

HUMANS VS. ZOMBIES

Popular catch-me-if-you-can game infects Truman's campus

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Kirkville, Mo. 63501

City evaluates revenue after smoking ban

BY JULIE WILLIAMS
News Editor

The first set of results is in for the smoking ban, and the numbers are inconclusive.

A summary of the fiscal impact of the smoking ban distributed at Tuesday's City Council Study Session shows a 5-percent decrease in sales tax and a 2-percent decrease in gross receipts. Of the 32 businesses that submitted their taxes to the department of revenue, 20 saw an increase in gross sales, and 17 of 28 that submitted information showed increases in sales tax collection, according to the study session summary.

City Manager Mari Macomber said the businesses that were affected by the smoking ban saw an overall sales tax decrease of \$2,000, and a gross receipts decline of 2 percent during the first quarter, which is July through September. She said not all businesses submitted their tax information.

"If you look at the [first quarter] numbers, you'll see some businesses are up significantly, some are down significantly," Macomber said. "So what's the reason for it? Is some of it operational? I don't know."

Macomber said sales tax information also has been collected from membership organizations in Kirkville.

"As a total from '06, '07, they've seen a decline in their sales tax," she said. "... We're not talking a lot of money, we're talking \$190."

Macomber said she suggests the City Council look at the numbers again after the next quarter because she said she thinks it is too early to draw any



Junior Jessica Ridenour, Samantha Stewart, graduate student Tony Ziegler and seniors John Zaegel and Matt Hoernschemeyer chat outside The Dukum Inn on Tuesday night. For smokers, lighting up inside is no longer an option.

conclusions from those figures. "The businesses vary tremendously — whether it's a restaurant or a bar, the type of food that is sold, whether it's more of a sandwich versus sit-down — so I think you're going to see differences in looking at those dollar amounts,"

Macomber said. Councilmember Tom Mayer echoed Macomber's thoughts.

"As a city, we should consider to monitor on a quarterly basis," he said. Macomber also said the sales tax in Kirkville was up 9 percent.

Sophomore William Wolfram said he likes the smoke-free environment in Kirkville but thinks it should be a business owner's choice to implement a no-smoking rule.

"I don't think that should be up to

Sales tax at city bars and restaurants

Twenty of the 32 businesses that submitted data to the Kirkville City Council this week reported an increase in sales tax receipts after the smoking ban took effect July 1, but overall, sales tax receipts dropped 5 percent compared with the same quarter of 2006. Gross sales fell 2 percent.



Source: Kirkville City Council Design by Jessie Gasch/Index

FAC slates \$32K for students

BY MARIAH BOHANON
Staff Reporter

A majority of student organizations in need of funding for events this spring were approved for the Funds Allotment Council's slate, but not a single group received the full monetary support they sought.

Student Senate voted unanimously to pass FAC's slate Sunday, Senate President junior Matt Szweczyk said. He said the slate was approved after a 20 to 25 minute period of questioning in which Senate looked at why FAC chose to fund certain organizations and not others. Senate found no problems to prevent the slate from passing and was pleased with the consistency and fairness of the funding, Szweczyk said.

"I was actually very impressed with the slate, and I think that Senate overall was very impressed with the slate," he said.

Szweczyk said FAC is requesting more funding for future slates. The Organizational Activities Fee committee will review the Student Activities Fee when it meets this spring, which could affect how much money FAC can provide, he said. Szweczyk said he would have to see a report from FAC before deciding to support its request for more funding. An increase in funding could benefit the student body, he said.

Senior Joe Goedde, regulations chair for FAC, said it is very rare that an organization which has applied for funding receives the total amount that it requests.

"Right now we're petitioning to get more funding because there were some groups that weren't funded, and of the groups that applied for funding, I don't believe anybody got the full amount they requested," Goedde said.

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Airport cuts connection

Kirkville Regional Airport removes Chicago from list of regular flight destinations

BY SHELBY HIGGINBOTHAM
Staff Reporter

Flight cancellations might force students to find an alternate way home.

The last flight from the Kirkville Regional Airport to Chicago left Nov. 9. Airport director David Hall said the airport has offered flights since late spring of this year and that the decision to cancel flights to Chicago was not the airport's decision.

"It's kind of a big mess," Hall said. Hall said the reason flights to Chicago have been cancelled is that the airline service that provided the connecting flight from Quincy, Ill., to Chicago recently ended.

"The service of Chicago flights never really got off the ground," Hall said. "Maybe 10 people were actually using the Chicago flights."

Hall said that even though there wasn't a lot of participation in the flight service, the airport has received calls of complaint from people who had tickets and were not notified that their flights were canceled.

"Overall, I don't think the loss of service to Chicago is going to be a huge issue just because

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Lodging tax funds tourism budget

BY DIANE POELKER
Assistant News Editor

Travelers don't mind paying the price to spend the night in Kirkville.

In less than a year, a 3.6 percent lodging tax added to the price of Kirkville hotel rooms has generated more than \$100,000 for the city. Tourism Director Debi Boughton said the tax returns have exceeded expectations.

"We're way over our best guess of the budget," Boughton said. "We did think of about \$85,000 this first year but right now [the \$106,000] only includes three-fourths [of the year]."

Last August, Kirkville voters approved adding a lodging tax to all hotel stays in the city. Boughton said money from the tax is designated for establishing and main-

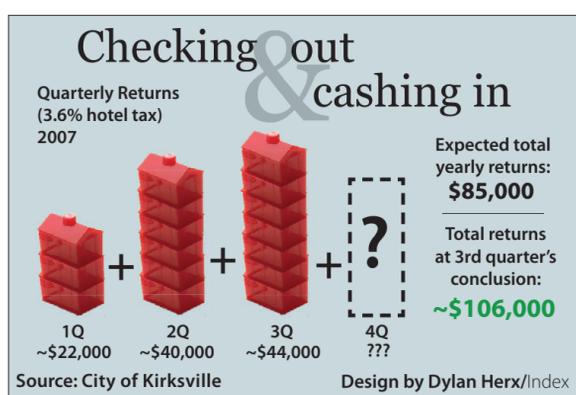
taining a Kirkville area tourism bureau.

"There was no tourism office, no tourism director, nothing [before the tax passed]," Boughton said. "The first part of the money was spent setting up the office. ... But the main part of our money, the main part of our budget for 2007-2008 is spent on advertising and marketing."

Boughton said the city based the original tourism budget estimate on data from the 2004-05 fiscal year. However, Boughton has set the bar higher for 2008, budgeting bureau spending at \$133,650, according to the City of Kirkville's Web site.

"We based our 2008 budget on sort of our best hope — on the 2007 numbers," Boughton said.

She said she was unsure whether the early 2004 numbers were



unusually low, or if the 2007 numbers were higher than average. Boughton said the tourism budget might be unpredictable until she has tourism trend data for a two- or three-year period.

"This has just been the first year, so we haven't really tracked when the big events are," Boughton said. "I hope to have a master calendar next year so that we can ... keep the hotels as full as possible."

Boughton said that during the last few months the tourism bureau put up new signs on the north and south ends of town, purchased ads in local tourism magazines and participated in tourism tradeshows in the hopes of attracting convention groups to the area. Boughton said she wants to spend the surplus money on additional marketing.

"One of the things I want to do

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City police granted in-car camera

BY NICK WILSEY
Index Staff

Kirkville's finest are about to get some new toys.

Thanks to the city's membership in a statewide insurance pool association, Kirkville will receive a \$6,370 grant for the purchase of one dash-mounted police camera and several personal alarm devices for the fire department, according to the Nov. 6 City Council agenda.

Jeanie Ewing, risk coordinator for the city of Kirkville, said more than 60 communities in Missouri joined together in a pool called the Missouri Intergovernmental Risk Management

Association to buy collective general liability, property, auto and workers' compensation insurance. Each year, MIRMA offers its members the opportunity to submit funding requests for items or programs that will promote safety for city employees or the public.

"We've been fortunate enough to have a hydraulic jackhammer purchased one year, and we've got items for our police and fire departments before," Ewing said. "In the public works we've done, we've used a shoring and trenching box ... where they're putting in water mains or sewer mains."

Ewing said other items have in-

cluded confined-space equipment such as winches, harnesses and meters that measure air quality.

"They accept any and all items that members can dream up, but the committee then selects things they believe are the most beneficial not only to the members but to the organization," Ewing said.

This year, only one of the city's three requests — an item for the Kirkville Aquatic Center — was turned down, Ewing said. The other two requests were granted, and MIRMA will reimburse the city up to 75 percent of the cost, she said.

Kirkville police chief Jim

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Photo by Mark Hardy/Index One police car in Kirkville's fleet will receive a new dash-mounted camera.

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Animal Farm

Columnist Phil Jarrett points out pollutants from CAFO usage



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Student show features graphic content



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Giving Gifts

Get an early start by spreading Christmas cheer



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WEATHER

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
High 49 Low 28	High 57 Low 33	High 54 Low 34