



# CHRISTMAS EVE PLANNER

A guide to what's open, what's closing early, GO!

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He's made a decision, IB

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# The Wichita Eagle

Spirit parent Onex joins Goldman in \$3.3 billion winning bid

New company to revive storied name in Wichita aviation

Union officials say contract will stand, layoffs unlikely

# BEECHCRAFT IS BACK



Bo Rader/File photo

Workers at Raytheon's Wichita plant work on the final assembly of a Beechcraft King Air, a twin prop plane. Onex and GS Capital Partners on Thursday announced the purchase of Raytheon Aircraft for \$3.3 billion. The deal is expected to close in the first half of 2007.



Dave Williams/The Wichita Eagle

Jim Schuster, chairman and chief executive of Raytheon Aircraft, is pleased with the sale of the company. He will lead the new company, Hawker Beechcraft Corp.

BY JERRY SIEBENMARK  
The Wichita Eagle

**D**espite a workday that began at 4 a.m. Thursday, Raytheon Aircraft Co. chief executive Jim Schuster was feeling spry late that same morning, following the announcement that private equity firms Onex Corp. and Goldman Sachs planned to buy the Wichita planemaker for \$3.3 billion.

"They're the kind of partners we hoped we'd end up working with," Schuster said. For Schuster and thousands of other Raytheon Aircraft employees, Thursday's announcement put an end to months of speculation over who would be the company's new owner.

Schuster said he's looking forward to having two private equity firms that are focused on growing the company.

"The challenge for us is to take advantage of this opportunity," he said.

For Raytheon Aircraft employees like David Linscime, the announcement gave him a sense of relief.

"I'm glad it's done," Linscime said. "It's good to go into the holidays with a little peace of mind."

Raytheon Aircraft employs 6,500 in Wichita and 8,500 worldwide.

Machinists union officials said they don't anticipate a repeat of the upheaval to jobs and contracts that the sale of Boeing Co.'s commercial airplane operations triggered

Please see RAYTHEON, Page 8A

## WHAT NEXT?

- The sale is expected to close in the first half of 2007, following shareholder and regulatory approval.
- The company will begin examining ways to control costs by streamlining processes and eliminating bureaucracies.
- Taking the company public is possible, but won't happen anytime soon.

## MORE ON THE SALE

- A timeline looking at the company that started as Beech Aircraft. 8A
- What people think about the sale. 8A
- Company profiles of Raytheon Aircraft, Onex and Goldman Sachs. 8A
- A look at what Raytheon Aircraft makes. 8A
- Local Raytheon Aircraft Co. sub-contractors think Thursday's sale could be positive news for their companies. 6B
- Jim Schuster said it didn't take long for he and others to come up with a new name for Raytheon Aircraft Co. 6B



## FLIGHT DIFFICULTIES

# Grounded travelers cope with delays

BY TIM POTTER  
The Wichita Eagle

As she waited for nearly an hour at a Wichita airport counter Thursday afternoon, Teran Dickinson grimaced, holding back tears.

"I have to get to Gillette, Wyoming, and it's not looking good," said Dickinson, a 21-year-old student at Wichita State University.

"My mom's really upset. It's her and I for Christmas."

A winter storm that closed the Denver airport — home to a major United Airlines hub — canceled holiday flights that Dickinson and others had booked.

More than 2 feet of snow kept the Denver airport closed for a second day. The airport wasn't expected to reopen until this afternoon.

And ground travel had problems, too. Westbound lanes of I-70 were closed for about 250 miles,

Please see TRAVELERS, Page 9A



Dave Williams/The Wichita Eagle

Janet Smith was going to attend her daughter's graduation from the University of Colorado today. "I don't think we're going to make it," she said Thursday.

## ANNUAL STUDY

# Fewer teens use illegal drugs; more misuse legal ones

BY LARA JAKES JORDAN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Teens increasingly are getting high with legal drugs like painkillers and mood stimulants, and they're turning to cough syrup as well, says a government survey released Thursday.

The annual study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, conducted by the University of Michigan, showed mixed results in the nation's longtime campaign against teen drug abuse.

Please see TEENS, Page 9A

## BEST of the SEASON

### SILVER BELLS

Tolling chimes will announce the season when Dean Roush plays Christmas carols on the downtown carillon.

Where: Outside

Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 204 S. Main

Cost: Free

Hours: Noon to 1 p.m. today.

— Chris Shull



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## TRUE MEANING

Readers share stories of their most spiritual Christmases.

SATURDAY IN FAITH & VALUES



**BUSINESS:** Protection One to merge more jobs to Wichita. 6B

**SPORTS:** How an Israeli player is adjusting to life as a Shocker. 1C



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