

Volume 113 Number 3 LATE FEBRUARY

INSIDE

/ MARCH 2024



MAN ON FIRE: THE PROTEST AND TRAGEDY OF AARON BUSHNELL PAGE A3



Northview Village Owners Fined

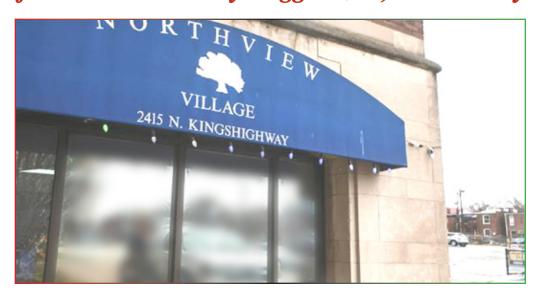
Abrupt Closure of STL Senior Facility Triggers \$55,000+ Penalty

by Jim Salter of The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS, Missouri-Federal regulators have issued a \$55,000 fine after St. Louis' largest nursing home closed without warning, although experts said the amount collected will likely be smaller.

The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced the fine in a letter to the owners of Northview Village, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

The 320-bed skilled nursing facility closed suddenly on Dec. 15 as



the company that owned it struggled to meet payroll. Starting then and lasting through Dec. 17, when Northview gave up its Medicare and Medicaid contracts, it was "in viola-

tion," documents released this week show.

The letter from the federal agency says that if Northview waives its rights to a hearing, the \$18,770-per-day penalty

for that three-day span will be reduced by 35%

Richard Mollot, executive director of the Long Term Care Community

see CLOSURE, Page A12

RNSS: Rides 'N School Supplies

Non-Profit Helps Parents and Kids with Community Engagement

Founded by Derrick Walker, along with family and friends, Rides N' School Supplies (RNSS) is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide motivational experiences and exposure to the youth in our community.

RNSS believes in fueling motivation through inspirational exposure. From captivating car shows to engaging STEM experiences, we are committed to empowering the next generation of visionaries. Over the past five years, RNSS has donated over \$40,000 in scholarships through vari-



ous activities, including our flagship event, the Annual RNSS Charity Car & Bike Show held every August.

The upcoming 6th Annual RNSS Charity Car & Bike Show is scheduled for

August 3rd from 12-4pm at the O'Fallon Park YMCA. This event, which has been powered by NASCAR for the past four years, promises to be a day filled with excitement and inspiration for all attendees. Spin With D.Walk is a high-energy spin class, held every Wednesdayfrom 6: 30-7:30 pm at Generation 3 Fitness. With a dynamic playlist featuring hip hop, R&B, Neo Soul, and even Gospel music, Spin With D.Walk offers a unique fitness experience filled with good vibes for everyone.

Since its inception on December 17th, 2024, every class (9 in total) has sold out, thanks to the incredible support from participants. Great thanks to Generation 3 Fitness for providing the platform and embracing the class.

ARGUS EYE ON THE FUTURE







ENTS MR AND MRS COREY AND LAQUISHA HILL AT FT. ZUMWALT SOUTH SENIOR NIGHT.

PHOTO 02: NOAH HICKS, 4TH GRADE, MERA-MEC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STANDS TO PRES-ENT WITH CLASS TO CELEBRATE THE SCHOOL'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM.

PHOTO 03: REP. KIMBERLY ANN COLLINS HOLD-ING COURT WITH STUDENTS SCHOOLING THEM ON PROCESS AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT.

TOWSWATER OF

OurStory: 113 Years of STL Coverage

The St. Louis ARGUS Newspaper: Our People, Our News, Our History Part 1

by Pinki Pennington
ARGUS Feature Writer

Newspapers have come and gone in St. Louis. Some started with money, powerful influences to help pave a course of direction in its early stages. It's 2024 and more have passed into oblivion. The St. Louis ARGUS Newspaper, founded by 2 brothers without means, but with an idea to keep alive and speak for the black voice. Developed, Operated and Owned by a family who held positions in every aspect of the business in its own office, now reaches 112 years old with a constituency few other newspapers in this country can claim. It had stamina. It's still it's truth, it stills the voice of the sometimes unheard. But to be 112 years old and able to boast like no other, to only be Owned and Operated by 2 St. Louis Families even today. Now that's what black history looks like...

The St Louis ARGUS from its beginning, was always for the town, for the city, for its black community. It has consistently stood for good morals and still stands today. It has surpassed the milestone of over a hundred years old because it deserves to be. It has a history which cannot be separated from the history of St. Louis.

Money and brains alone cannot make an enduring newspaper. Many contributed to the local St. Louis ARGUS Newspaper history of its print about St. Louis. The different publications, which numbered in the hundreds, showed a colorful developmental process throughout the century.

The ARGUS is the property, the voice, the vision of St. Louis citizens, and with great proportions of the black community whose



men, women, young adults, and children interests are inseparably connected with the progress and advancement of this city. And whose lives are part and a parcel of the commercial and social life of this locality. For that reason, this publication reflects St. Louis's very often and still today unheard voices in every paragraph, and its time, talent and influence are used to promote the welfare and prosperity on each and every page of, The St. Louis ARGUS Newspaper & it's Publishing Companies.

The St. Louis ARGUS is evidence that a newspaper is more than a commercial proposition. Journalism is not to advocate one man's purposes, not to serve one corporation's ends, not to be one party's, eyes or trumpet. The St. Louis ARGUS has thrived one hundred twelve-years, because it existed for the good of a community, a race of people wanting, needing to be heard, from a State that often-played politics, of a nation at a time in history that intentionally left their story untold. On some occasions, it may have been not always right, or lacked other details not privy to certain colors of race. To err is as journalistic as it is to be human. But the motive was always good,



the idea and message were kept in clear view, the effort was wellmeant, and the deepest expression of mankind was sincere.

Often thoughts come to mind of "Old Newspaper Boys" the ARGUS was seen with the morning fare read by cabbies, coffee shop patrons, streetcar and bus conductors, lawyers, doctors, labor leaders, sports managers, coaches, industrialists, civic leaders, desk sergeants, philosophers, poets, bartenders, beauticians, and barbers, even amongst "The Help". In other words this paper was well read. With the exception of a comparatively few days in its long, long, history, the newspaper has been delivered to newsstands and of late, the 21st century into the homes, offices, cell phones and internet subscribers. As the St. Louis ARGUS celebrates 112 years as a major source of news, views and issues in the St. Louis metropolitan and outlying areas here's a special tribute to a few of those legendary trailblazer's ahead of their time, The lions story can never be told, when the hunter is the only one standing one standing to tell the story...some didn't get to tell their story but The St. Louis ARGUS is that Lion...

Ben Thomas -

Was the founder, editor and doeverything guy at the St. Louis Evening Whirl. He left his job as entertainment editor at The St. Louis Argus in 1937 to start his own weekly entertainment paper for the Black community, the Night Whirl. As promotion for that paper, he initiated the Colored Mayors' Association, hosted beauty pageants and interviewed visiting celebrities. When he broke a local crime story that the town's other papers wouldn't print, he sold over 50,000 copies and immediately changed the name to The Evening Whirl, concentrating on creatively written, sensational crime stories. If it bleeds, it leads.

Nathan Young, Jr. -

Enduring a media legacy was the founding of The St. Louis American in 1928. As a practicing attorney, and later a judge, Young spent much of his time researching facts. When not in court, he would delve into court records, newspaper files and history books, talking with anyone he could meet about their memories of life in early St. Louis. He turned his findings into books, poetry, and music. Mr. Young wrote for the St. Louis American for more than 40 years. The often-violent racial unrest that afflicted many Northern cities in the 1920s and 1930s made newspapers like St. Louis American, published by and for the black community, a necessary part of people's lives.

Part 2 Continued Next Edi-



ATTENTION VOTERS IN THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

A General Municipal Election will be held in the City of St. Louis on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Before you go to your polling place to cast a ballot, here are some "helpful hints" to make your voting experience more enjoyable.

- 1. Due to the introduction of a new voting system, you now have the **option** of voting in your **assigned** polling place, or at any **other** polling place that is convenient for you. Your **assigned** polling place will be contained on the "Notice of Election" card you should receive from the Election Board a week or so before the election. If you do not receive such a card, call the Election Board at 622-4336.
- 2. If you moved within the City of St. Louis within the last six months, notify the Election Board so that your registration record can be updated.
- 3. You <u>must</u> have a valid **Photo ID** in order to vote. You can use a current driver's or non-driver's license or a photo ID issued by a government agency. If you do not have a valid **Photo ID** with you but are a registered voter, you will be allowed to vote a **provisional ballot** which will be counted once the Election Board can verify your signature.
- 4. The only items on the April 2 ballot are two Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District propositions a proposed bond issue (Proposition W), and a proposed property tax increase on residential taxable property in the District and a charge on non-residential customers in the District (Proposition S). There are **no candidates** on the ballot and everyone will receive the **same** ballot.
- 5. With the new voting equipment that can generate a ballot on demand, everyone will receive a paper ballot. If you need assisting in voting, the Election Judges at your polling place will help you.

For additional information, please visit the Election Board's web site at http://www.electionboard@stlouis-mo.gov, or call the St. Louis Board of Elections at 314-622-4336.

[Rev. 2-15-24]

NEWSWATCH.

Verdict: Israel Violated International Law

Majority of Countries Decide Against Israel in Recent Ruling at U.N. High Court

by Molly Quell of The Associated Press

THE HAGUE (AP) — The United Nations' highest court on Monday wrapped up historic proceedings into the legality of Israel's 57-year occupation of lands sought by Palestinians for a future state, with most voices at the hearing arguing against the Israeli government.

Over six days, the International Court of Justice heard from an unprecedented number of countries and the majority argued Israel was violating international law and called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

"The real obstacle to peace is obvious — the deepening occupation by Israel of the Palestinian



territories, including East Jerusalem, and failure to implement the two-state vision, Israel and Palestine living side by side," Turkey's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmet Yildiz said.

The hearings addressed a request by the U.N. General Assembly for a non-binding opinion on the legality of Israel's poli-

cies. The court says it will issue its opinion in "due course." On average, advisory opinions are released six months after oral proceedings.

The Tragic Story of Aaron Bushnell

U.S. Serviceman Sets Himself Ablaze Outside Israel Embassy in Protest of Israeli War on Gaza

ARGUS Staff Report

NewslIsrael War on Gaza

U.S. Airman Sets Himself on Fire Outside Israel Embassy to Protest 'Genocide'

Active duty airman reportedly said he did not want to be 'complicit in genocide' as he lit himself on fire.

An active member of the United States military has set himself on fire outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, DC, according to officials, in an apparent act of protest against Israel's devastating war on Gaza.

Aaron Bushnell, 25, was rushed to the hospital on Sunday with "critical life-threaten-

ing injuries", according to the US capital's fire department.

The agency said emergency responders rushed to the scene just before 1pm (18:00 GMT) in response to a "call for person on fire outside the Israeli embassy". They arrived to find that officers from the US Secret Service had already extinguished the fire.

The US Air Force confirmed the incident involved an active duty airman.

'Free Palestine!'

US media reports said Bushnell livestreamed himself on Twitch, wearing fatigues and declaring he would "not be complicit in genocide" before dousing himself in liquid.

He then lit himself on fire while yelling "Free Palestine!" until he fell to the ground.

The footage has since been removed from Twitch. Local police said they are investigating the incident.

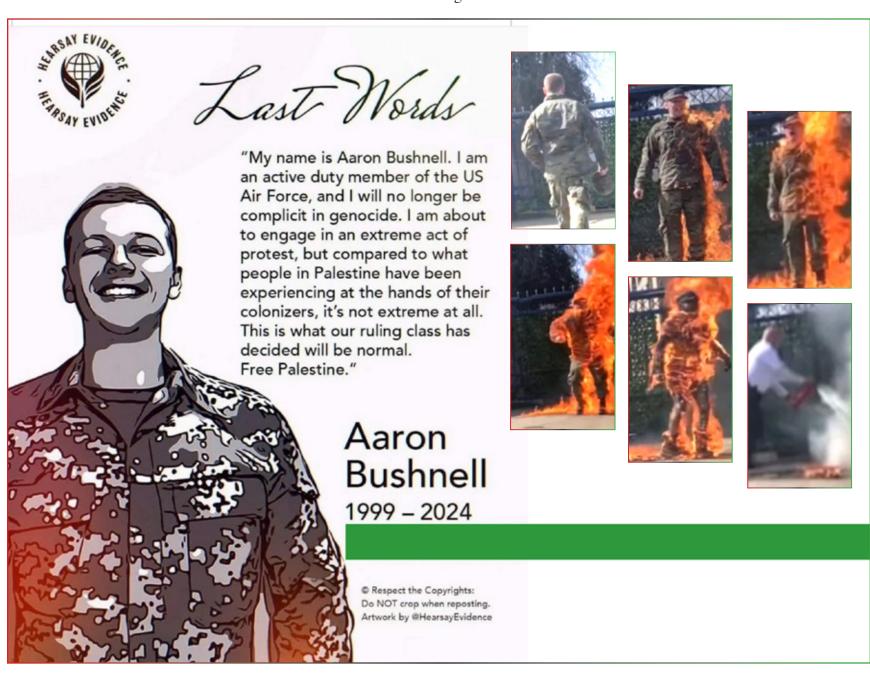
The police also said an explosive ordinance disposal was requested to the scene in relation to a suspicious vehicle that may be connected to the individual. It later said that no hazardous material was found.

The Israeli embassy said all of its staff members were safe, a spokesperson told the New York Times.

Israel's embassy has been the target of continued protest against the Israeli war on Gaza. The protests started after October 7 when Hamas, the Palestinian group that rules Gaza, killed 1,200 Israelis and seized 253 hostages in a cross-border attack.

Since then, Israeli forces have waged a military campaign against the coastal enclave, laying much of it to waste, with nearly 30,000 people dead, according to Palestinian health officials.

In December, a protester set herself on fire outside the Israeli Consulate in Atlanta. A Palestinian flag was found at the scene, and the act was believed to be one of "extreme political protest".



ACLOSERIOOK

Historic ARGUS Coverage

The Emmett Till Case Unearthed an Unexpected Truth







by Jessica Primiani
ARGUS Contributor

The St. Louis Argus began publishing in 1912 and going on 113 years has never ceased operating.

In fact, today the Argus holds the title for the oldest continuously operating African American-owned business in St. Louis, Missouri. Over the years, the Argus has covered a number of stories, perhaps none more important than Emmett Till's kidnapping, subsequent murder, and trial of the responsible individuals in 1955.

Many Argus readers may know that story: Emmett Till was a fourteen-year-old African-American boy from Chicago visiting relatives in Money, Mississippi, who was brutally murdered for whistling at a white woman at a store in a tiny Delta town. His murder and his trial (all convicted parties were eventually acquitted. Although, they later gave a very misleading confession to the murders, halfbrothers Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam could not be retried under Double Jeopardy) fueled the Civil Rights movement. Today, whether it's Michael Brown, LaQuan Mc-Donald, or Tamir Rice, the spectra of Emmett Till hangs over the nation's treatment of young, black men.

The publisher of the Argus, Mrs. Nannie Mitchell Turner, as well as writer, Steve Duncan, and photographer, William B. Franklin, were among a tiny cadre of black press who'd assembled for the trial. In fact, the three member staff of the Argus represented the most black members of one news organization—white or black—at the trial. Their voice is crucial to understanding the trial as it actually happened, especially since so few black journalists were there in Sumner to cover the precedentshaping event.

So, what's the problem? This is where I come in. All existing copies of the Argus on microfilm that we could locate were missing September and October 1955 – the two months of the Emmett Till murder and trial. And yet, we knew from much documented

history that the Argus was there and there in force. In the spring of 2013, I was a senior at Florida State University. I had taken a few courses with Dr. Davis Houck in college, and during my final semester, I was to be his research assistant. At the time, among many other things, he was researching the trial of Emmett Till, as well as lending a hand to friend, Devery Anderson's, whose remarkable book Emmett Till was just published a few months back. We had major challenges to tracking down the missing microfilm: We were far from Mississippi and far from St. Louis, but the trial When was about to come to life in present-day Tallahassee.

Davis asked me to look through the microfilm to see if I could find the missing months. So, I researched in the twenty-first century. I wasn't digging through boxes in the basement of the library in the dead of night; rather, I was sitting on my laptop emailing numerous universities, historical societies, and museums asking for their copy of the microfilm to see if it also was missing the months in question. And, since a lot of these places get their copies of microfilm from one another – they all had the same mistake. That is, until I came across The State Historical Society of Missouri.

When I finally scrolled across October 1955 I could hardly believe it. I quickly scrolled forward and quickly scrolled back. There was October and November 1955, right in front of my eyes. Throughout the semester, I had been taking notes on my progress in searching for these missing articles. Many entries sounded the same. "I contacted [blank]. Their copy is also missing October and November. Searched through the microfilm from [blank] and [blank]. Missing entries." However, on March 18, 2013, I simply wrote: "I FOUND THE MISSING ARGUS."

We were ecstatic. Among the information the missing two months held, we found numerous pictures that had never been seen by pretty much anyone-including today's historians. Medgar Evers, the NAACP Field Secretary in Mississippi who helped find key witnesses in the case, was photographed by Mr. Franklin. The articles and pictures help us understand what was happening during the trial, as well as what was happening within the black press, and how the black press reacted to a very defensive and angry white Mississippi.

We quickly shared our discovery with the wider journalistic and academic world; after all, what's the point in making such a big discovery if you can't share it with your friends? In brief, we solved one mystery associated with the Till case. There remain many more, but getting to work on this one together has been a wonderful collaboration—with a happy ending.



Jessica Primiani, a Florida State University undergraduate student (seen above with Florida State Communications Professor Davis Houck), has discovered long-missing articles and photographs from an African-American newspaper that sheds light on the infamous Emmett Till murder case from 1955.

Primiani, a communication and English double major, has been working on a directed independent study project with Professor Davis Houck of the Florida State School of Communication, who co-authored a book on press coverage of Till murder and trial.

Till, who was a 14-year-old boy visiting Mississippi from Chicago, was brutally killed after allegedly flirting with a white woman. The incident and subsequent murder trial helped spark the civil rights movement.

"The ARGUS was the best represented among a very small contingent of black press," Houck said. "It's clear in examining the documents that the black community of St. Louis had a special investment in the murder of Emmett Till and the search for justice in the case."

Primiani's discovery of documents from the St. Louis Arguson the Till murder trial may bring to the fore new information on the case. Houck says he still has to go through the documents from the newspaper archive to see if the articles and other documents provide new evidence on the Till case.

The archive does contain several exclusive pictures of Medgar Evers, a civil rights leader, as well as articles written on the trial and murder from the perspective of African-American journalists of that era.





Insight the second seco

PUBLISHER'S PERSPECTIVE

The Ramblings of An Issuecrat:

A Treatise On Plantation Politics and The Negro Whisperer

Explore the complex world of plantation politics and the controversial role of the Negro Whisperer in this insightful political commentary.

by T.D. El-Amin
ARGUS Publisher

Where and when will there be a concerted effort to bring about substantive and specific change through policy, advocacy and action for Black America? Sometimes as I look at statistical analysis of present and past conditions of the state of Black America, I don't know if I'm reading something from 1950 or 2024. Which for sake of this writing call attention to years of benign neglect from the pulpits, City Halls, the State Capitol, Washington and otherwise impotent political engagement.

This is not a wholesale condemnation of the Black political body because there are bright, courageous, vibrant and unapologetic leaders among us and some vintage warriors and elders who still carry the mantle for community



struggle. In a general, and collective sense it seems leadership and thus followers/supporters for the sake of being politically correct or blind loyalty are like sheep being led to slaughter refusing to challenge their political shepherds. It is said in our faith tradition,

"That God does not change the condition of man until he changes that which is in his/her heart". Well until our hearts and minds are unapologetic in commitment to advancing a specific agenda to edify our community conditions and interests, the African-American community will continue to achieve pyrrhic, feel-good victories. The reality is those who've been charged with authority are failing us; slow to speak to issues of specific relevance and reluctant to put forth a vision and collective effort in advancing an specific agenda.

Black leadership seemingly tends to sit idly while the interest of every cause and people precedes the African-Americans. It is in my opinion, that it is unintelligent and traitorous to the interest of the African-American community to continue to allow anyone to let partisan division, dogmatic loyalties or affiliations take precedence over issues that specifically impact African-Americans.

Our issues and plight can't be lost in a melting pot of a stew that we can't appreciate the sweet ingredients of collective community success of our people. Our votes and support thus should be based on what and who best represents us, those who are committed to inclusion and the possibilities for our growth socially, politically and economically.

Our support of those desiring office must be qualified to the ex-

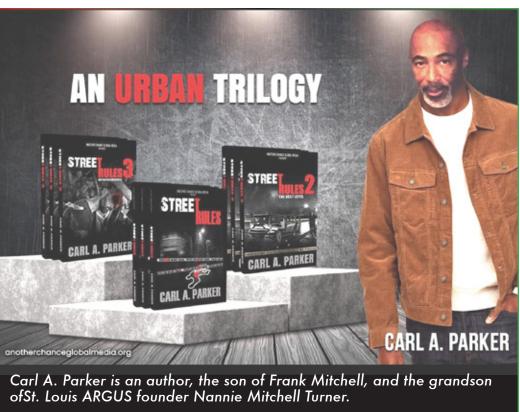
tent of their support to our needs. This requires a more independent thinking and advocacy that allows for more critical engagement of issues and advocacy. When I hear elected officials, pastors and common folk speak of being bound to the unholy matrimony of our people to a party and its platforms over our own independent platforms and interests, I think of a political plantation with slaves being content with scraps rationed out by an overseer.

When I hear someone espouse the description of what is a "Good Democrat" or "Good Republican" as it relates to African-Americans, I hear the words "That's a good boy!" It is a mindset inconsistent with the mindsets of our most respected leaders, such as Frederick Douglas, Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Dr. King, Elijah Muhammed, Stokely Carmichael and others who were clear in their leadership aims...the edification of our community by any and all means necessary.

We must be weary of the monolithic Negro Whisperer, that one person, group or organization that is passed off as the conduit of the masses of Black voices and votes. Time for us to politically grow up in 2024 and be independent thinkers with collective aims.

#PlantationPolitics, #NegroWhisperer, #Issuecrat







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CULTURE



RACE AND SELF-DETERMINATION

Wisdom Wear: Brothas Not N*ggas

Self-Respect Begins with How We Show Respect to One Another

An Interview With G. Avery Muhammad Brand Developer

Black men are not inherently adversaries, and black women are not innately the stereotypes propagated by Hollywood and the music industry. This is the fundamental message conveyed by Brothers, not N*ggas, LLC, a St. Louis-based company dedicated to reshaping the narrative of how Black men and women relate to one another.

"A wise man once said the best thing we can call each other is Brother and Sister," says G. Avery Muhammad of Brothas Not Niggas. He questions why mainstream media, particularly TV and the music industry, seems to actively promote the contrary.

Muhammad argues that our adversaries understand the influence of media and deliberately showcase degenerate behavior for Black individuals to emulate. He points out how derogatory terms, such as 'B**ch,' have become normalized due to music without facing significant backlash from regulatory bodies like the FCC.

He challenges individuals to reconsider the language they use, urging them to associate derogatory terms with their literal meanings, emphasizing the absurdity. Muhammad prompts reflection on whether one would want their daughter to be referred to as such or their son to marry someone characterized as such.

"Even when playing, every time you say B**tch you

should think 'Female Dog' and see how that sounds... And every time you say Nigga imagine a white corn husker saying it, with emphasis on ER, and see if it sits well," says G. Avery Muhammad.

Muhammad encourages a broader perspective, contemplating the Black man's historical roles as builders and celestial navigators over millions of years, emphasizing that the term "Nigga" does not encapsulate the true essence of Black identity.

"A Nigga is an American-made product. But we've only been that for 400 years. What was the Black man for the millions of years we've been on this planet... building pyramids and mapping stars? 400 years is a blink compared to millions of years. So what is the Black man really? Not a Nigga. We're more like our Father, a builder, a god when left alone and when we incline towards Him." Says Muhammad.

"Our goal is to remind us who we are without the negative media programming from Hollywood and the music industry," states Muhammad. To delve deeper into and support the mission of Brothas Not Niggas, visit BNN-SNB.com.









Black History Is More Than a Month

Let's Value African American Culture, Voices and People All Year Long

by Taylor Tiamoyo Harris

ARGUS Contributor

Every month, week, day and time of the year is the time to critique St. Louis media outlets on their coverage of Black people and retention of Black reporters and newsmakers. I'll take Black History Month though. This may be the only time my opinion is deemed valid or newsworthy. Buy. Eat. Support Black-owned businesses.

Yes,I must sheepishly admit my shopping habit is fueled by themed sales in February, capitalizing on Black plight and perseverance. And yes, repost, like, share, snap or clap for all content celebrating contributions to American society by Black people. I'll continue to. It's deserved and overdue, every time. But I think we can do better. After all,



coverage of Black lives and culture seems to be quite lucrative for St. Louis media outlets.

Certainly, we can respect and value the backs of those from whom we benefit.

This is blunt and forthright. I fear it may even come across as gauche. Forgive the staccato. First-person writing isn't my forte, but a lack of tact is a necessary sacrifice considering the subject at hand. I only have a

few weeks left for Black History Month anyways.

Let me continue. The tenacity of Linda Lockhart is what I personally admire. Linda and I are both Black women, and now former reporters from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. But Linda has excelled as a reporter, editor, news executive and every other position in between in several St. Louis and Midwest newsrooms in her notable 40-plus-year career.What better way to end Black History month than paying respect to a Living Legend? I sat in the audience February 1 as Linda was inducted in the St. Louis Media History Foundation's Hall of Fame, rightfully

Days after I moved to St. Louis in 2019 at age 25 to take a job

see HAPPY BLACK HISTORY, Page A9





BUILDING PATHWAYS TO BETTER MENTAL WELLBEING

Bridging Gaps, Restoring Harmony

A Journey in Counseling: Turning the Tables on Life's Challenges

by Tina Turner
Licensed Mental
Health Consultant

In a world often fraught with challenges, where tensions simmer and relationships fray, the role of counseling emerges as a beacon of hope, offering pathways to understanding, healing, and growth. With over 17 years of dedicated experience, I stand as a steadfast guide, committed to empowering individuals and families to navigate the complexities of life with resilience and grace.

Anger Management:

In the turbulence of modern existence, anger can become a disruptive force, straining relationships and hindering personal fulfillment. Through targeted interventions and empathetic support, I assist individuals in harnessing the power of their emotions, transforming anger into constructive energy. By cultivating self-awareness and equipping clients with coping strategies, we pave the way towards healthier responses and enhanced interpersonal connections.

Marriage Counseling:

The fabric of matrimony is woven with threads of joy, compromise, and understanding. Yet, even the strongest bonds may encounter rough patches along the way. In my practice, I foster a nurturing environment where couples can openly explore their concerns and aspirations. Drawing upon evidence-based techniques and a wealth of experience, I guide partners



towards deeper communication, mutual respect, and renewed commitment. Together, we lay the groundwork for enduring harmony and mutual support.

Youth Counseling and Mentoring:

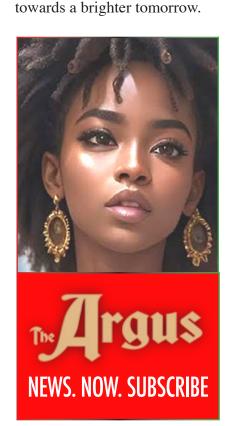
The journey from adolescence to adulthood is rife with discovery, identity formation, and occasional turbulence. As a mentor and counselor, I am privileged to walk alongside young individuals as they navigate this transformative phase of life. Through personalized guidance and compassionate listening, I empower youths to overcome obstacles, embrace their strengths, and forge a path towards fulfillment. Whether grappling with academic pressures, peer relationships, personal identity, I provide a safe space for exploration and growth.

Mentoring Program:

Investing in the next generation is not merely a choice but a moral imperative. Recognizing the immense potential within every young person, I have developed a comprehensive mentoring program aimed at nurturing leadership skills, resilience, and social responsibility. By fostering meaningful connections and providing mentorship from seasoned professionals, we equip youths with the tools and confidence to shape a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

Conclusion:

As I reflect on my journey in counseling, I am humbled by the countless lives touched and transformed along the way. Each session, each conversation is an opportunity to sow seeds of healing and hope, fostering resilience and restoring harmony. With unwavering dedication and a compassionate heart, I look forward to continuing this meaningful work, bridging gaps, and guiding individuals



Mentorship: Women Lead the Way

Women Role Models Focus on Empowering the Next Generation of Youth

by Deneen Busby

Learn how women are taking charge and empowering the next generation of youth through leadership and social impact. Discover the impact of women's empowerment on youth development.

Table for Four brings together influential leaders for a worthy cause

It is that time of the year! The highly anticipated Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGC-STL) Annual Women's Leadership Table for Four Luncheon will be held Thursday, April 11, 2024, from 11 am – 1 pm at the Ritz Carlton, 100 Carondelet Plaza in Clayton, Mo. 63105.

The luncheon is an exclusive event led by St. Louis' philanthropic leaders and benefits BGC-STL's SMART Girls program. It is an afternoon of inspiration and empowerment. The event's co-chair are Gina M. Bremehr, president & CEO of Object Computing Inc., and Spry Digital



Founder & CEO Sheila Burkett. The President of Harris-Stowe State University, Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith, E.D., serves as the Honorary Event Co-Chair.

BGCSTL President Dr. Flint Fowler says, "We look forward to Table for Four because it presents the opportunity for our supporters to see the impact of Boys & Girls Clubs programming. Proceeds benefit our SMART Girls program, which gives young girls and teens the developmental tools to make good choices and gain confidence."

KTVI Anchor and Reporter

Shirley Washington serves as Emcee for the program. Attendees can look forward to hearing positive words from Guest Speaker and Build-A-Bear Founder Maxine Clark. In 2023, nearly 400 guests raised over \$120k to support SMART Girls programming. SMART Girls develop healthy lifestyles, positive self-esteem, and good decision-making. There are three age groups for SMART Girls, from 8 to 18.

Two BGCSTL Club members receive \$1,000 scholarships for volunteerism and leadership in the Joan Ellyn Silber, Dr. Flint

Fowler, and June McAllister Fowler Awards. Last year's Joan Ellyn Silber Award Recipient, Jiyu Zhang, is a Teen Center of Excellence/St. Louis Internship Program (TCOE SLIP) member and a Youth of the Year Finalist. Zhang credits SLIP for helping her find her voice. "I learned to open myself up and network with others," she added. As a Hazelwood West Senior High senior, Zhang is mulling over university choices.

A male Club member is the recipient of the Dr. Flint Fowler and June McAlister Fowler Award. In 2023, Youth of the Year, Ismail Botchway received the award. A Senior at Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience, Botchway is headed to Washington University. It's further proof that BGCSTL programs work! To learn more about this event or BGCSTL teen programs, visit https://support.bgcstl.org/t44.

#WomenEmpowerment #YouthDevelopment #NextGenerationLeaders

THE VIBE

A Meet and Greet at the Heartland

Mayor Jones Says Hello to Members of the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce



by Rosalind Guy ARGUS Contributor

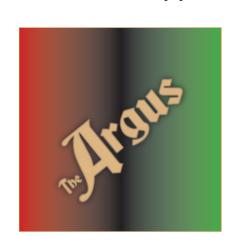
Photo #1) Chamber members (L) Dr. Linda Ogbah Faas, President of the African Chamber of Commerce and (R) Charleen Hoskins, CEO of A Property& Casualty Education Firm were among many who took time to network following the presentation.

Photo #2) On Thursday February 22, Marvin Steele, President and CEO of the Heartland St. Louis Black Chamber of Commerce (HSTLBCC) invited Mayor Tishaura O. Jones to tour the office suites. To the Mayor's surprise 50 members were on hand for a presentation expressing the appreciation of her commitment to restore the vitality of North St. Louis Black communities after decades of disinvestment.

Photo #3) Other members and guests attending Lto R: Jonathan Strong, STL Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer, Dr. Dwight Bailey, the Heartland St. Louis Black Chamber of Commerce (HSTLBCC), Senior Vice President of Development, Audrey Ellerman, Vandeventer Community Development Corporation, Peg Weathers, President & CEO of Grand Center, Inc and Dr. Marvin Steele, President & CEO of Heartland St. Louis Black Chamber of Commerce.

Photo #4) Me, Rosalind Guy, founder and director of Rosalind Guy Photography & Public Relations Ministries since 1979. Assisting those in need of distribution of good news of their great community works!

Photo #5) Mr Rodney Maurice Norman, Online Content Editor for The ARGUS Newspaper.













SOCIETY



ST. LOUIS STYLE AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Looks of the Lou!

The Latest in Gateway City Fashion Trends!

by Mike Jones
Fashion / Entertainment
Contributor for The ARGUS

Hello my beautiful people, it's me again Mike Jones! I pray all is well in the community. First of all, we at the Argus Newspaper want to thank any and everyone that advertises with us! Now, on to the news!

I want to send all love to Helen Banks and her Laughin' and Brunchin' Event. It was amazing! The comedians were so funny (all of them), but B Phlat and Lady Ree were my favorites! They were hilarious!

The food was a feast -everything you could think of
was on menu! Thanks to the chef!
Liquor was served by a great
staff, and everyone was dressed
to impress. St. Louis showed out
and sold out! Thanks again Helen
Banks for having me, I had a
great time! Thanks all of you for
your support! Until next time, be
great on purpose!













HAPPY BLACK HISTORY, from A6

with the Post-Dispatch, it was Linda who spotted me walking home from a meeting for Black journalists. She informed me she was driving me home, but not before an impromptu tour of the city. I happily obliged.

Her warmth and reassurance was needed in order for me to acclimate myself to a new city through a role that branded me a devil's advocate, nuisance and skeptic. Quintessential titles I considered a badge of honor as a pursuer of justice.

Often, we discussed the nuanced tasks of fairly and accurately portraying Black people that did not exploit. How best to address headlines, quotes, pictures and irrelevant facts that unnecessarily depicted Black people in a negative light. Diplomatic, but not docile. This was advocacy simply for integrity. It spanned beyond the Post-Dispatch newsroom, and thankfully some battles were won that the general public will never know about. But I often felt my pleas fell on deaf ears.

The void between the Black community and mainstream St. Louis media outlets will not be filled without acknowledging the predatory and faulty reporting of the past. Or by continuing those practices. Those angry reader and viewer calls and emails are prompted by the irresponsible sensationalization of bleak realities of continuously deprived people. Missing vital data, facts and other context inevitably renders coverage unbalanced. Or maybe it's both-sidesing of ethical and moral issues, invoking objectivity as a defense, a fallacy in itself centered around a white point of view.

Let's Cook

Sprinkle parsley on a meal for garnishment.

That's how I see St. Louis media news outlets typically address race. Some reporters, even Black, plead a colorblind approach. I don't have time for the ignorance.

As human beings, we are all our lived experiences, including reporters. Often, I report and interview people about incidents I also survived. I know others have as well

The journalistic methods are objective because the reporter can never be. Marty Baron of the Washington Post referenced this concept from Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel, authors of The Elements of Journalism. The journalism process is designed to eradicate those intrinsic biases as much as possible. Inquisitively approach each topic with an open mind. Due diligence in researching, interviewing and understanding the topic from all points of view aids the reporter in this process. Another check and balance arrives through an editing process and engagement with community members. But the system fails, coverage lacks, when there is little diversity in demographics such as race, gender and social class in newsrooms.

Blackness, race moreso, might be regarded as a social construct, but it's quite a visible one.

I probably covered 100 actions, demonstrations and protests in my four years at the Post-Dispatch. That visible social construct grouped me along with the other droves of protesters. As a "print reporter," only my badge and lanyard divided us. I don't have a problem admitting at times my press badge was my only shield from harm.

My shield upended me to ap-

proach protesters of all races and backgrounds, police and whoever was willing to simply have a conversation to permit me to pick their brain.

St. Louisans who have an appearance, vernacular and cadence that mirrors my own friends and family are not a detriment to me as a reporter who is also a Black woman. I embrace it. I utilize it. I take great pride in the connections and rapport I've built with St. Louis leaders, changemakers, troublemakers and community.

That connection thrives, I believe, because of my love and dedication to the craft of journalism and experience reporting on Black and marginalized communities in Washington, D.C., Dallas, New York and New Jersey.

Or maybe they just like the Southern drawl I let slip every now and then. Who truly knows.

There is no other Taylor Tiamoyo Harris. But local news leaders should know there are plenty of Black voices within the region of St. Louis capable of telling their own stories. Look for them. If you can't find them, develop them. Train and listen to them. Or you will lose them.

Unfortunately, the job simply won't get done if we only leave it to the heads of white men, the main demographic controlling St. Louis news media. Reluctantly, I rose to the occasion myself, serving as vice president and president of the Black journalism association where I met Linda. In those roles for the St. Louis chapter for the National Association of Black Journalists, I also served as education chair, heading the scholarship program and program director for the high school journalism work-

shop, serving in my role to increase the pipeline of Black students in journalism. I'm proud to remain a member of the local and national organizations and serve as a mentor to youth from all backgrounds interested in journalism.

All in the media must play their part — the intern, producer, editor, reporter and anchor. If our role is to fairly and accurately capture society, we must all learn, incorporate historical factors and systemic inequalities that play a role in the communities on and for which we report. Analyze the types of pictures we use, questions we ask, people we choose to interview and voices we highlight. Steadfastly monitor and watch our reliance on single sources, especially government and law enforcement.

Anything less than is a disservice to the people we expect and plead to tune in, read and subscribe to our content every day.

I ended my stint at the Post-Dispatch in December 2023. I'm happy to remain in St. Louis. Still learning. Still listening. Still reporting on this region's clashes and perils of racism and classism that harm our public and personal safety.

So, let me remind you. Race is not a garnish. It is, in fact, a main ingredient in the stories we cook every day. Our roles as storytellers demand us do better.

That is a very doable concession.



SPORTS

COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS HEADLINES

Jakayla Kirk's Joyful Return to Hoops

Jefferson College Womens Basketball Standout Returns to her Remarkable Roots

by Lonnel Cole
ARGUS Sports Writer

Jakayla Kirk makes joyful return to hoops career for Jefferson College women's team by Lonnel Cole

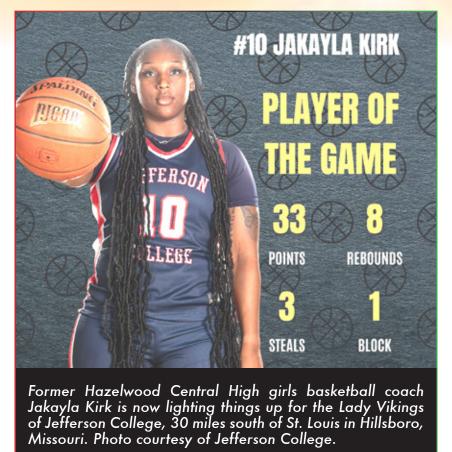
Jakayla Kirk will never know if she would have been of a girls state championship basketball team at Hazelwood Central High the winter of 2020. With her Lady Hawks on the brink of playing for the Missouri Class 5 title by advancing to the state semifinals following a 79-60 victory over Troy Buchanan in the state quarterfinals, a few days the Missouri State Activities Association called off the rest of the postseason games due to the rising Covid-19 pandemic virus.

For the remaining large schools still in a chase for a state title, March Madness became school sadness, as all extracurricular activities were halted and eventually the schools went to virtual learning the rest of the school year. The club had gotten hot at the right juncture to finish with a 21-8 mark, including a convincing 14-point late regular season win over Kirkwood, which had advanced in the other semifinal.

Hazelwood Central was set to play Columbia Rock Bridge in one semifinal, while Kirkwood would be pitted against Blue Springs in the other matchup. But those games never came to pass.

"Of course I was proud of our team for making it that far because everyone doubted us (earlier in the year)," recalled Kirk, a 5-11 star player at Jefferson College, a two-year community college institution in Hillsboro, about 30 miles south of St. Louis.. "Of course I wish they would have let us go play because we really had a good chance to win it all under Coach (Chantel) Polk."

Polk, is now the coach of a 21-3 Lift For Life Academy program, which fell just two points shy of beating John Burroughs, a regional



powerhouse in West County. Meanwhile, Kirk, after taking some time off following high school, is quite the 'power' player herself with the Lady Vikings in Hillsboro. She has averaged as much as 22 points per game and eight rebounds and three

assists this season, in helping the

lead to a club to a 15-7 mark.

Jefferson College coach Cornelius Walker, a former Vashon High standout, who averaged over 18 points for the storied Wolverines program in 2007, said Kirk's dedication to refine her conditioning in the offseason has paid dividends now.

"She did a great job in the summer to get in better shape," noted Walker. "She's a big combo forward (who can play small or power forward). Being an older player as well has helped her. It has helped become more of a leader because she's more mature."

With regards to her versatility, Kirk respectfully begs to differ with on she arrived there. She attributes more to her 'will' than the attributes, although she does acknowledge she puts in a lot of hard work to get better.

"It just has more to do with having heart, having the heart to know you can do anything you want to do if you work for it," she explained.

Then again she's no stranger to success, given what she accomplished at Hazelwood Central. The current coach at Hazelwood Central, James Holloway, didn't coach her then but he was coaching at Cardinal Ritter and certainly followed her exploits. Now as the Hawks coach, he has access to old team records and remembers her impact and the scouting reports on her. He called her a "multi-force weapon" back then as well, though .She averaged 18.9 points and 8.97 rebounds.

"She could handle the ball under pressure, shoot the 3-ball, post up," said Holloway. "She made it hard on other teams to guard her. If a coach played a post player on her, she could take that post player away from the basket and score. She was an opposing coach's nightmare."

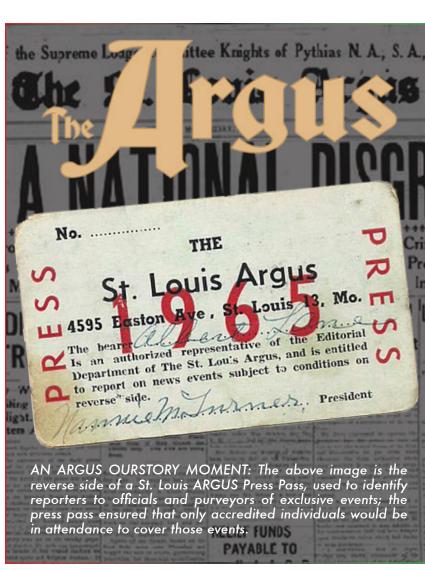
Jefferson College, which resides

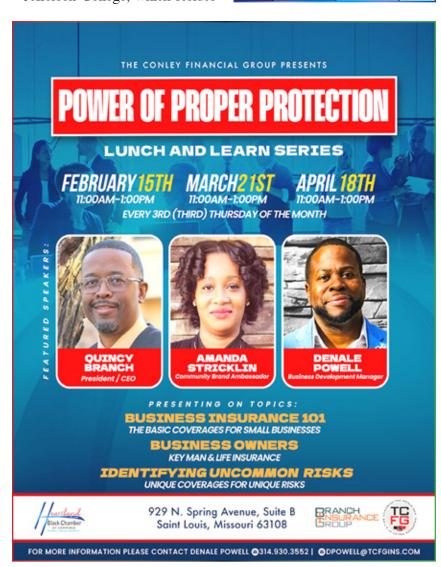
in the Missouri Community College Athletic Conference of regional junior colleges, have produced two really big-time star athletes on the highest professional level. For Chicago White Sox left-handed pitcher Mark Buehrle was the ace of the staff of the 2005 World Series champions, who swept the Houston Astros in four games. Buehrle also threw a perfect game against the Tampa Bay Rays in July 2009. The college also produced All-Star right-handed relief pitcher mike Henneman of the Detroit Tigers in the late 1980s to mid-90's. But they haven't produced a women's basketball player of national prominence-yet.

One thing's for certain, Kirk knows success and her family has experienced athletic success, from siblings to her father Larry Kirk, a football star defender on the once-legendary Sumner Bulldogs program, which still stands alone as the only Public High League team to win a state title in football.. The Bulldogs did four times and reached the championship game nine times. They also produced James Gregory, a defensive line starter on Alabama's 1992 national championship team and Hollis Thomas, a longtime defensive line starter in the Philadelphia Eagles, including the 2005 Eagles team which lost to the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl.

"With the success I already had at Hazelwood Central it's not really much of an adjustment now," she said. "I have to get used to playing before smaller crowds at some games (compared to high school). But the biggest adjustment is not being far from home, staying focused on what I'm at school for (an education.)."









The VIBE

Keeping Your Marriage Drama-Free

Guidelines on Reducing the Histrionics, Heartache, Mess and Stress

by Tiya Cunningham-Sumter of Black & Married with Kids

Guideline #1: Keep the Peace

The first guideline focuses on keeping the peace in your relationship. There are roles, within a marriage, that each partner will play at one time or another, and one of the most significant is that of peacemaker. This role involves the partner who can always bring things back to a place of calm and normalcy. Being the peacemaker will require you to manage your own emotions while assisting your spouse in also navigating through any frustration they might be feeling. It will require you to first process your thoughts and monitor your reactions so that you don't overreact or bring any unhealthy communication habits into your marriage. You will have to think about your triggers, understand why they exist, and use techniques that will guide you back to calm before you can approach your partner. Keeping the peace is a great first step for having a drama free marriage.

Guideline #2: Maintain Open Lines of Communication

I have said it before and I will say it again, communication is absolutely everything in a marriage. Couples should be able to communicate how they are feeling, what they need, and how they feel when their needs aren't being met. What causes most relationship drama and conflict is that someone didn't get what they wanted. When that happens, there has to be some dialogue around it. Maintain open lines of communication by having a safe and judgement free space to discuss the challenges in the relationship. Even when it feels uncomfortable, couples should be able to express themselves freely and also listen to their partner do the same. Not sharing with one another on this level will lead to unresolved issues. If you aren't opening up, things will continue to build and they will eventually come out in some form or fashion, usually with a lot of anger and negative energy. This is where the drama begins. Again, it can be avoided



by simply discussing the issues in your relationships and working together to create solutions for what doesn't seem to be working.

Guideline #3: Use Your Words Carefully

A drama free marriage will not just happen on its own; it will require some mindfulness and a lot of awareness. One thing I have taught over the years in my coaching practice, is how to use your words carefully. You don't ever want to use what you know to hurt your spouse, that's just messy if we're being honest. Believe me, I get it. When your spouse has angered you, hurting them right back might feel like a natural response. But it won't feel as good as you think it will. It's going to hurt you the same way it will hurt them. And who wants to be responsible for purposefully hurting someone they love? So, be thoughtful around talking about your spouse's past. Consider their feelings when you want to bring up something they have shared in their moments of vulnerability. Be kind with your words, especially when you're angry. If you find this is difficult to do, I get it you're human, take some time away from the conversation until you actually can be kind with your words. It's okay to ask your spouse for a minute to gather your thoughts. You don't want the regret of saying something you don't mean and that your partner can't forgive. Words are so powerful and they should always be handled with care.

Guideline #4: Don't Jump to Conclusions

This guideline is one of my favorites because jumping to conclusions is what causes the most drama and mess in any relationship. To avoid this bad relationship habit just ask questions. You don't have to wonder, worry, or guess when you can ask your partner for clarity. Your spouse is the expert for understanding their own thoughts and behaviors. They should be able to tell you why they said what they said and even what caused them to do what they did. All you have to do is ask. Even if they aren't quite sure of their why in the moment, give them some time and believe me they will figure it out and have a response for you. Having the facts, straight from the source, will save you the headache of assuming they meant something they didn't.

Guideline #5: Practice Love

Love is an action that must be practiced. If you are consistently practicing love there will be little time left for drama. You can demonstrate your love in several ways. Show your partner love in how you treat them. Do you show concern when

something is bothering them? Are you checking in with them making sure their needs are being met? Can they feel your support and do they always feel encouraged by you? If not, seek ways to practice love. It will be a choice that you have to make every day and some days won't be as easy as others. If you turn it into a daily mantra, by either writing it down and placing it somewhere visible, or saying it to yourself everyday, it will surely become a habit. A couple of phrases you can use are "Today, I will practice love with my spouse" or "I choose to practice love today and everyday". Either of these phrases are a great place to start.

A drama free marriage is available to any couple who wants it. Of course relationships can be challenging and sometimes make avoiding drama difficult. But also, couples have choices. You and your spouse can make a decision to keep your marriage drama and messy free. Once that choice is made and you begin to follow the guidelines listed here, you will start to see the change you are seeking.





Upcoming: The Cancer Detectives

PBS' American Experience Profiles Pivotal Medical Trailblazers

ARGUS Staff Report

Premieres March 26, 2024

The story of how the life-saving cervical cancer test became an ordinary part of women's lives is as unusual and remarkable as the coalition of people who ultimately made it possible: a Greek immigrant, Dr. George Papanicolau; his intrepid wife, Mary; Japanese-born artist Hashime Murayama; Dr. Helen

Dickens, an African American OBGYN in Philadelphia; and an entirely new class of female scientists known as cyto-screeners. But the test was just the beginning. Once the test proved effective, the campaign to make pap smears available to millions of women required nothing short of a total national mobilization. The Cancer Detectives tells the untold story of the first-ever war on cancer and the people who

fought tirelessly to save women from what was once the number one cancer killer of women.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has provided funding for American Experience and has also provided funding to support research for a book about scientific understanding of female anatomy. The Foundation had no editorial role in the creation of The Cancer Detectives.



LASTLOOK

Dr. Thomas Devitt Named Conway Elementary Principal

On Wednesday, February 28, the Ladue Schools Board of Education approved the recommendation of Thomas Devitt, Ed.D., to serve as the new Principal of Conway Elementary School, effective July 1, 2024.

"We were very fortunate to have several highly qualified candidates apply for this position, which made this a difficult decision, but we are thrilled that Dr. Thomas Devitt has accepted this important role in our district and the Conway community," said Ladue Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim Wipke.

Devitt has more than a decade of educational experience, which includes teaching English Language Arts (ELA) for seven years as a middle school teacher at Lift for Life Academy (LFLA). After his students earned the highest growth and achievement on state-level tests, he served as Academic Instructional Coach for three years, supporting other teachers' growth and development. Devitt was

named LFLA 2016 District Teacher of the Year due to his students' demonstrated growth. While serving as building principal, he helped the district earn its highest-ever Annual Performance Report, a school report card.

In 2019, Dr. Devitt was appointed



as the new founding elementary principal for LFLA. In this capacity, Dr. Devitt was responsible for staffing the building, budgeting, mission and vision work, facilities, parent and community engagement, and so much more.

Devitt earned his doctorate in Educational

Leadership from Saint Louis University in 2023. He holds a Master of Educational Leadership from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences from Saint Louis University. He is a husband and father of two daughters.

"I am very excited about Dr. Devitt's hiring," said Dr. Wipke. "Given his background and many accomplishments, I have total confidence that by working with the amazing staff at Conway and the supportive community, he will make an indelible mark on the school in no time and for many years to come. Special thanks to Interim Principal Lisa Sell and Assistant Principal Dr. Laila Crabtree for their leadership during the 2023-24 school year."

To ensure a seamless transition for students and staff, district administrators will implement a transition plan for Dr. Thomas Devitt, including several meetand-greet opportunities.

CLOSURE, from A1

Coalition, an advocacy group, said that is the norm for the agency's penalties. He said fines frequently are reduced or eliminated.

"Given what happened here, I think it's a fine that's well below what the egregious behavior of this operator merits," he said.

Members of the nursing home's ownership group did not immediately return calls from the Post-Dispatch or The Associated Press seeking comment Wednesday. The closure was chaotic, with many patients left with nothing but the clothes they were wearing, creating confusion and spurring outrage among residents and their families. Some were relocated without their medical records or medication lists.

One resident with schizophrenia was missing more than three weeks before he was found.

Further complicating the closure, Northview housed many residents on Medicaid who couldn't get into other long-term care facilities, including people with mental health and behavioral problems, advocates for the residents have said.

"For everything that happened, it seems low," said Marjorie Moore, executive director of VOYCE, the regional nursing home ombudsman program.

Last month, U.S. Rep. Cori Bush, a St. Louis Democrat, called for a federal investigation of the owners as well as a probe of Missouri's system of overseeing nursing homes.

As of Wednesday, Bush's office had not received any response from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and was not aware of any other actions taken on Northview.











TOP LEFT: Members of the Aloha Phi Alpha ETa Lambda Chapter Foundation present a 25,000 check to HSSU University and President Dr. Tonia Collins-Smith. TOP RIGHT: Rep. Kimberly Ann Collins holding court with students schooling them on process and political engagement. CENTER: State Senator Steve Roberts towers over the dais with students in the Senate Chamber. BOTTOM: Rep. Collins and HSSU President Dr. Collins-Smith present a check to the Harris-Stowe Foundation.