



Boogie Nights

Kirkville Country Cousins groove to square dance beat

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TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY INDEX

The University's student-produced newspaper

Total Domination

No. 4 volleyball wins three matches, moves to 15-1

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Kirkville, Mo. 63501

E. coli infection spreads locally

Local cases of the bacteria appear to be unrelated to national FDA-mandated spinach recall, physicians say

Kristyn Potter
Staff Reporter

Although 2-year-old Megan Pike and 5-year-old Ethan Pike didn't eat any spinach, they still contracted the life-threatening E. coli bacteria.

Becky Pike, manager of foundation scholarships and mother to Megan and Ethan, also contracted the bacteria. She said she doesn't know how the family got E. coli, which has been the subject of national news as it spread throughout the nation by way of spinach.

"I don't know where we got this," Pike said.

The E. coli strain O157:H7 infection is a food-borne illness typically found in the intestines of cattle. In the past, it has been spread through the contamination of beef and improper technique of disinfection, according to Cnn.com.

However, the illness seems to have spread recently through irrigation methods and harvest conditions of major produce corporations.

Megan spent three and a half weeks in the hospital before being released Tuesday. She and Ethan contracted hemolytic-uremic syndrome, a type of kidney failure, which is a disease to which children under 6 are susceptible, Pike said. She said Megan had to undergo dialysis after her kidneys failed.

"We started out ... going to the hospital doctor here, and [Megan] just wasn't getting better," Pike said. "[The doctor] did a stool sample, and it takes about four days. By the time we figured out what it was, her kidneys were failing."

Megan had to be taken back to St. Louis on Wednesday for more care, Pike said.

Bob Jones, dean of fine arts, also contracted the bacterial infection. The cause still is undetermined. Jones encountered the illness a month before the recent string of nationwide cases appeared.

On his way to the emergency room Aug. 18 for a back injury, Jones began to shake uncontrollably. His 106-degree temperature prompted physicians to begin administering tests. From a blood culture, doctors established it was an E. coli infection.

"Some of the tests the doctors ran showed that I should be perfectly healthy," Jones said.

Not even the doctors could find the cause of his

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Worst-Case Scenario

If you've been infected with E. coli strain O157:H7:

Day 1: Point of infection (from consuming contaminated beef, produce or water.)

Days 1-2: Bacteria incubates in the lower intestines.

Day 2: Onset of bloody diarrhea and abdominal cramps.

Days 3-4: Symptoms worsen to peak severity. (Some people, especially children and the elderly, develop hemolytic-uremic syndrome: the destruction of red blood cells and kidney failure.)

Days 4-10: Symptoms alleviate and disappear. (Kidney failure might lead to death.)

Design by Nick Wilsey/Index

Photo by Phil Jarrett
Design by Lindsay Koski/Index

University hires consulting firm

Financial advisers to evaluate financial aid, tuition and enrollment

Jackson Groves
Staff Reporter

The University's Board of Governors hired a consulting firm for \$375,000 to advise on various issues including tuition rates and scholarship distribution.

The Maryland-based Art and Science Group will conduct a year-long study to determine how much money to charge for tuition and how to distribute scholarships better based on a number of factors, said John Fraire, associate vice president for enrollment management.

"It has been said numerous times that students choose Truman because of the cost, but nobody has been able to prove or disprove that," Fraire said. "That is the heart of the study."

One facet of the study will locate price-sensitivity points along the enrollment process, Fraire said.

"We can determine with accuracy what an increase or decrease in tuition will do during various different stages of the admissions process," Fraire said.

Fraire said the Art and Science Group also will conduct a financial aid optimization study at Truman, which will look at how to allocate the money being used for scholarships. The group also will look at which types of students would likely come to Truman if more scholarship money were available and who would still come to Truman even if less financial aid were available.

Fraire said another goal the University hopes to accomplish through the study is keeping total enrollment steady at 6,000 students.

"We are trying to look at different ways to reverse the 10-year-long downward trend in applications," Fraire said.

Fraire said the study's results might help the University to stabilize revenue while being able to strengthen enrollment.

"This study will go a long, long way in helping us to set realistic tuition levels," Fraire said.

Junior Emily Kiddoo, student representative on the Board of Governors, said she hopes the company will straighten out the enrollment fluctuations, set tuition, allocate financial aid and give them something to take to the state legislature.

"This way when we go to the legislature with our budget proposal, we can use this as information to say, 'Hey, this is what we have, and this is what we want to do,'" Kiddoo said.

She said the Board brought up the issue in June at a retreat. After further investigation and a review of the contract, members voted in August to hire the company.

"From a student perspective, I think it's really important for us to know why they are setting our tuition like they are," Kiddoo said. "This study should give us some concrete evidence as to why they are doing that."

Kiddoo said the study also could reveal why enrollment has fluctuated in recent years.

"It really helps if a university can depend on having a certain number of students in terms of how they allocate the budget," Kiddoo said.

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"I think it's really important for us to know why they are setting our tuition like they are."

Emily Kiddoo
Junior and Student Representative on the Board of Governors

McClain's resignation prompts search for quick replacement

Coming MOHELA vote could be 'watershed event' for education

Jessie Gasch
News Editor

When people contract shingles, their families worry, but when Charles McClain discovered the virus in his system, it affected the state of higher education in Missouri.

McClain, former University president and current interim commissioner for the Missouri Department of Higher Education, submitted his resignation to the department Monday, to be effective Friday.

"Basically, I just ran out of energy," he said. "I'm optimistic that in a few weeks I'll be back to full steam ahead."

The Department of Higher Education already began searching for a permanent replacement for McClain, who began work Aug. 1. McClain indicated he would not remain in the position after Dec. 31, according to the Aug. 20 issue of the Index.

The department has hired Davis Consulting Group of Kansas City, Mo., to assist in the process, he said.

"It will be [Davis'] call and the

board's call," McClain said of the appointment of a long-term commissioner. "I will not be surprised if they keep in a modest amount of contact. But I don't have a crystal ball."

Any individual who becomes commissioner also must serve on the seven-member board of the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority, which has plans to vote on Missouri Governor Matt Blunt's MOHELA funding plan Sept. 27 [see MOHELA story, Page 1].

The MOHELA plan, part of Blunt's Lewis & Clark Discovery Initiative, includes the sale of millions of dollars' worth of assets by the state to provide funding for higher education and health-related capital improvements. Four of the seven possible votes are needed to enact the proposal.

McClain's resignation follows the resignations of two other MOHELA board members, Marilyn Bush, senior executive of Bank of America, and James Ricks, faculty member at Southeast Missouri State University.

Although McClain only gave

health concerns in his letter of resignation, Ricks and Bush might have potential conflicts of interest in voting on the MOHELA plan, according to a letter from Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon.

Ricks confirmed that he submitted his resignation Monday but declined further comment.

"I'm still supportive of the state doing a lot of good things for students [and higher education]," he said.

"Basically, I just ran out of energy."

Charles McClain
Former University President and Interim Commissioner for the Missouri Department of Higher Education

McClain said he had never reached an opinion on whether he would have voted for the proposal, despite several articles that said he approved.

"I don't recall ever having made a statement on my unequivocal decision on that," he said. "I was still studying. ... Whether they somehow saw my head bobbing or something, I don't know."

McClain said he knows the needs on Missouri campuses are great.

Blunt appointed Tom Reeves, president of Pulaski Bank, as a replacement for Bush on Tuesday, but the other positions remain vacant.

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Allocation of Resources for Missouri Schools

School	Project Description	Money Allocated
University of Missouri-Columbia	New health sciences research and education center, new facility designed to house companies spun off from MU research, adding about 15,000 square feet to plant science center.	\$92,029,000
Missouri State University	Renovation/reutilization plan of multiple campus facilities as well as the construction of a facility designed to house companies recruited by MSU and companies spun off from MSU research.	\$34,704,000
Truman State University	Renovation and addition for nursing, communication disorders, health science, and exercise science program.	\$21,558,000

Design by Shane Haas/Index

MOHELA vote might affect Pershing

Diane Poelker
for the Index

Pershing Building might receive a facelift soon.

University President Barbara Dixon said the Missouri Department of Higher Education is expected to vote Sept. 27 on the proposed Missouri Higher Education Loan Association (MOHELA) Funding Plan. The proposal is a part of Blunt's Lewis & Clark Discovery Initiative, according to a press release from Gov. Blunt's office. It would allocate \$350 million dollars to the University of Missouri system for capital improvements through the transfer of some of MOHELA's assets to the state.

"We would receive \$21.6 million," said David Rector, University executive director of institu-

tional research and budget.

The money allocated to Truman would fund the renovation of the Pershing Building, according to the detailed proposal. The updated facility would house the health sciences programs, which include nursing, health science, exercise science and communication disorders.

Dixon said the renovations would overhaul the building.

"One of our board members said, 'That building was bad when I graduated in '79, and it hasn't improved with age,'" Dixon said. "Depending on which way we have to go, we have a couple of plans. One of our decisions is whether or not we can raise enough money for a second gym. The state doesn't fund athletic programs, so if we want a second arena, we have to raise enough

money for that."

The Pershing project is different from other campus construction initiatives. Money for new residence halls, the construction of the Student Recreation Center and even renovations to Barnett Hall come from the auxiliary fund that is built into the University's annual budget, Rector said.

Without the funds from MOHELA, Truman will not be able to afford the renovations to Pershing, Rector said. Furthermore, he said Truman hasn't seen any money from the state for building since 2000.

"There was supposed to be money in 2001, but then we had a budget crisis and the governor at that time cut it out," Rector said.

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Words To Know

Columnist Joel Andersen explains the keys to writing a quality personal statement.



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Building Up BSU

The Baptist Student Union makes million-dollar building renovations.



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Happy Life

Sex in the 'Ville columnist advises students to lose the to-do list.



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THIS WEEK | weather

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Scattered T-storms High 74 Low 54	Isolated T-storms High 65 Low 51	Few showers High 63 Low 45