



2007 SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS

Patricia Smith Thurman of MasterCard and Malik Ahmed of Better Family Life are, respectively, Corporate and Non-Profit Executives of the Year.

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COMPLIMENTARY

Slay recall rally set for Sunday

White pols dodge leadership issue

By Chris King and Alvin A. Reid
Of the St. Louis American

"Francis Slay has done a wicked thing, and he has done it in the face of the greatest leadership opportunity to bring St. Louis together and overcome the racial divide that anyone has had in the past four decades," said the Rev. Douglas Parham, president of the Clergy Coalition.

"Instead, he has caused the greatest division the city has ever known, and we must hold him accountable. We must go to the people and hold

him accountable."

Parham, other clergy, elected officials and community supporters of demoted former fire chief Sherman George will "go to the people" at 3 p.m. Sunday, October 21 in front of City Hall.

The Rev. B.T. Rice said a number of "definitive actions" against the Slay administration will be announced.

State Rep. Jamilah Nasheed and the Rev. Tommie Pierson, president of Metropolitan Congregations United, are structuring an effort to recall Slay.

To recall the mayor, about 50,000 signatures would be needed. This number is based on 20 percent of registered voters at the time of



Rev. Douglas Parham

Slay's re-election in April 2005.

Nasheed said the recall effort "is not just about black folks."

"It's about a number of things. We're building a coalition of white and black people who think, for the city to be all it can be, different leadership is needed."

Rice is heading a "direct action" movement as part of a multi-faceted attack aimed directly at the mayor, which will include exporting the issue to national black talk show hosts, like Michael Baisden, who made "Jena" a household name in Black America.

Sources tell the American that a local boycott of African-American

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INSIDE COVERAGE

EDITORIAL

A newly energized African-American movement may force a more fair way of doing business at City Hall
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LETTERS

International heat on Mayor Slay
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POLITICAL EYE

"It's time to put accusations to rest," the acting chief says, which reflects a wrongheaded understanding of criminal investigation
~ Page A16 ~

Field of dreams



Photo by Wiley Price

Reona Lenox and Monica Perry of Gear Up St. Louis help renovate the athletic field at Transportation & Law Academy Northwest, which has not hosted competitive sports since 1973. The St. Louis Rams, Home Depot, the Isaac Bruce Foundation, KaBoom! and Northwest students participated in the makeover.

SURVIVING TOGETHER

Spouses of cancer survivors connect for the women they love

By Sandra Jordan
Of the St. Louis American

The pastor does ask for a commitment "in sickness and in health."

"One morning, I was combing my hair in the mirror, and my hair started coming out in clumps," said Sandra Johnson, a 10-year breast cancer survivor.

"I started crying, and my husband came over and did the sweetest thing. He kissed me in my bald spot and said, 'Sandra, you know it was coming. Everything is going to be

See CANCER, A12



Photo by Wiley Price

Lloyd Johnson has supported his wife Sandra Johnson through 10 years of breast cancer treatment and survival.

The gang abatement debate

'We cannot arrest and imprison our way out of the problem'

By Bill Beene
Of the St. Louis American

While many of America's inner cities face a practical state of emergency, federal lawmakers are considering a reactionary bill that punishes rather than prevents violence.

One day after some 50,000 blacks converged on Jena, LA in protest of a boy being held in an adult jail over a fistfight, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed S: 456: The Gang Abatement and Prevention Act.

It has been received in the House and is

"What is needed is federal funding for prevention and intervention programs that provide education, job training at the local level."

— Public Defender Thomas Hilter II

currently in the hands of the House Judiciary Committee.

See DEBATE, A6

Missouri is failing foster parents

State must more than double payouts to meet costs of care

By Jessica Bassett
Of the St. Louis American

Each week Norma Weeden cooks 15 meals, irons 70 garments and washes 14 loads of clothes.

Why does she do it? Because Granny, as her neighbors call her, is just crazy about kids.

The single parent living in Berkeley cares for two adopted children and four foster children.

"It's a lot of work, but I love helping kids," Weeden said.

Like Weeden, hundreds of Missouri foster parents can attest that caring for a foster child is expensive — far more than the state pays out.

A national study, commissioned by child advocacy organizations, reinforces that claim, reporting that nearly

See FOSTER, A6



Photo by Wiley Price

Norma Weeden with her adopted children, Teryon and Tyrisha, and the family dog, Miss Sunshine. Weeden also is raising four foster children.

CONTEST

Chance to win tickets online

Go to stlameric.com for a chance to win tickets to see *Body Worlds 3* or *Last Comic Standing*.

www.stlameric.com



HEALTH

Living with Scleroderma

Also, Siteman offers no-cost mammograms and help for speech and language disorders.

Insert

RELIGION

Watch God — and Danita — work

Danita Mumphard (with Trio Trés Bien) will release her new gospel CD, "Watch God Work," Saturday at the Missouri History Museum.

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