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AREA NEWS IN BRIEF

CDC: Nearly 30 percent of adult Kansans obese

ATLANTA – A new government study shows that nearly 30 percent of Kansas adults are obese.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday that 29.6 percent of Kansans were classified as obese in 2011. That's up slightly from the 2010 rate of 29.4 percent.

In neighboring Missouri, the survey showed the rate of obese adults was 30.3 percent. To the west, Colorado had the nation's lowest rate at just below 21 percent.

Overall, more than a third of American adults are obese.

The latest figures are based on a 2011 telephone survey that asked adults their height and weight. For the first time, households with only cellphones were included.

— Associated Press

Man hurt in car-train collision in Wichita

A man on his way to work crashed through a set of railroad crossing arms and slammed into the side of a passing train just north of Wichita on Monday morning, authorities said.

The 22-year-old man, who lives in Park City, was driving east on 53rd Street North just before 8:30 a.m. when he struck the side of a southbound train near Arkansas, Sedgwick County sheriff's Lt. Brad Hoch said. The impact spun the car into the ditch southeast of the rail crossing.

"He was extremely lucky he was able to walk away with minor injuries," Hoch said of the driver.

The man was taken to Via Christi Hospital on St. Francis for evaluation, where he was listed in good condition late Monday morning.

— Stan Finger

United Way kickoff breakfast to be Sept. 6

People have until Aug. 30 to make reservations for the United Way of the Plains Campaign Kickoff Breakfast.

Cost is \$15 per person or \$120 for a table of eight. The breakfast will be held at the Bob Brown Expo Hall in Century II on Sept. 6.

Buffet lines open at 7 a.m. and the program starts at 7:30 a.m.

To make reservations go to www.unitedwayplains.org/index.php?Itemid=149 or call Nancy Richards at 316-267-1321.

— Becca Tanner

Salina priest pleads no contest to battery

SALINA – A Salina priest has pleaded no contest to misdemeanor battery after being accused of inappropriately touching an adult male.

The Rev. Allen Scheer, of Sacred Heart Cathedral, was accused in April of inappropriately touching a man. Scheer had been scheduled for trial Wednesday on a misdemeanor charge of sexual battery before the plea.

A statement on the website of the Catholic Diocese of Salina said Scheer pleaded no contest Friday to the lesser charge of misdemeanor battery.

The diocese also says Scheer was sentenced to six months' probation.

Bishop Edward Weisenburger said in a statement that Scheer may possibly return to ministry after he's evaluated by health care professionals and diocese leaders.

— Associated Press

Wichita board OKs teacher contract

BY SUZANNE PEREZ TOBIAS AND AMY RENEE LEIKER
The Wichita Eagle

The Wichita school board voted to accept a tentative contract, including the first raise for teachers in four years, overwhelmingly approved Monday afternoon by Wichita teachers.

The item drew little further discussion at Monday evening's Board of Education meeting, despite months of negotiations sometimes described as adversarial between the Wichita school district and the local teacher's

union.

Union officials announced Monday that of the 2,626 votes returned to the United Teachers of Wichita office – about two-thirds of the district's 4,000 teachers – 88 percent voted to accept the contract. The agreement amounts to a 4 percent increase in salary, benefits and reduced work time, Superintendent John Allison said Monday afternoon. Its price tag – about \$8.6 million – has already been factored into the district's budget.

The agreement was approved as part of the board's consent agenda. In an afternoon interview, union

president Randy Mousley said teachers "accepted it, but a little grudgingly. ... Of course, everyone wishes it could have been more."

Mousley said the somewhat low turnout on the contract vote shows that teachers are "happy about the 1 percent, steps and tracks, and longevity."

"But they've sacrificed a lot and their families have sacrificed a lot in the last four years," he said. "They've kept doing an outstanding job. Test scores have been increasing, and they've stayed with it."

At Monday evening's school board

meeting, Mousley told members that teachers face "some very interesting challenges with the waiver of No Child Left Behind," referring to a waiver granted last month to Kansas schools by the Department of Education.

In February, Kansas requested flexibility in meeting some of the provision of the act, including its mandate that every student at every school must pass state reading and math assessments by 2014. In its place, the state will implement plans aimed at

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Fun in the sun, and the pool, for dogs



Jaime Green/The Wichita Eagle

LEFT: Izzie, a Chihuahua, wears her goggles while enjoying the Dog Days of Summer, an annual swim for dogs at College Hill Pool that benefits the Kansas Humane Society. See a gallery of photos from Dog Days at Kansas.com.

BELOW: The College Hill Pool was packed with humans and canines for the Dog Days of Summer on Monday.



Jaime Green/The Wichita Eagle



Jaime Green/The Wichita Eagle

LEFT: Dogs and people frolic in the College Hill Pool at the annual Dog Days of Summer. Dogs could compete in contests for largest and smallest dogs, a long jump contest and a frisbee catch.

Photos online

Go to Kansas.com for a gallery of photos from the Dog Days of Summer.

Andover schools' local option budget vote ties

BY SARAH TUCKER
The Wichita Eagle

The Andover school district's local option budget increase may pass after all.

After canvassing on Monday, Butler County voters still rejected the increase, 856 to 744.

But the school district lies in two counties, and when Butler County's final results are added to Sedgwick County's votes, the issue is tied: 1,575 to 1,575.

Sedgwick County still has to count its remaining votes, which include more than 1,000 provisional ballots. Not all of those voters live in the Andover school district, but some might, and some may have voted on the issue.

Tabitha Lehman, Sedgwick County's election commissioner, learned of the tie Monday.

"I've not heard of a tie on something like this before, but that certainly doesn't mean it hasn't happened," Lehman said.

With candidates, ties are broken with a game of chance, such as flipping a coin or drawing a name out of a hat. But according to state law, "if a question vote ends in a tie, it's a no vote because it fails to pass," said Ronald Roberts, Butler County's election officer.

Because Butler County is the home county for the issue, Sedgwick County will tally and report its votes to Butler County and let it decide the issue, Lehman said. She expects Sedgwick County's canvassing to be completed by Thursday night or Friday morning.

Andover superintendent Mark Evans said the district planned to present two budgets to the Board of Education meeting on Monday: one with the local option budget increase and one without.

Passage of the issue would raise the Andover local option budget by 1 percentage point, and the mill levy would decrease by 2.5 mills instead of 3 mills.

The local option budget would generate over \$430,000 for the school district, and the money would fund faculty, coaching and support staff positions, among other things.

Should the increase eventually pass, the positions would require approval and would be on the Board of Education's September agenda, Evans said.

"It's a great example of every vote does count," Evans said.

As of Election Night last Tuesday, the LOB increase had failed in Butler County, 851 to 732. In Sedgwick County, the vote had passed, 831 to 719.

Reach Sarah Tucker at 316-268-6514 or stucker@wichitaeagle.com.

Topeka ballot mix-up means 432 people vote again

BY JOHN HANNA
Associated Press

TOPEKA – A Topeka polling place will have a special election for 432 voters after some received the wrong ballots in last week's Kansas primaries, officials decided Monday.

The Shawnee County Commission set the special election for Aug. 28, limiting it to voters who cast ballots in two precincts. They will be able to vote again in two Kansas House races and for Republican and Democratic party precinct committee positions.

An attorney for the county called the action "unpre-

cedented," but commissioners saw it as the fairest way to resolve the problem.

The decision caused frustration for the top two candidates in a three-way contest for the Republican nomination in the 52nd House District. They were separated by only 41 votes out of 4,100 last week, so the special election could determine the winner. Meanwhile, they're losing several weeks of fundraising and campaigning for the November general election.

Shawnee County Elections Commissioner Elizabeth Ennsley Deiter said the mix-up occurred because the super-

vising judge at the polling site, the Light of the World Christian Center, didn't follow election training in handing out ballots. Her office said up to 87 voters received the wrong ballots, but it couldn't pinpoint exactly which voters.

"There probably isn't the best solution before us right now, but what would seem the most fair is that these folks are entitled to vote again," said Shawnee County Commissioner Mary Thomas, a Democrat. "We get a do-over."

The county commission — meeting as a local Board of



John Hanna/Associated Press

Republican candidate Shanti Gandhi, second from left, speaks as the Shawnee County Commission decides what to do about some voters receiving the wrong ballots.

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