Jake Euker was known for his love of the arts

BY BECCY TANNER
The Wichita Eagle

OBITUARY

A free spirit died last week from complications from pneumonia.

Jake Edward Euker, known to countless Wichitans because of his passion for art, literature, film, music and many more things cerebral, died Friday. He was 50.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Elliott Mortuary, 1219 N. Main in Hutchinson.

Mr. Euker was born Jan. 31, 1962, in Hutchinson. He graduated from Goddard High School and attended the University of Kansas.

"People don't have any idea how much influence Jake had in the counterculture, the artistic culture of this city," said Wichitan Michael Carmody, a friend of Mr. Euker's. "Jake was tirelessly behind the scenes making things happen, promoting all sorts of things."

During the late 1990s, Mr. Euker was director of film programming at the Wichita Center for the Arts, bringing in various vintage, foreign and independent films. He also launched a film series at the 20th Century Club.

He wrote hundreds of reviews on films, produced local concerts and sometimes helped Tanya Tandoc of Tanya's Soup Kitchen cater meals.

"I always worked with him when he needed employment, and I needed a spirit lifter," Tandoc said.

"Jake was an important person in getting independent music to happen in Wichita. He was passionate about music and bands.

"He was involved in the arts community in an underground way. He touched a lot of people."

Reach Beccy Tanner at 316-268-6336 or btanner@wichitaeagle.com

KC sports authority quickly gets three new members

BY MIKE HENDRICKS
Kansas City Star

Steve Bough was 15 minutes late to his first meeting of the Jackson County Sports Authority, but cut him a break. He'd only learned of his appointment 45 minutes before Tuesday's afternoon meeting was to start.

"The governor's office called me at 1:15 and I got over here as fast as I could," Bough said.

The speed of Bough's appointment was unusual. It typically takes weeks or months to hear back from Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon's office on appointees to the board that oversees expenses at the Truman Sports Complex.

Yet less than 24 hours passed between when Bough's name and those of two others were put in nomination by the Jackson County Legislature.

"It's amazing how fast government can move sometimes," said Calvin Williford, the top aide to County Executive Mike Sanders.

Though maybe not so amazing when one considers that Sanders, head of the state Democratic Party, has been pushing hard locally and in Jefferson City in his attempt to gain greater influence over the sports authority, a state body with close financial ties to county government.

Williford declined to say whether Sanders put in a call to urge quick action. But it's no secret that Sanders was in a hurry to get a replacement for J. Beto Lopez, whose reappointment Sanders opposed. He said Lopez and some other members of the sports authority had failed to be tough watchdogs of taxpayer money when reviewing expense vouchers that the Chiefs and Royals submit for reimbursement.

Lopez denied he was a rubberstamp, and said Sanders was more interested in gaining control of the board for political advantage. Commissioner Deron Cherry likewise called Sanders' accusations political at Tuesday's meeting.

"I do take offense when I'm called a knucklehead in the press," Cherry said. "And I take offense when people get thrown under the bus."

Criticism of the board's handling of expenses surfaced last week on sports talk radio and quickly spread through the media, largely based on an annual expense report the teams submitted recently.

At its next meeting, the board intends to take a deeper look at how the teams are spending millions of state and local tax dollars out of the so-called RMMO account – the acronym stands for repairs, maintenance, management and operations.

No one alleges illegality, but Sanders and others believe too much is going to management and operations and too little to repairs and future maintenance.

For instance, it won't be long, he said, before the Kauffman Stadium video board needs replacing.

"That's millions of dollars but there aren't millions (set aside) in that account," Sanders said in an interview.

Reach Mike Hendricks at 816-234-4738 or mhendricks@kcstar.com.

Minor in Hutchinson burglary case may be prosecuted as adult

BY DARCY GRAY
Hutchinson News

HUTCHINSON – Reno County District Attorney Keith Schroeder says he "absolutely" plans to prosecute the 16-year-old suspect in a string of Hutchinson church burglaries as an adult.

After receiving a Crime Stoppers tip, Hutchinson police this week arrested Joshua Hickey, 16, Justin Branscom, 24, and Jordan Schmucker, 19, all of Hutchinson, in connection with a string of church burglaries.

Branscom is suspected in four church burglaries, Schmucker of burglarizing four churches and a convenience store, and Hickey – whom police described as a common thread in the crimes – is suspected in 15 burglary and theft cases, including churches, Schroeder said.

Branscom and Schmucker appeared Tuesday before Reno County Magistrate Judge Randall McEwen, via the county jail's video system. The judge ruled there was probable cause for their arrests, appointed attorneys to represent them, and increased their $45,000 bonds to $75,000.

Hickey, who is in custody at the Bob Johnson Youth Shelter, has not yet made a first appearance in court and might appear Wednesday after the court has received all of the paperwork in the cases, juvenile court staff reported. Prosecutors will need approval from a judge before prosecuting Hickey as an adult.

"This is something that's really bothered the community and the police department," Schroeder said. "The Crime Stoppers call may have broken the logjam, but (officers) have been working their tails off."

According to Schroeder, officers even spent the night inside churches hoping to catch the burglars.

Hutchinson Police Detective Jamie Schoenhoff said the Crime Stoppers tip alerted officers to a location of one of the suspects. He said investigators then conducted numerous interviews to clear all of the church burglaries since March, except for two: the 10th Avenue Methodist Church and The Father's House in Hutchinson. The investigation continues, however.

During Schmucker's court appearance, Schroeder said the allegations "could be the tip of the iceberg" and said sheriff's officers continue to investigate burglaries outside the city limits.

Reno County District Court records indicate Branscom is on Community Corrections, an intensive form of probation, after pleading guilty in 2008 to two of five arson charges against him – including the Oct. 8, 2008, fire that was set in the upper story of Alexander's Jewelers on Main Street in Hutchinson.

In October 2010, Branscom failed to report to Community Corrections, failed to maintain employment, engaged in illegal activity, was arrested and convicted of theft, engaged in violent behavior, left the county without permission and failed to make payments, court records indicate. District Judge Joe McCarville gave him a 60-day jail sanction, and revoked and reinstated Community Corrections for another two years. Court records also show Branscom owes $304,278 in fees and restitution.

Schmucker is awaiting sentencing for three burglary and theft cases. Hickey, meanwhile, failed to appear last month in Reno County juvenile court in a pending drug case, and has two other pending cases alleging burglary and theft.

COWTOWN

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due to the efforts of director David Flask and his staff, they have increased attendance by 61 percent and earned income by 20 percent," Crockett said. "Now, we have a proposal to cut another substantial sum from the budget. Even $80,000 will be a devastating blow to this reduced staff that's trying to do so much.

"It's unfair to place all of the burden of this financial sacrifice on just one of your … institutions. Cowtown is a huge asset for this community."

Former council member Sharon Fearey, representing the Wichita Arts Council, sided with Crockett, calling for the council to spread the cutbacks among the city's five major arts and cultural sites. In addition to Cowtown, the others are the Wichita Art Museum, Botanica, the Mid-America All-Indian Center and the Wichita/Sedgwick County Historical Museum.

"To single out one museum for this kind of budget cut smacks of discrimination from city administration," Fearey said. "The overriding question of the arts council becomes what the city's policy is for the funding of Tier 1 museums, or is there one?

"We are concerned the policy is leaving these decisions to city staff with the rubber stamp of the City Council."

Vice Mayor Miller, though, sent a clear message to the Cowtown board: They can and should upgrade their private fundraising efforts.

Crockett said Cowtown raises between $45,000 and $50,000 a year.

"I think one of the things we've been looking at for the last several years is helping and encouraging the institutions to work on their private side fundraising … ," Miller said. "Unless I'm mistaken, I haven't seen that (from Cowtown) over the last six years."

Hyatt is profitable

Layton also announced Tuesday that the city-owned Hyatt Regency hotel is making more money than expected, so much so that a consultant, PKF, thinks the operation can return $250,000 annually to the city while generating enough cash to handle ongoing maintenance.

"This is good news for the residents of Wichita; because of the hard work of the Hyatt, they are generating a quarter-million dollars in annual help to reduce property taxes," Layton said.

The city's management deal with Hyatt Hotels provides a management fee equal to 3 percent of gross revenue plus 15 percent of adjusted profit. Remaining profits have been retained in an account to replace furniture, fixtures and equipment.

Layton said the Hyatt has generated $21.1 million in economic benefit for the city since 2002, including $9.8 million in sales taxes, $6 million in property taxes, $4.8 million in guest taxes and $500,000 in rent payments.

The city's 2013 budget is scheduled for formal approval Aug. 14, following more public comments.

Reach Bill Wilson at 316-268-6290 or bwilson@wichitaeagle.com.

ACTIVIST

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for a jury, particularly in the environment which plaintiff alleges is a large part of this case — the stress, turmoil, chaos and public conflict that exists in Wichita over this issue."

Means has testified her fears were heightened after reading a news story by the Associated Press that quoted Dillard in a July 2009 interview, saying she had developed a friendship with Roeder while he was awaiting trial.

"With one move, (Roeder) was able … to accomplish what we had not been able to do," Dillard told AP at the time. "So he followed his convictions, and I admire that."

In his ruling Tuesday, Marten refused Dillard's request to dismiss her case because Means is not presently providing abortion services. The judge also rejected a move by Dillard to countersue the government for allegedly violating her First Amendment rights.

The lawsuit — filed by the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act — seeks a court order that keeps Dillard from contacting Means or coming within 250 feet of Means, her home, car or business. It also seeks damages of $5,000 to Means and a civil penalty of $15,000.

Dillard had contended that the government had interfered with her access to a religious institution because the proposed barrier zone might prevent her from attending a church near the clinic.

Marten said any claim under the First Amendment would be premature because the court can tailor any resulting remedy to preserve Dillard's rights.

ARBORETUM

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"Prairie is one of the ecosystems not represented here."

Until the drought ends, however, Macy is preparing for a possible repeat next year. She is talking to a hydrologist about digging new wells and testing the water from old wells, too.

"Having the creek cleared out is good — we can use runoff to irrigate with," she said.

Beran expects the project to be completed Friday. They're ahead of schedule because of the drought.

"It will rain again," Macy said. "And we're gonna have a deeper creek and maybe a cistern and maybe a way to harness Mother Nature."

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

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Obituaries continued from page 2B

GARDEN PLAIN - Panek, Marcia D., 56, retired Dillon's employee, died Aug. 5, 2012 surrounded by her family at her home in Garden Plain. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and sister who enjoyed gardening, decorating, cooking, antiquing and spending time with her family. She was born Aug. 16, 1955 in Wichita and was a parishioner of St. Anthony Padua Catholic Church, Garden Plain. She was preceded in death by her parents, B. Lyle and Margaret Piland. On Aug. 11, 1973 she married Ed Panek. Other survivors all of Garden Plain include their four daughters and their husbands, Lena and Chris Grill, Rachelle and Dwight Haukap, Janelle and Chris Durham, Melissa and Mike McKim; brothers, Greg and Brad Piland, both of Wichita; and 12 grandchildren, Caleb, Kyle and Alec Grill, Colby Collin, Aubrey and Ethan Haukap, Andrew, Elijah and Abby Durham, Logan and Reagan McKim. Rosary will be Wednesday at 8 p.m. and Mass of Christian Burial will be Thursday at 10:30 a.m., both at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Garden Plain. Friends may call Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m. at Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. Burial will be in the St. Anthony Catholic Church Cemetery. Memorials may be made with the St. Anthony's Pro-Life Outreach, Garden Plain and the Scleroderma Foundation, both in care of the funeral home.

MULVANE – Griffin, Powell E. "Ernie," age 84, retired Master Sargent, USAF, passed away, Monday, August 6, 2012. Memorial service 1 p.m. Thursday, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1062 Chet Smith Ave, Derby. Graveside 3 p.m. Thursday, Kansas Veterans' Cemetery, Winfield. He is preceded in death by his parents, Press & Eva Griffin; and brothers, Tom and Bill. Survivors: his wife of 56 years, Evelyn; son, Gary (Victoria), Shorewood, IL; daughter, Brenda (Jeff) Schneider, Mulvane; brothers, Sam (Jane), Troy, TN, Ray, Howell, MI, and Bobby (Bonnie), Troy TN; sister, Eva Lee Roy, Wyandotte, MI; grandchildren, Stacy, Sandra and Jack (Michelle) Griffin; Daniel, Sarah and Kady Schneider; great-grandson, Jack Griffin II. Memorial: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 8, Derby, KS 67037. smithfamilymortuaries.com.

Smith

NEWTON - Ehlers, Edna "Eddie" Mae, 84, died Aug. 6, 2012. Survivors: son, Earl (Tammy) Ehlers of Lahoma, Okla.; daughter Gloye (Jeff) Gloudeman of Wichita; sister, Marguerite (Jerry) Theobald of Bushnell, Ill.; special friends Dick and Sarah Vogt and Kathy Andres; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild. Funeral service 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 10, at First United Methodist Church, Newton. Visitation will be 1 to 9 p.m. Thursday at Petersen Funeral Home Chapel in Newton, with family receiving from 6 to 8 p.m.

NEWTON – Hague, Earlene, 84, formerly of Marion, passed away on August 2, 2012, at Newton Medical Center. She was born April 19, 1928, at Haven, the daughter of Edward and Mildred (Beeton) Nicklaus. She was the former school board clerk and secretary to the superintendent of Marion USD 408. On June 16, 1946, she was united in marriage to Willard Hague, he preceded in her in death. She is lovingly survived by her children: Don and wife Beverly of Gering, NE; Dennis and wife Susan of Cedar Point; Roxanne and husband Conlee Mann of Livonia, MI; and Douglas and wife Kimberly of Benton; siblings: Edward and wife Rosalyn Nicklaus of Garden City and Delores and husband Robert Haag of Topeka; 10 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren. Funeral service 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 8, 2012, at Valley United Methodist Church, Marion. Interment in the Prairie Lawn Cemetery, Peabody. Memorials established for MHS Alumni Scholarship Fund, in care of Zeiner Funeral Home, 205 Elm, Marion, KS, 66861.