

**HEALTH | Online orders limit lines in health center**

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 provider," Higgins said. "We ... have to have a once-a-year, face-to-face meeting with the student to make sure that there are not any risk factors involved. We won't lose that. The face-to-face contact that we'll hopefully lose is the very stressful contact when students are waiting in long lines or are feeling that their confidentiality is endangered because people may hear private questions."

Once students have obtained a prescription they can visit the health center Web site to place an order for up to three months of pills. Students must also pay online using a credit, debit or checking account or by charging their student account. Higgins said orders could be placed up to 48 hours before a pick-up day.

"The students who have used [the online program] so far have been very, very happy," Higgins said. "They just have to come, sign, we hand them their bag, they're out the door."

Despite changes designed to improve waiting times, health center lines still are long after losing a nurse practitioner in late August.

"Susan Smith, who provided services to a lot of our students, just turned in her resignation at the end of summer," Higgins said. "Right now we are short one provider, which hurts when it comes to appointments. We hate the fact that we have to tell students on Tuesday afternoon that

the next available appointment is Friday morning walk-in."

Christina Davis, a registered nurse at the health center, said that in light of Smith's departure, some of the staff has increased their hours. Additionally, appointments are filling further in advance, but the staff continues struggling to fulfill student need in light of an increased number of no-shows — students who fail to show up to their appointments without notification.

"If [students] don't need their appointments, that's fine," Davis said. "Just call and cancel. We can probably fill that appointment in 15 minutes."

Senior Stephanie Goodwin said that although she called the health center at the end of last week, she couldn't get an appointment until Tuesday morning. However, the waiting time has not deterred her from using campus health care.

"I'd still go here," Goodwin said. "It's free, or mostly free."

In a search for alternatives, some students have turned to private practices to meet their health care needs. Theresa Fleming, the office manager at Sylvara Family Health Care, said she estimates that Sylvara serves 20 to 30 percent of Truman students.

"Usually, if you call in the morning, we can get you in by the afternoon or the next day at the latest," Fleming said.



**Chuck McBee interviews Tysen Martin at the Missouri Career Center for a job at Maritz Research on Wednesday afternoon.**

Jackson Groves/Index

**MONEY | State delivers less money than promised**

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 that the state was perfectly right to disburse the grant money as it did.

"That really does affect me though, because if I had that much money I wouldn't have needed the Perkins loan," he said.

Neely said the total maximum award for this academic year has been set at \$1,500 for full-time students attending a four-year public university. That amount may change in the future depending on funding provided from the state and the number of qualified applicants for each year, she added.

Neely said Missouri Access is more beneficial to Missourians seeking a higher education, especially Truman students, compared to the state's two previous programs.

Melinda Wood, former financial aid director, was part of a task force comprised of financial aid workers, government officials and various others who worked to form the Missouri Access program. Although the individual award money was somewhat less than expected, the formation of this program signifies a huge success for Missouri students, Wood said.

"There's always a few bumps in the road, but for us to get this money

is totally amazing," Wood said, explaining that the program originally only had a \$25 million budget. Missouri Access' budget for need-based scholarships currently is at \$72.5 million, according to a press release from Governor Blunt.

A policy may be enforced next year which requires students who receive the Access Missouri grant or the Bright Flight scholarship to maintain a 2.5 GPA. Neely said the new policy shouldn't be a problem for qualifying students at Truman.

"We've got a lot of good students here, so I don't know if that will affect us very much," she said.

Neely expressed concern that some students at other colleges may lose their grant or scholarship money because of the GPA requirement. She said she was worried that students at Truman who receive need-based financial aid tend to overlook the importance of the FAFSA. Freshmen are often very careful about filling out the form the first time, but once school gets underway students become busy and distracted, she said.

Neely said it's imperative for all students to turn in the FAFSA by the annual deadline of April 1 to qualify for the Missouri Access Financial Assistance Program.

**JOBS | Kirksville takes steps to boost employment as Blunt signs job creation bill**

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 Kirksville varies from month to month, although it usually hovers around 4 percent, which is completely normal, Tate said.

He said the local Kirksville economy has otherwise remained stable.

"[It's] not directly affected by national trends, but investor recruitment is pretty difficult right now," he said.

The Kirksville Chamber of Commerce, meanwhile, is making an attempt to stimulate the local economy.

Debi Boughton, tourism director for the Chamber of Commerce, said that two years ago property tax revenues from lodging and entertainment venues were greater than \$300,000 in Adair County. Last year, more than 1,000 people worked in the local tourism industry, she said.

"That's a substantial amount," Boughton said. Boughton said she has been working on bringing different conference groups to the area and on marketing the city's attractions in various states.

A lack of state funds available to promote tourism and Kirksville's remote location have proven to be obstacles to attracting organizations, she said.

"We tell [them] you'll like us once you've tried us," she said. "That's the case we've found."

**OSWALD | Statewide search for prosecutor, judge causes delay in arraignment**

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Oswald has been charged with two counts of statutory sodomy in the second degree, which is a class C felony. After filing those charges, Adair County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Williams recused himself from the case, and the state attorney will appoint a special prosecuting attorney.

John Fougere, press secretary for the Missouri Attorney General, could not be reached for comment.

Two judges also have recused themselves from the case, and the Office of State Courts Administrator now has been contacted to make a judge assignment. Oswald's arraignment originally was scheduled for Wednesday but was canceled until a judge is assigned.

Scott Templeton, an attorney who practiced law with Oswald, declined to comment on the case.

**SMOKE | Students sent outside after air conditioning unit disperses smoke in hall**

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 was never actually a fire in the building, only smoke from the fan belt. He also said West Campus sustained no damages, and the only injury that occurred during the evacuation was when a student sprained an ankle.

Monday night's events at West Campus are fairly common, and

Mounsey said part of that has to do with the hard-wire alarm systems that are being added to the newly renovated residence halls.

"Compared to most campuses, we have a fairly minimal number of alarms, but we still have them," he said. "Things are going to happen. As we put more and more sensitive

equipment into the buildings, too, they're going to go off more and more frequently."

The heating and cooling system in the residence hall still is under warranty, so the air conditioning unit that was the source of the smoke will be replaced and operating within a few days, Mounsey said.

**Committee lifts financial burden for candidates**

**Homecoming Court candidates will be on level financial footing during selection process**

**BY BONNIE BIRSELL**  
 Staff Reporter

This year, Truman's Homecoming Court candidates will have one thing our national presidential candidates do not — an even financial playing field.

In an attempt to involve more of the campus in the annual election for Homecoming King and Queen, this year's Homecoming Committee is helping to alleviate the financial burden placed upon nominees and also hopes to persuade more students to participate in Homecoming as a whole.

"No candidate is going to make an individual poster," said junior Ellen Albers, the committee's awards co-chair.

Instead, the committee plans to take it upon itself to develop and finance the campaigning.

Rather than having posters for each individual nominee, the committee will provide two posters with equal representation of the court candidates.

"The Homecoming Committee is going to provide a male poster and a female poster," Albers said.

These posters — which will be put up around campus in place of the single-candidate posters favored in years past — will list all candidates along with their photographs and their respective organizations.

"This takes away that financial burden," said senior Bonnie Treichel, this year's Homecoming Committee chairwoman. "One of our big goals as the Homecoming Committee was to get the whole campus involved and make sure that we weren't leaving out any individuals."

Treichel's hope is that, by taking away the cost of posters, students from a wider variety of interests, groups and organizations will be seen amongst those participating. That is, if the student is representing an organization.

This is an important point to Treichel.

"Anyone can be nominated to be on court — any individual, they don't even have to be part of an organization," she said.

In the past, she said she thinks both individuals and smaller organizations have opted out or have been left out of the process because

of costs, such as that of printing posters.

"In the past, sometimes we feel like not everyone has had the chance to be on court because of the financial obligations such as posters that come along with it," Treichel said.

The concept is not only financially smart for the nominees, but a better use of resources overall.

"It's environmentally friendly as well to not have 10 different posters going up, but only two posters," Treichel said. "That keeps the bulletin boards cleaner and this will help people to really see those posters rather than having them all covered up by each other."

That also is an issue. In the past, the fall meant numerous posters of smiling faces and Greek letters cluttering the bulletin boards, overlapping notices, advertisements and each other. The committee hopes this change

will bring more direct focus to the election, since a majority of students tend to ignore the layers of posters rather than burrow through them to learn about each candidate.

Although the effects of the change are yet to be seen, the committee expects the result to

be positive. The alterations to the rules are not permanent, as each year's rules are laid down by a new Homecoming Committee, and Treichel points out that each year there is almost an entirely new committee. For 2007's Homecoming, for example, only two of the 11 committee members served on the previous year's committee.

It is the hope of Treichel and Albers that this change will bring diversity and increased involvement to this year's Homecoming celebration.

"This is one way in which we can accomplish the goal of letting everyone participate and feel welcome to participate in Homecoming," Treichel said.

She said she hopes that the worry of a financial obligation will be lifted from potential nominees should they win this new process.

The Homecoming Committee's decision to finance publicity for the candidates is the most recent in a series of actions designed to open homecoming activities to the whole student body. Online voting and a change in coronation — now combined with Monday's kickoff in an effort to make it more accessible to the student body and to encourage the homecoming king and queen to attend all the week's events — also have been modifications made in the last few years.

**"One of our big goals as the Homecoming Committee was to get the whole campus involved and make sure that we weren't leaving out any individuals."**

**Bonnie Treichel**  
 Homecoming Committee Chairwoman

**BOII**  
 The Zeta Xi chapter of  
**Beta Theta Pi**  
 at Truman State University would like to congratulate the three new members initiated Friday, August 31, 2007.

Kyle Hood  
 Matt Rhodes  
 Kurt Warnhoff

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 COME TO AN INFORMATION MEETING TO LEARN MORE AND MEET RETURNED VOLUNTEERS

 **Wednesday September 26, 6:00 pm**  
 SUB, Alumni Room

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