



By Tim Linscott

Managing Editor

Grant City Administrator Dana Harris has been a bit busier than usual lately.

She normally visits the municipal airport just outside Grant often, but has been there daily in preparation for the open house on Saturday.

Harris explained that there has not been a fly-in or open house for several years and the time just felt right to let the public know about all of the new and exciting things going on at the airport.

"It is a good time to have people come out, look at the airport, see what goes on out there and appreciate the airport," Harris said.

Two major additions to the airport that will be on display will be the new hangars and the new fuel pumps.

The new fuel pumps offer plane fuel and utilize a 24-hour credit card payment system. Jet fuel will be offered in the future.

The new hangars already have a long waiting list.

"We could rent those hangars three times over," Harris said.

Harris said she often gets compliments on how nice of a facility the Grant airport is and hopes people come out to appreciate the airport and all it has to offer.

"I don't think some people realize the impact the airport has on the community. With sprayers, Flight for Life and other planes bringing in specialists to the hospital, some planes owned by area businesses, there is a lot more going out there," Harris said, adding that the airport provides a boost to the community and economy annually.

The process of planning the event started in June when talk of having the Young Eagles chapter annual event was bantered about, which is held at the Leon Kumor private airstrip. Kumor, Harris and others involved began discussing having an open house to combine several events with the completion of the hangars and fuel pumps.

Harris hopes this is an annual or at least a semi-annual event but will evaluate the situation after this weekend.

Future plans for the airport include adding an AWOS (Automated Weather Observing Stations) weather system. Federal airport funds are lined up and Harris hopes that the project will be completed within one calendar year. After that is complete, runway improvements or more hangars will be examined as future projects.

The open house starts at 7 a.m. and will run until 1 p.m. on Saturday and will feature a special helicopter landing as well as other surprises.