Williams International begins cutting almost 150; ATK Launch Systems to cut 300 by end of March

BY CHARLES F. TRIENTELMAN
Standard-Examiner staff
ctrientelman@standard.net

OGDEN — Major aerospace manufacturers Williams International and ATK Launch Systems both announced job cuts Thursday, bringing hundreds of Utahans out of work.

Citing a sharp downturn in orders for the private jets for which it makes turbine engines, Williams International laid off 150 people companywide, most at its Ogden plant.

ATK Launch Systems spokesman George Torres said the company has announced it will lay off 80 people by the end of March, although not because of the declining economy.

Williams International began laying off people at its Ogden facility Thursday morning.

Several employees who called the Standard-Examiner, not declined to leave their names, said the layoffs were about 30 percent of the workforce.

Matt Huff, vice president of business development at the company’s Michigan offices, said he couldn’t give a precise figure of how many people in Ogden were losing their jobs.

He also declined to say how many people the private company employs.

In a news release, the company said, “The reduction affects both Williams facilities at Walled Lake, Michigan, and Ogden, Utah — but the impact is greater in Utah, where most of these engines are manufactured.”

Williams’ President and CEO Greg Boyll said in that same release, “The combination of the credit crunch, economic uncertainty and anti-business aviation rhetoric have driven many potential buyers of small jets to the sidelines, and this has led to the cancellations or delay of many of our engine orders.”

Huff said that he was not authorized to say more about the layoffs beyond what was contained in the news release.

Williams International makes the engines for private business jets, which got a black eye when the CEOs of General Motors, Chrysler and Ford were convicted of fraud.

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On Thursday, Williams International began laying off almost 150 employees from its facility in Ogden. Officials cite a sharp downturn in orders for private jets for which it makes turbine engines.

Layton police shoot, kill man
36-year-old appeared distracted over job situation, officials say

By JESSE FRIEWIRTH
Standard-Examiner Crime Bureau
Jesse.friewirth@standard.net

LAYTON — A 36-year-old man who may have been upset about his job situation was shot in his front yard by Layton police Thursday after he fired a shotgun at them, officials say.

Police have identified the shot man as Drive Cramer, 220 E. Kaye Creek Drive, where the shooting occurred.

“The officers acted in self-defense, in what appears, at this time, to be an appropriate manner,” Layton Police Lt. James Petre said.

Petre said Cramer called Davis County dispatchers around 2 p.m.

“He was upset over a job situation he called,” Petre said.

“He indicated he was upset, he was going to harm himself.”

Davis dispatchers contacted Layton dispatchers, who sent officers to the home.

About that time, neighbor Jana Hanni drove by on her way to work, across the street and two doors down from the incident.

She saw police cars around, but just drove around them.

When she got to her house, three officers were up against her home and asked her to go inside.

Those officers were part of a perimeter that Petre said was set up based on what he indicated to the dispatcher he called, Petre said.

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On Thursday, Layton police shot and killed a man who had appeared to be upset over a job situation. The man was driving a shotgun at police officers as they tried to talk to him.

West Warren company tanks
Employees waiting to be paid; customers waiting for returns and refunds

By SCOTT SCHWEBKE
Standard-Examiner Business bureau
sschwebke@standard.net

WEST WARREN — Signs were everywhere that US Tank Company was headed toward a financial meltdown, even inside the office of chief executive Dave Marley.

It was there on a dry erase board that Mor-