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FEATURED

## Sioux Center firm to run regional airport

Lana Bradstream lbradstream@nwestiowa.com Jul 28, 2018 Updated 6 hrs ago



Work continues on the Sioux County Regional Airport near Sioux Center. Construction of hangars at the airport is ongoing. The goal is to have everything operational in November.

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**SIOUX CENTER**—The business that is going to be in charge of operations at the Sioux County Regional Airport south of Sioux Center has been named.

It is Air Flair of Sioux Center.

Chris Van Ginkel, a pilot and marketing director for Air Flair, said they are preparing to make the move from the airport northwest of Sioux Center to the regional site. The plan is to have the regional airport operating sometime in November. However, he said, that depends largely on the weather.

After the relocation occurs, the airports now in operation will cease. Van Ginkel said one of the requirements put forth by the federal government was that the Sioux Center and the Orange City airports would shut down.

“The government is paying a lot of money for the regional airport,” he said. “It’s cheaper to operate one airport rather than two separate ones.”

The regional airport will be the biggest between Sioux Falls, SD, Sioux City and Spencer, and Air Flair will be running the show as the fixed-base operator.

The FBO will provide fuel for aircraft, do routine maintenance and repairs to aircraft, offer charter flight services and flight instruction, provide hangar space for businesses and individuals, and maintain the entire facility, including clearing snow and mowing grass.

“We were hired by the board to manage the airport,” Van Ginkel said.

Everything that Air Flair was able to do at the Sioux Center Municipal Airport, it will be able to do at the regional, but better, he said.

More office space will be available, so desks will not have to be shared. If an area business wants to charter a jet, that option will be available. The Sioux Center Municipal Airport did not have enough hangar space or runway length to accommodate such requests.

“We will be able to provide people with what they want,” Van Ginkel said. “With a larger shop, we will be able to do deeper maintenance. We might be able to do painting.”

Once the regional airport opens, the marketing director said two grand openings are planned.

The first will be at the official opening with government officials from Sioux Center, Orange City, Sioux County and the Federal Aviation Administration represented, along with engineers and crews that helped construct the new airport.

“We are hoping to have another next summer with maybe a fly-in pancake breakfast and an air show,” Van Ginkel said. “It would be nice to do something like that.”

Getting everyone together for the last hurrah would be fitting as Van Ginkel said it was a collaborative effort to build the regional airport.

“It is a great thing to see people come together — two cities, the county — to get something they can use and everybody can benefit from,” he said. “This will be really good for us and good for the whole area. So many people will benefit.”

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