

Airport Board talks balloons

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MT. VERNON — The Airport Board discussed balloons at Tuesday's board meeting at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

"Things look really good, the weather looks like it's going to cooperate," said Airport Board Manager Chris Collins. "Balloon festivities are on track. There will be about 18 hot-air balloons on Friday night for the glow, and then we got the V.I.P. deal inside the A1100 hangar which is going to be facing all the balloons that are going

to be stood up and glowing just east of the runway."

Collins also mentioned there will be a 5K hosted at the airport at 7 a.m. Friday.

"This is actually very unique," Collins said in reference to the course mapped out for the 5K.

Collins said the course is set up so that runners will hopefully get a chance to see the hot-air balloons fly in to the airport in the morning and will be able to see them setting up by the pond on the grounds of the airport.

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Collins also reported he expects a large turnout for the United Way pancake breakfast, which

is also a part of Balloons Over Mt. Vernon.

Collins continued saying Young Eagle rides will begin at around 9 a.m. and will fly until 4 p.m.

He also said there will be R/C boat races at 9 a.m. as well.

"The St. Louis R/C Boat Club and the Evansville boat club are all coming, and this is the largest field they've ever had with over 170 boats registered," said Collins.

In other news, Collins said he put the brakes on

an electrical upgrade in the Innovation Park on the airport grounds.

Recently, it was found out a transformer needed to be moved before a building could be built for tenant use.

"I put the brakes on

this because there is a lot more work that needs to be done than any of us thought," Collins said. "The tenant situation is kind of variable, and I didn't see the need to go full throttle on it right now."

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