Barkley Regional passengers down amid concerns over outbreak

BY BRUCE SCHREINER

Passenger traffic out of Barkley Regional Airport is down significantly as more and more people are urged to stay home and limit in-person contact to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“At the moment, there’s only about a handful of passengers flying,” said Dennis Rouleau, airport executive director, on Wednesday.

“We’re still operating, because our flights are Essential Air Service (part of the government-subsidized national air service program). However, we’re seeing a significant drop in passengers,” Rouleau said.

Rouleau noted that flights to seeing a 25% to 30% drop in traffic. The airport executive said that flights were increased to every two hours, to ensure that all passengers had access to transportation. The airport also has increased the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting the equipment and facilities.

Rouleau added that the airport is working with the state and federal agencies to ensure that passengers and employees are protected during the pandemic.

**TABLE FOR NONE**

The city of Paducah is taking steps to replace the Buckner Lane Bridge over Crooked Creek, located near the Buckner Lake Circle Intersection. Ordnances related to the project are expected to be on the March 31 commission agenda, including a design services agreement with BFW Engineering & Testing Inc. Bridge replacement could help relieve some of the area's flooding.

**Buckner Lane Bridge eyed for replacement to relieve flooding**

BY KELLY FARRELL

The city of Paducah is taking steps to replace an old Buckner Lane Bridge that runs over Crooked Creek, which could help relieve some of the area's flooding.

It's part of a larger project in Paducah's comprehensive stormwater master plan that starts near the Buckner Lane and Hansen Road intersection and extends to the Buckner Lane and Pyron Drive intersection. City Engineer Rick Murphy said the bridge falls within those limits.

The bridge, near the Buckner Lake Circle intersection, was affected by flooding and severe weather during the last two years. Kentucky Transportation Cabinet reviewed the bridge and rated it in poor condition.

The city applied for FEMA funding on the bridge project, and FEMA obligated near-$530,000 in federal funds with the state matching it with 75% deterioration.

KYTC identified two wooden piles under the bridge and rated it in poor condition. The city applied for FEMA funding on the bridge project, and FEMA obligated near-$530,000 in federal funds with the state matching it with 75% deterioration.

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**Forecast**

By Derek Opell

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**Area eateries dealing with impact of COVID-19**

BY DEREK OPPEL

Area eateries are struggling to stay open amid the ongoing pandemic.

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