

The Wichita Eagle

Red Cross declares second-ever blood supply crisis

BY MARC RAMIREZ
USA TODAY Network via Reuters Connect

For only the second time in its history, the American Red Cross has declared a national blood supply crisis with dona-

tion levels falling to a four-year summer low. The shortage threatens the availability of lifesaving blood for emergency surgeries and accident victims, cancer treatment and other serious medical needs, the nonprofit hu-

manitarian and disaster-relief agency said in a plea for donors posted on social media. Health workers warn the crisis could delay surgeries requiring transfusions and paralyze maternity wards. "Blood donations simply are

not keeping pace with hospital demand," Chris Hrouda, president of Red Cross Biomedical Services, said in a statement. "Inventories - especially type O blood - remain under significant strain ... We urgently need everyone who is eligible to make an appointment to give blood as soon as possible." Earlier this month, the Red Cross declared an emergency blood shortage after supplies fell nearly 25% in June, causing inventories to dip below desirable levels. The situation prompted the agency to offer vouchers for free movie tickets to those who donated blood before Friday. A national blood supply crisis

is more severe, indicating inventory of critical blood types has fallen below crucial thresholds and threatens to run out. The agency, the nation's largest single provider of blood products, said it has less than a one-day national supply of type O positive blood - the most transfused blood type - and will actively limit such shipments to individual hospitals for the time being.

WHY TYPE O BLOOD IS CRUCIAL
Type O blood accounts for about 60% of Red Cross blood distributions, the agency said, essential for both everyday

SEE BLOOD SUPPLY, 2A



Mourners carry the bodies of members of the Hashed al-Shaabi, killed in Diyala, central Iraq, by U.S.-Saudi strikes, during a funeral Wednesday in Baghdad.

New strikes engulf more countries in Iran war

BY RAJA ABDULRAHIM, VIVIAN NEREIM, ISMAEEL NAAR AND THOMAS FULLER
NYT News Service

Airstrikes across the Middle East on Wednesday and in the predawn hours Thursday drew more countries into the war between the United States and Iran, ending a few days of relative calm in the region. U.S. Central Command, which directs American forces in the region, announced new

strikes starting at about 3:30 a.m. Thursday in Iran, without adding further detail. The escalation comes as attempts at resuming peace talks have foundered and the scope of the war appeared to widen. On Wednesday, Iran fired missiles at military bases in Jordan and at oil tankers. American and Saudi fighter jets targeted Iranian-linked militias in Iraq. An apparent drone attack also set ablaze two ships, including a U.S.-owned gas

storage tanker, at a shipping hub in Egypt. President Donald Trump may have been hinting at the latest predawn barrage when on Wednesday he vowed that the United States would target Iran in response to attempted attacks on U.S. forces. "We're going to be hitting them very hard," he told reporters in the Oval Office. "Because it's our turn to hit them." Since the collapse of a cease-

fire between the United States and Iran this month, Iran-linked groups across the region have opened new fronts and reopened old ones, drawing in forces in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan. Saudi Arabia's participation in the attacks Wednesday amounted to an escalation. Previously, the kingdom had avoided openly becoming a direct combatant in the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. (The Saudi military had launched some retaliatory strikes on Iran, but those were done in secret, according to senior U.S. officials.) The Saudi foreign ministry

SEE WAR, 2A

New satellite county tag office will open Monday in Derby

BY LINDSAY SMITH
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Just over a week after the county announced the closing of Derby's satellite tag office, a new tag office is set to open Aug. 3 at the Derby Public Library. The county announced July 20 that the Derby tag office, 620 N. Rock Road in a state office, would cease operation at the end of July to protect employees and residents. "After evaluating the work environment, we determined it was no longer the right long-term location for our operation," Sedgwick County Treasurer Brandi Baily said in a statement to The Eagle. Derby's City Council approved the plans to open the satellite location during a July 28 city council meeting. Before the closing announcement, the treasurer's office had approached Derby to inquire about a good location for a tag office, City Manager Kiel Mangus said at the City Council meeting. Mangus brought up the public library, 1600 Walnut Grove Road, just a three-minute drive from the satellite tag office that is closing. Mangus met with library Director Eric Gustafson and identified an underused space at the north end of the library. "(Gustafson) wants people in the library ... he wants people to be in there and use that service. So we contacted Sedgwick County (and) they were very excited about it," Mangus said.

SEE SATELLITE, 2A

Who could be new judges in Sedgwick County? Meet the four candidates

BY AMY RENEE LEIKER
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On Tuesday, Republicans will select judges to fill open seats on the Sedgwick County District Court. Most of the candidates voters will see on their ballots are incumbent judges who are seeking

reelection and running unopposed. But two of the seats will be filled by newcomers who haven't held those positions before. Because no Democrats are running, the winner in each race will become judge. Attorneys Mike Fessinger and Derrick Smith are vying for the district judge seat in Division 17,

while lawyers Lacy Gilmour and David Lowden are seeking the district magistrate position. Division 17 incumbent Linda Kirby is not seeking reelection. The current magistrate, Elizabeth Henry, was appointed by the governor last August and is not running.

SEE CANDIDATES, 5A



Eagle staff

Judicial candidates, from left, Michael Fessinger, Lacy J. Gilmour, David Lowden and Derrick Smith.



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