

New airport hangar in use

By **RORYE O'CONNOR**

rorye.oconnor@register-news.com

MT. VERNON — If you build it, they will come — sometimes before you're even done building it.

The new hangar at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport already has a customer using it, and the floors, bathrooms and electricity are still in the process of being completed, said airport manager Chris Collins.

A Cessna Citation C56X corporate jet flown by Houston, Texas, based-crew David Wright and Scott Selvig, became the first aircraft to be stored in the airport's community hangar.

Collins said the jet carries crew from an oil and gas company who do business



Collins

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in Mt. Vernon two to three times a month.

"It was a great opportunity for us to have that flexibility to do that," Collins said. "We were excited to have a customer wanting to go ahead and do that, too."

He said the hangar is helpful for the people from the Houston-based company,

who were worried about their jet being parked outside overnight.

"They had always wanted their airplane inside, and we basically had them squatting on a tenant in another building," he said. "The only things we have left to do on the hangar are the floor and finished bathrooms. Ameren is here installing the gas line."

Collins said the community hangar can store one big regional airliner, or four mid-sized jets like the Cessna be-

ing stored there now, or 12 small single-engine aircraft.

"It gives us a lot of flexibility because we can work with all those kinds of aircraft," he said.

Collins added that having the hangar is beneficial to the community because area governments receive sales taxes for at least 300 gallons of fuel each time the jet arrives in Mt. Vernon, and the business people and crew spend money locally on motel rooms and rental cars.

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