

Array of Art



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
In the art gallery at Ophelia Parrish, an exhibit entitled "See Related Story: The Murder of J.R. Warren," by artist Rory Golden, will be the subject of a lecture and reception Feb. 10.

Cause of gas leak remains unknown

Gas leak near Truman briefly shuts down fuel supply to campus

BY JULIE WILLIAMS
 News Editor

A gas leak Friday morning at LaHarpe and High Streets left Truman running on an alternate fuel source for the afternoon.

Fire Chief Randy Behrens said the Kirksville Fire Department was dispatched shortly after 8:30 Friday morning to the site of the break in the gas line and stood by while Atmos Energy shut down the line so it could be repaired.

"As soon as they shut it down, they deemed it safe enough to leave, so we left," Behrens said.

Steve Green, manager of public affairs for Atmos Energy, said he still is unsure why exactly the line broke, though he said it might have stemmed from a broken well.

"This time of year, when it's cold and the ground is fro-

zen ... with frost, it might go up and down and that sort of thing," Green said. "It must have been a weak well, possibly. We don't know for sure."

Green said the break occurred in a six-inch-thick steel line that served the University and that because the University has its own standby system, Atmos was able to shut the line down without interrupting service to campus.

"We had it repaired by late afternoon, and they were able to switch back to natural gas," he said.

Physical Plant Director Karl Schneider said Truman has two underground fuel tanks beneath the Violette Hall park-

ing lot that can provide fuel to the main boilers for only about five days during cold weather.

"We use it when the gas is cut off for whatever reason," Schneider said. "Sometimes the supplier will have to do maintenance on their lines, so they'll have a gas outage sometimes."

The tanks are filled with No. 2 fuel oil, which Schneider said is similar to diesel fuel. He said the University usually only has to rely on the tanks about once a year.

"It's quite a bit more expensive than natural gas," he said. "That's why we don't use it very often."

Schneider said the presence of backup fuel tanks on college campuses is fairly common and that these tanks have been in place at the University since the campus has run on gas as a primary fuel.

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Karl Schneider
 Physical Plant Director

City encourages tourism in 2008

BY CHRIS BONING
 Assistant News Editor

Kirksville's 150th birthday has come and gone, and what a year it was.

Kirksville mayor Martha Rowe recounted the past 365 days of important ordinances, festivals and collaborative projects in her annual State of the City address Jan. 18.

Rowe said things got rolling when the city hosted its anniversary kickoff event at the Kirksville Arts Association last January. More than 200 people showed up to take part in the celebration, she said.

Later that month, the City Council passed an ordinance governing the use of carbon monoxide in residences. The ordinance became effective in September.

The city also received a grant to fund an automated telephone notification system accessible to all the county's residents.

"This could potentially assist ... in case of natural disasters, evacuations, hazardous material threats, missing children and much, much more," she said.

In April, with voter support, the city approved an ordinance to ban smoking in all public places, which became effective in July. Also that month, two new members, Tom Mayer and Aaron Rodgerson, joined the city council.

Also in April, Kirksville residents voted for renewal of the quarter-cent capital improvement sales tax.

"This was very important for the city's future operations as these funds are used to fund capital expenditures such as police cars, fire trucks, snow plows, mowers and to do building repairs," she said.

Rowe added that the city updates the capital improvement plan every five years to make sure funds are being used correctly.

The local Watershed Management Commission also devised a source water protection plan for the Hazel Creek Reservoir about this time, she said.

"Having an improved source water protection plan means that we have plans in place to continually check the quality of our drinking water as well as address long-term concerns about where our water comes from and how we protect it," Rowe said.

In July, the city received a grant from the Missouri Department of Resources to build a skate park. Rowe said construction on the park will begin next summer.

In late August, Gov. Matt Blunt chose Kirksville as one of his DREAM cities to receive state

funding and tax credits for revitalization projects.

Rowe said the first annual Water Conservation Festival, sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Adair County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Watershed Management Commission, took place in September. The festival featured free fishing and presentations on good water practices, she added.

A disc-golf course opened in Rotary Park that month through a partnership between the Kirksville Rotary Club and the A.T. Still University Rotaract Club.

"While this concept may be new to Kirksville, many Truman State University and A.T. Still University students are familiar with the game and look forward to having a course to play on," she said. "We think it will be popular for many young people in the community."

The city also hosted its first Airport Day in September, which Rowe said brought in more than 2,000 visitors. The event featured airplane and helicopter rides as well as tours of the airport, she added.

The city received a MoDOT enhancement grant to go toward repairing the sidewalks on Baltimore Street and constructing a walkway beneath it that will connect to Rotary Park.

Osteopathy Street reopened after being shut down for several months for repair work.

"We were pleased to find a much-improved Osteopathy Street that was straighter, smoother and had safer connections," she said.

Finally, in September, the city began repairing water lines under existing streets and parking areas.

"Not only will this ensure adequate water supply to the downtown area, but it will minimize the need for repairs to streets and sidewalks that will soon be improved," she said.

In November, the City Council hosted a meeting for Kirksville residents to learn about and discuss the possibility of constructing an alternate route around U.S. Highway 63. Rowe said more than 100 people showed up to express their opinions about the proposal.

Rowe also highlighted a few things city residents can look forward to in 2008, including the addition of a new fire truck to the Kirksville Fire Department. The truck is coming to Kirksville from New York, she added.

"Since the usage of this type of vehicle is low compared to the use of our other fire vehicles, a used truck is exactly what we need," Rowe said.

Kirksville tourism director Debi Boughton spoke after Rowe and emphasized the importance of the 3.6 percent lodging tax passed in 2006.

"For the first time, the community has a budget [with] which we can actually market our tourism," Boughton said, adding that it was difficult to promote Kirksville without any money.

The Kirksville tourism office has several projects in progress and goals for 2008, including trying to encourage more groups to have conferences in Kirksville.

"When we bring conferences to town, often for 80 or 90 percent of those people, that's the first time they've come to town," she said. "So, these are really important because I believe once you bring someone to Kirksville, they really like it, and they come back ... with their family and friends."

She said the city already is hosting the annual Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge and a tractor ride in the first week in September.

The tourism office currently is working on a GIS map of the city, Boughton said.

"It's very easy to have these online maps where [if] people just want to check out restaurants in Kirksville, they pull up this area map and there's a little balloon by all the restaurants," she said.

"They can find the restaurants, [and] they can choose where to go. We're doing that with the hotels, we're going to do that with campgrounds and we're going to have a map with cultural attractions. ... I'm really excited about that."

Boughton said her office plans to promote hunting and fishing in the area. Kirksville hosted its first Sportman's Expo on Saturday, which was the first day hunters could have their deer scored, she said.

Another project in the works is a brochure called "63 Things to Do Along Highway 63," which is a collaborative effort among Macon, La Plata and other local communities, she added.

"That will be more local, but we want people to know what's going on as they travel," she said.

John Buckwalter, Kirksville public works director, said after the address that there are several street and sidewalk repair projects on the calendar for 2008 in addition to the plans for Baltimore Street.

He said these include projects on Jefferson Street and Cable Street, which will cost \$500,000 and \$260,000, respectively. Funding for the project is coming from the city's downtown tax increment financing district and transportation sales tax, he added.

Construction is set to start on the projects as soon as the weather becomes warmer, and each set of repairs should last about four months, Buckwalter said. None of the projects should interfere with traffic except for the Jefferson Street project.

"It involves basically new sidewalks and curbs on both sides of the street and reconfiguration of the street pavement," he said. "It will limit traffic to local only. I would call it disruptive."

SAB books Hellogoodbye for concert

BY DIANE POELKER
 Assistant News Editor

The Italians say "Ciao, ciao" to quickly bid a friend greeting and farewell, but Truman concert lovers could groove better with Hellogoodbye.

The Student Activities Board announced Tuesday that punk-pop group Hellogoodbye will play at Truman on May 1. The performers of "Oh This Is Love," the theme song for MTV's "Engaged and Underage," have some students falling head over heels for their music.

"I'm excited," freshman Amy Schloss said. "I have them on my iPod. ... My favorite song is 'Touchdown Turn Around.'"

The band released its debut album in 2006 entitled "Zombies! Aliens! Vampires! Dinosaurs!" But before their solo success pop quartet Forrest Kline, Jesse Kurvink, Marcus Cole and Chris Profeta opened for pop-punk bands All-American Rejects, Motion City Soundtrack and The Academy Is ..., according to the band's Web site.

Hellogoodbye's visit to Truman rounds out a semester of college and university gigs including Keene State College, the University of Maryland, Michigan State University and Lewis University, according to the band's MySpace page. Sophomore Katie Gettinger, SAB spring concert chair, said SAB selected the band based on its current popularity and student survey responses.

"Hellogoodbye is an upcoming artist with great crowd appeal and a tremendous following," Gettinger said, adding that the band came in second place on the SAB spring concert survey with 390 out of 1,382 votes.

Despite the band's high survey results, freshman Lyndsay Hank said she has never heard of Hellogoodbye, but that she's still interested in attending the show.

Gettinger said tickets to the Hellogoodbye show would be available in the SAB office and will cost \$5 with a student ID and \$10 for general admission.

The Index was unable to contact Hellogoodbye for comment.

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