

ICE STORMS STRIKE AGAIN

Power outages • Most service losses are centered on Florissant and St. Charles.
More to come • An inch or two of snow is possible across the region today.

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SUNDAY POST-DISPATCH

\$140+
OF COUPONS
INSIDE

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William "Ben" Ownby stands with his sister, Amanda, 19, in Union Saturday. J.B. Forbes | Post-Dispatch

THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE



Shawn Hornbeck stays close to his mother, Pam Akers, at a news conference Saturday in Richwoods. Shawn, now 15, disappeared four years ago in Richwoods. Huy Richard Mach | Post-Dispatch

• REUNITED FAMILIES THANK SEARCHERS, MEDIA, PUBLIC • BOYS, ADJUSTING TO HOME, AREN'T PRESSED FOR DETAILS

THE SUSPECT • Picture emerges of Michael Devlin; more charges may come

By Kim Bell
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

UNION • Shawn Hornbeck and Ben Ownby spent an ecstatic Saturday reuniting with family and friends as authorities intensified their investigation of the pizza parlor manager accused of kidnapping the boys.
 Michael J. Devlin, 41, of Kirkwood is being held in lieu of \$1 million bail, facing a single Franklin County charge of abducting Ben after the 13-year-old got off a school bus near his Beaufort home six days ago. Shawn, then 11, disappeared in 2002 from his Richwoods neighborhood, in Washington County, about 30 miles from Beaufort.
 Further state and federal charges

are possible.
 Neither Shawn nor Ben was allowed Saturday to take questions or discuss the ordeal when they appeared in separate news conferences with their families.
 "I feel like I'm in a dream," said Shawn's mother, Pam Akers, who had not seen her son since Oct. 6, 2002, when he left his Washington County home to visit a friend. "Only now it's a good dream, not the nightmare I've had for the last 4½ years."
 At Ben's family news conference here at the Franklin County Courthouse, his mother, Doris Ownby, was asked to describe her reunion with her son.
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INSIDE

- Devlin: Quiet child becomes an angry, secretive adult.
- The abducted boys were hidden in plain sight.
- Psychological chains can bind young victims.

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ONLINE

- Share your thoughts in our Talk of the Day blog.
- Stay updated on the latest developments.

▶ **STLtoday.com**

THE ARREST • Two police officers make the connection that breaks the case

By Bill Bryan
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
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KIRKWOOD • Kirkwood police officers Gary Wagster and Chris Nelson were about to leave the apartment complex on South Holmes Avenue Thursday night when a white pickup in the parking lot caught their eye.
 "Are you seeing what I'm seeing?" Wagster asked Nelson.
 Within minutes, the two officers were talking to the owner of the pickup, and were on their way to breaking a case that has riveted the nation.
 Wagster and Nelson were at the apartment in the 400 block of South Holmes on an unrelated assignment: to talk to

a resident about a misdemeanor harassment complaint.
 They couldn't find the person.
 They were turning to leave when they saw the pickup.
 It matched to a T — down to the dirt and the rust — the Nissan vehicle sought in the abduction Monday of 13-year-old William "Ben" Ownby of Beaufort.
 As the officers went up to look at the truck, a resident told them about his suspicions concerning the vehicle and said that its owner lived on the first floor with his teenage son. About that time, they looked up and saw that man, Michael J. Devlin, 41, walking to a
 PLEASE SEE **CASE** | **A8**

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Slip slidin' away
POST-DISPATCH WEATHERBIRD



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