

Airport finishes the year in the black

BY JASON SILVEY
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — As the Little Egypt Fly-In and Veterans Reunion gets under way today, Mt. Vernon Outland Airport is celebrating another successful fiscal year.

Airport manager Chris Collins said Friday that he and the Board of Commissioners received the results of its annual audit this week.

"Jim Leuty from Krebbiel and Associates presented the audit. It was a good audit," Collins confirmed. No major findings or deficiencies were found in the airport's finances or its cooperation with auditors.

"We got some really nice comments," Collins noted. "This is the third consecutive year that the air-

port has successfully operated in the black. Of course, we all work hard to increase revenue and keep expenditures as low as we can."

One new source of revenue is the lease of space for the new headquarters of the American Red Cross Mid-Southern Illinois Chapter.

Collins explained the Red Cross offices consist of "all new construction inside the existing terminal" and is considered a finished



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project.

"It looks like they'll be moving in Wednesday," he said.

Some of the expenditures include the continuing list of maintenance and improvements to the airport's facilities, such as the taxiway overlay project.

Collins said, "We'll be having a preconstruction meeting next Thursday, and we hope to have the project done before Thanksgiving."

On Friday, airport officials were busy making final preparations for the Little Egypt Fly-In and greeting the pilots who had arrived that afternoon.

"We've got two big planes on the ramp already, and the P-51 Mustang will be back this year as

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well," Collins said.

For 12 years, the event has been a popular attraction for serious aviation enthusiasts, veterans and families. One major activity is the free Young Eagle plane rides for young people ages 8 to 17.

A flag ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. today followed by a keynote address for the veterans reunion.

The Little Egypt Fly-In and Veterans Reunion is also part of the many events going on today as part of the first-ever Southern Illinois Harvest Festival.

jsilvey@morningsentinel.com