

## [Alton High Boys Basketball Team Enters Year Under New Head Coach With Enthusiasm](#)



### FRIDAY NIGHT ALTON TIP-OFF TOURNAMENT

**BISHOP DUBOURG CATHOLIC (ST. LOUIS) 75, ALTON 63:** In the final game of Day Two of the Alton Tip-Off Classic, Bishop DuBourg came back from an eight-point first-quarter deficit to win over the host Redbirds at the Redbirds Nest.

Alton led after the first quarter 18-10, but the Cavaliers bounced back to take a 34-24 lead at halftime and extended it to 58-37 after three quarters, but the Redbirds outscored DuBourg 24-17 in the final quarter, with the visitors taking the win.

Roger Elliott led Alton with 21 points, while Byron Stampley added 15 points, Adrian Elliott, Jr. had 13 points, Ihzel Brown came up with nine points, Kam Burnett had three points and Tyrius Jones had two points.

The Cavaliers are now 1-1, while the Redbirds drop to 0-2.

In the other games of the second day, O'Fallon won over **Hazelwood East** 60-26 and St. Louis Confluence Academy defeated Belleville East 82-75.

## Cop escorts bovine in St. Louis County

NORTH ST. LOUIS COUNTY — It was 7 a.m. Saturday, and a cow was walking down Old Halls Ferry Road. This is something that cows typically do not do.

John Pagano, a chauffeur, was on his way home between runs when he spied the bovine sauntering down the street.

“That can’t be a cow,” he recalled thinking to himself, followed by, “Son of a gun! That’s a cow!”

Almost immediately, a St. Louis County Police car pulled up behind the animal, its lights flashing and, briefly, its siren blaring. The cow looked at the cruiser as if to say the police vehicle was the unusual part of this scenario, and then blithely continued her leisurely stroll.

Pagano pulled out his cellphone to shoot a video of the unusual cow-cop parade. He used to be a videographer, and for part of his career he shot footage of practices for the St. Louis professional football team.

He went from filming Rams to filming cows.

Pagano posted his footage on Facebook, which of course attracted any number of area wits and punsters.

“Did the officer tell the cow to mooove along?”

“When the cows came home.”

“(S)he was just moo-ving down the road.”

“Udderly unbelievable.”

“I can hear Harry Caray right now.”

“Git along little doggie.”

And of course: “Why did the cow cross the road? To get to the udder side.”

The officer involved could not be reached Saturday. Pagano said the officer told him, “Never in my life,” and was laughing when he said it.

It is not known whether the cow was issued a ticket for a moving violation

A St. Louis County police officer used his cruiser to direct an escaped cow off the street in front of **Barrington Elementary School** in Old Jamestown on Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021





## Analysis compares JC School District to seven similar-sized peers

The Show-Me Institute recently launched a website that ranks Missouri school districts. Of the four Cole County school districts, Blair Oaks R-2 performed the best, and Jefferson City School District performed the worst.

The Show-Me Institute recently launched a website that ranks Missouri school districts. Of the four Cole County school districts, Blair Oaks R-2 performed the best, and Jefferson City School District performed the worst. Yet comparing Cole County districts may not be apples to apples.

Size and student makeup vary from school to school; Jefferson City School District had an enrollment of more than 9,000, compared to Blair Oaks' enrollment of more than 1,200, according to [moschoolrankings.org](https://www.moschoolrankings.org). To see how Jefferson City stacked up against similar schools, the News Tribune examined the Jefferson City School District alongside 7 similar-size school districts within plus or minus 2500 students. The rankings assessed various areas of achievement for every school in the state. The analysis included Fox C-6, of Arnold; St. Joseph; Ferguson- Florissant R-2, of **Hazelwood**; Mehlville R-9, of St. Louis; Raytown C-2; Joplin; and Lindbergh, of St. Louis.

However, the numbers and data used by the Show-Me Institute are not from the current school year. Much of the academic data is from the 2018-19 school year, meaning these numbers have changed in the two years following. Jefferson City Superintendent Larry Linthacum said improvement is always the goal. "The tremendous efforts of our JC Schools staff and students are leading to great academic progress, and we are extremely proud of their commitment to learning. We recognize that we still have room for improvement, and we intend to continue to keep a laser focus on providing a learning environment in which every student can reach their full potential," he said.

# Terrell Fletcher – todayssnews



Terrell Fletcher happens to be a former American football player. Terrell Fletcher used to play in the National football league as a running back. Likewise, as of now, he is serving as the senior priest of the City of Hope International Church in San Diego.

## Early Life

Terrell Fletcher was born in the year **1973** and celebrates his birthday on the **14th of September** every year. Likewise, the former football player was born in Missouri, USA. In addition, the football player is **48 years old** at the moment. Similarly, Terrell was born under the star sign and belongs to American nationality.

Further, moving on towards his family background, he was born to African-American parents. In addition, he has not revealed any details regarding his family members and parents. Likewise, the names of his parents are still a mystery. Similarly, he has two younger brothers. Their names are Bryan Fletcher and Shaun Fletcher. His brother Shaun is an actor while Bryan happens to be a football player as well.

## Education

Reflecting upon the educational details of the celebrity athlete, he first went on to attend **Hazelwood East high school** located in Hazelwood, Missouri. Likewise, after his high school graduation, he went on to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While at University, he played football as the running back for the Wisconsin Badgers.

## Career and Professional Life

Terrell Fletcher is a former American football player. Likewise, In the year 1994, Terrell played for the Wisconsin Badgers Rose Bowl Champions. The athlete started his professional career in the 1995 NFL Draft by the San Diego Chargers. Fletcher was a fan of American football as a kid and started playing for his school team. He continued to play as he grew older. His performance increased match after match, and he was drafted by the San Diego Chargers in the 1995 NFL Draft.

## North County town hall focuses on government resources



St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Wesley Bell speaking to residents during a North County Town Hall meeting at [Hazelwood Central High School](#) Nov. 17

From the police department to public works, a theme began to emerge during a recent North County town hall: staffing and funding are major issues when it comes to getting things done. Councilwoman Shalonda Webb, District 4, began the night by emphasizing the need for collaboration between various St. Louis County departments. District 4 encompasses Florissant north to Pelican Island and east to Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. In her introduction, she noted she stands in partnership with the police department and believes the community can see major transformation in public safety by working together. “We have to take ownership of our stuff and we need to work together, collaboratively, to come up with a solution,” she said, driving home the burden wasn’t just on law enforcement. Policing issues were the focus of the presentation portion of the two-hour event, while submitted questions focused more on traffic matters, derelict buildings and other issues.

Capt. Tim Cunningham, commander of the North County Precinct, gave a presentation on the latest crime statistics, the precinct’s plan to go from 10-hour officer shifts to 12-hour shifts and what police are doing to address violent crime and rampant gun use. The acting chief of police, Lt. Col. Kenneth Gregory, took over in August when Mary Barton resigned after 16 months of controversies and strife. He spoke briefly during the town hall event and answered a few questions later on in the night. “I have a lot of personal stake in North County. I’ve been living in North County since 1974,” Gregory said. “... I hear the gunshots at night. It concerns me just as much as it concerns you.” Cunningham said the two most common concerns he’s heard from the community are speeding and a lack of police presence in subdivisions, something he hopes to curb with longer shifts that would give officers more time to be present in areas otherwise neglected. Other concerns were unlicensed vehicles, commercial vehicles in neighborhoods, illegal parking, derelict vehicles and unlicensed businesses in restricted areas. Throughout the presentation the captain made it clear these law enforcement issues are a daunting task to solve with the resources they currently have. “Staffing and recruiting and retainment is a deep conversation right now,” Cunningham said. Carl Becker, in charge of the St. Louis County Division of Human Resources, spoke about the government’s effort to fill the 75 officer vacancies in the department, a number anticipated to increase to about 100 early next year because of things like expected retirements. The St. Louis County Police Department has funding for 972 sworn officer positions. “So, as you can see by those numbers, we have quite a challenge ahead of us with respect to recruiting,” Becker said. He said before recruiting, the department needs to focus on retaining the officers it does have. “One way to do that is through pay, and I’m very happy to say we’ve had great support from Councilwoman Webb and the rest of the county council with respect to pay,” Becker said. He said the department must also continue to treat its employees well and mentioned the new wellness unit for officers established by the agency to help them cope with on-the-job trauma. “Like I said, this is a great police department,” Becker said. “... They’re not only great officers. They’re great people, and I’m proud to be able to work with them and represent the police department.”



## Webb seeking funding for Jamestown Mall demolition



Shalonda Webb, the District 4 St. Louis County Councilwoman speaking at a North County Town Hall Meeting at Hazelwood Central High School Wednesday, Nov. 17. At left is Shonte Harmon-Young her legislative assistant and Shonte Jamison Webb's problem properties specialist and Grant Project Coordinator.

St. Louis County Councilwoman Shalonda Webb confirmed she is working to find funding to demolish the Jamestown Mall building, which has sat vacant for years. An audience member asked about the status of the derelict property during a North County town hall meeting Nov. 17. "I knew I wasn't going to get away from that, and I don't want to get away from that," Webb said, laughing. North County's Jamestown Mall was an enclosed shopping mall located at Lindbergh Boulevard and Old Jamestown Road. The million-plus square feet of property opened in 1973 and included Dillard's, JCPenney, Macy's and Sears as its anchor stores.

The mall began declining in 2000 and finally shuttered in 2014. In June, Webb, along with Port Authority Chairman John Maupin and Rodney Crimm, CEO and president of the STL Economic Partnership, announced the government's intent to demolish the building. "Earlier this year, there was an interest to build an industrial park in our community, and you all said no," Webb said. "And I understood that 'no,' because [the developer] wanted to build an industrial park ... in your backyards, in the middle of these communities, and that was unacceptable, and I acted accordingly." The councilwoman represents District 4, which encompasses Florissant north to Pelican Island and east to Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. Webb said she is searching for funding to demolish the building. "I'm not putting all of our eggs in one basket," she said. "I'm looking at every level to get that revenue and those resources. So, if I've got to beg at the federal level, if I've got to beg the governor at the state level and even at the local level, our county executive, that is exactly what I am doing."

## Steven Louis Brawley preserves and celebrates St. Louis' LGBTQIA+ history



Steven Louis Brawley was always wary of where he parked his car when frequenting gay bars during the '80s. At the time, you kept a low profile. "You would never hold hands in public," Brawley recalls. "People still would go to Pride, yet they would be afraid to be photographed."

The AIDS crisis was ongoing, and Brawley had recently come out. He remembers the protests, the outrage and the lost friends. Looking back, it seems like such a consequential period in LGBTQIA+ history, but in the moment, it felt like everyday life.

Even so, as a University of Missouri–St. Louis student and young professional during the '80s and '90s, Brawley would seek out stories about the history of St. Louis' LGBTQIA+ scene at gay bars and clubs. However, he never recorded those conversations.

"I regretted never recording them," he says. "It really bothered me. It's a shame that their amazing life stories are now lost because I never thought to pick up a tape recorder or video camera."

It was the impetus for founding the [St. Louis LGBT History Project](#) in 2007. For more than a decade, Brawley has dedicated his free time to documenting St. Louis' LGBTQIA+ history.

He's authored the book "[Gay and Lesbian St. Louis](#)" and has served as a trustee for the State Historical Society of Missouri since 2020. Most recently, he launched, "[In Our Voices](#)," a documentary video series detailing the stories of queer landmarks in the city – such as the Zebra Lounge – through informal discussions.

Brawley had an interest in history dating back to childhood but thought he would become a lawyer. He started to waffle after serving as editor of the student newspaper at [Hazelwood West High School](#) and matriculating to UMSL.

He majored in communications and joined [The Current](#), becoming editor-in-chief in 1987. He found a mentor, and fellow lover of history, in [Blanche M. Touhill](#), who was vice chancellor at the time.

Brawley secured internships at American Cable, Barnes Hospital and Maritz. He credits those opportunities, following his graduation in 1987, for his three-decade career, including stretches as communications director of BJC HealthCare, head of his own consulting firm and executive vice president of Area Resources for Community and Human Services.

Yet, the stories from elders in the community remained with him, and the St. Louis LGBT History Project was born with a blog post.

# Corey Friedman: Add Student Press Freedom to the Syllabus

In Indiana, student journalists say **Plainfield High School** prevented them from reporting a classmate's arrest in a string of sexual assault cases.

In North Carolina, **Piedmont Community Charter School** reportedly used black markers to censor senior quotes in its yearbook, and **Richmond Early College High School** reportedly confiscated some yearbooks and refused to distribute the rest, citing senior quote controversies.

In Ohio, the **Wadsworth City Schools** superintendent yanked **Wadsworth High School** student newspapers from the racks because the headline "Black History Month in a White School District" raised eyebrows. **Census** data lists the city's population as 95.9 percent white.

These examples aren't the exception; they're the rule.

High schoolers join student publications to learn reporting, editing and publishing fundamentals, and administrators deliver heavy-handed lessons in censorship and abuse of authority.

Schools run roughshod over student scribes simply because they can. In the poorly reasoned 1988 **Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier** decision, the **U.S. Supreme Court** ruled 5-3 that student-edited high school media is subject to administrative control.

Students enjoy less expressive freedom in their school newspapers, yearbooks and broadcasts than they do in the hallways, where the landmark 1969 **Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District** ruling protects political speech and activism.

Changing the status quo doesn't require a high-stakes court battle. **California** and 13 other states have enacted **New Voices legislation** to shield student journalists from censorship, and seven more — Hawai'i, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York and Texas — are considering bills this year.



# Boys basketball season preview: Five storylines to watch this winter

## 1. Spectators are back in the gym

A year ago most places limited the number of spectators in the gym. This year those restrictions have been lifted, but make sure to keep a mask handy.

Depending on where the games are played, rules are different for fans and players. In St. Louis City and St. Louis County, anyone who's not actively running up and down the court will be asked to wear a mask. Players and coaches on the bench — as well as spectators — will need to cover up, but active players do not. That's unless you're at **Hazelwood Central, Hazelwood East or Hazelwood West**; then everyone is required to wear a mask regardless of whether or not they're on the court. Proof of vaccination also is required to attend a game at a Hazelwood facility.

## 3. The playoffs look different

Last year was the first Missouri had six classes. This season, Class 6 and Class 5 will bypass the sectional round of the playoffs altogether. Instead MSHSAA shrank the number of districts to eight and pumped up the number of teams in each district to eight in most cases, if not nine.

The result is some district tournaments are overloaded with good teams. The most glaring of which is the Class 5 District 3 field which includes reigning state champion Cardinal Ritter, Class 5 quarterfinalist De Smet and Class 4 runner-up Westminster.

The Class 6 District 3 field includes perennial power Chaminade, an excellent Pattonville team that went 22-2 last season and **Hazelwood Central**.

For the first time in a long time all five Metro Catholic Conference teams have been split apart from each other. There is a path for four MCC teams to advance to either the Class 6 or Class 5 state semifinals. Only CBC and SLUH could potentially see one another prior to the final four.

In Illinois, the playoffs are back. A year after the season was shut down in November only to be revived in February, Metro East teams will have the opportunity to play for state. East St. Louis remains the reigning Class 3A champion after winning its first title in 2019. No boys champions were crowned in 2020 or 2021.

# Boys basketball season preview: Five storylines to watch this winter

## 5. Everything will be bigger

“Absence makes the heart grow fonder” is a cliché for a reason. After missing out on a full winter of basketball, area players, coaches, administrators, tournament and showcase operators are back with a vengeance. The Midwest Showdown Shootout, the Highland Shootout, the O’Fallon Shootout all are scheduled to have top-tier matchups between area and non-area teams.

The Troy Tipoff Tournament, the Webster Classic, the Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament, the Collinsville Holiday Tournament, the MICDS Holiday Tournament, the Belleville East Classic, the Parkway West Classic, the Fort Zumwalt North Tournament, the Rotating Eight Tournament and the rest are going to be chock full of good teams with good players savoring an experience that was very weird a year ago.

“I’m happy to go see basketball,” Hazelwood Central coach Brandon Gilmore said. “I’m just happy to be back in the gym. It should be a good year of high school basketball.”

## 10. Hazelwood Central

**Last season:** 5-9, lost to SLUH in a Class 6 district semifinal

**Outlook:** Had no offseason going into 2020-21 season and then started later than the rest of the area. Returns four-year starting point guard Tevin Goines (5-9) and senior guard Trevin Williams (6-4). Williams averaged 10.1 points, 5.1 rebounds and more than an assist and a steal per game. Goines handed out 6 assists per game and had a team-high 38 steals. Junior guard Jhordan Covington-Berry (6-3) averaged 7.5 points per game last season and was the Hawks top long-range shooter as he hit on 22 of his 64 3-pointers.



# Van Vanatta is no longer the head football coach at Rock Bridge High School



Van Vanatta is no longer the head football coach at Rock Bridge High School, athletic director Michael McGinty confirmed Tuesday.

Rock Bridge finished with a record of 4-6 in the 2021 season. The Bruins lost 48-0 to Liberty in the first round of the Class 6 District 4 playoffs on Oct. 29.

"We thank Coach Vanatta for his five years of service to the Rock Bridge football program and we look forward to the hiring process as we begin a new chapter of Rock Bridge football," McGinty wrote Tuesday afternoon in a statement to the Tribune.

Vanatta was hired to guide the Bruins program in January 2017.

He previously was the head coach at Hazelwood Central in St. Louis.

The Bruins compiled a 31-22 record in five seasons under Vanatta, including nine wins in each of his first two seasons. Rock Bridge was the district runner-up in 2018 but exited the postseason in the first round of districts two of the past three seasons.

## Van Vanatta out as Rock Bridge head football coach



COLUMBIA – Van Vanatta is out as Rock Bridge High School's head football coach, the school confirmed on Tuesday. Missouri Scoop first reported the news on Twitter Monday.

Vanatta has coached the Bruins [since 2017](#). His overall record was 31-22, including 4-6 this last season, Missouri Scoops reported.

Rock Bridge's season ended Oct. 29 after Liberty shut out the Bruins 48-0 in a Class 6 District 4 quarterfinal.

Rock Bridge Athletic Director Michael McGinty confirmed Vanatta's departure and said the head coaching position [was listed](#) Monday. He was still listed as a teacher, [as of Tuesday](#).

Before Rock Bridge, Vanatta head coached at [Hazelwood Central High School](#) in Florissant. He also coached baseball at Central Methodist University and was an assistant baseball and assistant football coach at University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota.

According to previous KOMU 8 reporting, Vanatta is certified in both physical education and health. He has a master's degree in education foundations from CMU.

# LCCC women hit break with 5-1 mark



GODFREY - The LCCC women's basketball team is getting a few days off this week. But coach Jaron Young may well wish his team had an additional game or two scheduled, seeing as how the Trailblazers are off to one of their hottest starts ever.

LCCC's women hit the Thanksgiving break at 5-1 and on a five-game winning streak after defeating Kaskaskia 88-76 Saturday in Centralia. Young said timing and a return to a more "normal" pace following last season, which was moved, postponed and adjusted because of the COVID-19 pandemic are key reasons, along with his team's work ethic.

After opening the season with a 69-62 home loss to Jefferson College, LCCC has gone on a tear in its last five games. The Trailblazers defeated Southwestern Illinois 87-66, Illinois College's junior varsity 91-57, Shawnee College 81-69 and Marshalltown, Iowa 102-68 prior to the victory at Kaskaskia.

"This is a good group," Young said. "They're serious about working hard and improving every game."

The Trailblazers are led in scoring by Mykel Mathews, a 5-foot-7 freshman from Hazelwood West High School, who is scoring at a 16 points per game clip. She's shooting 47 percent from the floor and 94 percent from the free throw line.

Penland-Holmes, a 5-10 forward who hails from Palm Bay, Florida, is averaging 12.8 ppg and six rebounds a game.



# Turkey Day Game Is Back! Kirkwood Pioneers Aim To Keep The Frisco Bell



For the first time since 1988, the 2020 Turkey Day game was cancelled last year due to COVID-19, but one thing remains constant — the desire to ring the Frisco Bell. For the Pioneers, this means winning the bell in front of the community on home turf and keeping the prized possession at Kirkwood for yet another year.

The Turkey Day game has been a long-standing tradition since 1898, bringing the communities of Kirkwood and Webster Groves together. With Kirkwood winning the past seven matchups, the Pioneers are looking to cap off their season with another win against rival Webster.

Kirkwood finished its regular season 6-3, losing in districts against De Smet 35-7. Although no longer in contention for a state championship, the Pioneers, led by head coach and former NFL player Jeremy Maclin, fought hard all season to put themselves in the best position to win.

“There are obviously a couple games you want back and you would like to still be playing right now for a chance to win a state title, but I think our kids battled all year,” Maclin said. “I thought there were a lot of unknowns coming into the season, but I’m proud of these guys, led by the seniors, and how they fought all year.”

The Pioneers started the season tallying four big wins before losing to Hazelwood Central and Marquette. With strong play on both sides of the ball, Kirkwood was able to score points on offense and hold the other teams down on defense.

“It was all about staying together as a team from the beginning to the end, and playing out through all four quarters,” said Darius Jones, senior running back and defensive back.

Kirkwood’s offense, led by senior quarterback Louis Kavanaugh, put up 48 touchdowns on the season. Running back Jones rushed for seven touchdowns, while junior wide receiver Tyler Macon was able to get it done with 13 total touchdowns. Despite missing several games due to injury, junior running back Deion Brown still dominated the run game, leading the Pioneers with 14 touchdowns and averaging 10.3 yards per carry.

Staying strong on defense is one aspect that helped the Pioneers this season. Senior Gio Vann Jr. led the Pioneers with 59 tackles, six for loss, followed by junior Patrick Fortune (56 tackles, 11 for loss, one interception), senior Darius Jones (47 tackles, one sack, one interception) and junior Gabe Walker (47 tackles, eight for losses, three sacks, two fumble recoveries). Senior Brady Nauman continuously put pressure on the quarterback with a team-high four sacks on the year.

# MICDS Rams at St. Dominic Crusaders

**Last week:** MICDS 42, Vashon 6; St. Dominic 42, Hazelwood East 21.

**Up next:** Lincoln College Prep (11-0) or Smithville (10-0).

**On MICDS:** Won 26th district championship, second in a row and third in four years last week. ... Was the Class 4 runner-up last season and in 2018, when the current senior class were freshmen. ... Defeated St. Dominic 47-13 in Week 8. Has won three in a row against St. Dominic including last year's district championship game. ... Senior quarterback Reagan Andrew has passed for 2,178 yards, 25 touchdowns and five interceptions. Rushed for 588 yards and 15 touchdowns. Junior running back Steven Hall has rushed for 1,069 yards and scored 19 touchdowns. Junior running back Winston Moore has rushed for 644 yards, caught 26 passes for 718 yards and scored 18 touchdowns. Senior receiver PJ Behan has 45 receptions for 938 yards and 13 touchdowns. ... Senior linebacker Gus Baisch has made 113 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, nine sacks and two interceptions. Junior linebacker Colton Dalton has made 113 tackles, eight tackles for loss, six sacks and an interception. Senior defensive back Bjorn Sjogren has made 86 tackles, two tackles for loss and five interceptions.