

Nixon campaigns in Kirksville

Gubernatorial candidate visits small businesses

BY JOHN MOENSTER
Staff Reporter

Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon kicked off his Missouri Main Street tour in Kirksville last Thursday, beginning the second phase of his campaign for governor.

The goal of Nixon's Main Street tour is to listen to the concerns of Missourians, especially small business owners who are feeling the effects of the economy's decline. Nixon said his personal goals are to speak with and listen to the people, and to work his way across the state. Some of the local businesses Nixon stopped at included Pagliai's Pizza, The Green Door Haberdashery, Jim's Gems and the Barber Shop on South Elson.

"Some of the economic challenges we're seeing today is job growth not being what it used to be, foreclosure issues, a drop in economic activity and the unemployment rate going up," Nixon said in a speech before the tour began.

Nixon said his campaign chose Kirksville as the starting point because the town seems to value small business, education and the value of the tax dollar. He also said Truman is a national model for what can be done with education today.

Nixon's campaign contacted Jack Magruder, former Truman president and acting president of A.T. Still University, and asked him to accompany the Attorney General on the Main Street



Jack Magruder (right), former Truman president and acting president of A.T. Still University of Health Sciences, accompanied Attorney General Jay Nixon, Democratic candidate for governor, on a Main Street tour last Thursday.

tour. Magruder said he was glad to accompany Nixon.

"I like [Nixon's] agenda for education from the very beginning all through the University level," Magruder said. "The thing I like about him is that he couples improvement in the quality of education, improvement of the access and lowering tuition with the whole concept of job creation and economic development for our state."

Magruder said he agrees with Nixon's agenda for education and the idea of creating jobs as the result of having an educated workforce. Magruder said job creation cannot be discussed without addressing the education that is provided by the state

to prepare people to enter the job market.

"That's the key," Magruder said. "You've got to have education out there at all levels."

Magruder also said he likes Nixon's agenda on health care and some other issues.

Nixon said small businesses today are in need of an advocate in Jefferson City. He said much of the budget for economic development is spent on big businesses and corporations in the form of huge tax write-offs and credits.

"Last year the legislature came back in Jeff City to pass a \$95 million tax credit for land acquisition for one developer in

the city of St. Louis, while small businesses who are thinking about expanding are putting their own credit on the line," Nixon said. "When they pay their bills each month, they don't hear anything from Jeff City."

Nixon said the priority of his governorship would be expanding Missouri businesses and not getting into contests with big businesses that might or might not come into the state.

Nixon said multiple issues need to be addressed to help small businesses in Kirksville and throughout the state. He also said Missouri needs to remain a low-tax state and that small businesses should be very

careful about avoiding debt.

"As we move around the state, you see more and more of these payday loan stores opening up, which are really an avenue to move backwards," Nixon said. "... With the uncertainties in the credit market and interest rates, I think it can be a real challenge for people to borrow large amounts of money right now."

Mayor Martha Rowe also was present on the Attorney General's Main Street tour of Kirksville.

"I think we need to have every candidate here so that they know Kirksville exists and that we have needs just like they do in southern Missouri," Rowe said.

Hispanic groups spread awareness

Misconceptions abound with illegal immigration as relevance grows

BY ALEX BOLES
Assistant Features Editor

Hablantes Unidos and the Hispanic-American Leadership Organization are finding ways to cross borders.

The two organizations sponsored a discussion panel March 26 on immigration problems in the United States. The panel featured three speakers: professor of history Jason McDonald, professor of Spanish Carol Marshall and Kelsey Aurand de Razo, service learning coordinator for the University.

Senior Rachel Hogan, co-president of Hablantes Unidos, said she thinks the issue's relevance here and now is growing, especially because it is an election year.

"What I was hoping with a discussion night was just to further people's understanding and hope that in a community like Kirksville, where immigrants do feel isolated sometimes and sometimes majorly discriminated against, that more dialogue can bring about better understanding between the two groups," Hogan said.

She said she feels personally vested in the issue because of her three-year involvement with Hablantes Unidos and contact with international students.

"Immigration, I think, is something that a lot of people kind of have come to blame," she said. "It's become kind of a scapegoat issue as something that's wrong with this

country. ... I have a lot of personal ties to it and kind of being able to understand more of the reality of immigration rather than just a perception, I think, would really help lessen people's xenophobia and anti-immigrant skewes."

Hogan said she was glad to see such a large turnout for the event, even though she thinks people can get overloaded with information about the subject in classes.

"It's nice to see people willing to open their ears for a little while, even though you get so much in class, but when an issue's relevant, it's good to pursue — out of the four walls of a classroom — discussion about it," she said. "I think that sometimes we lack that."

The event began with a Power-Point presentation titled "Mexican Immigration." McDonald began with the modernization of Mexico leading to immigration and the historical reasoning behind it all. Marshall followed with a more personal look at the issue by sharing some "corridos," or ballads, based on historical events and people surrounding the topic. Aurand de Razo ended by sharing her and her Mexican husband's story and the difficulties they go through as a family raising a bilingual son.

"I guess you can describe us as a new American story, but the story isn't all that new," Aurand de Razo said during the discussion. "... It's a lot to juggle all at once, but the other immigrant families I know juggle a lot more."

After the panel discussion, Aurand de Razo said many immigrants end up getting taken advantage of because of their vulnerability in the

new culture.

"When you stop and think about the individual stories, as well as the effects on any children that have been born here, legally were born here, it really puts your legisla-

tion and those measures that are proposed all the time in the media in a harsh perspective because if you think about them as individuals and are aware of what they've triumphed in order to get here and what their children could lose, should something happen to them — it really puts it in a harsh perspective," she said.

She said immigrants often feel isolated and lonely and end up seeking out relationships and are taken advantage of or abused, but due to their illegal status, they cannot take any action for fear of deportation.

A question-and-answer session took place at the end of the event, in which most audience members spoke of their opinions on the Secure Fence Act of 2006 and its effectiveness as a solution to the immigration problem. The general consensus of the audience was that the fence is more of a symbol to immigrants rather than a solution to the problem, and Aurand de Razo agreed with those statements.

"For a political statement, I guess that it would be worth the money as

far as being an actual, effective tool to limit the crossing of the border and the rates that we see individuals doing that," she said. "And if that's really what we're wanting to tackle, then

we need to consider a lot of other measures and means to do that including working to make the economic situations a bit more stable between the two countries."

Senior Becky Jackson said she attended the event hoping to learn and be able to speak against the misconceptions about the topic with friends and family. She said this issue is used as a distraction from larger issues in the upcoming election.

"I kind of think that as far as the election goes, this is kind of like a red herring — something to throw people away from major issues like the war," Jackson said.

She said she is glad she is able to be a visual communication major and still have the opportunity to expand her knowledge about immigration through campus events.

"This is kind of what Truman is all about — learning from all these different people and all these different topics, and, you know, I am a graphics arts person, but I'm here," Jackson said.

"I guess you can describe [my Mexican husband and I] as a new American story, but the story isn't all that new. ... It's a lot to juggle all at once, but the other immigrant families I know juggle a lot more."

Kelsey Aurand de Razo
Service Learning Coordinator for the University

NEWS | In Brief

Alum steps down as HUD Secretary

University alumnus Alphonso Jackson has resigned as the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary because of personal reasons, according to a press release from Monday. He will officially step down April 18.

During his tenure as HUD secretary, Jackson contributed to the revitalization of the Federal Housing Association and the redevelopment of public housing throughout the country, also according to the release. He also helped rebuild the Gulf Coast following the various hurricanes that hit that area in 2005.

Jackson joined the Bush administration in 2001 as the HUD deputy secretary and chief operating officer. He was confirmed as HUD secretary in 2004, according to the release.

Forensic Union places at tournament

Members of the Truman Forensic Union won awards at the 2008 National Parliamentary Debate Association Championship Tournament, according to a press release from Monday. The tournament took place March 27 to 30 at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Senior Dylan Rothermel was one of four students nationally to receive the NPDA's Academic All-American Award, which is given in recognition of high grades, debate success and community service, according to the release.

Two teams, one consisting of Rothermel and sophomore Mark Buchheit and the other consisting of senior Sarah Archer and junior Chris Girouard, also reached elimination rounds.

The University ranked 17th overall out of 83 schools that participated in the tournament, according to the release. This was the 10th consecutive year University teams have placed in the elimination rounds of the tournament.

ROTC News

- Sophomore Graydon Gaines contracted with the Truman State University Military Science Department as a Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet. He is pursuing a B.S. Degree in Exercise Science. Following successful completion of both his university studies and ROTC requirements, Cadet Gaines will receive his commission to serve as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.
- While pursuing a commission as an officer in the U.S. Army through Truman State University, Cadet junior Thomas Bell has joined the Missouri National Guard as a simultaneous member. The SM program reinforces training on the roll of the commissioned officer in the Army and gives the Cadet the experience of working with soldiers and Non-commissioned officers. Cadet Bell will be a member of the 1438th Multi-Role Bridge Company.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Senior senator senior Greg Wisa was appointed to chair of the senate constitutional review committee.
- Senate discussed changing the duties of the Senate ethics justice.
- Senate passed a resolution in support of the 4.1 percent increase to the student activities fee.
- Senate discussed reducing the number of voting positions from 27 to at least 19.
- Senate president junior Matt Szweczyk discussed his meeting with the University's campus safety committee and asked for interested senators to talk with him about the issue.
- Senate discussed the Board of Governors meeting scheduled for Saturday.
- Senate discussed Homecoming Week 2008.
- Faculty adviser Scott Alberts, associate professor of mathematics, discussed end-of-the-year reports, upcoming Senate elections and the Student Research Conference.
- Senate discussed having a registration table for the Student Research Conference.
- Senate discussed not having organizational representatives come to Sunday Senate meetings, just relevant committee meetings.
- Senate discussed a campus, spirit and fun survey for the student body.
- Senate discussed whether the Ward Connerly appearance was unconstitutionally funded with SOCC and FAC money.

DPS | Reports

- 3/30 Report of bicycle theft outside Violette Hall
- 3/30 Report of rape in West Campus Suites
- 3/29 Freshman Adam Priest was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 3/28 Report of burglary in Dobson Hall
- 3/27 Report of burglary in Dobson Hall
- 3/26 Report of burglary in Dobson Hall
- 3/26 Report of burglary in Dobson Hall
- 3/21 Sophomore James Myers was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 3/20 Report of burglary in Dobson Hall

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When does voting
FOR a bond
issue mean **NO**
NEW TAXES?

When you vote FOR the Kirksville R-III bond issue that will be on the April 8th Ballot!

This bond issue is an 8-year extension until approximately 2025 of existing bonds. Your school debt levy will stay the same — it will not increase.

For **KIDS** — For **SCHOOLS**:

Vote YES

for the School Bond Issue on April 8.

Paid for by Friends of the Kirksville R-III Schools, Scott Templeton, Treasurer