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The Evening Star

Tuesday

June 5, 2007

Airport to host June fly-in, auction

By Jenny Kobiela

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AUBURN — The DeKalb County Airport will host a fly-in and auction Sunday, June 3, the DeKalb County Board of Aviation Commissioners heard Friday at its monthly meeting.

Dave Nelson of Kruse International told the board that up to 500 aircraft could converge on the airfield for the event. Kruse International will join with Vintage Aircraft Chapter 37, the Hoosier Air Museum and Victory Aviation to sponsor the event.

A pancake breakfast from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. will be served by the Hoosier Air Museum. At 1 p.m., Civil Air Patrol cadets will present opening ceremonies.

Kruse International will conduct an aircraft auction beginning at 1:30 p.m. A Stinson Grasshopper airplane from Dallas is expected as the featured aircraft in the auction. Nelson said approximately 25 aircraft will be auctioned.

Vintage Aircraft Chapter 37 will help make the event safe for visitors, informing arriving pilots about radio frequencies and procedures and keeping visitors away from propellers and other dangers.

"Safety first, but fun will be second," Nelson said.

Victory Aviation, the airport's fixed-base operator, will provide remote fueling, wireless Internet access and restroom facilities.

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A shuttle provided by the Hoosier Air Museum will allow visitors to move between the museum and the airport terminal. Kruse International will provide shuttles to other local museums.

The board authorized airport manager Russ Couchman to sign a licensing agreement for the event.

"This is an exciting event," said board vice-president Jeff Turner.

Also Friday afternoon:

- The board discussed plans to install a 10-foot security and wildlife control fence around the airport. The fence would control access to the airport by large mammals such as deer. The fence must be at least 25 feet from any structures or trees on the outside of the fence, as well as 577 feet from the edge of the runway and 350 feet from the end of the runway. The total cost is estimated at just over \$1 million. However, much of the cost will be reimbursed through a grant, leaving a maximum local expense of approximately \$60,000, according to board member Paul Shaffer.
- The airport will host a hangar -expansion open house and ceremonial first flight of the Instrument Landing System Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- The board approved a tentative budget to send to county officials, with the right to submit a final budget after the June 22 meeting.
- Attorney Jim McCanna told the board he would send a proposed lease for Victory Aviation to board members for review this week, then send the lease to Victory Aviation's attorney, Shannon Kruse, for her review. He said he expects to have the lease ready for the board's June 22 meeting.

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