

NEWS | In Brief

Firefighters called to student house fire

Firefighters were called to extinguish a house fire at 802 E. Pierce St. on Sunday evening. Kirksville Fire Department Chief Randy Behrens said firefighters responded to a chimney fire at 8:15 p.m. The fire was under control when the firefighters arrived, he said. Behrens said all the occupants were outside the building. The house is for sale, he said. The house suffered fire damage to the roof, and smoke damaged the interior of the house, Behrens said. No injuries were reported.

Boeing F-18 Super hornet caused a sonic boom throughout the area Tuesday

A large sonic boom heard throughout the area at about 3 p.m. Tuesday was caused by a Boeing F-18 Superhornet, said Larry Logston, Adair County Sherriff's Department chief deputy. Logston said Boeing was testing the plane in an FAA approved test corridor. He said the plane was flying under the direction of the Kansas City Central Control Center. "It's not uncommon for one [sonic boom] to be heard in a 40-mile diameter," Logston said. People heard the boom in various communities in Adair County and in Edina in Knox County, Logston said.

City equipment upgrades cause police databases to be unavailable this week

Assistant City Manager Kris McKim said police databases were down the past few days because the city began standardizing its hardware and software in all departments. The change comes because of a decision made in June to make the city more efficient, she said. McKim said that after the changeover is complete, city employees will be able to share files, conduct business more easily and enter information from emergency phone calls more quickly. The police department's databases should be complete today, McKim said. McKim said that before the update, Kirksville had conflicting programs and equipment that made conducting business difficult. Residents should see the city running more smoothly because of these changes, she said. The equipment and three-year service agreement will cost the city about \$250,000, she said. Current reports from the Department of Public Safety are unavailable because of a server malfunction. Service should be restored by the end of the week.

Dobson Radio begins streaming online

Dobson Radio, 107.5, has begun to stream their music online. The Web site requires the Quicktime software to listen live online. The site includes a link to Apple's Web site to download the necessary program. Students can visit dobsonradio.truman.edu to listen.

Prospective students visit campus Nov. 5

The University will host President's Distinguished Scholar visit day Nov. 5. Prospective students will be given campus tours and attend presentations by President Barbara Dixon and the academic divisions. Participants can attend an organization, athletic and student service fair.

University renames McKinney Center

The McKinney Center, which houses the Student Health and Career centers, was renamed last Saturday to the Col. and Mrs. Robert L. McKinney Center on Saturday.

Student Senate | In Brief

- President sophomore Mark Kirtland said Senate did not spend money on candles for the weather-related cancellation of the Homecoming memorial service.
- Kirtland said the University will submit sophomore Emily Kiddoo, senior Greg Thompson and junior Justis Tuia to Gov. Matt Blunt for the student representative to the Board of Governors.
- Vision document chair, senior Robert Kelchen said Senate will conduct an open forum about the Senate's vision document Nov. 7.
- Senate appointed Kelchen, junior Cory Kessler and sophomore Mindy Maness to senior senator positions.
- Senate passed a motion to spend \$125 on Senate letterhead.
- Senate passed a motion to spend \$1,000 to fund two scholarships for Adair County students.
- Senate failed to pass a motion to empower sophomore Angela Crawford, academic affairs chairwoman, junior Justin Fager, student affairs chairman, Kirtland, and Maness to vote on behalf of Senate at the Student Government Conference on Saturday at Truman.



Ribbon Cutting photo by Adam Kabins | University President Barbara Dixon speaks at the ribbon cutting ceremony opening the recently renovated and expanded Magruder Hall on Saturday afternoon.

Senates congregate

Student Senate hosts conference to promote unity

Kyle Hill
Staff Reporter

Student Senate will host a conference Saturday aimed at unifying the voices of Missouri's public universities in Jefferson City. Representatives from Missouri Western State University, Missouri State University and the University of Missouri-St. Louis will discuss with Truman senators a resolution calling for increased state higher education funding. Sophomore Mindy Maness, Senate external affairs chair, said she sent invitations to all 12 public universities in the state. She said four schools cannot attend because of homecoming festivities, and others expressed concern that Truman was attempting to resuscitate the Student Association of Missouri.

"With SAM disbanding, [other schools] were kind of nervous that that's what we were trying to do again," Maness said. "I think that's why they were kind of wary about this." Four years ago, Truman hosted a conference that led to the formation of SAM, a short-lived lobbying coalition of universities led by Truman. At Sunday's general meeting, Truman senators rejected Maness' motion to empower herself and three other members to vote on that resolution. Prior to Sunday's meeting, Maness presented a draft resolution to members of Senate's executive committee, which some members considered vague and ambiguous, and no copies were distributed at the regular meeting. Junior treasurer Cory Kessler said he expressed some concerns about how Senate was asked to approve the motion. "If we're going to band together with other schools, which is very necessary at the

state level, we should do that in a completely honest and fair way that will benefit all universities, not just Truman and a select few," Kessler said. The motion failed 7-8-1. Maness said based on the discussion at Sunday's meeting, she made changes to the resolution and sent copies to representatives from the three schools Monday. Jeff Knapp, vice president of Missouri Western's Student Government Association, said he became excited about this weekend's conference after seeing the resolution. "Missouri Western's one of the lower-funded schools in the state," Knapp said. "We want to see how to secure more funding for our school and higher education in Missouri." Kessler said he also is looking forward to the conference. "The only way we're going to get stuff accomplished is to be a unified front," Kessler said. "[The General Assembly] is much more likely to talk to several universities that are together than one." Maness drew criticism from

senior senator senior Robert Kelchen when she included \$511 for a magician show out of \$1,840 budgeted. Last night, Senate's executive committee announced all events, including the magician, will be open to students. Maness said the entertainment is needed for delegates to unwind at the end of the day. "If a student has ever been to a professional conference, there are meetings and meetings and more meetings and food and speakers and meetings and votes," Maness said. "At the end of the time, you've worked all day, you've accomplished these things, it is just professional nature to have entertainment or some kind of relaxation at the end of the day." Maness said the show was among the inexpensive options and avoided after-parties that could put Truman and Student Senate in a position of liability. Knapp said this weekend's conference will be a first step toward unifying Missouri's public universities.

"The first step is meeting people," Knapp said. "The fact that we will be meeting with people with the same goals will help us maintain relationships with other universities." Maness said she plans to take the revised resolution to schools not attending and hopes Truman will make connections with the schools attending. "We're trying to create something where we can work together instead of fighting each other for how much we get for higher education," Maness said. "We're trying to increase it at a macro level instead of each school fighting for pieces of the pie." Maness said Missouri State will host a conference in the spring. "They're really glad we're doing it in the fall because we want to be able to storm the Capitol in the spring with whatever we take from these conferences," Maness said. Maness said students can check in at the Student Union Building's Activities Room at 10:30 a.m. The event is free of charge.

Organizations promote pedestrian safety

Carl Walz
for the Index

It might not seem serious, but jaywalking has significant repercussions. Department of Public Safety teamed up with the Kirksville Police Department and social sorority Sigma Kappa last week to sponsor the Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety Awareness program, which ran during Homecoming Week. Kirksville Police Chief Jim Hughes said the groups created the program to combat two growing problems on campus: students not crossing the street at crosswalks and local residents' view of students. "I want to remind students that even if they don't get hit, they are sending a bad message to the community at large about flagrant disregard for the laws and certain manners of behavior," Hughes said. Complaints relating to students' interactions with cars are not uncommon, Hughes said. "A month does not go by where I do not hear about some negative interaction between pedestrians and

vehicles surrounding campus, most often on Franklin," Hughes said. Based on complaints, Hughes said, the Truman community should consider itself lucky that more accidents have not occurred. "An event is a near miss or a permanent resident who gets mad," Hughes said. "When you have that many events, it just increases the likelihood that something bad will happen." Sigma Kappa had people placed at crosswalks during class changes to encourage students to use the crosswalks properly. The volunteers at the crosswalks gave informational handouts and pieces of candy to students who used crosswalks properly. Public Safety used a speed trailer acquired from the Missouri Highway Department to clock the speed of cars traveling down Franklin Street. Tom Johnson, director of Public

Safety, said this was done to remind drivers how fast they were going. "It's a 20 mph zone, and most generally people don't like to go 20 mph," Johnson said. "I don't know how intentional it is. I think a lot of it is just them not paying attention to what they are doing. Next thing you know, you have people going 25 to 30 mph." Johnson said the program might not get everyone to use a crosswalk, but it is getting the message out. "If nothing else, I just think that people are noticing that we are out there," Johnson said. "When we are there, people are at least using the crosswalks the proper way." Freshman Tyler Bergholdt said he thinks the program is receiving a decent response. "I think the program goes half and half," Bergholdt said. "You find some people that realize it as a big deal be-

cause Public Safety is taking time, and the other half just don't care." The educational method employed by Public Safety and the Police Department is not the only way of solving the crosswalk problem. Hughes said both organizations would prefer to use the educational method but would use enforcement if it were needed. "We focus much more on education than enforcement, but that does not mean that we don't initiate enforcement when it is warranted," Hughes said. Bergholdt said the enforcement method would anger a lot of students but probably would be successful in getting students to use the crosswalks. "Enforcement would probably [make people angry] enough in the beginning to where they would eventually start using the crosswalks," Bergholdt said. Johnson said he envisions this program becoming an annual event. "That's my plan to kind of make this an annual event during Homecoming Week," Johnson said.

"When you have that many events, it just increases the likelihood that something bad will happen."

Jim Hughes
Kirksville Chief of Police

Hope is more powerful than a hurricane.



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