

# New event may come to airport

## *Airventure Cup Race may begin late July*

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MT. VERNON — Another new event may be coming to the Mt. Vernon Airport late this summer.

Manager Chris Collins reported at Thursday's Airport Authority meeting the airport may be the starting point for the Airventure Cup Race the last weekend in July.

"This came about as a result of our Expo. It's amazing how esteemed our show is. It primes the pump to keep doing it," Collins said.

Although plans have not been finalized, Collins said the Race would start in Mt. Vernon and end in Wisconsin. The race will feature 60 to 70 airplanes of various sizes and horsepower.

"They would come in here on Friday night and stay through Sunday morning," Collins reported. "That's two nights of hotels and helping the local tax base." Collins said the airport would host an all-day open house to allow the public to view the planes, and Eagle rides will be offered.

"This is a prestigious event, and it's very positive for everyone affiliated with the airport. We are thrilled we have been presented with this opportunity," Collins said.

Collins also reported the Commemorative Air Force has requested

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the airport feature their Mitchell B25 World War II bomber during the week of Sept. 3-9. Commissioners approved expenses for hotel accommodations and a fuel fill-up.

"The good thing about this event is it coincides with our Midwest LSA Expo show," Collins said, noting the Expo will be held Sept. 5-7.

Collins also re-

ported the Rotorcraft Fly-In featuring gyrocopters will return in June, and the KR Gathering will be held in September.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioners approved renewing its annual health insurance coverage with Health Alliance, which was set to expire in May. Collins said with recent changes in personnel the airport realized an annual savings of \$345, although he noted advisers said the future is uncertain due to the Affordable Healthcare Act, and agencies like the airport could be hit with increases from 30 to 33 percent.

n Clay is on site but no work has been

done on the Innovation Park project due to wet conditions, Collins reported.

n Chairman Greg Martin recognized that former Airport Manager, the late Max Firebaugh, will be inducted into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame next month.

"It's a great honor for him and he's done a lot for the airport," Martin said. 4-12-13