

TOP NEWS

NOW DEPARTING FROM ST. LOUIS

RailCruise America has sold a train that featured dinner excursions and special trips from Union Station. **c2**

INSIDE

NO WARNING

Traffic officer Donald "Spike" Angle doesn't think what he does is anything special. All he does is write tickets — more than 5,000 traffic tickers last year, enough to win special recognition from police commissioners. **c9**

VOTE EARLY

Metro East voters will be among the first to try out Illinois' new early-voting law, which allows voters to cast ballots as much as a month before an election. **c2**

CLONING ISSUE

Opponents of embryonic stem cell research are appealing a court ruling that upheld the language of a statewide ballot proposal. **c2**

ONLINE

**MOST-READ STORIES**

Here are the most-read news headlines on STLtoday.com based on page view statistics: Jan. 20-26:

1. Purse goes bang, blows its secret
2. Missing Jefferson County woman is found alive
3. CBC paves way for student drug tests
4. Wal-Mart goes after disabled ex-worker's settlement
5. Teen dies after SUV hits guardrail on Highway 40
6. Pilot error caused Kirksville plane crash
7. Six killed in I-57 crash just south of Marion
8. Woman left young children at home alone; attended Jerry Springer taping
9. Law, experts clash over alcohol wipes in DUI tests
10. Bush loses support in Missouri

For a daily list of the website's most-read stories, visit STLtoday.com/mostread.

COME BACK MONDAY

You dig?



Under the Microscope goes underground, rooting out moles to figure out how — and why — they dig.

Metro Monday

"It's just very stressful," she said, wiping the tears away. **"I didn't know where I was going to go tonight."**



Homeless in Suburbia

Don't look for 'bag ladies'

A homeless person in the suburbs is more likely to be someone with a minimum wage job who has encountered some emergency.

By Clay Barbour | ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Christine Hall put eight hours in at the Subway restaurant in O'Fallon before heading to the Budget Inn in Wentzville, where she and her 1-year-old son were bedding down for the night. Hall, 24, was evicted Jan. 16 from her home in St. Charles. Since then she and her son, David, have been homeless, bouncing from one cheap motel to another in a cycle that's become familiar to homeless advocates.

In the city, the homeless are usually easy to spot. They line up at soup kitchens. They

crowd emergency shelters.

But in suburbia, the homeless hide in plain sight. They work by day and find comfort at night on someone's couch or at a campsite or cheap motel. They are so effective at blending in that many people doubt they exist — at least not in any great numbers.

"One of the toughest jobs we have is convincing some people that we're not making up this problem," said Dottie Kastigar, program coordinator for the

Christine Hall gets a hug from her mother, Elaine Heutel, after moving into a room in the Budget Inn in Wentzville. Hall, 24, and her 1-year-old son were evicted from their home in St. Charles two weeks ago.

Robert Cohen
Post-Dispatch

PLEASE SEE **HOMELESS** | **C5**

Chinese New Year

Adoptive families relish chance to connect

Once-overlooked holiday now is special for those with children from China.

By Eun Kyung Kim
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Before John Jameson had his daughter, Chinese New Year meant little more than the paper placemats used at Chinese restaurants — the kind with all those animals on them.

"You'd look and see what year you were born, and then you'd say you were a dragon or something. It didn't mean anything to anybody," he said.

That changed five years ago when Jameson and his wife gave their three biological sons a little sister by adopting a baby from China.

Today, honoring the new lunar year has "really sensitized

our family to global issues and given us a global understanding of life," he said.

"Even though we don't understand it completely and totally, it connects us with another culture in the world," said Jameson, a Lutheran pastor in Eureka.

The Chinese New Year, which begins Sunday, is cause for celebration in most Asian communities. But it also has become a significant holiday for families that have adopted children from China. A day that might have gone by without notice is now seen as an opportunity to teach their children about their ancestry.

Chinese New Year is based on the lunar calendar, which begins on the second new moon after the winter solstice. The holiday is celebrated as if it were Thanksgiving and Christmas combined. Elaborate feasts are prepared, friends and neighbors



Donna Schnieders and daughter Mia, 6, give a presentation on the Chinese New Year at Mary Queen of Peace in Webster Groves. Jason Taylor | Post-Dispatch

gather and relatives travel from afar to reunite with loved ones.

In many Chinese cities, commerce shuts down for days for the 15-day celebration, which concludes with a lantern festival.

PLEASE SEE **ADOPTION** | **C6**

INSIDE:
A graphic shows the Chinese Zodiac.

ONLINE:
Learn more about the Year of the Dog: STLtoday.com/links

Metro East growth

Commuting from Illinois becomes a growing trend

By William Lamb
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

O'FALLON, ILL. • When John and Robin Drolet were shopping for a new house in St. Charles County in 2004, they found themselves searching closer and closer to the county's western fringe for something that matched both their budget and space requirements.

With John facing a longer daily commute to his job in Earth City, the Drolets reasoned that they might as well return to the Metro East area, where they had both grown up. So they left the house in St. Charles that they had owned since 1996 and moved to O'Fallon, Ill., where each weekday at 7:30 a.m. John Drolet sets out on his 42-mile commute to west St. Louis County.

PLEASE SEE **COMMUTERS** | **C7**

BILL McCLELLAN**Famous-Barr was central to family's story; but that was long ago**

As we approach the final days of Famous-Barr, let me tell you of Tippie Heimos. She was born in 1937, the fourth of five children. Her father, Charles Silvey, drove a truck for Famous-Barr. He quit his job and joined the Navy in 1941. Then came Pearl Harbor. And then a more personal disaster — Silvey's wife abandoned the children. They went into an orphanage, the Mission Free School at Taylor and Euclid. For the holidays, the children were taken to the downtown Famous-Barr. It was a magical place.

Silvey survived the war, came home and married the house mother from

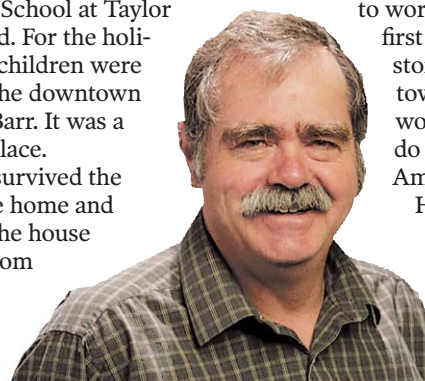
the orphanage. She ran the home like an institution. The children were up at 6. All were required to do certain chores. Silvey, meanwhile, went back to driving a truck for Famous-Barr. There were in those days so many veterans working at Famous-Barr that they had their own American Legion post.

In 1958, the post put on an entertainment program for hospitalized children. Tippie was a singer in those programs. A young man named Emery Heimos was also part of the programs. He was a magician.

He was an only child. He was born in 1933. His father was 55. His mother was 45. According to family lore, his mother did not realize she was pregnant and went to the hospital thinking her appendix had burst. Emery was a 3-pound baby. He could fit in a cigar box. When he graduated from high school, he went to work for Famous-Barr. He spent his first six months at the Southtown store and then moved to the downtown store. That's where he was working when he was recruited to do a magic show by the store's American Legion post.

He worked as a salesman in the

PLEASE SEE **McCLELLAN** | **C3**
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**SYLVESTER BROWN JR.****Parade's move downtown angers many in the 'hood**

"The white man's ice isn't always colder."

The statement, tossed at blacks by other blacks, is a not-so-subtle reminder that products, services and ideas offered by whites aren't always better.

Sometimes, it is colder. Whites have had the time and resources to build stronger institutions. Their "ice" has been in the freezer longer. It may be colder, but that doesn't necessarily mean it's better.

The "white ice" theory is fueling much of the community gossip concerning the decision to relocate the annual Annie Malone Parade from the city's predominantly black North Side to downtown.

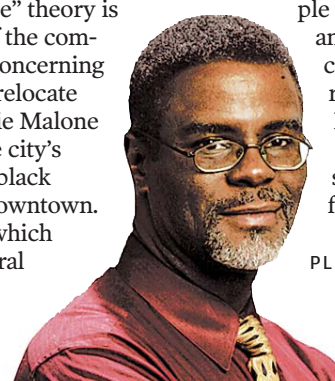
The parade, which started on Natural

Bridge at Union Boulevard and ended at Fairground Park, has attracted more than 100,000 people each year. Funds generated from sponsors and parade participants support Annie Malone Children & Family Services Center programs for abused and troubled children. The center's new director, Richard L. King, recently announced that the parade will abandon its nearly 100-year route and on May 21 will travel down Market Street, from Jefferson Avenue to Broadway. King said the loss of \$265,000 in state funding last year had nothing to do with the decision. The board simply wants a "communitywide celebration, open to all who want to support children and families," King said.

The recent edition of the St. Louis American newspaper challenged that assertion:

"It is doubtful that 95,000 black people will attend in 2006 . . . but the crowd and supporters of the parade might contain more of the 'right people,'" read the "Political Eye" commentary. It went on to say that "the reasons must involve attracting new sponsors for the parade with new dollars for Annie Malone."

PLEASE SEE **BROWN** | **C3**



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