

# AS ST. LOUIS AS BASEBALL, BARGES AND BREAK-INS

Petty theft dogging the city has become part of our culture Criminals are rarely caught, and frustrations linger for the victims



ROBERT COHEN • rcohen@post-dispatch.com

Dan Ivetic and his mother, Nancy, wait to be picked up by a rental car company after their Hyundai Santa Fe was stolen Monday from a private parking lot on Delmar Boulevard while the Florida family visited the City Museum. They lost almost everything they were traveling with, including purses, camera equipment and luggage. "Welcome to St. Louis," the owner of a garage across the street told them after the theft.

#### BY JESSE BOGAN AND WALKER MOSKOP

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**ST. LOUIS** • Facing a five-hour drive back to Iowa with two young boys, Mike Jacobs and his pregnant wife hatched a quick plan at the end of their family vacation.

"Burn some energy off before we go home," said Jacobs, 34, an IT manager from Des Moines.

They decided to do that on a recent afternoon at City Museum, which drew a record 843,000 visitors last year. The only thing in the way was choosing a place to park.

There are hundreds of spaces on the street and in private lots. Anything from \$1.50 a day to \$15 for garage access, complete with attendants, more than 30 surveillance cameras and a two-story sign featuring security guards on the side of the building.

Jacobs followed the herd to an unlit lot at 14th Street and Delmar Boulevard that has a \$3 honor box. The tall black fence was peeled back in a few places,

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## County paid for auditor's resignation, and silence

BY STEPHEN DEERE

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY** • David Makarewicz scrutinized St. Louis County's \$650 million budget for more than five years as the county auditor, the position charged with watching over county contracts and financing.

But early this year, the County Council quietly cut ties with Makarewicz, a political appointee whose term had expired two years earlier. Despite the expired term, the council secretly authorized its attorney to draw up an agreement that paid Makarewicz nearly \$50,000.

iso,000. In exchange, the county

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## Settlement agreement

Makarewicz's term had already expired when he was offered \$50,000

### Lawsuit threatened?

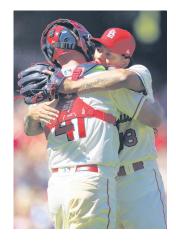
Council members say they weren't aware of any age discrimination claims



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