

# Café regulars react to election

**Friends gather at Uptown Café to discuss politics**

BY CAITLIN DEAN  
Assistant News Editor

They've been meeting for years — since before the lottery first opened in Illinois.

"They" are a mostly local group of older gentlemen who meet at 10 a.m. each Wednesday for breakfast at the Uptown Café. The group started with workers from businesses around the Square meeting for coffee, Ed Smiser said.

Yesterday morning nine men showed up: Smiser, Robert Ruble, Gene Spalding, Dick Roberts, Jerry Gillum, Kelley Snipes, Richard Ellis, Robie Elliott and Jim Edwards, who was visiting from Las Vegas. The men didn't say much while breakfast was on the table, but as they cleaned their plates, they began exchanging more words. Wedged between easy bantering, borderline-dirty jokes and a quick round of a betting game

in which each man flipped a coin to see if he stayed in or not, the men discussed Tuesday night's election results.

Only two of them were pleased with the new president-elect, but some who had hoped for a McCain victory sounded positive.

"I was going to support whoever got in," Smiser said.

He said he was surprised at the early announcement of the results.

"Usually it's after midnight [that the results are in]," Smiser said. "You know, it goes on and on and on."

Elliott, who runs Westlake Ace Hardware, arrived midway through breakfast. One of the men said Elliott's arrival meant they would have to get into serious issues. Elliott turned the

meandering conversation back to politics, opening the door for discussion of Obama's proposed tax and retirement plans.

"I was planning on retiring in the next four and a half years," Elliott said. "When the next four and a half years changes ..."

Elliott trailed off as the other men laughed and said he already

**"It doesn't matter who got in as president, they've got a heck of a job ahead of them."**

Jerry Gillum  
Kirksville resident

was retired.

"It's the new working, young people that come out of college that's going to have to pay everything," Roberts said. "So we're just going to sit back and spread the wealth!"

As the men delved deeper into political discussion the laughter continued flowing but a more serious undertone became apparent in the conversation.

"It doesn't matter who got in



Caitlin Dean/Index

Kelley Snipes (far left) and Richard Ellis chat with Dick Roberts and Gene Spaulding (across the table) after breakfast at the Uptown Café. This group of friends meets regularly to discuss current events, swap stories and play games.

as president, they've got a heck of a job ahead of them," Gillum said. "I don't care who it was."

Elliott added his concerns about how other countries might react to Obama as U.S. president.

"[If another country just] doesn't like the U.S., they're sitting there thinking, 'This new kid has got all kinds of problems,'" Elliott said. "I mean, he's promised so much that he's going to take care of everything in this country. So, hey, let's give

him some more pressure."

Gillum then speculated on how the election could have played out.

"But look how bad it could have been if the Republican got in," he said. "And two years later John McCain's got Alzheimer's, and he'd have to bow out. Look we'd have that town manager, mayor, running our [country]. She don't have no experience."

The men also discussed some local issues, such as the

gubernatorial race between Republican Congressman Kenny Hulshof and Democrat Attorney General Jay Nixon.

"It surprised me [Hulshof] got beat that bad," Edwards said.

At about 11 a.m., the men rose from the table and trickled out the door. Some headed back to work, and all thanked Edwards, who bought breakfast yesterday.

"I'm buying the last supper," Edwards said.

# Adair county weighs in on national election

BY AMANDA GOESER  
Staff Reporter

On Tuesday, election excitement reached beyond national news and into Kirksville.

Scattered about various locations on the Square were candidates and campaign workers from both parties, members of both the College Democrats and College Republicans, poll workers and interested citizens.

Local results were being updated precinct-by-precinct, minute-by-minute to those waiting in the Adair County Courthouse. Truman students and Kirksville residents were gathered around televisions, watching history unfold.

Republican candidate John McCain took Adair County by 156 votes or slightly more than 1 percent. Of the 17,298 registered voters in Adair County, 11,999 voted, or just less than 70 percent.

Former Truman professor and Democrat incumbent Rebecca Mc-

Clanahan ran against Truman alumnus and Republican Thom Van Vleck for the office of 2nd District state representative. Both candidates were in different establishments in downtown Kirksville as results unfolded Tuesday night.

"I got concerned about the direction the state of Missouri was going, and I just felt like we needed to do something different," Rep. McClanahan, D-Kirksville, said. "... I have been so pleased with the support I have received and in particular, the commitment I made to have a 100-percent positive campaign."

"Many people have responded to that and given me positive feedback for taking the high road, and I believe that is consistent with who I am as a human being and consistent with who I am as a legislator."

McClanahan prevailed over Van Vleck by 13.48 percent to keep her position as 2nd District state representative. Van Vleck said he enjoyed running and is making plans

to run again in two years.

"We'd have liked to have won," Van Vleck said. "I believe Jay Nixon won Adair County and being that Kenny Hulshof had been our congressman — it just wasn't a favorable climate this time around for Republicans. Hopefully in two years that will be different."

After a close race in Adair County, Democrat Jay Nixon won the gubernatorial race by 1.69 percent. In the state, Nixon defeated Republican Kenny Hulshof by a margin of 18.9 percent to become Missouri's next governor.

Republican Peter Kinder will be the next lieutenant governor after beating Democrat Sam Page. Statewide, this was a tight race, as the margin of victory was just 2.6 percent. In Adair County, Kinder had nearly a 10-percent lead.

Secretary of state went to Democratic incumbent Robin Carnahan. Carnahan crushed Republican Mitch Hubbard by 26.2 percent and

23.32 percent in the state and county, respectively.

In one of the only races in which Adair County did not align with the state of Missouri, Democrat Clint Zweifel beat out Republican Brad Lager as the state treasurer. Statewide, Zweifel overcame Lager by 3.2 percent, and Adair County voted Lager over Zweifel by 6.36 percent.

The county also voted against the state in the attorney general race. Democrat Chris Koster swept the state with a 5.6-percent victory margin, and Republican Mike Gibbons succeeded in Adair County by 2.99 percent. Koster will replace Jay Nixon, governor-elect, as Missouri attorney general.

Both state- and county-wide, constitutional amendments 1 and 4, regarding the use of English during government meetings and stormwater grants, respectively, won easy victories.

Proposition A, which regards casinos and gambling, Proposition B,

involving home care and Proposition C, comprising renewable energy, all passed after sweeping both the state and the county.

For the 9th District United States representative, Adair County selected Republican Blaine Luetkemeyer over Democrat Judy Baker by a narrow window of 1.88 percent.

The 1st District commissioner position went to Democrat Carson Adams, who defeated Republican E. Gene Schneider. To become 2nd District commissioner, Republican Mark Thompson triumphed Democrat Harley Harrelson and Libertarian Steve Salt.

Independent Bob Hardwick secured the position of county sheriff by a near 11-point lead over Democrat incumbent Leonard Clark.

Running unopposed, Donnie Waybill, Jeanette Gregory and Brian Noe were each 98-percent victors for their offices: assessor, public administrator and coroner, respectively.

**Winter Intersession**  
January 5-18, 2009

earn 3 credit hours  
in 2 weeks

Continuing Education  
[www.umsl.edu/intersession](http://www.umsl.edu/intersession)

**Poston Rental**  
is now leasing for the  
2009-2010 school year

.....

Large homes available to suit the size of your group

Close to Truman State University

Washer/dryer provided

Clean, well-maintained

Large spacious bedrooms

.....

**We are here to serve you!**  
Call Bobby today for more information and to schedule your showing.  
Home: 665-2347 Cell: 216-1445

**CHECK US OUT,  
WE HAVEN'T RAISED OUR RATES**

.....