

Airport receives repairs

BY ARRON HUSTEAD
for the Index

Kirkville Regional Airport soon will undergo some changes.

The airport will spend about \$666,000 on various maintenance and upgrading plans during the next couple of years. About a half-mile of Ameren U.E. power lines that run along Highway 63 on the north end of the runway will have to be buried in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration guidelines. Right now they are in the clear zone.

"That could happen possibly as early as next year, maybe the year after," airport director David Hall said.

Although the project is estimated at about \$165,000, the Missouri Department of Transportation could end up spending as much as \$200,000 on the repairs. Pilot Craig Shorten said he will feel safer once the power lines are buried.

"It's never been a factor," Shorten said. "I've been flying in and out of [Kirkville] for 15 years, but it's nice to know that they're not there."

The airport also will establish an 8-foot-high fence around the airport in an effort to prevent wildlife from enter-

ing. The fence will cost an estimated \$350,000. The airport also will purchase new snow removal equipment, which will cost about \$100,000.

MoDOT upgrading plans haven't yet begun, but the airport is working on the routine maintenance of the taxiway and runway signage and the installation of new lighted wind cones. These projects will cost \$51,000, 95 percent of which will be funded by the Airport Improvement Program.

After a shaky couple of years, the airport is maintaining a steady amount of passengers. Hall said that on average, there are three or four passengers on each flight.

"We average about 300 [passengers] a month," Hall said. "That's just for the flights to Kansas City. On the Chicago flights, there's just a handful more."

According to the Federal Department of Transportation, prices cannot exceed \$200 a passenger because Kirkville Regional Airport is an essential airport service, which is an airport that is more than 150 miles from the nearest medium hub.

"If you are consistently over

that figure, then you might lose the service," Hall said. "It is a constant battle to remain under that. The ridership has not been as good as we would like to see it."

The airport is trying to increase ridership through advertisements. The city of Kirkville provides \$10,000 annually for the airport's advertising.

In 2007, Kirkville administrators spent the money exclusively on television advertising but might start advertising in radio and newspapers as well. An ad hoc committee determines how funds will be spent.

"This year the committee made a special agreement with KTVO to provide a year's worth of advertisements," said Steve Bell, director of community services. "Next year we want to develop a different strategy to cover all the bases and reach a different audience."

The airport also will try to increase awareness in other areas of the region as well.

"We have identified that some of the surrounding communities in this region aren't aware that we have commercial air service, and I'm talking about Edina, Memphis, Lancaster, Unionville, Milan, Macon and Moberly," Hall



Phil Jarrett/Index

An airplane gets ready to taxi last spring at the Kirkville Regional Airport.

said. "We want to promote the service to those communities, make them aware that we have commercial service to Kansas City and on to wherever through this airport. We're going to be hitting some of the service club meetings and do some programs and try to better promote that service."

In April the Index reported that the airport was considering dropping Chicago as a destination, but the service to Chicago currently is active.

"That actually was a decision by the Department of Transportation," Hall said. "The decision

didn't have anything to do with our community. It had more to do with Quincy and some of the other cities that Mesa serves in Illinois. Great Lakes Aviation has been chosen to start service in those communities."

Great Lakes will begin sending flights to Chicago on Nov. 10.

"The Department of Transportation decided that they wanted Mesa to continue to serve those cities until Great Lakes could get up and running," Hall said. "After that, our service to Chicago will probably stop."

The airport stays busy as pri-

vate planes use the runway too. "We have about 34 airplanes here coming and going as they please," Hall said. "We get a fair amount of fuel transit traffic as well."

Junior Jeff Cox said he would like the airport to offer a larger variety of destinations.

"I would be more likely to use the regional airport if they offered more commercial flights to places I want to go, such as Des Moines or St. Louis," Cox said.

Hall said the airport is not looking to add any new destinations in the near future.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

All Banquet frozen pot pies have been removed from grocery store shelves, leaving room for other brands.

Pot pies linked to food poisoning

BY SHELBY HIGGINBOTHAM
Staff Reporter

Pot pies could be causing salmonella poisoning.

ConAgra Foods, Inc. voluntarily issued a recall Oct. 11 on all varieties of Banquet frozen pot pies and all in-store brand pot pies after being contacted by state health officials. U.S. Department of Agriculture officials were concerned that the pot pie products might be associated with a salmonella outbreak.

With the cooperation of the USDA, ConAgra contacted all stores selling Banquet frozen pot pies and in-store brand pot pies, according to a statement issued on the ConAgra Web site. The company informed managers to immediately remove products from shelves. Store brand pot pies include Hill Country Fare, Food Lion, Great Value, Kirkwood, Kroger, Meijer and Western Family.

The release also stated that pot pie production at the Marshall, Mo., plant was stopped and that consumers were directed by the media not to eat these products while the USDA investigates.

The customers who had purchased the pot pie products were told to dispose of them and return the packaging to the store

at which it was bought for a full refund, according to the release.

Consumers also have the option of cutting out the UPC code from the package and mailing it to ConAgra Foods in Omaha, Neb., for a refund.

In Kirkville, both Hy-Vee and Wal-Mart have taken action to keep consumers safe by removing all products from the shelves.

"On Friday, after I was contacted by the company, we pulled the recalled product off the shelves, which was the direction we were given," said Brad Neely, Hy-Vee manager of store operations.

Neely also said ConAgra instructed Hy-Vee to hold the pot pie products in a contained area after they were removed from shelves.

"[ConAgra] may want to buy them back to run testing on, or they may just decide to destroy the pot pies," Neely said. "Until I find out, we have them on hold."

Doug Nichting, store manager of Wal-Mart, said the store has destroyed all products and filed a credit against the manufacturer.

"This process is very thorough, and we don't have any products on the shelves," Nichting said.

Both store managers said they hadn't fielded calls from consumers expressing

health concerns.

Sophomore Elizabeth Esry said she had eaten the Banquet frozen brand recently, along with the Great Value brand, which is sold at Wal-Mart.

"I probably eat, at the least, two pot pies a week," Esry said. "I love them."

Esry said she thinks ConAgra has handled the situation appropriately, although if anyone is suffering from salmonella poisoning because of the pot pies, ConAgra should offer to pay for medicine to treat it.

"I ate a pot pie before I knew it was recalled, and I did feel a little sick, but it also could've been the lo mein that I ate at Centennial," Esry said. "I hope it wasn't from the pot pie."

Esry said her main concern was that she receives a full refund for all of the recalled pot pies she recently purchased from Wal-Mart.

"I have about 17 pot pies in my freezer now, and I would like to see my money from them reimbursed," Esry said.

If consumers who have eaten these frozen pot pie products begin to experience the symptoms of salmonella poisoning, or if they have any questions, ConAgra advises that they call its toll-free question hotline or visit its Web site for additional answers, according to the release statement.

Index Classifieds

Rates:

- On-Campus: \$3 per ad per issue. Less than 25 words.
- Off-Campus: \$5 per ad per issue. Less than 25 words.

660-785-4319

Deadline: Monday by 5 p.m.

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For Rent: Behrmann Rentals now is taking applications for the 2008-09 leasing season. I will have available for rent: 2-, 3-, 4-, 5- and 6-bedroom houses just blocks from campus and all with plenty of off-street parking. These are well-maintained homes with stoves, refrigerators, washers and dryers, air conditioning and many updates. I will have under construction a new two-bedroom duplex to be completed by May 2008 also. Call 626-7598 and ask for owner-agent Jeff Behrmann or visit www.housesinkirkville.com for more information.

For Rent: Get on the list now for best selection! Now taking applications for "White Apartments" and other locations. 1-, 2-, 3-, 4- and 5-bedroom places. Call 627-2060 or submit online application at KirkvilleAptRentals.com.

For Rent: Renting nice two-bedroom house for next semester (available sooner if needed). 1 1/2 blocks from campus. Washer and dryer. Call 660-341-6947.

For Rent

For Rent: Attention, professional students: Multiple high-quality two- and three-bedroom modern apartments with countless amenities currently available for May 2008 and August 2008 leases. Locations are all in established "safe" residential/rental progressive areas of the city. These beautiful complexes are all electric (no gas price fluctuation or asphyxiation worries) and are geared for professional, conscientious individuals who place a high emphasis on safety, privacy, and an attractive surrounding less than a five-minute commute from campus. Please call 626-7695 for details. Student references gladly given on request.

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For Sale: Like-new Gateway laptop with HP Deskjet printer and carrying case. 1.6 GHz Intel dual-core mobile processor, 100 GB

For Sale

HD, 15.4" widescreen ultrabright display, wireless card and DVD-RW drive. Also includes Windows Vista, Spy Sweeper and Trend Micro Antivirus 2007. Purchased in May for \$1,200. Only asking for \$850. Call Jean Richardson 665-8255.

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Wanted

Wanted: Disabled person NEEDS personal computer, requests DONATION (unable to afford a computer). James, 516 E. Jefferson, Apt. C, Kirkville, Mo.

Wanted: Classified ads. Send in your classified ad of 25 words or fewer. Campus rates

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only \$3, local/national rates only \$5. Ads exceeding 25 words cost an additional 25 cents/word.

Miscellaneous: Can We Know God? "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." John 17:3

Lake Road Chapel, 22963 Potter Trail Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m., lakeroadchapel.org. Call 660-349-0766.

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Miscellaneous: Make money. Change the world. MU EYE VISTA AmeriCorps program recruiting for entrepreneurship projects throughout Missouri. Information session: Tuesday, Oct. 23 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in SUB Georgian Room A. Call 573-884-8150 for more information.