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'ANGEL OF DEATH HAS ENTERED INTO THIS CITY'

One woman's struggles after bloody night in St. Louis reveal haunting impact of violence



"I go day by day. It took me 20 minutes to put my bra on. Even the simple things are hard," said Charisse Young. Tattoos of her two sons adorn her back. Her son Dominique (left tattoo) was killed in a 2015 shooting in which she was also shot. More than 16 months later, she is recovering from a nerve graft.

PHOTO ESSAY BY LAURIE SKRIVAN • Iskrivan@post-dispatch.com

n a muggy night in August 2015, Charisse Young and her extended family gathered for a sendoff for a college-bound relative. To escape the hot and crowded house, the party moved to the front porch.

Young paid little attention to the tan car as it drove slowly down Semple Avenue. Then a blast of bullets tore into the close-knit family. Young was hit. So was her niece, a nephew and a family friend. After the gunman fled, Young found her son, Dominique, 21, collapsed in the backyard, bleeding from bullet wounds in his chest, arm and abdomen. Covered in blood from her own



Dominique Young at his senior prom at **McCluer High School.**

wound, Young rushed to his side and tried desperately to get him to talk to her.

"He was trying. I held his face and was like, 'Dominique, everybody is going to be all right,'" she said.

Young still doesn't know the identity or the motive of the two men who stepped out with guns and sent her life down the path of coping with injury, loss and fear. Her story illustrates the mostly invisible trauma shared by too many St. Louis families after the crime scene tape comes down.

PHOTO ESSAY CONTINUES ON PAGES A8-9

"I am lying to him."

Graduates enjoy perks of off-season diplomas

BY ASHLEY JOST St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Graduating college in December has its perks for families who get a reprieve from the parking nightmares and hours-long ceremonies of spring commencement.

Plus, the thinking goes, early graduates also get a leg up on the job market.

Less than one month after walking the stage at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Michelle Arrington starts as a trauma nurse at

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A juicy relationship helps round out **MLS** investor team

BY MIKE FAULK • St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The ownership group hoping to bring Major League Soccer to St. Louis has its roots in smoothies rather than sports.

And the SC STL investors may not have found their chairman, former Bain Capital managing director Paul Edgerley, if not for a Boston Celtics game the day after the Rams of the National Football League started packing for Los Angeles.

Edgerley, a part owner of the Celtics, had former Anheuser-Busch president Dave Peacock in town to watch the Celtics beat the Indiana Pacers on Jan. 13.

"At the time, the Rams leaving was the biggest story in sports," Edgerley said in

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Edgerlev Part owner of **Boston Celtics** took Dave Peacock to a basketball game just after the Rams announced they were leaving St. Louis



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