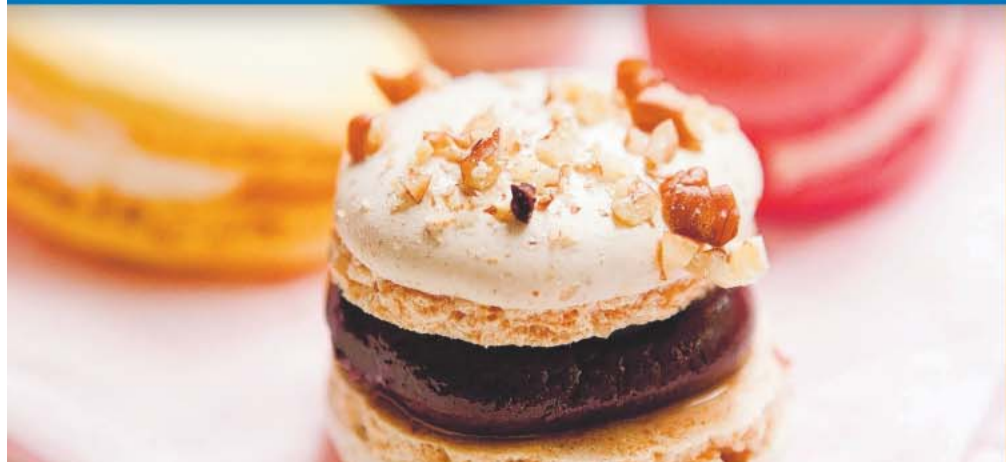


THE KANSAS CITY STAR.



FYI | FOOD

French macarons may be trendy, but they are expensive to buy and difficult to make. | D1



SPORTS DAILY

Despite a quality start from Luke Hochevar, the Royals lost 3-2 to the Yankees, snapping KC's five-game road winning streak. | B1

TODAY'S WEATHER: LOW 60, HIGH 86. MOSTLY SUNNY, WINDY AND WARMER. | B10

\$1.00

Google project's success up to KC

Bistate group challenges community to find innovative uses for high-speed network.

By SCOTT CANON
The Kansas City Star

Kansas City, beware the story of Vilnius.

Few if any cities in the world can rival the network of fiber optic cables snaking high-speed Internet through the Lithuanian capital. And yet, Vilnius is no tech innovation capital.

There's a warning in that example, suggest the authors of a report released Tuesday, for Kansas City as it sits on the cusp of Google Inc. rolling out an ultra high-speed network here.

"The burden is on us as a community to make something out of it," said Mike Burke, a co-chairman of the Mayors' Bistate Innovation Team.

The group is candid in saying it has yet to identify a killer application springing from Google's promised service that requires the blinding one-gigabit-per-second speeds the Internet search behemoth says it will bring to homes.

Still, the committee's report argues that interest and excitement stirred by Google's plans give the metro area a catalyst for finding ways to bolster quality of life in myriad ways

SEE GOOGLE | A15

More workers taking a vacation

The report, along with recent surveys, shows people may be feeling better about economy.

By DIANE STAFFORD
The Kansas City Star

When workers fear losing their jobs, they tend to leave their vacation time untouched.

But this year, in a telling clue that the economy is indeed on an upswing, more workers are taking their vacations.

U.S. Department of Labor data showed that in April this year 2.7 million workers were on vacation, nearly double the 1.41 million who took vacation time off in April last year.

And according to the BGOV Barometer, a Bloomberg company analysis released Tuesday, the number of workers on vacation over the last 12

SEE MOOD | A12

KANSAS TAXES | Some fear plan will lead to deficits, reductions in state services

BROWNBACK SIGNS BIG CUT

TEACH FOR AMERICA | A joy and a worry for KC schools



FRED BLOCHER | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

First-year Teach for America teachers Erica Woodson (left) and Natalia Bustamante worked last week with second-graders on a George Washington Carver study at Carver Dual Language Elementary School. Kansas City Public Schools are finishing the first year of an expanded role for Teach for America.

The door's still revolving

Promising new teacher recruits are coming to KC at a strong pace, but keeping them in the district is another issue.

By JOE ROBERTSON
The Kansas City Star

Apparently the children at one of Kansas City's more difficult schools had seen such a stricken look on a teacher's face before.

Are you quitting?

It was a Teach for America teacher the kids were quizzing — one of 32 TFA teachers who will not be returning for a second year in Kansas City Public Schools, out of a markedly large class of 141 fresh recruits.

Everybody quits. Everybody quits.

In that moment, the teacher who told the story — who does not want to be identified — saw in those children the high stakes of Kansas City's heavy investment in Teach for America.

TFA's recruits, selected by the thousands from the tops of America's graduating classes, are thrust to the head of classrooms where children all too often have witnessed America's revolving door of first-year teachers.

Kansas City is finishing the first year of an expanded role for Teach for America. The district is getting national attention for using Teach for America recruits not just to fill persistent vacancies, but as a major element in developing its classroom workforce.

The district, with support from the Ewing Marion Kauffman and Hall Family foundations, has a contract to bring in 250 Teach for America teachers over three years.

It's difficult work. Teachers like the one who is not returning talk of veteran teachers telling the recruits, "All you can do is pray." They hear advisers assure them that

SEE TEACHERS | A12

Income and sales taxes will be slashed in effort to spark economy — but there's plenty of red ink.

By BRAD COOPER
and MARK DAVIS
The Kansas City Star

TOPEKA | Economic gold rush? Or fiscal wreck?

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback took a grand gamble Tuesday with a monumental tax plan he hopes will spur an economic revival, and not an unparalleled budget crisis that leaves state services in ruins.

While it wasn't the plan Brownback quite wanted, the bill he signed Tuesday slashes state income taxes by roughly \$3.7 billion over five years, with state fiscal analysts projecting budget deficits reaching \$2.5 billion in 2018.

It's described by one lawmaker as the "worst tax bill" to come out of the statehouse. Brownback, in contrast, saw it as a chance for the state to remake its business climate.

"We're going to move this forward and make it work and take care of our fundamental services," said Brownback, whose original plan for cutting taxes did more to pay for itself.

Plenty of skeptics believe that the governor's approach will decimate state services. They point to forecasts showing that the tax plan will drown Topeka in billions of dollars in red ink.

The tax cuts will "have an enormous impact on everything from public education to public health coverage to infrastructure to other vital social safety-net services," said Shannon Cotsoradis, president of Kansas Action for Children. "This is not a bill that's good for low- and moderate-income families in Kansas."

The plan collapses the state's current three-bracket system to two brackets starting in 2013. It cuts the highest income tax rates to 4.9 percent from 6.45 percent and 6.25 percent. It also reduces the lowest tax rate to 3 percent from 3.5 percent.

The tax measure also allows the state sales tax to drop by six-tenths of a cent in 2013. It keeps deductions for charitable

SEE KANSAS | A12

BUSINESS

Federal regulators are taking a look at what JPMorgan Chase told investors in the weeks before suffering a \$2 billion loss. | A13

dealsaver

\$34.50 buys \$69 Kansas City Star golf card — two rounds for the price of one at 15 courses.

Check out the ad on page A2 to find out how to get this deal, or go online to dealsaver.com/kansascity.com.