

# Rance Thomas is 2021-22 President of Rotary Club

Rance Thomas, president of North Churches Uniting for Racial Harmony and Justice, was installed as president of The Rotary Club of Florissant on June 29. Dr. Thomas will lead the Club during the 2021-2022 Rotary year.

He has served in numerous positions in the Rotary Club including: sergeant at arms, treasurer, and coordinator for two years of the Rotary's Program of providing food, clothing, and back packs to homeless and disadvantaged students in the Hazelwood and Ferguson-Florissant School Districts.



**Rance Thomas**

Rotary is a global network of 1.3 million members working to change our communities and make them and our world a better place. Its Motto is "Service Above Self"

# Florissant Kiwanis Presents Scholarships to Four Students

The Florissant Valley Kiwanis presented three \$500 scholarships to local students. A fourth student won the \$1000 Division 7 Scholarship from the Earl Collins Foundation of the Missouri-Arkansas District of Kiwanis International. There are nine Kiwanis clubs in Division 7 of the Missouri-Arkansas District of Kiwanis International.

Mi'Kiyah Stiles won the \$1000 Scholarship. She was chosen by a committee of members from clubs in Division 7 to receive the Earl Collins Scholarship. She plans to attend North Carolina A&T State University Honors College in Greensboro, NC. Mi'Kiyah will major in kinesiology in preparation to become a physical therapist. She is a 2021 graduate of Hazelwood Central High School.

Jacob Dofing, a 2021 graduate of Hazelwood West High School, received a \$500 scholarship from Florissant Valley Kiwanis. Jacob will attend the University of Missouri-Columbia Honors College, majoring in business.

Morgan McKenzie received a \$500 scholarship from Florissant Valley Kiwanis. She is a 2021 graduate of Hazelwood Central High School and will attend Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida. Morgan will major in biology as a pre-med student; she plans to become a neonatologist.

Stephanie Njeri is a 2021 graduate of Lutheran High School North and received a \$500 Florissant Valley Kiwanis scholarship. She will be attending John Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD this fall.

These students worked extremely hard to be successful throughout their first 12 years of school and will continue on that path.





## **Hazelwood Back 2 School Drive-Thru Fairs Aug. 14**

Hazelwood East, Hazelwood Central High, and Hazelwood West High will host their Back-to-School Fairs on Saturday, Aug. 14 at 10 a.m.

The goal is to provide 2,500 backpacks filled with school supplies for HSD students at each of the three sites. After more than a year of challenges, the District wants to do everything in their power to knock down any barriers to education, including a lack of backpacks and school supplies. They need your help! Please consider partnering with HSD as an event sponsor by providing backpacks and school supplies for this event. The Hazelwood School District strives to continue connecting with our students and parents by hosting this event in a safe and socially distanced environment. For backpacks & school supply donations please contact HSD at: [info@hazelwoodschoools.org](mailto:info@hazelwoodschoools.org)



## **Online Enrollment and Registration For Hazelwood School Year is Open**

Returning Student Registration for all students is now open

Returning preschool to 12th grade students will need to register for the 2021-2022 school year on the Tyler/SIS Parent Portal. If you have questions, please contact your student's school.

### ***New Student Enrollment***

New Kindergarten to 12th grade students to Hazelwood School District will need to visit the Student Enrollment webpage to begin the enrollment process. If you have questions, visit the Student Enrollment webpage or contact Residency at [residency@hazelwoodschools.org](mailto:residency@hazelwoodschools.org) or call 314-953-5141.

## Florissant father grieves the loss of son after mall shooting, searches for answers

ST. LOUIS — Lonnie Maclin is still trying to make sense of it all.

His 20-year-old son, Malachi Maclin, [was shot and killed Saturday](#) after arguing with another man at West County Center in Des Peres.

Lonnie Maclin, a former St. Louis Cardinals player, is having a hard time understanding why the quiet, respectful person he raised got caught up in that situation. “I just need answers,” Lonnie Maclin said. “Why is my son dead?” Jason Hill, 21, of St. Louis, has been charged with second-degree murder and armed criminal action in connection with the shooting. Lonnie Maclin described his son as a kind, hard-working person who wasn’t quick to anger. Malachi graduated in 2019 from Hazelwood Central High School, [where he played baseball](#). In recent years, he was working at a job delivering auto parts and living with his dad in Florissant, but he had bigger plans on the horizon. Malachi told his dad just days before he died that he wanted to follow in Lonnie’s footsteps and play baseball in the major leagues. Lonnie Maclin had encouraged his son to go back to school and take the opportunity to get noticed. “He played left and right field,” Lonnie said. “He was bred to be a ball player.” But those dreams were cut short. Lonnie Maclin is searching for answers to several questions, including why his son went to the mall. Lonnie said he’d cautioned his son over the years about people [being shot at places like the Galleria](#), but like any parent of an adult, he wasn’t with him all the time. “I said, ‘Stay away from malls because you never know. You can be at the wrong place at the wrong time,’” he said. “But I can’t follow him around and hold his hand. ... I know he wasn’t a mall person. There was something else going on.” To cope with his loss, Lonnie Maclin has been doing the thing he loves most: playing baseball. He showed up for a game on one of his five amateur teams this week and said everybody was surprised to see him. “I’m 54 years old and that’s who I am, a ball player,” he said. “I can’t do nothing else.” Still, Lonnie is also a father, and he had advice for parents in the wake of his tragedy. “Love on your kids because once they’re gone, they’re gone. You can’t get them back,” he said. “And be nice. Be nice to your kids, be nice to one another, be nice to your family and just show love.”



## Teen fatally shot in Larimore Park in Spanish Lake area

ST. LOUIS COUNTY — Police on Thursday identified a teenager who was fatally shot a day earlier near Larimore Park in the Spanish Lake area of north St. Louis County. Police said 17-year-old Damon White was shot in the 11800 block of Larimore Road about 6:15 p.m. Wednesday. Authorities said he was involved in an altercation with a male suspect prior to the shooting.

White was pronounced dead at the scene, police said. He lived in the 11800 block of Criterion Avenue in unincorporated St. Louis County.

The killing adds to the growing number of children injured or killed by gunfire in the region. More than 55 youths have been shot so far this year, with the majority having taken place in the city of St. Louis.

St. Louis County police are asking anyone with information on the shooting to call 636-529-8210. Those who want to remain anonymous or potentially receive a reward should contact CrimeStoppers at 1-866-371-8477.



## Police investigate deadly shooting near O'Fallon Park



ST. LOUIS – Police are on the scene of a deadly shooting near O'Fallon Park that left one man dead and two others injured Thursday afternoon.

This is the second shooting near a St. Louis Park within 24 hours.

Around 2 p.m. St Louis City Police responded to a “rolling gun battle” in the 2000 block of Harris Avenue, which is in the O'Fallon neighborhood.

### [One man dead, two injured in shooting near O'Fallon Park](#)

It's unclear what led to the shooting. The two injured victims were transported to an area hospital and they are listed in serious condition.

Multiple shell casing and crime scene markers were on the scene. St Louis City Police Chief John Hayden said the shooting is a tragedy, as the gunmen remain at large.

Bommarito Automotive Skyfox was over the scene and you can see a crashed vehicle and a downed light pole.

Police are investigating another shooting in a St Louis Park this time in St Louis County. Police responded to Larimore Park in Spanish Lake just after 6 p.m. Thursday for a deadly shooting.

### [Victim was shot, killed in Spanish Lake near Larimore Park](#)

Authorities identified the victim as 17-year-old Damon White. Many friends and relatives gathered around the park mourning the loss of a White.

Investigators say the white got into an altercation with the suspect and the suspect opened fire. Family members say white was an honor roll student in the Hazelwood school district and will be missed.

### **EHS rising senior**

## Trial date set for ex-teaching assistant accused of assaulting 7-year-old



ST. LOUIS — A trial date has been set for a former teaching assistant accused of sodomizing a 7-year-old boy then conspiring to kill the child and his mother. Deonte Taylor, 38, was initially scheduled to plead guilty Thursday to one or more offenses, but the hearing was canceled and a trial date was set for Aug. 9, according to a spokesman for the St. Louis County prosecutor’s office. It’s not clear why the plea did not occur. Taylor’s attorney could not be reached for comment. Taylor was [charged in 2018](#) with three counts of statutory sodomy after police said he took the boy out of class at Lusher Elementary School in the Hazelwood School District and sexually assaulted him. Authorities say the assault occurred in 2015. Months later, officials charged Taylor and his boyfriend, Michael Johnson, with conspiring to murder the boy and his mother. Court [documents from that case](#) said Johnson gave money to a confidential police informer so the informer would kill the pair to prevent them from testifying against Taylor in the sodomy case. Taylor was fired by the Hazelwood district in 2015 for an unrelated policy violation following abuse allegations. He was then hired to teach fifth grade in the Ferguson-Florissant district, but once he was charged with sodomy, the district put him on leave. A spokesperson for Ferguson-Florissant schools said officials there had no knowledge of the allegations or investigation when Taylor was hired. Johnson’s case is still pending.



## Trial set for man accused of abuse, plan to kill witnesses

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Trial has been set for a former suburban St. Louis teaching assistant accused of sexually assaulting a 7-year-old student, then conspiring to kill the boy and his mother.

Deonte Taylor's trial was set for Aug. 9 on Thursday after plans for him to plead guilty to charges in the case fell through, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch [reported](#). Taylor is charged with three counts of sodomy, two counts of conspiracy to commit murder and two counts of tampering with a witness in a felony prosecution.

Prosecutors have said Taylor, 38, was a teaching assistant with the Hazelwood School District in 2015 when he took the child out of class and [sexually assaulted](#) him. Months later, Taylor and his boyfriend [conspired to murder](#) the boy and his mother to keep them from testifying against Taylor, investigators said.

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.