

The other deals of the year

WINNERS

Retail, office complex unveiled

Developers said they were looking past the troubled economy and positioning themselves for better times in announcing Ingle-side Plantation, a huge, mixed-use development near U.S. Highway 78 and Interstate 26 that will unfold during the next 20 to 25 years.

Hawthorne acquires AmVest

Charleston-based investment and management firm Hawthorne Corp. has acquired AmVest Capital LLC, a commercial real estate mortgage banker on Hilton Head Island.

Largest antitrust settlement

The antitrust group of the Nexsen Pruet law firm secured \$107 million for 17 textile and carpet clients in the settlement of a textile price-fixing lawsuit. The settlement is the largest in the law firm's history.

SCSU joins research schools

S.C. State University is partnering with seven other historically black colleges and Ohio University to boost biomedical research, promote faculty development and work with K-12 schools in the advancement of young black men.

Accounting firms merge

Three of the Palmetto State's oldest accounting firms joined forces on Jan. 1. McKnight Frampton CPAs LLC and Schleeter Monsen & Debacker LLP merged with Elliott Davis LLC.

Blackbaud renews lease

Charleston commercial real estate firm Coppedge & Tison helped Blackbaud put together a deal to keep the software company on Daniel Island for 15 more years.

NHC acquires assisted facilities

Tennessee-based National HealthCare Corp. purchased Trinity Mission Health and Rehabilitation of Charleston and Trinity Mission Assisted Living of Charleston for

\$13.25 million.

SCRA gets \$2M extension

The Defense Department's Strategic Interoperability Solutions program renewed the S.C. Research Authority's contract for a second year of work.

Real estate brokers join

Coldwell Banker United Realtors acquired Coldwell Banker Coastal Properties, Mount Pleasant's first Coldwell Banker franchise in business since July 2003.

China invests in Orangeburg

An investment group with ties to both the People's Republic of China and the Lowcountry revealed plans to create an "international city" of commerce in Orangeburg.

LOSERS



Al Parish's investors

The famed and oft-quoted flamboyant former Lowcountry economist now famous for bilking his clients out of millions cut a deal after pleading guilty and being sentenced in June. Though attorneys squabbled over how much of his investors' money Parish actually lost, the judge sentenced him to more than 24 years in prison. Yolanda Parish, his wife, cut her own deal with investigators in 2007, forfeiting any claims to the family's assets to shield herself and her children from any future litigation.

Santee Cooper spends \$650K

Santee Cooper paid a Charleston public relations firm more than \$650,000 to promote its green initiatives and sell the need for a new coal-fired power plant in



rural Florence County. Under the umbrella of creative development and consultation services, that price tag included creation of a Web site and execution of a survey, which cost \$57,000, to gather opinions on such topics as global warming, coal-fired power, energy demand, conservation efforts, utilities and environmental organizations.

Hard Rock Park's gamble

It didn't rock 'n' roll for long, but the \$400 million Hard Rock Park did make its mark as one of the early victims of the recession. Many wondered if HRP could recoup the amount invested in the rocking Myrtle Beach theme park. Now the park is on the auction block, up for sale after being open only a few months.

Boeing deals with the union

Lowcountry Boeing 787 supplier Vought Aircraft Industries halted work as the effects of the machinists' union at the Chicago-based plane company trickled down. A small number of Vought workers voted in favor of a contract between the company and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers days before the layoffs were announced.

No deal for Student Loan Corp.

Last year, Student Loan Corp. issued private loans valued at \$66.5 million to about 12,000 students, but the corporation hasn't secured a bond to pay for such loans since the \$180 million in bonds it issued in 2006, and this isn't the year to be issuing bonds. So the SCSLC is out of money and many students will have to pay for school another way.