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See page B1

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Vol. 95 No. 33
COMPLIMENTARY

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L.I.T. is it!

Teen summit takes leadership training to youths

By Ashley Winters
St. Louis American

Taking on the narcotics crisis and building young new leaders were goals of the inaugural Leaders In Training (L.I.T.) teen summit on Tuesday at Hazelwood Baptist Church.

Gerald Dennis, L.I.T. creator and coordinator, said he was inspired to create the teen summit after attending a youth community forum in St. Charles.

He thought 'how many young teens could benefit from a program focused on them and designed and led by young people?'

"I want the kids to know that we adults understand that their generation has a lot of things at school and outside of school that they have to navigate through," said Dennis, who serves as a program director at Preferred Family Health Care.

See SUMMIT, A7

Photo by Wiley Price / St. Louis American

The inaugural Leaders in Training teen summit featured Terry Bowman of Preferred Family Healthcare discussing youth mental health.

A veteran salute

Don Clarke, a member of Tom Powell Post #77, waves to the crowd during the Veterans Day Parade Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023. Post #77 was chartered on September 17, 1919, and was the first Black post in the United States.



Photo by Wiley Price / St. Louis American

Jackson to co-anchor KSDK 10 p.m. news

By Alvin A. Reid
St. Louis American

Kelly Jackson keeps moving on up at KSDK.

Jackson has been named Mike Bush's new 10 p.m. weekday co-anchor, beginning on Nov. 27. She will continue as 5 p.m. weekday anchor alongside Bush, Sports Director Frank Cusumano, and meteorologist Jim Castillo.

"I am looking forward to expanding my role in the newsroom in so many ways, including having more opportunities to report on stories that are impacting St. Louis," Jackson told the St, Louis American.

"I am so proud to be part of a hard-working group of journalists in our newsroom. People still have great respect for local journalism. We truly do hold [people] accountable. That is sometimes easier said than done, but we do a very good job doing it."

Jackson will still contribute to the award-winning series

See JACKSON, A6

St. Louis records 20% drop in homicides

Largest drop in 90 years

By Alvin A. Reid
St. Louis American

As St. Louis entered the fourth quarter of 2023, its homicide rate was down 20%. If the trend continues through December, it would be the largest homicide reduction in the city in 90 years.

According to St. Louis Metropolitan Police statistics, there had been 139 homicides as of Nov. 6 compared to 173 at the same time last year.



James Clark

As both Mayor Tishaura Jones and Chief Robert Tracy have stated, "one is too many."

During a Tuesday press conference celebrating St. Louis' perfect score in the Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equity Index, Mayor Jones said "a whole lot of things," have helped reduce the homicide rate.

"We opened our Office of Violence Prevention over [18 months] ago and they work with, and in, communities with violence interrupters, social workers, and other behavioral health providers," Jones said.

Jones said, "people have been diverted from emergency rooms and jail, and our 911 Diversion Program connects them with mental health providers."

See HOMICIDES, A7

St. Louis earns perfect score on Equality Index

By Brian Munoz
St. Louis Public Radio

The Human Rights Campaign has awarded the City of St. Louis a perfect score in the organization's 2023 Municipal Equality Index for its support of the queer community.

The annual report, now on its 12th edition, is a comprehensive nationwide assessment of LGBTQ+ equality through the lens of policies, laws and services that exist in communities around the United States.

"Even with the challenges that we're facing, the [index] shows us that more cities and towns than ever are standing up for LGBTQ+ equality," said Kelly Robinson, president of the Human Rights Commission Foundation. "That's thanks to mayors, counselors and city managers who are doing everything they can to support their LGBTQ+ residents."

See EQUALITY, A6

HEALTH

Helping my mom live with Alzheimer's has strengthened me

Helping my mom through Alzheimer's has strengthened my determination in the face of overwhelming adversity. I can honestly say that I don't fear anything related to my mother's illness.

Page A12



SPORTS

Prep football's chase for state is heating up

CBC, DeSmet, Lutheran North and Eureka lead the way as the 2023 prep football season heads into state quarterfinals this weekend.

Page B3

HOTSHEET

St. Louis' own SZA scores most Grammy nominations for 2024 edition



The great reign of St. Louisan **SZA** continues.

SZA received the most Grammy nominations this year, with nine total. Only last month she performed at her sold-out Enterprise Center show.

Though raised in New Jersey, SZA was born in St. Louis to a Soldan graduate and has spent many summers of her formative years here with her grandmother.

SZA is nominated for the coveted Album of the Year for *SOS* and both Record and Song of the Year for "Kill Bill."

SOS also was nominated for Best Progressive R&B Album. Other nominations include Traditional R&B Performance ("Love Language"), Best R&B Song ("Snooze"), Best R&B Performance ("Kill Bill"), and Best Melodic Rap Performance ("Low").

"Ghost in the Machine," a collaboration with Phoebe Bridgers, was nominated for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance.

Other St. Louisans nominated include **Metro Boomin**, for Producer of The Year. **Marcus Baylor** of the Baylor Project received his third Grammy nomination in a row this year. He is up for best Jazz Performance as a featured artist on Adam Blackstone's record.

Rheaume Crenshaw, an ensemble member of Shucked, is up for a Best Musical Theater Album.



Keke Palmer accuses Darius Jackson of abuse, granted restraining order

Actress **Keke Palmer** has been granted a temporary restraining order against her ex-boyfriend and father of her child, **Darius Jackson.**

The actor was also temporarily granted sole custody of their son, Leo, with no visitation for Jackson.

Palmer alleged physical and emotional abuse as the justification for the restraining order. She said Jackson trespassed at her home and attacked her.

"Leo is the most important thing in the entire world to me; he needs and deserves to be safe and grow up in an environment free from violence," Palmer wrote in the court documents. "It is because of our son, Leo, that I was finally able to end my relationship with Darius once and for all and escape the abuse."



Rick Ross tells Jada to keep 2Pac's name out her mouth

BET reports that **Rick Ross** is fed up with **Jada Pinkett-Smith** and her disclosures about the late **2Pac Shakur**.

In her memoir "Worthy," Pinkett-Smith wrote 2Pac also lived with hair condition alopecia, as she does.

"Come on, Jada, let Tupac rest in peace," Ross told BET Talks.

"We ain't need to know that; dawg a legend. He [has] been dead for 30 years.

"She should've told us a real story. Talk about your husband, [**Will Smith**,] baby."

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"It's created an environment of intimidation of the community."

- St. Louis County Councilwoman Shalonda Webb on teenagers legally being allowed to openly carry guns



Racial Equity Summit: Stemming systemic racism

'Something has to change'



Photo by Wiley Price I St. Louis American

Poet, activist Nikki Giovanni speaking at the St. Louis Racial Equity Summit last week at the America's Center Thu. Nov. 9, 2021.

By Ashley Winters
The St. Louis American

The St. Louis Racial Equity Summit 2023 brought together an array of diverse organizations Nov. 9-11 under the theme "Together We Rise: The Power of Community."

Held at the America's Center Convention Complex downtown, summit topics included racial equity, opportunity to thrive, and justice. Business subjects included corporate and Black women leaders networking.

Award winning poet Nikki Giovanni was the keynote speaker on the summit's opening evening and shared her humor and love for St. Louis. She also detailed her experiences with growing up in a segregated America.

"Those in power believe we are not supposed to have nothing, our children are supposed to go without. They believe you and I aren't supposed to have clean water to drink," she said.

"I'm tired of people telling us we haven't earned a life [that will] get our basic needs met. There is not a person of color in the world that hasn't earned something."

Sandra Keely, CEO of SK2 Enterprises, a St. Louis based real estate company, called the summit "a refresher, a place where people can get innovative ideas and get words of encouragement.

"This is a life's work," said Keely.

The summit hosts said the three days of discussions and action had three goals:

Awareness of Inequity: Participants built awareness of systemic inequities that exist in the region--from education to housing to healthcare and beyond.

Understanding Why Inequity Exists: Gaining an understanding of systemic issues and building a plan to address them. This included reviewing successful tactics in St. Louis and other regions.

Transforming Towards Equity: Successful strategies for immediate action were shared. Local leaders of color shared their thoughts on what can be done to eliminate structural inequities.

Dr. Will Ross, associate dean for diversity at Washington University School of Medicine and professor of medicine in the Nephrology Division, explained how little to no access of healthy options impacts the region.

He said Black and brown neighborhoods are the most vulnerable, adding that "reparations are a subject that should be included when talking about racial equity."

According to Ross, a grassroots approach is the first step. Telling the stories of the communities that have been impacted by systemic racism is vital.

"Hopefully by taking this approach it will create a ground swell of activities that will help keep the ball rolling for a more equitable society and not just in the St. Louis region," said Ross.

"It's time we had restorative justice and I'm not going to give up"

A youth panel led by Precious Barry was centered on getting young people more involved with civic work, bridging gaps between generations, and creating spaces for them to energize other youth.

Elizabeth Franklin, St. Louis County Youth Advisory Council chair, would like to see more adults "reach out to younger people and not leave them out of the conversation."

"[We should] adhere to some of the suggestions and requests they are making because they feel they can help make a difference too."

Raevyn Ferguson, College and Career Readiness Program coordinator for the Little Bit Foundation said the conversation must be open and consistent.

"These conversations are so important because we are fighting the same fight our grandparents had to fight [and] that was decades ago," said Ferguson.

"Something has to change."

Ferguson wants to build "a united front" between generations that are working for equity building. She hopes older generations "really see value in [youths] and the efforts they have made.

Ashley Winters is a Report for America reporter for the St. Louis American.

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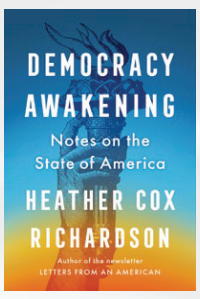
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Guest Editorial

Making economic equity a reality

"The racial wealth gap is intentional. It was created. It was created by the Homestead Act. It was created by urban redlining. It was created by the inequitable distribution of the GI bill. It was created by unfair appraisal values. It was created by racist procurement policies. The racial wealth gap was created by the misguided choices of people in power. The only way to reverse bad policy choices is with good policy choices. Policies that fix the foundation of what's broken." ***– Maryland Gov. Wes Moore***

By Marc H. Morial



Columnist
Marc H. Morial

It's an ambitious goal for any governor: Eliminate the racial wealth gap.

Racial inequality has cost the American economy $16 trillion over the last two decades, and it's projected to cost another $1 trillion over the next 10 years.

Maryland Gov, Wes Moore, a Democrat, has made eliminating the racial wealth gap in his state his top priority. Nearly a year into his term, his administration has advanced over half a billion dollars in procurement awards to minority and women-owned businesses.

He signed the Maryland Access to Banking Act, promoting the growth of financial services in low-to-moderate-income communities. Maryland's minimum wage has been boosted to $15 an hour two years ahead of schedule.

The Family Prosperity Act of 2023, which expands and makes permanent the state's Earned Income Tax Credit and significantly expands its Child Tax Credit, is expected to lift tens of thousands of Maryland's children out of poverty.

And he's collaborating with lawmakers to address the appraisal gap from historic redlining, which he called "one of the greatest wealth thefts in our state's history.

In recognition of these accomplishments and others, the National Urban League honored Moore with the President's Award at the 67th Annual Equal Opportunity Dinner on Nov. 8, 2023.

n his moving acceptance speech, Moore acknowledged the inspiration of his grandfather, James Thomas. Born in South Carolina, Thomas fled to Jamaica when he was 6, chased out of town by the Ku Klux Klan.

While many of his family members vowed never to return to the United States, Thomas did. "He would say, 'This country wouldn't be complete without me,'" Moore recalled with a smile.

Though he passed down to his children, his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren "a remarkable legacy," what he didn't pass down was wealth.

"It's not because he didn't work hard enough," Moore said. "It's because he chose to serve a country that wasn't prepared to serve him."

Moore's father died suddenly when Moore was only three years old, prompting his mother to move with him and his two sisters to The Bronx to live with his grandparents. They lived there until Moore was 14, when the family returned to Maryland.

Moore credits the influence of his grandfather, whom he called "Papa Jim," with keeping him safe from the gang violence that enveloped his neighborhood. When Moore had a run-in with the police, his grandparents mortgaged their home so they could afford to send him to military school in Pennsylvania.

In January, Moore was sworn in as Maryland's first Black governor and third Black elected governor in U.S. history on a Bible that belonged to "Papa Jim," along with one that belonged to Maryland native Frederick Douglass.

Marc Morial is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

As I See It - *A Forum for Community Issues*

I'll stand with Jefferson

By Mike Jones

In November 1970, author James Baldwin wrote a letter to politician and activist Angela Davis and stated "One way of gauging a nation's health, or to what extent it can be considered as a nation distinguished from a coalition of special interests, is to examine those people it elects to represent or protect it."

"[Current American leaders (or figureheads) convey that America is on the edge of absolute chaos."

Following the latest post-Roe v. Wade overturn elections, I had a conversation with my brother who provided piercing insight with clarity.

He said, "The entire arch of American history has been about the attempt of white men to control the bodies of everyone who is not a white man."

I'm a Black man writing for a Black newspaper unapologetically for a Black audience. I'm aware that many readers are not Black.



Columnist
Mike Jones

The columns sometimes have white America as a subject. They do not address white Americans directly.

It's obvious there are significant numbers of white Americans, MAGA America Republicans, that against a democratic society that encompasses Black people and other marginalized communities. They are also against democracy for white Americans.

How do people who believe in democratic pluralism politically defend themselves?

The answer is you don't defend your position, you attack theirs. You don't win arguments scrapping over details, you win the argument by attacking the premise of your opponent's argument.

The premise in any argument is what's presumed to be true - or at least plausible. You will never prevail when you accept the legitimacy of an adversary's premise.

The present is intellectually haunted by ghosts from the past. How we understand the political construct of society is based on the thoughts of men who've been dead hundreds of years.

Three of the most influential thinkers in Western political philosophy are Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Hobbes was an English philosopher best known for his 1651 book "Leviathan," in which he expounds on social contract theory.

Locke, a physician, is commonly known as the "father of liberalism," for his philosophies.

Rousseau hailed from Geneva and his political philosophy was central during The Enlightenment throughout Europe.

The premise of MAGA America and its billionaire funders' political theory is based on Hobbs's dystopian social contract theory that posits people are to live in peace with order but without rights. This is a foundation of totalitarian regimes.

To refute this philosophy, the premise MAGA America Republicans must be rejected. They are wrong and immoral.

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and third President of the United States, provided both a shield and a sword for current times.

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress passed Jefferson's document. It includes the most profound and elegant political statement ever written.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

"That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...."

These sentences redefine the modern social contract. There are fundamental human rights which are inalienable, and the purpose of government is to ensure those rights.

When government doesn't protect those rights, there's a moral justification to change the form of government.

If Jefferson is right, there is no place for Hobbs. Hobbs and his Leviathan are relics in an intellectual history museum. They remind us of who we were before we knew better.

I'm writing words I never thought I'd say: I'm with Jefferson.

For white readers who remain unclear how they would fare if MAGA Republicans prevail, I refer to Baldwin's letter.

I'll paraphrase his closing comments. "When they take us in the morning, they will come for you that night."

As I See It - *A Forum for Community Issues*

Climate action is here to stay

By Ben Jealous

The Nov. 7, 2023 election results should be a wakeup call to any politician who had been unsure of Americans' desire for robust climate action and support for a green economy. In states and counties that are red, blue, and everywhere in between, voters favored forward-looking candidates who embraced both the need for and the economic benefits of aggressive climate action.

As much of the reporting on this election cycle has already pointed out, reproductive freedom was clearly a heavy driver of Democratic performance on Election Day. That shouldn't overshadow the fact that, in marquee races, well-funded attacks against strong climate policies from the Far Right and fossil fuel interests were ignored or rejected by the voters they hoped to sway. And it doesn't diminish the role that issues like clean energy and a healthy future for our planet and our communities played in galvanizing voters.



Guest Columnist
Ben Jealous

The climate crisis is here. It's not politely knocking at our door; it's banging it down. Americans in every corner of this country are hyperaware of it, especially after the dangerous and deadly heat waves and wildfires many of us experienced this year. What we're seeing in our backyards is connected to a larger, global crisis that is affecting all life on this planet we call home. Just-released research shows that the past 12 months were the hottest on record.

This fight has always been about our future but increasingly it's also about our present. Voters get it.

This was especially evident in Virginia, where voters forcefully denied the Republican governor's bid for full control of the state government. The electoral rebuke of Gov. Glenn Youngkin and his views – in which Democrats didn't just protect their state Senate majority but also gained control of the state House – effectively ends his push to undo the climate progress enacted under his predecessor.

Youngkin sought to roll back emissions standards aimed at moving Virginia away from the sale of new vehicles with internal combustion engines as of 2035. And he has been waging an effort to withdraw Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative cap-and-trade program.

LaTwyla Mathias, who leads Progress Virginia and worked to mobilize voters in this year's election, said that among her organization's digital ads this cycle – which were shown to voters of color, young voters, and women – the ads focused on climate were the top performers.

"Our research shows that climate voters care about freedom: the freedom to breathe clean air, the freedom to live in a healthy environment, and the freedom to make decisions for themselves," Ms. Mathias said. "Black and brown voters showed up on Tuesday because they know we've fought too long and too hard to let special interests take these freedoms from us."

"By electing climate champions, we can fight back on growing health risks and pollution in marginalized neighborhoods, defend our neighbors with severe medical conditions, make sure that our communities have an opportunity to get trained in new jobs so that the transition to clean energy doesn't leave anyone behind, and protect the progress we've made with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative."

So, as we discuss all the fundamental rights that were on the ballot this year and will be in 2024 – abortion, the right to vote, gender equality, workers' rights, and more – let's not forget that the results of this week's elections prove that the right to a clean environment and a habitable planet is a major election issue an ever growing number of Americans – especially those communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Ben Jealous is executive director of the Sierra Club and professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

Letter to the Editor

All letters are edited for length and style

Osborn's honor well deserved

I wish to thank you and your staff for the recognition and honor of naming Kathy Osborn, CEO of the Regional Business Council, as a Champion for Education during the Annual St. Louis American Foundation Salute to Excellence in Education Scholarship and Awards Gala on Nov. 4.

Osborn has been a longtime supporter of those in the education arena, and a warrior advocate for students. I have collaborated with her for many years, and watched as she saluted local educators at your annual gala.

She and Tony Thompson, founder and CEO of the Kwame Building Group, were staunch supporters during my tenure as principal of Jackson and Dunbar Elementary Schools. They provided additional resources necessary to ensure the overall success of students. I am profoundly grateful and value the friendship that developed as result of our partnership.

As Regional Business Council executive director, Osborn has worked tirelessly to build a St. Louis community that is accessible, educated, and thriving economically. I am proud of her leadership, accomplishments, and her unwavering willingness to fight for a prosperous, progressive St. Louis.

Kudos! I appreciate the dedicated, hard-working staff of the St. Louis American for its continued celebration of our educators and the many scholarships secured by deserving students seeking to pursue higher education. YOU ROCK!!

Darlynn Bosley, *Educator*
St. Louis

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Photo courtesy of Mama Lisa

The University City Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters has named Mama Lisa (Lisa Gage) as the Returning Artist for the 2023-24 school year.

Mama Lisa named U. City Returning Artist

The University City Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters has named Mama Lisa (Lisa Gage) as its Returning Artist for the 2023-24 school year.

The renowned artist entered the school district of University City as a sixth grader and graduated from University City High School in 1980.

Mama Lisa is president, founder, and artistic director of Fundisha Enterprises, which focuses on empowerment through the preservation of African culture and celebration of performing arts traditions from the diaspora.

She has more than 40 years of professional performance experience, which includes academia, percussion, dance, storytelling, craft, and oral history.

"I consider myself a Pan African Folk Artist," Mama Lisa said.

"This is not only my charge, but my destiny as well. The pleasure of teaching and researching in African villages brought me to many watershed moments that keep me steadfast in my quest."

Mama Lisa was honored on Nov. 11 in Pruitt Library at U. City High School.

Since 1994, the commission's Returning Artist program has recognized artistically renowned University City High School graduates by inviting them to return to their alma mater and share their work.

The program encourages students to investigate careers in the arts and enriches the district's arts programs in schools. Past Returning Artists have included visual artists, glassblowers, photographers, writers, filmmakers, graphic designers, videographers, animators, instrumental musicians, composers, actors, singers, and dancers.

For additional information on the Returning Artist program, please contact the commission at ucityartsandletters@gmail.com.

Mother's Day should be every day

By E. Faye Williams

For nearly 20 years, I worked for women and their families which means I spent my time working for our entire community, including the men in our lives.

Many women do as much as I do or more. Yet we're not always the first to be mentioned as worthy of honor on a regular basis. Often men come to be rightly celebrated for their achievements, but with no mention of the role mothers play in helping them to become who they are.

When we come to Women's History Month, many people forget the need to celebrate them. Yet, all year there seems to be, as Dick Gregory would say, goo gobs of men celebrated. There's Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and former presidents.

There's not a single woman celebrated annually with a federal holiday. Some of us have proposed one for Mother Rosa Parks and we should all want to make that happen.



E. Faye Williams

While we're working to make just one woman have the honor of a federal holiday, why don't we celebrate our own mothers on their birthday? I'm starting with mine who made her transition a little over two years ago. Her name is Frances LaCour Williams and her 101st birthday was Friday, Nov. 10.

My family and I celebrated her birthday, and we urge you to remember your mother by celebrating hers. Just think of how many times at least one woman will be celebrated every day.

We don't have to wait for Congress to act to give us just one day of celebrating women, nor do we have to wait for the nationally declared Mother's Day that was made to happen on a Sunday so that we get no holiday as we have on so many other occasions that just happen to be all males. I want more celebrations of those who are our mothers.

On our mother's birthday, we can start learning more about women while starting with our own. There are so many women who've accomplished so much, but their stories are never told. We can tell those stories for them, and the world will be better for knowing them.

A male friend often says, "If you want to get a job done, give it to a woman; if you really want to get it done well, give it to a Black woman." Let's invite our brothers to be a part of this celebration of their mothers, too.

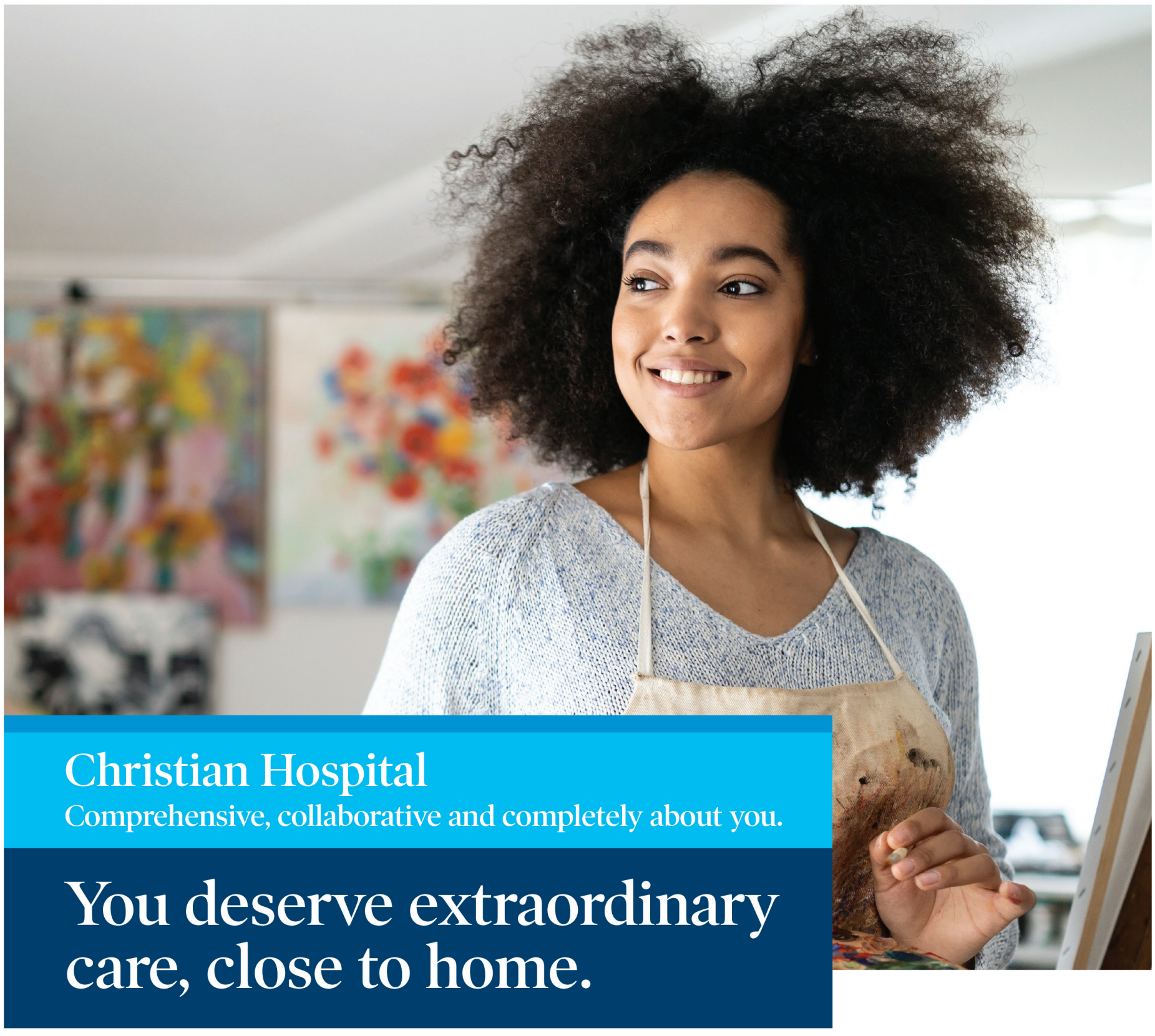
Many of us believe as Dr. George W. Carver did when he said, "It's not the kind of clothing we wear, nor the kind of car we drive, nor how much money we have in the bank—it's simply our service that measures our success."

By that formula, even women who aren't mothers deserve a celebration not just in May, but every day. I propose that every day is Mother's Day because it's some mother's birthday. Dr. Dorothy Height said, "Black women don't always get to do what we want to do, but always do what we have to do."

Let's tell the story of at least one woman every day. My favorite woman is my mother, Mrs. Frances Lacour Williams. She left us after 99 years, while still advising her children, grands, great-grands, and great-great-grands. She reared nine children without the benefit of our father in our home when all of us were under 12. We always knew we were loved. We never went hungry, or without proper clothing, while getting to school every day — rain, shine, sleet, or snow.

Among the many women I cherish are Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Dr. Lezli Baskerville, Nia 2X, Judge Doris Smith-Ribner, Melanie Greene, and Dr. Stephanie Myers. Celebrate an amazing woman on her birthday.

Columnist E. Faye Williams is president of The Dick Gregory Society (www.thedickgregorysociety.org)





Kelly Jackson lends a helping hand to Louie, the St. Louis Blues mascot, during Sista Strut in 2022. Jackson, who supports many charitable causes, will join Mike Bush as a co-anchor of the KSDK 10 p.m. news

Photo courtesy of Photonews 247

Jackson

Continued from A1

on race "Race: Listen. Learn. Live," a series focused on race, diversity, and equity.

"I also want to report on people who are doing great things and changing the landscape of St. Louis," she said.

A Quincy, Illinois native, Jackson joined KSDK in 1998 from WKBD in Detroit. After a decade in St. Louis, she joined NBC affiliate News10 in Sacramento.

She returned in 2010 and anchored weekend morning and Saturday evening newscasts.

In 2021, she became Bush's co-anchor at 5 p.m. She said her expanding role "is nothing that I take lightly."

"Working alongside your friends is an added plus! Local news is truly more important than ever, and I hope our viewers will continue to keep their trust in us."

News Director Carol Fowler called Jackson "a terrific talent due to her knowledge of St. Louis, poise, and ability to connect with the viewer."

Jackson earned a degree in radio/TV broadcasting with a minor in political science from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. She has won numerous awards including Mid-America Emmy Awards, a national award for the Alliance for Women in Media, and awards from the *St. Louis Business Journal*. Earlier this year she was honored by the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis for balanced reporting.

As she shared with *American* readers in a 2022 commentary, Jackson has also participated in a marathon.

When I was training for my first marathon in 1999, it had never occurred to me to run a race in my lifetime. I joked, 'The only time you'd see me run is if someone were chasing me!'

"Nancy Lieberman, founder of the Go! St. Louis Marathon came into KSDK to promote the marathon and asked if I would be interested. I had never run farther than a mile or two, and I mulled it over and decided to go for it.

"What followed was training in St. Louis' notorious hot weather, but it was worth it. I was in the best shape of my life."

President and General Manager Alicia Elsner said the station "is incredibly excited to expand Kelly's role in our newsroom."

"She and Mike share the same unwavering commitment to serving St. Louis. I look forward to seeing their personalities and news experience shine at 10 p.m."

Congratulations
to
The St. Louis American's
Pam Simmons



for receiving
Missouri Press Advertising & Marketing Executives' 2023 Dee Hamilton Sales Pro Award

Equality

Continued from A1

The nonprofit organization surveyed 506 municipalities across all 50 states for the report, and of those, about 25% have received perfect scores — including Kansas City and Columbia.

"Being a blue city in a red state comes with its own significant challenges," said Mayor Tishaura Jones, under the rotunda of City Hall on Tuesday. "The City of St. Louis, and our friends across the state in Kansas City, are frequently preempted in our attempts to keep our city safe and welcoming places for all."

Jones said despite St. Louis' nondiscrimination ordinance, she's heard from queer residents who still face bias in housing and employment.

"Families across St. Louis had to weigh the difficult option of staying in the city they love or moving … to make sure that their children get the care they need," she said. "That's a decision that no family should ever have to make."

Issues surrounding transgender children were one of the Missouri GOP's priorities last session, with the legislature voting to restrict students from receiving some forms of gender-affirming care and barring transgender students' participation on school sport teams that align with their gender identity.

Missouri was second in the nation in the number of anti-trans pieces of legislation filed during the 2023 legislative session, according to Track Trans Legislation. The 40 pieces filed in this year's session was an increase from 14 in 2022 and 11 in 2021.

The perfect score from the Human Rights Campaign comes after the City of St. Louis' 11-member LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board released its findings and recommendations after roughly a year's worth of convenings.

The board's recommendations include improving language in governmental documents, adopting a gender-inclusive municipal ID, expanding public education on queer issues and enshrining antidiscrimination clauses in the city charter.

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Summit

Continued from A1

"I want to spark and encourage the next leader."

According to Dennis, many students are interested in conflict resolution and "it's time to put more effort into listening to what young minds need and cultivating the leader that is within them."

"We have to start at a young age, to help keep the momentum going," said Dennis.

The summit included discussions about mental well-being and the dangers of substance use. Locally based speakers, vendors, health officials brought a wealth of information to the students to prepare them to become leaders in drug use prevention at their respective schools.

L.I.T. included students who reside in the St. Louis County Promise Zone, and students who live in zip codes including 63137 and 63138.

According to its website, the Promise Zone was designated in 2015 and serves nearly 200,000 residents in north St. Louis and north St. Louis County. "More than 100 community partners and organizations were engaged to help the Zone become a catalyst for ongoing collaboration and change that will drive regional growth and create a better, more inclusive St. Louis region.

Students from school districts including Hazelwood, Riverview Gardens, University City, Jennings, Normandy, and Ritenour participated in the teen summit. The day began with an energetic speech from local youth motivational coach Koran Bolden.

■ "I want to hopefully expand the imagination of the young people that's in the audience."

– Koran Bolden , youth motivational coach while speaking to students at the first Leaders in Training teen summit at Hazelwood Baptist Church

"I want to hopefully expand the imagination of the young people that's in the audience," said Bolden.

During his speech he expressed the importance of taking time to take care of one's mental health. He told students it's acceptable to ask for help that is available from teachers, school counselors, or a mentor.

Brooklyn Williams, a sixth grader at Hazelwood Southeast Middle School, said Bolden's speech helped her gain more confidence.

"I learned that having good leadership skills can take me far in my goals," she said.

Kiersten Burroughs-Kneely, also a Hazelwood sixth-grade student, said the summit taught her to be her own person.

"A lot of kids my age let other people influence them, and sometimes kids could be getting bad advice," she explained.

"Having confidence helps kids determine what is good for them" said Burroughs, who would like to participate in future summits as a teen leader.

The Heroin Education and Awareness League H.E.A.L, Preferred Family Healthcare, St. Louis CRUSH, PreventEd, and the Office of St. Louis County Executive hosted the teen summit which drew more than 150 students.

Ashley Winters is a Report for America reporter for the St. Louis American.



Photo by Wiley Price / St. Louis American

'Medals' of honor

Marine Staff Sgt. Donald Henley, who served in Vietnam, watches the Veterans Day Parade pass in front of Soldiers Memorial Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023.

Homicides

Continued from A1

She also lauded the ongoing effort of Chief Tracy and the police department.

"Our new chief has been on the job 11 months, so I guess I can't call him new any longer," Jones said lightheartedly.

"Chief Tracy has implemented his proven crime reduction strategies from Wilmington, Delaware, Chicago, and New York. All these things working together are why we have seen a reduction in homicide and crime overall.

Aggravated assaults, robberies, and burglaries also recorded drops compared to last year.

James Clark, Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis vice president of public safety and community response, said while the number of homicides remains lower compared to last year and 2021, the region should not ignore the number of shootings.

"In order to sustain and continue to have a measurable impact, consideration must be given to adding the number of shootings into the equation," he said.

"The number of people shot will give us a more accurate perspective on the sheer level of gun violence. Not all shootings end in a homicide. Also, we must include the East St. Louis, in our planning and execution of efforts.

Clark added that a population shift from St. Louis city to St. Louis County could be playing a role in the homicide decrease.

"As homicides drop in the city, many county communities are experiencing an increase. We must continue to increase resource delivery into neighborhoods," he said.

Clark said his division uses a unique and proven effective lens; Neighborhood, Porch, and Living room or NPL.

"Any engagement initiative must hit each of these targets," he said.

"Through our Gun Violence De-Escalation Network, we work with community members to identify conflicts with a trajectory towards gun violence.

"If we cannot de-escalate the conflict, we work to relocate one of the adversaries, and if necessary, their family outside of the St. Louis metropolitan area.

■ According to St. Louis Metropolitan Police statistics, there had been 139 homicides as of Nov. 6 compared to 173 at the same time last year.

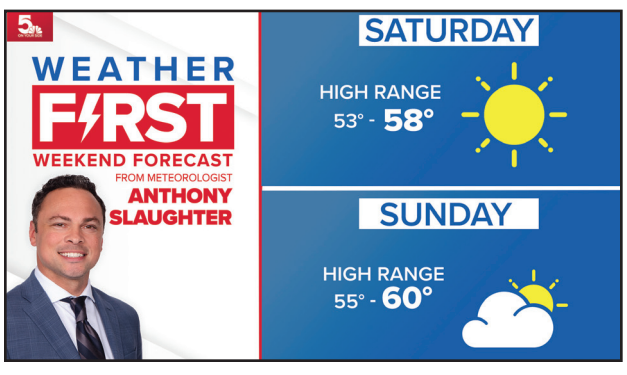
He said his team has de-escalated 73 conflicts and 19 individuals/families have been relocated in 2023.

The Urban League is working in partnership with over 250 neighborhood churches and 75 resource providers to increase resource delivery in five targeted neighborhoods.

"In these targeted neighborhoods we provide neighborhood-based case management to over 400 families. Also, through our Urban Opioid Triage efforts we provide direct engagement and resource delivery to individuals trapped in addiction."

Through August, the St. Louis homicide rate had recorded a 22.6% drop, so the decline is holding, according to the statistics.

Nationally, homicides on average dropped 9.4% during the first half of 2023 as compared to the same period last year, the nonpartisan Council on Criminal Justice found in a report released in July.



Mental Health Matters: Linking Education and Behavioral Health



Of the multiple factors contributing to positive, equitable health outcomes for children, education is in the top tier. In the years during and following the pandemic, educators and health providers have seen even more clearly the impacts of behavioral and mental health and wellness on children's educational success.

According to the Children's Hospital Association, from April to October of 2020 mental health emergency department visits increased 24% for children ages 5-11 and 31% for those ages 12-17 compared to the same period in 2019. These statistics show the need for expanded behavioral health services for children and families while school is both in and out of session.

It's a key focus area for BJC HealthCare. Teams throughout the health system already work in local schools to provide mental health services for children during and beyond the school year. These include efforts like BJC Behavioral Health's Embedded School program, a partnership with St. Louis County Children's Service Fund and various St. Louis County school districts. Through the program, a team of educational support counselors are embedded in certain schools to support short-term mental health needs of students from preschool through grade 12. Additionally, community support specialists work year-round to support behavioral and mental health needs for children and families, both in schools and in home and family settings.

"These services are prevention and early intervention efforts," said Candace Hamell, associate director of child and young adult services at BJC Behavioral Health.

Beyond the classroom: community efforts to sustain mental health

Additionally, BJC School Outreach and Youth Development provides programs for youth and adults that promote mental and physical wellness both in schools and communities. The school-based programs are designed to meet Missouri and Illinois academic health guidelines, while the community-based programs are co-created and co-designed to support "out of school time" learning.

And efforts to expand behavioral health services across the community have become paramount for the health system. BJC has partnered with community-based organizations to develop wellness hubs to ensure equitable access to behavioral health support year-round. These community wellness hubs can serve as central locations for holistic — mental, physical and spiritual — wellness, offering crucial wraparound services and meeting people in already trusted community organizations and institutions while prioritizing overall well-being.

"We are highly focused on increasing the community behavioral health programs year-round," said Doneisha Bohannon, director of community health partnerships and collaboration for BJC HealthCare.

Her team is collaborating with St. Louis County libraries as well as some of the city recreation centers to bring behavioral health wellness programs on-site in underserved neighborhoods. Topics offered in the hubs include yoga, stress management, meditation, self-care, food and nutrition and bullying prevention. Programs are designed based on insights from community residents and community organizations.

"We are intent on meeting people where they are and delivering programs that they want to see," Bohannon said, adding that they are working with schools to identify other areas of need.

Over the past year, three community wellness hubs were established at the St. Louis County Library's three North County locations — Lewis & Clark, Parkview and Natural Bridge — as well as two additional locations at Wohl Recreation Center and Marquette Recreation Center. The partnerships allow BJC and its community partners to enhance the work that's already in progress through each organization.

"Tons of kids are coming through recreation centers, so we want to build on what they're already doing," said Denise Strehlow, a manager on BJC's Community Health Improvement team.

Best of all, the hubs are for anyone in the community — and the response has been positive, Strehlow said. "The feedback is helpful — we're getting direct input from the community so we're creating what people want."

Hamell said her team at BJC Behavioral Health acts as a liaison to the Community Health Improvement team to organize, design and implement the programs. They are also able to tell their clients about the hubs so they can get that extra support outside of the services the clinicians provide.

"We can provide helpful input on where and how to provide community-based services where people naturally go," she said. "It's a nice continuum of care through the BJC system of programs that fit in different departments and reach people through different channels."

Contact CHI@bjc.org to learn more about BJC's community wellness hubs and its commitment to community health improvement.

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BFL Unity 'Masquerade' Ball set for Nov. 18



Photo courtesy of Better Family Life

The Better Family Life Kuumba Youth Performance Ensemble, comprised of youth and young adults from the ages of 5-25, will perform during the Unity Ball on Nov. 18 at the Ritz-Carlton.

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Cori Bush to keynote

St. Louis American

Better Family Life's 40th Anniversary Unity Ball will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at the Ritz Carlton St. Louis under the theme "Then Now Next."

The Unity Ball will highlight the progress and growth achieved by Better Family Life over the past four decades. It will also provide a platform for discussing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for St. Louis and the world.

"We are honored to announce that our keynote speaker for the evening will be Congresswoman Cori Bush," said BFL CEO Darryl Grimes.

"We will share her insights on our organization's impact on St. Louis and shed light on significant global events, including the Israel-Palestinian conflict and Ukraine-Russia relations.

Unity Ball Then Now Next awards will be presented to Dr. Allison Nash, founder of Nash Medical Professionals, Pastor Andre Alexander, Tabernacle Community Development Corporation executive director, and Dr. Marcus Howard, GreaterHealth Pharmacy and Wellness owner.

"Each has played an instrumental role in making a positive difference in the lives of those they serve."

This year's Unity Ball will have a masquerade theme, and attendees are encouraged to don their most glamorous attire and wear masks that reflect their unique personalities.

Dirty Muggs will provide entertainment and the band will be joined by Brock Walker featuring Mary Dyson.

The Kuumba Youth Performance Ensemble will also display its members' artistic abilities. Renee Knott, KSDK News Anchor, will serve as the host.

Better Family Life, located at 5415 Page Boulevard, is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering individuals, families, and communities through education, resources, and support.

For additional Unity Ball information, please contact Gerald Quincy Jones at (618) 702-2418 or via email at gjones@betterfamilylife.org.

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Vector Communications turns 25!

Vector Communications, the award-winning Black and woman-owned engagement and communications consulting firm, recently celebrated its 25th anniversary at the Willow in downtown St. Louis. Community leaders, corporate executives and elected officials enjoyed music, food, drinks and a special video tribute that Vector staff produced to surprise Owner/President and Co-Founder Laurna Godwin.

VECTOR COMMUNICATIONS 1998 25 YEARS 2023

Photos by Lance Omar Thurman



James Hutchinson, Laurna Godwin, Graquel Hayes, and Gerard Hutchinson



The Vector team poses for a photo on stage



Bill McCormac, Carol Daniel, Laurna Godwin, Sharon Stevens, and Adella Jones



St. Louis Metropolitan Police Chief Robert Tracy, Brenda Tracy, Laurna Godwin, and Jared Boyd



Alderwoman Shameem Clark Hubbard, Laurna Godwin, and state Sen. Brian Williams



Kathy Osborn, Val Patton and Joan Berkman



St. Louis County Police Chief Kenneth Gregory and ReShele Gregory with Laurna Godwin



Cordell Whitlock, Andy Taylor and Dr. Donald M. Suggs

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Missouri, Illinois lag in WIC participation

Among lowest in nation

By Clara Bates
Missouri Independent

Missouri has one of the lowest participation rates for a federal program that provides food for low-income women and young children, a recent report found.

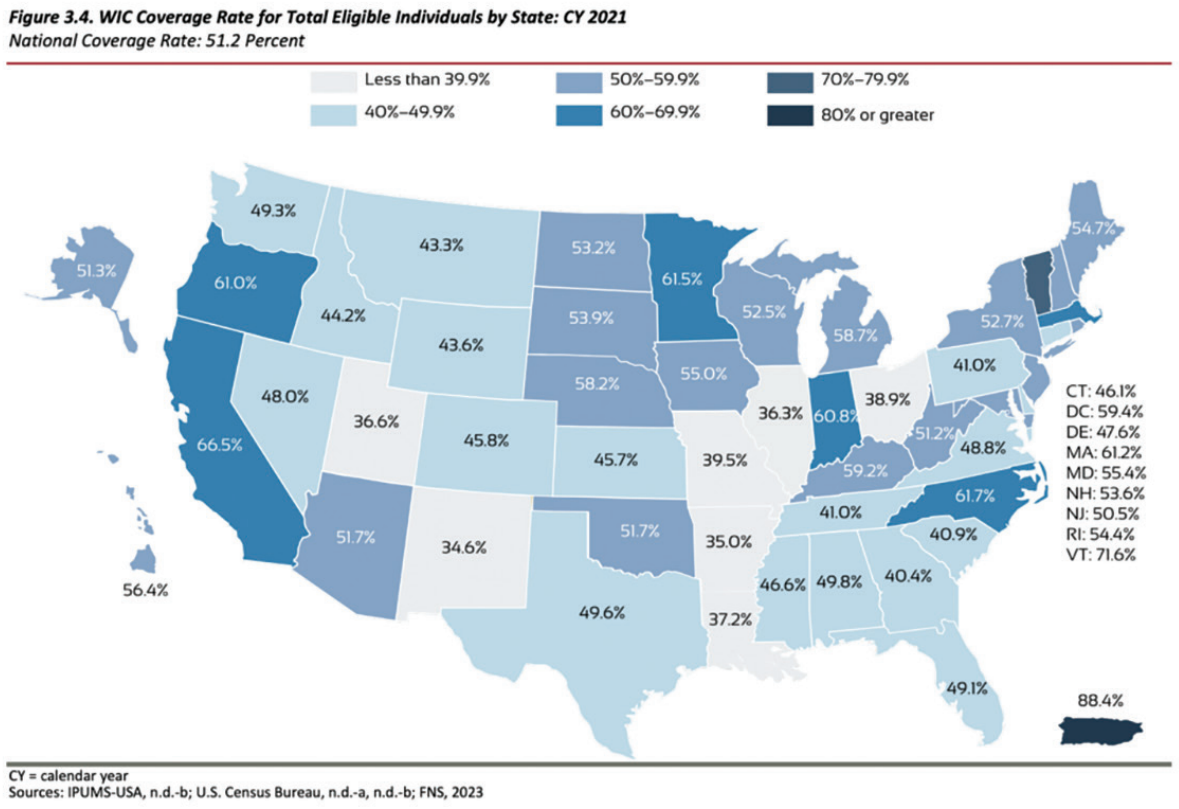
The report, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services, also noted that Missouri is one of 17 states with "coverage rates consistently lower than national rates across all categories and age groups."

In Missouri, the Women, Infants and Children, or WIC, program, is operated through the Department of Health and Senior Services and delivered by local health agencies.

A spokesperson for the department, Lisa Cox, said the overall participation rate in WIC has "decreased over the last several years and decreased sharply during the pandemic when it was difficult to access WIC benefits in person at times."

The department is planning to move to an online processing system "before the end of 2024" to improve accessibility — a shift which began in 2021.

The report found that only 39.5% of eligible Missourians participated in WIC in 2021. Roughly 215,000 people in the state were eligible for the program and only 84,900 participated.



The WIC program provides supplemental food, nutrition education and referrals to health care to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are determined to be at nutritional risk.

It's a federal program but participation rates are far from uniform across the country: The rates of the eligible population participating in WIC ranged from a low of 35% in Arkansas to high of 72% in Vermont. States administer and oversee the program.

The other six states with coverage rates below 40% were Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, New Mexico, Ohio, and Utah.

The report comes as the state health department works to overhaul its burdensome system which stymies participants' access to benefits.

The federal report appears to be the first to measure participation in terms of eligibility for 2021. It did not give reasons for the varying rates of coverage, but a report last year pointed to the differences in delivery systems, outreach and coordination levels, and staff capacity.

Unlike almost every state, Missouri lacks a system to remotely and automatically reload benefits onto participants' cards.

Instead, as of last year, Missouri was one of just nine states which uses a WIC system that requires participants to bring their benefits cards to the local agency office when loading benefits — what's called an "offline" system for reloading benefits. Those benefits can then be used at grocery stores to purchase eligible items.

Most other states operate "online" systems capable of remotely and automatically reloading benefits.

There are economic and transportation barriers to accessing benefits in person, researchers have found. One participant told The Independent she has to "request off work just to come load the card."

The state is "actively pursuing technology updates to improve access to WIC services and benefit redemption processes," Cox said. The department is working to improve outreach and remove some barriers to remote service, which is "expected to have a positive impact on WIC participation."

Missouri chose an offline system based on an analysis conducted roughly a decade ago, Cox previously told The Independent. When, during COVID, "it became apparent that an online system would be more user friendly," Cox said, "Missouri WIC was unable to change that decision mid-implementation."

From October 2022 to September 2023, the rate of participation increased by around 8%, Cox added. The state doesn't measure participation in terms of the eligible population in the same way the federal data, which lags, does.

The department data shows 93,050 people participated in WIC in September of this year.

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IN LOVING Memory

DONN STEFFAN JOHNSON

Donn Steffan Johnson, a proud St. Louis native, Vietnam-era veteran, and graduate of Beaumont High School and Webster University, peacefully departed on November 1, 2023, at the age of 76, surrounded by his family, after fighting a valiant and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

His radiant presence, dazzling smile, and unwavering dedication to journalism illuminated our lives, particularly during his tenure with FOX 2 throughout the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s. His career was a testament to his profound love for storytelling, which he wholeheartedly embraced both behind the anchor desk and in the field.

Donn's impact reached far beyond his professional achievements, and his influence extended to broadcasters in the region, where he was particularly dedicated to supporting and establishing a legacy for Black broadcasters. Throughout his career and beyond, Donn was a vocal advocate for increasing diversity within the media industry and for improving worker conditions and job security through union organizing.

Donn's journey in the world of broadcasting began in 1973 when he made history by becoming the first full-time African American reporter on WIL-AM. In 1978, he joined FOX 2, where he was celebrated for his meticulous coverage of city hall affairs, leaving a lasting impact on viewers. Later in his career, he served as a popular local speaker and host, and as the Director of Communications for the Missouri History Museum. Donn's legacy will forever shine bright in our hearts and the journalism community. His dedication, advocacy, and love for St. Louis broadcasting will be a source of inspiration for future generations of broadcasters.

A larger-than-life figure in many St. Louis homes, in his private life, Donn was passionate about discussing politics and St. Louis Cardinals baseball. A gentle giant, he loved fishing, gardening, quoting old movies, telling stories, and spending quiet time with his beloved wife. Most of all, he fiercely loved his family.

Donn is survived by his devoted wife of 54 years, Earlene Beverly Breedlove Johnson, his daughter Lauren Beverly Johnson Morton, and son-in-law Daniel Morton. He is also survived by his dear sister, Janie Redd, brothers Clyde Johnson, Jr., and Myron Johnson. Donn was predeceased by his mother, Ivory Mildred Dodd Johnson, and father, Clyde Edward Johnson. He is deeply missed by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors, colleagues, and friends.

The family is profoundly grateful for the outpouring of support, remembrances, and condolences received during this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made, in Donn's name, to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, supporting research into a cure for this devastating disease.

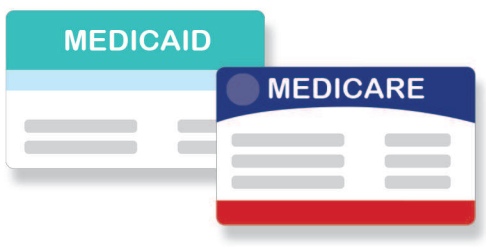
Services: A memorial service to honor the life and contributions of Donn will be held at the SCHRADER Funeral Home, 14960 Manchester Road at Holloway in Ballwin, on November 10, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. A reception will immediately follow services at the FAMILY CENTER at SCHRADER Funeral Home. Visitation will be held on November 9, 2023, from 4-8 p.m, at the same location. A private interment will be held at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

Friends, colleagues, and the St. Louis community are invited to join in celebrating the remarkable life of a man who left an indelible mark on all our hearts. Friends may sign the family's on-line guestbook at Schrader.com.

Donn's spirit lives on through the stories he told, the causes he championed, and the lives he touched. He graced us with his generous and open heart, his easy laugh and humor, his resonant voice, and his fierce intelligence. May he rest in eternal peace.

The Service will be live streamed for those unable to attend. Please join here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88252553025#success





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Your HealthMatters
'Taking Care of You'

Helping mom live with Alzheimer's has strengthened me



Photo courtesy of the Tepez family

Olivia McFarlane, Maxwell McFarlane, Michael McFarlane (rear), and Dr. Melissa Tepe have surrounded Ms. Carmen McFarlane (center) with love as she lives with Alzheimer's disease.

By Michael McFarlane

My mother's name is Carmen.

She came to this county via England from Jamaica in 1968, and took residence in The Bronx, New York. My mother gave birth to me in 1973. For the first five years of my life, my mother raised me as a single parent with minimal family support.

Over the course of the next 20 years, my mother filed with the U.S. Embassy in Jamaica to have five of her siblings and most of their children come to the United States. My mother practiced geriatric nursing for approximately 40 years, ending her career in 2007 as an assistant nursing home administrator.

In December 2012, my wife and children went to New Rochelle, New York to spend Christmas with my mother. My cousin Allison came over to visit. I had prepared three pieces of salmon and my mother stated that she wanted to prepare brown-stewed chicken.

My mother insisted on my cousin Allison taking her to Costco to buy the chicken. My wife and I left to visit with friends in Manhattan.

When we returned several hours later, I asked my mother how the brown-stewed chicken turned out.

She stated that she did not prepare any chicken.

I reminded her that she practically begged Allison to take her to Costco to buy the chicken, and my mother stated again that she did not make any chicken. I went to the refrigerator and noticed that the unused chicken was in the refrigerator and not in the freezer, where my mother would normally have placed it.

I then took out a ceramic dish filled with brown-stewed chicken and showed it to my mother, who listlessly replied, "Oh. I must be tired."

See ALZHEIMER'S, A13

Yes, adults need vaccines too

Many adults erroneously believe that immunizations are only for kids. However, that is simply not true. There are several vaccines that are recommended in adulthood, many of whom require more than one.



Denise Hooks-Anderson

Many vaccines start in infancy and occur at regular intervals for the first five years of life. After childhood, several other immunizations are also recommended. With that being said, vaccine maintenance should be a major component of the yearly physical.

Fall is a great time to review recommended adult vaccines since most providers are discussing the importance of the yearly "flu shot" anyway. Vaccines help to prevent certain illnesses. They work by introducing your body to an "antigen," which pretends to be an illness. Your body's immune system reacts, and this response will help your body fight certain disease-causing pathogens in the future. So, what are the recommended vaccines for adults?

■ Vaccines help to prevent certain illnesses. They work by introducing your body to an "antigen," which pretends to be an illness.

COVID-19: The COVID-19 virus is constantly changing. If you have been up to date with recommendations thus far, you should be on your fifth COVID-19 vaccine. Per the CDC, vaccination remains the best protection against COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths.

HPV: HPV is the human papillomavirus which causes cervical, throat, and anal cancer. The HPV vaccine is rec-

See ANDERSON, A13

Delayed care drives prostate cancer rates up among Black men

Uninsurance rates, health care inequities are factors

By Aaron Allen
Seattle Medium

Earlier this year, the Siteman Cancer Center began a cancer screening initiative to address racial disparities, which includes an educational campaign and free prostate cancer screenings in the St. Louis area.

The effort is a direct approach to addressing an alarming statistic.

African American men have a 60% higher incidence of prostate cancer and the highest mortality rate of prostate cancer worldwide.

Dr. Lannis Hall, radiation oncologist and associate professor of clinical radiation oncology at Washington University School of Medicine, says the disparities with prostate cancer "has caused tremendous disproportionate pain and suffering in the Black community."

"The survival rate is quite high regardless of ethnic or racial group if detected early, which is why this screening and educational campaign is so critical," she said.

"The initial screening for prostate cancer is a simple test that requires only a teaspoon of blood, and a lab can easily take this blood test and

See CANCER, A13



Photo by Syuji Honda / For Word in Black

Healthcare costs, unemployment, incarceration, and lack of quality of care have impacts on Black health care. Embarrassment and fear of physicians also play roles on increased prostate cancer rates among Black men.

Missouri Foundation for Health is building a more equitable future through collaboration, convening, knowledge sharing, and strategic investment. Working in partnership with communities and nonprofits, MFH is transforming systems to eliminate inequities within all aspects of health and addressing the social and economic factors that shape health outcomes.

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ACA premiums will rise but subsidies will help millions

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire

Most consumers will be shielded from rising costs through subsidies as Affordable Care Act (ACA) exchange premiums increase in 2024, according to the Biden-Harris Administration.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the average monthly premium for the benchmark silver plan in 2024 will see a 4% increase in the 32 states participating in the federal exchange, HealthCare.gov. The uptick mirrors the increase seen in the previous year and marks a shift from the four consecutive years of premium declines that preceded it.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra emphasized the administration's commitment to affordable healthcare coverage.

"Millions of Americans have obtained affordable, high-quality health care coverage through the marketplaces," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra stated.

"The Biden-Harris Administration has made it a priority to continue to strengthen the ACA and build on its progress by reducing premiums for the millions of Americans enrolled in Marketplace coverage."



Photo by Wiley Price / St. Louis American

Compton Drew Elementary Principal Susan J. Reid greets Congresswoman Cori Bush and Xavier Becerra, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services on Sept. 6, 2023.

Administration officials have credited the Inflation Reduction Act for continuing the qualification criteria for health insurance coverage assistance and premiums, which will remain stable for the third consecutive year. The law has allowed four out of five HealthCare.gov consumers to secure plans for $10 or less per month, thanks to expanded financial assistance.

For those seeking assistance with the application process, the HealthCare.gov call center is available around the clock at (800) 318-2596 providing support in 200 languages.

Additionally, consumers can find local assisters, agents, or brokers in their area by visiting HealthCare.gov and selecting the "Find local help" option.

The Marketplace Open Enrollment Period on HealthCare.gov will run to January 15. Those who enroll by midnight on December 15 (4 a.m. CST on December 16) will secure full-year coverage starting on January 1, 2024.

Alzheimer's

Continued from A12

That was the moment that I knew something was wrong.

My godmother, who thankfully lived next door, was able after several failures to take my mother to a medical office to see Dr. Gobani. In October 2013, Dr. Gobani wrote her assessment of my mother's level of functioning - mild Alzheimer's disease. At this time, my mother was still driving, and working part time as a PRN shift supervisor at Golden Crest nursing home. My wife contacted the administration at Golden Crest shortly after we received the report to inform them not to schedule my mother for any more shifts.

Between the end of 2013 and June of 2014, I continued managing my mother's illness from St. Louis with support from my Aunt Tibbs, and my cousins Keisha and Junie. All were living in New York and checking on my mother as much as they could. In June 2014, I went to New York. At this point, I was leaving my job every three months to spend a week with my mother in New York. My mother was radically thin.

By June 2014, my mother had a fixed delusion that a relative was breaking into her house and tying up her belongings, particularly her shoes, in plastic shopping bags. This same relative was also placing food in her refrigerator to poison her.

On December 26, 2014, I got a text from a dear friend of the family that my mother's living conditions, particularly her bedroom, were almost reportable. Now I knew after being in intermittent communication with the New Rochelle Police Department for over a year that unless my mother was a harm to herself or others, there was no way to have her committed either psychiatrically or emergently. Luckily, that same friend got her to go to the emergency department.

My mother's hospitalization in January 2015 was one of the most physically, emotionally, and psychologically taxing experiences of my life.

Helping my mom through Alzheimer's has strengthened my determination in the face of overwhelming adversity. I can honestly say that I don't fear anything related to my mother's illness. I don't even fear my mother outliving her money. Because those weeks in New York reminded me that all things are possible where people are bold enough to be faithful.

Assisting your loved one with Alzheimer's will stress you out at work, and school. It has decreased my patience with my children and made me less of a good husband. But my mother is not suffering. She feels safe. She's happy to have her daughter-in-law. She's happy to have access to her grandchildren. My mother finds comfort in singing her hymns in our car when we pick her up. My mother is healthier because she's still teaching me and reminding me how love conquers fear.

I know that if my mother lives long enough, she might not recognize who I am. She might forget how to swallow while managing a soft palate diet. And none of that matters. If you have someone that you love who is living with Alzheimer's disease, recognize that it is silly for you to suffer privately while they are not. My mother lives with Alzheimer's disease. She doesn't "suffer" from it.

If you are loving someone with Alzheimer's disease, do not squander or diminish who they are today. Do not waste your time lamenting over the loss of who they were before. All the qualities that made you love them in the first place continue to make them who they are. As your loved one changes, you too must change.

And from your change will come your inner growth. If you don't stop lamenting how life used to be, you will waste invaluable time, and despair needlessly for it.

Michael McFarlane is the CEO of Hawthorn Children's Psychiatric Hospital. He lives in St. Louis with his family and wife, Dr. Melissa Tepe, Chief Medical Officer with Affinia Healthcare.

Cancer

Continued from A12

report the results to your healthcare provider, and it gives excellent baseline information on the health of the prostate gland."

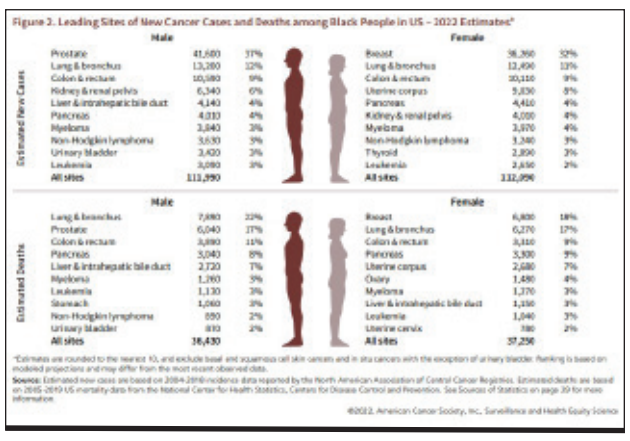
In addition, Black men have a higher incidence of prostate cancer and are diagnosed with prostate cancer at a younger age than their white counterparts. Black men with prostate cancer often have less access to treatment, experience bigger gaps between diagnosis and treatment, and have higher mortality rates.

In fact, Black men are nearly two and a half times more likely to die from prostate cancer than white men, according to data from the American Cancer Society's "Facts and Figures for African-Americans" report.

According to the authors of an article that published in Cancer, a journal of the American Cancer Society, poor communication between physicians and patients, fear of diagnosis, and lack of information on disease progression and treatment options, are among the cultural factors contributing to these prostate cancer racial disparities.

At least one study suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to decreases or delays in cancer screening, which may have exacerbated disparities in cancer screenings. Early cancer screening can help alleviate the inequities in both treatment and mortality rates, yet Black men are screened for prostate cancer at a lower rate than other ethnic and racial groups, according to KFF. As a result, Black men often receive late-stage cancer diagnoses which can significantly limit their treatment options.

According to Dr. Ben Johnson, a clinical psychologist in Seattle, there are many factors that play a role in shaping the health of the Black community, including healthcare costs,



unemployment, incarceration, and lack of quality of care—all of which may contribute to delayed medical assistance when needed.

"The real risk factors of [Black] men's health and Black health in general, have a financial component to it as well," said Dr. Ben Johnson. "High unemployment means you're not covered by a job health plan."

Another challenge, according to analysis by Deloitte, is a lack of trust in the overall health care system.

The reasons for disparities in the burden of cancer among Black men and Black people are complex. Research has shown that biological factors such as ancestry-related genetic differences—as well as socioeconomic factors such as systemic racism, uninsurance rates and the rising cost of health care, and lack of access to screening tools and the best available treatment options—may all contribute to the disparity in prostate cancer mortality among Black men.

"That socioeconomic factors like lack of insurance and cultural factors such as embarrassment, result in men enduring symptoms without seeking help," says Johnson. "Certain spiritual beliefs may also contribute to the poor health care outcomes for Black men."

Health care inequities threaten everyone's well-being

The reality is that systemic racism contributes to certain demographics carrying the burden of health inequities, which can affect the entire system. Discrimination, both actual and perceived, also continues to play a role in the health of the U.S. Black population.

An article Deloitte published in June 2022 titled, "U.S. health care can't afford health inequities," states that, "If the United States reaches a certain threshold, we could see a direct impact on affordability, quality, and access to care beyond the challenges that already exist." Deloitte researchers projected that the rise in healthcare spending could triple annual costs for the average American—at least $3,000 annually, up from $1,000 per year—and disproportionately affect underserved populations.

This avoidable expense requires systemic solutions to help sever the vicious cycle of inequity to eliminate disparities in health outcomes. Health care industry leaders should make conscious efforts to eradicate systemic racism, provide affordability, build equity-based systems, and promote health as a universal right.

"Disparities in outcomes should not, and do not have to, be driven by racism and bias," according to the authors of Deloitte's, 'Activating Health Equity.'

This article originally appeared in The Exchange. JoAnn Weaver of the St. Louis American contributed to this report.

Anderson

Continued from A12

ommended as a two-dose series from ages 9-14 and a three-dose series from ages 15-45 if you were previously unvaccinated. Unfortunately, only 24.7% of Black people are vaccinated against HPV.

Influenza: The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends annual influenza vaccines for everyone six months and older. It is estimated that from 2019-2020, there were approximately 25,000 deaths and 390,000 hospitalizations related to influenza illnesses.

Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox): Mpox is caused by a virus that is like the virus that causes smallpox. The CDC recommends vaccination against Mpox for certain populations only. For more information, go to CDC.gov.

Pneumococcal: Pneumococcal infections are caused by streptococcus bacteria and can range from ear and sinus infections to serious infections in the blood. The two distinct types of vaccines available protect against many of the pneumococcal bacteria. Pneumococcal vaccination is recommended for all children younger than five years old, people five through 64 years old who are at increased risk for pneumococcal disease, and adults 65 years and older.

RSV: Recently the FDA approved the first of two vaccines for preventing RSV lower respiratory tract disease for adults at least 60 years old. This vaccine is recommended for individuals who are at increased risk. The decision to vaccinate should be discussed with your provider.

Shingrix (Shingles): Adults at least 50 years old should receive two doses of Shingrix, separated two-six months apart. Adults 19-years-old or older with a weakened immune system should also receive two doses of Shingrix. Post-herpetic pain (PHN) is a complication of shingles, and the vaccine is the only preventable treatment. Shingrix is more than 90% effective in preventing shingles and PHN.

Tdap: The Tdap vaccine protects against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough). Adults should receive the vaccine every 10 years. The vaccine is also important if adults will be around babies.

The COVID-19 pandemic should have been an excellent lesson in what can happen when there is widespread infection in our community. It is a known fact that vaccines help prevent disease. Vaccines should be a normal part of any annual wellness exam. We ALL have a responsibility to maintain the health and wellness of our community. Please do your part and make sure you are up to date on your immunizations!

Denise Hooks-Anderson, MD, FAAFP can be reached at yourhealthmatters@stlamerican.com

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St. Louis American NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION
Planting the Seeds for Success!

The weekly Healthy Kids page provides health tips on nutrition, exercise and more.

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PRESENT:

Healthy Kids

Nutrition



These days, many people celebrate holidays differently, including Thanksgiving. But if we remember the precautions that we have learned over the past few years, we can still have a safe and fun Thanksgiving.

Preparing the Meal

While preparing your Thanksgiving meal, remember these tips.

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Sanitize surfaces before using them.
- Serve your meal cafeteria style: one person serves all of the dishes – to avoid having multiple people touch the serving utensils.

The Family Gathering

If you are going to someone else's home (or they're coming to yours), here a few guidelines to follow.

- Limit your gathering to only your household members.
- Deliver safely-prepared meals to others who might be alone.

Exercise



Too busy to exercise? Then schedule it! Just like you would put anything else important on your calendar (sports practice, school events, doctor appointments) so that you don't forget — do the same for exercise. Try to schedule at least thirty minutes (but aim for sixty!) at least four days a week. What are some creative ways to mark your calendar? Try putting "Me Time!" or "Explore the Neighborhood" on your calendar. Regular exercise is good for your heart and lungs. But don't forget the bonus benefits. Exercise burns calories, increases your metabolism and even improves your mood. So, put it on your calendar!



Learning Standards: HPE 1, HPE 2, HPE 5, NH 1, NH 5

And...



According to the National Fire Protection Association, space heaters cause about 35% of all winter house fires and 80% of all winter heating fire deaths.

Let's discuss some ways to be safe while using space heaters.

> The best space heaters are the ones with a safety switch that automatically turns off if the heater falls over. If yours does not have this, be sure to turn it off when you leave.

> Do not use a space heater if the chord is frayed or damaged

> Keep anything flammable away from the space heater including blankets, curtains, newspapers, etc.

> Can you think of any other space heater safety tips?

Learning Standards: HPE 5, NH 5

Healthy Snacks

Baked Cinnamon Pumpkin Seeds



Ingredients:
1 ½ Cps Pumpkin Seeds
2 Tbsp Honey
1 Tbsp Olive Oil
1 Tsp Cinnamon
1 Tsp Pumpkin Pie Spice

Directions: Rinse seeds and dry overnight. Toss all ingredients together and spread in a single layer on a cookie sheet. Bake at 325 for 15–20 minutes stirring twice. Bake until browned and crisp.

Holiday Travel



Many families travel Thanksgiving weekend. If you are still planning a trip this holiday, here are a few ways to stay safe and healthy.

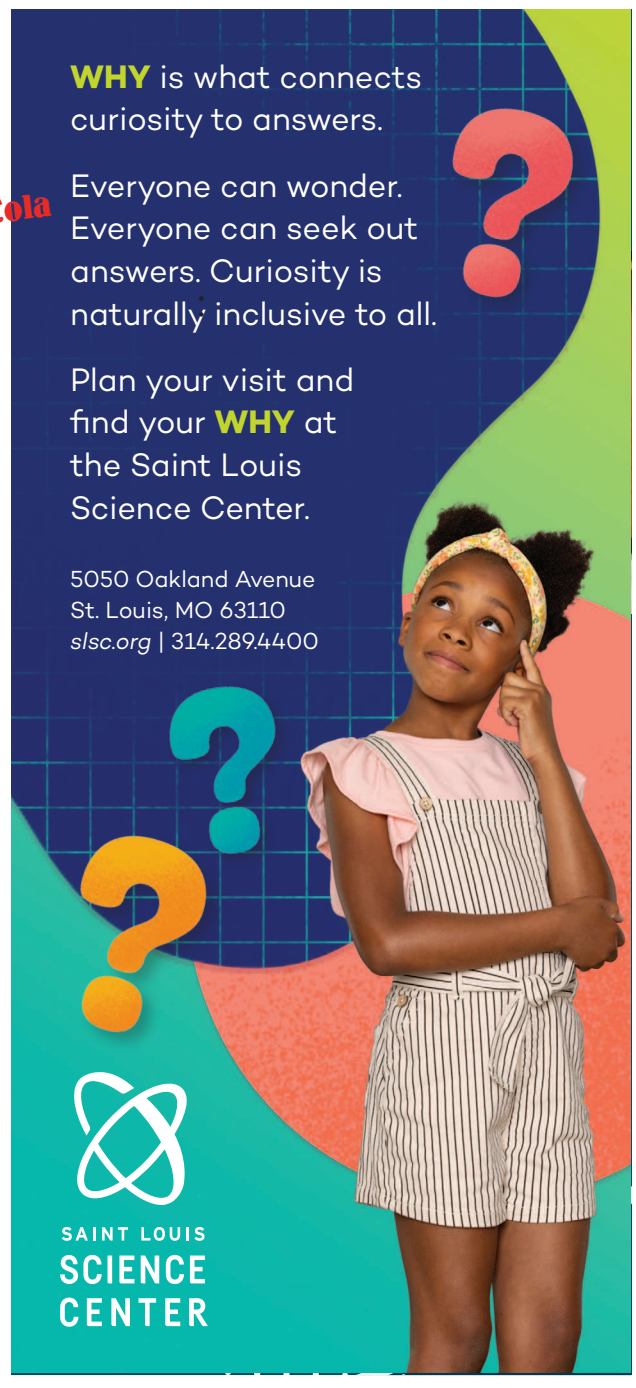
- If flying is in your plans, follow the airline's health guidelines: keep social distancing, sanitize your seat, armrests, etc., consider wearing a mask in the airport, avoid touching surfaces and wash your hands often.
- Only travel with your own family members if driving to your Thanksgiving gathering.
- Wear a mask, maintain social distancing and wash your hands when stopping at gas stations.
- Bring your own food along, to avoid stopping at restaurants during your drive. Whenever possible, maintain at least 6 feet between you and others at the airport and on the airplane.

"Questions or comments? Contact Cathy Sewell csewell@stlamerican.com or 618-910-9551

Content—Cathy Sewell • Design—Beth Sharpe

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The St. Louis American's award winning NIE program provides newspapers and resources to more than 8,000 teachers and students each week throughout the school year, at no charge.

Questions or comments? Contact Cathy Sewell
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STEM
science, technology, engineering, and math

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT



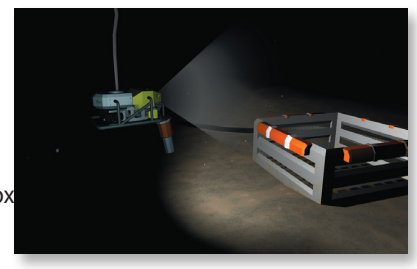
Ninth-grade students Jazmine McSpadden, Anthony Meyers and Jayden Brewer, in Ms. Cheryl M. Christian's class at Jennings Senior High School, are using the process known as water displacement to determine the volume of irregular objects. They are also using 21st Century skills: sharing information through communication, collaboration, gathering and analyzing data.

Photo by Cheryl Christian

Teachers, if you are using the St. Louis American's NIE program and would like to nominate your class for a Classroom Spotlight, please email: nie@stlamerican.com.

SCIENCE CORNER

Video Games In The Classroom!



Considering the popularity of video games, it's only logical to think of ways to incorporate education into the mix. A team of scientists from Scripps Institution of Oceanography used this idea to create a game that allowed Xbox users to explore a virtual underwater environment. It is called Deep sea Extreme Environment Pilot (DEEP) and won honors at the 2013 International Science and Engineering Visualization Challenge.

Danny Rohrlick is the programmer who developed the game. He has presented the design to schools, museums, and various organizations. He was also part of a team that developed a game that allowed users to feel the effects of a virtual earthquake. The team is working to develop software that can be used to test students.

Read this article about a young boy who has turned his love of video games into a winning science fair topic: http://www.sciencebuddies.org/blog/2012/05/success-story-science-of-video-games.php.

Learning Standards: I can read nonfiction text to find main idea and supporting details.

SCIENCE INVESTIGATION

Find out how video games affect the body!



Background Information:
In this experiment, you will see how video games affect the body in terms of blood pressure, breathing rate, heart rate, and skin sensitivity.

Materials Needed: • Toothpicks • Stopwatch • Pencil • Notebook • Blood Pressure Monitor • Action Video Game & Console

Procedures:

1. Choose an exciting, fast-paced video game with an element of danger. Choose 5 friends to serve as "subjects" to participate in this experiment. You will need to record their age, gender, and experience level with video games (nonexistent, beginner, intermediate, advanced). Record this beginning information in your notebook.
2. Begin with the first subject. Set your stopwatch for one minute and record the number of breaths they take. Write this information in your notebook for breathing rate. Find their pulse on their wrist and count the number of heart beats in 10 seconds. Multiply this by 6 to calculate the heart rate. Record their blood pressure by using the blood pressure monitor. Test their skin sensitivity by using the toothpick. Have them look away and (gently) poke them ten times. Have them count the number of pokes they feel.
3. Have them play the game for 10-15 minutes… be sure they have experienced fast paced action sequences. Record breathing rate, heart rate and blood pressure at the end of this time frame and write your findings in your notebook.
4. Resume the video game for another 5-10 minutes. skin sensitivity tolerance while your friend is still playing the game. This time, you will poke them 15 times with the toothpick. Record your findings in your notebook and write any important observations you noticed while they were playing the game.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 with the remaining subjects.

Analyze your results: How did video games affect breathing rate, heart rate, blood pressure, and skin sensitivity? Did you notice any trends with the data that were similar among age, gender, or level of video game experience?

Learning Standards: I can follow sequential directions to complete an experiment. I can analyze the results.

MATH CONNECTION

Time, Math, & Video Games!

Playing video games can be educational and fun. However, it should be enjoyed in moderation, so you have time for other activities like socializing with friends and family, exercise, homework, and hobbies. Some families set a time limit for their children when it comes to video games.

1. If your family limited your video game time to 60 minutes a day, how many minutes is that per week? _____ per month? _____ per year? _____
2. If your family limited your video game time to 210 minutes per week, how many minutes could you play each day if each day had an equal number of minutes? _____
3. Mariah's family allows her to play video games for 240 minutes per week. She spends half that time on the weekend. How much time does she spend on the weekend? _____ She divides the other half of the time equally for the week days. How many minutes does she play each week day? _____ What is the average amount of time she spends per day? _____



Learning Standards: I can add, subtract, multiply, and divide to solve a problem.

DID YOU KNOW?

CHECK OUT THESE INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT GAMING.

- The highest achievable score for Pac Man is 3,333,360.
- It is estimated that the human race has collectively spent over 200,000 years playing angry birds.
- Mario was called Jumpman in the original Donkey Kong game, and he was a carpenter, not a plumber.

SCIENCE STARS

AFRICAN-AMERICAN VIDEO GAME DESIGNER:

Jerry Lawson



Gerald Anderson Lawson was born on December 1, 1940, in New York City. He was inspired by George Washington Carver and was fascinated by electronics as a child. In order to raise money for college, he repaired television sets. After attending Queens College, he became the only black member of Silicon Valley's Homebrew Computer Club. It was in this club, that Lawson met Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, co-founders of Apple Computers.

In the 1970s, Lawson helped to create Fairchild Channel F, which allowed people to play a variety of games in their homes. This system inspired later designs by Atari, Nintendo, Xbox, and PlayStation. Lawson was one of a very few black engineers in the video game industry at that time. In an interview with A&E's television show, "Bio," Lawson stated that he often faced opposition in the work place because of his race. Sadly, April 2009, Lawson passed away due to complications from diabetes.

To find out more about how video games are designed, visit: https://www.pbs.org/kcts/videogamerevolution/inside/how/index.html.

Learning Standards: I can read a biography about a person who has made contributions in the fields of science, technology, and mathematics.

MAP CORNER



Use the newspaper to complete the following activities.

Activity One — Word Choice: It is important to have distinct and exciting word choices in the newspaper. When reporters quote the person they are interviewing, they cannot use "said" for every quote. Use today's newspaper and make a list of the different ways to say "said."

Activity Two — Technology: Use the newspaper to find examples of new forms of technology. State the type of technology and the purpose.

Learning Standards: I can use the newspaper to locate information. I can write for a variety of purposes and audiences.

entrepreneurship
enterprise
capitalism
professionalism

Maker of electric Tesla car wants to build a high-speed shuttle from New York to Los Angeles that will make the trip in under two hours.

3D-printed model heart helps save a young girl's life by allowing doctors to plan a complicated surgery beforehand.

Content—Jennifer Wirthwein • Design—Beth Sharpe

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A horrific wrong against Buffalo Soldiers is reversed



Photo courtesy of NNPA

110 Buffalo Soldiers were wrongfully executed after unfair trials in Houston following riots in 1917. The soldiers have been granted honorable discharges from the U.S. Army and family members may be entitled to benefits.

110 Black men executed after flawed trials

NNPA Newswire

Army Secretary Christine Wormuth formally has approved overturning the court-martial convictions of 110 Black soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, popularly known as the Buffalo Soldiers.

The Army said in a news release that officials made the decision based on a suggestion from the Board for Correction of Military Records and to atone for the unfair treatment of soldiers after the 1917 Houston Riots. "After a thorough review, the Board has found that these Soldiers were wrongly treated because of their race and were not given fair trials," Secretary Wormuth stated. "By setting aside their convictions and granting honorable discharges, the Army is acknowledging past mistakes and setting the record straight."

What will not change is the fact that the soldiers were put to death in "the largest mass execution of American Soldiers by the U.S. Army."

The Houston Riots, which erupted on August 23, 1917, stemmed from racial tensions and provocations against members of the 24th Infantry Regiment. The catalyst for the riots was the violent arrest and assault of two Black Soldiers, leading to a group of 110 soldiers seizing weapons and marching into the city. 19 people were killed by the soldiers on clashes throughout the city.

"We cannot change the past; however, this decision provides the Army and the American people an opportunity to learn from this difficult moment in our history," Under Secretary of the Army, Gabe Camarillo, said in the release.

At the Secretary's request, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records reviewed records related to the court-martial cases, officials affirmed. The unanimous decision was that significant deficiencies permeated the proceedings, rendering them fundamentally unfair. The board recommended setting aside all convictions and characterizing the soldiers' military service as "honorable."

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs said it supports family members affected by the correction of records, offering assistance upon receipt of the amended documents. "It is a long time coming, but it is justice that is finally achieved," John Haymond, a historian, told the *New York Times*, which reported that the Army acted after it received a petition requesting clemency for the soldiers that had been written by Haymond and Dru Brenner-Beck, a lawyer.

Family members of the 110 Soldiers may be entitled to benefits, and guidelines for applying to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records can be found at https://arba.army.pentagon.mil/abcmr-app.html. Online applications can be submitted at https://arba.army.pentagon.mil/online-application.html or through mail to Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA), 251 18th Street South, Suite 385, Arlington, VA 22202-3531. Applications should include documentation proving a relationship to one of the 110 formerly convicted soldiers.

Family members and interested parties can request a copy of the corrected records from the National Archives and Records Administration, following the NARA Archival Records Request procedures at https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records.

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STLA_AEP

Arch Grants invests $1.875 million in 22 startup companies

Each firm receives $75,000



Photo courtesy of Peoria Magazine

Marcus Howard, founder and CEO of GreaterHealth Pharmacy and Wellness in the Delmar Divine, is a 2023-24 Arch Grants Cohort and his startup will receive a $75,000 grant.

St. Louis American

We Hear You, which creates accessible technology for all people but specifically those with disabilities/exceptionalities, is one of 22 startups constituting Arch Grants 2023 Cohort. The nonprofit awarded $1.875 million in non-dilutive grants to the respective cohorts.

Founded by Pierre Paul, who serves as CEO, We Hear You recently launched the Push device, which can open special needs doors from up to 20 feet away via a wearable and attachable device.

Paul's company is recipient of the Donald M. Suggs Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award Powered by The Ferring Family Foundation

Three additional African American entrepreneurs also received 2023 cohort grants. They are:

GreaterHealth and Wellness: *Marcus Howard, found er and CEO.* Greater Health is a pharmacy model that combines culturally responsive pharmacy services with medically tailored dietary meals to provide improved healthcare outcomes for underserved communities.

Top Tutors for Us: *Angelica Harris, Founder & CEO.*

Top Tutors helps Black students achieve by providing educational services, supported by a network of Black tutors. Its goals include closing the racial gap in education and providing students with opportunities to connect with and learn from students who look like them.

The firm is recipient of the

See ARCH GRANTS, B2

EPA, Harris-Stowe forge a scientific partnership

Expanding career opportunities

St. Louis American

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 and Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis have partnered to provide scientific collaboration, outreach, and career opportunities for students.

A five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizing the partnership was signed on Monday, Nov. 13 by EPA Region 7 Administrator Meg McCollister and Harris-Stowe President Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith. McCollister and Smith also met with university student groups to discuss environmental concerns.

"This partnership is incredibly important for EPA Region 7," McCollister said.

"Through the opportunities presented in this MOU, students of Harris-Stowe State University have the potential to become future leaders in

See PARTNERSHIP, B2



Photo courtesy of EPA Region 7

EPA Region 7 Administrator Meg McCollister and Harris-Stowe President Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith announced on Monday a partnership that will expand scientific learning opportunities for students and met with student groups to discuss environmental issues.

People on the Move

WWT's Tolliver receives national STEM award

Sandi Tolliver, director of communications for World Wide Technology (WWT), was recently honored as a Woman of Color STEM Award recipient at the 28th annual Women of Color STEM Conference. In conjunction with Women of Color magazine, this conference helps women to advance their education and excel in their careers pertaining to the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. The Women of Color STEM Awards has been recognizing the significant contributions of women in the STEM fields since 1995.



Sandi Tolliver

Dr. McFerren to oversee Miriam's enrollment

Miriam School and Learning Center, an educational organization that supports unique learners in the St. Louis area, announced the hiring of Dr. Caryn McFerren as its new director of admissions and enrollment. McFerren oversees the admissions department, which is responsible for Miriam's K-12 enrollment. McFerren is a St. Louis native and a Cardinal Ritter College Prep graduate. She holds a bachelor of arts, masters of business in human resources, curriculum and instruction specialist (Ed.S) degree and a doctorate in education administration degree. Prior to joining Miriam, she had worked in the education sector for over 13 years.



Caryn McFerren

Martin-Nicholson named manager at Caleres

Crystal Martin-Nicholson has been named global curriculum and training manager at Caleres, Inc., focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. She holds a bachelor's of science degree in biblical studies from Cairn University and a master's of science degree in human resources management and service from Lindenwood University. Prior to Caleres, Martin-Nicholson held instructional design positions at companies including Aptara, Centene Corporation, and The Abreon Group.



Crystal Martin-Nicholson

Spann is new design director at Louer

Louer Facility Planning, Inc. announced the addition of Jamie Spann as the new design director. As design director, Spann will lead and inspire the design team, overseeing projects to provide design solutions that meet the diverse needs of Louer Facility Planning's clients. She has extensive education and experience in interior design, space planning, and contract furniture. Louer Facility Planning, Inc. is a Collinsville-based woman-owned firm specializing in the planning and creation of innovative and functional interior spaces for a wide range of commercial clients.



Jamie Spann

Promotion, board appointment, new hire, award... please submit your People on the Move item (including photo) to kjones@stlamerican.com.



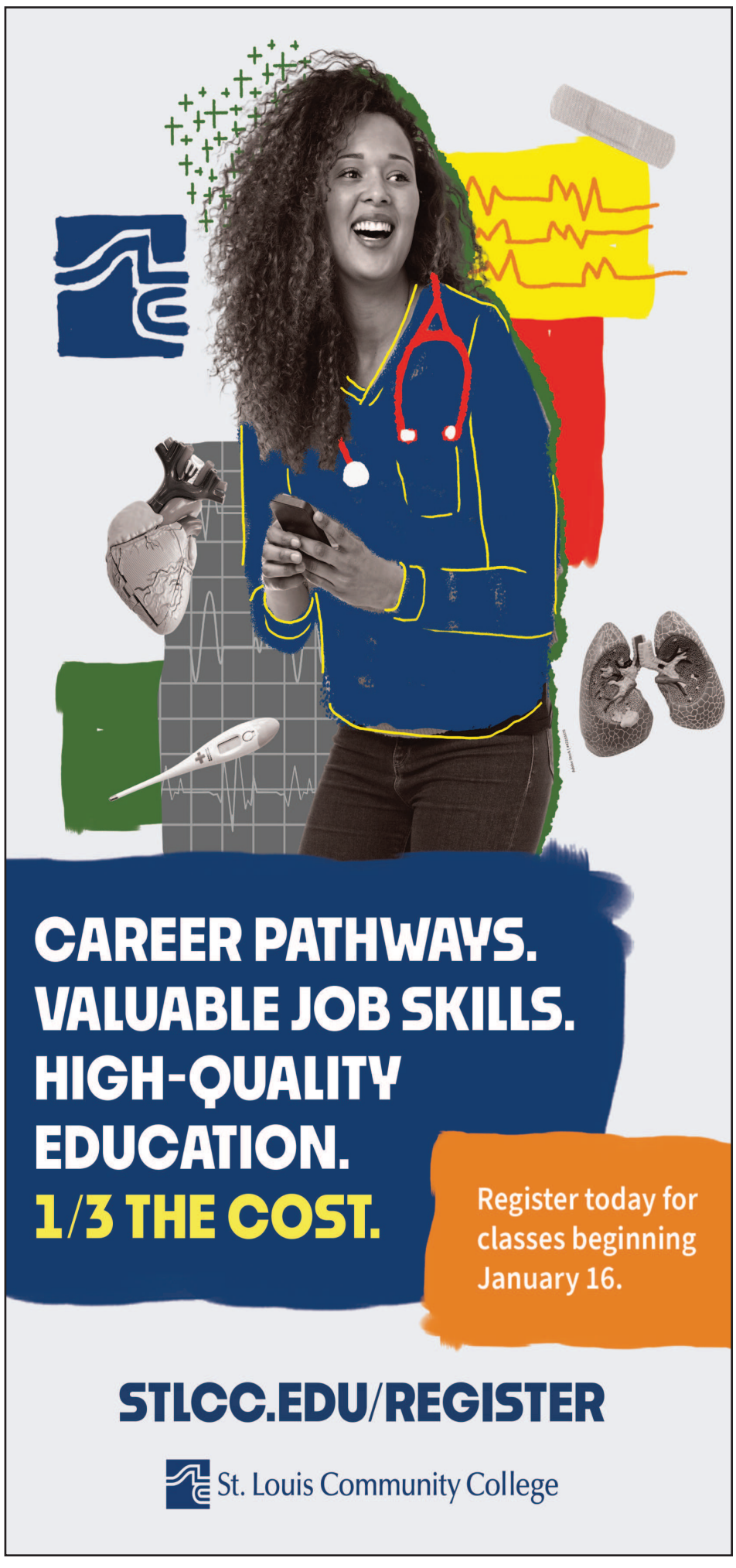




Photo courtesy of Peoria Magazine

Pierre Paul is CEO and founder of We Hear You, a company that has created a sign language translator and hand-held device that turns handicap accessible doors into automatic doors. Paul is one of 22 Arch Grants Cohorts for 2023-24, and his firm will be relocating to St. Louis.

Arch Grants

Continued from B1

#STLOnward Award – Powered by NISA Charitable Fund

Shades of Color: *Tashara Earl, Founder & CEO*.

Shades of Color personalizes the beauty marketplace by connecting beauty brands and shoppers based on unique needs, cultures, and lifestyles.
Earl is recipient of the Scaling-up Veteran Entrepreneurship Powered by The Berges Family Foundation.



Angelica Harris

"Our goal at Arch Grants is to empower entrepreneurs who are at the forefront of innovation and to help them thrive in St. Louis," said Gabe Angieri, Arch Grants executive director.

"We believe that by supporting these entrepreneurs, we're not just investing in individual companies – we're investing in the future of this city. And with an uptick in international start-ups awarded this year and more than 80% of the cohort led by underrepresented founders, that investment is driven by Arch Grants' commitment to inclusive economic growth."



Tashara Earl

The 22 cohorts were selected from 500 entries and over 400 volunteer judges evaluated each startup on innovativeness of its business model, scalability, job creation potential, and growth trajectory in St. Louis.

Selected firms represent an array of industries including geospatial, agriculture, education, workforce development, and accessibility technologies.

The selections "underscore Arch Grants' commitment to fostering diversity in the entrepreneurial ecosystem while driving innovation in established industry clusters in the region," according to Angieri.

"We are excited to see what the future holds for this new cohort," said Elizabeth Zucker, Arch Grants board president.

"Their passion and innovation, coupled with the resources and community support Arch Grant provides, have the potential to make a significant positive impact in our region."

Awardees will also receive access to investor relations, free or discounted services from local services providers, networking opportunities, and workshops hosted by industry leaders.

In exchange, the startups pledge to base their businesses in St. Louis for at least one year. Following this period, each awardee who successfully demonstrates the ability to grow and expand operations within the St. Louis area will be eligible for up to $100,000 in non-dilutive follow-on funding through Arch Grants' Growth Grants program.

By leveraging $16.4M in non-dilutive funding from Arch Grants, cohort portfolio companies have created 3,598 jobs, attracted over $696 million in follow-on capital, and generated over $742 million in revenue.

Each company will receive $75,000 in non-dilutive grants, and awardees selected from outside the region will receive an additional $25,000 in grants to facilitate relocation to St. Louis. We Hear You is currently based in Peoria, Ill.

The 2023 Cohort includes companies relocating to Missouri from California, Illinois, New York, Virginia, and Utah in addition to international transplants from Canada, India, and Argentina.

For a full listing of the Arch Grants Cohorts, please visit: www.archgrants.org/the-startups/the-companies

Partnership

Continued from B1

the areas of human health and the environment.

McCollister said the EPA can now leverage the university's Institute for Social Justice to enhance its approach to fair and equitable policies across our region.

"Harris-Stowe State University is most appreciative and excited to partner with EPA to expand learning experiences and opportunities for our students and faculty," Collins Smith said.

"There has never been a more crucial time to educate and inspire students to become the next generation of environmental leaders."

The MOU outlines five areas for collaboration and partnership:

Joint Research Projects – Harris-Stowe and EPA Region 7 will coordinate on a regular basis to identify mutually beneficial research priorities.

Faculty Research Participation – Harris-Stowe and EPA Region 7 will encourage and facilitate visits of faculty, staff, scientists, and students to each other's facilities for consultations, meetings, workshops, short courses, tours, and research participation.

Student Internships and Employment – EPA Region 7 will share information regarding programs that are designed for student employment, participation, and training. Harris-Stowe will facilitate the participation of students and staff in EPA internship outreach opportunities, such as inviting EPA to speak to classes, facilitating USAJOBS computer workshops, and inviting EPA to relevant job fairs and career fairs.

Technical Assistance/Speakers – EPA Region 7 and Harris-Stowe will consider opportunities to work together on consultations, meetings, workshops, and seminars.

Outreach Program – EPA Region 7 will make best efforts to attend college-sponsored career fairs and other outreach events, as appropriate, and Harris-Stowe will work to provide notice to EPA Region 7 of relevant outreach activities. EPA Region 7 will make best efforts to participate in University Career Forums and events and host environmental justice programming. Harris-Stowe may request Black History Month programming each year.

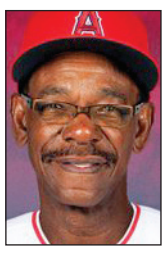
This partnership supports EPA's efforts to align with Executive Order 14041, White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity Through Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs); HBCU PARTNERS Act; EPA's Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.

This includes the Agency's Strategic Plan to Advance Diversity Equity Inclusion Accessibility in the Federal Workforce; and EPA Administrator Regan's pledge to fortify HBCUs and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) into the future.

"The newly-signed MOU will develop students as environmental leaders in underserved communities and increase outreach and recruitment opportunities for EPA, enhancing inclusion and opportunities for HBCUs/MSIs, in support of the agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment," according to an EPA release.

■ "I'm lost for words, but not the work it will take."

– Ron Washington on being named Los Angeles Angels manager – making him one of two Black MLB skippers



Prep Football Notebook

By Earl Austin Jr.

CBC, DeSmet remain destined for state title showdown

CBC outlasted host Francis Howell 28-27 to win the Class 6, District 2 title, and garner one of the trophies handed out during last week's action in Missouri.

The Cadets thwarted Howell on a two-point conversion in the closing minutes to preserve the victory.

Another fantastic game took place in Jefferson County between rivals Hillsboro and Festus. The host Hawks rallied from a 21-0 deficit to defeat Festus 29-28 to take the Class 4, District 1 championship.



Earl Austin Jr.

Here is a look at the matchups for this weekend's state quarterfinals. All games will be played at 7 p.m. Friday unless otherwise noted.

Class 6

CBC at Jackson

Rock Bridge at **DeSmet**

Nixa at Rockhurst

Oak Park at Liberty North

Key Matchup: CBC will go on the road to Southeast Missouri to take on perennial SEMO Conference power Jackson on Friday night.

Class 5

Cape Girardeau Central at **Eureka**, Saturday, 1 p.m.

Cardinal Ritter at **Fort Zumwalt North**, Saturday, 1 p.m.

Helias at Republic, Saturday, 1 p.m.

Grain Valley at Webb City

Key Matchup: After powering its way to a district championship win over MICDS, Cardinal Ritter goes on the road this weekend to take on a Fort Zumwalt North team that upended an undefeated St. Dominic team in the district championship game.

Class 4

Hillsboro at **Pacific**

Hannibal at **Lutheran North**

Jefferson City at McDonald County, Saturday, 2 p.m.

Nevada at Kearney, Saturday, 1 p.m

Key Matchup: Hannibal visits Lutheran North on Friday night in a powerhouse matchup. The Crusaders have been dominant all season. Hannibal features a tremendous player in senior A Williams, who is a Notre Dame recruit.

Class 3

Borgia at Park Hills Central, Saturday, 1 p.m.

Blair Oaks at **Westminster** at Parkway West

Seneca at Ava, Friday, 7 p.m.

Odessa at St. Pius X, Saturday, 1 p.m.

Key Matchup: Westminster will be hosting Blair Oaks on Friday night. Blair Oaks is up to Class 3 after winning the Class 2 state championship last season.

Class 2

Valle vs. **Lift for Life** at Mehlville, Saturday, 1 p.m.

Fair Grove at Father Tolton, Saturday, 2 p.m.

East Buchanan at Bowling Green, Saturday, 2 p.m.

Lafayette County at Lamar, Saturday, 1 p.m.

Key Matchup: Lift for Life picks up a district championship and will meet Ste. Genevieve Valle, which has been a perennial power in Class 1 for many years.



Photo by Wiley Price / St. Louis American

Lutheran North Crusaders' Tre Bass leaves a trail of Grey Hounds behind him during district playoff action Friday night. Bass had five catches for 249 yards in leading Lutheran North who went on to defeat Clayton 54-14.

Top individual performances from last weekend

• Quarterback **Dakarris Hollis** of Lutheran North completed 14 of 16 passes for 349 yards and four touchdowns in the Crusaders' 54-14 victory over Clayton. Wide receiver **Trey Bass** had five receptions for 249 yards and four touchdowns in the victory.

• Wide receiver **Devin Coulter** of Westminster had eight receptions for 104 yards and two touchdowns in the Wildcats' 36-30 victory over Orchard Farm.

• Running back **Chaun Robinson** of Fort Zumwalt North rushed for 173 yards on 26 carries and two touchdowns in the Panthers' 27-17 victory over St. Dominic

• Quarterback **Robert Battle** of East St. Louis completed 11 of 20 passes for 196 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 103 yards and a touchdown in the Flyers' 39-13 victory over Kankakee. Running back **Larevious Woods** rushed for 134 yards on 19 carries and a touchdown in the victory.

Sensational semifinals are set

There are two teams from the metro east still alive in the IHSA state playoffs. East St. Louis and Roxana advanced to the state semifinals with impressive road victories last Saturday. East St. Louis defeated No. 1 seed Kankakee in the Class 6A quarterfinals, while Roxana defeated Stanford Olympia 39-13 in the Class 3A quarterfinals. Here is the schedule for this weekend's state semifinals.

Class 6A

East St. Louis at Washington

Cary Grove at Lake Zurich

Class 3A

Mt. Carmel at **Roxana**

Byron at Lombard Montani

Sports Eye

With Alvin A. Reid

Stroud, other Black QBs excel on exciting NFL Sunday

NFL rookie coach + NFL rookie quarterback = playoff contender.

This combination of factors usually does not end with a positive number. When you factor in Houston Texans head coach DeMeco Ryan and quarterback C.J. Stroud, both Black and in their first year on the job, things are adding up.



Alvin A. Reid

Last Sunday, Stroud led the upstart Texans to a thrilling 30-27 victory over the host Cincinnati Bengals and All-Pro quarterback Joe Burrow.

After building a 27-17 lead, a Stroud interception set the stage for a Bengals comeback. When he returned to the sideline after the turnover, Stroud said his coach greeted him with these words:

"I got you. It's all about toughness in this league."

The Texans not only displayed toughness, but they prevailed, moved to 5-4, and entered AFC playoff contention.

"We came in with a belief that we wouldn't be denied," Stroud said.

Stroud's untimely interception was just his second of the season. Match that with his 15 touchdown passes and 2,626 passing yards and you get the overwhelming favorite for NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year.

If he continues at that pace, Stroud will receive some NFL Most Valuable Player votes too.

In the showdown with Burrow, Stroud went 23-of-39 for 356 yards and a touchdown. He also rushed for another TD and displayed incredible cool in the game's waning seconds.

Facing a third-and-six at his own 29-yard line and 42 seconds left in the game, Stroud told NBC's Peter King: "I just told them boys, 'Let's go win this game. We got everything we need in this huddle right here. Somebody make a play.'"



Photo courtesy of the AP

Houston Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud (7) carries the ball for a touchdown during second-half action against the Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, in Cincinnati.

We should not be surprised with Stroud's heroics.

Last week, he led the Texans on a 75-yard last-minute drive to top the Tampa Bay Buccaneers behind a 470-yard, five-touchdown effort.

Ryans credited his quarterback with "being calm in the chaos."

Stroud was the No. 2 selection in the 2023 NFL Draft out of Ohio State, primarily because the Texans were awful last season. They were picked by many pundits to pick first in the 2024 NFL Draft, which goes to the team with the year's worst record.

Ryans and Stroud don't have anything to do with past failures.

"Whatever happened in the past is in the past. We're the 2023 Texans," Ryans said following the win.

The Reid Roundup

CJ Stroud was not the only Black quarterback who stood out on Sunday. **Josh Dobbs,** playing in just his second game with the Minnesota Vikings after his trade from Arizona, went 23-for-34 for 268 yards, and rushed for 44 yards and a touchdown in a 27-19 victory over New Orleans. Not bad for a guy that had to have a security person direct him to the host Vikings locker room before the game at US Bank Stadium. "I'm taking it in stride. I'm taking it in one practice at a time, one meeting at a time, one day at a time. Because this is definitely a lot of fun and I'm enjoying every single second of it," he said after the game. Dobbs is called the "passtronaut" because he graduated from Tennessee with a degree in aerospace engineering and has served an internship with NASA…**Kyler Murray** started his first game this year after a knee injury sidelined him in December 2022. In his 2023 debut, Murray was 19 of 32 passing for 249 yards and he rushed for 33 yards and a touchdown in a 25-23 win over Atlanta. His dazzling 13-yard scramble for a first down extended a drive that led to the game-clinching field goal with no time left in the game. "At the end of the day, if it comes down to it being in my hands, I got to make something happen," he said…Love him or hate him, Cleveland Browns quarterback **DeShaun Watson** looked rejuvenated in his team's shocking 33-31 come-from-behind win over host Baltimore. Watson was 20 of 43 passing for 219 yards and a touchdown. Importantly, he sparked the 15-point second-half rally by completing all of his 14 passing attempts… While his Ravens lost to the Browns, quarterback **Lamar Jackson** was 13 of 23 passing for 223 yards and a touchdown. But he had two interceptions, one of which was returned for a touchdown.

Business Brief

UMSL receives $3.1 million grant

The United States is currently facing a shortage of school counselors, particularly in high-need school districts.

In the face of that challenge, the College of Education at the University of Missouri–St. Louis is deepening its commitment to increasing the number of qualified mental health professionals in schools through a new grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The federal government's Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration program awarded the College of Education at UMSL a $3.1 million grant, which the university will use to implement an innovative partnership with the Riverview Gardens School District (RGSD) in north St. Louis County. The grant will run for five years.

The Partnership for Antiracist Counselor Training (PACT) program will place 64 UMSL counseling interns in 13 high-need schools to provide trauma-informed, antiracist social-emotional learning. They will address the mental health needs of more than 5,000 students in RGSD over the five-year period. A large portion of the funding will go toward financial support for the interns, including tuition assistance, stipends and more. The grant will also fund two doctoral-level graduate assistants.

Emily Brown, associate professor of counseling and interim chair of the Department of Education Sciences and Professional Programs, and Mary Edwin, assistant professor of counseling, collaborated on the grant proposal.

"It's exciting on a lot of different levels," Brown said. "It's exciting that we're able to have the funding to provide support for UMSL students. That's really where most of the funding is going, for the students that are in the counseling program or that will be coming to the counseling program within the next five years. Our ability to help support their journey to becoming a counselor is really huge. Also, what's really exciting is the amount of services that we're able to provide to students in Riverview Gardens School District, our partner district."

JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Sponsored Content

Stay ahead of the scammers and keep your accounts safe

Your phone pings. It looks like a text message from your bank, and it's urgent.

It says you need to send money to your account using a wire transfer or digital payment like Zelle® to reverse a fraudulent transaction. Or, it tells you there's suspicious activity on your account, and you need to call a certain number right away to address it.

If the message is from your bank, it must be legitimate, right?

Impersonating a financial institution, a government agency or a utility company is a common scam tactic to get access to your accounts or personal information. Even the most cautious consumers can fall victim, as scammers become increasingly sophisticated in their efforts to commit digital fraud.

Knowing about scammers' tricks can help you stay one step ahead of them. Here are some common schemes you might see.



Spoofing

Scammers can "spoof" phone numbers. Your caller ID can say the call or text is from your bank even though it's not. The scammer will eventually ask for personal or financial information, or ask you to send money.

Phishing

"Phishing" is when you get an email that looks reputable but asks you to call a fraudulent number, respond to the email or go to a website and enter personal information. You may be asked to look at an attachment, which then gives bad actors access to your computer if you open it.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) or "deep fakes"

Smart technology allows scammers to duplicate familiar voices and trick consumers out of money and personal information. Scammers gain the trust of victims by pretending to be a close family member or friend in need.

Check fraud

Scammers can steal written checks from unattended mailboxes, or if you deposit them but don't dispose of them properly. They'll use chemicals to erase and rewrite the checks to themselves, sell your personal info or use it to create counterfeit checks.

"Malvertising"

Scammers place fake phone numbers in search engines and online ads under the names of legitimate companies like banks or airlines. People call those numbers and are tricked into sharing account or other personal information.

How to stay safe

Be proactive and avoid becoming a victim by following these tips.

• Delete, block and ignore calls or messages from sources you don't recognize.

• Protect your personal account information, ATM pins, passwords and one-time passcodes. If someone contacts you and asks for this information, especially if it's someone claiming to be from your bank, do not share it with them.

• Banks or government agencies will never ask for personal information when they contact you. Government agencies also will not contact you via phone; you'll likely receive a notice by mail. Refuse to give your personal information if someone contacts you by email, text or phone.

• Don't let anyone pressure or threaten you into giving them personal information or money. Hang up or don't respond.

• If anyone says you must act right now, stop and ask yourself, "Is this how a legitimate company would act?" If something seems "off," it probably is.

• Remember that financial institutions will never ask you to send money to yourself or anyone else.

• Don't send money to someone you don't know or for reasons you are not clear: you may not get it back.

• Even if your caller ID says a call or text is from your bank, it could be a scam. When in doubt hang up or stop texting, and call your bank directly (use the number on the back of your debit card).

• Don't click on links or attachments in an email or text if you're not sure who it's from, and be on the lookout for messages that ask for immediate action from you.

• Instead of entering a company name in your internet browser's search bar, type the full URL in the address bar (for example, www.chase.com) so you'll go directly to your bank's secure, verified website.

• To avoid check fraud, consider sending money electronically or using your card.

• If you're writing a check, use a permanent pen so the information is hard to erase. Fill out the payee and dollar amount space completely or draw a line to the end of the space. Sign checks the same way every time and mail checks from inside the post office.

If you become a victim of online fraud, don't be embarrassed, and report it to your bank. Also, tell family and friends about your experience so they too can be on high alert.

Scammers may try hard, but consumers who are alert and informed can stop them in their tracks.

For more fraud and scam prevention tips, visit Chase.com/SecurityTips, www.ftc.gov, and on social media follow the tag "#banksneveraskthat" for more information.



Tina's fairy tale



Photo by Matthew Murphy

Parris Lewis performing "What's Love Got To Do With It" as 'Tina Turner' in the North American touring production of TINA - The Tina Turner Musical.

By Kenya Vaughn
of The St. Louis American

The anticipation was palpable by the time the curtains slid to each side to kick off the first St. Louis staging of the life of a St. Louis icon.

There didn't appear to be an available seat in the house on Tuesday night when the national Broadway tour of "TINA: The Tina Turner Musical" made its Fox Theatre debut - an homage to the iconic entertainer who passed away on May 24, 2023 at the age of 83.

The opening musical number did not disappoint. A stunning blues, southern soul and gospel infused take on the song "Nutbush City Limits" added captivating visual elements to what is already an autobiographical sketch of the late singer's early years in Nutbush, Tennessee.

Unfortunately, there is somewhat of a freefall from the bar set by the introductory moment over the course of "Tina." The show doesn't truly recover until the dramatic finale and encore offer the most accurate depiction of Turner's momentum as a musical force.

Bookended by brilliant opening and culminating moments is a clumsily revised version of the Tina Turner story that most St. Louis audiences will realize early on is more inspired by that "based on" as far as the spectrum of biographical content.

The musical diminishes the relevance of St. Louis – and completely erases East St. Louis – as a foundation for Turner's future, both in music and beyond. Her fellow Sumner Class of 1958 classmates, who shouted at the top of their lungs when they were shouted out as Tina Turner was posthumously given a proclamation from the city of St. Louis after the musical concluded, must have felt a tinge of sadness when the musical left them out at a moment when they could have absolutely been acknowledged. "Tina" is entertaining and is a heartfelt effort by Katori Hall, Frank Ketelaar and Kees Prins that was endorsed and supported by Tina Turner herself as a title producer.

> The musical staging of Turner's life is as much fiction as fact

However, the musical lacks the soul and authenticity fans have come to expect from the Academy Award nominated film "What's Love Got to Do With It" and the *I, Tina* autobiography she wrote with Kurt Loder that inspired the film.

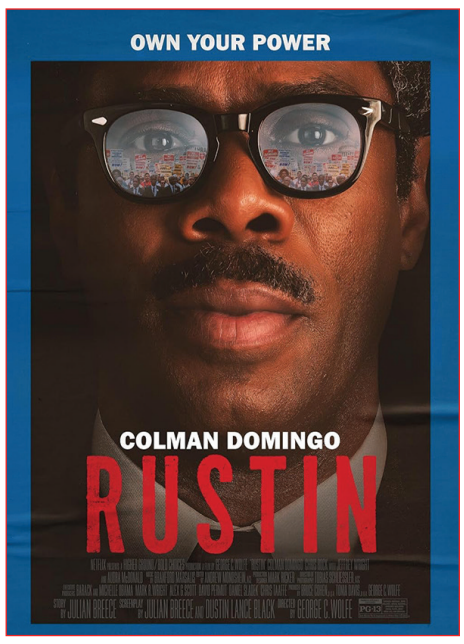
Much of the musical entails songs from her catalog of hits, which would be fine if they hadn't been repurposed in a nonlinear manner in an effort to convey certain emotional moments.

Because the music doesn't match the era, "Tina" feels out of sync, especially in act one when selections from Turner's second act as an entertainer are used during exchanges with former husband Ike Turner.

But it is a member of the production team that is responsible for what was the most tragic discrepancy in this reimagined telling of Tina Turner's story on stage. Those wigs were the lowest of the low. And the interpretation of Turner's iconic "What's Love Got to Do With It" wig was downright criminal. It looked as if it was found within the rubble and debris of a home explosion. And instead of being

See Tina, C8

Rustin: Man behind March on Washington gets his due



The Netflix original film "Rustin" chronicles the 1963 March on Washington, where 250,000 people, who had a heightened sense of social consciousness, descended on Washington, D.C. and changed the course of history.

By Dwight Brown
NNPA film critic

He was the man behind the man. Martin Luther King's chief lieutenant. Why is he only getting attention now?

Bayard Rustin (Colman Domingo, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom) was gay in the '60s and was shunned by MLK's other associates. He regained his stature in the civil rights leader's camp when he imagined, developed, and completed a March on Washington.

Rustin: "Do this Dr. King. Own your power."

An assembly of like minds became the largest civil rights gathering ever. On August 28th, 1963, 250,000 people, who had a heightened sense of social consciousness, descended on Washington, D.C. and changed the course of history. Rustin: "A demonstration made up of angelic troublemakers."

The script by Julian Breece (When They See Us) and Dustin Lance Black (Milk) gives an in-depth portrait of the man who endured continuous hazing, yet prevailed. Lovers, adversaries, arrests, achievements, it's all on screen, manifested in a stunning performance by Domingo. Meticulous research has been turned into an energizing screenplay. All the characters are in place. Yet, too often their dialogue seems more suited for a modern novel than the way everyday folks talked back then.

> "The hell with Bayard Rustin. His attention-grabbing antics make him an easy target. And let's not mention the unmentionable."
>
> **- Chris Rock as NAACP leader Roy Wilkins**

The most stirring drama is featured in scenes played by veteran actors who embody strong-willed civil rights icons in the heat of verbal battles: Glynn Turman (A. Phillip Randolph), CCH Pounder (Dr. Anna Hedgeman), Maxwell Whittington-Cooper (John Lewis), Aml Ameen (MLK).

Jeffrey Wright as the vindictive Adam Clayton Powell commands the screen and steers the proceedings to high-pitch levels. Chris Rock as the condescending NAACP leader Roy Wilkins seems woefully miscast: "The hell with Bayard Rustin. His attention-grabbing antics make him an easy target. And let's not mention the unmentionable."

Director George C. Wolfe (Ma Rainey's Black Bottom) gets many things right. The assemblage of historical figures is as magical as the one in One Night in

See Rustin, C8

'A fun challenge'

Bobby Carter's 'Tiny Desk' takes NPR to new places



Bobby Carter, senior producer of "Tiny Desk Concerts" visited Harris-Stowe State University as a guest of the Fall "Beyond the Books: Presidential Lecture Series."

Photo courtesy of NPR

Sylvester Brown Jr.
The St. Louis American

Musical artists such as Bon Jovi, Juvenile, Lyle Lovett, Chance the Rapper and Usher are accustomed to playing before massive audiences.

But when performing for National Public Radio's (NPR) "Tiny Desk Concerts," they're asked to abandon their high-tech egos and equipment to perform in a small office behind a small desk.

Bobby Carter, senior producer of "Tiny Desk Concerts" visited Harris-Stowe State University as a guest of the Fall "Beyond the Books: Presidential Lecture Series."

Since 2020, the St. Louis native Carter, has introduced new audiences to R&B, Hip-Hop and gospel artists. Through partnerships with the festival organization, Complexcon, and HBO's Insecure, Carter has created new initiatives that have grown and diversified the Tiny Desk platform.

"It's important for us to be in spaces [that are] unexpected for NPR," Carter said, adding that it's a "fun challenge" to reach people who still don't know what national public radio is.

A short CBS News video set the stage for Brown's discussion, and it demonstrated how the petite concerts catch some artists off guard.

"I didn't know this was actually an office, so this is very uncouth," Chance the Rapper, joked before performing his 2017 mini concert.

"It's something you have to get used to when you're usually moving around and stuff," rapper Juvenile told the CBS reporter before performing "Slow

See Tiny Desk, C3

St. Louis American Calendar

STL SITES & SOUNDS

CONCERTS AND LIVE SHOWS

TINA - The Tina Turner Musical
11/17/2023 7:30pm
11/18/2023 2:00pm
11/18/2023 7:30pm
11/19/2023 1:00pm
11/21/2023 7:30pm
11/22/2023 7:30pm
The Fabulous Fox
527 N Grand Blvd
St. Louis, MO
Ticket prices vary

Cabaret Project of St. Louis Presents: Robin De Jesús
11/16/2023 7:30pm
Sheldon Concert Hall and Art Galleries
3648 Washington Blvd
St. Louis, MO
$56.00

Korngold and Dvořák
11/17/2023 10:30am
11/18/2023 7:30pm
11/19/2023 3:00pm
Featuring African American violin soloist Randall Goosby, who made his debut with the Jacksonville Symphony at the age of nine, has performed with orchestras including the New York New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, and Los Angeles Philharmonic
Touhill Performing Arts Center at UMSL
One University Blvd
St. Louis, MO
$15.00 - $98.00

Erica Soulstice Live from The Dark Room
11/17/2023 8:00pm
The Dark Room
3610 Grandel Sq.
St. Louis, MO
$10 - $25

Tish Period Live from The Dark Room
Tish Period appeared on NBC's The Voice
11/18/2023 9:00pm
The Dark Room
3610 Grandel Sq.
St. Louis, MO
$10 - $25

Christone "Kingfish" Ingram
11/19/2023 7:30pm
The Factory
17105 North Outer 40 Road
St. Louis, MO
$29.50 - $59.50

Rod Wave - Nostalgia Tour
11/19/2023 8:00pm
Support acts subject to change without notice.
Enterprise Center
1401 Clark Ave
St. Louis, MO
$45.50 - $225.50

Jesse Prather Live from The Dark Room
11/19/2023 10:00pm
The Dark Room
3610 Grandel Sq.
St. Louis, MO
$10 - $25

In a Trance: A Live Drag & Ballroom Experience
11/20/2023
7:00pm - 10:00pm
Kranzberg Arts Center
501 North Grand Blvd
St. Louis, MO

NIGHTLIFE

Fool House - The Ultimate 90's Dance Party
11/17/2023 8:00pm
6133 Delmar Blvd
St. Louis, MO
$15.00

Mud + Merlot: Ceramic Luminaries
11/17/2023 6:30pm
12580 Rott Road
St. Louis, MO
$58

In a Trance: A Live Drag & Ball Experience
11/20/2023 7:00pm
Kranzberg Arts Center
501 North Grand Blvd
St. Louis, MO

FAIRS, FESTIVALS AND MARKETS

The School of Medicine farmers market!
The market will be held year-round, rain or shine, EVERY Thursday starting April 7th from 10:00am - 2:00pm. Starting November 17th, the market will be held inside in McDonnell Pediatrics lobby through the end of March.
Washington University in St. Louis
1 Brookings Dr
St. Louis, MO

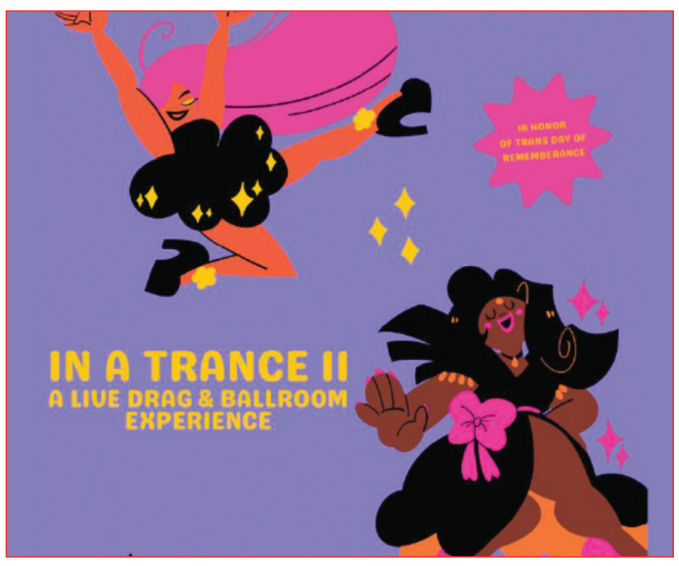
Winterfest
11/18/2023 12:00pm
Kiener Plaza Park
500 Chestnut St, St. Louis, MO 63101
St. Louis, MO
Free

ART ACTIVITIES, EXHIBITS AND MUSEUMS

Censored: Banned Books and Forbidden Stories-A Concert
11/18/2023 7:00pm
11/19/2023 3:00pm
Bookstores including Left Bank Books and The Novel Neighbor will sponsor tables in the lobby during intermission.
Kirkwood High School Theater
801 Dougherty Ferry Rd
Kirkwood, MO
$10.00 - $20.00

TORN MIXOLOGY
11/18/2023 6:00pm
Torn Mixology is a mixed media exhibition that explores the journey of identifying as a Black multi-racial female.
3224 Locust Street
St. Louis, MO

Family Sunday
11/19/2023 1:00pm
Saint Louis Art Museum
One Fine Arts Drive
St. Louis, MO
Free



"IN A TRANCE: A LIVE DRAG & BALL EXPERIENCE" WILL TAKE PLACE IN REMEMBRANCE OF TRANS LIVES LOST AT THE KRANZBERG ART CENTER ON NOV. 20, 7-10PM.

COMMUNITY

38th Annual Scouting For Food Drive
11/17/2023 8:00am
11/18/2023 8:00am
4568 W Pine Blvd
St. Louis, MO
Free

City Council Meeting
11/14/2023 7:00pm
Ferguson City Hall
110 Church Street
Ferguson, MO

High Noon: Make a career out of your passions
11/14/2023 12:00pm
The High Noon series offers free cultural and artistic programming
Kranzberg Arts Center
501 North Grand Blvd
St. Louis, MO
Free

Parks Commission Monthly Meeting
11/21/2023 6:30pm
Heman Park Community Center
975 Pennsylvania Ave
University City
University City, MO

17th annual Christmas Concert series
12/3/23 4pm
Northside SDA Church
9001 Lucas & Hunt Rd
12/9/23 4pm
Kirkwood United Methodist Church
201 W. Adams
Free

IT'S GLOW TIME.

Garden Glow is back at the Missouri Botanical Garden, November 18th through January 6th. Immerse yourself in nearly two million holiday lights, enjoy themed food and beverages, and celebrate the season with family and friends. For more information, visit mobot.org

VIEWING TIMES
November 18–December 14 | 5–9:30 p.m.
December 15–January 1 | 4:30–10 p.m.
January 2–6 | 5–9:30 p.m.
Advance ticket purchase is recommended.





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Tiny Desk

Continued from C1

Motion," "I Need a Hot Girl," and other hit songs during his 2023 "Tiny Desk" concert.

"I'm gonna get real comfortable with y'all, so I need y'all to get real comfortable with me," Megan Thee Stallion told a small enthusiastic crowd in 2019. Getting "comfortable" meant switching out of her patent leather heels into a pair of fuzzy Louis Vuitton slippers before she started rapping.

It's clear from the video that the name "Tiny Desk" is a purposeful misnomer.

The concerts are performed in one of NPR's Washington D.C. offices. Yes, there is a small open desk in front of the artists, but the spacious space is more like an old-fashion bookstore with walls and walls of shelves packed with volumes of books, albums, and memorabilia. Some have been left behind by "Tiny Desk" artists.

In the video, Bob Boilen, who began the "Tiny Desk" concert series in 2008, displays unique artifacts that include singer Adele's water bottle, a talking Master P doll, a Gene Simmons (of the band, Kiss) teddy bear, and a yellow feather left behind by Big Bird.

Carter graced the HSSU stage at the video's end, humbly waving to the modest but exuberant audience. He immediately gave props to St. Louis, assuring the crowd that he honors his roots and remains loyal to "his city."

Describing himself as a "nerd who walked around Northwest High School with blasting headphones," Carter laid out his journey starting out as a burgeoning, young DJ. He went on to detail how his "love for music" blossomed while working at Sam Goody in Northwest Plaza during high school.

But, Carter added, it was at Jackson State University, one of the largest HBCUs in the country, where he cultivated skills and relationships that helped him excel at NPR.

The cultural lessons he learned at Jackson State and its member station, WJSU, while a senior in college, were applicable when he started as an intern with NPR in 2000.

Soon after landing work as a digital media engineer, in 2007, Carter became an engineer processing on-demand audio and video for breaking news, special coverage, and live streams on all the network's digital platforms.

Next, he began writing end of year music roundups and helping produce the Tiny Desk Concerts before becoming a full-time producer for NPR Music in 2018.

During the pandemic, Carter and the NPR music team adapted to the challenges by generating new and innovative Tiny Desk concerts and promoting them on YouTube and other NPR digital platforms.

Carter explained how his cultural education helped him at NPR when the network was struggling to become more diverse.

"Culture has infiltrated NPR obviously through my work and a lot of my colleagues, but it took a lot of work and insistence," he stated.

Over the years, some of the world's top musical acts have dropped by to record at the concert series: Tom Jones in 2009, Weird Al Yankovic in 2010, Taylor Swift in 2017, George Clinton & The P-Funk All Stars in 2018, Jon Batiste and Meeghan Thee Stallion in 2019, Usher in 2022 and, this year, Bon Jovi, Smokey Robinson, Post Malone and St. Louis R&B singer, Jordan Ward to name just a few.

As the senior producer of Tiny Desk, Carter explained how his job entails interacting with artists and their management teams. It can be difficult, he added, when working with seasoned performers who are used to having things their way.

"If you notice, most artists are used to playing on big stages with huge monitors and ear monitor headphones. Those are the types of things we don't allow at Tiny Desk," Carter explained, sharing an example:

"We had Charlie Wilson on a few months ago… imagine telling someone who's been in the game for like six decades what he can or cannot do."

It's challenging but, Carter added, most artists adapt to terms regarding how they should perform stripped-down versions of their music behind a "tiny" desk.

"That's part of my job and when they accept it, that's when the magic happens."

You can view Tiny Desk Concerts Here: https://www.npr.org/series/tiny-desk-concerts/









See of Galilee

Galilee MB will celebrate 12th anniversary, its oldest member on Nov. 26



Photo courtesy of Morning Star MB Facebook

Congregation members of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in East St. Louis enjoyed a Holiday Fellowship celebration on Dec. 28, 2022. The church, located at 616 Garfield Hubbard Blvd., will hold its 6th Thanksgiving 2 Go event at 9 a.m. Saturday, November 18, 2023. The boxes will include a turkey and trimmings and will be distributed on first-come-first-serve basis until the supply is exhausted.

St. Louis American staff

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary during services on Sunday November 26, 2023, and its senior member Alice K. Wilson will be honored for her 92 years with the historic house of worship.

Galilee, which has been serving its congregation and community from its 4300 Delmar Boulevard location since 1947, will hold its day of honors under the theme "Serving an Unchanging God in a Changing World.'

The world and St. Louis certainly have changed since Evangelist Griffin and Revs. Nicholas and John Williams organized the Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in a small house near the Mississippi River.

Alice Kilbourne Wilson was born 21 years later in Starkville, Mississippi. In 1931, Rev. Malachi Owens, Sr. was pastor, and the church was 33 years old and located at 2808 Spruce St. Wilson, 12, was baptized by Rev. Owens.

Rev. Isaac Charles Peay, Sr. followed Rev. Owens and served as pastor from 1954 until his retirement in 1991. Wilson served faithfully as an usher while also serving other ministries.

Dr. Carlton Ray Caldwell became pastor in 1992 and continues to serve the congregation. He was instrumental in this year's renovation of both the Peay Education Building and the church sanctuary.

Wilson, now 104 years old, serves faithfully from her home, participating in the Pandemic Prayer Line and answering questions through the church's telephone Sunday School.

All are invited, especially former members, to the 10:15 a.m. Morning Worship. Guest preacher is Dr. John Modest Miles, Morning Star Fellowship pastor.

Galilee hopes to enhance education of area youths while bringing souls to Christ through community outreach," according to Rev. Caldwell.

Its annual Vacation Bible School was held during the summer and children from throughout the city and county were welcomed. After being introduced to Christ, many of the youth participants would be baptized.

The Sunday School and Baptist Youth Fellowship ministries introduce young people to the stories of the Bible, church etiquette, public speaking, and Roberts Rules of Order. Youths discuss social issues, social etiquette, the work of missionaries, and the meaning of living a Christ centered life.

Galilee also has a scholarship fund that assists disciple students with some financial costs.

During the tenure, Rev. Peay, Sr., participated in the inaugural year of Operation Brightside, a program that connects youths with summer employment opportunities.

Rev. Caldwell, Galilee is an avid participant in the Grill to Glory ministry sponsored by the Urban League of Metropolitan St Louis. Every Saturday, Caldwell and Grill to Glory participants invite motorists and passersby into the church parking lot to receive a dry goods box, a hot dog, and a prayer.

Since the COVID pandemic in 2020, Galilee holds 1st Sunday services on its parking lot, and a telephone prayer line operates from 1-1:30 p.m. weekdays. The prayer line recently reached its 944th day.

Galilee also hosts a Second Chance Ministry, a prison ministry that has expanded through community collaboration and supports the transition of incarcerated people upon their return to society.

In addition, the Galilee media ministry includes streaming of Sunday service on Facebook Live and YouTube.

Call (314) 616-7905 for ticket information to the 125th anniversary celebration

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DONOR AND EVENTS MANAGER

Loyola Academy of St. Louis, a Jesuit, upper-elementary and middle-school for boys, seeks a dynamic person to serve as the Donor and Events Manager. Loyola Academy is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by providing a rigorous education, extra-curricular programming, and an emphasis on personal and spiritual development for our students.

The ideal candidate is detail-oriented, creative, and an engaging individual. This position is responsible for all facets of information management in the Development Office including management of event timelines, event logistics and registrations. Duties include gift entry, preparing acknowledgement letters and other correspondence, generating accurate and timely financial and informational reports, and other duties as assigned. Candidates should possess strong communication and organizational skills and the ability to collaborate well with others. Experience with donor database software, Donor Perfect or similar experience preferred. Experience working with various constituencies: staff, board members, volunteers, donors, corporate and foundation representatives, and volunteers.

Please submit a letter of interest and resume to Mrs. Ellen Cooper, Director of Development, at ecooper@loyolaacademy.org by 11/17/2023. No phone inquiries, please. For additional information about the school, please visit our website www.loyolaacademy.org.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY PROBATION/ PRETRIAL CLERK NO. 2023-24 LOCATION: EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS DATE POSTED: NOVEMBER 14, 2023 CLOSING DATE: DECEMBER 19, 2023

The United States Probation Office for the Southern District of Illinois has a full-time vacancy for a Probation/Pretrial Clerk. A Probation/Pretrial Clerk provides administrative support to the law enforcement officers. Please visit the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office website at http://www.ilsp.uscourts.gov for complete

CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER

Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri is recruiting for a Chief Philanthropy Officer to join our talented team. The CPO is responsible for the design and implementation of a comprehensive plan for developing key community alliances by cultivating, soliciting, and stewarding philanthropic support from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Apply at https://www.girlscoutsem.org/en/discover/our-council/careers.html. We are a proud Equal Opportunity Employer, and we encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds to apply.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AND CAMP RANGER

Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri is now recruiting for two full-time positions: Executive Assistant to the CEO and Camp Ranger. For more info and to apply, visit www.girlscoutsem.org. We are a proud Equal Opportunity Employer, and we encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds to apply.

SLDC IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The St. Louis Development Corporation (SLDC) is eagerly seeking candidates to join our team as we endeavor to bring economic justice to St. Louis City residents and communities that were disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

There are multiple 2-4-year limited term positions available, term of employment will vary for each position.

These positions will assist in the administration and implementation of various Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) Programs targeted for households, small businesses and communities adversely impacted by the pandemic.

All positions will be funded in whole or in part through an allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) from the US Department of the Treasury and the City of St. Louis' Community Development Administration.

To see the full job description of positions available and to apply online go to: http://www.stlouis-mo.gov/sldc/ and click on "Careers at SLDC." SLDC is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity.

Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting for the Hawkins Road - New Sugar Creek Road Resurfacing project, St. Louis County Project No. AR-1820, Federal Project No. STP-9901(681) will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Rockwood South Middle School located at 1628 Hawkins Road, Fenton, MO, 63026.

The goal of this meeting is to inform the public and local stakeholders of St. Louis County's plans for this corridor.

The following QR code will link to the in-person meeting information on the St. Louis County Department of Transportation and Public Works website:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

A virtual public meeting for the Hanley Road Resurfacing project, St. Louis County Project No. AR-1853, Federal Project No. STBG-5613(611) will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The goal of this meeting is to inform the public and local stakeholders of St. Louis County's plans for this corridor.

You can dial into the meeting by phone at 1-408-418-9388. Enter the meeting number 26339426642#, then enter the numeric password 1234#.

The following QR code can be used to link to the meeting. You will need to enter the webinar password 12345678 to access the meeting.

SEALED BIDS

Bids for Stormwater Improvements at Special Acres State School, Project No. E2323-01, will be received by FMDC, State of MO, UNTIL **1:30 PM, November 30, 2023** via MissouriBUYS. Bidders must be registered to bid. Project information available at: http://oa.mo.gov/facilities

To Advertise your Job Opportunity in the newspaper ad online please email Angelita Houston at ahouston@stlamerican.com

Visit our Website to see Jobs & Public Notices at www.stlamerican.com

RIVER CITY CONSTRUCTION

River City Construction, LLC is the Construction Manager at Risk for the University of Missouri Medical Sciences Building Ph1 Lab Renovations project. This project consists of renovation and remodel of the approximately 58,780 square feet of laboratory and office space on the basement, 1st floor, 2nd floor, 4th floor, 5th floor, 6th floor and roof of the Medical Sciences Building.

The University of Missouri / River City Construction, LLC as the Construction Manager, is accepting bids for the Work Categories noted below on **December 12th, 2023 at 1:00PM in person at Campus Facilities, Planning, Design & Construction, Room L100 (Front Reception Desk), General Servies Building, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211:**

- 04.7 – Masonry
- 06.7 – General Works
- 07.7A – Roofing
- 07.7B – Firestopping
- 08.7 – Interior Glazing
- 09.7A – Flooring
- 09.7B – Ceramic Tile
- 09.7C – Painting
- 012.7 – Window Treatments

Additionally, River City Construction, LLC is pursuing the work category below as a General Contractor. All interested and qualified small, disadvantaged, minority, and women's businesses should contact, in writing, (certified letter, return receipt requested), Justin Beaty, to discuss the subcontracting opportunities. All negotiations must be completed prior to the bid opening date of **December 11th, 2023, at 1:00PM. Bids should be submitted to the email address noted by the bid package below.**

- **06.7 General Works** (Justin Beaty, jbeaty@rccllc.com / bid@rccllc.com)

Bid documents can be obtained by visiting our website at: https://www.rccllc.com/smart-bid/. The link to the project will be located under the link: River City – Ashland

Washington University in St. Louis

Washington University in St. Louis offers rewarding opportunities in various fields at all levels, with positions in engineering, nursing and health care, research, administration, technology, security and more.

JR73427 Maintenance Technician II - Real Estate

Performs maintenance services and /or repairs in two or more areas of skill including but not limited to plumbing, machine servicing and electrical repairs or installations for the properties maintained by Quadrangle Housing Company. The maintenance Technician II will complete these repairs and preventive maintenance as required for the general upkeep of the properties of Quadrangle Housing Company. The ideal candidate will meet the following required qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent high school certification or technical school diploma or equivalent. Required/ Licensure/Certification/Registration: Certain departments, based on job duties, may require Missouri Class E Driver's license and Missouri Class B CDL required within six months of employment.

LPN Nursing Openings

Washington University currently has several LPN openings in highly sought after outpatient clinical departments. We offer competitive wages and outstanding employee benefits. ***LPNs with clinic or hospital experience; Epic charting experience are highly preferred.***

- Orthopedic Surgery in Central West End and Progress West Clinic Locations
- Urologic Surgery Clinic
- Outpatient Dialysis in Forest Park or North County Locations (Dialysis Experience Required)
- Facial Plastic Surgery Clinic
- Gastroenterology Clinic

Resumes accepted: tracey.faulkner@wustl.edu

Staff Therapist or Clinical Social Worker (Part Time)

The Division of Child Psychiatry at Washington University is seeking to hire two part-time Staff Therapists for its Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program (AIOP). The position will involve a combination of direct clinical interventions and group care to adolescents and/or their caregivers and the therapists will collaborate closely with a multidisciplinary team to implement novel models of care delivery and measure outcomes.

- Equivalent of a master's degree in social work.
- REQUIRED LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION/REGISTRATION
- AAMFT, ASLPC, LCSW, LPC, CPC, LMFT or licensed Psychologist in the state of Missouri

Resumes accepted: tracey.faulkner@wustl.edu

For a full description of these positions and other career opportunities, please visit https://jobs.wustl.edu/ to apply. Click search jobs and enter the job ID number.

We seek people from diverse backgrounds to join us in a supportive environment that encourages boldness, inclusion and creativity.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS FOR FUTURE BID OPPORTUNITY

PARIC Corporation will be seeking proposals for the following project: CRUNDEN-MARTIN EAST & WEST – CORE & SHELL

PARIC Corporation will be soliciting bids for the CRUNDEN-MARTIN EAST & WEST CORE & SHELL located on the 700 Block of South 2nd Street in St. Louis, MO. Project consists of the historic renovation of a 510,000 SF, 6-story multi-structure building and a 43,000 SF, 6-story building with a skywalk connecting the two buildings. The project site is approximately 3 acres. The use of the buildings is composed of commercial spaces and light-industrial spaces. Demolition/remediation work and sitework will start Late March/April of 2024. Invitations to bid will be sent out on 12/11/2023 for access to the bid documents. If you do not received a bid invitation please send your company information to tlalexander@paric.com.

A Pre-Bid Site Walk and Outreach meeting will be held on 12/19/2023 at 9:00am at the project site on 760 2nd Street, St. Louis, MO

BIDS WILL BE DUE ON JANUARY 18, 2024 @ 2:00pm

Send all questions to Cory Hoke choke@paric.com.

Goals for Construction Business Enterprise
- 21% for African American-owned business enterprises,
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- 0.5% for Native American-owned business enterprises,
- 11% for Women-owned business enterprises.

Goals for Construction Workforce
- 25% for Minority
- 20% for Apprentice
- 7% for Women
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District Requests for Quotes, Bids and Proposals are posted online for public download. Please navigate to www.msdprojectclear.org
> Doing Business With Us
> View Bid Opportunities

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2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MAILING RFP

The Saint Louis Zoo seeks bids from qualified firms to submit proposals for 2024 Membership Renewal Mailing RFP. Bid documents are available as of 11/15/23 on the Saint Louis Zoo website: stlzoo.org/vendor.

LETTING NO. #8766

7TH STREET IMPROVEMENTS FEDERAL PROJECT NOS. CMAQ-5436(603) & STP-5436(604)

Electronic bids submitted through the Bid Express Online Portal will be received by the Board of Public Service until **1:45 PM, CT**, on **DECEMBER 5, 2023**, then publicly opened and read. Proposals must be submitted electronically using "Bid Express Online Portal" at https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/20618/home. Plans and Specifications may be examined on the Bid Express Online Portal as well and may be downloaded for free.

The bidder must pay $40 to submit a bid through the Bid Express service. Monthly subscriptions are available.

A pre-bid conference for all contractors bidding on this project will be held **November 14, 2023** at 10:00 a.m. The pre-bid conference will be held in **1520 Market Street, Suite 2000, Boardroom #278, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.**

Bidders shall comply with all applicable City, State and Federal laws (including MBE/WBE policies).

All bidders must regard Federal **Executive Order 11246, "Notice of Requirement for Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Employment Opportunity**", the "Equal Opportunity Clause" and the "Standard Federal Equal Employment Specifications" set forth within and referenced at https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-service/bps-online-plan-room.cfm (Announcements).

CITY OF ST. LOUIS BOARD OF PUBLIC SERVICE

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS for PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR EXECUTIVE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT & SERVICES AT ST. LOUIS LAMBERT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. Statements of Qualifications due by 5:00 PM CT, December 1, 2023 through the Bid Express online portal at: https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/20618/home?agency=true. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) may be obtained from BPS website https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-service/, under BPS RFQ and RFP Announcement, or email Board of Public Service at bryanth@stlouis-mo.gov. A fee of $40 is required to submit Statement of Qualifications through the Bid Express service. Monthly subscriptions are available. 25% MBE and 5% WBE participation goals.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Housing Partnership, 729 Lemay Ferry Road, MO 63125 is seeking subcontractor bids for five (5) new construction homes at 9929 & 9931 S. Broadway, 108 Mann and 125 and 309 E. Arlee, St. Louis, MO 63125.

Scopes of work include, but are not limited to: New Construction of five (5) single family homes. Section 3, Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises are encouraged to bid.

Project plans and specifications are available by request. Please contact The Housing Partnership at (314)910-2691, AdamRoberts709@gmail.com.

All bids are due to The Housing Partnership by 12/22/23, 12 p.m.

The Housing Partnership is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

We Publish Every Thursday in the Newspaper & Online

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Alberici Constructors, Kwame Building Group and the Saint Louis Zoo seek bids from qualified firms to submit proposals for a project at the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park.

The project consists of mass excavation, grading , site utilities for the installation of stormwater retention basins. To request bid documents, please send an E-mail to stlzoobids@alberici.com.

www.stlamerican.com

SEALED BIDS

Bids for Statewide Job Order Contract, Project No. IDIQMCA-4005, will be received by FMDC, State of MO, **UNTIL 1:30 PM, December 19, 2023,** via MissouriBUYS. Bidders must be registered to bid. Project information available at: http://oa.mo.gov/facilities

SINGLE FEASIBLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT

Referenced Revised Statutes of Missouri, 30.044 Harris-Stowe State University (HSSU) is proposing to procure the Axon Officer Safety Plan and four (4) additional x26p's from Axon Enterprise, Inc. Axon Enterprise Inc. is the sole developer and offeror of the Axon brand products and Evidence.com Data Management Solutions. The contact person for the University is Corey Freeman, Senior Buyer, freemanc@hssu.edu, 314-340-3325, 3026 Laclede Ave, St. Louis, MO 63103

LETTING NO. 8767

REPAIRS TO LAFAYETTE BRIDGE ON GRAND DRIVE PROJECT NO. R2023-43-058

Electronic bids submitted through the Bid Express Online Portal will be received by the Board of Public Service until **1:45 PM, CT**, on **December 19, 2023**, then publicly opened and read. Proposals must be submitted electronically using "Bid Express Online Portal" at https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/20618/home. The bidder must pay $40 to submit a bid through the Bid Express service. Monthly subscriptions are available.

Plans, Specifications, and the Agreement may be examined online through Bid Express at https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/20618/home?agency=true and may be downloaded for free.

An optional pre-bid conference for all contractors bidding on this project will be held **November 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** The pre-bid conference will be held in **the Voyager Conference Room at the Forest Park Visitor's Center, 5595 Grand Drive in Forest Park, St. Louis, MO 63112.**

Bidders shall comply with all applicable City, State and Federal laws (including MBE/WBE policies).

All bidders must regard Federal **Executive Order 11246, "Notice of Requirement for Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Employment Opportunity"**, the "Equal Opportunity Clause" and the "Standard Federal Equal Employment Specifications" set forth within and referenced at www.stl-bps.org (Announcements).

St. Louis Charter School d/b/a Premier Charter School
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Total
REVENUES				
Federal program	$ 2,524,520	$ 452,830	$ -	$ 2,977,350
State program	2,826,189	9,639,254	-	12,465,443
Local program	1,474,406	616,668	-	2,091,074
Sale of bonds	-	-	143,434	143,434
Total Revenues	6,825,115	10,708,752	143,434	17,677,301
EXPENDITURES				
Academic instruction	317,246	6,608,886	-	6,926,132
Special education	403,219	779,230	-	1,182,449
Attendance	63,497	-	-	63,497
Social Work Services	-	75,531	-	75,531
Counseling Services	3,349	405,120	-	408,469
Nursing Services	4,959	155,623	-	160,582
Psychological services	12,313	108,390	-	120,703
Occupational Therapy - Related Services	4,272	234,255	-	238,527
Other support services	514,527	306,292	-	820,819
Technology	213,360	-	89,607	302,967
Speech pathology services	752	196,518	-	197,270
Instruction and curriculum development services	7,838	541,957	-	549,795
Office of the principal services	11,412	418,297	-	429,709
Executive administration	461,939	578,876	-	1,040,815
Care and upkeep of building services	971,362	-	139,499	1,110,861
Pupil transportation	13,805	-	-	13,805
Food services	429,082	-	-	429,082
Central office and support services	318,581	-	-	318,581
Early childhood instruction	11,022	285,223	-	296,245
Welfare activities services	3,793	-	-	3,793
Custody and Care of Children Services	245,224	-	-	245,224
Afterschool Program	129,680	14,554	-	144,234
Parental Involvement	2,000	-	-	2,000
Fees for Bond Indebtedness	145,980	-	-	145,980
Building Acquisition and Construction Services	-	-	20,156	20,156
Debt service				-
Net principal	-	-	369,996	369,996
Interest	-	-	293,393	293,393
Total Expenditures	4,289,212	10,708,752	912,651	15,910,615
Net Change in Fund Balance	2,535,903	-	(769,217)	1,766,686
FUND BALANCES, Beginning of Period	7,471,463	-	-	7,471,463
TRANSFER OF FUND BALANCE	(769,217)	-	769,217	-
FUND BALANCES, End of Period	$ 9,238,149	$ -	$ -	$ 9,238,149

Schmersahl Treloar & Co., PC in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the applicable Government Auditing Standards has issued the School an unmodified opinion on the financial statements. The audit report is available for inspection and examination at the St. Louis Charter School d/b/a Premier Charter School's Administrative Office located at 5279 Fyler Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63139.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Altman-Charter Company requests subcontractor/ supplier proposals for Independence Center Apartments. This project is a 4-story Apartment Building consisting of 38 units. The project will be located at 4221 Forest Park Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63108. Proposals are due at the office of Altman-Charter Company, 315 Consort Dr., St. Louis, MO 63011 on or before Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 3:00 PM (CT). Qualified Minority, Section 3, and Women owned businesses are encouraged to submit proposals. Plans can be viewed at FW Dodge, Construct Connect, SIBA, MOKAN, Cross Rhodes Reprographics, and the Altman-Charter plan room in St. Louis. Bidders should contact Greg Mehrmann at gregm@altman-charter.com with any questions. All bids should be sent to bids@altman-charter.com. Our telephone # is (636) 207-8670, and our fax # is (636) 207-8671.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL STRUCTURAL REPAIRS & RELATED WORK 400 N. 6TH STREET PARKING STRUCTURE

Issued November 15, 2023
Proposals due December 8, 2023

The Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority of the City of St. Louis will receive sealed bids for the 400 N. 6th Street Parking Structure Structural Repairs & Related Work on December 8, 2023.

Bids will be received at 1520 Market Street, Suite 2000, St. Louis, Missouri 63103 (Attention Rob Orr), until 1:00 PM on December 8, 2023.

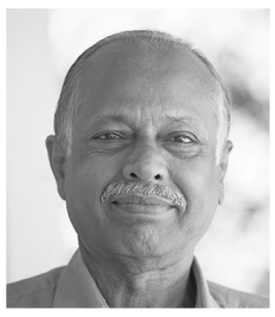
The full invitation, plans and specifications, and all other documents may be downloaded from the appropriate link at: https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/sldc/procurement/index.cfm

SEALED BIDS

Bids for Renovate Campground Full Hook-Up Sites at Roaring River State Park, Project No. X2205-01, will be received by FMDC, State of MO, **UNTIL 1:30 PM, December 21, 2023** via MissouriBUYS. Bidders must be registered to bid. Project information available at: http://oa.mo.gov/facilities







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INVITATION TO BID FERGUSON-FLORISSANT SCHOOL DISTRICT ROOF REPLACEMENT/ RESTORATION AT VARIOUS SITES

Sealed bids are being requested from the Ferguson Florissant School District and will be received and publicly opened on Monday, December 4th, 2023 @ 1:00pm CST at the Operation and Maintenance dept. located at 8855 Dunn Rd. (REAR) Hazelwood, MO 63042. Pre bid meeting Monday, November 27thth, 2023 @ 8:00am @ Halls Ferry Elem. 13585 New Halls Ferry Rd. Florissant, MO 63033 Bid specs must be obtained at http://new.fergflor.k12.mo.us/facilities-rfq. Contact Matt Furfaro @ mfurfaro@fergflor.org for further information/ questions.

CITY OF ST. LOUIS ST. LOUIS LAMBERT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Service: Support Services of the Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance and Operations Software Solution

Pre-Proposal Meeting Date: December 7, 2023 11:30 AM Meeting will be held via Zoom. See RFP for details.

Question Due Date: December 11, 2023

Proposal Due Date: December 20, 2023

M/WBE Goals & Incentives:

MBE goals: 25%
WBE goal: 5%

A 15% M/WBE incentive credit shall be applied to the evaluation of professional service prime consultant who are currently certified MBE -African American, Hispanic American, Asian American, Native American and WBE-Women owned Business Enterprises

Point of Contact: Gigi Glasper – gxglasper@flystl.com

Proposal documents may be obtained at **St. Louis Lambert International Airport®, Airport Properties Division**, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or by calling (314) 890-1802. This RFP may also be obtained by visiting our website at www.flystl.com/business/contract-opportunites.

Robert Salarano
Airport Properties Division Manager

SEALED BIDS

Bids for REPLACE CARPET - Revenue Suites 360, 370, & 380, Truman State Office Building, Project No. O2347-01 will be received by FMDC, State of MO, **UNTIL 1:30 PM, Thursday, December 21, 2023**. For specific project information and ordering plans, go to: http://oa.mo.gov/facilities

2024 MEMBERSHIP ACQUISITION MAILING RFP

The Saint Louis Zoo seeks bids from qualified firms to submit proposals for 2024 Membership Acquisition Mailing RFP. Bid documents are available as of 11/15/23 on the Saint Louis Zoo website: stlzoo.org/vendor.

ITB #57823311

INVITATION TO BID

Harris-Stowe State University (HSSU) is requesting proposals for the construction services required for the Henry Givens Jr Administration Building Lower Level Corridor
Renovation. Proposals must be **emailed no later than 2:00 pm on Tuesday December 12, 2023, to Corey Freeman at** freemanc@hssu.edu. Responses to the RFP will be
opened and read at a virtual bid opening on Tuesday December 12, 2023, at 2:30 pm. The link to the virtual bid opening will be sent at the time of bid submission.

A **pre-bid conference and walk-through** will be held on **Tuesday November 28, 2023, at 2:00 pm**. Please meet at the west entrance of the Henry Givens Jr. Administration
Building located at 3026 Laclede Ave, St. Louis MO 63103

A copy of the Request for Proposals and Bidding Documents can be obtained by contacting Corey Freeman at email address: freemanc@hssu.edu, or calling (314)-340-3325.

Should you need any further assistance, please email Ryan Wilson with NAVIGATE
Building Solutions at ryan@navigatebuildingsolutions.com.

The University reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive all informalities in proposals.

ADVERTISE YOUR JOBS, BID NOTICES, PUBLIC NOTICES , AUDITS AND MORE WITH US EMAIL ANGELITA HOUSTON

ahouston@ stlamerican.com

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) ARCHITECTURAL I ENGINEERING SERVICES

BETTY JEAN KERR People's HEALTH CENTERS

Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Centers (PHC), Amanda Luckett Murphy Hopewell Center (ALMHC), and People's Community Action Corporation (PCAC) seek bids from qualified firms to submit proposals for an architectural/engineering project.

The purpose of the RFQ is to identify the most qualified respondents, which will then be invited to participate in the Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

The project will accommodate Amanda Luckett Murphy Hopewell Center services that will relocate from 4236 Lindell Blvd., Suite 200 and People's Community Action Programs that will relocate from the same building in Suite 300. In addition, the architectural firm may have to produce drawings to accommodate a community-based cafeteria and or other retail space and provide a project schedule and estimate of probable construction cost at the end of each phase of development.

To request a full bid proposal document or send questions, please send an email to: thedelmarproject@phcenters.com.

The complete qualifications submittal is due on or before December 12, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., CST.

SEALED BIDS

Bids for RE-BID Replace Sewer Lines and Infrastructure, Ozark Correctional Center, Project No. C1907-01 will be received by FMDC, State of MO, **UNTIL 1:30 PM, 11/16/23**. For specific project information and ordering plans, go to: http://oa.mo.gov/facilities

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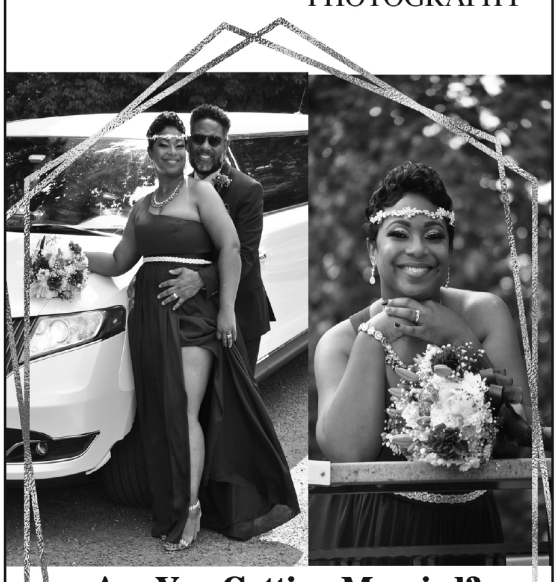
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Photo provided

The cast of "Rustin" includes Glynn Turman as A. Phillip Randolph, Aml Ameen as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Chris Rock as NAACP President Roy Wilkins.

Rustin

Continued from C1

Miami, when Sam Cooke, Jim Brown, Muhammad Ali, and Malcom X gathered. He makes Rustin's coalition building feat (Black activists, college kids, union members) seem miraculous.

And Wolfe builds the tension and preparation to an exhilarating peak, getting solid performances from the exceptionally talented cast. Yet nothing distinguishes Rustin from other bio/history films, minus the milestone crowd shots at the Washington Monument.

Some will wish the film had steered towards authenticity and wasn't so polished. Tobias A. Schliessler's cinematography glistens. Toni-Leslie James' costumes look like they were just bought at SAKS. It's hard to believe you've gone back in time when everything looks so neat and tidy. That's the rub. Fortunately, the sheer gravitas of this historical accounting outweighs any imperfections.

Domingo, the screenwriters and supporting cast finally give the enigmatic Bayard Rustin his props, in the most respectful way. He's no longer the man behind the scenes. He's the man.



Photo by Matthew Murphy

Brianna Cameron as 'Young Anna Mae' in the North American touring company of TINA - The Tina Turner Musical.

Tina

Continued from C1

carefully refurbished, the tragically mangled, synthetic thing was dusted off a bit and simply plopped sideways on Lewis' head. During Turner's renaissance in the 1980's – like with much of the hair of that era – her wigs were big and wild. But they were never bad.

Wigs were a major part of Turner's persona as an entertainer, so what might seem like a costuming afterthought was an essential element that can make or break – as it did in this staging – the overall production value, particularly for Black women audiences.

Most of the redeeming qualities of "Tina" can be found within the performances. Leading lady responsibilities for the St. Louis run are split between Ari Groover and Parris Lewis. Tuesday night it was Lewis who was responsible for embodying Tina Turner. Despite some pitch challenges she opted to scream her way out of, Lewis gave a solid performance. And during the encore performances she was an absolute showstopper – and proved why she was right for the role.

The supporting cast who decided to make the most of their moment were the highlight of the cast that also included Deon Releford-Lee, Wydetta Carter and Roz White. The scene-stealing White is the MVP of this production as Tina Turner's mother, Zelma Bullock. Like Turner, White honed her craft right here in St. Louis. And just like during her time performing with The St. Louis Black Repertory Company, White commands undivided attention with her sass, soul, and powerful voice. As Young Anna Mae Bullock, Brianna Cameron displayed her singing chops and proved that she can hold her own on a stage full of musical theater veterans. And the rich and pure tone of Gerard M. Williams as Raymond left an impression on the audience that went far beyond his few scenes.

TINA: The Tina Turner Musical continues through



