

**ROAD LOSS**

Women lose 98-6 to Emporia State University

Sports  
Page 17



TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
**INDEX**

The University's student-produced newspaper

**LOOK TO THE SKIES**

Could UFOs be real?

TruLife  
Page 11



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Kirksville, Mo. 63501

**Student escapes farm fire**

BY JESSIE GASCH  
Managing Editor

It only took six minutes for the Kirksville Fire Department to respond to Carl Duncan's call, but it was the longest six minutes of his life.

Duncan, a 21-year-old senior, has lived at the University Farm for more than two years. When the Farm Building Duplex caught fire early the morning of Jan. 10, his tenure there came to an abrupt end.

"When I got outside, I saw the kitchen on the north side of the duplex was pretty well engulfed in flames," he said.

Duncan, the only farm resident home at the time, had been sleeping when the kitchen caught fire.

"I actually remember looking up at my clock and seeing the [time] pretty clearly and having heavy smoke in my room," he said.

Unfortunately, because of construction work at the Farm Building Duplex, the smoke detectors had been disconnected. No shrill beeping awoke Duncan that morning, just after 3 a.m., and he still doesn't know what prompted him to stir.

"I just consider myself pretty lucky to get out of there," he said. "I had my TV on, so it could have been something on there, or it could have just been the smoke itself that woke me up."

Duncan threw on a pair of coveralls and dialed 911. Eighteen firefighters from the Kirksville Fire Department eventually responded to the scene, quelling the flames within a half-hour, Fire Captain Joe Schilling said.

"It was pretty extensive damage on the interior of the structure," Schilling said.

He called the harm to the building a "complete loss," noting that most of the contents of the north side of the Farm Building Duplex were destroyed.

Schilling admonished Kirksville residents to use smoke detectors, even when construction work prevents them from using electric-powered ones. He said battery-powered detectors are an effective back-up option.

"[The University Farm] had not put up the battery-operated smoke detectors, so that person that lived there is very lucky that they woke up when they did," Schilling said.

Farm manager Bill Kuntz said the fire was caused by a short in a refrigerator



Krista Goodman/Index  
The University Farm Building Duplex lies in ruins Tuesday afternoon after a refrigerator cord short in the kitchen sparked a fire that spread to consume the entire duplex.

cord. Duncan said the farm purchased the refrigerator in 1998.

"So they were less than 10 years old," Duncan said. "That's not terrible for a refrigerator."

He said a gaping hole looms above what used to be the refrigerator.

"Charred up everywhere, that's where the refrigerator was," Duncan said. "But I had a

drawer of silverware right there, and it didn't even melt the plastic [holder]."

Workers hadn't installed the new cabinetry at the time of the fire, but the pantry was full of food.

"I had a jar of comb honey in there," Duncan said. "I picked it up, and it was all just wax at the bottom."

Please see FIRE, Page 7



Mark Hardy/Index

The front of the Ortech plant showed few signs of activity Tuesday afternoon. Ortech will lay off 100 employees, slimming its ranks to 80 workers.

**GM supplier makes cuts**

BY JULIE WILLIAMS  
News Editor

By the end of March, 100 more Kirksville residents will find themselves without jobs.

Ortech, a General Motors supplier in Kirksville, is making a significant employee cut, which will cost 13 workers jobs by the end of February and will be followed by another 87 lay-offs by the end of March. Cindy Hultz, rapid response coordinator with the Northeast Missouri Workforce Investment Board, said those lay-offs come as a result of a loss of contract with GM.

"[Ortech] had a contract with GM, and when they lost that contract they didn't have a need for the workers because they don't have any work for them," Hultz said.

Even though Ortech is losing a significant amount of workers, Hultz said the company has no intention of closing its doors.

"They'll have around 80

employees left, and they're still very much going to be in operation in Kirksville," she said.

The Missouri Career Center, an agency Hultz works closely with, is the only group currently working with the Ortech employees. Hultz said she conducted a community forum last week with similar agencies in the area to let them know what services the Missouri Career Center can provide so that the workers will not be receiving lots of phone calls from agencies wanting to help.

"What we can do is provide them services to help them become re-employed," she said.

Some of those services include providing information about going back to school, doing a job search and providing assistance with resumes and interview skills.

Once those 100 employees cease to work for Ortech, Hultz said they have the option of drawing unemployment insurance.

Please see ORTECH, Page 7

**"A hundred people being laid off will have a direct impact on our community."**

Phil Tate

Director of Job Creation for K-REDI

**Ready, set, caucus**



Phil Jarrett/Index

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee speaks at a rally prior to the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 3. Huckabee took the top Republican spot in Iowa followed by former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. See more Iowa caucus coverage beginning on page 8.

**Bills target illegal students**

BY CHRIS BONING  
Assistant News Editor

Two diverse campaign issues — illegal immigration and higher education — have been colliding in both Missouri and nationwide.

Bills concerning the issues have been introduced in the Missouri legislature and in Congress. One would deny illegal immigrants entrance to higher education institutions, and the other would grant residency status provided the student enrolled at an institute of higher learning. Both issues come into play at Truman.

On the state level, Rep. Jerry Nolte,

R-Gladstone, Mo., has introduced a bill — HB 1463 — in the Missouri House of Representatives that would prohibit illegal immigrants from entering public institutes of higher learning. The bill also would require schools to appear before the Missouri legislature and confirm that they have not enrolled any illegal immigrants knowingly.

Nolte said the bill is important because state tax money should be used to the benefit of Missouri citizens, and illegal immigrants are not citizens of the state.

"Also, at the moment ... it is a violation of federal law for someone here illegally to enroll in college, so as the law states right now making the entire bur-

den of being here and enrolling is on the individual who is here illegally," he said. "And there should be some accountability for an institution that knowingly enrolls an illegal because they are basically violating federal law."

Nolte said the issue of illegal immigration is important because the consensus seems to be the federal government has not done enough to curb the issue.

"There's some concern Washington has pretty much dropped the ball as far as enforcing the borders and enforcing the existing law because the burden of that population increase falls on the states," he said.

Please see BILL, Page 7

**Beer prices hop due to shortages**

BY DIANE POELKER  
Assistant News Editor

Beer enthusiasts soon might feel the pinch when purchasing their favorite brews.

Beer prices are on the rise, and there's no relief in sight. Nancy Porter, who owns the local liquor store Party Mart, said local distributors raised the price of beer just after Jan. 1, forcing her to charge consumers anywhere from 10 to 50 cents more for certain brands of beer.

"Typically the first of every year we get an increase from all of the beer distributors," Porter said. "The distributors usually send a letter when they announce the price increase, mentioning gas prices and such, [but] they never get specific [as to why]."

Although Porter said prices generally increase annually to adjust for inflation, beer's sudden expense is not just a local problem. Henry von Eichel, CEO of John I. Haas, Inc., a national leader in the hops industry,

**Beer for breakfast?**  
and other six-pack facts

- Missouri shipped 4.5 million 31-gallon barrels of beer in 2006.
- The average American consumes 21.6 gallons of beer in one year.
- As of 2006, the United States is home to 1,723 breweries.



- Beer can aid in bone formation. It contains silicon, which helps build bone mass.
- The main ingredient in beer is water.
- Beer was often served for breakfast in medieval England.

Design by Antionette Bedessie

said rising hop prices might be driving the market.

"You cannot brew beer without hops," von Eichel said. "Hop demand worldwide has expanded because

beer consumption has increased worldwide."

Von Eichel said that 10 years ago there was a surplus of hops, creating low prices

Please see BEER, Page 7

**INSIDE | this issue**

**"Potheads for Paul!"**

Columnist Phil Jarrett explains why Ron Paul will never be president



See Other Voices, Page 5

**Back on the Air**

KTRM resumes regular broadcasts after nearly a semester of radio silence



See News, Page 2

**Young Love**

"Juno" delivers hit with co-stars Michael Cera and Ellen Page



See TruLife, Page 14

**WEATHER**

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Snow Showers	Scattered Flurries	Mostly Sunny
High 23 Low 17	High 26 Low 0	High 11 Low 2