

Now you know.

AREA NEWS IN BRIEF

Trial set for man who picked up 12-year-old El Dorado girl

A federal judge has scheduled a September trial for a Canadian man found in Michigan with a 12-year-old El Dorado girl he met on the Internet.

Stewart Kenneth Cody McGill of Bewdley, Ontario, has already waived a detention hearing and will remain in custody until his trial. He's charged with transporting a minor out of state to have sex.

U.S. District Judge J. Thomas Marten this week set a Sept. 25 trial date.

Authorities say McGill traveled in late May to El Dorado to meet the girl. They were found a few days later near Potterville, Mich.

— Associated Press

Gas leak forces evacuations at WSU

Five buildings at Wichita State University were evacuated for more than an hour Thursday after a construction crew ruptured a natural gas line outside the Rhatigan Student Center.

University spokesman Joe Kleinsasser said the Rhatigan Center, Elliott Hall, Jardine Hall, the Geology Building and the Human Resources Center were evacuated after the leak was reported about 2:30 p.m. It was repaired in about an hour, and all the buildings were reopened by 4:15 p.m.

The Rhatigan Center is undergoing a renovation that is expected to be completed in 2014.

— Hurst Laviana

K-96 bridge repairs to begin Saturday

Traffic patterns in some east Wichita interchanges will be disrupted this month as construction crews repair four bridges on K-96.

Kansas Department of Transportation spokesman Tom Hein said the ramp from eastbound Kellogg to westbound K-96 is scheduled to close for 10 days beginning Saturday. The eastbound K-96 bridge over Kellogg is scheduled to close for 10 days beginning Aug. 18, he said.

Repairs also are scheduled for the Central and 127th Street East bridges over K-96. Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction during the project.

— Hurst Laviana

Trans-Siberian Orchestra to play here

Trans-Siberian Orchestra will perform at Intrust Bank Arena on Dec. 5, according to Pollstar, a music industry publication and website.

Officials at the arena said they could not confirm the performance.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra has come to Wichita every Christmas season for the past several years.

Ticket prices and an on-sale date have not been announced.

— Denise Neil

26 abortion clinic charges dismissed

BY JOHN HANNA
Associated Press

TOPEKA — A Johnson County judge on Thursday dismissed 26 misdemeanor charges against an Overland Park Planned Parenthood clinic, honoring a prosecutor's request to further narrow a criminal case over allegations the clinic performed illegal late-term abortions.

Johnson County District Attorney Steve Howe confirmed Thursday night that District Judge Stephen Ta-

tum signed an order late in the afternoon at Howe's request. Tatum's action is noted in online court records, but without any details.

Attorneys for the Planned Parenthood clinic in Overland Park had requested in March to have the same charges dismissed. The clinic's attorneys argued that the charges — covering 13 abortions in 2003 — were filed beyond a two-year deadline for pursuing charges in effect when the pregnancies were terminated.

"Basically, we don't dispute their contention," Howe said.

Howe's predecessor as district attorney, Phill Kline, filed 107 criminal charges against the clinic in October 2007, including 23 felonies alleging that the clinic also falsified records to help cover up illegal late-term abortions. Groups on both sides of the debate described the case as the first one known in the nation in which a Planned Parenthood clinic faced criminal charges.

But in November, Tatum dismissed the 49 most seri-

ous charges, including the felonies, also at Howe's request. Thirty-two misdemeanor charges remain, covering 16 abortions the clinic performed, also in 2003, but starting in July, when a state law took effect extending the deadline for pursuing charges to five years after an incident.

"It is indeed a tragedy that it has taken this long for these charges to be dismissed," said Pedro Irigonegaray, a Topeka attorney representing the clinic.

The clinic still is accused of

violating a Kansas law that in 2003 restricted abortions at or after the 22nd week of pregnancy if a doctor determined the fetus was viable, or could survive outside the womb. In such instances, abortions were limited to saving a woman's life or preventing "substantial and irreversible harm" to "a major bodily function," which could include mental health. Legislators rewrote the law last year.

For the 16 abortions

Please see **ABORTION**, Page 3B

Back-to-school safety



Travis Heying/The Wichita Eagle

Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Mike Butler examines an emergency-exit hatch as part of the annual school bus inspection Thursday morning. According to the Wichita school district, member of the Highway Patrol were to inspect the equipment and mechanical systems on more than 500 buses. The first day of school in Wichita is Aug. 15, with some sixth- and ninth-graders attending a half day of orientation Aug. 14.

Voters to decide on Andover schools increase

BY SARAH TUCKER
The Wichita Eagle

Andover School District voters will decide whether or not to approve an increase to the district's local option budget on Tuesday.

The Andover School District is proposing a 1 percent LOB increase that would raise a little more than

\$433,000 in additional property tax revenue to restore previously cut faculty, coaching and support staff positions.

A mailer sent out this week by supporters of the increase encouraged Andover residents to vote yes and listed some of the positions that would be restored with the funds.

Steve Hardin, a parent of two students in the district, said he supports the increase and is part of the group of parents who posted signs and sent out the mailers. Hardin said the group is "as tax averse as everybody else," but they want to see their children succeed in both the classroom and extracurricular activities.

"With this particular (increase), we see exactly the positions it will fund," Hardin said. "It's like making a donation to your schools."

Proponents of the increase say it will cost the owner of a \$100,000 house less than 50 cents a month.

According to the Andover School District, 35 coaching and activity sponsor positions

would be restored, along with more than 13 additional teaching staff and instructional support positions. Superintendent Mark Evans said more coaching and activity positions are being restored because they only cost \$2,000 each, whereas the teaching positions are more

Please see **ANDOVER**, Page 3B

Flap over car led to shooting outside restaurant

BY STAN FINGER
The Wichita Eagle

A 36-year-old man is lucky to be alive after being shot in the face at close range, police said Thursday.

A 48-year-old man driving by Mike's Steakhouse at 2131 S. Broadway at about 5 p.m. Wednesday saw a car that belonged to him in the restaurant's parking lot, Lt. Scott Heimerman said.

Thinking the car had been stolen, he pulled into the lot and confronted the two men inside the Pontiac.

The men got out of the car as the dispute escalated, Heimerman said, and then the car's owner pulled out a gun and pointed it at them.

He then shot the driver in the face and fired another shot into the pavement, Heimerman said.

The bullet ricocheted and

hit the second person who had been in the car, a 55-year-old man.

When a witness tried to call 911, Heimerman said, the suspect pointed his gun at the person but did not fire.

Another family member had loaned the car to the man shot in the face, Heimerman said, but the owner did not know that.

"The suspect over-reacted

considerably in this instance," he said.

The shooting victim was taken to Via Christi Hospital on St. Francis with injuries that turned out to be remarkably minor given the circumstances, Heimerman said.

"It turned out to be more superficial than anything," he said. "He's going to be fine. We're lucky that we're not working a murder."

The second shooting victim

declined treatment.

The shooter was taken into custody for questioning and then arrested, Heimerman said.

Evidence in the case will be presented to the Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office later this week, he said.

Reach Stan Finger at 316-268-6437 or sfinger@wichitaeagle.com.

Organic Colorado Peaches



\$1.99 per lb.

Northern Blueberries



\$1.99 Pint

Extra Large Avocados



99¢ Each

"Mick's Fresh Picks"



GREENACRES MARKET

Solutions for a healthy life.

8141 E. 21st St. in Bradley Fair
316-634-1088 • greenacres.com

Sale Friday - Sunday