

Investigation of Too Talls fire continues

Federal marshals take over Too Talls case, weather blamed for Golden Spike fire

Amanda Boyle
Staff Reporter

The wrath of Mother Nature and an alleged arsonist have at least one thing in common: Each started fires in local bars in the past year.

Investigators of the Jan. 1 fire at Too Talls Two found a bag of paperwork at the entrance to the bar with fire accelerants on the paper, leading them to believe the fire was suspicious, said Mark Williams, prosecuting attorney for Adair County.

Williams said the investigation is ongoing, but the only suspect that has been revealed to him is former Too Talls Two owner and former mayor Debbie Masten.

He said that as investigations of the fire continued, the Adair County prosecutor's office called in investigators from the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives at the request of the state fire marshal.

Shortly thereafter, the prosecutor's office, the fire marshal and ATF made a joint decision that handed the investigation and the case entirely over to ATF.

He said he was not at liberty to say why they made that decision.

ATF Information Officer Paul Marquardt said because the case is not closed yet, he can share little informa-

tion regarding the investigation.

"We are still aggressively pursuing the case, but it is an open, ongoing investigation," Marquardt said. "We can't comment to the media at this time."

Marquardt also could not comment on whether or not Masten is the only suspect.

While the Too Talls Two fire allegedly started by arson, weather caused the fire in another local bar, Golden Spike.

The Kirksville Fire Department received the call reporting the fire May 11 at 6:24 p.m., Fire Chief Randy Behrens said.

He said the State Fire Marshall's office assisted the fire department in the investigations, and they found that lightning had struck.

Behrens said the fire caused the roof of the building to burn off, and what didn't burn collapsed inside.

He said there were no people inside, and the fire was under control by 8 p.m.

Golden Spike owner Craig Shorten said he faced a total loss of about \$300,000.

He was able to salvage some memorabilia from the bar that he sold at an auction last Saturday.

The monetary loss, however, still is substantial.

"You don't make money on fires," Shorten said.

The Golden Spike is under contract to be sold, Shorten said. He said he is not at liberty to name the purchasing party, but a public announcement will be made shortly.

"You don't make money on fires."

Craig Shorten
Golden Spike Owner



Too Talls Two was one of two local bars damaged by fire within the last year.

Mike Snodderley/ Index

GRUBER | Philosophy professor was well-liked by colleagues, students

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Gruber was involved in many professional organizations, including the American Philosophical Association and Phi Beta Kappa, according to his biography on Truman's philosophy and religion department Web site.

Mohler said Gruber had been instrumental in founding the Truman chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Gruber also had been recently re-elected to the Executive Committee of the National Council of the AAUP. President Barbara Dixon said Gruber would be missed sorely.

"David was an extraordinarily loyal and dedicated professor," Dixon said. "Not only did he excel in the classroom, but he was a long-standing proponent of issues concerning faculty

governance."

Dixon said in recognition of Gruber's longtime contribution to the AAUP, he had been rewarded the prestigious Tacey Award.

"He gave much to the University and will be remembered for a long time," Dixon said.

Senior Amanda Groebl had Gruber for an ethics course in the 2004 spring semester. "He was really one of the

best teachers I think I've had here," Groebl said. "He had a way of communicating with the students."

She said Gruber's classes were mainly discussion-based.

"The discussions were always really interesting," Groebl said. "He made us think in different ways, about things we had never really thought about before. ... He really loved his subject."

So, what happens now?

- ? There is no federal or state statute or city ordinance that determines a specific process in replacing a City Council member.
- ? Mayor Pro-Tem Tim Crist takes over the duties as mayor in the interim period.
- ? Each council member brings forward the names of qualified individuals by Friday at noon.
- ? City Manager Mari Macomber checks qualifications to determine if each individual is eligible for appointment by this weekend.
- ? The April 2006 election will go as usual. The appointed council member may decide to run for a full term at that time.

RESTAURANT | Ruby Tuesday hopes to roll into Kirksville next May

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The office can act as a resource to prospective retail companies by providing city statistics or numerical analysis, Tate said. He also said the city can provide a low-interest loan for prospective new retail shops.

Anderson said Ruby Tuesday has opened about 100 new franchises and corporate stores domestically in the past few years.

Brad Chambers, co-director of admission for the University, said he wasn't surprised

to see Kirksville chosen for a Ruby Tuesday restaurant. He said the more the University and Kirksville could offer to prospective students and their families, the more appealing it is going to be.

"Kirksville is an obvious choice for a new restaurant that has name recognition from where students are coming from," Chambers said.

Tate said the franchisers have not applied for a business license.

He said the addition of retail stores such

as Walgreens, Home Depot and Ruby Tuesday and the job creation projects his office has put together build positive momentum.

Tate also said his office is working out details with a company that has expressed interest into the Standard Registrar Building, owned by the city of Kirksville, with further announcements hopefully soon.

"It's infectious in a way and contagious in that those good positive feelings about the retail community rub off on other location decisions," Tate said.

HACKER | System is secure after computer whiz from Netherlands breaks in

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Within two weeks, ITS was able to retrace the hacker's steps, find the hole and close it.

"He could have attacked 100 different machines that day," Warren said.

Hackers store files, some illegal, such as pirated music, movies and sound clips. Warren said Truman has 4,000 megabytes of storage on its

servers. A feasible way to look through all personal, public and private databases does not exist with ITS's budget, Warren said. However, he said if an application is updated and well-written, a hacker cannot get in.

Warren said the hacker went through Veritas back-up program. Veritas issued a patch, a program used to repair holes in applications, for all users

of their program. Warren said hackers usually take months to exploit a patch, but this hacker only took two weeks.

In the online publication "Network World," Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a nonprofit consumer information and advocacy organization, said that since Feb. 25, security breaches exposed more than two million numbers at 24 colleges.

Warren said much of the personal information was unavailable to the hacker because he or she did not have admission to the database that contained social security numbers.

Junior Sarah Carter said she hopes ITS will fix the holes that caused this breach.

"I don't really know how it will affect me, but it is a little disconcerting," Carter said.

MASTEN | Mayor resigns post, makes plans to move

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She said the procedure for choosing another citizen to fill the vacant council spot is determined on a case-by-case basis.

"It's not the first time we have had a vacancy like this," Macomber said at the meeting Wednesday. "But we don't have anything that states, 'This is what we do.'"

There is no federal or state statute or any city ordinance that establishes a policy for replacing a council member in case of death or resignation.

Both Rowe and Councilman Richard Scott declined to comment on Wednesday.

Masten and her husband, Steve, lived on Country Club Drive. Their neighbor Anna Rogers said she

had seen the Mastens moving from their home.

"They've been moving out the last few days," Rogers said Monday. "[Masten] is a busy gal."

Rogers said she believed Masten would now be teaching at Moberly Area Community College and William Woods University in Fulton.

Moberly confirmed that Masten is on the faculty. The William Woods academic dean could not be reached.

Rogers said the homes on Country Club Drive sell quickly.

"[The Mastens' home] was never on the market," she said.

Masten could not be reached for comment. At the time of publication, her home and office phones had been disconnected.

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Sunday

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9 a.m. to 1 a.m.
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.