

# THE SUNDAY GLOBE

SUNDAY | MAY 29, 2011

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## LENDING MANY HANDS

Volunteers flock to Joplin in wake of disaster. **1C**

RECEPTION CENTER



## DRIVING FOR HOME

Driver Jamie McMurray has Joplin on his mind. **1B**

# Death toll rises again

President, Gov. Nixon to speak at observance

BY WALLY KENNEDY  
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As the death toll from the May 22 tornado continued to climb Saturday, local and state officials were continuing with

THE GLOBE added seven more names to its list of deaths: **8A**; state list of dead: **4A**.

preparations for today's observance that is to be attended by the president of the United States.

The number of deaths attributed to the storm stood at 142 on Saturday, an increase of 10 from the previous day.

The number of missing stood

at 100. The number includes nine people who have been reported as deceased by family, but for whom official confirmation is still pending. That compares with 156 missing on Friday.

The number of confirmed deaths with family notifications stood at 73 by Saturday night. That compares with six confirmed deaths and family notifications on Friday.

The numbers for both Friday and Saturday were released by Andrea Spillars, deputy director of the Missouri Department of Public Safety. The state assumed control of the procedure on Wednesday. On the following day, it released a list containing the names of 232 missing individuals.

SEE **TORNADO**, 8A



Jim Rice late last week pauses next to his storm-ravaged Joplin home, which displays an uplifting message for his friends and neighbors. **GLOBE | CURTIS ALMETER**

'A fist coming out of the sky'

# Six miles of terror

Along tornado's path, victims recall trauma, wonder about future

BY JOSH LETNER  
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The tornado crawled across Joplin.

Most tornadoes blow through towns, some at speeds of 50 miles per hour.

Not the EF-5 that hit Joplin one week ago today.

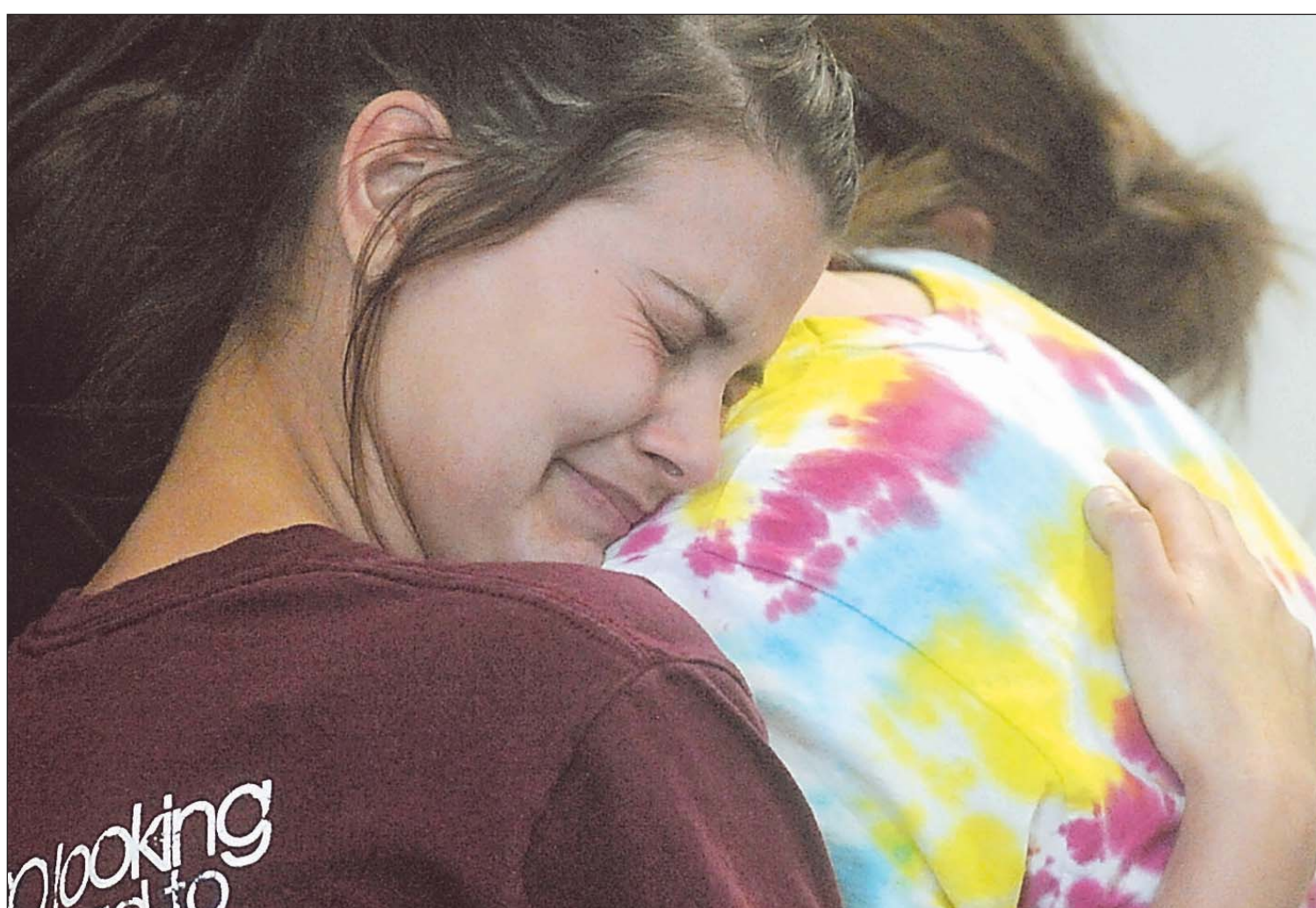
It rolled slowly, minute after agonizing minute, mile after agonizing mile.

An EF-5 is the most powerful of storms. On May 22, the tornado stayed on the ground for six miles, churning up neighborhoods, businesses, churches, schools, homes and lives. Three-quarters of a mile wide at times, the slow-moving tornado ground up everything before it.

The toll: an estimated 8,000 structures, roughly 300 businesses and 4,000 jobs affected, more than 1,150 injured and 142 lives lost. And counting.

Joplin was eviscerated. Maybe the head meteorologist with the National Weather Service station in Springfield

SEE **PATH**, 5A



Heartache radiates Saturday afternoon as friends of Will Norton gather at Freeman Hospital West for a press conference, at which it was confirmed that the Joplin teen had died in the May 22 tornado. Family members said they were informed Friday night that his body was found in a pond at 26th Street and Schifferdecker Avenue. **GLOBE | ROGER NOMER**

Family members emotionally note teen's death

BY MIKE POUND  
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Will Norton, an 18 year-old whose family launched a social media campaign in a desperate effort to locate him, is dead.

At an emotional news conference Saturday afternoon at Freeman Hospital West, Tracey Presslor, Norton's aunt, and Keith Ledgerwood, his cousin, confirmed that Norton's body was found in one of the debris-laden ponds near 26th Street and Schifferdecker Avenue.

"This was like the perfect kid," Presslor said. "He loved animals, and he loved people." She said the family on Friday night was notified of the death.



Will Norton

SEE **NORTON**, 8A



Aaron Cox and Brooke Watson are showered in rose petals as they leave their wedding ceremony Saturday afternoon at First United Methodist Church. The newlyweds nearly postponed the ceremony because of the recent tornado, but were encouraged by family and friends to keep the date. **GLOBE | KELLEN JENKINS**

## Wedding becomes symbol of hope

BY KELSEY RYAN  
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After seven years of dating, Aaron Cox and Brooke Watson tied the knot Saturday.

About 100 people attended the ceremony at First United Methodist Church in Joplin, which offered

one of the few bright spots in the week following the May 22 tornado.

But the decision to hold the wedding did not come lightly.

Cox and Watson, both originally of Joplin, said they had family members

SEE **WEDDING**, 2A



FOLLOW THE LINK with this story at [joplinglobe.com](http://joplinglobe.com) to see video of the journey through debris by Aaron Cox and Brooke Watson.

### Today's outlook

High **88** Low **70**  
Complete local weather report: **3A**

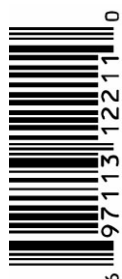
### Spotlight

AFTER A PROTRACTED printers' strike against both city papers, the financially troubled Joplin News Herald was purchased by the Joplin Globe Publishing Co. in May 1922.

### Inside

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## TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE from Suzanne

I was home with my two small children while my husband was at work when I saw the sky turn dark and the winds pick up. I grabbed the children and ran to a center closet in the house when I started to hear the debris fly around and the windows shatter. The power was off and it seemed like an eternity. I kept waiting for the roof to fly off or walls to come down. Finally I heard a loud knock at the door. I ran to open it and it was our son's preschool teacher looking for a refuge. She joined us and we began to pray. In the hours and days to follow I would learn of how fortunate we were. My home was damaged, but not the part where we took shelter. I've been hearing so many stories of rescue and survival that are miraculous. My heart breaks for the losses I see as I drive through Joplin. I love this city and want to help the people heal. I want folks to know that we are here, open and willing to do what we can to bring healing to our precious city. May God bless Joplin.

Sincerely, *Suzanne*

If you would like to ask Suzanne a question related to a healthier lifestyle, please email her at [suzanne@suzannes.com](mailto:suzanne@suzannes.com)

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