



SAM OWENS | Gazette-Mail file photo

Tyler Kirk, a hired contractor, works to remove the engineered materials arrestor system, known as the EMAS, on the runway at Yeager Airport in July. All but four blocks of EMAS were to be removed as workers began to repair damage from last March's landslide.

Yeager overrun rebuild halted for winter

By Rick Steelhammer
Staff writer

More than 300,000 cubic yards of material have been removed from the safety overrun area at Yeager Airport that collapsed last March, but another 200,000 cubic yards still need to be hauled away before work can begin on rebuilding the safety feature and reopening a portion of Keystone Drive that remains covered by the landslide.

"The job is currently shut down for the winter," said Terry Sayre, Yeager's executive director. "We anticipate getting back at it in March or April, depending on the weather."

When earthmoving crews resume their work on the slide in spring, they will be operating about 240 feet below runway elevation.

The final phase of landslide removal is expected to cost about \$200,000 to design and engineer, followed by about \$900,000 in earthmoving expenses. How the airport will pay for the work before insurance settlements are completed and lawsuits are adjudicated remains to be seen.

Sayre said he is hopeful that the state Division of Highways will accept a project work order already authorized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that would cover the cost of the DOH removing 100,000 cubic yards of the remaining slide debris covering Keystone Drive and its right-of-way.

"This alone would save us



CHRIS DORST | Gazette-Mail file photo

EMAS blocks at the end of the runway at Yeager Airport were removed last fall as part of the repairs.

Once the overrun area is restored to its original elevation, the FAA is expected to pay for the installation of a new EMAS zone.

some substantial funds even if we match that FEMA grant 25 percent, which we have offered to do," Sayre said.

In January, the Charleston airport received a \$318,615 disaster relief check from FEMA to help recover from the slide. That check could be applied toward the final earthmoving bill, Sayre said.

Once the safety overrun area is restored to its original elevation, the Federal Aviation Administration is expected to pay for the installation of a new EMAS (engineered materials arresting system) zone at the western end of Yeager's main runway, since its previous EMAS bed had been approved for replacement.

Yeager's first EMAS system was installed in the safety overrun area in 2008 at a cost of about \$5 million. Less than two years later, it was credited with bringing a regional jet carrying 34 people at a speed of about 65 miles per hour to a safe stop during an aborted takeoff attempt.

Reach Rick Steelhammer at rsteelhammer@wvgazette.com, 304-348-5169, or follow @rsteelhammer on Twitter.



Courtesy photo

This rendering provided by Putnam County Schools shows what the new Buffalo High School stadium will look like when finished.

Buffalo begins work on football stadium

By Laura Haight
Staff writer

Buffalo High School is beginning construction on a new football stadium, which will be completely finished in three years, school officials said.

Athletic Director Pat Clark said the new facility will be more convenient than the school's current stadium.

That venue is located at the old high school, now vacant, which sits down the road from the new high school that was built in 2012. For the past four years, the football players have had to lug their gear down the road before a game and haul it back to the school after. Teams use the old school as their dressing room instead of having locker rooms.

"The facilities are old. They work, but I don't know when that school was built," Clark said. "Visitors are dressing in the old dressing rooms. That building is now vacant — there's not much maintenance that goes on in the building."

The new stadium will take care of these issues, Clark said.

Darrell Moore, Buffalo's softball coach, went to the Putnam County School Board in September with administrators to get the stadium project started.

As a Buffalo High graduate, he was thrilled when the new high school was built, but saw the need in the community for a new football stadium.

In addition to the existing stadium being inconveniently located, he also said the track is sloped and doesn't have the correct radius. The new regulation track will have eight lanes; the current track only has six.

"I think it's fantastic," Moore said. "I think it's going to be state-of-the-art and I think it will be one of the top facilities around. We're taking our time with it."

Moore said he hopes local businesses, such as Toyota, will consider donating funds to the new facility. He said the new stadium will be used for more than just football, and can host other events such as concerts, Special Olympics events and band competitions.

The construction on the new stadium has already begun, with grass planted and the grade on the field complete.

According to Clark, the new stadium will have seating to accommodate 2,500 people, a concession stand for both home and visitor sides, a new press box, state-of-the-art LED lighting, new locker rooms, a new weight room and an eight-lane track surrounding the field.

School officials have projected the facility to be completed in three phases. The first phase is field grass, the bleachers, the scoreboard and the press box, which is expected to be complete by the end of 2016, Clark said.

"It's a long shot, but we're hoping to be able to play some of our football games later in the 2016 season at the new facility, but it won't be fully finished," Clark said.

By the end of 2017, the school hopes to have the locker rooms and weight room complete. Clark said the decorations and concession stands will be completed by 2018 if all the other phases go as planned.

To help fund the new facility, the school has started a "Buy a Brick" program, where alumni or community members can buy a brick for \$100 with their name or a message on it. The bricks will be laid in front of the stadium when it's finished.

Clark said he's received positive feedback from students, their parents and the community.

"They've embraced it really well," Clark said. "The kids are asking every day, 'When's it going to be done? Am I going to be able to play on it before I graduate?'"

Clark said the construction for the stadium is at a standstill right now because of the weather, but they hope to resume building once the weather warms up in March.

Until the new stadium is built, student athletes will continue playing at the old football stadium down the road.

Reach Laura Haight at laura.haight@wvgazette.com, 304-348-4843 or follow @laurahaight_ on Twitter.

Route 66 is site of rapid transit battle

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A proposal to build a system of express buses and canopy-covered stations along historic Route 66 in Albuquerque is drawing opposition from shop owners.

Some business owners fear the \$119 million project could cost them customers and eventually their livelihoods because the plan risks destroying the historic charm of the popular area, the Albuquerque Journal reported this month.

"This is something that's going to ruin one of our cultural jewels, our reputation and our tourism," Nob Hill Music owner Steve Schroeder said.

Mayor Richard Berry said the project is an investment that will spur development along the corridor and get people on buses that will mimic light rail.

"This is something that we've studied extensively

with some of the best transit minds in the world," Berry said. "They tell us it's going to be a net positive, or we wouldn't be doing it."

Under the plan, pedestrians would enjoy wider sidewalks and new landscaping, and the bus would offer free Wi-Fi internet connections to passengers.

Transit stations would be in the middle of the road. Passengers would buy their tickets at kiosks, reducing

the amount of time the bus has to wait for people to board.

Jean Bernstein, CEO of Flying Star Cafes and Satellite Coffee, said business owners don't believe the project will create the economic boost promised.

The Obama administration announced Tuesday it had included Albuquerque's \$69 million project in its 2017 budget.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Davey Tree Company
2192 Winfield Road
Winfield, WV 25213
304-345-8733

Attention: Construction Industry

37th ANNUAL **expo**

WEST VIRGINIA **CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN EXPOSITION**

Charleston Civic Center

March 23 - 24 2016

The Region's Largest Trade Show for the Construction & Design Industry

Free Online Registration

WVEXPO.COM

Great opportunities to network with the industry's finest.

WEXFORD VILLAGE AT DEVONSHIRE

LUXURY APARTMENTS - NEW PHASE OPEN MARCH 2016!
Direct Access, Indirect Access & Detached Garages*, Granite Counters, Stainless Steel Appliances
*Limited availability

NOW LEASING - Schedule a Hard Hat Tour & Enter to Win \$500 Gift Card!

Resort-Style Amenities: Clubhouse, Fitness Center, Pool, Hot Tub, Movie Theater, Tennis Court, Sport Court, Tot Lots & More!

98 Devonshire Drive, Scott Depot, WV 25560 | (304) 757-1270 | LiveatDevonshire.com

CATHCART GROUP