

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.



SPORTS DAILY

After a dramatic day, it appears that brothers Xavier Henry (left) and CJ Henry are staying at KU. | CC1

INK

On newsstands and at inkkc.com, Ink explores the rooftop space with 5 hangouts for KC's upwardly mobile.



FYI | FOOD

With flavors like ginger rose and blackberry lavender, these gourmet snow cones delight grownups, too. | D1



TODAY'S WEATHER: LOW 58, HIGH 83. A SUNNY START TO THE MONTH OF JULY. FORECAST | CC14

75¢

KC'S BUDGET TROUBLES | City Council members angered by purchase

IDLE POLICE CARS FUEL FUROR



PHOTO COURTESY OF KANSAS CITY AVIATION DEPARTMENT

New Kansas City police cars, stored at the overhaul base at Kansas City International Airport, await equipment such as light bars.

Franken claims Senate victory

ST. PAUL, Minn. | For a close contest that consumed nearly eight months with vote counts, re-counts and courtrooms, the race for Minnesota's second Senate seat ended in a flash.



Franken

The Minnesota Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that Democrat Al Franken — a former "Saturday Night Live" comedian — won the election, sweeping aside Republican Norm Coleman's appeal. Coleman conceded within hours, pulling the plug on a bitter contest.

By evening, Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty signed the election certificate for Franken. | The Associated Press

BY THE NUMBERS

238 days it took to decide the winner

312 deciding votes

2.9 million votes cast

60 Senate seats controlled by Democrats — a filibuster-proof majority

30 years since a president has had that luxury

BUSINESS

For drivers, by-the-mile tax may be up ahead

Idea is pushed because of struggling revenues from the traditional by-the-gallon fuel tax.

By STEVE EVERLY
The Kansas City Star

The year is 2020 and the gasoline tax is history. In its place you get a monthly tax bill based on each mile you drove — tracked by a Global Positioning System device in your car and uploaded to a billing center. What once was science fiction is being field-tested by the University of Iowa to iron out the wrinkles should a by-the-mile road tax ever be enacted. Besides the technological advances making such a tax pos-

MORE BUSINESS NEWS, A13

A rally in the second quarter leaves stock indexes up

What once was science fiction is being field-tested by the University of Iowa to iron out the wrinkles should a by-the-mile road tax ever be enacted.

Besides the technological advances making such a tax pos-

SEE MILES | A15

LOCAL

Omaha's catching up to us

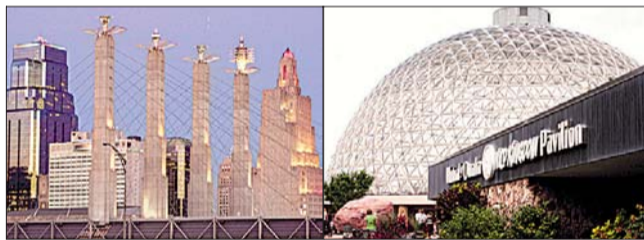
If population trends continue, the Nebraska city will be bigger than Kansas City by 2012.

By MATT CAMPBELL
The Kansas City Star

Kansas City was crowing not that long ago when we surpassed St. Louis in population. But how will we feel if we're overtaken by a town upstream called Omaha?

Numbers released today by the U.S. Census Bureau reflect city population estimates as of July 2008. Kansas City ranks 39th and Omaha 40th among the nation's largest cities, with 451,572 and 438,646 persons, respectively.

But the gap between the two is narrowing fast, and if current trends continue, Omaha will surpass Kansas



BY THE NUMBERS

Kansas City*		Omaha*
451,572	City population	438,646
39th	National rank	40th

*As of July 2008

City by 2012.

What will that do to our town's self-image? Kansas City may admire Omaha's zoo and riverfront improvements, but after all, we're major league, and Omaha is minor league. Right?

"I'm not terribly concerned about our self-image," said Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser, "but yes, (the numbers) matter a lot. We need to have more peo-

SEE POPULATION | A16

Police say investment bolsters an aging fleet and will save the city money, but critics fault the timing.

By DAVE HELLING
The Kansas City Star

The Kansas City Police Department spent at least \$2.1 million in the last 13 months to buy more than 100 vehicles that will take months — perhaps years — to fully deploy.

And some Kansas City Council members, still in the midst of their own budget crisis, are angry. Part of that money, they contend, might have helped keep officers on the streets instead of keeping idle cars in a garage for the future.

"We know they need cars," said Councilwoman Deb Hermann. "But we need things at the city, too."

Police spokesman Capt. Rich Lockhart said the department bought the vehicles in the last fiscal year, which started in May 2008. Roughly half were purchased last fall, at a cost of more than \$1 million.

Then this spring, Lockhart said the Board of Police Commissioners approved spending an additional \$1 million on 50 more police cars, bringing total spending to \$2.1 million — twice the department's original vehicle replacement budget.

Lockhart said 91 cars and 12 vans the department purchased are still off the streets. They're being stored in two locations: half of them in newly leased space at the overhaul base at Kansas City International Airport.

The department is storing the cars and vans until they can be outfitted with radios, light bars and other equip-

SEE CARS | A15

AT A GLANCE

KCPD spent at least \$2.1 million for more than 100 vehicles in the past 13 months

Up to two years before all cars and vans are on the street

KCPD fleet: roughly 800 vehicles

New cars' average price: about \$22,000

They say:

"This was good planning in a tough budget year."

| Police Chief Jim Corwin

"My biggest disappointment is that no one is working with us on this."

| Councilwoman Deb Hermann

WORLD

A car bombing in Iraq on Tuesday, a holiday called National Sovereignty Day, devastated a market in Kirkuk, killing at least 33 people. | Story, A20



EMAD MATTI | THE AP

INSIDE THE STAR

@KANSASCITY.COM

An FDA panel proposes heightened safety precautions for painkillers. | A2

A missing offense and a miscue on defense lead to a 2-1 Royals loss to the Twins. | CC1

From a computer or your mobile phone, click on KansasCity.com for...

- Updates, photo galleries and videos on Michael Jackson.
- A photo gallery and Bob Dutton's vlog on the Royals-Twins game.
- A list of area fireworks displays.