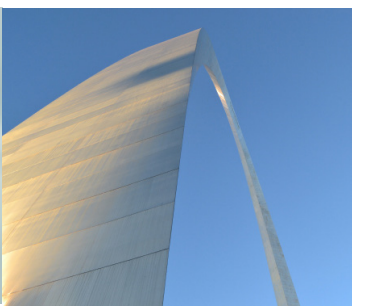




THE GATEWAY GAZETTE



From under the Arch to your neighborhood. www.gatewaygazette.com Vol. 112 No. 34 Friday, Dec. 6, 2013 \$1.50

Briefs



Money game

The world's most expensive monopoly board is sought for across the country.

Sports



Late game falter

Missouri Baptist University falls to Hannibal La-Grange after a costly turnover in the fourth quarter leading to a game winning three-pointer.

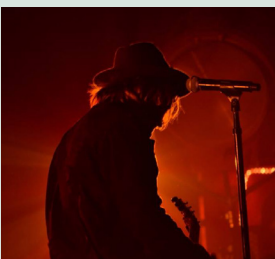
Weather



Weather troubles

The weather does not look good for the remainder of the week. Be sure to check to see how to schedule around all the heavy snow awaiting St. Louis.

Concert



Upcoming Concert

The band Switchfoot is heading to St. Louis next week for the upcoming concert. The sold out crowd cannot seem to wait to hear the band begin their tour.

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'Bizarre' fraud leads to arrest

Report: Woman fakes kidnapping to extort cash from husband

By **LESLIE HANCOCK**
Staff Writer

ELLISVILLE – An Ellisville woman was arrested Tuesday afternoon and charged with extortion after telling a deputy who found her that she had been kidnapped and tied up for three days.

St. Louis County deputies arrested Quinn Gray, 37, on a warrant that carries a bond of \$1 million.

A 25-year-old St. Louis man connected to the case was arrested early Monday morning, also on charges of extortion.

According to the arrest report, Jasmin Osmanovic told investigators that he had a sexual relationship with Gray and the couple spent a weekend together, during which they cooked up a plan to extort \$50,000 from Gray's husband.

"They met chance encounter. Their relationship developed," St. Louis county sheriff David Shoar said. "We don't know all there is to know about their relationship, but she knew him for quite a while. She actually led us to him."

While being walked to jail, Gray denied knowing Osmanovic. "If I wanted \$50,000 all I would do is take it out of the bank account," she said.

Osmanovic said in the report that he did not kidnap her, but admits they spent time together at various



Photo by C. Allin Means/The Gateway Gazette

Police escort Quinn Gray to the St. Louis County Jail after she was arraigned on felony charges of extortion. Bond has been set at \$1 million.

places around Ellisville the weekend she had been reported missing.

Gray, a mother of two, who was reported missing by her husband on Sept. 4, was the subject of a three-day search that included the resources of the F.B.I. and the U.S. Marshal's Service.

Three days later, Gray was found by a St. Louis county deputy walking in a parking lot near Tilles Park. She told the deputy she had been kidnapped and she needed a ride home.

According to Osmanovic's arrest report, he admitted to delivering two letters to

Gray's Ellisville home demanding money from Gray's husband. One letter specified \$50,000 and set a deadline.

Police said several attempts were planned to deliver the money. However, they never materialized. Police said on 1 occasion a drop of the money was made,

but four college students from Missouri Baptist University picked up the bag.

Police said after the students realized the bag contained money and then observed surveillance units they believed to be drug

SEE KIDNAP • PAGE 3

Storm hits close to home



(Reuters) - Some residents of Washington, Ill., picked through the remains of their tornado-flattened homes on Monday, recovering what they could a day after a series of twisters pounded the Midwest, killing eight.

Bits of American flags and insulation from destroyed houses clung to

trees that had been stripped of most of their branches and remaining leaves by the Washington twister. Spawned by a fast-moving storm system, the tornado had winds of up to 200 mph.

Six people died in Illinois in storm-related accidents and Michigan officials Monday reported two new deaths.

Local firefighters search through the rubble of the houses affected by the recent storm.

Photo by Chelsea Gammon Reuters

Police were keeping residents from returning to the storm-hit area, where buildings were destroyed and cars turned upside down, out of concern that people could be injured while attempting to retrieve possessions.

Ryan Bowers, 33, and his

SEE STORM • PAGE 3

Wiley Price confronts several in courtroom

ST. LOUIS (AP) -- St. Louis County Commissioner John Wiley Price smiled, glared and rolled his eyes as he listened to several speakers Tuesday accuse him of being deceitful in his behind-the-scenes maneuvering to replace the county's popular elections administrator.

But when the final speaker, St. Louis lawyer Jeff Turner, took the podium and referred to Price repeatedly as the county's "chief mullah" and used the word "tribal" in his remarks, Price's famous temper got the better of him.

He bluntly told Turner he took offense and challenged the lawyer to speak to him in private. That led to a shouting match between

Price and audience members during which Price told them several times to "go to hell."

The outburst was the first such incident involving this Democratic-controlled Commissioners Court, which has vowed to improve decorum and civility. It also signaled that the backlash from longtime Elections Administrator Bruce Sherbet's unceremonious ouster last month shows no signs of easing up.

Sherbet resigned Nov. 13 without providing Commissioners Court with a specific reason.

When Turner finished his remarks, Price asked the audience, "Why are all the

SEE COURT • PAGE 3

Crystal meth at festival

By **JACK HAXLEY**
Staff Writer

BALLWIN -- When their children returned from a Fall festival event at Buck Elementary School Tuesday, a couple found suspected methamphetamine and \$85 in cash among their 7-year

old son's Snickers bars and Kittles.

Phil and Shelly Brosdill called police, who confirmed that the substance was methamphetamine, worth up to \$200 on the street. Someone who looked like a teen-ager dropped something into their sons

Disagreement on school's name

By **HAMILTON FORD**
Staff Writer

FESTUS – The Festus school board voted late Tuesday night to keep the name of a Confederate general and early Ku Klux Klan leader at a majority black high school, despite opposition from African-American board member Brenda

Priestly Jackson who said the school's namesake was "a terrorist and a racist."

After hearing about three hours of public comments, the Festus Independent School District board members voted 5-2 to retain the name of Nathan Bedford Forrest High School. The board's two black members, Jackson and



Photo by Tom Smith/AP Betty Burney, agreed that SEE SCHOOL • PAGE 4

Hearing Aids

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