

Balloons Over Mt. Vernon canceled

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MT. VERNON — The annual Balloons Over Mt. Vernon festival will not be held this year, said Mt. Vernon Airport Director Chris Collins.

Collins, a member of the Balloons Over Mt. Vernon Committee, said the committee decided to move the event

from October to May because of weather concerns. And since it wouldn't be feasible to get everything ready for this coming May, the event has been rescheduled to May of 2018, Collins said.

He added that weather has been a problem for Balloons Over Mt. Vernon. For four years, the event has been held in October and the bal-

loons have only been flown once because of high winds, Collins said.

"It just seemed too windy, no matter what we did," Collins said.

Mornings are also cold in October and the hope is that moving the event to May will encourage more people

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to come to the festival earlier.

Another factor in moving Balloons Over Mt. Vernon is that the airport this May will host about 500 motorcyclists for the annual Run for the Wall. This event, set for May 23, honors military service members and their families.

The motorcyclists will come through Mt. Vernon at around 12:15 p.m., get fuel on the west end of

town, and then eat lunch at the airport, Collins said.

"We're very excited to host this," Collins said.

The airport will still host Young Eagle rides for kids and the United Way Pancake Breakfast this October, just not Balloons Over Mt. Vernon. There may also be a car show and veterans reunion, Collins said. 3-16-17