



Mike McMillan receives Trumpet Award

Honored alongside Chaka Khan, Alonzo Mourning, Mayor Kasim Reed

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COMPLIMENTARY

Tiffany Anderson returns to head Jennings schools



Photo by Wiley Price

Jennings School District Superintendent Brittany Anderson, a St. Louis native, gets a student's eye view in Letty Wright-Hardin's classroom at Woodland Elementary School.

‘Good schools are the center of any community’

By Rebecca S. Rivas
Of The St. Louis American

Just before lunch, Jennings School District Superintendent Tiffany Anderson takes her place on the kindergarteners' carpet at Woodland Elementary and joins them in their giggles.

Her signature tennis shoes allow her to pop down easily, even in her professional dark gray



See story video at
www.stlamerican.com

skirt suit.

They're playing a question game with high stakes – a treat if they get the right answer.

“Math, science, social studies or spelling?” Letty Wright-Hardin, kindergarten teacher, asks

one of the squirming children.

Anderson's eyes brighten even more than the students'.

“Every morning I wake up, and I can't wait to get here and get started,” Anderson said. “I wear tennis shoes every day so that I can be the crossing guard when I need to. I can visit a different school every week. I bring the energy to

See **ANDERSON**, A7

MY AUTISTIC SON

A mother's journey to understand, cope and give care

By Judge Angela Quigless
For The St. Louis American

Charlie was always a happy baby. He crawled when he was supposed to, he looked when you called his name and he was hitting all of his milestones. There were a few developmental delays, but there was no cause for immediate alarm.

We enrolled Charlie in swimming lessons when he was eight months old. He loved to swim, and today he swims like a fish. He began to develop ear infections, two or three a year. At first, we didn't think anything of it because we thought it was from the pool.

My husband, a doctor, suggested I take Charlie to Children's Hospital for testing, just to be safe. I thought, worst case scenario, they might have to put tubes in his ears. I never thought the doctors



Angela Quigless



Charlie Quigless

■ It's a hard pill to swallow, but don't do a disservice to your child by neglecting early intervention.

would diagnose Charlie with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

When the doctor told me that Charlie had autism and would never be “normal,” I zoned out. I didn't absorb it. I had never even heard of autism until my son received this diagnosis.

I remember sitting there thinking that this doctor was trying to label my child. After all, Charlie was just

See **AUTISTIC**, A7

French rips *Post* on Slay, Reed coverage

By Rebecca S. Rivas
Of the St. Louis American



St. Louis American: As an elected official and journalist, what do you think of the St. Louis *Post Dispatch's* coverage of the Lewis Reed campaign for mayor?

Alderman

Antonio French:

Over the course of the past year, the *Post-Dispatch* has let me know clearly where they stand. In an editorial by Kevin Horrigan almost a year ago, during the time we were debating the fire pension reform bill, they clearly pointed out their opinion that they don't think Lewis Reed should be mayor. It was out of nowhere.

They wrote that his support of a different approach to the pension reform meant that he was

not qualified to be mayor. They printed what amounted to an early endorsement of Slay. Then again, during the coverage of the O'Fallon Park Recreation Center and the

See **FRENCH**, A6

Urban schools excel in science contest

KIPP, Gateway go against suburban students at Olympiad

By Bridjes O'Neil
Of The St. Louis American

KIPP Inspire Academy students excelled in the regional Missouri Science Olympiad Tournament held earlier this month at Ladue Middle School. The KIPP Inspire Science Olympiad team was one of only two inner-city schools competing in the middle school division.

The nonprofit Missouri Science Olympiad and its national affiliate strive to improve the quality of K-12 science education and

See **KIPP**, A6

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