

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

How much Puppy Chow will \$250,000 buy you? And why does the Bird's Eye View want to know? **Page B2**

## Homeless men get team

Soccer offers camaraderie, stability, motivation, a chance to work off frustration — and a trip to Washington.



PHOTOS BY ADAM JADHAV • Post-Dispatch

**Keith Deisner (left), who organizes the St. Louis Roadies, a homeless men's soccer team, practices dribbling past Jason Stubbs, a homeless player. The team will compete in the Street Soccer USA Cup in Washington this week.**

BY ADAM JADHAV • St. Louis Post-Dispatch

If you'd taken a stroll past Souldard Park on a recent Friday evening, you'd probably have seen what looked at first glance like little more than a friendly pick-up soccer game.

A bunch of men playing four per side on a short field, laughing, sweating and jawing the way guys do when it's just the guys.

But there's one crucial detail that makes this weekly event far more meaningful than your average park scrimmage: These men, organized and coached by volunteers, don't play for a work or school team.

They play on this team because they're homeless.

This is the St. Louis Roadies, a team that will compete in Washington at the end of the month in the Street Soccer USA Cup, a tournament for homeless clubs. Leading them is Keith Deisner, soccer fanatic and the development director for Peter and Paul Community Services, which runs a homeless shelter and service program. He has help from a group of volunteer coaches — most of them friends from high school who just love soccer.

When the weather is good, they practice at the farmers market park. In the rain or cold, they caravan over to the old National



**Keith Deisner debriefs Roadies players after a practice. Deisner and other volunteer coaches lead weekly practice; Deisner says he hopes soccer gives the homeless men something steady in their lives.**

Guard Armory near Highway 40 or to the Kingdom House gym.

Each week, they work on dribbling, guarding, passing and shooting. They run drills around little orange cones, take turns at penalty kicks, learn juke moves and the like.

And of course, they scrimmage. Sometimes it's homed versus homeless, sometimes they split.

As many as 15 players have attended practices in the past year, though many come and go. There

was the Kenyan immigrant who was phenomenal with a soccer ball but disappeared after a few weeks. And another regular fell away from the team after spending time in jail.

Five regulars are scheduled to go to Washington this week for the tourney, which runs Friday through Sunday, with their expenses covered by donors.

Most of the homeless players

See **SOCCER** • Page B5

## ACLU ousts board member for N-word

Context explains his language, he says, but group calls word inappropriate.

BY ELIZABETHE HOLLAND • [eholland@post-dispatch.com](#) > 314-340-8259

Dr. William Landau, by all accounts one of St. Louis' most outspoken civil libertarians, knows it's an ugly word.

He calls it his "worst adjective" and "a most noxious word." Yet, as deeply offensive as Landau realizes the "N-word" can be, he uses it.

And that is why, after a relationship spanning more than 50 years with the American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri, including a stint as president of its board and decades as a trustee, Landau is no longer on the board. Landau, a neurologist at Washington University and a self-described "professional curmudgeon," says he has never in his 85 years used the N-word in a purposefully demeaning way toward anyone, nor would he. His use of the racial epithet,



Landau

he said, requires an understanding of the context in which he employs it.

But that he used it at all — and three times while engaged in ACLU activities, at that — landed the doctor in hot water with the ACLU board. Ultimately, it led to the departure of Landau and the ACLU's general counsel from the board, and the resignations of six members of the ACLU's legal committee.

"They've lost a lot of good people and very needlessly," said Ray Hartmann, co-owner

See **ACLU** • Page B4

## City judge tackles red-light cameras

He is demanding a jury trial on his ticket, and has asked a fellow circuit judge to dismiss the case.

BY HEATHER RATCLIFFE • [hratcliffe@post-dispatch.com](#) > 314-621-5804

**ST. LOUIS** • Red-light cameras created a new foe last December when one flashed on a 1997 Volvo heading south on Kingshighway in St. Louis.

A month later, a violation letter appeared at the home of the car's owner — veteran St. Louis judge Robert H. Dierker, a legal stickler who has stepped out from behind the bench before to challenge the justice system.

Now, Dierker has launched a legal campaign against a program that no Missouri attorney before could bring down. He's demanded a jury trial on the ticket. In the meantime, he's asked a fellow circuit judge to dismiss the case, claiming the ticket violates his constitutional rights.

Dierker's motion cites multiple arguments. He says:

- The violation mailed to him did not follow proper procedures required by the Missouri Supreme Court rules.
- The ticket violates a vehicle owner's Fifth and Fourteenth amendment rights that guarantee due process.
- The city ordinance establishing the program imposes penalties "on an arbitrary, unreasonable and capricious manner and without fair notice."
- The program violates Missouri's constitution by imposing a license or fee without a vote of the people.
- The ordinance does not prescribe a specific penalty for the violation.

Dierker declined to comment about his case, saying he'll let it work its way through the legal system.

The case is set for trial Sept. 28 before Circuit Judge Ralph H. Jaynes, a retired judge who has been visiting the circuit to help with a backlog of cases.

St. Louis City Counselor Patricia Hageman declined to comment about the case.

Several attorneys have tried similar challenges in the past. City officials said 51 cases, which are

See **CAMERAS** • Page B5



Dierker

### Cameras are in these area communities:

- Arnold
- Bel-Nor
- Beverly Hills
- Brentwood
- Bridgeton
- Cahokia\*
- Calverton Park
- Clayton
- Country Club Hills
- Creve Coeur
- Crestwood\*
- Dellwood
- Edmundson
- Ellisville
- Festus
- Florissant
- Granite City
- Hazelwood
- Moline Acres
- Northwoods
- Richmond Heights
- St. Ann
- St. John
- St. Louis
- St. Peters
- Webster Groves
- Wentzville

\* Contract pending with vendor

Source: American Traffic Solutions, Redflex Traffic Systems

## Edward Jones Dome gets a sports bar

**Building Blocks** • From the Post-Dispatch's local real estate blog.

STLTODAY.COM/BUILDINGBLOCKS • Tim Bryant > 07.21

St. Louis Rams fans will soon see the \$30 million makeover of the Edward Jones Dome, which includes high-tech scoreboards, brighter colors, new exterior signs and a sports bar that can hold more than 2,000 people.

The bar, called the Bud Light Party Zone, spreads across the north end zone beneath a new high-resolution scoreboard. Built in an area previously used for storage, the bar has a long row of windows providing views of the field.

The design by Karey Brown, of Arcturis, an architecture firm, includes oak bars, structural columns covered in cedar planks, 42 flat-screen televisions and a concrete floor stained a charcoal color.

Also redone is the private Rams Club, one level above the Bud Light Party Zone. Angled walls next to the scoreboards have been removed, giving clubgoers a view of the field. Before, they could see games only on TV.

Fans will get their first look at the changes when the Rams begin their preseason Aug. 21 against the Atlanta Falcons. The makeover represents all the major improvements the dome will get by 2015, the next "measuring mark" for the dome to meet its lease requirements with the Rams. The lease agreement between the team and the Convention and Visitors Commission specifies that the dome maintain "first-tier" stadium status.



CHRISTIAN GOODEN • [cgooden@post-dispatch.com](#)

**Steve Feldt of Legacy Building Group works Tuesday on one of two bars in a sports bar that will open in the north end zone in the Edward Jones Dome for the upcoming Rams season. Arcturis is the firm that was hired to design the facility.**



COMMUNITY

SOCCER • FROM B1

Homeless men become team players with Roadies soccer; 'this helps me keep going'

say they first came out to play on a lark. The idea seemed odd, but with a little cajoling from Deisner — who recruits all over town — an evening in the park sounded like a nice alternative to hoofing it on the street corner.

Doug Carter, 39, had played as a kid, then lost track of the game, switching to football in high school. He has been homeless on and off for five years, bouncing from job to job and apartment to apartment. He said he got cut from his last gig washing dishes because business was slow.

Carter's days are filled with trips to temp agencies. He gets food stamps and relies on local service agencies for other needs such as toiletries, laundry and clothes. He sleeps in an abandoned train depot with other homeless people. He was part of the inaugural St. Louis team last year and went to Washington for the Roadies' first appearance in the national street soccer tournament. Carter is the captain of the team now; for the past year, the game has been one of his life's biggest constants.

"This gave me a lot of encouragement, that extra motivation, going out and playing, to work towards a goal. Sometimes you don't get work and everything, you get frustrated, you get mad," Carter said, breathing hard and chugging Powerade. "This helps me keep going."

For Daniel Blue, 25, a returning player who just graduated from college and is looking for work and a place to live, the team "gave me something stable to do. Even when I still had problems, it gave me an outlet and let me know that I could be all right."

That was the idea in 2004, when Lawrence Cann started building what would eventually become the Street Soccer USA Cup. Cann, a soccer fan, had volunteered at a homeless center in North Carolina and also read about homeless soccer competitions abroad.

He took his first homeless team overseas in 2005 to compete in the Homeless World Cup, an international tournament for homeless players, and returned with the goal of building a U.S. tournament to act as a qualifier.

"A lot of homeless folks are living from moment to moment," Cann said. "The structure of a constant practice and to know that there's something that is going on in six months that I'm a part of, that's very settling."

The tournament is four-on-four soccer on a short, hard court that resembles the streets. Last year, 11 squads from around the country played in the open tournament. This year, at least 16 are expected. From those teams, Cann will put together a national team to take to the world cup in September.

The whole exercise is full of contrasts. The Roadies coaches are average guys — a computer programmer, an IT guy, a plumber, a teacher, among others. The players live on



ADAM JADHAV • Post-Dispatch

Doug Carter, captain of the St. Louis Roadies, heads the ball in practice this month. Carter says the team has given him goals to work for and a sense of escape from his life on the streets.

the margins — several sleep in abandoned buildings north of downtown, one just moved out of a shelter, one had so little he practiced barefoot.

But the field is also a great equalizer, Deisner said. There, you're not your home or lack thereof, you're not your job or lack thereof, you're just a member of the team. For the Roadies, the weekly practices are an hour and 45 minutes where everyone sweats the same.

"It's all the best of what organized sports can offer," Deisner said. "Here for a couple hours they get to be outside the homeless population and with a group of guys who treat them as equals."

The camaraderie among coaches and players shows running up and down the field. They encourage each other, cheering when someone scores, pushing when someone gets winded. And they get in plenty of verbal taunts, the kind reminiscent of a high school

locker room.

Joe Campanella, a coach who works for a pipeline company, is the most mouthy on the team, and makes more than a few jokes about missed shots, bad passes, girlfriends, whatever. But as much as Campanella dishes out, the players give back.

At a recent practice, Labon Smith, 36, who has been homeless for three years, reveled in the chance to heckle the coaches, literally barking when he bolted past a defender. Afterward, Carter suggested it would be unwise "to let Campanella run wild in the nation's capital" during the tournament.

Campanella flashes a big grin through it all. "I think (the teasing) makes them feel like everybody's on the same level, because we are," he said. "Everybody's got their own demons, and some of us are dealing with it in other ways."

CAMERAS

• FROM B1

Most attorneys have cited constitutional rights or state law

usually adjudicated at the St. Louis Municipal Court, had been appealed to the St. Louis Circuit Court. None has ever been heard in Dierker's courtroom.

Most attorneys argued that the red-light ticket either violated constitutional rights or that state law pre-empts the local ordinance establishing the program, said Ann Horner, an attorney with the Traffic Law Center.

Each time, Associate Judge Elizabeth Hogan ruled in favor of the city, experts said.

"I think every argument has been made," Horner said. "Until someone takes it up to the Court of Appeals, for now, the camera tickets in St. Louis are legal."

Thursday, a federal judge in St. Louis threw out a challenge to the cameras in Arnold.

The tickets have also survived political attacks. State lawmakers attempted unsuccessfully to ban red-light camera tickets this year. In St. Louis, Aldermanic President Lewis Reed introduced a bill seeking additional warnings at intersections with red-light cameras.

City officials have said red-light cameras are effective, and the officials have added more cameras as a result. The number grew from four in May 2007 to 51 now. The city estimates the cameras generated as much as \$2.8 million in municipal revenue for the last fiscal year.

Horner said she hoped Dierker was successful, though she had not read his arguments.

"Maybe he'll present something with a little twist," she said.

The last time Dierker took on the legal system was in a book he wrote in 2006 bashing liberal bias in the judiciary. Some speculated that the book, titled "The Tyranny of Tolerance: A Sitting Judge Breaks the Code of Silence to Expose the Liberal Judicial Assault," could have cost him his job.

Dierker defended the book's themes, welcomed the criticism and said his own attorneys said the book didn't break any rules.

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