

Volleyball Knights sweep Hazelwood West

St. Francis Borgia's boys volleyball Knights rolled to a three-game sweep of Hazelwood West Tuesday to improve to 5-14.

"We were able to get everyone into the match and had contributions from everyone," Borgia Head Coach CJ Steiger said. "We played a fundamentally sound match."

Borgia won, 25-15, 25-18, 25-23.

Daniel Smith, Ryan Kopmann and Jason Derner each had five kills.

Ben Lause was next with four kills, while Harris Robinson added three.

Robinson was the assists leader with 12. Ian Desmond posted nine assists.

Lause had two solo blocks. Kopmann and Derner each had one.

Robinson served three aces while Chamber Gillette ended with one.

Adam Snider, Charlie Eggert and Luke Politte made contributions," Steiger said. "They don't always get as much playing time, but were able to get some good quality play."

The Knights start Class 3 District 1 play Monday at Whitfield School against Bishop DuBourg Monday at 4 p.m.

Borgia is the fourth seed while Bishop DuBourg is seeded fifth.

De Smet is the top seed and the winner of the Borgia-Bishop DuBourg match will play the Spartans Tuesday at 4 p.m.

The other side of the bracket consists of No. 2 Whitfield, third-seeded Cape Girardeau Notre Dame and No. 6 School of Medicine and Bioscience.

The championship match will be played Wednesday at 5 p.m.



SPLC urges Seminole County School Board to change student media policy to prevent future censorship

Dear School Board Members:

We are writing to express our organization's sincere thanks for your actions on May 10 in support of the Lyman High School yearbook staff, and for the strong words from members in support of the voices of Seminole County Public Schools' students and student journalists. We are thrilled to see a compromise reached so swiftly and decisively, and would like to work with the Seminole County School Board to ensure that no student journalist ever finds themselves facing censorship like that which the Lyman yearbook staff experienced this week.

Unfortunately, as was mentioned several times during the May 10 meeting, the current Seminole County Public Schools School-Sponsored Publications and Productions policy all but ensures that another student journalist will be censored for confusing and arbitrary reasons. We urge the Board to revisit the policy, and to adopt one that provides clarity to students and administrators regarding unprotected speech, removes subjectivity from the process, and ensures a clear appeals process to ensure that censored student journalists have recourse that does not need to include the kind of widespread outrage Seminole County experienced this week. We have attached our model student media publications policy, and look forward to working with you as you adopt new language.

The Student Press Law Center (SPLC) is an independent non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Washington, DC that supports and protects the press freedom of student journalists and their advisers. As a key part of our work, our free legal hotline works with student journalists whose voices have been censored, suppressed, or otherwise curtailed. We see daily the serious and far-reaching impact that unclear policies can have on student journalists and on the student body as a whole.

The Seminole County School Board policy tracks language from a 1988 U.S. Supreme Court case known as *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, in which the Court held that school-sponsored media can be restricted when there is a "legitimate pedagogical concern." However, the Court failed to articulate what such a concern might be. As a result, school districts and student journalists have been forced to operate for three decades under a confusing standard wherein a "legitimate pedagogical concern" is often felt to be whatever the administrator decides at the time." That administrator decision may be diametrically opposed to how the related board of education or another administrator would decide.

Services slated next week for Rance Thomas



FLORISSANT — Dr. Rance Thomas — Air Force veteran, columnist, professor, author, visionary and community leader for social justice — died Monday at the age of 89.

He was a 20-year Air Force veteran who served during the Vietnam conflict. Following his military service, he became a faculty member at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey where he retired in 2002 as the first Professor Emeritus in the school's history. He also served as adjunct faculty at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Thomas was a featured columnist in The Telegraph, and his writing appeared in St. Louis publications. He encouraged parents, schools and churches to teach youth the values that would give them hope for a better future. Shortly before his death he published his book, “My Journey, A Testimony of Faith, Hope and Success.”

He was inducted into the SIUE Hall of Fame and the International Educator’s Hall of Fame. His honors included Who’s Who in the Midwest, the Illinois Education Association’s Human and Civil Rights Award, Citizen of the Year Award for Contributions in improving the quality of life in North County, a **Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hazelwood School District** and the inaugural Dr. Rance Thomas Community Partnership Award from St Louis Community College, Florissant Valley.

Visitation is planned 4- 8 p.m. Monday, May 16, at Hutchens Mortuary & Cremation Center, 675 Graham Road, Florissant. Funeral service are planned for 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 17, with interment at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

UMSL will celebrate spring and summer graduates with six ceremonies beginning Friday



The University of Missouri–St. Louis will recognize nearly 1,800 students earning degrees in either May or August as it celebrates [commencement](#) with six ceremonies this weekend.

“My wish for you, and for your family and friends, is that you are filled with pride,” [Chancellor Kristin Sobolik](#) said in a message to the graduates. “I hope you feel the recognition you’ve rightly earned, and I hope you feel content in the knowledge that what you’ve achieved in your time here is a foundation for the rest of your future successes. May you go forward ready to transform your life into the one you dream of – and ready to help others do the same.”

[Commencement weekend](#) will begin at 2 p.m. Friday with a ceremony celebrating graduates of the [College of Optometry](#) at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center and will feature five more ceremonies – three Saturday and two Sunday – at the [Mark Twain Athletic Center](#).

Sunday’s first ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. to recognize graduates of the [College of Education](#). [Rhonda Key](#), the assistant superintendent for High School Education, School Safety, and Alternative Education at the [Hazelwood School District](#), will deliver the commencement address.

Key is an educator with more than 30 years of experience serving as a superintendent, director of secondary schools, school improvement specialist, high and middle school principal, assistant principal and teacher of biology in urban, rural and suburban school districts. Her current professional focuses are putting transformational leadership concepts into practice, building professional learning communities in school settings and infusing high academic and performance standards of excellence across all aspects of school curriculum and nurturing and developing leaders of tomorrow. Key was named 2019 High School Principal of the Year for the St. Louis Region while working at Jennings Senior High School. She holds a PhD from the University of Missouri–Columbia with an emphasis in curriculum and instruction and reading methods in 2005. She also holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Health department launches investigation into Hazelwood School District after News 4 report



Florissant, Mo. (KMOV) - The St. Louis County Health Department confirms the **Hazelwood School District** is under investigation following a [News 4 report](#). The health department also confirms a new complaint against Hazelwood East Senior High School was filed Thursday.

“I did reach out to the Hazelwood School District after I had learned about all of these complaints,” said Environmental Services Director Carrie Dickhans, of the St. Louis County Department of Public Health. “Honestly, I’m not sure if there is a food safety issue at hand. It seems much more like a quality issue.”

Parents told News 4 the school meals in the district are spoiled and unacceptable. One mom compared the school lunch to prison after she said her daughter got sick.

“I was disgusted. Maybe going to the news and through the health department will maybe get them to change,” she said.

New documents from the health department show the Hazelwood School District has been investigated for food safety complaints five times since September 2021.

The reports accuse the district of “roaches crawling around on the food”, “mouse traps in the kitchen”, “serving children leftover food lunches”, and giving “students molded food and spoiled milk.”

However, the health department said it found no violations during its investigation.

“I can certainly understand the concern if the food doesn’t seem palatable to your child and they do not have anything to eat at school. It isn’t something that’s enforceable or regulated,” said Dickhans.

'She got sick': Parents call out Hazelwood Schools for serving spoiled lunches to students



Florissant (KMOV) - A St. Louis County mom tells News 4 her daughter got sick after she was served expired food in the **Hazelwood School District**.

"My daughter had gotten spoiled milk one time and drank a little bit of it and she got sick," the mother said. She wished to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation.

Parents are sharing pictures of the lunches from their children and posting them to social media, accusing the district of serving students bad food.

"It's worse than prison food because it's expired," she says. "We've asked the district 'would you feed this to your kids?' No response."

A local grandmother says her grandson sent her a snapshot of his lunch at Northwest Middle School on Tuesday. According to her, the peanut butter substitute served was unacceptable and disgusting.

"Something needs to be done and they need to be held responsible for what they are feeding our children," the grandmother says.

The Hazelwood School District denies serving outdated food and says "a single picture does not represent an entire meal". The district released the following statement on Wednesday in response to the most recent controversial school lunch picture.