

TAX | Lodging tax brings more than \$100,000

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[with the surplus money] is have signage to direct people to come down here to this office, which is our visitors center, since it's [downtown] and not on the highway," Boughton said. "I may also use some of the money to help promote our local airline. ... We try to help promote the airport and the airline because that's essential to our tourism. We don't want to lose that service."

Sherri Green, manager of the Kirksville area Comfort Inn, said she has noticed the difference the tourism bureau has made in the area.

"Our tourism is on the rise because of Debi Boughton," Green said. "The tourism board is a positive thing ... because without the board there was no way to get the word out

about Kirksville. ... Boughton said that if we expand our conference room, she could have it filled."

Jill McCord and her husband Mac own Cottage Grove Bed and Breakfast. McCord said she has had to raise rates since adding the lodging tax. However, she said patrons have responded positively to the change.

"None of our customers have had any problems with [the lodging tax]," McCord said. "They pay it almost everywhere else. It's usually more in other cities. We feel like it's very worth the money for what we're spending. It's been well-accepted by our clients and that's what we care about. We haven't had any decline in business. ... We feel like tourism is vital to our city."



Mark Hardy/Index

Kirksville now charges a 3.6-percent lodging tax that helps the city's tourism budget.

SLATE | Student groups to receive funds

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He said \$32,097.03 was available in FAC's slate this semester. About three groups were denied funding entirely, he said.

Organizations can request that FAC allot money for certain events such as dinners, guest speakers or concerts, he said. The event must be open to all students and must take place on campus in order to receive funding. Goedde said. Also, FAC funding cannot pay for food at a non-food-related event, he said.

Senate vetoed FAC's slate for the spring 2006 semester because it included funding for food at non-related

events and because it did not include a diverse range of events, according to an article in the Nov. 16, 2006, issue of the Index. Twelve of the 14 events on the slate were guest speakers, according to the article.

Goedde said FAC addressed these problems and that a revised slate was passed at the following Senate meeting.

This year's slate will appeal to a wide variety of students, he said.

"It also has to be something that's diverse, so if [the Student Activities Board] is bringing in something that's exactly what you're trying to do, then we generally have to say that's not adding anything to what's going on on campus," Goedde said.

FAC did not allot any funds for an African culture event

because it was too similar to an event that will be hosted by SAB, according to FAC's slate. The African Student Association had requested \$810 for the event, according to the slate.

STEP did not receive funding to show the movie "Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes" because FAC determined that it was too similar to other events, according to the slate. STEP had

requested \$445 for the event, according to the slate. The Society of Dance Arts (TSODA) requested \$5,140.06 to fund a Missouri Contemporary Ballet Workshop, according to the slate. FAC approved a total

amount for \$3,789 to fund the event, according to the slate. Junior Michelle Gaasch, president of TSODA, said the workshops will be taught by the Missouri Contemporary Ballet Company for two weekends in April. The company will return for a third weekend to participate in TSODA's spring recital, which pays for itself, she said.

"We got what we need," she said of the amount FAC allotted for the workshops. Gaasch said the workshops will be open to all students.

"This is not only benefiting the dancers, but the Truman community as a whole will get to see professional dancers," she said. Check out the FAC slate online at trumanindex.com.

"Right now we're petitioning to get more funding because there were some groups that weren't funded."

Joe Goedde
Regulations Chair for Funds Allotment Council

CAMERA | Grant will result in purchase of one police camera and several personal alarms

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Hughes said the first item funded by the MIRMA grant is a dash-mounted camera that will be installed in one of the six patrol cars in the city's fleet.

"I think most people are familiar from all of the reality police shows the kinds of images you get from a car-mounted video system, so this will be consistent with that," he said.

Hughes said the department applied for special grants several times to purchase a camera system because the city's general fund couldn't pay for the total cost. However, with the MIRMA grant, it's finally possible to purchase the new equipment. Hughes said the cost of the new camera system will be about \$4,500, a little more than half funded by the MIRMA award. Now, the city will start a bidding process to find a camera system within its price range.

"We'll look for the best, most modern system available," Hughes said.

Hughes said none of the patrol cars currently have dash-mounted cameras, but the force does have equipment specialized for crime scene investigations.

"When we go out to a crime scene, we use a mixture of 35-millimeter, digital, still photography and the camcorder-type of systems," Hughes said.

The advantages of having a dash-mounted system are many fold, he said.

"If an officer would be seriously injured

or killed, which unfortunately happens quite often in the United States, then we could review the video-camera footage and get a license plate that we might not ordinarily have gotten, get a description of the suspect, those kinds of things," Hughes said.

Although it's never too late to add a dash-mounted camera to the force's arsenal of high-tech equipment, Hughes said he could think of hundreds of cases in just the past month where a camera would have come in handy.

"It's not unusual for our officers to roll up on the scene of bar fights. It's not unusual for us to stop vehicles who have committed some fairly serious traffic violations. It's not unusual for us to have people to flee from us," Hughes said. "So any of those kinds of things, a camera would be of value ... to illustrate the actions of the officers and the offenders precisely in court."

Hughes said the footage also will be useful for reviewing the actions of police officers for training purposes and the actions of both officers and citizens for evidence in court.

"It reduces — doesn't totally eliminate — but it reduces the subjectivity in the court process," he said.

Hughes said he doesn't think the Kirksville community will react negatively to the new camera.

"I don't think it's going to be an issue,"

he said. "I think they've been around for so long and people have gotten so used to them, if nothing else from the reality shows on television. I think there's probably a pretty significant number of the community that thinks we already have them."

Citizens probably won't notice the other item funded by the MIRMA grant, but firefighters definitely will.

City manager Mari Macomber said the grant also will fund the replacement of the fire department's personal alarm safety system, or PASS, devices.

Macomber said the PASS devices help firefighters locate and rescue other firefighters who have become immobile. However, she said the current PASS devices need to be replaced because they suffer from age and maintenance-related issues.

"We haven't had many incidents, and that might be part of it," she said. "We don't have a lot of incidents where you really count on [the devices]."

Macomber said both the camera system and new PASS devices will protect citizens, police officers and firefighters, but the benefits won't stop at the city limits.

"Anytime [MIRMA] can get any one of their entities, any one of their cities, to reduce their claims, it's an overall benefit for MIRMA and for the rest of the communities," he said.

SMOKE | First-quarter numbers show some business up, some down for taxes and gross sales

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the city," he said. Sophomore Nastassja Moses said the ban doesn't really affect her but that it does affect some of her friends.

"My friend who smokes always forgets about it, so it's really inconvenient for her," Moses said.

Don Ward, owner of the Full Moon bar, said his business has been hit hard by the ordinance. He said that in July, the first month the smoking ban took effect, his business was down more than 60 percent in sales.

"It's basically killed us," he said. "We've lost over 50 percent of our customers. ... I've had this place 12 years, and it's always made its own way until the smoking ban."

Ward said band nights at the Full Moon used to draw between 100 and 150 people on weekends, but for the last two weeks, he counted about 40 people who paid at the door. He also said about three of the 10 people who used to visit the bar daily still are regulars. As a result of the smoking law, Ward said he has put his building on the market.

"We can't last over another six months or even a quarter," he said. "We're going in the hole every day."

Ward said he doesn't think he is alone in losing business.

"Every bar — they might not admit it — but every bar is basically hurting some over this," he said. Kirksville resident and landlord

Charles W. Cannaday said two of his tenants have moved out of their apartments because they were unhappy with the ban.

"I had one that left kind of abruptly after the thing was passed, and when he told me he was leaving he said they wouldn't let him smoke at work, and so he was just going to leave," he said. "The other had already told me. ... He said, 'If they pass [the ban] I'm going to leave so I'm giving you notice.'"

Cannaday said the two absences amount to a loss of \$600 in rent each month. He said one of the apartments still is vacant.

"It kind of hit me pretty hard when people just arbitrarily pass an ordinance," he said.



Jackson Groves/Index

Jim Kelsey performs an annual service check on an airplane at the Kirksville Regional Airport.

FLIGHT | Flights to Chicago no longer offered

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our usual flights to Kansas City." Sophomore Amanda Housewright said she thinks the cancellation of Chicago flights will be troublesome for students.

"It's silly," Housewright said. "How are people going to get home?" Housewright said she thinks the cancellation is going to make students from Chicago feel hassled to try to find a way home for holidays and school breaks.

"The airport should offer flights to

St. Louis because a ton of students at Truman are from there," Housewright said. "Why are flights to Kansas City offered?"

Housewright said she thinks the airport should also offer flights to large cities in surrounding states because there are many students whose homes are out of state.

Freshman Kevin Cowling said flights should continue going to Chicago.

"The percentage of students that I know actually from Kansas City don't even use the airport to get home," Cowling said. He said the airport needs to offer more flight services to students than those available.

"The airport should offer flights to St. Louis because a ton of students at Truman are from there. Why are flights to Kansas City offered?"

Amanda Housewright
Sophomore

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