



Volleyball
The purple and white prepare to defend their MIAA title.

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY INDEX

The University's student-produced newspaper



Big dog
See the world through the eyes of Spike the Bulldog, the Truman sports mascot.

Sunday, August 19, 2007

www.trumanindex.com

Kirkville, Mo. 63501

Three businesses cited for underage alcohol sale

BY DIANE POELKER
Assistant News Editor

Three Kirkville establishments have been charged with selling alcohol to minors.

The state Division of Liquor Control organized and executed an undercover sting operation July 11, resulting in charges against Ayerco 30 Convenience Store, Pick-A-Dilly Convenience Store and Westport Package Store, said Pete Lobdell, state supervisor of Liquor Control.

"We checked 10 stores," Lobdell

said. "Seven passed, three failed."

Lobdell said that when a business is caught selling alcohol to underage customers, it is charged with a Class A misdemeanor: sale to a minor. After filing a charge against the business, the state reviews the case and holds an informal hearing during which the allegations are discussed and the business can be sentenced to a fine and suspension of liquor license. In the case of a repeat offender, a liquor license may be permanently revoked.

"I have a standard policy for first-

offense," Lobdell said. "If they asked for an ID but failed, it's usually a four-day suspension or \$400. If they didn't ask for an ID, it's a five-day suspension or \$500. I'm limited to \$1,000 fine. In egregious cases we take more action."

The state has yet to set a hearing date for the offending Kirkville businesses.

For a vendor whose primary trade is alcohol sales, a four- or five-day suspension could hurt business. Both Ayerco 30 Convenience Store (by Wal-Mart) and Pick-A-Dilly Convenience Store sell gasoline

Please see ALCOHOL, Page 7

New cards carry debit feature

Updated student ID cards issued to students after several delays

BY SHELBY HIGGINBOTHAM
Staff Reporter

After two false starts, two cards have finally become one to make life easier on Truman students.

Truman and U.S. Bank have come together to make Truman ID cards more useful to students by having them double as a debit card and an ID card. The switch to the new ID cards was to originally take place in early January 2007, but two batches of faulty cardstock and too little time to convert equipment caused a postponement of the exchange.

Roberta Santee, the branch manager of the McPherson Street U.S. Bank, said the students who opt for the debit card feature most likely will be incoming freshmen.

"I don't expect to see a huge rise of accounts opening at U.S. Bank," Santee said. "We will probably have the



Stephen Jarnagin exchanged his old ID card for a new one in the ID office last week. Old ID cards became inactive Aug. 6.

usual amount of accounts opening at the beginning of the year."

In addition to the benefits enjoyed by students, Santee said the ID cards will also be good for parents because there might be a U.S. Bank in their hometown.

Freshman Felipe Vasquez said he already is using his ID card as a debit

card and that he thinks other students should, too.

"It's a lot easier to carry one card than several cards," Vasquez said.

Not only do the ID cards offer the use of a debit card, but they also are updated with a new look. They feature a larger picture of the cardholder

Please see CARDS, Page 7

Bright Flight money delayed again

Recipients wait for scholarship money, hope for raise

BY JESSIE GASCH
Managing Editor

Senior Sara Archer had to buy her textbooks on credit once, and she's hoping it doesn't happen again.

Archer, a Bright Flight scholarship recipient, finally received her \$1,000 check in October of her freshman year, forcing her to rack up charges for necessary school year supplies. She said fortunately her credit company erased the interest fees after she explained her situation.

This fall, Archer and about

a third of all in-state Truman students will face another delay with Bright Flight, according to letters the Mis-

ssouri Department of Higher Education sent to recipients' homes in April.

The department also informed universities around the state that they won't be able to request funds — \$1,000 per semester for each in-state, full-time student who earned at least a 3.0 on the ACT — until Aug. 28,

five days later than last year

because of coordination with a new need-based financial aid program.

After a turnaround of three to five days, the state will award funds to the universities on behalf of full-time students. DHE spokesperson Wendy Baker said the first disbursement should take place before Sept. 7, although if a university doesn't immediately request funds, it could be longer.

Sue Neely, interim financial

aid director, said that because the roster of full-time students is computerized, Truman is able to submit names fairly quickly. For students affected by delays in Bright Flight or other sources of financial aid, the University offers another route for funding.

"What we normally see in this office is if you need money for books, we use the short-term emergency loans," Neely said.

She said the emergency loans do carry interest, but the rate is much lower than those provided by commercial lenders.

If a student's Bright Flight money goes directly to Truman, rather than to the student him- or herself, the University

Please see MONEY, Page 7

"I hate to complain too much because [Bright Flight is] obviously an incredible blessing."

Sara Archer
Senior



Clearing the Rubble | The Catholic Newman Center on Davis Street burned down after a lightning strike in late May. Look for extended coverage in the Aug. 30 Index.

Masten appeals

Former bar owner and Kirkville mayor asks appellate court to review

BY JESSIE GASCH
Managing Editor

Former Kirkville mayor Debbie Masten has appealed her conviction in a federal arson case and, as a result, postponed her sentence of more than five years behind bars.

Masten was sentenced Aug. 3 to 63 months in prison for intentionally setting fire to the bar she co-owned Jan. 1, 2005. She filed an appeal Monday to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, according to court documents.

Masten had been found guilty of one count of arson in May by a 12-person jury in a federal court in St. Louis. The conviction was in connection to an incident early New Year's Day morning 2005, in which firefighters responded to a blaze at Masten's Elson Street bar, called Too Tall's Two Eatery and

Spirits. Masten, who traditionally hosted an annual New Year's party at the bar, was the last to leave. Minutes after she drove away, a police officer cruising downtown noticed flames inside the establishment. The jury determined Masten set fire to Too Tall's before leaving for the night.

The trial, which lasted eight days, included testimony from fire investigators, financial experts, people connected with the bar and Masten herself.

Presiding Judge Carol Jackson overruled several motions at the sentencing by Masten's attorney, Doug Forsyth. Among other things, Forsyth objected to a two-level increase in the level of the offense, which was imposed because Masten committed perjury on the stand during the trial, according to court documents.

In addition to time in prison, Masten's sentence included a \$2,000 fine and a \$100 special assessment, which were paid Aug. 3.

For more information about the trial, see www.trumanindex.com.



Debbie Masten

On again, off again: MOHELA money 2006-07

- Jan. 26, 2006:** Gov. Matt Blunt proposes \$425 million to fund Lewis & Clark Discovery Initiative.
- Feb. 9, 2006:** Attorney General Jay Nixon questions plan, currently worth \$450 million.
- Feb. 14, 2006:** Nixon files lawsuit against MOHELA for violation of Sunshine Law. Plan is worth \$400 million.
- May 24, 2007:** Blunt signs SB 389 into law, which authorizes MOHELA to give \$350 million toward campus projects.
- Sept. 26, 2006:** Missouri Department of Higher Education votes to enact MOHELA funding plan.
- Aug. 9, 2007:** Two former Missouri students file a lawsuit against MOHELA, declaring that it is illegal for the loan authority to fund the initiative.
- Aug. 28, 2007:** Proposed effective date for SB 389, now in limbo because of pending lawsuits.

Design by Jessie Gasch/Index Source: www.trumanindex.com

Lawsuit freezes Pershing renovations

Plaintiffs question legality of statewide building projects

BY JULIE WILLIAMS
News Editor

The fate of Pershing Building hangs in the balance.

As part of Governor Matt Blunt's Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative — a statewide effort to make capital improvements at Missouri colleges and universities — Truman was to receive \$21.5 million to renovate Pershing Building.

The money to renovate was to be provided by the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority, which entered into a partnership with the state and was authorized to transfer funds to the initiative when Blunt signed Sen-



ate Bill 389 into law May 24.

Now, just three months after Blunt signed the bill, a pending lawsuit could put an abrupt end to the renovation of Pershing Building, as well as building projects at 14 other universities around the state.

The suit was filed last week in Cole County against MOHELA, several of its members and its executive director and CEO. The plaintiffs, two former students who borrowed with MOHELA, claim that using money from the loan authority to fund capital improvement projects is illegal, according to an article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Sam Minner, dean of the school of health sciences and education and co-chair of the Pershing Building advisory committee, said the lawsuit filed against MOHELA was not unanticipated, but until it is resolved the Pershing project is at a standstill.

"There were a number of legal challenges from the get-go, and the governor did ask a consulting firm to provide an opinion about the legal issues associated with MOHELA," Minner said. "... He got that information, and based upon that he proceeded."

Minner said the building is in dire need of improvement and that the architectural firms interviewed by the advisory committee presented some intriguing plans for a revamped Pershing, including some ideas to create a new kind of entrance on the south end of the campus.

Should the lawsuit be dismissed, the next step would be for University President Barbara Dixon to endorse the committee's recommendation for an architect and get authorization from the Board of Governors to enter into a contractual relationship with the chosen firm. Minner said a series of meetings would follow with the purpose of gathering input from students and faculty about what they think is needed in Pershing.

If the lawsuit is successful, however, Minner said it would be up to Dixon to decide if the University would try to renovate the building by fundraising on its own — a task he said he thinks would be very difficult to accomplish.

"We are operating under the assumption that we're going to

Please see MOHELA, Page 7

INSIDE | this issue

Face-Off
Columnists Harry Burson and Charlotte Keenan debate Truman Week's merits



See Other Voices Page 5

Construction
SUB interior undergoes transformation as second residence hall is upgraded



See News Page 3

To-do list
Legendary sites and entertainment spots are worth a hands-on look



See TruLife Page 9

THIS WEEK | weather

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Isolated T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
High 83	High 90	High 88
Low 71	Low 69	Low 69