

# Wilkey's returns to airport

Cafe to reopen April 22 under management of Donnie Wilkey

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MT. VERNON — The retirement of one restaurant owner will bring the return of another long-standing restaurateur to the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

Joyce Gillespie, owner of Grandma's Landing restaurant in the Koziara Terminal in the Mt. Vernon Airport, retired at the end of March, information states. Wilkey's Cafe, which was previously at the airport for three to four years, will reopen on April 22 under the management of Donnie Wilkey.

"The Board of Commissioners directed me to locate another restaurant operator (as soon as possible)," said Airport Manager Chris Collins. "The logical choice was Donnie Wilkey. Donnie is like family at the airport and will fit right into place on 'Team MVN,' our collection of airport tenants. Along with

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seeing increased foot traffic at the airport, I am especially excited about working hand in hand with Donnie and his staff to promote and draw more business to Mt. Vernon from outside Jefferson County."

Wilkey is currently operating a buffet-style restaurant in Belle Rive. He said the Mt. Vernon Airport restaurant will offer similar choices.

"We'll have something different every day," he said. "We'll have a fish special on Fridays, frog legs and pork chop specials on Saturdays. Otherwise it'll be mixed up every day."

Wilkey said he has been in the restaurant business for 58 years, including previous time at the Mt. Vernon Air-

port. "I'm excited about coming back," he said. "We've got some great people to work with now."

He said renovations to the restaurant are including ex-

tensive cleanup and improvements to the kitchen area, but he will maintain the military design of the seating area that was already established.

Wilkey praised the airport for celebrating and honoring veterans with its museum of military history and the Hall of Honor, mentioning that his father was a drill sergeant.

"It's really nice," he said. "You can tell that they have been putting some time into it. I'm sure the older veterans down there enjoy being honored."

Wilkey's Cafe will be

open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday, information states, with Friday night seafood buffets, Saturday night steaks, and a Sunday "after service" buffet available. In addition to the buffet, Wilkey's will offer hosting of banquets, parties and gatherings. 4-8-11