

Autonomous aircraft brings new chapter of aviation to Wichita



Wichita's aviation heritage provided a fitting backdrop Monday as Joby Aviation brought its autonomous J208 aircraft to the Kansas Aviation Museum as part of a month-long cross-country tour.

The aircraft, a converted Cessna 208 Caravan, is equipped with Joby's autonomous flight system and recently completed a 3,199-mile transcontinental flight. During Monday's Wichita

demonstration, visitors had an opportunity to see the aircraft and learn more about technology designed to allow it to taxi, take off, fly and land autonomously under remote supervision.

The Wichita stop was particularly significant because of the city's deep connection to the Cessna aircraft family. The Caravan airframe used for Joby's J208 was originally manufactured by Textron Aviation, which continues to have a major presence in Wichita. Textron Aviation is home to the Cessna and Beechcraft brands and employs thousands of aviation workers in the city.

For a city known as the Air Capital of the World, the visit offered a look at how Wichita's long aviation tradition could intersect with emerging autonomous technology. Rather than developing an entirely new aircraft, Joby integrated its autonomous system into an existing, certified Cessna Caravan airframe.

The J208 also is designed to be adaptable to different missions. Its interior can be configured for medical deliveries, passenger transportation or cargo, allowing the aircraft to be used for a variety of logistical needs.

Joby says the aircraft has accumulated more than 400 flights and 800 hours of automated flight time. The system operates under supervised autonomy, with a remote pilot serving as pilot in command and handling flight supervision, flight-plan updates and air traffic control communications. A person also remains onboard for select operations as a safety measure.



The technology is being developed for potential applications including commercial freight, emergency response, medical transportation and defense logistics. Joby says the Wichita stop was part of its 2026 Electric Skies tour, which is demonstrating the company's autonomous aircraft and other aviation technologies at locations across the country.

For Wichita, the appearance

brought a piece of aviation technology developed for the future back to a city whose identity has long been tied to aircraft manufacturing. From Cessna's roots in Wichita to Textron Aviation's continuing presence, aviation remains a defining part of the city's history — and Monday's demonstration offered a glimpse at what the next chapter could look like.

Photos by The Belle Plaine News & The Oxford Register



Legal Notice
(Published in the Belle Plaine News / Oxford Register on Thursday September 17, 2026, Thursday September 24, 2026 and Thursday October 01, 2026)

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT,
SUMNER COUNTY, KANSAS

PROBATE DEPARTMENT

In the Matter of the Estate of

JUDY L. SMITH,
Case No. SU-2025-PR-000069

Deceased.

Title to Real Property Involved

Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59

NOTICE OF HEARING
The State of Kansas and All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this Court by Kimberly Fulghum, Administrator of the Estate of Judy L. Smith, deceased, praying that the Court direct final settlement of the estate; approve all acts and proceedings of petitioner as administrator as well as petitioner's first and final accounting; that the Court authorize and approve allowance to petitioner for legal fees and expenses; and distribute the remaining estate assets pursuant to intestate succession to the heirs of Judy L. Smith, deceased. Upon final payment of fees, expenses and costs, Petitioner be discharged as Administrator of the estate of Judy L. Smith, deceased, and released from further liability.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 13th day of October, 2026, at 8:30 o'clock A.M., of said day, in said Court, in the City of Wellington, in Sumner County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

KIMBERLY FULGHUM

Petitioner
DEPEW GILLEN RATHBUN & McINTEER, LC

8301 East 21st Street North,
Suite 450

Wichita, KS 67206-2936

Telephone: 316-262-4000

Facsimile: 316-265-3819

Visit www.kandrive.gov to get statewide traffic and commercial vehicle information in one place!

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Legal Notice
(Published in The Belle Plaine News / Oxford Register on Thursday, September 24, 2026 and Thursday, October 1, 2026 2t1a0t)

NOTICE OF SPECIAL QUESTION ELECTION
CITY OF BELLE PLAINE, KANSAS

The City Council of the City of Belle Plaine, Kansas (the "City"), has heretofore, pursuant to a resolution duly adopted on August 19, 2026, declared it advisable to conduct a special question election relating to the imposition of a one percent (1.0%) City-wide general purpose retailers' sales tax. Notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of the City that such special question election has been called and will be held on November 3, 2026, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City the following proposition:

Shall the following be adopted?

Shall a general purpose retailers' sales tax in the amount of one percent (1.0%) be levied by and in the City of Belle Plaine, Kansas, to take effect on April 1, 2027, or as soon thereafter as such tax may be levied, with the revenue from such tax to be used for general City purposes, including, but not limited to, the improvement, operation, repair, and maintenance of the City's water utility system infrastructure, and for the payment of any City bonds or loans and interest thereon that may be issued or incurred for such water utility system infrastructure; and provided that such retailers' sales tax shall expire upon the earlier of 40 years after it is first levied or the repayment of any such bonds or loans and interest thereon, all pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 12-187 et seq., as amended?

To vote in favor of the question submitted on this ballot, darken the oval to the left of the word "Yes." To vote against it, darken the oval to the left of the word "No."

☐ YES
☐ NO

The polls will open at 7:00 o'clock A.M. and will close at 7:00 o'clock P.M., on November 3, 2026, the election day. The voting places in the City, and the area each voting place will serve, will be as follows:

Voters Residing In
City of Belle Plaine, Kansas

Will Vote At
Belle Plaine Community Center, 528 N. Merchant
Belle Plaine, KS 67013

The election will be conducted by the officers and/or persons provided by law for holding elections, and the method of voting will be by ballot. Registered voters are eligible to vote by advance voting ballot upon application to the County Clerk at the address set forth below pursuant to K.S.A. 25-1117 et seq.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following additional information is provided by the City with respect to the aforementioned sales tax proposition. This information has been obtained from sources deemed reliable by the City and is based upon projections. No assurances can be given that these projections will be accurate due to changing conditions, and other matters unknown or unavailable at this time.

Projected Annual Revenues of 1.0% City-Wide Retailers' Sales Tax

\$173,657.10

(based on 2025 sales tax collection information provided by the Kansas Department of Revenue)

The election officer conducting the election will be the County Clerk of Sumner County, Kansas, whose address is: Sumner County Courthouse, 501 N. Washington, Room 101, Wellington, Kansas 67152.

DATED: September 15, 2026.

(Seal)

Debra A. Norris, County Clerk
Sumner County, Kansas

Legal Notice
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NOTICE OF PLACES AND DATES OF REGISTRATION
GENERAL ELECTION

In compliance with provision of K.S.A. 25-2310, notice is hereby given that the books for registration of voters will be open at the Sumner County Clerk/Election Office from 8:00 a.m., to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Voter registration is available additionally, at the following places during regular business hours:

Sumner County Health Department
Sumner County Treasurer Office
Argonia City Clerk, City Building
Belle Plaine City Clerk, City Building
Caldwell City Clerk, City Building
Conway Springs City Clerk, City Building
Oxford City Clerk, City Building
Mulvane City Clerk, City Building
Wellington City Clerk, City Building

On the 13th day of October 2026, the books for voter registration will close. Registration books will remain closed until the 4th day of November 2026.

A citizen of the United States who is eighteen (18) years of age or older or will have attained the age of eighteen (18) years at the next election, must register before he or she can vote. Registration is open until the close of business of the 21st day prior to the election. Accomplish registration by completing a Kansas Voter Registration Application and submitting it to the office of the County Election Officer either in person or by mail.

A voter shall remain registered until the voter changes name by marriage, divorce, or other legal proceeding or changes residence. The voter may re-register in person, by mail or other delivery when registration is open.

The County Election Officer or the Secretary of State upon request shall provide application forms. The application shall be signed under penalty of perjury.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 15th day of September 2026.

Debra A. Norris, County Clerk
Sumner County Election Officer

Area Senior Centers

Argonia
620-435-6806

Belle Plaine
620-488-2945

Caldwell
620-845-6926

Conway Springs
620-456-2933

Mayfield
620-434-5300

Mulvane
316-777-4813

Oxford
620-500-1185

South Haven
620-892-5238

Wellington
620-326-3942

Hot lunches for citizens over 60 at a discounted cost. Meals are available for the general public and guests of seniors. Please call a day ahead for meal reservation.