

Bonnie Cafe estimates reopening July 19

The date is tentative and people are encouraged to check the Bonnie Cafe Facebook page

BY JOSH JONES

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MOUNT VERNON — During the recent meeting of the Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners, an update was given on the progress of the Bonnie Cafe renovation project.

According to Sentinel archives, the popular local restaurant is in its fourth year of operations inside Mount Vernon Outland Airport. Bonnie Cafe also has locations in Bonnie, Centralia, Nashville, West Frankfort, and a site in Missouri.

The project includes the addition of new buffets, new salad bar, dessert bar, tables, chairs, outdoor seating and an ice cream machine as well as making adjustments to include more seating. The project began on July 5. Bonnie Cafe is a family owned and operated restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner all day long. In addition to a variety of menu items, the restaurant also features a daily buffet with changing entrees and sides.

Please see **Cafe**, Page 2A



Submitted Photo

BONNIE CAFE RENOVATION — This is a photo of the Bonnie Cafe at Mount Vernon Outland Airport near the beginning of the renovation project. The renovation of the Bonnie Cafe is expected to be completed by July 19.

Cafe:

Continued from Page 1A

Airport Director Chris Collins said flooring work began on July 12 and that customers are going to be impressed when Bonnie Cafe reopens.

"We shut the restaurant down Wednesday morning, July 5, and there must have been 30 people working in there," Collins said. "Had five different speciality contractors working inside there and it was really a sight to behold. It looks beautiful in there."

Manager of the Bonnie Cafe Brian Hubbard said that he is very happy with the renovation work at the Bonnie Cafe.

"It will be a big surprise," Hubbard said.

Collins said that the Bonnie Cafe's target reopening date is July 19.

"New flooring, new tables, new chairs, new buffet tables, four new matching buffet tables, spectacular views of

the airfield with walls being removed, we are hoping to make it a lot easier to get in and out," Collins said. "We hope it is going to be an open and inviting atmosphere and combine that with Bonnie Cafe's reputation of great food and great service. We are all excited and can't wait to welcome everybody back."

Hubbard confirmed that as of Friday morning they were on track to reopen Wednesday, July 19.

"I think we are going to make it, the buffets are being set ... the ice cream machine has been delivered," Hubbard said. "The flooring people are in here (and) are finishing up their stuff, construction is finishing up their stuff and we will have all weekend to get the tables and chairs situated. So I think we will make it."

General Manager for the Bonnie Cafe Shawn Hubbard said that while they still plan to have their fried chicken on the buffet every day, people can expect changes.

"There are a lot of new changes on the buffet. We

are going to do frog legs on Friday nights, crawfish boil on Saturday nights and then on the breakfast buffet we are going to have a cook out front, if you order the buffet it will be eggs cooked to order or omelets cooked to order," Shawn Hubbard said. "There are going to be a lot of changes on the menu. It is not going to be the same every day thing that we used to have, it will be changed daily."

Brian Hubbard said that they want to welcome everybody back to see the new remodel. He said that they hope to create 225 plus in seating, not counting outdoor seating.

"Want to fill the place up, let everybody see the new remodel and hope to see a lot of new faces out here," Brian Hubbard said.

The target date is subject to change. To stay up to date on information, people are encouraged to follow the "Bonnie cafe — Mt Vernon il — 100 aviation drive mt vernon" Facebook page. People may also call at (618) 242-4070. jjones@morningsentinel.com



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NEARING COMPLETION — Work has been ongoing on the renovation of the Bonnie Cafe at Mount Vernon Outland Airport. Tentative estimates have Bonnie Cafe reopening on July 19.