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The Courier-Journal

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DEVASTATING STORMS

Catharsis and hope amid pain

Two town meetings provide updates and advice to survivors around West Liberty

By Chris Kenning and Mike Wynn
The Courier-Journal

HOW TO HELP

» **The American Red Cross Disaster Relief** is collecting donations. Go to www.redcross.org or call (800) RED CROSS (733-2767) or text REDCROSS to 90999 to donate \$10.

COVERAGE ONLINE

Read the continuing coverage of the recovery from the deadly storms at www.courier-journal.com/tornadoes and see videos, stories and more photos. Go to our Facebook page for discussion at www.facebook.com/courier-journal.

INSIDE

More Kentucky counties could be added soon to the federal disaster declaration. **A2**

EZEL, Ky. — Five days after a tornado leveled logger Johnny Wilder's home in West Liberty, he pushed through the doors of a rural elementary school and into the community's first public meeting Wednesday — hoping to get a better picture of when his shattered life might begin to return to normal.

Wilder, a renter whose lost belongings weren't insured, was seeking a more permanent place to live. His wife, a teacher, has been out of work since her school shut down. In a library still dark from a lack of power, he sat on child-sized chair, one of roughly 70 anxious residents thirsty for information.

"We need help, and we need to learn how to get it," Wilder said.

But as city and state officials offered updates on federal aid, warnings about possible scams, prospects for a school reopen-

ing and access to downtown, there also came a cathartic venting — and tears.

Several exhausted officials choked up as they urged resi-

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Gov. Steve Beshear examines tornado damage in West Liberty during a tour Wednesday. JAMES CRISP/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL

Schools work to restart classes

2 temporary sites expected to open

By Grace Schneider
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The Courier-Journal

HENRYVILLE, Ind. — Behind an enclosure of high chain-link fencing, an army of construction crews has begun hauling off twisted metal roofing, mounds of bricks and blocks from the tornado-damaged schools complex.

Now-precious items, such as classroom computers, smart boards and French horns have been set aside, awaiting the

green light for shipment to temporary schools.

In the aftermath of Friday's devastating tornadoes, West Clark Community Schools administrators were forced to cancel classes at Henryville for the week and still are scrambling to assemble a game plan for finishing out the school year for 1,200 students in kindergarten through high school.

But school leaders expressed cautious optimism Wednesday about finding space to allow them to relocate all students and teachers to two sites — one for K-6, and another for

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JOSHUA YOUNG HAD TURNED HIS LIFE AROUND AT A FOSTER HOME BUT NOW FACES MURDER CHARGES AFTER HE WAS SUCKED BACK INTO



A FAMILY NIGHTMARE



Joshua Young, 16, will have another court hearing Friday as he awaits trial for murder in the beating death of his stepbrother, Terrence "Trey" Zwicker, in Louisville in May 2011. JOHN ROTT/THE C-J

By Deborah Yetter
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The Courier-Journal

Despite a childhood devastated by abuse, neglect and his mother's drug overdose death, Joshua Young seemed to have turned a promising corner early last year.

After a dozen investigations by state child welfare officials and multiple moves through homes of relatives and foster care, Joshua, 15, was in a foster home where he was happy, excelled in school and was focused on the future, according to court records recently filed in his case.

"He's very, very talented," Susan Stoneburner, his former foster mother, said at a court hearing. "We talked a lot about computers and his future with them because he was so talented."

But Joshua's life veered back into an ugly direction after his father, Joshua Gouker, a felon with a violent past who was released from prison in 2010, gained custody of his son last March.

Now Joshua is charged with murder in the May 11, 2011, beating death of his stepbrother, Trey Zwicker, 14 — which occurred shortly after Joshua moved into the home where his father lived with his wife, Amanda Campbell, and her son, Trey.

In custody at the Louisville Metro Youth Detention Center, Joshua, now 16, adamantly denies killing Trey, whose body was found in a creek bed behind Liberty High School and near Gouker's home. He has pleaded not guilty.

Meanwhile, Gouker, 32, is back in prison in Kentucky for a parole violation after a bizarre episode in which he left the state with his son in June and allegedly forced an Alabama woman at gunpoint to



Joshua Gouker, Joshua Young's father, told police his son admitted to the killing.



The body of Trey Zwicker, 14, was found in a creek bed near the Gouker home in May 2011.

"That doesn't pass the straight-face test. Mr Gouker is trying to blame his son. I think it's as likely as not that he's the responsible party."

PETE SCHULER,
Joshua's public defender

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WEATHER | B2

36-HOUR FORECAST
Southern Indiana: Showers today. Heavy rain by tonight, ending overnight. Partly sunny and cooler tomorrow.



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