

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

**FYI**

Shoppers such as Marsha Rametta of Shawnee shared their Thanksgiving stories with us, and we gave them frozen turkeys. | C1



**SPORTS DAILY**

KU quarterback Todd Reesing, a native Texan, will lead his team against the Longhorns tonight in a homecoming marred by trouble on and off the field. | B1



**TODAY'S WEATHER: LOW 41, HIGH 54. MOSTLY CLOUDY AND MILD. | B12**

**75¢**

## Today is a big day in Senate

**Vote roundup continues until final hours as Democrats seek to proceed with health bill.**

By DAVID LIGHTMAN  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON | The Senate is poised to approve today the start of a historic debate over health care legislation aimed at making coverage easier, less expensive to obtain and harder to lose.

Democrats will need 60 votes to cut off a Republican-led effort to block consideration of the bill, however. A vote is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. Central time tonight. Democrats control 60 seats, but two moderates are wavering.

One previously undecided Democratic centrist, Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska, said Friday that he'd vote to proceed, but stressed that his vote "is not for or against the new Senate health care bill. ... It is only to begin debate and an opportunity to make improvements."

Still undecided were Sens. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana and Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas, both Democrats.

Should the Senate vote to proceed, a full floor debate on

SEE SENATE | A26

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**CAUTHEN'S REMOVAL** | Critics cite politics and chaos in council's decision

# OUSTER SHAKES UP CITY



Mayor Mark Funkhouser (left) and the acting city manager, Troy Schulte, answered a few questions Friday at the end of a luncheon.

## Acting city manager viewed as easygoing, collaborative

By LYNN HORSLEY  
The Kansas City Star

Troy Schulte once was city manager of the town of Marengo, Iowa, population 2,500.

Now he finds himself in a much hotter seat in a much bigger city.

On Thursday he was named acting city manager in Kansas City by a one-vote margin in an angry and chaotic City Council meeting.

His job will be to try to calm the waters while at the same time helping city government confront another massive budget shortfall.

"It's going to be very tough in the near term," he said.

But it's a challenge that he said he relished.

After serving as Marengo city administrator for several years in the 1990s, Schulte came to Kansas City 11 years ago as an entry-level budget analyst. He quickly rose through the budget ranks and was named budget officer in 2003 under City Manager Wayne Cauthen, whom he has replaced.

The City Council on Thursday ousted Cauthen and named Schulte acting city manager for at least six months, at a salary of \$3,600 per week.

Although Cauthen is considered to be a dealmaker, a micromanager and a tough taskmaster, Schulte is regarded as more easygoing and collaborative.

SEE SCHULTE | A18

**Civic and business leaders worry about further damage to KC's tarnished reputation.**

By DAVE HELLING,  
MICHAEL MANSUR  
and KEVIN COLLISON  
The Kansas City Star

Thursday's surprise ouster of Wayne Cauthen as city manager could well rattle Kansas City far beyond his office on the 29th floor of City Hall.

The removal was so messy, critics said Friday, it could complicate the city's budget crisis, create further tension on the council and damage the city's tarnished image.

"It unfortunately perpetuates the sense of controversy that seems to permeate so many things at City Hall," said War-

ren Erdman, a former chairman of the Kansas City Economic Development Council who is also an executive vice president at Kansas City Southern.

That controversy, some said, could make deep wounds harder to heal.

"I think it hurts everybody down there," said veteran political consultant Pat Gray. "The way they did it, the whole thing smacks of politics and more chaos."

But Mayor Mark Funkhouser and others involved in Cauthen's removal said the process went as smoothly as possible in a diffi-

SEE CAUTHEN | A18



Cauthen

Armed with her rake, Mavis Griffin, 79, this autumn has filled 270 leaf bags on her land near Holt, Mo. She's been doing this for 16 years. "You stay in shape," she said. "I got a lot of muscle."



KEITH MYERS | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

## For her garden's good, raking leaves is her bag

**The "liquid gold" the Northlander stores in scores of bags helps yield the bounty she shares.**

By ERIC ADLER  
The Kansas City Star

Sun setting behind her, the white-haired Leaf Lady near Holt, Mo. — tiny back bowed with age, arms sinewy from work — points to her bags of "liquid gold."

Yellow leaf bags — count them, scores of them. They sit as plump as Bavarian bakers propped and piled at the trunks of her naked trees and in rows across her rolling five acres

east of Smithville Lake.

"I have 30, 45 bags along that fence there," Mavis Griffin says, pointing far off to her eastern property line. "Here I have — what's 91 plus 32 and 18?"

One hundred forty-one, Mavis.

"I have that right here!" she says. In all, this self-described "bag lady" this autumn has filled 270 leaf bags on her land by herself and with her lone metal rake. Liquid gold for her garden. She's been doing this for

SEE LEAVES | A17