



MISSOURIAN

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T.J. THOMSON/Missourian

Emery Sapp and Sons employees supervise an excavator crane Wednesday at the Shakespeare's demolition site.

Slice of downtown demolished

Original Shakespeare's Pizza place torn down for construction of 6-story building

By **PATRICK MCKENNA**
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Alycia Lewis remembers going into Shakespeare's with her dad at 5 a.m. during the week. While he would check on things in the restaurant, she would collect scattered change on the floor from the night before and use the money to play pinball or Ms. Pac-Man.

On Wednesday morning, Lewis watched a demolition crew tear down the building in which she spent much of her childhood alongside her parents, Shakespeare's owners Jay and Nancy Lewis.

Emery Sapp and Sons is demolishing the iconic Shakespeare's building to make room for a building that will include retail on the first floor, office space on the second, and apartment space on the top four floors, Shakespeare's general manager Kurt Mirtsching said. The pizza place will return to its original location once the construction is finished.

Demolition began at 6 a.m. while the store's owners, some employees and bystanders watched. Lewis said friends and customers have been encouraging her family to rebuild the restaurant store to look as close as possible to the original.

"There's been a real sense of respect from the community to keep the store as it was when rebuilding," Lewis said. "Even though we know it'll be different, we know we can still provide the same amazing environment Shakespeare's is built on."

Mirtsching said he plans to salvage most of the bricks from the original building and has already assembled a team to clean them so they will be usable once rebuilding begins.

Nancy Lewis and her husband bought the restaurant in 1974. She was amazed by the amount of media coverage Shakespeare's received leading up to the demolition.

Mirtsching said the Shakespeare's staff experienced nearly every emotion possible as their former workplace came down.

"We've been mad about it, excited for the new building, nostalgic and sentimental about our time in the original building," Mirtsching said. "The experience has taught us that Shakespeare's isn't just about the building. It's about the people inside."

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Please see **page 4A** for more photos / Watch a timelapse video of the demolition at bit.ly/1QF202j

Tornadoes rare, warnings common in Boone County

By **PHILLIP SITTER**
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Sirens alerted Boone County residents Saturday of strong storms and tornado warnings, a reminder of the spring and summer weather hazards in Missouri.

Yet, compared to Joplin and surrounding Jasper County, tornadoes are rare in Boone County, where only 1.3 percent of all tornadoes have been recorded in the state since 1950.

In contrast, nine tornadoes have touched down in Jasper County since 2000, including one in May 2011 that caused 161 deaths and \$2.8 billion in damage.

When Heather Hurst lived in Joplin, she said, the warning sirens were so common that she stopped counting.

"We never took (the sirens) too seriously" until the tornado hit in May 2011, she said.

Shortly afterward, Hurst moved to Columbia

for a job at the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. She recalled hearing sirens shriek just once or twice a year in the last four years.

It is "kind of a relief," Hurst said.

What does the actual tornado picture look like in Columbia and Boone County?

Looking at diagrams of tornado activity around Columbia, it appears that parts of mid-Missouri have a protected status in the center of an active tornado zone. Some attribute that to the so-called Ozark Plateau, though there is minimal evidence to substantiate the correlation.

Historically, however, Boone County has been considered a low-risk area. No one has ever died during a tornado in Columbia, even during

Please see **TORNADOES**, page 6A

MU pediatrician discusses new meningitis vaccination

By **MICHAELA MARSHALL DUNGEY**
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Next week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Council on Immunization Practices will meet about a new vaccine that would target meningitis B. The current meningitis vaccine prevents A, C, W and Y strains of the disease.

Meningitis is a "disease caused by the inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord," according to the CDC.

Aneesh Tosh is a pediatrician who works for MU Health Care. He received his degree from MU School of Medicine in 2001. Tosh talked to the Missourian about the new vaccine, the importance the vaccination and how the CDC's decision — if it OKs the new vaccine — would make it more affordable. He said an outbreak is possible at MU, just

as it is at any place where people are in close contact with one another. (This conversation was edited for brevity and clarity.)

What are some of the symptoms of meningitis?

Meningitis presents many times like any other illness with high fevers. Sometimes you can get a rash, vomiting and other conditions. ... The body starts shutting down in severe cases as the brain becomes infected and swollen, (and) patients often become unconscious and need intensive care. Thankfully, there are antibiotics to treat that, but many times it's still too late to prevent all of the effects. They still may have neurological complications.

Meningitis in general is a very serious

Please see **MENINGITIS**, page 6A

PREPAID FUNERALS

The state legislature passed amendments to Missouri's prepaid funeral law in 2009. Now, prepaid funerals are on the rise. **Page 3A**

A NATION OF TERROR

Locals liberated from Islamic State rule speak of a reality of fear, death and tight control under the chaotic rule of Islamic extremism. **Page 8A**

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Over the past 57 years, Special Olympics has seen an increase in participation and notoriety, creating opportunities for those who compete, including one Columbia family. **Page 1B**

TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Heavy rain.
Temp: 82°
Tonight: Showers and thunderstorms likely.
Temp: 68°
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