

# Blunt includes Kirksville in DREAM plan

## Governor pledges funds for city revitalization

BY NATHAN BECKER  
Editor in Chief

The Kirksville City Council has been discussing downtown revitalization for more than three years. Thanks to some state assistance, it now might become a more viable option.

Gov. Matt Blunt visited Kirksville on Aug. 30 to announce that the city had been named as one of 10 inducted into this year's class of the Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri program.

Blunt told a crowd outside the Adair County Courthouse that renewing downtown and improving the community could fetch much-needed jobs for Kirksville.

"DREAM's not about cleaning up one vacant lot," Blunt said. "It is about a comprehensive approach to economic development in a downtown that allows those downtowns to become self-sustaining centers of job creation."

The DREAM initiative, implemented last year, provides cities with economic assistance from the state. Blunt said the initiative allows smaller communities more access to state economic development tools.

"We had a lot of tools for downtown revitalizations, but our small and medium-sized communities didn't seem to use them very often," he said. "Of course, the question was, 'Why?' and the answer was, 'Because of their complexity.'"

Kirksville Mayor Jeff Newton said the city applied to be one of the ini-



Jackson Groves/Index  
Gov. Matt Blunt speaks outside the Adair County Courthouse Aug. 30. Blunt has added Kirksville to his list of 10 DREAM cities for 2007.

tial DREAM cities last year but didn't make the cut to become one of the original 10.

Cities deemed DREAM-worthy become members of the program for three years and receive prioritized access to state programs that push economic development, such as financial assistance for infrastructure improvements, historic preservation, affordable housing and job creation, according to Blunt's Web site.

Last year's DREAM cities together have received more than \$30 million in state grants, according to the site. Blunt said the \$30 million in public funding has been the catalyst for about \$70 million in private investments.

"The money might not

have gone there were it not for the DREAM program," Blunt said.

Newton said Kirksville doesn't have any specific plans in the works, but the city council will discuss ideas in its next few sessions.

"Simple math says that's about \$3 million a city," Newton said. "It would be nice if we could use it for some of the plans that we had with the 2004 redevelopment plan downtown."

Newton said renovating downtown Kirksville to make it look like it originally did, complete with trees and facades, could attract more students and spur development.

"People want to be in areas that are nice and that are kind of trendy, and it'd be hard right now to call downtown Kirksville

very trendy," he said.

It's also important to keep the people in town from going elsewhere to shop, Newton said.

"We're not really going to keep people from going to Columbia, ... but we can keep them from deciding, 'Oh, we're going to Ottumwa,' or 'We're going to Quincy,' or Chillicothe or somewhere," Newton said. "If we have a beautiful downtown, we can get people even from those towns coming here."

Newton also said the city council had been discussing low-interest loans or grants so downtown business owners could upgrade their awnings and facades. But, he said he wasn't sure whether the state money could be used in that capacity.

Dick Oldenburg, director of economic development for Washington, Mo., — one of the original DREAM cities — said Washington has received about \$5 million to date because of the initiative.

Oldenburg said the community has converted a former shoe factory into a senior citizen housing complex and instituted a farmers market as well as completed a downtown redevelopment plan.

"We did a whole series of things with [the money]," he said. "... Things are moving right along."

Oldenburg said Washington didn't have to wait for results after it found out it was a DREAM city

because it already had been discussing improvements.

"[Washington saw effects] immediately," Oldenburg said. "We were so far ahead. We had already brought on board our revitalization and consulting firm. ... Things just went bang, bang, bang."

Oldenburg said the only downfall he sees to the program is that the DREAM designation period is relatively short-lived.

"I think it can give a big shot in the arm," he said. "We still have to work with people, but I think people have to be favorable about money coming from the state to help downtown as opposed to money coming from our own city or money coming out of some of the merchants' own pocket. I know people have to be happy about that."

Other cities inducted into the DREAM initiative this year are Aurora, Caruthersville, Clinton, Maryville, Mexico, Poplar Bluff, Sikeston and Trenton.

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Jeff Newton  
Kirksville Mayor

## NEWS | In Brief

### Blunt plans bridge improvements

Governor Blunt signed legislation Sept. 6 that will expand his new Safe and Sound Bridges Program, which facilitates the repair or replacement of more than 800 bridges around the state.

The new bill will allow contractors to access bonds required for construction projects, according to a press release.

All repair work on the bridges included in the program, which Blunt formed in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Transportation, will be completed by 2012.

"Bridge improvements are clearly a critical need for Missouri, so we are eager to get started on this ambitious program as soon as possible," Pete Rahn, director of MoDOT, said in the release.

Seventy-four bridges in the north central region of Missouri, which includes Kirksville, are set for construction. Blunt signed the bill, HB 2, on a bridge crossing Bear Creek five miles east of La Plata.

### Pershing floods, damage is minimal

A section of Pershing Building flooded Sept. 4. Karl Schneider, physical plant director, said water overflowed from the main floor men's bathroom into the adjacent hallway and through the floor to a locker room below.

Water line repair work on Patterson Street sometimes interrupts the water pipes in Pershing Building, which causes the toilets to go into a continuous flush mode, Schneider added.

Schneider said damage was limited, although some carpets had to be pulled back to check for mold and other growths.

### Man arrested in marijuana charge

Local resident James S. Pinkerton was arrested for distribution of a controlled substance and felony possession of marijuana Sept. 7.

During a consensual search of Pinkerton's residence by the Adair County Sheriff Department, deputies found digital scales and 22 individual bags containing marijuana, according to a press release. The total amount of marijuana seized weighed 185 grams.

Formal charges are pending, and Pinkerton currently is being held in the Adair County Detention Facility.

### Vandals target, graffiti local stores

Several Kirksville shops were vandalized with graffiti last Sunday, Sept. 2, according to a police report. Several expletives and other phrases, including "The Wild Ones" and "Shock the World," were painted onto dumpsters and walls belonging to the stores.

There have been no arrests, and the police still are gathering evidence on possible culprits. Ron Celian, Detective Sergeant of the Kirksville Police Department, said.

The vandalized stores include Subway on S. Baltimore, Peter's Heating & Air, Bill's Barber Shop and the Wooden Nickel.

The cost of the damage has not been assessed, and none of the stores' owners could be reached to answer questions. If the damages to the stores exceed \$500, the crime will become a felony.

Acts of vandalism involving graffiti are nothing new to the Kirksville area, but the number of incidents in such a short period of time is new, Celian said.

Celian also said the style and some of the language in the graffiti were similar to previous incidents. He said police are asking that anyone with information regarding the incidents contact the police department.

## Student Senate | In Brief

• Senate passed a money motion for \$119, moved by senator Jonathan Graber, to be spent on refreshments for the Student Recreation Center's 10-Year Birthday Party.

• Senate passed a money motion for \$600, moved by senate president junior Matt Szcwyczyk, to be spent on a joint concert/rally (with the Student Activities Board) in support of the Bike Co-operative.

## DPS | Reports

9/2 John Hatcher was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

8/31 Rasmus Piiipponen was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

8/31 Katie Oppelt was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

# School plans record of students' activities

BY SHELBY HIGGINBOTHAM  
Staff Reporter

The time a student spends doing things out of class might soon become more valuable.

Directors in the Student Affairs Office are working to add a co-curricular aspect to transcripts.

Lou Ann Gilchrist, dean of student affairs, said they wanted to help students make the most of their out-of-class activities.

The co-curricular record will be different from academic transcripts. It will be a separate record students may or may not choose to complete. These co-curricular records will include four different features, known as quadrants, and will include social organizations, leadership positions, academic organizations and a spiritual and physical quadrant.

Students also may include internships even if they don't count for academic credit.

Gilchrist said all of these quadrants were created to encourage student involvement.

"Students can build a reflection of value for what they have done in the past, and this record also helps them look into the future," she said.

The records are intended to be especially useful for students applying to graduate schools or looking for jobs once they have earned an undergraduate degree.

Not only are the records helpful to students, but they also can be useful to staff members or professors writing letters of recommendation for students because they give the staff members a chance to see activities which the student is involved.

They also show the professors if a student possesses a little-known skill. The co-curricular records will include a master list online of all groups included in the four quadrants. They also show all current members and alumni. Gilchrist said this feature should make it easier for group leaders to organize reunion events and keep in contact with alumni.

Gilchrist said the co-curricular transcripts should help the students make initial choices of joining a club or group.

"It is part of student affairs' effort to help students get the most out of their collegiate experience," Gilchrist said.

Sujit Chemburkar, director of the Student Union Building, said many campuses are adding the co-curricular record to their programs.

"Each campus has a different set of quadrants, and student af-

fairs feel as though the quadrants we have set up work best for Truman students," Chemburkar said.

The co-curricular record will be an online program to which students can add activities at any time during their four years at Truman and will be accessible through students' Tru-View accounts.

Before being able to add activities, students must fill out a personal assessment survey online.

Chemburkar said this assessment will serve as an indicator of a student's strengths and weaknesses. It also will suggest activities or organizations to participate in to help students improve the weaker areas.

After students fill out personal assessments, they may add groups they have been a part of.

Once a student adds a group and fills out a brief description of what activities it offers, an e-mail will be sent to the student's adviser, who will either affirm or deny whether the student actually is involved with that group.

Chemburkar said students can benefit from filling out their co-curricular record gradually because when they are seniors they

"Students can build a reflection of value for what they have done in the past, and this record also helps them look into the future."

Lou Ann Gilchrist  
Dean of Student Affairs

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Baria Records Recording Artist <b>Bedroom Walls</b> Ticky Tackies "Bedroom Walls will be the next breakout group from Los Angeles." <i>-The San Francisco Bay Guardian</i>	<b>Friday, September 14   10:00 p.m.</b>
Dark Shift <b>Left Hand Black</b> "[Dark Shift's] live performance was so energetic and their stage performance was so impressive that for the time they were on stage, nothing else seemed to exist." <i>-Adrenalin Metal Union</i>	<b>Friday, September 21   9:00 p.m.</b>
Special DuKum Patio Show featuring <b>Wisely</b> "L.A.-based singer-songwriter Willie Wisely is a tireless craftsman of pure pop music (in the best possible sense) and could Indian leg-wrestle with the likes of Ray Davies, Burt Bacharach, Difford/Tilbrook, or the great Jules Styne any day of the week." <i>-Williamette Weekly</i>	<b>Saturday, Sept. 29   8:30 p.m.</b>

Advance Tickets Available at Washington St. Java Co. and Vintage Grooves (across from the KV Post Office)

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