

Taking it to Alzheimer's



Jacob R. Simburger, communications manager for the local Alzheimer's Association, was anxious to share Pat Brown's story. April 18 is the start of Volunteer Week and Simburger could think of no better person to highlight than Brown.

Brown, Simburger wrote to The American, has been a volunteer "group leader" with the organization since 2012. She's also a "faith ambassador," someone who shares Alzheimer's information and resources at local churches. Brown's dedication "really shined through during the pandemic," Simburger said, referring to the twice-monthly Zoom meetings Brown facilitates for spouses and relatives of Alzheimer's patients. Brown, 67, is humbled by Simburger's tribute, but in explaining her motivations, she boiled it down to simply repaying a service she received during a dire time in own her life.

Brown's mother, Hazel Chamberland, died at the age of 76 in 2014 from complications related to Alzheimer's. The symptoms came on gradually, Brown recalled. At first, her mom just couldn't remember names of simple things like "phone book." Within five years, however, her mom could no longer walk, feed herself or go to the restroom without assistance. It took a lot for her and her six remaining siblings to convince their dad, Alvin Chamberland, 88, to place their mother in a nursing home.

"Even though he didn't want to do it, it was just too much for him," Brown said. "Mom was also a diabetic who needed insulin. Sometimes dad would forget to give it to her, and she would become so lethargic." Brown said her father was in denial about his wife's condition. It was all too much. She was frustrated that he would take her mom to doctor's appointments but would always sit in the waiting room. This was problematic because her mother never remembered the doctor's advice and her father was uninformed. Brown confronted the practitioners but was frustrated with their response.

Brown, who at the time worked an administrative position in the Hazelwood School District, decided to take family medical leave to care for her mom. She dedicated herself to learning everything she could about Alzheimer's and different stages of dementia, such as presenile dementia, senile dementia, and post-traumatic dementia. Not only would she accompany her mother on her doctor appointments, but she also started attending the Alzheimer's Association's support groups. At those meetings Brown learned race-related facts about Alzheimer's, such as it being more prevalent among Blacks than whites; that there are greater genetic risks of Alzheimer's in Blacks and that environmental factors may work differently in causing the disease in the Black population.

Hazelwood Central puts wrap on season with victory against Hazelwood West



FLORISSANT — Hazelwood Central junior receiver Armani Turner finished his team's alternate fall football season in style Saturday afternoon despite the windy and overcast conditions.

Turner displayed his athletic ability with a dazzling one-handed catch of an overthrown pass, turning it into a 31-yard touchdown. He also scored on a 23-yard run in the Hawks' 39-0 rout over the visiting Hazelwood West Wildcats.

In last week's game at Pattonville, Turner noted he failed to haul in an overthrown ball. He vowed that wasn't going to happen again. His opportunity to show what he can do came just a few days later.

On the first play of the fourth quarter, junior quarterback Bryson Brown rolled to his right and fired the ball to Turner. It was a high throw, but Turner leaped and corralled it with one hand. He then dashed into the end zone with 11 minutes and 43 seconds left to play.

"I thought he was going to overthrow me," Turner said about Brown. "Last week, I missed an overthrown ball. This week, I had to make something happen. So I just stuck my hand out there. It was just natural. We've got a good quarterback who makes me look good."

Hawks coach Carey Davis enjoyed seeing Turner make that play.

"It was a great catch," Davis said. "It was a great ball and he made the play. He can do that."

Hazelwood Central finished 4-1 and Hazelwood West, which will finish its season next week against Lift for Life, fell to 1-2. Neither competed in the fall because of the coronavirus pandemic and opted into the alternate fall season offered this spring by the Missouri State High School Activities Association.

The Hawks won for the 17th time in 20 meetings against the Wildcats.

Hazelwood Central puts wrap on season with victory against Hazelwood West (Cont'd)



Jamarion Price of Hazelwood Central runs the ball as **Houston Randell of Hazelwood West** will drive him out of bounds in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School in Florissant, Missouri on Saturday, April 10, 2021.



Terrell Whiting (45) of Hazelwood Central recovers a fumble against Hazelwood West in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Brandon Johnson of Hazelwood Central checks out the Hazelwood West defense before snapping the ball in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Jamarion Price of Hazelwood Central runs to the outside to score a touchdown against Hazelwood West in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Romano Gines of Hazelwood West returns a kickoff and is tackled by the defense of Hazelwood Central in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Jamarion Price of Hazelwood Central runs down the sideline against Hazelwood West in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.

Hazelwood Central puts wrap on season with victory against Hazelwood West (Cont'd)



The Hazelwood Central coaching staff send in a play against Hazelwood West in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Lionel Banks of Hazelwood Central high steps into the endzone and scores against Hazelwood West in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Lionel Banks of Hazelwood Central celebrates his touchdown against Hazelwood West in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Aijiah Bland of Hazelwood West is tackled by Jeremiah Scott (53) of Hazelwood Central in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



ClayShaun Davis of Hazelwood Central will shake off Shaun Blackmon (6) of Hazelwood West and score a touchdown in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Armani Turner of Hazelwood Central breaks a tackle and score a touchdown against Hazelwood West in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School

Hazelwood Central puts wrap on season with victory against Hazelwood West (Cont'd)



Armani Turner (2) of Hazelwood Central and Lionel Banks (30) body bump to celebrate scoring a touchdown against Hazelwood West in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School



Aijjah Bland of Hazelwood West is tackled by Lionel Banks (30) and Eric Brown (20) of Hazelwood Central in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Offensive lineman Brandon Johnson (74) of Hazelwood Central protects middle against Hazelwood West in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Jamarion Price (6) of Hazelwood Central blocks for quarterback Bryson Brown (4) against Hazelwood West in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Hazelwood West quarterback Ja'Tarius McKinney fakes the hand off to Romano Gines (1) against Hazelwood Central in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Hazelwood West quarterback Ja'Tarius McKinney is tackled for a loss by Matthew Logan of Hazelwood Central in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.

Hazelwood Central puts wrap on season with victory against Hazelwood West (Cont'd)



Hazelwood West quarterback Ja'Tarius McKinney rolls out looking for a receiver against Hazelwood Central in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Ryan More of Hazelwood West gets the punt off as Matthew Logan of Hazelwood Central goes for the block in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Shaun Blackmon of Hazelwood West finds an opening to gain yardage against Hazelwood Central in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Darren Proudie of Hazelwood West throws a pass as Terrell Whiting of Hazelwood Central applies pressure in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Shaun Blackmon of Hazelwood West follows his blockers against Hazelwood Central in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Romano Gines of Hazelwood West brings down Jamarion Price (6) of Hazelwood Central in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School

Hazelwood Central puts wrap on season with victory against Hazelwood West (Cont'd)



Aijjah Bland of Hazelwood West runs the ball into the secondary of Hazelwood Central in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.



Jayvion Brock of Hazelwood West jumps and catches the ball as Eric Brown (20) of Hazelwood Central makes the tackle in a football game at Hazelwood Central High School.

ABOUT CHILDREN: Free speech, social media, teens and school

What does your child post on social media platforms? Perhaps you should pay attention.

The April 2 American Bar Association Journal had an article on a case that has gone to the United States Supreme Court regarding a student who posted on social media her opinion of her school and her treatment at cheerleading tryouts.

The case, Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L., involves whether a student can be punished for speech on social media over the weekend. This will be the first case to address the ability of a school to impose discipline for speech that occurred out of school and over social media.

B.L. tried out for cheerleading and for the second year was assigned to the junior varsity squad. She was upset because an incoming freshman made the varsity and she did not.

Other cases to consider

Although few, cases regarding students and free speech that have gone to the US Supreme Court are:

- West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette, the court declared unconstitutional a state law requiring students salute the flag at the beginning of the school day.
- Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser (1986), the court upheld the punishment of a student for a speech that was filled with sexual innuendo and given at a school assembly nominating another student for a position in student government.
- **Hazelwood School District** v. Kuhlmeier (1988) it was said “school officials were entitled to regulate the content of [the school newspaper] in any reasonable manner.”
- The most recent Supreme Court in Morse v. Frederick (2007), said the First Amendment was not violated when a student was punished for displaying a banner reading “Bong Hits 4 Jesus.”