



# CEDAR VALLEY BUSINESS MONTHLY ONLINE

Advanced Search | Privacy | About Our Ads  
News



**Hot Topics**

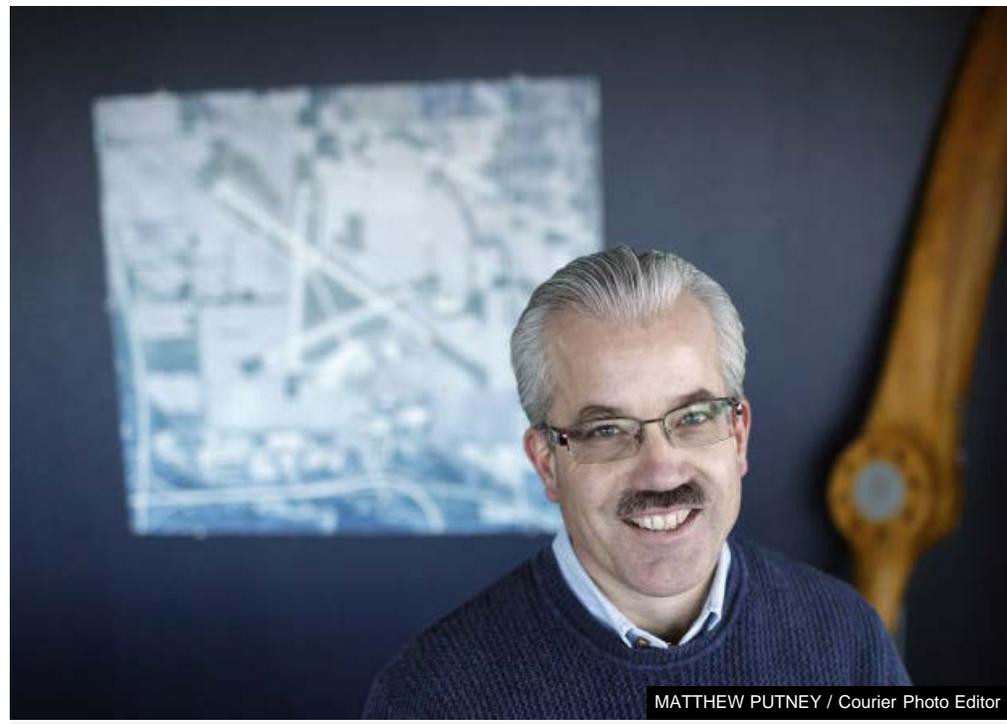
- Record snowfall
- Weather delays and cancellations
- UNI win
- Sculpture
- Hutchins conviction
- Deere layoffs
- Cedar Falls rentals
- Obama visit

Home / Business Monthly

Interactive Issue

## New Waterloo airport director hopes to land more flights

Tweet 0
 0



MATTHEW PUTNEY / Courier Photo Editor

Keith Kaspari is the new director of aviation at the Waterloo Regional Airport in Waterloo.

Buy Now

February 01, 2015 6:00 am • By Tim Jamison

(0) Comments

WATERLOO | Keith Kaspari steers the Waterloo Regional Airport from the board room and not the

Open publication - Free publishing

Sponsored By:

Featured Businesses

cockpit.

That's just the way he likes it.

"I've always shown an interest in aviation, but didn't want to be a professional pilot," Kaspari said. "I figured I could keep my feet on the ground as an airport manager."

The Minnesota native who took the reins at the Waterloo airport Nov. 17 brings a wealth of knowledge and connections that have Mayor Buck Clark and airport board members hopeful additional flights — potentially even a second air carrier — could be on the horizon.

"We were incredibly fortunate to have somebody of Keith's caliber come to Waterloo," Clark said. "He brings a lot of experience at bigger airports and he has a ton of contacts in the industry that I'm very hopeful he can use to improve air service at the Waterloo airport."

Kaspari said that is exactly the challenge that attracted him to Waterloo, along with the location being closer to his native Minnesota roots.

"I wanted to see what I could do to jump-start an air service program here in Waterloo," he said. "Not just to see good air service with American, but to see if there's a possibility we could see expanded service with American."

Originally from Thief River Falls, a small town in northwest Minnesota, Kaspari joined in the U.S. Navy after high school. Serving on an amphibious transport dock, he enjoyed the flight deck operations surrounding the CH-46, CH-53 and Cobra helicopters and Harrier jets on board.

He earned a bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of North Dakota with plans to attend the school's space studies program and work for NASA.

But things changed before graduate school when he started working as an operations officer at the Grand Forks, N.D., airport.

The first airport post eventually led him to an operations supervisor's job in Burbank, Calif., where he would spend seven years, meet his wife and earn a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Northridge.

"I wanted to get closer to home, so I accepted a position as assistant director in Sioux City, where I spent two years," Kaspari said. Budget cuts in Sioux City forced another move.

He would later work in airport management and operations in Abilene, Texas, and Marquette, Mich., before taking a job in 2012 as the senior vice president and chief operating officer at the much larger Capital Region International Airport in Lansing, Mich.

"Waterloo came calling," Kaspari said. "I looked at this not just as an opportunity to get closer to home but to see if I could be a difference-maker in this community."

Hugh Field, who chairs the Waterloo Airport Board, said Kaspari is the "right guy" to help improve American Airlines current service to Waterloo, which could keep more local travelers from seeking other facilities.

"Keith was the No. 2 guy at a bigger airport," Field said. "I think we thought we were hiring a superstar, and I think we did."

Kaspari said he's working hard to get a third daily departure from Waterloo. The airport currently has two daily flights — only one on Saturday — to and from Chicago O'Hare International Airport on American Airlines' American Eagle regional service.

"I think over time we can justify those flights if we can keep our passengers here," he said. "The challenge is being so close to Cedar Rapids, which has United, American, Delta" and Allegiant Air.



Makeup by Mandi Millar



Dutton, Braun, Staack & Hellman, P.L.C.



Adult Cinema 16

### Deals, Offers & Events



Dizdarevic Construction - Adding beauty to your home, one new addition at a time. (319) 493-

0254

► New home construction



Rent the tour center at Hansen's Farm Fresh Dairy of Waterloo for your event or birthday party today! Call 319-939-2187 to book your party today!

Rent the tour center at Hansen's Farm Fresh Dairy for your tea...



Sells Construction: Remodels, Additions, New Construction call for details 319-235-1989

Remodels, additions, and new construction can be overwhelming ...



Commercial & Business Insurance ♦ State Farm Agent Scott Bradfield ♦ (319) 236-1512



Nothing brightens up your home like a fresh coat of paint! Call Personified Painting for a free estimate! (319) 232-3369

Personified Inc. offers a variety of services to fulfill all o...

### Top Jobs

#### Health Care

14 hours ago



#### Part-Time

4 hours ago



#### Health Care

4 hours ago



#### Manufacturing

Nov 18, 2014



#### Seasonal

4 hours ago



"We can return some consumer confidence so that passengers in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area continue to give Waterloo a try," Kaspari said. "Our fares are there, the success stories are out there, you just don't hear them often enough."

A key to improving that consumer confidence is making sure flights arrive and depart on time, a concern Kaspari has been relaying to his contacts with American at O'Hare.

Kaspari hopes getting additional American Eagle service would help reduce the subsidy Waterloo receives from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Essential Air Service program. Eliminating the subsidy would make it easier to justify a second air carrier.

Mayor Clark said those goals are in line with expectations.

"We need to crawl before we walk," he said. "But I'm excited about the prospects of being able to land another carrier."

Copyright 2015 Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

**Tags** O Hare International Airport, Keith Kaspari, Buck Clark, Waterloo Regional Airport, University Of North Dakota, Capital Region International Airport, Hugh Field, Waterloo Airport Board, U.S. Department Of Transportation S Essential Air Service

View (0) Comments

Sponsored Results

[Buy a Car with Bad Credit](#)

Get a used car, improve your credit 6 Tampa dealerships. Apply on-line  
www.DriveTime.com

[Is He Cheating On You?](#)

1) Enter His Email Address 2) See Hidden Pics & Social Profiles Now!  
Spokeo.com/Catch-A-Cheater

[Get a Business Loan](#)

Find the right business loan. Apply Today!  
myLaborJOB.com

Recommendations

Northeast lowans among new lottery winners  
(WCF Courier)

Peek inside: Actress Linda Hunt's bungalow blends whimsy, elegance (WCF Courier)

NEW DETAILS: Whitney Houston's daughter found unresponsive in tub (WCF Courier)

11 Things You Should Never Do Again After 50 (AARP)

Sponsored Links

Local advertising by PaperG

YAHOO! FINANCE

SEARCH

Quote	Web			
NAME	LAST TRADE		CHANGE	
<b>LEE</b> - NYQ	<b>\$3.05</b> ▲	0.11	3.74%	
Lee Enterprises, Incorporated C				
<b>6 MONTHS CHART</b>				
<b>DE</b> - NYQ	<b>\$88.63</b> ▲	1.99	2.30%	
Deere & Company Common Stock				
<b>TSN</b> - NYQ	<b>\$38.87</b> ▼	0.7	1.77%	
Tyson Foods, Inc. Common Stock				
-	<b>\$N/A</b> ▲	N/A	N/A%	
-	<b>\$N/A</b> ▲	N/A	N/A%	
<b>WGO</b> - NYQ	<b>\$21.17</b> ▲	0.64	3.12%	
Winnebago Industries, Inc. Comm				
<b>COL</b> - NYQ	<b>\$87.03</b> ▲	0.75	0.87%	
Rockwell Collins, Inc. Common S				
<b>PFG</b> - NYQ	<b>\$48.91</b> ▲	0.96	2.00%	
Principal Financial Group Inc C				
<b>TGT</b> - NYQ	<b>\$75.87</b> ▲	1.62	2.18%	
Target Corporation Common Stock				
<b>IEX</b> - NYQ	<b>\$74.73</b> ▲	1.22	1.66%	
IDEX Corporation Common Stock				

ADD QUOTES TO YOUR SITE

QUOTES DELAYED: NASDAQ 15 MIN. NYSE & AMEX 20 MIN.

COPY RIGHT

PRIVACY