

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

McMURRAY WINS DAYTONA 500

The Joplin, Mo., driver pulled NASCAR's biggest race out of a hole with a thrilling victory. | B1



A PUZZLER FOR PRESIDENTS DAY

Take our quiz and see if you can command respect for your knowledge about commanders in chief. | C1



TODAY'S WEATHER
Light blowing snow amid a cold wind

Low **17** High **24**



TUESDAY
Clearing skies
15 30



WEDNESDAY
Sunny but chilly
15 33



THURSDAY
Clouds return
19 32



FRIDAY
Snow may be heavy
20 32

SEE THE WEATHER WATCH ON B14 AND GET UPDATES AT KANSASCITY.COM

75¢

'CARS EVERYWHERE' | Brief bursts of snow blind drivers, cause pileups

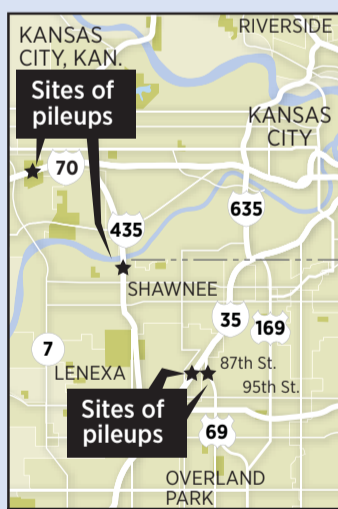
HAVOC ON THE HIGHWAYS



CHRIS OBERHOLTZ | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Brief whiteouts led to four large multivehicle wrecks, but no critical injuries, Sunday afternoon on area highways. First responders and highway workers untangled the wreckage on westbound Interstate 70 near Kansas 7 in Bonner Springs.

Accidents in four locations left roads littered with debris, but there were no critical injuries.



By LAURA BAUER and BRAD COOPER
The Kansas City Star

One minute, it was blue skies and clear. Within seconds, a blustery burst of snow blinded drivers, turning highways across the Kansas City area into demolition derbies Sunday afternoon.

Over a two-hour period, at four locations, more than 100 crunched and mangled vehicles littered the roadways and medians. Ambulances rushed to each scene, transporting dozens of people to at least three hospitals.

No critical injuries were reported. A few people were seriously hurt, but most suffered cuts and scrapes.

Go to KansasCity.com for more photos and a video report.

SEE PILEUPS | A11



CHRIS OCHSNER | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Caitlyn Shirk of Louisburg, Kan., waited for a ride as her crumpled car was loaded onto a wrecker. It was among the cars involved in a multivehicle pileup Sunday on northbound Interstate 35 at U.S. 69. Shirk was not injured.

Without name, DNA is charged

When police can't find suspect, action is taken before the statute of limitations runs out.

By LAURA BAUER
The Kansas City Star

Sitting frozen in the Kansas City crime lab is a partially gnawed piece of candy.

Police and prosecutors said someone spit it out years ago after he broke in and then damaged several classrooms in a local school. They've yet to lock up anyone for the crime, and the statute of limitations has long expired.

But here's the thing. The candy contained a man's DNA.

So prosecutors charged that DNA. A critical crime solver, genetic science has clinched guilty verdicts in murder and rape cases for years. Now, as the technology advances, prosecutors in a few pockets of the country — including Kansas City — systematically use DNA evidence to file what are

known as "John Doe" complaints, or no-name warrants, in less serious crimes such as burglary and vandalism.

"If you don't stop the clock from ticking, there's nothing you can do," said Ted Hunt, an assistant Jackson County prosecutor who specializes in DNA evidence. "It's too late."

Since 2002, Jackson County prosecutors have filed 28 John Doe complaints, and Hunt said that number would grow substantially. That's because police and prosecutors make sure they watch the clock.

Whenever a burglary, robbery or vandalism with DNA evidence is nearing its statute of limitation, police alert Hunt's office, and prosecutors file a no-name charge.

By filing these complaints, and charging the DNA instead of a named suspect, prosecutors put cases on hold until they know whose genetic fingerprint they charged. These

SEE DNA | A10

U.S. rocket strikes kill civilians in Afghanistan

The deaths of 12 threaten to undermine the anti-Taliban operation in Marjah and the coalition forces' mission to build trust.

Star news services

KABUL, Afghanistan | Twelve Afghan civilians died Sunday after U.S. rockets mistakenly hit a house during the offensive to clear the last Taliban stronghold in Helmand province.

The loss of life could seriously undermine the operation in Marjah and the renewed American-led mission to win the trust of the population, observers say. The U.S.-led International Security Assistance Force said the use of the rockets has been suspended pending a "thorough review" of the incident.

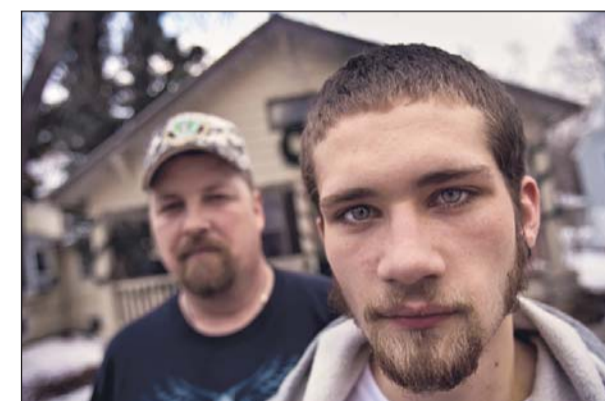
An Afghan soldier and a Marine were injured in the firefight that preceded the rocket attack, on the second day of an operation to take control of the town.

Inside Marjah, Marines encountered "death at every corner" in their second day of a massive offensive to capture this bleak mud-brick city filled with booby traps, hardcore Taliban fighters and civilians unsure where to cast their loyalty.

A combined force of U.S., Afghan and British troops continued to come under sporadic fire into the night.

Insurgents littered the area with explosives before the offensive, and the sound of controlled detonations —

SEE AFGHANISTAN | A7



DAVID EULITT | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

A few years ago, Adam Kyle of Independence (right) wrote a school paper about a man who claimed to have two medals. Kyle's father, Abe (left), learned of the report from an FBI agent.

Teenager knows who real hero is

It's his dad, a medal winner, not the man he wrote about, whom the FBI calls an impostor.

By LEE HILL KAVANAUGH
The Kansas City Star

Abe Kyle barely heard what the FBI agent was telling him on the phone last week, other than, "We need to talk with you about your son. ... We'll be over shortly."

His hands were shaking as he called Kearney High School. He needed to speak to his son — now!

At Adam Kyle's "Hello?" the father unloaded: "Why is the FBI investigating you?"

Adam, 18, had no idea what his dad was talking about. He was confused. Scared. The FBI? He told a couple of friends, and soon most of the school knew.

The FBI agent arrived at Abe Kyle's home an hour later. He showed the father of seven a photo of his second-oldest, then 13, standing beside a man. Adam was holding a Silver Star, and the man had a Purple Heart.

The FBI agent wanted to verify that it was Adam in the picture. Then he handed Abe Kyle a two-page report that Adam had written about the man five years ago: "The Hero Next Door."

Pretty good writing for a 13-year-old, the agent said with a grin.

Abe Kyle, a 43-year-old Army veteran, read for the first

SEE MEDALS | A8

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■ Party Pics at inkkc.com.

■ A chance to win prizes by telling us who will take home the Oscars.

And exclusively for mobile phone users ...

■ Get Winter Olympics updates sent to your phone.