

Drones remain concern for airport

By NEIL YOUNG The Daily News | Posted: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 12:39 am

BULLHEAD CITY — “It’s still a hot topic, for sure,” said Jeremy Keating, Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport director, regarding the danger drones pose to aircraft.

He said to his knowledge, there have been no reports of any close calls with aircraft using his facility.

He said he receives a lot of calls from people who say, “ ‘I’d like to fly my drone either today or tomorrow. What do I do?’ And so, we then forward them to our air traffic control tower to coordinate,” Keating said.

“Those folks are not going to be the ones that cause (problems). It’s going to be the ones that don’t know the rules or don’t understand that they have to call us,” he said.

The Federal Aviation Administration reports that the registration of drones has increased. “That’s a good thing,” Keating said.

Drones over 0.55 pounds must be registered. Anyone flying a drone within five miles of an airport must give advance notification to the airport.

Drone manufacturers are introducing software that detects if the drone is near an airport and won’t allow it to take off without approval from the airport. “And that’s the technology I think will eventually get into all drones,” Keating said.