

# Airport selects Bonnie Cafe as next restaurant

*Two restaurants met with the airport on Thursday*

**BY JOSH JONES**  
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**MT. VERNON** — After some discussion the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners announced Bonnie Cafe as the new restaurant to fill the previously open space at the airport.

The decision was made after Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Director Chris Collins announced during the regular board meet-

ing Tuesday that the airport had two prospects when it came to the restaurant space. Those restaurants were Bonnie Cafe and Tumbleweed Grill, both of which made presentations to the board during a special meeting on Thursday.

"Folks, excellent on both sides, we will all be at your place to eat as well as be here to eat," said Gary Chesney, board chairman. "I said it before the meeting started; I wish we had two places.

"There is quality on both sides here. Either one would be great here at the airport. Unfortunately, we only have the one space," Chesney said. "

Board Commissioner Mike Ancona emphasized how hard the decision was for the board and spoke to the representatives.

"This really was hard decision for us because you both bring so much to the table," Ancona said. "It is just the nature of business, and I hope you don't take this in any way personal with us because we thought that what you guys did was fantastic."

Commissioner Marty Cox said he was impressed by both restaurants considering them both winners.

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"Just as a commissioner, I can tell you this probably the hardest decision I have had to make," Cox said.

Brian Hubbard, owner of the Bonnie Cafe, gave his reaction to the board's decision.

"I am excited. We are ready get rolling," Hubbard said. "We have had it for seven years. Breakfast, lunch and dinner, good

home-cooked meals at a cheap price is what we like to do."

The Mt. Vernon venue will be the fifth location for the Bonnie Cafe with other locations at Bonnie, Centralia, Nashville and West Frankfort. Hubbard discussed what it was about the location at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport that appealed to him.

"It is a nice facility. It has banquet rooms. We have had a lot of people down in Bonnie ask to do wedding parties, but we just don't have the room

down there," Hubbard said.

According to Sentinel archives, the space became open after Wilkey's Cafe officially closed on Oct. 21, 2018, after 10 years of serving at the airport. Since then, the airport has met with various individuals who have considered operating in the space with nothing made official until Thursday.

No opening date has been set. Hubbard encouraged people to stay tuned to their social media page for further announcements.

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Sentinel Photo/JOSH JONES

**BONNIE CAFE COMING SOON** — The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners approved a contact Bonnie Cafe as the next restaurant to be featured at the airport. Though some renovations are still being done in the restaurant the Bonnie Cafe is hoping to open its doors to the community in the coming months.

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