

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.



FYI AT THE MOVIES

Ricky Gervais gets into the romantic spirit in "Ghost Town," while "Lakeview Terrace" takes an off-kilter look at racism. Both rate 3 stars. | E1



SPORTS DAILY

Zack Greinke leads the Royals to their seventh straight victory with a 12-0 shutout against Seattle. | G1



Go to KansasCity.com to find a high-res version of a newly discovered Mozart work. If you can decipher it, record your rendition and email it to starfyi@gmail.com. For a story on the find, go to A8.

TODAY'S WEATHER: HIGH 80, LOW 59, PARTLY CLOUDY, NICE. FORECAST | G16

50¢

EMOTIONS IN CITY HALL NEAR THE BREAKING POINT

MAYOR'S VETO SETS UP A HISTORIC SHOWDOWN NEXT WEEK ... WILL THE COUNCIL OVERRIDE THE VETO?

MAYOR MARK FUNKHOUSER

"I love my wife. ... For 30 years she has been the emotional anchor in my life. Everything good that I have is because of her."

COUNCILWOMAN CINDY CIRCO

"You can have your time to have the drama in front of the cameras ... (but) every single one of us ... have made sacrifices for this city."



Inaction lets bills to help vets languish

Congress might adjourn to the campaign trail before moving on measures for wounded and others.

By DAVID GOLDSTEIN
The Star's
Washington correspondent

WASHINGTON | Congress might leave town to campaign before acting on key bills to help wounded veterans, despite an abundance of political tributes to their heroism and patriotism.

Some of the delays are due to politics, which angers veteran advocates.

"It's still surprising to me the extent to which you have to fight when everyone in Congress would say they support the troops and they want to help veterans," said Vanessa Williamson, policy director for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

Some bills are caught in the traffic jam of legislation, and some are stalled because it

SEE CONGRESS | A4



Mayor Mark Funkhouser listened as Councilwoman Cindy Circo, top photo, admonished him for his veto. As Circo spoke, Councilwoman Cathy Jolly, above, gathered her thoughts for her own pronouncement Thursday during the City Council meeting: "The citizens do not deserve this."

INSIDE

Gloria Squitiro says the council's action isn't so much about her but rather about the dramatic changes and improvements she says her husband is trying to bring to the city. | A4

Go to KansasCity.com for video on Funkhouser's veto of an ordinance that would have limited his wife's presence in City Hall.

SEE VETO | A4

Council members vent frustration and the mayor responds in a tense meeting.

By DEANN SMITH
and LYNN HORSLEY
The Kansas City Star

Kansas City Council members implored and even berated Mayor Mark Funkhouser on Thursday, but he stood firm.

He issued the first veto in modern Kansas City history, rejecting the council's ordinance that would prohibit his wife, Gloria Squitiro, from serving as an unpaid worker in his office at City Hall.

"In a world where political sex scandals get the most play, a loving couple working together is made light of and is made to seem inappropriate and even weird. Let me assure you it is neither," he told his council colleagues in an extraordinary and emotional exchange. "She has become a convenient scapegoat."

Council members countered they were "sick" of the distraction over the role of the mayor's wife and said their

U.S. forms plan for vast bank bailout

The Bush administration seeks congressional approval to buy distressed assets at deep discounts.

Staff and wire reports

WASHINGTON | The Bush administration asked lawmakers Thursday for the power to rescue banks by buying up bad mortgages that are at the heart of the financial system's crisis.

It could become the biggest bailout in U.S. history.

The plan is likely to authorize the government to buy distressed assets at deep discounts from banks and other institutions. The proposal could result in the most direct commitment of taxpayer funds so far in the financial crisis.

Go to KansasCity.com for news and financial updates of the troubles of Wall Street and the economy.

After meeting with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, senior aides and lawmakers said the goal was to complete the legislation by the end of next week, when Congress is scheduled to adjourn.

Several officials said a huge appropriation

SEE MARKETS | A10

Missouri takes typical route to fix bridges

Design and construction were to be rolled into one contract, but credit crunch made this too expensive.

By BRAD COOPER and JASON NOBLE
The Kansas City Star

JEFFERSON CITY | After more than a year of delays, Missouri is moving ahead with a plan to improve 800 of its worst bridges — but not in the revolutionary way that it started.

The Missouri Highway Commission voted Thursday to proceed with a \$700 million program that could remove Missouri from the list of states with the worst bridges.

Construction on at least 100 bridges will begin next spring and within five years all 800 bridges — including 61 in Jackson, Cass, Clay and Platte counties — should be repaired or rebuilt.

However, the plan is not the one that received national acclaim after it was announced in 2006. The culprit: the credit crunch that is strangling the country.

Originally, highway officials crafted a novel

SEE BRIDGES | A4

INSIDE THE STAR

Super Chicken, anyone? FDA moves toward regulating genetically modified animals like drugs. | A5

Court order may send former Westar CEO back to prison. | C1

Whitlock: It's up to Chalmers' family to help him mature. | G1