

# Editorial Page

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## Taking flight

To Little Rock? By airplane? From South Arkansas?

Folks from these parts who've been around for a while will recall having that opportunity, but there are a few generations who've never seen a connection to the state's capitol from here.

We're told it could happen.

SeaPort Airlines Chief Operating Officer Rob McKinney attended a recent summit of the El Dorado Airport Commission, held at South Arkansas Regional Airport-Goodwin Field, and

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announced the airline will be seeking to add air service between El Dorado and Little Rock within the next two months. Another report

presented during the summit suggested the possibility of adding service to Houston at a later date.

According to El Dorado Mayor Mike Dumas, the airport is asked almost daily if there is a flight to Little Rock. Many are wanting to connect with Southwest Airlines; others do not want to drive or aren't in a position to do so.

SeaPort Airlines is a welcome addition to the South Arkansas community.

The company is assessing our market and trying to meet needs, which is something travelers in this area haven't been used to in a service provider.

"As mayor, I have never experienced this type of cooperation out of air service provider," Dumas said recently. "It is very nice."

Indeed.

We're told Trans-Texas Airways was the last local provider to fly to Little Rock with a DC-3 plane and that was back in 1963.

While Little Rock is just two to two and half hours, depending on where you live in the region, and the drive up may not be much an issue for some travelers, being able to fly would be a great option for those who don't want to make that drive or don't want to leave their cars for several days in Little Rock while they fly elsewhere.

But the really good news here is that SeaPort, during the short time it has been operating at SARA, has already pleased more people than the previous companies ever did. That's good for South Arkansas.