

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Scholarship winner keeps Dr. King's dream alive

Kennady Carter, a senior at Hazelwood West High School, was the winner of a Christian Hospital Foundation Drum Major Scholarship. Every year the Foundation's Steering Committee awards one \$500 scholarship to a deserving student who

plans to enter a career in healthcare. She was selected to represent the Hazelwood School District due to her winning essay titled, "What I Can Do to Keep Dr. King's Dream Alive."

Kennady has a 4.14 GPA. She is very active at Hazelwood West as the senior class president, student council secretary, and captain of the tennis team. She also is a member of several school clubs including the National Honor Society and heads the school's Special Olympics Committee.

Kennady plans to attend either Prairie View A&M University or the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She hopes to become a pediatric nurse practitioner because she has a love of helping people and putting others before herself. Along with a major in nursing, she hopes to minor in Spanish so she can help even more people from different backgrounds.

Kennady will be awarded the scholarship during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Luncheon on Jan. 17 at 11:30 a.m. in the Detrick Building Atrium at Christian Hospital.



Photo courtesy Hazelwood School District

e.com

Companies!



(636) 229-7000

# Scholarship Winner Keeps Dr. King's Dream Alive

Kennady Carter, senior at Hazelwood West High School, was the winner of a Christian Hospital Foundation Drum Major Scholarship. Every year the Foundation's Steering Committee awards one \$500 scholarship to a deserving student who plans to enter a career in healthcare. She was selected to represent the Hazelwood School District due to her winning essay titled, "What I Can Do to Keep Dr. King's Dream Alive."

Kennady has a 4.14 GPA. She is very active at Hazelwood West as the senior class president, student council secretary, and captain of the tennis team. She also is a member of several school clubs including

the National Honor Society and heads the school's Special Olympics Committee.

Kennady plans to attend either Prairie View A&M University or the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She hopes to become a pediatric nurse practitioner. Kennady will be awarded the scholarship at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Luncheon on Friday, Jan. 17, at 11:30 a.m. in the Detrick Building Atrium at Christian Hospital. (See related story on page 2)



**Kennady Carter**



**Quinn Woodard** visited Jury Elementary School to share his book, "Like Me," with first grade students.

## Hazelwood Alum Writes STEM Book to Inspire Young Students

Though his professional calling is electrical engineering, Hazelwood School District alumnus Quinn Woodard has two other passions: writing and mentoring students.

Woodard has visited Armstrong, Arrowpoint, and Jury Elementary School in recent weeks to share his book, "Like Me," with first grade students.

The book talks about different science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers that students can explore, and introduces them to several African American pioneers in STEM.

Woodard, currently an engineer for Chevron, is an advocate for Project Lead the Way, a non-profit organization that provides STEM curriculum for schools across the country,

including all HSD schools.

His goal is to build on what students learn in the classroom. "Although we have great programs, there still are other opportunities to get students interested in STEM fields," he said. That drive inspired him to write Like Me to introduce minority students to STEM options at a young age.

Woodard read to one class at each school and provided all students in those classrooms with a copy of his book. He attended Jury Elementary and Kirby Middle School before graduating from Hazelwood East High School in 2007. Woodard earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Tulsa and later earned an MBA from Indiana University.

## **Christian Hospital Foundation Presents MLK Scholarship And Service Awards Jan. 17**

The Christian Hospital Foundation is hosting its third annual "Embracing the Dream" Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Luncheon on Friday, Jan. 17 from 11:30-1:30 in the Detrick Building Atrium, 11133 Dunn Rd.

Presenting sponsor is Centene Charitable Foundation and Inspiration Partner sponsor is St. Louis Community College Foundation. The event will be a celebration of inspiration, hope and healing. Michael A. Battle, D. Min., is the keynote speaker; and Evangelist Mary Tillman, "Your" Radio Angel 95.5 FM, will serve as mistress of ceremonies.

Scholarships will be awarded at the celebration to one deserving student from each of the Ferguson-Florissant, Hazelwood, Jennings, Normandy and Riverview school districts; Incarnate Word, Cardinal Ritter, Lutheran North and Trinity Catholic high schools, and one student from St. Louis Community College. All scholarship winners must aspire to a career in health care.

The Drum Major for Service Award will also be presented at the celebration to honor the following unsung individuals who have given their time, talents and treasure in service of justice and equality:

LYNN BECKWITH JR., ED.D. Chair, Riverview Gardens School District Special Administrative Board, president, Saint Louis County Library Board of Trustees

ROSEMARY HANLEY CEO and co-founder of The Little Bit Foundation

REV. TOMMIE PIERSON SR. mayor of Bellefontaine Neighbors and pastor, Greater St. Mark Family Church

BETTY THOMPSON, former state representative Civil Rights activist

THE EMPOWERMENT NETWORK, Resource center for patients & families affected by prostate cancer

Sponsorships are available for the celebration. Individual reservations are \$50 and table reservations for eight (8) are \$400. The celebration includes lunch and complimentary valet parking. Proceeds will support Christian Hospital Foundation's activities such as awarding Drum Major Scholarships to local high school and junior college students who aspire to careers in healthcare and improving the health and wellness of our community.

# Last Day to File for HSD Board Candidate is Jan. 21

Hazelwood School District residents interested in filing for positions on the Board of Education may do so now through 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Individuals interested in running for a position on the Hazelwood school board may file in the superintendent's office located at the Hazelwood School District Administration Building, 15955 New Halls Ferry Road.

Filing will continue Monday through Friday through Jan. 17, from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Hazelwood School District will be closed for winter break through Jan. 3, and Jan. 20. Filing closes on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 5 p.m., no exceptions.

Three positions are available with three-year terms during the election on April 7. Hazelwood School Board directors whose terms are expiring are Mark Behlmann, Margo McNeil, and Brenda Youngblood.

The qualifications for board directors are as follows:

- Missouri law requires a person to be a U.S. citizen
- At least 24 years of age
- A resident taxpayer of the Hazelwood School District and to have resided in the State of Missouri for one year immediately preceding the election
- Board members serve three-year terms and do not receive pay for their service

For more information, please contact Kristina Allen, secretary to the school board at 314.953.5012.

## EDUCATION DIGEST

### **ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY – Vaccine research continues:**

The National Institutes of Health has announced that St. Louis University will remain one of the country's nine Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Units for the next seven years.

SLU's Center for Vaccine Development has been a part of the federal program since 1989. The agency plans to provide \$29 million each year across the nine sites.

The vaccine research sites conduct clinical trials of vaccines in development. At SLU, researchers have worked to develop vaccines and treatments for diseases ranging from influenza to tuberculosis and Zika. About 15,000 St. Louisans are in the center's volunteer database for the clinical trials.

### **SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – Board seats open:**

Applications are available for three seats up for election on the Special School District Board of Education. The three-year terms start in March.

The open seats are in subdistrict 1, representing the Hazelwood and Jennings school districts; subdistrict 2, representing the Affton, Bayless, Hancock Place and Mehlville districts and subdistrict 7, representing the Ladue and Rockwood districts.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens at least 24 years old, live in the subdistrict, be a registered voter and have lived in Missouri for at least one year. Board members are elected by the district's governing council, which includes a board of education member from all 22 school districts in St. Louis County.

The Special School District provides special education services for students with disabilities in the county. Applications are available at the district's office at 12110 Clayton Road in Town and Country.

### **KIPP CHARTER SCHOOLS – New board members named:**

KIPP St. Louis has named four new members to its board of education. Michael Dierberg, chairman of the parent company of First Bank; Erika McConduit, a vice president at Centene Corporation; John Capps, former CEO at Plaza Motors; and Lori Samuels, owner of online business One Odd Bird.

KIPP is the largest charter school network in St. Louis, with six schools that enroll 2,300 students in the city. Charter schools are publicly funded and independently operated.

## Man killed in attempted ATM robbery was awaiting sentencing for similar crime



ST. LOUIS COUNTY, Mo. – Fox2/News11 uncovered new information tonight about the deadly hold-up at an ATM in unincorporated north St. Louis County on Tuesday.

The suspect who was killed, 19-year-old Jordan Pruitt of Florissant, had previously pleaded guilty to an eerily similar crime. According to St. Louis County police, an armed guard servicing an ATM at the Vantage Credit Union at Patterson Road and Greenway Chase Drive near Florissant shot and killed Pruitt in self-defense. “Essentially, it was an attempted robbery of the guy who was servicing the ATM machine,” said St. Louis County Police Lt. Matt O’Neill. “He was getting money out of the machine. They were waiting on the parking lot for him.” The holdup victim was actually going to surrender the money to Pruitt and his two accomplices when at least one of the suspects opened fire, police said.

The other two suspects drove away from the scene. They remained at large as of Wednesday night.

Pruitt pleaded guilty to a holdup at another Vantage Credit Union ATM in December 2017. That credit union is on West Florissant at New Halls Ferry, about three miles from Wednesday’s scene.

In the 2017 case, court documents said Pruitt put a deadly weapon, a knife, against the victim’s neck as he was servicing the ATM; after being scared off by an armed eyewitness, Pruitt ran to a nearby shopping strip and tried to rob a woman of her car before he was captured.

No one aside from Pruitt was hurt in either crime.

Last month, Pruitt pleaded guilty to four felonies in 2017 case. His sentencing was set for January 31, 24 days before his death at Tuesday’s crime scene.

Pruitt was out of jail after St. Louis County Judge David Vincent lowered his bond over the objection of the prosecutor.

### **Pruitt was a Hazelwood Central Graduate.**

His attorney, Nick Williams, said he was crushed by Tuesday’s news.

He issued the following statement: “Mr. Pruitt is someone with a wonderful family. They cannot be more devastated at this time.”

<https://fox2now.com/2020/01/08/man-killed-in-attempted-atm-robbery-was-awaiting-sentencing-for-similar-crime/>