

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.



FYI

A desk in winter is the perfect place to get inspiration and begin making plans for spring gardens. | **E1**



SHOWTIME

Forget Paula. Ellen DeGeneres, who joins the show tonight, is the perfect addition to "American Idol." | **E3**

SPORTS DAILY

The No. 1 Jayhawks grab an easy 80-68 win in Texas, handing the Longhorns their fifth loss in the past seven games. | **C1**



TODAY'S WEATHER: LOW 6, HIGH 23. WINDY WITH SNOW SHOWERS. FORECAST | C10

75¢

SWITCH TO PRIVATE MANAGEMENT SAVES CITY AND PETS



PHOTOS BY KEITH MYERS | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

The basement of Kansas City's animal shelter — now called Half Way Home Pet Adoptions — has been remodeled and houses cats that are awaiting adoption. Last week, shelter worker Barbara Parrish, aka "the Cat Lady," played with a few of the felines.

KC shelter gets a second life

In the year since the change, more animals found new homes and fewer were euthanized.

By LYNN HORSLEY
The Kansas City Star

At the Kansas City animal shelter, perhaps nothing shows the transformation more starkly than this: The gas costs for the crematoriums have plummeted.

Kansas City used to spend more than \$100,000 each year euthanizing and disposing of as many as 5,000 homeless cats and dogs. Now, the shelter at 4400 Raytown Road spends less than half that amount. In December, the shelter euthanized only 11 adoptable dogs.

From the facility's appearance to the staff's passion for putting



R. Wayne Steckelberg has overseen the shelter in the year since the city switched to private management.

counting Sundays — in the last year.

In the switch, there were unexpected complications involving everything from the phone and computer systems to the number of farm animals the shelter gets.

The results have made it worthwhile.

"This is a great, great first step," said Councilwoman Cindy Circo, who last year led the effort to privatize the shelter, hoping to decrease costs, increase adoptions and reduce the killing of unwanted pets.

Katie Bowen of Peculiar visited the shelter in December, looking for a puppy for her 12-year-old son, Patrick. Her family

SEE SHELTER | A8

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

animals in adoptive homes, almost everything has changed since veterinarian R. Wayne Steckelberg took over the shelter's management from the city March 1.

"I'm happy as can be with it," Steckelberg said of the last year's accomplishments.

Still, it has been an exhausting task. Steckelberg, 75, estimates he has had only 10 days off —

SEE CUTS | A8



How Obama pinches pennies

New budget makes cuts to some of the big stuff and looks for savings in the small stuff.

By ERIC ADLER
The Kansas City Star

Unless you're rich, you're probably tightening your belt these days, reducing the extras. Financial types call it the "latte factor," the little stuff that eats at your budget.

Looks like the federal government has a latte list all its own.

Every president has sug-

gestions of what can be trimmed, and when President Barack Obama unveiled his proposed 2011 budget last week, all the major stuff made headlines: \$3.8 trillion in spending that would deepen the deficit by \$1.3 trillion. More money for education and health. The death of upper-income tax breaks and the manned-moon program.

Yet, in all the print and verbiage, no men-

tion was made of saving money on two-sided copying, or getting rid of paper pay stubs, or finally minting pen-

STAR BUSINESS

Concerns about debt loads in Europe send the Dow Jones to a close below 10,000 for the first time in three months. | D7

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Celebrity news, gossip and photo galleries in the Stargazing blog.

A chance to win prizes by picking winners in the upcoming NASCAR season.

HAITI | Fallout from arrest of 10 Americans who tried to take kids

FEWER INJURED CHILDREN AIRLIFTED

Doctors say lack of paperwork is endangering young patients who are waiting to be evacuated.

By IAN URBINA
The New York Times

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti | Private medical evacuations of critically injured Haitian children to the United States for treatment have largely stopped because aid workers, doctors and government officials are worried about being accused of kidnapping.

Before 10 Americans were arrested trying to take children out of Haiti late last month, the largest pediatric field hospital in Haiti was airlifting 15 injured children aboard private flights to the United States each day.

But since the arrests, it has been able to evacuate only three children on private flights to American hospitals, according to Elizabeth Greig, the field hospital's chief administrative officer, who has been in charge of trying to get the necessary Haitian and U.S. approvals.

At least 10 other children have died or become worse while waiting to be airlifted out of the country, she said. Dozens of children are in critical need of care, and there has been no shortage of American hospitals or pilots willing to take them.

But before being permitted to evacuate the children, some doctors said they were now being asked by U.S. and Haitian officials for documents proving that the children were orphans or that the adult traveling with them

SEE HAITI | A9

University endowments took big hits

Investment funds shrank across the U.S., including at MU and KU, as markets fell and donations dropped.

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
The Kansas City Star

American universities always have been divided between the "haves" and "have-nots" when it comes to endowments.

Now, in this economy, we see the "lost" and "lost-mores."

The University of Missouri System, which invests for all four of its campuses, saw a drop of 14 percent from June 2008 to June 2009. The University of Kansas endowment's value slid 21.6 percent.

Grim and grimmer, you say. So what would you call Harvard's 30 percent loss over the same period?

Not quite the grimmest, as it turned out. That goes to Syracuse University, which watched a cool \$300 million — a third of its endowment — evaporate.

Across the country, college endowment funds

SEE FUNDS | A8

