. ... Horry County Fire Rescue officials said the other three were based in ...

The TSA is planning to shoot down drones near airports. GOP congressmen say that's dangerous ...
Stars and Stripes
The TSA wants to give air marshals the power use Defense ...

Tech experts warn 'don't use public charging stations'
WPEC
But even he didn't know about the risk that comes with using public charging stations at the airport. ... of that you don't know what cord they're using there's a lot of unknowns there," says Experimax General Manager Josh Barnes.

The Top Five Least And Most Expensive Airports In the United States
Forbes
According to the new study, New York City's three airports are among the top five most expensive in the nation to travel through. Washington Dulles ...

Airport will reduce hours starting Jan. 1
The Winchester Star
The change is being made because the 24-hour operation sometimes stretches personnel thin, which can cause staff to delay airport maintenance ...

Atlanta Airport Among Most Expensive In Country, Study Finds
Patch.com
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport is ranked as one of the most expensive ... New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport came in second in the ....

JetBlue losing relevancy out of Ronald Reagan Washington Airport (DCA)
Captain Jetson Aviation & Travel News (blog)
While JetBlue is having success out of the New York area airports, Boston, and Orlando and Fort Lauderdale in Florida, the airline seems to be ...
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Charleston airport lays out holiday parking plan as new deck construction cuts into space
Charleston Post Courier
Charleston airport lays out holiday parking plan as new deck construction cuts ... To counter the crush, airport officials outlined a

Soaring to 25 years: City of Concord names airport after longtime mayor, celebrates 25 years
Independent Tribune
Concord-Padgett Regional Airport unveils new logo. CONCORD – When Concord initially planned to build an airport, it was met with mixed ... “City council and city manager leaders, they made those...

FAA moving airspace notices into the digital age
FCW.com
The Federal Aviation Administration is moving swiftly to consolidate and ... Abigail Smith, the FAA’s director of technical training, said NOTAMs consist of logistical ... In June 2020, the agency said its web-based NOTAM manager user ...

Grab & Go [11/18/19]: FAA Weighs Changes to Approval Process
Cheddar
The Federal Aviation Administration is considering changing its approval process for planes, in the wake of the Boeing 737 Max grounding. Kristen ...

20 things you're doing at the airport that you might not know are rude
Hartford Courant
It can be hard to know exactly how to conduct yourself in an environment you're unfamiliar with, especially one as confusing and stressful as the ...
This Is the Most Reliable Airport in the United States
msnNOW
You can't expect the same number of delays from every airport, though. The Wall Street Journal ranked America's 20 biggest airports to figure out ...

5 ways to avoid getting hacked when charging your phone at the airport
The Points Guy (blog)
These days, USB charging outlets are a crucial part of the modern traveler's routine. We look for them in hotels, Ubers, airport lounges, charging ...

Bojangles' open 2nd Charlotte airport store
QSRweb.com
Bojangles' franchisee, FDY, Inc. has opened a second location — this one in the Charlotte Douglas International Airport in North Carolina. The new ...

PHOTOS: Orlando International Airport Opens New Pet Relief Stations
News 13
ORLANDO, Fla. — Dogs on duty at Orlando International Airport now have a place to do their doody past security. The airport recently opened two pet ...

Orlando's Airport Undergoes a Major Star Wars Transformation!
Disney Food Blog
Okay, maybe they still will, but hey, we think they're gonna get a kick out of Orlando International Airport's new Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge decorations ...

The FAA wants to completely change how it certifies planes after it vouched for the Boeing 737 Max ...
Business Insider
The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been criticized for previously approving and vouching for the safety of Boeing's 737 Max before two ...

City urging state not to take control of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
MDJOnline.com
The city of Atlanta is hoping the state will not take control of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. The Atlanta City Council made that clear at ...

US officials question airworthiness of dozens of Southwest 737s
Beasley Allen
The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) gave Southwest a Jan. 31 deadline to complete safety inspections on 88 used 737s it purchased from ...

Yeager Airport announces nonstop service to Orlando International
West Virginia MetroNews
"This will allow people to fly nonstop to Orlando International which is more convenient and closer than Orlando Sanford," Yeager Airport Director Nick ...

First ice arena on the Treasure Coast could be built in Vero Beach
TCPalm
Their plans for an ice arena at the Vero Beach Regional Airport include ... and former New Jersey ice hockey coach and skating-arena...
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A growing population and a booming aviation program combined with economic growth make for a successful Auburn University Regional Airport.

Congressman Clay Higgins (R-LA) announced today that the Lafayette Regional Airport will receive an additional $5.5 million ...

The taxiway runs in front of the new terminal at the airport and is needed to help facilitate air traffic into and out of the new facility.

DeKalb-Peachtree Airport has launched a web-based noise complaint system that allows users to identify disruptive aircraft on live flight-tracking radar ...

The Daytona Beach International Airport was evacuated after a suspicious item, which turned out to be a bottle of lotion, was flagged Tuesday morning ...

Auburn University Regional Airport sees millions worth of improvements

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Clay Higgins (R-LA) announced today that the Lafayette Regional Airport will receive an additional $5.5 million ...
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