

Missouri Ex-teaching assistant convicted of sexually assaulting child

CLAYTON, Mo. (AP) — A former teaching assistant in suburban St. Louis faces sentencing in June after being convicted of sexually assaulting a second grade student at school.

A jury on Thursday found 39-year-old Deonte Taylor of St. Louis County guilty of three counts sodomy and one count of knowingly exposing someone to HIV. Taylor is still awaiting trial on a charge that he tried to hire a hitman to kill the boy, his mother and grandmother.

Authorities say the crime happened in 2015 at **Lusher Elementary School** in Florissant. The boy, now 14, testified Tuesday about the crime. He said he told his mother that afternoon that Taylor had sexually assaulted him.

Taylor has been HIV-positive since 2012. Court testimony indicated the boy has tested negative for the virus.

Prosecutors have said that Taylor's boyfriend, Michael Johnson, gave money to someone he thought was a hitman, but was actually a confidential police informer, to have the boy and his mother killed. Johnson is also charged in the case, which is still pending.



Man shot and killed in Hazelwood Central High School parking lot

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, Mo. – St. Louis County homicide detectives are investigating a murder outside Hazelwood Central High School.

A county police spokesperson said officers responded to a call for a shooting around 6:40 a.m. in the 15800 block of New Halls Ferry Road. When officers arrived, they found a man with a gunshot wound in the parking lot. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police said the victim is not a student and the shooting does not appear to be related to the school in any way.

This investigation is ongoing. Additional information will be disseminated as it becomes available.

Please contact the St. Louis County Police Department at 636-529-8210 to speak with investigators if you have any information regarding this incident. To remain anonymous or potentially receive a reward, please contact CrimeStoppers at 1-866-371-TIPS (8477).



Man found fatally shot in Hazelwood Central's parking lot

ST. LOUIS COUNTY — A man was found dead Sunday morning on the campus of Hazelwood Central High School, St. Louis County police said.

The victim was not a student, police said, and the incident did not appear to be related to the school.

Police received a report of a shooting at the high school at about 6:40 a.m. on Sunday. After arriving at the campus, officers found a man in the parking lot with a gunshot wound. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The school said in a statement on its website that the incident "has no connection to Central High School, Hazelwood School District, or any school activity, and our campus is safe."

Police have not released the name or age of the victim.

Hazelwood Central High School students return to school Monday after fatal shooting in parking lot Sunday



St. Louis County police said the man whose body was found in **Hazelwood Central's** parking lot Sunday does not appear to be connected to the school.

Man found fatally shot in parking lot of Hazelwood Central High School



NORTH ST. LOUIS COUNTY (KMOV) - A man was found fatally shot in the parking lot of Hazelwood Central High School early Sunday morning.

Police say they received a call about a shooting at the high school around 6:40 a.m. When officers arrived, they say they found a man shot in the parking lot. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The shooting is not connected to the school, police believe. Anyone with information on the shooting is asked to call CrimeStoppers at 1-866-371-8477 and leave an anonymous tip.

Man shot, killed outside **Hazelwood Central High School**



St. Louis County police said the shooting does not appear to be connected to the high school in any way.

Body found near north St. Louis County school

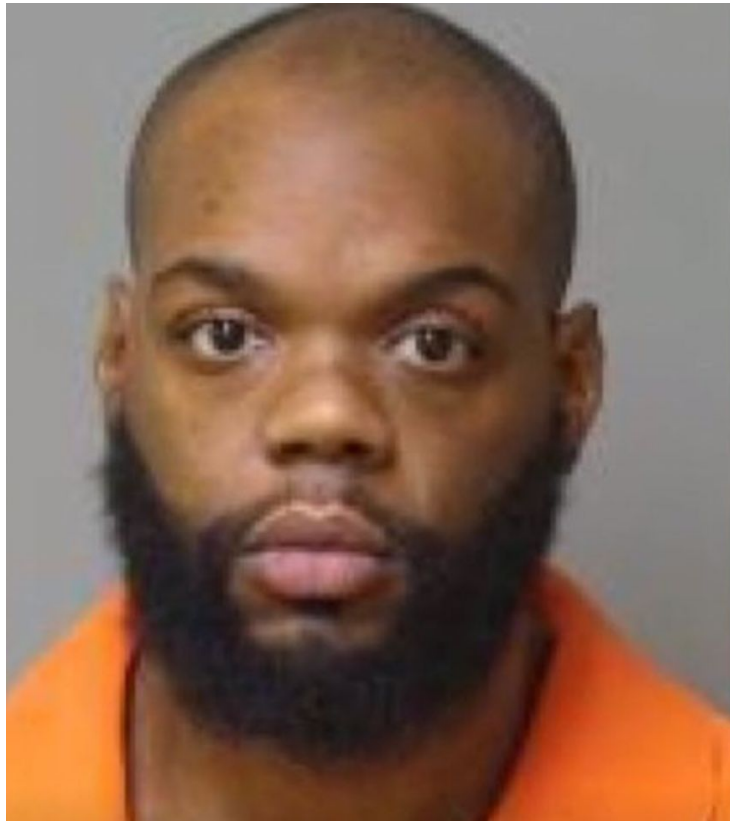


HAZELWOOD (KMOX) -- Investigators say the murder of the man whose body was found outside Hazelwood Central High School on Sunday morning has no apparent connection to the school.

His body was discovered at about 6:40 a.m., in the parking lot of the school on New Halls Ferry. He had apparently been shot.

The victim's name is not being released yet.

Missouri teaching assistant guilty of sexually assaulting child



CLAYTON, Mo. (AP) — A former teaching assistant in suburban St. Louis faces sentencing in June after being convicted of sexually assaulting a second grade student at school. A jury on Thursday found 39-year-old Deonte Taylor of St. Louis County guilty of three counts sodomy and one count of knowingly exposing someone to HIV. Taylor is still awaiting trial on a charge that he tried to hire a hitman to kill the boy, his mother and grandmother. Authorities say the crime happened in 2015 at **Lusher Elementary School** in Florissant. The boy, now 14, testified Tuesday about the crime. He said he told his mother that afternoon that Taylor had sexually assaulted him. Taylor has been HIV-positive since 2012. Court testimony indicated the boy has tested negative for the virus. Prosecutors have said that Taylor's boyfriend, Michael Johnson, gave money to someone he thought was a hitman, but was actually a confidential police informer, to have the boy and his mother killed. Johnson is also charged in the case, which is still pending.

Teens honored during Boys & Girls Club Table for Four fundraiser

Youth of year awarded full ride Scholarship

With the theme of “Women Leading the Way,” the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis held its annual Table for Four event on April 14, 2022, at the Ritz Carlton St. Louis.

The event raised over \$140,000 to support activities and experiences designed to help girls develop healthy lifestyles, positive self-esteem and make good decisions.

Mathews-Dickey Club member LaiJeon Williams and St. Louis Internship participant **Angelia Viviana** won the Joan Ellyn Silber Award for Volunteerism and Leadership, which included a \$1,000 scholarship for each.

Williams is a sophomore at Whitfield School and has served 87 volunteer hours at her school, church Northside Community School and her Club. At the Club she works as a volunteer with the St. Louis Green Machine, helps with community food distribution, assembling care packages and meal kits as well as assistant to the basketball coordinator.

“The thing I enjoy most about Mathews-Dickey is the automatic feeling that I’m at home and the people there are my family. I love how the Club gives out so many opportunities and is a place for people to grow and flourish in many different fields. I feel honored specially to know that my actions and leadership roles have been acknowledged and even better rewarded. I’m very grateful to have received this award and inspired to do even more,” she said

Viviana is a senior at Hazelwood West High School and has served 110 hours for various after school events, including being her school’s head after school tutor.

“Through SLIP I was given the opportunity to learn essential skills for the workplace and an internship in a fascinating field I would have never experienced without SLIP’s support. I was able to learn the satisfaction of designing elaborate projects with my coworkers and being able to present them in front of an audience,” she said.

I will never forget the infinite lessons I learned that summer.” Lailah G. was named 2022 Youth of the Year and received a Presidential Scholarship (a full ride) to Harris- Stowe State University by Harris-Stowe President Dr. LaTonia Collins Smith.

Table for Four co-chair Laura Herring and her family also pledged to gift her a \$5000 scholarship (matching the previously gifted Youth of the Year scholarship by Wanda and Michael DeHaven.

The Herrings are also giving two \$500 scholarships through Impact Group Foundation for the girls who did not win the \$1000 Joan Silber scholarship.



Public Schools Across the Country Receive \$1,000 Athletic Grants from California Casualty

California Casualty re-launched its Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant Program just as student-athletes began the process of safely returning to youth sports in 2021. Of the 481 applications received for 2021/2022 grants, 51 public schools in 26 states each received \$1,000 to support their sports program(s).

SAN MATEO, Calif., April 19, 2022 /PRNewswire-PRWeb/ -- California Casualty will deliver \$51,000 in grants to 51 public middle high schools in 26 states. Since its inception in 2010, the [California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant Program](#) has given \$789,550 to financially burdened athletics programs in public schools across the country.

The grant program was named for California Casualty Chairman Emeritus Tom Brown, an avid sportsman who experienced the positive impact of playing sports as a youth. He believed what coaches and educators have confirmed: lessons learned on athletic fields – teamwork, confidence and sportsmanship – translate to the classroom and beyond.

"Youth sports are important to our children's physical and mental health, especially now. The California Casualty Athletics Grant Program benefits students, schools and communities; and we are honored to be a part of that effort," said Lisa Almeida, Assistant Vice President.

The funds will be used to improve player safety, purchase needed equipment, and restore a sense of normalcy for school athletes. Specific plans to use the funds - as captured by some of this year's grant applications - include:

- Boys' and girls' tennis uniforms, racquets, tennis balls, and repair of ball machine, Weston Ranch High School, Stockton, CA
- Basketball program fees, uniforms and equipment, Place Bridge Academy, Denver, CO
- Additional goggles, swimsuits, caps and equipment used to run a successful Swim program, Portsmouth City Schools, Portsmouth, OH
- Equipment for all athletic programs, to help rebuild after the devastating Alameda fire, Talent Middle School, Talent, OR
- Practice gear and new towels for Wrestling program, Renton High School, Renton, WA

A complete list of 2021/2022 recipients follows.

Public middle and high schools whose sports programs have been impacted by budget restrictions and limited fundraising opportunities can apply for a 2022/2023 California Casualty \$1,000 TRB Athletics Grant at <http://www.calcasathletics.com>. The deadline for consideration is January 15, 2023.

Headquartered in San Mateo, California, with service centers in Arizona, Colorado and Kansas, California Casualty has been serving the needs of educators for 70 years. It is the only auto and home insurance company to earn the trust and endorsement of the NEA. Learn more at <http://www.calcas.com> or by calling 1.800.800.9410.

2021/2022 Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant Recipients

[Hazelwood East High School, St. Louis](#)

Long View On Lighting Retrofits



In July 2021, the **Hazelwood School District** in St. Louis County, Missouri completed a district-wide lighting retrofit. Addressing both interior and exterior lighting, this project comprised new LED lighting technology across all 34 buildings within the school district. The district and its energy partner, cleantech integrator Ameresco, estimate the project will result in more than \$1.25 million in cost savings in utilities, operations, and maintenance. The Hazelwood School District is the third largest in St. Louis County and the 11th largest in the State of Missouri. Its schools encompass just over 3.1 million square feet. With a student population of over 17,000, the district's facilities comprise 11 preschools, 21 elementary schools, six middle schools, three high schools, and an administration building.

The Hazelwood School District initially began working with Ameresco 18 years ago looking to reduce its overall energy spend and leverage the savings to improve the district's learning environment. For this most recent project in 2021, Ameresco identified needed facility upgrades throughout the district—a project that utilized the company's Asset Planner software, which utilizes embedded data to recognize energy savings opportunities.

Ameresco's relationship with the Hazelwood School District dates back to 2003. Since the inception of this partnership, the two organizations have completed projects that have included the installation of acoustic ceilings, security upgrade enhancements, and the replacement of outdated HVAC systems across the district.

Said Christopher Norman, CFO/Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Facilities, for Hazelwood School District, "The district has been working with Ameresco as a partner for many years to continually improve efficiencies, reduce our energy consumption, and work towards being an energy-responsible school district. We believe the new LED lighting systems will enhance the overall school experience for our students and staff and will allow us to reallocate the savings towards academics and student services.