



JIM RACKWITZ • Post-Dispatch file photo

Water rushes over farmland on Aug. 1, 1993, moments after a breach in the Columbia, Ill., levee. That summer, near-daily storms dumped 24 inches of rain across parts of five states.

LESSONS LEARNED

THE FLOOD OF 1993

The Missouri surged through the Monarch levee, swamping Chesterfield's business district and capping a destructive summer.



JERRY NAUNHEIM JR. • Post-Dispatch file photo

BY TIM O'NEIL

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Twenty years ago this Tuesday, the surging Missouri River burst through Chesterfield's levee and drowned its commercial district in a muddy soup. The roiling rush heralded the climax of the long, destructive and wearying summer of the Great Flood.

Two months ago, the Missouri almost got within 6 feet of the calamitous crest of 1993. Hardly anyone noticed.

Commerce buzzed without interruption along Chesterfield's 1.5-mile strip of new stores, from Culver's to the Bentley dealership. Young athletes played on at the sports complex near the improved levee. Inspectors drove its earthworks looking for leaks, but there weren't any.

The reason for all that

20 YEARS LATER

Commerce buzzes along with confidence in the flood plain, after millions of dollars were poured into raising the levee.



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See **FLOOD** • Page A10

FLOOD PHOTOS

Full-color unforgettable images. In **Community** • B1

Archive photos, plus video interviews. <http://bit.ly/floodgalleries>

Upload your photos to our reader gallery. <http://bit.ly/yourfloodpics>



INTERACTIVES

Story map: Share your flood memories. <http://bit.ly/yourfloodstories>

Then and now: Compare flood images. <http://bit.ly/thennowpics>

Join our Twitter conversation with the hashtag **#floodof93**

SUNSET AT THE DRIVE-IN?

America's outdoor theaters are spooked by the industry's looming deadline for digital conversion.

A&E
SECTION D

City schools weigh new building to meet demand

BY ELISA CROUCH

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ST. LOUIS • City schools Superintendent Kelvin Adams is pursuing something that hasn't been done for nearly a decade in his district: building a new school.

Twenty schools have closed in the district since Adams arrived in 2008. But now, plans are moving forward for a new elementary building for the Tower Grove Park area, potentially giving 600 St. Louis Public Schools students brand new classrooms in fall 2015.

"We see opportunities there," Adams said of the neighborhood. "We also see a need."

The proposed \$17.6 million building would serve neighborhoods with the highest percentages of

See **SCHOOL** • Page A8

BACK TO SCHOOL

Our new year guide has everything you need, from decorated lockers to college tuition to essential life skills.

HOME &
AWAY
SECTION H

When two Brandons cross paths at tavern, their fates are linked

BY JENNIFER MANN

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ST. LOUIS • Brandon Beck arrived at Nick's Pub around 10:30 p.m., sitting at a stool by himself. He gave off a loner vibe but for his chatter with bar staff, who appeared to know him well.

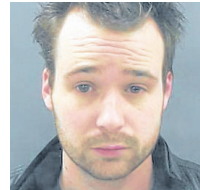
Brandon Jennings moved to Nick's from another bar that had closed for the night. It was early the morning after Thanksgiving 2012, and he and his best friend, Steven McGlothlin, were drinking late because they would be off work.

Strangers, the two Brandons started talking by chance, joking about how they shared a name. They had more in common than that, but it never came up.

See **BRANDONS** • Page A8



Jennings



Beck

WEATHER • SUNDAY 78° • SUNDAY NIGHT 69° • MONDAY 80° • FORECAST A21



TONIGHT AT 8:15

THE MUNY PRODUCTION OF
Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH'S

MARY POPPINS

THRU FRIDAY

