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AREA NEWS IN BRIEF

Texas man gets 14 years in Kan. robbery spree

A Texas man will spend 14 years in federal prison for robbing stores in Wichita, Lawrence and Topeka. David B. Johnson, 26, pleaded guilty to four counts of robbery for crimes committed in January at four retail stores and restaurants, including a Wichita Subway, according to U.S. Attorney Barry Grisom's office.

Johnson robbed's crime spree began at a Topeka-area Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt on Jan. 23. Over the next several days, he robbed a Lawrence adult entertainment store, a Topeka-area Kwik Shop and the Subway at 343 S. Greenway Road.

Johnson, of Lubbock, Texas, also pleaded guilty to unlawfully possessing a firearm after a felony conviction.

— Amy Renee Leiker

Laid-off workers can apply for help

People can schedule appointments for the July session at the United Way's Laid-Off Workers Center by calling 211 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily through Friday.

To qualify for help, you must: have been laid off from a job in Sedgwick, Butler or Sumner counties, or lived in those counties at the time; have been approved for unemployment compensation since Oct. 1, 2008; show that you lack the resources for food, clothing or shelter.

Services at the center, 2622 W. Central in the West River Plaza, include emergency home and utility financial assistance, food assistance, budget and debt management counseling, and child care.

— Beccy Tanner

Woman, man arrested after shooting

Two people were arrested after a shooting near Lincoln and Oliver in southeast Wichita Monday morning.

A 24-year-old man called 911 to report a woman he knows had fired a shotgun at him as he approached a house in the 900 block of South Pershing at about 10:45 a.m., Lt. Doug Nolte said. The man told police he thought the woman was in the house.

Offices were unable to get a response from her at the house, and called the SWAT team, which found no one was inside. Nolte said that a sawed-off shotgun used in the shooting was found in the woman's bedroom.

The 26-year-old woman was found walking about a block away and was taken in for questioning and arrested, Nolte said. Another 24-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of having an illegal weapon.

— Stan Finger

Breast-feeding clinic to have open house

The Via Christi Breast-feeding Clinic has moved to the fourth floor of NewLife Center at Via Christi Hospital on Harry.

The clinic will hold an open house at the new location from 3 to 4 p.m. Thursday. Light refreshments will be served.

It is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, but patients with questions can call anytime, 316-689-5426. It is offered at no cost to mothers who deliver their babies at Via Christi. Mothers who deliver elsewhere pay a one-time \$50 fee.

— Suzanne Perez Tobias

Crash kills Wichita Toy Run organizer

BY AMY RENEE LEIKER
The Wichita Eagle

OBITUARY

Wichita Toy Run organizer Holly Potelle, an avid motorcyclist and middle school teacher, died Monday evening from injuries sustained doing what she loved: riding her motorcycle.

She was 55. Ms. Potelle was a staple in the Wichita biking community, known especially for her decades of work gathering toys in the Wichita Toy Run, an annual benefit for the Salvation Army and Toys for Tots. About 4,000 toys

were collected last year — the run's 32nd event — thanks to Ms. Potelle's efforts, said Cheryl Warne, director of Emergency Services for the Salvation Army in Wichita.

"She had a huge impact because she cared about kids and was absolutely driven to make sure the motorcycle toy ride was the best it could be because it helped so many children," Warne said Tuesday.

"She will leave a big hole in our community because she did so much and cared so much."

Ms. Potelle, a Rago resident, died shortly after 6 p.m. Monday on a stretch of K-42 near Viola after gusting south winds forced her motorcycle into a ditch, Sedgwick County sheriff's Lt. Randy Cole said. She tried to guide her motorcycle back onto the highway, authorities said, but she hit a driveway and was thrown from her bike.

The National Weather Service

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Jaime Green/File photo

About 4,000 toys were collected in the 2011 Wichita Toy Run thanks to Holly Potelle's efforts, according to the Salvation Army.

EASING BOTTLENECKS AT MID-CONTINENT



Mike Hutmacher/File photo

TSA screener Cathy Mayberry helps a passenger locate her boarding pass at Mid-Continent Airport in 2011. The City Council has approved money to add a fourth security checkpoint at the airport.

Council OKs money for 4th airport security checkpoint

BY BILL WILSON
The Wichita Eagle

Work begins late next month on a fourth Transportation Security Administration security checkpoint at Mid-Continent Airport that should help bottlenecked passengers avoid missing early morning flights.

The Wichita City Council approved without discussion Tuesday morning \$110,000 in airport-generated revenues for terminal improvements to address persistent customer and airline complaints about the bottleneck when boarding flights before 7 a.m.

Passengers have been delayed by as long as 30 minutes, or twice as long as normal for the early morning, said Valerie Wise, the airport's air services and business development manager. As a result, the number of passengers missing flights is on the rise, she and city officials said.

City officials, who are banking on a new terminal opening for business in three years, are hesitant to spend more money on the current facility but acknowledge that the boarding delays must be addressed now.

"There will certainly be added demand with Southwest," Wise said, "and it's important we be ready for that."



Mike Hutmacher/File photo

TSA screener Ryan Vu goes through the contents of a passenger's carry-on bags at Mid-Continent Airport in 2011.

The number of airline seats departing Mid-Continent during the morning rush increased by 92 percent between January and March, according to Victor White, the city's director of airports.

As a result, in March, the average and peak wait times at the checkpoint increased by 57 percent and 117 percent, respectively, compared with January. In March, Mid-Continent had screening waits exceed 30

minutes for the first time since 2007. More than half of the wait times between 5 and 6:30 a.m. daily exceeded 10 minutes, with a third exceeding 20 minutes.

Wise said passengers and airlines alike have complained about missed flights, underscoring the ongoing needs for fliers to arrive two hours prior to flights at the airport.

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Chris Neal/The Wichita Eagle

Police officers remove dead cats from a house on North Green.

House had no history of code complaints

BY STAN FINGER
The Wichita Eagle

Every time the landlord would come to the light brown house on North Green south of Second Street, the tenant would offer some reason why he didn't need to come inside.

When he would stop by to change the furnace filter, for instance, "she'd make excuses like, 'Folks from church came over last month and did it,'" Deb Legge, neighborhood inspection administrator for the city's office of central inspection, said Tuesday. "He never saw anything on the exterior that caused him any concern."

Neither did city inspectors. That's why city officials and the property owner were stunned to learn that 31 dead cats and two flea-infested Labrador retrievers were found inside the house at 235 N. Green on Saturday. A neighbor called 911 saying she hadn't seen the female occupant for more than a month.

Police arrived at the house to check on the woman's welfare and smelled decay. Thinking the woman may have died inside the home, the officers notified firefighters, who arrived with respirators.

Inside, they found the dogs and dead cats, along with lots of trash.

The 69-year-old tenant was found at a friend's house, where she had been staying after being hospitalized. She has since agreed to relinquish the remainder of her lease, Legge said.

The owner of the house, a

Please see **HOUSE**, Page 5B

NTSB releases report of plane crash that killed family

BY SARAH TUCKER
The Wichita Eagle

The plane that crashed carrying a prominent Junction City family rapidly began losing altitude after adjusting its flight path for bad weather in the area, according to a preliminary report released Tuesday by the National Transportation Safety Board.

The crash on June 7 killed six members of the Bramlage family. The family was returning to Kansas after a vacation in the Bahamas when the plane crashed at Tiger Creek Preserve near Lake Wales, Fla.

According to the report, three witnesses reported hearing or seeing the single-engine

plane before it crashed. One witness, a pilot in a nearby plane, reported hearing a mayday call before the crash.

Another witness on the ground heard "three to four cycles of a whooshing high to low sound," followed by the sound of something breaking, the report said. He then saw the plane below the clouds in a spin. The witness said the plane appeared to be missing parts, but he did not see anything fall from the plane.

The third witness, also on the ground, saw black smoke trailing the spinning plane. When the plane crashed, he and his brother ran to the wreckage and began trying to extinguish the flames and aid

the victims.

Final results of the investigation may take up to a year and will involve reconstructing the aircraft, said Tim Monville, an investigator for NTSB.

Ronald Bramlage, who was piloting the plane, was the grandson of Fred Bramlage, the namesake of Kansas State University's basketball arena. His wife, Becky Bramlage, was the president of the Junction City school board. Their four children also died.

The funeral for the Bramlage family was held Monday in Junction City.

Reach Sarah Tucker at 316-268-6514 or stucker@wichitaeagle.com.



Associated Press/Polk County Sheriff's Office

Emergency personnel investigate the site where a Pilatus PC-12 crashed near Lake Weohyakapka, Fla., on June 7. Ronald Bramlage, 45, of Junction City, who was piloting the plane, his wife, Rebecca, and their four children were killed in the crash.