

KATHRYN'S REPORT

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

Piper PA-28-180, N6433J: Fatal accident occurred December 17, 2017 near Branson West Airport (KFWB), Stone County, Missouri

Federal Aviation Administration / Flight Standards District Office; Kansas City, Missouri

Aircraft destroyed.

<http://registry.faa.gov/N6433J>

Date: 18-DEC-17
Time: 00:34:00Z
Regis#: N6433J
Aircraft Make: PIPER
Aircraft Model: PA 28 180
Event Type: ACCIDENT
Highest Injury: FATAL
Aircraft Missing: No
Damage: SUBSTANTIAL
Activity: UNKNOWN
Flight Phase: UNKNOWN (UNK)
City: BRANSON WEST
State: MISSOURI

Those who may have information that might be relevant to the National Transportation Safety Board investigation may contact them by email eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov, and any friends and family who want to contact investigators about the accident should email assistance@ntsb.gov.

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Dawn Curtis

BRANSON, Mo. -- On Monday, the Federal Aviation Administration spent the day at a crash site outside Branson, trying to determine the cause of a fatal plane crash.

Keith and Dawn Curtis were the only people inside the 1968 Piper Cherokee. The newlyweds married just last month; Keith was a newly-minted pilot, and his wife was training to be one herself.

They departed from the Gardner Municipal Airport Sunday evening, shortly before sundown. They were on their way to a family holiday in Branson.

The aviation community -- especially those who pilot small planes -- is a tight knit one. Keith Curtis and his wife were eager to be a part of it. Keith had his VFR (Visual Flight Rules) rating, and was working on his IFR (Instrument Flight Rules). Dawn was working on getting her license.

At the Gardner Municipal Airport, where Keith and Dawn Curtis departed on their last flight, their first airplane still sits patiently in a hangar. Their black pickup truck still sits in the parking lot.

Keith and Dawn were in their second plane, a 1968 Piper Cherokee. It crashed just before 7 p.m. outside of Branson Sunday night.

"When I saw the color of the airplane in the footage," Brent Bitikofer recalled, "I knew who it was."

Bitikofer is a pilot, and runs the maintenance shop at Gardner Municipal Airport, and said all the pilots there knew Keith.

"He wanted to do things," said Bitikofer Monday afternoon. "I don't know about dreamer. I think he was a doer. He had an idea and he was going to do it."



North American Navion, N8884H: Accident occurred December 17, 2017 near Gillespie Field Airport (KSEE), El Cajon, San Diego County, California

California



Cessna T210 Turbo Centurion, N761YZ, N761YZ LLC: Fatal accident occurred December 16, 2017 near Batesville Airport (KHLB), Franklin County, Indiana

Franklin County, Indiana



Cessna 172P Skyhawk II, N89464, Freeway Airport Inc: Incident occurred May 19, 2016 at Freeway Airport (W00), Mitchellville, Prince George's County, Maryland

George's County, Maryland



Beechcraft King Air C90, N19LW, registered to Planemarketing LLC and operated by L3 Airline Academy as CONN900: Fatal accident occurred December 08, 2017 in Geneva, Seminole County, Florida

Florida



Beech A36 Bonanza, N248SB, registered to Altitude Aviation Inc and operated by the pilot: Fatal accident occurred December 09, 2017 near Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport (KMYF), San Diego County, California

San Diego County, California



Ted Smith Aerostar 601, N7529S, registered to and operated by the pilot: Fatal accident occurred December 10, 2017 near Miami Executive Airport (KTMB), Miami-Dade County, Florida

(KTMB), Miami-Dade County, Florida



Piper PA-28-180, N6433J: Fatal accident occurred December 17, 2017 near Branson West Airport (KFWB), Stone County, Missouri

Stone County, Missouri



VistaJet Robbery: Nigerian Airport Security Team To Investigate How Bandits Attacked And Burgled Taxiing Jet At Lagos Airport

Lt. Col. Matt Clausen: In command on Air Force Two



Beechcraft C90 King Air, N500KR, registered to and operated by the pilot: Accident occurred December 04, 2017 at Chicago Rockford International Airport (KRFD), Winnebago County, Illinois

Airport (KRFD), Winnebago County, Illinois



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Keith Curtis ran his own company -- KC All American Moving -- from his home on Lake Road One in Gardner. It is a family-owned company.

The family, which had just last month celebrated Dawn and Keith's marriage, was gathering in Branson for a holiday celebration. That is why the newlyweds flew down Sunday evening.

The family told FOX 4, in a written statement, "They were the type of people that made you happier when you were in their presence. They loved to travel, were adventurous, and loved life, loving it all the more together."

The family also said "tragedies like this remind all of us that life is precious and short and should be cherished at every turn."

Story and video ► <http://fox4kc.com>



Keith and Dawn Curtis

Stone County, Mo.--12/18/2017) The Stone County Sheriff's Department are still working to figure out what caused a small plane crash near Branson that left two people dead.

Investigators are still looking for answers surrounding a deadly plane crash near Branson West Sunday night.

Sheriff Doug Rader is with the Stone County Sheriff's Department. He tells FOX5,"Around 7 p.m. m we got a call of an airplane that had went down, deputies arrived on scene, located the plane.

According to Rader, the aircraft crashed into a field while attempting to land at Branson West Airport.

"The two subjects that were in the plane were both deceased at that time."

The Stone County Coroner has identified the two people killed in the plane crash as 52 year old Keith Curtis and his wife, 45 year old Dawn Curtis.

Daniel Cataldo witness the accident and he explains," sad. All we can do is pray man. I mean I feel bad for the family."

In the moments after the crash,people near the crash site like Cataldo began

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to call 911.

"I jumped over that fence to go see if anybody needed some help, but then when I got down there I couldn't see anything cause it was so foggy that I made it past that second barn down, but I didn't see anything."

Witness John Higgins says he saw a single engine plane flying low, which was unusual.

"He sounded low, didn't sound in distressed, but it was low and he circled like twice and then I'm thinking it's foggy out, I'm thinking this guy is in trouble and then I heard a thump, a loud thump," says Higgins.

Moments later, he started hearing from friends nearby about a plane crash.

"My heart really goes out to the families of the people that deceased. It's not what you'd expect."

Neighbors describe concerns with planes coming into the Branson West Airport.

"Since they opened the airport and we're right under the flight pattern you kind of always worry about some aircraft coming down."

The FAA is investigating the crash. The NTSB will determine the cause of the crash which investigators say could take up to a year.

Story and video ► <http://www.fox5krbk.com>



A 52-year-old man and a 45-year-old woman died Sunday night after a plane crashed in a Stone County field, officials say.

According to a news release from the Stone County Sheriff's Office, Keith M. Curtis and Dawn M. Curtis — both from Gardner, Kansas — were pronounced dead at the scene.

Family members say Keith and Dawn Curtis got married last month, and they were in the Branson area this weekend for vacation.

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Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene at 6:45 p.m. Sunday and found a 1968 Piper single-engine aircraft, the release said.

The release said the Federal Aviation Administration is expected to investigate the crash Monday.

The Branson West Airport directed a News-Leader reporter to local law enforcement for information on the crash. It's unclear if the plane was headed to the airport.

Elizabeth Cory, a spokeswoman for the FAA, said a single-engine plane crashed into a field about 1.25 miles north of Branson West Airport.

Cory said both the FAA and the National Traffic Safety Board will be investigating the crash. Investigations normally take several months and can last longer than a year, Cory said.

Dan Cataldo lives near the scene of the crash.

Cataldo said he heard a loud noise and saw the plane circling around before crashing into the ground.

Story, video and photo gallery ► <http://www.news-leader.com>



BRANSON, Mo. — A Gardner, Kan., couple who was recently married died in a plane crash Sunday night near Branson.

Keith Curtis, 52 and Dawn Curtis, 45, were both pronounced dead the the scene. Their plane crashed in the area of Branson West Airport after 6:30 p.m. Sunday. The plane was a 1968 Piper single engine aircraft.

"I kept hearing the plane flying around and it sounded like he was having motor problems," Martin West told KY3 in Springfield.

"All of the sudden, the motor stopped and I heard a big boom," neighbor Vicki Morrow reported to KY3.

According to a family member (see full message below), the Curtises were flying to Branson West to begin a four-day pre-Christmas family vacation. They were meeting their parents who are from Belton there.

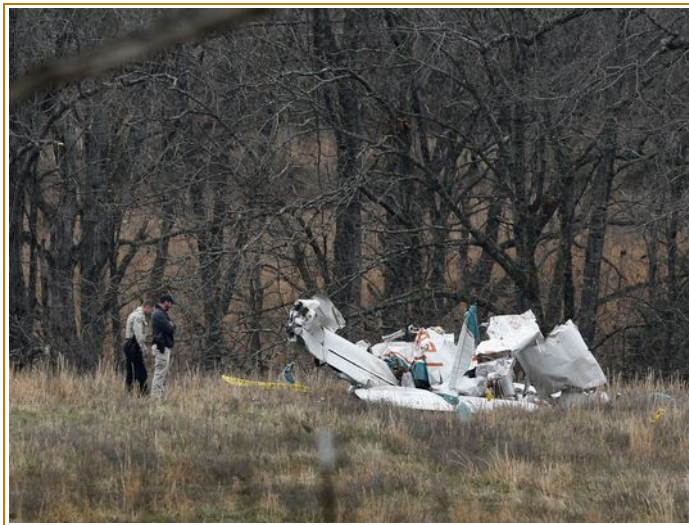
Authorities do not yet know why the plane went down.

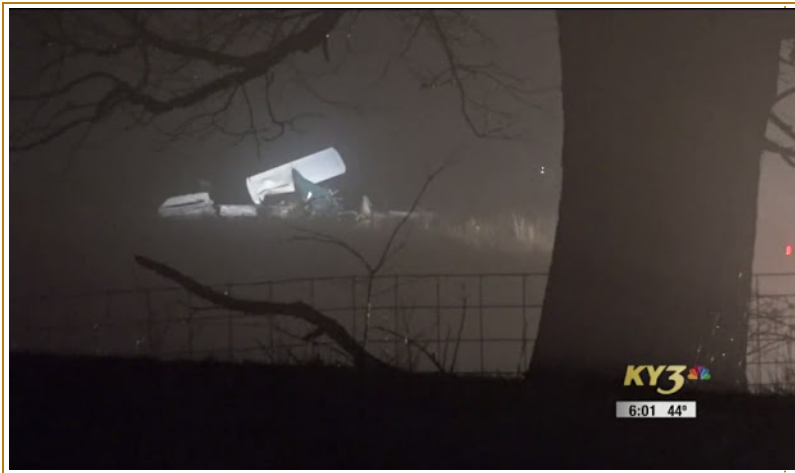
Fox 4's Rebecca Gannon messaged the family, who released a statement about their loss:

Our hearts are clearly broken as we are all trying to process this tragedy. Dawn Mustain Curtis and Keith Curtis, Sr. Of Garner, Kansas, had just gotten married November 11, 2017 after several years of dating. They were the type of people that made you happier when you were in their presence. They loved to travel, were adventurous, and loved life, loving it all the more together. They frequently traveled to the Springfield and Branson areas via their private plane and had journeyed to Branson West yesterday to begin a four-day, pre Christmas family vacation. Their parents, Norman and Vickey Eagleton, of Belton, Missouri, arrived in Branson yesterday afternoon for that vacation and will remain here until the many details involved can be attended to properly. We would like to thank the Stone and Taney County Sheriff Departments for their compassionate, prompt communication with us, the rescue personnel who responded and the staff at Subway in Hollister, Missouri who stayed way past closing last night to accommodate us in our grief. Also, the witnesses who privately shared their accounts with us nearly immediately through the power of Facebook. Tragedies like this remind all of us that life is precious and short and should be cherished at every turn. We will get through this with the power of faith and the love of family and friends, one day at a time.

-Joyelle Low Buckley, family member

Story and photo ► <http://fox4kc.com>









Authorities say a recently-married couple killed in a southwest Missouri plane crash were from Gardner, Kansas.

Stone County Missouri Sheriff Doug Rader on Monday identified the victims as 52-year-old Keith Curtis and 45-year-old Dawn Curtis.

Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Cory said their Piper PA-28-180 went down Sunday night in a pasture about a mile northwest of the Branson West Municipal Airport.

Relatives said in a statement that the couple was married on Nov. 11 after dating for several years. They were on their way to Branson for a four-day, pre-Christmas family vacation.

The FAA is investigating the cause of the crash.

<http://www.koamtv.com>





BRANSON WEST, Mo. (KY3) The Stone County sheriff confirms to KY3 News that two people were killed in a single-engine Piper plane crash near Branson West on Sunday night.

Original reports from authorities listed three victims. However, they later realized that they had mistaken a coat in the plane for another person.

According to the Southern Stone County Fire Protection District, the plane went down in the area of Branson West Airport and Yocom Pond just after 6:30 p.m.

Witnesses who live nearby told KY3 News that they heard the plane flying low to the ground before it crashed.

"All of the sudden, the motor stopped and I heard a big boom," Neighbor Vicki Morrow said.

"I kept hearing the plane flying around and it sounded like he was having motor problems. I told my wife 'It sounds like he is going to crash.' It wasn't but a few seconds later and there was a big 'thump.' It shook the whole floor and the ground and everything and we ran outside and my wife called 911. We went looking for it and there it was over there right in the field," Neighbor Martin West said.

Authorities do not yet know why the plane went down.

Names of the deceased haven't been released.

The FAA will be on scene Monday morning to investigate.

Story and photos ► <http://www.ky3.com>

Posted by Kathryn on [Sunday, December 17, 2017](#) 



2 comments:

Anonymous said...

Big loss for the families. Prayers. Sunset was around 5pm. Does anyone see the fog behind the firefighters? Why fly in the dark and fog? Bold will get you killed.

[Monday, December 18, 2017 at 6:43:00 PM EST](#)

Anonymous said...

Based on FAA records, he obtained his private pilot license this past Aug. 30 and was not instrument rated. Most likely developed spatial disorientation flying at night and in low visibility and based on the condition of the wreckage probably lost control and spun into the ground at a high rate of speed. So SAD, R.I.P.

[Monday, December 18, 2017 at 8:01:00 PM EST](#)

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Sheriff identifies victims of deadly plane crash near Branson West



FAA investigates deadly plane crash



FAA investigates deadly plane crash



FAA begins investigation into deadly plane crash Monday



SHERIFF: 2 dead in small plane crash in Branson West



Posted: Sun 8:21 PM, Dec 17, 2017 | Updated: Mon 6:24 PM, Dec 18, 2017

BRANSON WEST, Mo. -- The Stone County sheriff identified the victims of a deadly plane crash near Branson West Sunday night.



Courtesy: Joyelle Low Buckley (Sister of Dawn)

Keith M. Curtis, 52, of Gardner, Kansas and Dawn M. Curtis, 45, of Gardner, Kansas died in the plane crash. They were both pronounced dead at the scene.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) began investigations into what caused the crash on Monday morning.

"We are looking for pilot qualifications, background, medical. Then, we will go and do an examination of the aircraft. We will also go into the maintenance history of the aircraft. Then, finally, the environment, the weather, air traffic control, radar information, that kind of stuff," NTSB Air Safety Investigator Craig Hatch said.

The plane crashed in the area of Branson West Airport and Yocom Pond Road just after 6:30 p.m. The airplane is a 1968 Piper single engine aircraft. Witnesses who live nearby told KY3 News heard the plane flying low to the ground before it crashed.

"All of the sudden, the motor stopped and I heard a big boom," neighbor Vicki Morrow said.

"I kept hearing the plane flying around and it sounded like he was having motor problems," Martin West said. "I told my wife 'It sounds like he is going to crash.' It wasn't but a few seconds later and there was a big 'thump.' It shook the whole floor and the ground and everything and we ran outside and my wife called 911. We went looking for it and there it was over there right in the field."

Authorities do not yet know why the plane went down.

The NTSB will likely release a preliminary report within about five days. However, the probable cause report, which will have the exact reason why they believe the crash happened, will likely take more than a year.

The family of the Dawn and Keith Curtis released this statement:

"Our hearts are clearly broken as we are all trying to process this tragedy. Dawn Mustain Curtis and Keith Curtis, Sr. of Garner, Kansas, had just gotten married November 11, 2017 after several years of dating. They were the type of people that made you happier when you were in their presence. They loved to travel, were adventurous, and loved life, loving it all the more together. They frequently traveled to the Springfield and Branson areas via their private plane and had journeyed to Branson West yesterday to begin a four-day, pre-Christmas family vacation. Their parents, Norman and Vickie Eagleton, of Belton, Missouri, arrived in Branson yesterday afternoon for that vacation and will remain here until the many details involved can be attended to properly. We would like to thank the Stone and Taney County Sheriff Departments for their compassionate, prompt communication with us, the rescue personnel who responded and the staff at Subway in Hollister, Missouri who stayed way past closing last night to accommodate us in our grief. Also, the witnesses who privately shared their accounts with us nearly immediately through the power of Facebook. Tragedies like this remind all of us that life is precious and short and should be cherished at every turn. We will get through this with the power of faith and the love of family and friends, one day at a time."

- Joyelle Low Buckley, family member

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