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## Deputy charged with sex crimes denied lower bond

BY TIM POTTER  
The Wichita Eagle

A judge on Wednesday denied a lower bond for a former Sedgwick County Jail deputy charged with multiple sex crimes against inmates.

The decision by District Court Judge Jeff Syrios to retain a \$500,000 bond for David E. Kendall came after Kendall's attorney, Chris O'Hara, challenged the credibility of the alleged victims. O'Hara said the alleged victims have been charged with or convicted of serious crimes themselves and could be motivated



Kendall

charges — 11 of them relating to alleged sex crimes. The crimes reportedly occurred between April and June. Kendall had been placed on unpaid

by potential monetary gain.

The charges against Kendall involve six alleged victims and incidents that span more than a two-month period, court records show. Kendall, 21, faces 12

suspension pending the outcome of the criminal case but through his attorney submitted his resignation, which was accepted, Sheriff Robert Hinshaw said Wednesday.

In his ruling, Syrios noted that considerations in setting any bond are assuring the appearance of the accused and protecting the public. The judge cited the number of alleged victims and the nature of the charges and said that Kendall's position was unique, that he had law enforcement training and that the alleged victims didn't have the freedom to protect themselves.

O'Hara had argued that \$500,000 was an unreasonably high bond, that it should be \$100,000. He said Kendall had no criminal history, has local family ties and is not at risk of fleeing. He said Kendall was compliant when he was previously released on a lower bond, and that "if he was going to run, he was probably going to run at that time." O'Hara said Kendall posed "no danger to the community."

In arguing that the bond remain at \$500,000, Assistant District Attorney Donna Longworth said that Kendall posed a danger to community, that

he allegedly used his position in the jail to find victims and that he had the ability to get personal information and knew a lot about the alleged victims.

Arguments over the credibility of the alleged victims will be taken up at later hearings, and now isn't the appropriate time, Longworth said.

O'Hara repeatedly attacked the credibility of the accusers, saying they are inmates in "desperate situations" and that some of them have been accused or convicted of serious

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Mike Hutmacher/File photo

The Affordable Airfares agreement requires Wichita to pay half of the AirTran contract after state funding, said Chris Chronis, Sedgwick County's chief financial officer.

## AirTran subsidy approved

### Pact to keep Wichita airfares lower another year

BY SARAH TUCKER  
The Wichita Eagle

Sedgwick County commissioners approved a subsidy to guarantee lower airfares for another year on Wednesday.

Commissioners Karl Peterjohn, Tim Norton, Dave Unruh and Jim Skelton voted in favor of the subsidy for AirTran Airways, and to continue a transportation agreement between Wichita and Sedgwick County.

The Affordable Airfares agreement requires Wichita to pay half of the AirTran contract after state funding, said Chris Chronis, Sedgwick County's chief financial officer.

The state is chipping in up to \$4.75 million. The city and county will contribute up to \$1.75 million, or up to \$875,000 each.

Norton recalled traveling to other cities in the past because of lower airfares. He agreed to "hang on" and support the subsidy until Southwest Airlines is flying out of Wichita, he said. AirTran, which has been bought by Southwest Airlines, is expected to transition its Wichita operations to Southwest in 2013.

Peterjohn expressed some concern over the contracts becoming routine.

"The program was intended, at least initially intended, to be a temporary program," Peterjohn said. "I plan to support this motion here



Mike Hutmacher/File photo

AirTran customers check in at Mid-Century Airport in June.

because the original intent was to try and bring Southwest Airlines to this community."

Commissioner Richard Ranzau voted against the subsidy and the agreement, saying it creates dependence and a sense of entitlement. Ranzau also called the agreement a form of indirect price control.

Airfares in Wichita and southeast Kansas were among the highest in the country in 2002, and several businesses left because of that, Chronis said. The city enticed AirTran to Wichita and, in 2005, Sedgwick County joined Wichita's agreement with AirTran and began managing the contract.

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## Wren withdraws from state House race

BY ANNIE CALOVICH  
The Wichita Eagle

Rodney Wren, a Republican candidate for representative in District 83 in east Wichita, announced Wednesday that he had suspended his campaign. He said it was because of attacks on him and his fiancée.

"My primary opponent and his supporters have made the centerpiece of his campaign an



Wren

attack on my integrity and my fiancée's integrity," Wren said in a statement. The debate teacher at Wichita Collegiate School said he had not been able to raise

money or "formulate a message based on substance instead of constant defense" of his "personal life choices."

Wren's Republican-primary opponent is Tim Garvey. Also running to replace Rep. Jo Ann Pottorff, R-Wichita, who is retiring, is Democrat Carolyn Bridges.

"I don't know where this is coming from," Garvey said of Wren's remarks. "I haven't attacked him whatsoever. I can't help with what my supporters may or may not do. I don't think they're doing anything. They definitely aren't lying about anything."

At one time, Garvey was Wren's campaign treasurer; he said he quit because Wren "was being dishonest with me."

"I witnessed him several times going to his apartment outside the district," Garvey said.

Wren did not return a call Wednesday requesting further comment.

Wren's candidacy was challenged earlier this year by his fiancée's former sister-in-law, Eileen Murtha, who claimed that Wren didn't live in District 83 District. A three-member panel rejected the complaint in May, accepting Wren's explanation that he had lived in the district at the home of his fiancée, Holly Murtha, since July 2, 2011. He said he was keeping his apartment outside the district as an office until the lease was up.

Both Wren and Garvey spoke at the hearing in May, with

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## Blubaugh, Osterman in Republican primary

Jeff Blubaugh faces Leslie Osterman in House District 97

Eagle staff

Goddard school board member Jeff Blubaugh is challenging state Rep. Leslie Osterman in the Republican primary in District 97 in southwest Wichita.

The winner of the Aug. 7 primary will face Democrat Dale Swenson in November. Swenson served in the



House until being defeated by Osterman in 2010.

Osterman supports the income tax cuts signed into law by Gov. Sam Brownback and says they will make the state more competitive to attract jobs.

Blubaugh says the tax cuts are a step in the right direction, as long as they don't



Blubaugh



Osterman

lead to an increase in local taxes.

About half of the district remains the same after redistricting, but about 25 percent of its residents come

### COMING FRIDAY

Angela Martinez challenges incumbent Ponka-We Victors in a Democratic primary in District 103 in north Wichita.

from the old District 94, 16 percent from District 96 and 8 percent from District 95.

To read more about the candidates and their answers to questions about tax cuts,

### Kansas House District 97



The Wichita Eagle

tax laws, school funding and more, please turn to Page 6B.

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