

## DREAM revitalization begins in downtown

BY BONNIE BIRSELL  
Staff Reporter

Kirkville is getting a little help from the state.

In August, Gov. Matt Blunt announced Kirkville would be included in the Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri Program. This week marked the beginning of the process of bringing the program to Kirkville.

Mayor Martha Rowe said the representatives from the state were in town to get to know Kirkville and the people they would be working with. She said they were in the beginning stages of a three-year process and did not have all the goals ironed out yet.

"We've been working downtown, and we have plans in place," Rowe said.

When Blunt visited

Kirkville on Aug. 30, he said the DREAM initiative will help revitalize small and medium-sized towns.

"Kirkville's DREAM designation will provide them the tools they need to effectively revitalize their city center," Blunt said during his visit.

Kirkville has been included in the second wave of DREAM cities, along with Aurora, Caruthersville, Clinton, Maryville, Mexico, Poplar Bluff, Sikeston and Trenton. During the three-year process, each DREAM city will receive \$3 million from the state.

"I'm glad that the state of Missouri has decided to invest so much time and money into our community," said sophomore Greg Goodwin, a Kirkville native.

Rowe said that one of the initial projects will be to make Franklin Street more attractive, a process that has already begun.

"[Franklin] is an important street," Goodwin said. "It's the main thoroughfare from campus to downtown for students."

Goodwin said Kirkville's location as a midway point between larger cities such as Columbia, St. Louis, Kansas City and Des Moines makes it a prime candidate for the DREAM initiative.

"We really are the heart of ... Missouri," he said. "We have a lot of history. I think that's part of the reason we were selected for the DREAM initiative."

"It's exciting," Rowe said. "We are hopeful that it will be an excellent experience."

## Hoping for Halloween



A child looks at spooky pumpkins during the Kiwanis farmers market on Saturday. Nathan Becker/Index

# Equipment, changes delay Barnett finish

BY CHRIS BONING  
Assistant News Editor

Time keeps on slipping on the south side of campus.

Loose ends remain in the Barnett Hall renovation and campus media overhaul nearly three months after they were due to be completed.

Campus planner Mark Schultz said general construction on Barnett was about a month behind schedule because of several changes made during the beginning of the renovation process. This redesign included the addition of a C-Store on the second floor and the reconfiguration of several classrooms as well as the KTRM and News 36 stations on the main level, he said.

Schultz said the control rooms and the edit bays were reconfigured in the radio and television stations.

"We moved walls around and changed the shape of all the rooms," he said.

The ceilings and lighting also were altered in the television studio, and windows, doors and closets were relocated in the radio station, Schultz added. He also said the whiteboards, pro-

jectors and desks in communication department computer labs were rearranged at the department's request.

Other departments requested redesigns, but the communication department had the most changes, he said.

Schultz also said general construction in Barnett is nearly complete, except for needed adjustments to the building's temperature system. The contractor hired for the project accidentally removed some equipment that was supposed to remain in place, he said.

Communication department head Elizabeth Clark said that at the beginning of the Barnett project, former campus planner Doug Winicker didn't include faculty members in the initial planning process. She said that at that point they did not know whether the entire communication department would move to Barnett.

Clark said faculty members only began to have input after officially requesting a meeting

with Winicker in late 2005. During subsequent months, several faculty members were present at planning meetings, she said.

During the construction phase, the department rearranged and redesigned some of the classrooms and campus media offices after realizing some plans were impractical, Clark said.

"It's really hard to envision a space when it's just studs," she said, noting that it usually is understood during a building construction that some changes eventually might have to be made.

Clark said room redesigns took a lengthy process because of the construction command structure.

"Once a change is issued, it's not simply a matter of going to the work person who's on site and saying to them this needs to be done a different way because they're doing a job they were hired to do through a contractor, who was hired through the University but with the approval of the

architects," she said. "The designs come from the architects, and any change has to be approved on the blueprints so it doesn't have a negative impact on something else. It's all coordinated."

Clark said that as a result of moving a wall, rearranging the layout of a room could take anywhere from days to weeks. She said that in some cases workers might have had to undo the work they did even after a change was requested, simply because of the long process it took to communicate the change to the workers.

Clark said the radio and television stations have not been on air this semester because of issues with engineers and equipment vendors rather than because of construction factors, although the two are interrelated because all are a part of the same project.

"Equipment and equipment installation is not completely removed from the construction," she said.

The University recently interviewed an engineer to install technical equipment for the television station, but the school has not received a response from the applicant, she said. Clark added that an equipment vendor has submitted a bid for equipment for News 36,

and she soon will read through the bid specifications before approving the initial proposal.

Mark Smith, faculty advisor to KTRM, said the engineer the University initially hired for the radio station backed out in early September for personal reasons.

"[That] essentially threw out two-and-a-half months of work," Smith said.

He said the University gave the station permission to contact a consulting engineer and that KTRM has been negotiating with Lee Wheeler, an engineer from Kansas City who has agreed to do some work for the school.

"We were lucky to get him as soon as we did," Smith said.

He added that with some assistance from Wheeler, the station selected the equipment it needed to purchase and placed orders last Friday. Most of the new equipment should arrive in two weeks, and Wheeler will set it up some time in November, Smith said.

Smith also said the low point of the KTRM situation was when the original engineer backed out because he immediately knew it would cause delays at the station.

"I feel bad for the students because they want and deserve the station back on the air, but

through a combination of factors that I've tried to explain, it's just not been able to come together as soon as we would have wanted it to," he said.

Smith said he has kept the KTRM station manager updated as much as possible and praised the student DJs for how they have handled the delay in operations.

"They are trying to make the best of a not-so-great situation, and I pat all of them on the back because they are all trying to hang in there, and I've asked them all to hang in there a little longer," he said.

Smith pointed out that the University has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in the campus media.

"At least from an administrative perspective, there is a lot of faith in this program and this department, or else they would not have spent this money," he said.

The radio and television stations have faced more setbacks than other campus media because they require more equipment, as opposed to a newspaper or magazine which only needs computers and the proper software, Smith added.

"We didn't need to buy [the Index] a new printing press," he said.

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