

Wind briefly blows out power

Residents and businesses are left in the dark for several hours last week

BY SHELBY HIGGINBOTHAM
Staff Reporter

A power outage in Kirksville last Wednesday caused problems and delays for both residents and businesses. More than 600 people in the north and northwest areas of Kirksville experienced power outages lasting anywhere from one to six hours.

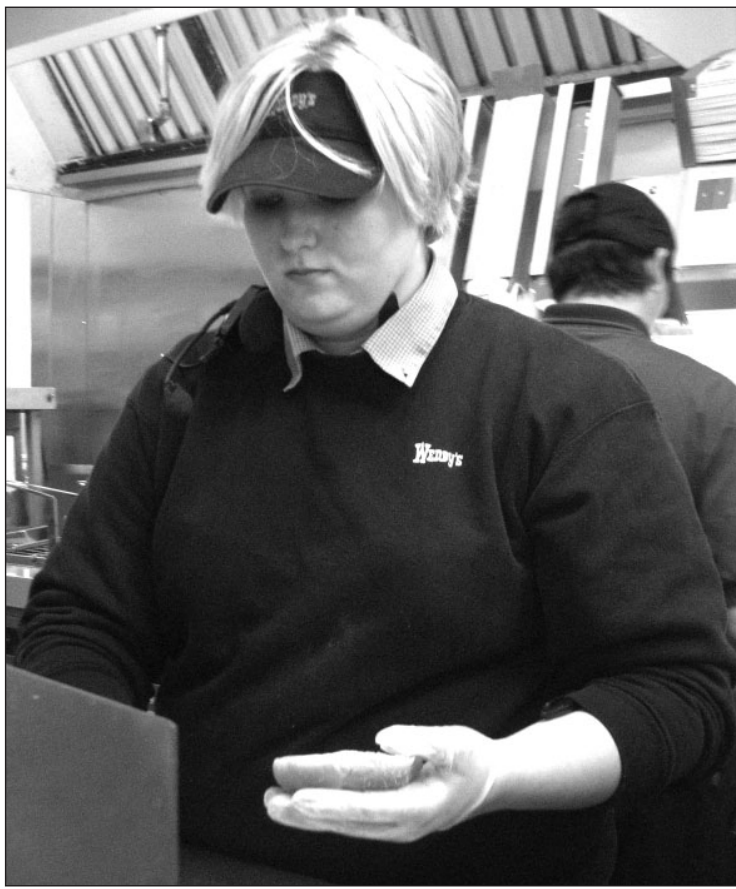
Annette Sweet of AmerenUE said power loss was probably caused by pieces of aluminum siding and tree branches making contact with power lines. She said the outage also could be attributed to thunderstorms that day and powerful bursts of wind blowing the power lines.

"The outages are most likely attributed to the wind microbursts," Sweet said. "It was the strong winds that blew the siding off of buildings and the tree branches into the power lines."

Sweet said 309 AmerenUE customers lost power in north Kirksville for about an hour and that 318 customers lost power in the northwest area of the city for at least six hours.

"The reason the power was out for so long in [the northwest area] was because a piece of tin siding flew into one of the lines," Sweet said. "[AmerenUE] had to be very careful about removing the siding and had to physically send people to check the power line, especially since there was lightning that day."

Sarah Keough, general manager of Wendy's Restaurant, said the power in the restaurant went off about 5 p.m. and was out for



Mark Hardy/Index
Sarah Keough works the line at Wendy's, one of many businesses that suffered losses during the last week's power outage.

about an hour and a half.

"The electricity kept cutting in and out," Keough said. "There would be power for a little bit, and then we wouldn't have it again."

Keough said none of the food in the restaurant spoiled except the sandwich condiments, which were thrown away right after

electricity was turned back on.

"When the power in the building went out, we weren't really busy," Keough said.

"It gets pretty dark in here."

Doug Nichting
Wal-Mart Manager

She said there was only one car in the drive-thru and probably only four or five couples in the restaurant when the electricity went out.

"We did lose a lot of business in that hour and a half," Keough said.

Keough estimated that Wendy's lost between \$500 and

\$1,000 of business because of the power outage.

Wal-Mart manager Doug Nichting said the power at Wal-Mart also was out for about an hour and a half.

"None of the refrigerated food spoiled," Nichting said. "We have [the coolers] set up to where it can be covered."

Nichting said that with Wal-Mart's cooling system, the coolers could maintain a cool temperature for at least two hours and that there were frequent temperature checks during and after the power outage.

Nichting said they also made sure that customers' safety was not at risk during the outage.

"Associates escorted customers out of the store so that no one was injured," Nichting said. "It gets pretty dark in here and could be dangerous."

Nichting said Wal-Mart did see a 13 percent decrease in business that day but that sales were normal during the next two days.

Sophomore Abbey Lukefahr was shopping in Wal-Mart when the store lost electricity.

"I was in the back looking at shoes, and the lights flickered, so I walked up to check out, and by that time the lights were out," she said.

Lukefahr said an announcement was made over the loudspeaker asking all customers to come to the front of the store, where they waited 20 to 30 minutes before they were able to leave.

"Everyone was really calm," Lukefahr said.

She said she was surprised that Wal-Mart didn't have backup generators.

"With all of the produce, I would think they would have some kind of power source, but I guess not," she said.

Parents council selects SUB for project

Group plans new sound system, drop-down screens

BY BONNIE BIRDELL
Staff Reporter

Parents are lending a helping hand to their children, even after the children have left home.

The Truman Parents Council has determined its new annual project. For the 2007-08 school year, the council will focus on technology enhancements for the Student Union Building, which currently is under construction. The new project will include a complete sound system for the Georgian Room, data projectors and drop-down screens for some meeting rooms and stage lighting with a complete sound system for the Down Under.

According to its Web site, the council is composed of Truman parents appointed by University President Barbara Dixon. The council is designed to advise from a parental

perspective and to help choose fundraising projects for the University.

Monica Arredondo and her husband Julian are serving their third year on the council.

Monica Arredondo said the council was presented with several potential projects but decided the SUB was most in need of its attention.

"The Student Union Building is used a lot," she said. "When someone has to come in to give a presentation, ... they have to secure the screen and projector in advance as well as get there early and test it. This would just make it easier for anyone coming in."

Annual fund manager Robyn Kollar said that with the current remodeling of the SUB, providing funding technology seems to be the most pressing potential project.

"It's a matter of timing," she said. "The new meeting rooms are beautiful, but we need the technology part too."

Kollar said screens and other equipment for

the rooms will be distributed based on the size of the room.

She said the council will put forward as much as \$75,000, which comes exclusively from council members. More funds will come from parents of current students, who are contacted through Telaumni.

"Parents as a group are very supportive of Truman," Kollar said. "We are lucky to have parents who are supportive even after their kids have graduated."

Kollar said the council chooses projects based on effect on students and the ability to complete them quickly. She said that because members of the council are parents of current students, they want the projects they fund to directly affect their children.

"We go to several different departments and ask for a project with quick turn-around for under \$100,000," Kollar said.

She said other projects under consideration for this year include remodeling the fountain outside the SUB, funding experimental technology to incorporate computers and iPods into the curriculum and providing new database software for Pickler Memorial Library.

"We try and offer [the council members] a variety of things," she said.

What is the Parents Council?

group appointed by University President Barbara Dixon

currently has 22 members

advisory council to the University

selects an annual fundraising project to benefit students

has contributed more than \$600,000 during the past 10 years

past projects include cybercafé in Magruder Hall and computer lab in Pickler Memorial Library

overseen by University Foundation

Source: University Foundation Web site
Design by Jessie Gasch/Index

Kollar said that just because a project has been passed over once does not mean it will not potentially be funded in the future.

Last year's project for the council was a partial renovation of Baldwin Auditorium, which included new flooring, seats and sound system. Kollar said the improvements added to the beauty of the University as a whole.

"Not only did [the renovation] help students, it really helped the aesthetic of campus," she said.

Senior Matt Safley, who performed in the Family Day concert in

Baldwin Auditorium, said he wasn't satisfied with the partial renovation.

"Why just do part of it?" he said. "It's all going to have to be redone at some point."

Arredondo, however, was pleased with the renovations.

She said the council saved money on the seats by refurbishing the covers instead of buying completely new units. She said she also was impressed with the new sound system.

The new technology in the SUB is scheduled to be completed by summer 2008.

NEWS | In Brief

Police will enforce no-parking zone

The Kirksville Police Department is advising people not to park cars on Franklin Street on Saturday in anticipation of the University's annual Homecoming parade, according to a Monday press release.

The city will be posting no-parking signs down the length of Franklin Street starting at its intersection with Missouri Street and ending at Stokes Stadium.

Any cars along the parade route that have not been moved will be towed beginning at 7 a.m., according to the release.

A.T. Still administrators recognized

The Kirksville Osteopathic Alumni Association named Ron Gaber, A.T. Still University vice president and dean of students, and Jack Magruder, A.T. Still Board of Trustees member, as the winners of its 2007 Living Tribute Award on Oct. 1 at the American Osteopathic Association Conference in San Diego, Calif., according to a Wednesday press release.

Gaber currently is a member of the A.T. Still admissions committee and an associate professor in the department of family medicine, preventive medicine and community health at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, according to the release. He also is a certified death educator and co-author of "The Death of Adult Children."

Magruder was president of Truman from 1994 to 2003. He is also past president of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, the Council on Public Higher Education for Missouri and the Board of Directors for the Truman State University Foundation, according to the release.

The KOAA established the Living Tribute Award in 1969 to recognize outstanding A.T. Still faculty and administrators who have made significant contributions to the school and osteopathic profession, according to the release.

Military science opens climbing wall

The University's military science department will make its 45-foot climbing wall available Saturday to all Truman students who sign a waiver, ROTC training officer Doug Reinsch said.

Reinsch said students who intend to climb the wall should wear tennis shoes and long pants to prevent injuries and that anyone who succeeds in scaling it will earn a prize.

The department decided to open the wall to students because it is seldom used except in military science classes, Reinsch said.

"Students wanted it, and we said, 'Why not?'" he said.

Reinsch said the climbing wall will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Salamander Grill closes temporarily

The Salamander Grill, located at 2523 Franklin Street, was temporarily closed last week due to a sales tax revocation, said Mike Schler, deputy director for the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control.

The business was shut down due to a failure to pay sales tax collected from the restaurant's customers to the Department of Revenue.

An agent from Missouri's Department of Revenue went to the restaurant and revoked its sales tax license, and the restaurant was closed last Thursday through Monday.

The restaurant reopened Monday after the Department of Revenue accepted an application for another sales tax license from the owners, Schler said.

The owners were not available for comment.

Governor aids virtual school program

Gov. Matt Blunt pledged to increase funding by \$1 million to the Missouri Virtual Instructional Program, according to a Friday press release.

Blunt created the program last year to aid students around the state who are home-schooled or home-bound due to medical reasons, who want access to Advanced Placement and other upper-level courses that might not be available in their schools and who need credits or remedial help.

The program currently has about 1,600 participants and is available to students in kindergarten through fifth grade and ninth through 12th grades, according to the release.

The governor's pledge brings the program's total funding to \$6.2 million.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Treasurer sophomore Philip Gilmore announced that he had a meeting with USA Today to get more newspapers on campus.
- Gilmore announced that Senate has finalized a set of guidelines for how student initiatives will ask for funding.
- Senate discussed early registration for student athletes.

DPS | Reports

10/21 Report of burglary at Dobson Hall desk

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