

Employers prepare for wage increase

Minimum wage rises in Missouri because of higher living costs

BY ANDREA HEWITT
Staff Reporter

Fluctuations in the economy hit part-time workers in January as minimum wage increased from \$6.65 an hour to \$7.05.

"It is required by the Missouri minimum wage law that the Department of Labor director determine on Sept. 30 of each year any needed adjustments to the minimum wage based on changes to the consumer price index," said Wanda Seeney, public information administrator for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

The consumer price index, which measures changes in the cost of living, rose 6 percent between September 2007 and September 2008 so the minimum wage had to be adjusted accordingly, Seeney said.

Missouri's minimum wage will be altered again in July.

"There is language set out in a statute that says Missouri's minimum wage can-

not be lower than the federal rate," Seeney said. "Effective July 24, the federal rate is going to be \$7.25 an hour, so Missouri will have to make that adjustment as well."

One cannot speculate that the increasing cost for business owners will lead to loss of jobs for workers, but the increase does have the potential of putting more income into the hands of workers who need it, Seeney said.

Budget Director Dave Rector said he hopes Truman students will not lose hours because of the increased cost to employ them.

"It's part of the general cost of doing business," he said. "We have almost \$1.7 million in student employment. It's about \$102,000 increase in cost, assuming all the hours are the same."

Departments were told not to cut students' hours as a result of the increase. Their rise in costs will be built into the department's budget next year, Rector said.

"Our intent, given the economic situation in the state and the country, is that we really don't want to be cutting opportunities for stu-



Senior Kyle Ruiz picked up his paycheck from the cashier's window in McClain Hall Tuesday afternoon. Ruiz is employed by the University to assist with the swim team.

Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

dents because we know people need the money to help pay the bills," Rector said.

There is the possibility that new on-campus jobs will be created to provide more opportunities for students to work in the next year because of the hard economic times, he said.

"Will someone somewhere be told they don't have as many hours as last year?" Rector said. "It might happen."

Senior Kenneth Hard-

castle said he's counting on Truman not to cut students' hours because of the budget.

"I'm a senior this semester, and I'm graduating so ultimately, a cut in hours won't affect me, but if it happened now, the decreased income would really hurt — there's no way around that," Hardcastle said. "I'm just squeaking by as it is."

Kathy Elsea, director of financial aid, said this increase will affect the 225 students currently employed by the

Federal College work study program but also will minimally affect all 2,105 students who do service hours to keep their scholarship.

The number of scholarship hours students were required to work was decreased this semester from 60 to 59 hours.

"It went down because [minimum wage] changed in the middle of the year," Elsea said. "Under IRS regulations, we have to report a portion of that on a W-2 form and we didn't want to report

more on the W-2 form than we had to for the student. The amount we were reporting on the W-2 didn't fit in on the increase."

The easiest option for students and the financial aid office was to knock one hour off the requirement so the W-2 forms equaled out at the end of the year, Elsea said.

Next fall the requirement will jump back up to the regularly required 60 hours per semester, she said.

Music service discontinues

Ruckus shuts down Web site leaving students, faculty to find music alternatives

BY AMANDA GOESER
Staff Reporter

Last Friday was the day the music died. Ruckus, a free service to Truman and its students, has been accessible for over a year — that is, until last weekend. The former Web site that connected college students with their favorite bands now reads: "Unfortunately the Ruckus Service will no longer be provided. Thanks."

The service allowed students to download and play music from their computers and MP3 players that supported Ruckus' file type. One downside to the service was that iPods were incompatible with the Ruckus files.

Interim Technical Director Jim McNabb said Truman has not been contacted by Ruckus regarding the discontinuation of the service.

"We really don't know anything more than that they have ceased operations over the weekend," McNabb said.

Sophomore Dylan Clark said he used Ruckus to listen to music on his computer

for about a year.

"The thing I liked about Ruckus is that you could find some pretty obscure stuff that was harder to find, even to download illegally," Clark said. "And it was pretty well organized."

Paul Donovan, regional account executive at SafeMedia, said students should be cautious when looking for an alternative to Ruckus and to avoid inadvertent file sharing on peer-to-peer networks, such as LimeWire and Kazaa. SafeMedia works with Clouseau Network Security to report and block all peer-to-peer network traffic packets.

About 60 percent of the activity on an average university, corporation or government entity network is peer-to-peer activity, Donovan said. However, just because something is considered peer-to-peer, does not necessarily make it malicious. Of the original 60 percent, about

80 percent of that is encrypted, meaning unreadable or indistinguishable, he said.

An act passed in late 2008 added penalties on music piracy. The PRO-IP Act (Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008) doubled the maximum fine for counterfeiting intellectual property from \$1 million to \$2 million and enables the court to take away a computer used to illegally download books, music, movies, software and games, as well as other files, Donovan said.

"Basically there is no way around it, other than going to iTunes or something like that, signing up for their service and paying for it," Donovan said. "It's no different from cable television, basically you are getting their music channels, their movie channels, their television channels, and you are paying for that service."

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Paul Donovan
Safe Media Regional Account Executive

Where's the music?

A survey by Student Monitor from spring 2006 found that more than half of college students download music and movies illegally. College students alone accounted for more than 1.3 billion illegal music downloads in 2006, according to market research firm NPJ.

LEGAL MUSIC SITES:

- amazonMP3
- AOL Music
- Apple's iTunes Music Store
- Artist Direct
- AudioCandy
- BestBuy
- BET
- BuyMusic.com
- Catmusic
- CD Baby
- Circuit City
- Dimples Music
- Electric Fetus
- Emusic
- FYE
- Gallery of Sound
- imeem
- iMesh
- Independent Record
- Latin Noise
- Lifeway
- LiquidAudio

- MP3.com
- Musicmatch
- Music Millennium
- MusicNet@AOL
- Music Rebellion
- Napster
- Passalong
- Pro-Music
- Qtrax
- RasputinMusic
- RealNetworks' Rhapsody
- Record and Tape Trader
- Rolling Stone
- Sam Goody
- Spinner
- SpiralFrog
- Top Hits Music
- Tower Records
- Wal-Mart
- Windows Media
- Yahoo Music
- Zune

Information courtesy of RIAA - Recording Industry Association of America - riaa.com

Students in Free Enterprise teach check writing in Spanish

Students pair with Hablantes Unidos to teach Milan C-2 kids

BY JANE KRIENKE
Staff Reporter

Students in Free Enterprise is reaching out to the Spanish-speaking community in Milan, Mo., by teaming up with Hablantes Unidos to teach the children in the Milan C-2 school district fundamental financial skills.

The new SIFE program called El Cheque Por Favor!

is a twist on the original program, Check Please! Project coordinator Amanda Kersting said the main concepts of the after-school program include writing and recording checks, opening a bank account, debit and credit card terminology and what debit and credit cards are. These concepts are staying the same, and the only change is that the presentation will be conducted in Spanish, Kersting said.

SIFE has tried to run this program before, but it was unsuccessful. Kersting said she hopes this year will be

different. She said her group plans on measuring the success of the project using skills learned from SIFE.

"A big part of SIFE is that you have to do a pre-test and post-test or find some way of measuring your results," Kersting said. "So we're going to start out giving a pre-test which will be basically a blank check and a few multiple choice questions about some of the concepts we're going to cover ... Then, at the end, we'll give a post-test to see how much they've learned."

The program does not have

a set starting date, but until then, SIFE will be training members of Hablantes Unidos on how to present the financial concepts, Kersting said.

"I have worked on the project Check Please! for three years," senior Kelly Peterson said. "It was started as a basic project to introduce children to the concept of check writing. I think it's a good introduction to how money works."

SIFE frequently goes to Brashear Elementary school in Brashear, Mo., to present programs like Check Please!

Wendy Kerby, Brashear's Tiger Pride Director, said she thinks all SIFE's programs have been very beneficial for the children who attend them.

"Every time they come, the kids always look forward to seeing them," Kerby said. "Not only do they teach cool concepts, but they bring wonderful prizes and interact one-on-one with the kids, and it's usually just a really good time."

Kerby said the benefits of SIFE's programs go beyond simply teaching fundamental financial skills. She said she finds the personal bond the

elementary students develop with college students to be a very valuable addition to the program.

"To see the effort these [college students] go to and the fun things they bring with them just specifically for our elementary kid[s], that's really self-esteem building," Kerby said. "I think it's a really good idea to give these kids sound money management skills. I think this is something to help support what teachers and parents are already teaching their children."

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