

FRISKY FASHIONS
New York Fashion Week shows a sense of humor and an international flair. *FYI*



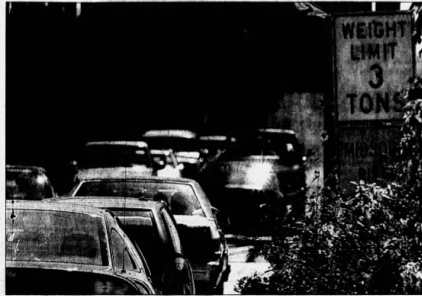
Here's a compendium of facts and myths about the No. 1 fruit. *Food*
THE ABCS OF APPLES



THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

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Chouteau Bridge spans river and a ton of problems



Last week the weight limit for vehicles on the Chouteau Bridge was reduced from 7 tons to 3 tons. About 11,000 vehicles a day use the bridge, which spans the Missouri River between Kansas City and North Kansas City.

For city's needy bridges, peril is real



Inspectors have found substantial deterioration and rusting in the Chouteau Bridge, which was built in 1906 for cobble. A replacement span, costing \$11.4 million, is being built to the west.

By MATT CAMPBELL
The Kansas City Star

Joe Romero Ruiz already had driven his truck onto the Chouteau Bridge approach before he realized it was too heavy — very too heavy.

A few vehicles ahead of him, a driver in another Washburn Motor Lines truck had come to the same frightening conclusion. Both could see incoming drivers below their cabs urgently flashing their lights at them.

There was no fire.

Chouteau, a former railroad bridge built in 1906, often allows a truck to turn a sharp around. So the trucker only came west to back up slowly starting 8:30 a.m. until, in both directions on Friday, "We respect the law," Ruiz said. "It's not about these things happen."

They happen because the bridge, already rated at a low 7-ton weight limit, was restricted last week to just 3 tons after an inspection revealed advanced rusting and deterioration.

Three tons is so low that two



Photo by BOB BRIDGES/The Kansas City Star

IDEA ENVISIONS KC AS DYNAMO FOR RESEARCH

\$300 million could boost medical role

By JEFFREY SPYLIK
DAN MARGOLIES and JILLIS A. KASARI
The Kansas City Star

In an unprecedented effort, top business leaders are privately considering a plan to raise \$300 million for biological-medical research in Kansas City.

The plan would transform the city's image and economy by making the region a "nationally known center" in the life-sciences industry. With that \$300 million leveraging other public-private investments from federal grants, the plan sets a 10-year goal of reaching \$500 million in annual life-sciences research — about six times more than the current annual level.

Support for this business plan came from a new standard for Kansas City's leadership in terms of the level of investment and the length of the commitment required, as well as the level of risk assumed," the plan's executive summary states.

"The trade-off is the opportunity to position Kansas City at the forefront of a rapidly developing economy."

Kansas City last year ranked No. 89 among the National Institutes of Health top 100 cities receiving research grants from the institute, the world's largest source of biomedical research aid.

Kansas City once plans a joint effort by the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City and the Kansas City Area Development Council. The two groups' members are reviewing it. The group are waiting until their members approve before making it public. Meanwhile, the group have had informal met-

RESEARCH AREAS

- Kansas City life sciences business plan intends to focus research on five areas. Here's the current funding for each area.
- Human development and aging: \$77.4 million
- Cancer: \$71.6 million
- Neurological disease: \$52.8 million
- Biotechnology: \$42.2 million
- Behavioral disease: \$11.9 million

WHO IS INVOLVED

- KU Medical Center
- University of Kansas
- Univ. of Missouri-Kansas City
- Stowers Institute for Medical Research
- Midwest Research Institute
- McKernan Heart Institute
- Children's Mercy Hospital

LOCAL FUNDING

The plan calls for raising \$300 million in community funds in the next 10 years, to be spent as follows:

- Hiring researchers: \$125 million
- Buildings and equipment: \$125 million
- Technology: \$50 million

Tiny town's lifeline road in question

By ARY STEVANS
The Kansas City Star

COLLINS, Mo. — If this tiny town withers and dies in a few years, as many people in these parts expect, the cause will be obvious.

Just another rural community, barely supported by modern times. What sustains people who live and work here is their belief that it will have been available — if only state and federal officials had been a little flexible in their highway construction plans.

Collins doesn't seem to have much going for it. Fewer than 100 people call it home. What passes for downtown is a ramshackle block of boarded buildings. The top of the pedimented front door of a school building is a "No Turnpike" sign. City Hall is a postcard of corrugated steel.

But Collins has Missouri 13. The highway is the most direct route between Kansas City and the Ozarks. Anyone driving between the two centers to the four-way sign at Missouri 13 and U.S. 54 in Collins.

Three or four restaurants, a

Senate backs free trade pact with China

By JACKIE KOSCIK
KANSAS CITY STAR

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Tuesday overwhelmingly endorsed a free trade agreement with China, opening a new era of globalization that offers high expectations and serious concerns about the effect that such unfettered commerce would have on the struggling U.S. economy.

The Senate voted 83-15 in favor of the free trade pact that President Clinton negotiated last year with Beijing. The House of Representatives had passed an identical measure in May. The legislation now goes to Clinton for his signature.

"The more China opens its markets to our products, the wider it opens its doors to economic free-

Plane exiting Cuba crashes; nine saved

By LINA FERRI and SANDRA HERRERA
KANSAS CITY STAR

Miami — The Cuban government is trying to fire the blame for Monday's crash on Tuesday in an aging Soviet-era cropduster when that plane ran out of fuel and crashed into the sea.

A U.S. Coast Guard spokesman in Miami said Capt. Katherine Kalmagin of the Chilean Deason died and that a man had serious head injuries. The group consisted of four men, three women and three children.

A debate at the diplomatic level appears likely over whether the



The damaged plane was a biplane, or an escape jet by the plane. Cuba said the plane had been hijacked, and the Chilean adminis-

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