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MAY 16 TORNADO

FAMILY TRYING TO SAVE LEGACY



CHRISTIAN GOODEN, POST-DISPATCH

Vanessa Brown-Livingston, facing camera, is embraced by Yvette Ellis on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, after Ellis arrived to check on her tornado-damaged home on Labadie Avenue.

Residents confront tornado's aftermath on historic street

'NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS'



INSIDE: Find 6 pages of previously unpublished photos from our staff photographers, who have covered the overwhelming destruction of the May 16 tornado and the response in the aftermath. **PAGES C1-C6**

MONICA OBRADOVIC
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — A week after a tornado barreled through St. Louis, one of the last remaining signs that Catherine Brown lived in a small house on Labadie Avenue was a half-folded hospital bed in the living room.

By then, much of her family's belongings were packed into trash bags. The storm tore off a chunk of the roof in the back, exposing the kitchen and a bedroom to the open air.

On the front door of the house, the city slapped a red sticker that read, "Danger. Entry prohibited. Violators subject to prosecution."

Brown, 83, had been dead for three days. Winds topping 152 mph downed power lines and the electricity needed for Brown's respirator. She laid bedbound in the living room of her daughter's house, on the 4600 block of Labadie, for about an hour after the storm as debris blocked the entrances and trapped her inside.

Brown was hardly breathing by the time police arrived and removed her, family members said.

She died in hospice in the early morning of May 20. It was not long after her daughter, Vanessa Brown-Livingston, showed her a photo of the destroyed home.

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4 cities in county tallying damage

May 16 tornado touched down in Clayton, where it ripped trees out of ground

NASSIM BENCHAABANE
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS COUNTY — Last month's tornado rampaged from Clayton to Edwardsville, hitting hardest in the city of St. Louis, where it killed five people and wrecked more than 2,500 buildings, destroying entire homes in some of the city's poorest neighborhoods.

But four cities in St. Louis County also sustained significant damage on May 16, especially the county seat of Clayton, where the tornado touched down and ripped trees out of the ground as it traveled along Wydown Boulevard and old, wealthy neighborhoods west of Forest Park.

At least 930 homes in Clayton were damaged, and the city has estimated about $5.2 million in costs for emergency response, cleanup and repairs to streets and sidewalks so far, City Manager David Gipson said. The loss of trees on Wydown in particular "completely changed the look and feel" of the neighborhoods there, he said.

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UN watchdog: Iran amasses more uranium

STEPHANIE LIECHTENSTEIN
Associated Press

VIENNA — Iran further increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels, a confidential report by the U.N. nuclear watchdog said Saturday. In a separate report, the agency called on Tehran to urgently change course and comply with its yearslong probe.

The report came at a sensitive time, as U.S. President Donald Trump's administration seeks to reach a deal with Tehran to limit its nuclear program. The two sides held several rounds of talks, so far without agreement.

The report by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency — seen by The Associated Press — says that as of May 17, Iran amassed 900.8 pounds of uranium enriched up to 60%.

That's an increase of 294.9 pounds — or almost 50% — since the IAEA's last report in February. The 60% enriched material is a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%. A report in February put this stockpile level at 605.8 pounds.

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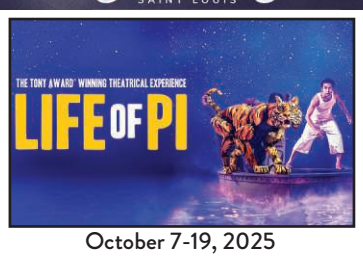
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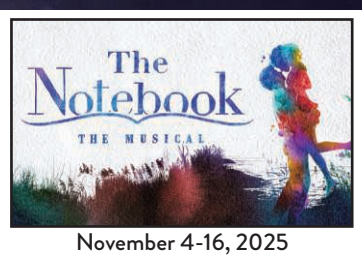
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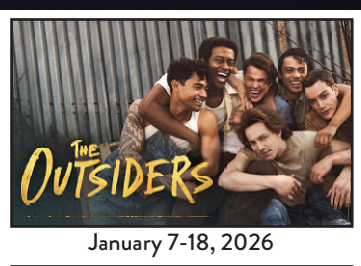
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