

SEXUALITY SPECTRUM

Semi-annual dance allows for an open mind

TruLife Page 11



TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY
INDEX

The University's student-produced newspaper

SENIOR STANDOUT

Jennifer Salmon helps lead women to 18-3 record.

Sports Page 17



Thursday, April 17, 2008

www.trumanindex.com

Kirksville, Mo. 63501

Restaurant owner, employees indicted

BY NATHAN BECKER
Editor in Chief

The owner of El Vaquero restaurant and six other people have been indicted by a federal grand jury for charges involving the fraudulent use of Social Security numbers for employment.

Neftali Lopez, the 33-year-old owner of the Mexican restaurant, was arrested Friday after he was indicted by a federal grand jury on counts of conspiracy to defraud the United States, aggravated identity theft, Social Security fraud and harboring illegal immigrants. He is being held on

\$50,000 bond secured by property and will be arraigned today at 1 p.m.

Others who were indicted are Kirksville residents Zoraida Lopez, Julio Cesar Villa Navarro, Filemon Abraján Beltrán, Ambrocio Olvera Alvarez, Pedro Santos and Jesus Villalba Pedrosa — Neftali Lopez's brother-in-law.

"Additionally, Neftali and Zoraida Lopez are charged with concealing and shielding the undocumented workers from the detection of authorities," U.S. Attorney Catherine Hanaway, who is serving as the prosecu-

tor in the case, stated in a press release.

Most of the arrests were made when the restaurant originally was shut down for one day, March 28, after the Social Security Administration, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers executed a search warrant and took 10 people into custody. Neftali Lopez, who goes by Taly, was in Tennessee when the raid occurred, he said.

Additionally, three other detained men will be deported today or tomorrow, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Please see INDICT, Page 9



Nathan Becker/Index

A federal grand jury indicted seven people last week following a raid of El Vaquero on March 28.



An El Vaquero surveillance camera captured this image early Tuesday morning during a burglary.

El Vaq robbed Tuesday

BY NATHAN BECKER
Editor in Chief

Police are looking for an unidentified male who broke into El Vaquero Mexican restaurant at about 1:25 a.m. Tuesday morning and stole an undisclosed amount of money.

The suspect gained entry to a safe and cash register in the restaurant, according to a press release from the Kirksville Police Department.

"He came in through the back door," Deputy Chief Tim King said. "... He pried it open."

King said the restaurant was closed during the break-in and that no one was in the restaurant while the subject was present.

Police don't have any suspects or leads yet in the case, King said.

He also said they haven't drawn any parallels between this burglary and recent incidents related to illegal immigration.

"Not that we're aware of," he said.

Please see BURGLAR, Page 9

Student pays visit to detainees

Persistence in tracking down former El Vaquero employees allows student final visit

BY JULIE WILLIAMS
News Editor

Hundreds of miles from their hometowns, a handful of former El Vaquero employees found a friend in Jessica Reavey.

Following the arrest of 10 individuals at the Mexican restaurant March 28, the sophomore Hablantes Unidos member picked up the phone and started the process of finding her friends, whom she eventually tracked to the Montgomery County Jail in Montgomery City, Mo.

"There was a lot of calling around and stuff," she said. "The officers that answered the phone had a hard time actually giving out information on them just because of the way their last names work."

In order to finally track down her friends, Reavey said she also had to put in calls to immigration agents, and once she did confirm their location, the process of visiting them was very unorganized and stressful. She said it took about an hour to get in to see the detainees and that other visitors there had been waiting for an hour before she and her friend arrived.

Reavey also said one of the screening bays at the jail was broken, so the usual amount of visitors could not go in all at once.

"When I was sitting in there talking, one of

Please see VISIT, Page 9

James McFarland appeared in court Friday afternoon to hear Circuit Judge Russell Steele deliver his verdict on the murder case McFarland has been involved in since 2005. Steele heard two days of testimony about the March 2003 death of Tim Mendenhall before considering McFarland's charges of murder in the first degree and armed criminal action. Steele found McFarland to be guilty of a lesser charge of murder in the second degree and also of armed criminal action. After the verdict was issued, McFarland was returned to county law enforcement officials, and he will appear in court again for a sentencing hearing May 14.



Photo by Mayank Dhungana/Index

McFarland found guilty



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Senior Daniel Poindexter and sophomore Lizz Esfeld, the newly elected Student Senate president, look at the Senate election results Wednesday.

All measures pass

Students elect future Senate leaders, pass four ballot measures

BY CAITLIN DEAN
Staff Reporter

A few curious students momentarily glanced up from their textbooks in the Violette Hall atrium last night as a circle of about 20 students formed around

senior Daniel Poindexter. Most turned back to their studies, unaware the papers in Poindexter's hand would determine much of their representation next year.

At 9 p.m., Poindexter, Student Senate speaker and acting ethics justice, announced the results of the Student Government Association Spring 2008 Elections.

The majority of the newly elected officers ran uncontested. Sophomore Lizz Esfeld was elected president. Please see SENATE, Page 9

Clerk will draw name to break tie

School board election result will be decided on April 22

BY JESSIE GASCH
Managing Editor

It's an unusual raffle, with just two entrants and a prize of three years of work.

When Adair County Clerk Sandy Collop draws a name next Tuesday evening, the winner will get a term on the Kirksville R-III school board. Candidates Kim Bailey and Jason Denslow, both currently serving on the board, tied for third place in the April 8 election. Either Denslow or Bailey, who each received 1,968 votes, will end up filling the third vacant school board slot.

"I thought, 'Only me, just my luck,'" Bailey said.

But she, like Denslow, said she thinks pulling names from a hat is the best solution.

"I really do think it's the only fair thing," she said. "Neither one of us wanted to call it [quits]."

School board president Michael McManis said one candidate conceding the race is just one of the three options in situa-

tions like these: Ties also can be resolved through a special runoff election or through a casting of lots.

"The candidates have to make the choice — the school boards do not make the choice," McManis said. "And the default choice is a special election."

But a special runoff would cost the city about \$11,000 and could not take place until at least April 22, he said.

"As an alternative, the candidates, if they both agree, they can agree to a casting of lots, which means basically they're flipping a coin or drawing names," McManis said.

He said Missouri law does not permit a recount of the election results. The relevant state statute allows candidates who have lost a school board election by less than 1 percent to request a recount but says nothing on school board election ties, McManis said.

"As an alternative to [a runoff election], if the candidates who received an equal number of votes in such election agree, ... [the responsible office] may ... determine the winner of such election by lot. Any candidate

Please see BOARD, Page 9

INSIDE | this issue

Take Responsibility

Columnist Kelsey Landhuis looks at those who facilitate illegal immigration



See Other Voices, Page 5

Kid Zone

K-CDC opens permanent facility after two years of transience



See News, Page 2

Father Bill

Local priest overcomes alcoholism to see new light



See TruLife, Page 15

WEATHER

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
T-Storms	T-Showers	Few Showers
High 58 Low 48	High 57 Low 45	High 64 Low 47