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Marion Co. Relay for Life set

Plans are taking shape for the 2025 Marion County Relay for Life, that will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Marion County Fairgrounds in Salem. 8A



DIY Books opens in MV

Dale and Brittney Vaughn recently opened DIY Books at 104 N. Ninth St. in Mount Vernon. The location that features new and used books opened on Sept. 1. 6A



Carlyle falls at Lawrenceville

Carlyle falls to host Lawrenceville in a Thursday night contest involving teams both nicknamed Indians. The game was moved from Friday to Thursday, due to a mixup with officials. 1B

Cleared for takeoff

Midwest Aviation Expo comes to Mount Vernon Airport

BY TRAVIS MORSE

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MOUNT VERNON — Aviation enthusiasts from across the country flocked to Mount Vernon this week for the Midwest Aviation Expo at Mount Vernon Outland Airport.

The three-day event takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4; Friday, Sept. 5; and Saturday, Sept. 6. There is no admission fee and all are welcome to attend.

As part of this year's celebration, roughly 40 air-

craft-related vendors are on hand, and a wide variety of Light Sport Aircraft and other kinds of planes are displayed across the Mount Vernon Airport property. There are also demonstration flights, seminars, products and services, daily doughnuts and a fish fry for exhibitors.

"Well, I come every year (so) I think highly of it," said Craig Williamson of St. Louis, a customer and aviation enthusiast who was at the expo on Thursday. "I just like the vendors and the seminars. Chris (Collins, airport director)

seems to be able to get really good speakers to come in, so I come to support that as well."

Thursday was the first day of this popular event, and organizers were pleased with the warm, but not too hot and humid, weather. Organizers are estimating that about 750 to 1,500 people will attend the event over the three days, with

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Sentinel Photo/TRAVIS MORSE

CHECKING OUT THE COCKPIT — Robert Harris of RT Aviation LLC, RIGHT, points out some of the controls in the cockpit of an ATEC Faeta plane during Thursday's Midwest Aviation Expo at Mount Vernon Outland Airport. Also pictured is customer Billy Cooper.



Sentinel Photo/TRAVIS MORSE

MANY AIRCRAFT — A wide variety of unique aircraft were on display Thursday during the first day of the three-day Midwest Aviation Expo at Mount Vernon Outland Airport.



Sentinel Photo/TRAVIS MORSE

VISITING WITH VENDORS — Travis Gholson, of Carmi, LEFT, visits with vendor Walter Boyd of IFly EFB during Thursday's Midwest Aviation Expo at Mount Vernon Outland Airport.

Aviation:

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most of them being from across the U.S. and Canada.

One of the aviation vendors on hand Thursday was Robert Harris of RT Aviation LLC. This is the second year his company has been at the expo. He said that the Mount Vernon event is special because most of the customers who come to the event are looking to test fly and/or buy an airplane.

"So when we come here, this is kind of like the cherry on top of the cake of all the other air shows, because most everybody that comes to this actual fly-in is here to test an airplane that they have been looking at buying for a year or two," Harris said. "So whenever they show up, they actually have a desire to purchase. So they're showing up, they're like, 'hey I've seen this one on YouTube, I've seen this one on various social medias, can I take a look at it, can I sit in it, can I do everything?' So this is kind of the opportunity for that to happen."

Daniel Gill, a pilot with Piston Aviation, said Thursday that it was great to see all of the different kinds of planes displayed at the expo.

"I've heard of a lot of these planes," Gill said. "It's nice to see them in person. I've seen websites of most of them, but I've never actually seen them in person."

Gary Olsen of Wisconsin said that this was his second time coming to the Midwest Aviation Expo.

"I'm a flight instructor and I'm interested in the light aviation side," Olsen said, later adding, "It's just a really comfortable environment, I got to talk to people who actually design airplanes, as opposed to some of the bigger shows that, you know, are just hordes and you can't hear anyone."

The expo offers free admission, parking, camping and ground transportation. And while it is geared toward those in the aviation industry, the general public is also encouraged to come to welcome the many out-of-towners in attendance, officials said.

For more information, contact Mount Vernon Outland Airport.