

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.



## SPORTS DAILY

The Chiefs held a full-squad offseason practice Monday, something they couldn't do a year ago when the lockout kept them off the field. | C1



## FYI

The millennial generation is pulling us back to the '90s, from boy bands to "Beavis & Butt-head." | E1

TODAY'S WEATHER: LOW 51, HIGH 79. SUNNY, BREEZY AND WARMER. | C10

\$1.00

## AMC deal will fulfill an old ambition

Theater operator is going global, in possibly the biggest U.S. deal yet by a private Chinese company.

By KEVIN COLLISON  
The Kansas City Star

Stan Durwood's dream of AMC Entertainment becoming a global movie exhibition company is about to become a reality, but not according to the script he envisioned 20 years ago.

Instead it's happening because AMC, founded in Kansas City in 1920, has been purchased by the Dalian Wanda Group of China for \$2.6 billion and an additional \$500 million to fund AMC's growth and improvements to its theaters.

It's being described as the biggest deal by a private Chinese company to date in the United States and only surpassed by two investments by state-owned firms, Reuters reported. According to the Heritage Foundation in Washington, by the end of 2011, Chinese companies had invested \$34.8 billion in various industries in the United States.

In buying the much larger AMC movie chain — it operates 5,034 screens vs. Wanda's 730 screens — the Chinese conglomerate is gaining the expertise and bench strength of an AMC management team to help achieve its goal of having 2,000 screens in China by 2015.

The combination of AMC and Wanda

SEE AMC | A7

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION | Obama speaks of city's resilient spirit

# PRESIDENT MARVELS AT 'THE STORY OF JOPLIN'



RICH SUGG | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

President Barack Obama congratulated Joplin High School graduates at Monday night's commencement ceremony. For more photos from his visit, go to [KansasCity.com](http://KansasCity.com).

PART THREE OF THREE | A year later, families still mourn the tornado victims and still question the coroner's actions.

## For many, pain remains

By LAURA BAUER  
The Kansas City Star

JOPLIN, Mo. | Rob Chappel thought he could leave it behind.

When he walked out of the temporary morgue that Wednesday last June, he thought he would move on. His job with the tornado was done. The memories — some of the most intense and heartbreaking he has ever experienced — still would be there, but they would be tucked away.

Yet it hasn't been that easy. Every morning, as the Jasper County coroner makes his way to work, he passes a sea of white government trailers, a neighborhood built for people who lost their homes. He is forced to think of how his community has changed, and why.

Occasionally he'll bump into someone who lost a friend or relative and who knows him only as the county coroner, and he knows he reminds them of the pain from May 22, 2011.

And even today, one year after the tornado, he has a file on his desk that he studies be-



KEITH MYERS | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

In Mount Hope Cemetery in Webb City, Mo., Chad Nelsen makes frequent visits to the grave of his wife, Sharyl Nelsen was working at an AT&T store when the tornado hit Joplin.

Go to [KansasCity.com](http://KansasCity.com) for The Star's complete coverage of the 2011 Joplin tornado and its one-year anniversary.

tween his work and his typical coroner calls — the car crashes, drug overdoses, natural deaths and workplace accidents.

SEE CORONER | A6

He returns to city on eve of tornado's anniversary and praises perseverance of graduating class.

By STEVE KRASKE  
The Kansas City Star

JOPLIN | President Barack Obama told the graduating seniors of Joplin High School Monday night that they and their city had inspired the world.

Speaking on the eve of the one-year anniversary of the mile-wide tornado that shredded their city, Obama said Joplin's lesson is that lives are defined not by what happens to people, but by how they respond.

"The story of Joplin is the story of what happened the next day," the president said. "And the day after that. And all the days and weeks that followed."

Even in the face of devastation, people can choose to carry on and make a difference, Obama said.

"And in doing so, we can make true that's written in Scripture — that 'tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance, character, and character, hope.'"

The president's visit was his second to Joplin in a year. Obama walked the city's streets one week after the EF-5 tornado struck, promising then that the country would stand at Joplin's

SEE JOPLIN | A6

## Business collapses at event hall

After roof came crashing down on reception site, owner is forced to break news to brides and grooms.

By ERIC ADLER  
The Kansas City Star

Michael Lucas paced in the back of Cadillac Catering, the wedding reception and event hall he founded inside an old industrial building at 1935 McGee St.

He held a cellphone to his ear. "I'm sorry," he told a client. "In 16 years I never let anyone down, but in this I did let you down. I feel terrible."

Lucas, 49, was one of the first in 1996 to start a business in a low-traffic area that would become the trendy Crossroads Art District. Over the years, he organized more wedding receptions than he can remember beneath the structure's tin ceiling and within its bare brick walls, in the Cadillac Room and the Fleetwood Room.

In the end, it wasn't the slow economy

SEE VENUE | A7

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