

Airlines compete for contract

New changes could include online ticketing, more flights

BY SHIHARA MADUWAGE
Staff Reporter

Several airlines have made proposals to become the new air service provider for the Kirksville Regional Airport. The airlines include the current air service provider Air Choice One in addition to Cape Airlines, Charter Air Transport and Pacific Airlines.

Airport Director David Hall said Air Choice One's current two-year contract will expire in July and the Department of Transportation will have to choose a new air carrier or renew the existing contract. He said the deadline to submit the proposals is Friday.

"I have received inquiries

from four airlines that have told me that they will submit proposals," Hall said. "We are asking those air carriers to come to Kirksville, and we are asking them to do [a] presentation about the company."

He said DOT already has scheduled dates for three of the airlines to do presentations this month and that the fourth airline will present in the near future. He said the final decision would be made by the DOT, which will consider recommendations from the community.

"There are several factors that will dictate who [the DOT] would choose," Hall said. "In theory, DOT will probably make a selection next month and expect services to start Aug. 1."

He said one of the components the airport has been trying to implement is online ticketing, which the current pro-

vider does not offer. However, he said that in the near future Air Choice One might implement it and two of the other companies that have submitted proposals possess this ability already.

Hall said that apart from the ticketing component, the current provider has provided solid and dependable service with very few cancellations or other problems.

He said two of the carriers have suggested that there would be three flights daily instead of the two the airport currently offers. He said this depends on the subsidy provided by the DOT for the company.

"The more frequency, [the] better the connectivity," Hall said. "So that is good news for me."

He said the current ridership is around 2,500 annually, and that the goal is to increase the ridership. He said that ideally, the airport would have about 4,000 riders annually. However, he said that compared to the past, there has been a steady increase in the ridership in the last few years.

"The more frequency, the better the connectivity."

David Hall
Kirksville Regional Airport
Director

University reinstalls pumps

Student Senate supports repainting University fountain

BY SHIHARA MADUWAGE
Staff Reporter

With the weather getting warmer and the sun shining brighter, the cool jet of water spouting from the fountain in the Mall is a refreshing sight. Workers from the Physical Plant reinstalled the plumbing and turned on the fountain last week, but some students want more.

Physical Plant director Karl Schneider, said the University encounters problems with the fountain every year and has to do some maintenance on it at least once a year.

He also said that the Physical Plant will replace the damaged bricks around the fountain, but will not redo the bricks completely because it would be a very large project.

"It is not in very good condition," Schneider said. "It probably should be done, but no one has the money to do it."

Jerry Findling, manager of the Student Union Building, said the only time the fountain does not work is when the pumps are out and the weather is too cold. He said the weather conditions and the wind are big factors that determine the condition of the fountain.

"We pull the pumps out in the winter time, so [they have] to be put back in," Findling said. "Usually, we don't put the pumps in until April 1."

He said they have to wait until the weather is above

freezing to put the pumps back in and start the fountain. They did not have to do any other repairs to the fountain system this time, and they have not lost any pumps.

"There were no ongoing problems," Findling said. "Just time and weather."

Findling said the fountain usually is turned on at 8 a.m. and is turned off around 8:30 p.m. He said the University also turns it on for special occasions on campus, such as visit days, graduation and Homecoming and the SUB management sometimes colors the water to make it look more appealing.

"On occasion, [the fountain] has problems," Findling said. "It takes a while to clean it. It needs to be cleaned at least once a week. More so, blowing leaves get into it."

He said there was no external cost involved in reinstalling the plumbing this time except for the labor for the Physical Plant. He said it took two plumbers and an electrician to put it together.

Findling said the Physical Plant will do more work on the bricks later in the year.

He said the fountain is an asset to the University, although it is expensive to maintain. He said it would be very helpful if the students aided in maintaining the fountain.

Junior Lauren Robertson, student affairs chair for the Student Senate, said she wrote a resolution to support the repairs and possibly the repainting of the fountain. Senate passed the resolution.

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Jerry Findling
Manager of the Student
Union Building



Bo Burasco/Index
Student Senate favors painting the fountain, but Physical Plant Director Karl Schneider said this is unlikely due to cost and maintenance.

not look very good anymore," Robertson said.

She said she is concerned about the bricks that are falling off and she thought that if it is repainted, it would make the fountain look more attractive when it is turned off.

"A paint job would look really cool," Robertson said. "What I envisioned was what is on the bookstore website, which is a computerized picture of the fountain. Something like that would be awesome."

Findling said repainting the fountain will not happen anytime in the near future unless the University finds a paint that can last for longer than a year. He said that the last time the painted the fountain, it cost \$4,000.

"[The paint] does not last long enough to make up for the cost involved," Findling said. "It is very costly but does look nice. But there is

"We are doing the best we can," Hall said. "Hopefully, perhaps the air carrier, whoever it would be, will step up and help with some of the costs. But that is our hurdle — to get people aware of the service and get them to use the service."

He said he is optimistic about this year because with the four proposal submissions, they have a better choice than they had with the two submissions at the previous airline carrier turnover.

City Manager Mari Macomber said the community is in the process of viewing presentations for each of the carriers.

Macomber said the carrier has to meet guidelines from the DOT. She said the DOT requires a \$200 per passenger cap, which is part of the contract.

"[Ridership] has increased, but they are still not what they need to be to bring the subsidy down," Macomber said.

She said the most significant improvement the airport is hoping to make is providing Internet access on the planes for the passengers.

NEWS | In Brief

Truman Institute offers summer course

Alumni, faculty and community members can participate in the first annual Taste of Truman June on 11 to 13. The event, sponsored by the Truman Institute, offers two extended courses, classes that meet for three hours June 11 to 12, and eight great lectures, 90-minute classes. The program costs \$125 and participants receive one extended course, four great lectures, two breakfasts, two lunches and a brunch. Participants also can stay on campus for an additional fee. For more information go to www.institute.truman.edu/taste.asp.

Football player to give presentation

Football player Willie Franklin will give a presentation called "Give Me the Heart of a Servant" at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the SUB Georgian Room. The former NFL Rams and Colts player lived in New Guinea for eight years and now speaks to college students, urging them to make and maintain spiritual goals and commitment.

Bike riders to raise money for trails

The Moonlight Bike Ride and Walk will be from 9 to 11 p.m. Saturday and will start at the Northeast Regional Medical Health and Fitness Center. The cost to bike is \$25 and walking is \$14. Proceeds will benefit the Forest Lake Area Trail System. Bikers will travel 12 miles through Kirksville trails and streets, and walkers will walk 4 miles from the starting point to the downtown Kirksville area. Snacks are provided for participants. For more information, contact Brenda Snider at 660-665-7703.

Relay for Life to honor cancer patients

The American Cancer Society will host Relay for Life from 6 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Saturday at The Crossing. Those without a team are welcome to come and go as they please while enjoying entertainment, games and food, as well as honoring and celebrating those who have fought cancer.

Students celebrate Earth Week

Earth Week will come to a close this weekend during the Earth Week Festival, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday on the south side of the Courthouse Lawn on The Square. Faculty, students and community members can enjoy music and food while meeting with representatives of campus and conservation organizations.

Group asks for essay submissions

The Office of Citizenship and Community Standards invites students to submit an essay about how Truman's community values have been important in their University experience. Two people will win a \$100 gift card to the Truman Bookstore. Essays must be 500 words or less and must be submitted by April 26 to www.conduct.truman.edu.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Student Senate passed a resolution to support a Purple Friday event Aug. 27.
- Student Senate passed a resolution commending Interim President Darrell Krueger for his service at Truman.
- Student Senate passed a resolution updating the athletic field usage policy.
- Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$600 to help Hillel bring speaker Mark Elliot to campus April 26.

Crime | Reports

- 4/18 Freshman David McDonough received a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants.
- 4/18 Freshman Matthew Stokes received a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants.
- 4/19 Freshman Loren Richter received a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants.
- 4/19 Sophomore Luke Aten received a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants.

WWW.TRUMANRENTALS.COM

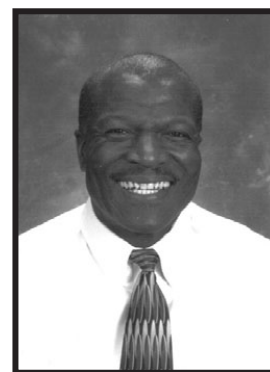
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**Ekklesia and the Kirksville Church of Christ present:
Willie Franklin Former NFL Player**

**Wednesday, April 28
Georgian Room,
Truman SUB
7:00 PM**



**Greatness through Service
"Give me the Heart of a Servant"
Ekklesia.truman.edu**