

Cell phones in Kirksville

Certain service providers may be better than others

BY PAUL BISCHOFF
Staff Reporter

Some cell phones receive service in the basement of Magruder Hall. Others seem to struggle to get a single bar in the middle of the Quad.

Students should note that even within a coverage area, network traffic volume, buildings and structures, foliage, weather and other conditions might interfere with actual service, quality and availability of any wireless service. AT&T Representative Chelsey Ilten gave some advice to customers having difficulties.

"You can always power down your phone and restart it, and that will create a new search for towers," Ilten said. "Some people that may have brought their phone in from out of market ... may need to have their plan [adjusted] or actual adjustments made to the phone ... so they can use all those various towers that are now under AT&T. If they are having problems they should go ahead and call customer service."

If that advice doesn't solve the problem of inadequate signal strength, it might be awhile before AT&T subscribers at Truman see improvements. Ilten said AT&T hasn't made any plans to add more towers in

2008, and no plans have been released for 2009.

"It's a matter of working with the local governments, finding a location where we can build a tower or join an existing tower — put one of our antennas on an existing tower," Ilten said. "That's pretty common, for carriers to share those kinds of things. Then it's the building of the actual cell site."

Ilten also said several towers had been added within the past year, but some students using AT&T still are dissatisfied with their service. Senior Josh Cook said he didn't have any issues with AT&T before he moved to Kirksville.

"I didn't really have any problems with it," Cook said. "It's really frustrating sometimes because I'll even be outside, and I have no service."

For Cook, poor signal is only a minor inconvenience, and he has no plans to change carriers, but he said it could cause major problems for anyone who urgently needs to reach someone or be reached. Junior Ashley Long, a Verizon user, said she has not had trouble getting service in Kirksville.

"It's pretty good here — I haven't really had any major problems," Long said. "Occasionally, I'll have a call that won't go through, or someone won't receive a text that I've sent them, but it happens maybe once every couple of months."

Until recently, Cingular (now AT&T) didn't provide national coverage in Kirksville at all, causing many students to switch to another carrier.

"My sister came here before me and Cingular didn't work for her at all, so we decided to both switch to Sprint," junior Amelia Bobzien said. "... It's usually good everywhere on campus except Violette [Hall]. It never works in Violette."

Freshman Janne Wilmes recently switched to T-Mobile from Sprint. She said her decision to switch primarily was based on cost.

"I switched because my Sprint plan was going up with my family's and we got a better deal with T-Mobile," Wilmes said. "We added another phone and changed our plan, and it was just a better deal ... I've had problems with Sprint. I know

people that have had problems with Verizon, and Cingular [now AT&T] seems to be kind of expensive."

Many students stick with their providers because they are on contract family plans that are more affordable and convenient. These students, especially T-Mobile users, could be in danger of losing service. Everywhere in Kirksville is roaming for T-Mobile. Even though T-Mobile offers free roaming, the company can cut plans that are costing too much.

"It definitely does come up," Wilmes said. "Sometimes I get T-Mobile, but it's almost always AT&T or US Cellular or something else, but with my plan it doesn't matter."

US Cellular Representative Teri Twyman said the company focuses its efforts in rural communities and has three towers that serve Kirksville along with two store locations.

"Rural communities deserve great customer service in the wireless industry and even better wireless coverage in the wireless industry," Twyman said. "Your needs are no less in Kirksville than somebody's needs would be in Chicago."

Twyman said there are some common misconceptions about certain types of cellular devices. Flip phones, phones with internal antennae and older phones allegedly receive a weaker signal, but Twyman says these claims have no real evidence.

"The truth of the matter is,



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Cellphone service in Kirksville varies depending on the company. Students sometimes experience problems with service in certain buildings and areas around town.

there are going to be phones that are more upscale, more expensive devices that have better circuitry in them and perform better," Twyman said. "It's not limited to the type of phone. It's not limited to a manufacturer of phones. The technology can change."

Students suffering from a

lack of bars need to ensure they have the latest software updates for their phone. Any student considering switching providers should do some research on the coverage area of each provider. Most major providers have detailed, street-level coverage maps on their Web sites showing

Local man matches lotto numbers for \$1.2 million

BY BLAISE HART-SCHMIDT
Staff Reporter

A Kirksville man hit the jackpot Oct. 4 when he purchased a Missouri Lotto ticket worth \$1.2 million.

James Koch, manager of the Ice House No. 4 convenience store, bought his ticket at 6:45 p.m., only 15 minutes before the drawing. About a half hour later, he checked the winning numbers online and discovered that all six of his numbers matched. Koch, who had let the computer pick his numbers for him, had his son check them.

"I checked it six times," James Koch said. "I definitely felt disbelief. I never expected it would happen to me, but if you don't play you don't win."

The convenience store manager ex-

plained that he had participated in the Missouri Lotto since its start in 1986, spending \$3 on tickets every Wednesday and Saturday.

"I've probably broke even by now," Koch said, although he later clarified he was joking.

His son, Dan Koch, also buys lottery tickets, but said he was surprised by his father's win.

"We were both watching the Cubs game, ordering something for dinner, when Dad went to get the tickets," he said. "He yelled at me to come check something — that he thought he won the lottery. And I said, 'You'd better not be kidding me!'"

After checking the numbers three times, Dan said he started to feel shaky and sat down to avoid fainting.

James Koch chose the "cash option" of receiving his winnings, instead of the "annuity option," which would allow him to receive his winnings in annual installments over 25 years. The "cash option" decreases Koch's winnings by \$600,000. After taxes, Koch will receive less than one third of the overall jackpot.

"I keep thinking they're going to take more of it away from me," Koch said. "Pretty soon I'm going to owe them money."

James said he plans to use the money to get new appliances, siding and win-

dows for his house and to pay a few bills. He also said he probably will buy a new car and a four wheeler for Maverick Paintball, a Kirksville paint ball park that he owns with his wife and son.

The Certified Financial Planning Board estimates that nearly one third of all lottery winners eventually become bankrupt. Koch said he plans to avoid this by investing some of the money, and not quitting his job, although he does plan to work less. He also said income from his paintball park and social security will help.

Jason Shaw, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, figured that if Koch had bought a ticket twice a week for 24 years, his chances of winning once would be one in 1415. According to the Missouri Lotto Web site, the chance of matching all six numbers, as Koch did, is one in 3,529,526.

Shaw estimated that if Koch had invested his \$3 twice a week for 24 years in a bank account with a 5-percent interest rate instead of buying lottery tickets, he would have accumulated \$14,225.

Hoping that lightning strikes twice, James said he will continue buying lottery tickets.

"I like checking the numbers," he said. "If I win, I win. If I don't, I don't. I think I can afford the \$6 a week now."

CAREER EXPO

Wednesday, October 22
1-5pm in the Student Union

Map out your future!

Pre register at <http://Career.truman.edu/careerexpo/>
Deadline to upload resume and apply for interview pre-selection on eRecruiting is Monday October 13th by midnight. Additional interview slots may be available so stop by and check with companies at Career Expo.

Be sure to check career.truman.edu for a full list of companies attending Expo and conducting interviews on Thursday, October 23.

Monday, October 20
Speaker: Sari Neudorf
Topic: Salary negotiation
7pm in VH 1000
Sponsored by School of Business

Tuesday October 21
Steak n Shake and Eli Lilly
Mock Interview Schedule
9am - 3pm
Sign up and drop off your resume in the Career Center.

Eli Lilly Program
7:30 - 8:30pm in SUB Georgian Room C
The topic will be interview skills, interview do's and don'ts, day in the life of a sales professional and Q&A.

The Center for Student Involvement

extends a big thank you to Truman and the Kirksville community for your support and participation in what was a spirited Homecoming 2008! Congratulations to all Homecoming court members and award winning teams!

Attention all chartered student organizations!
The Banner roster program is up and running.
Please remember to submit your fall 08 roster information by October 31.
Additional training sessions to take place on

Thursday, October 23, from 1-4 p.m. in McClain 215 & on
Wednesday, October 29, 5-7 p.m. Violette Hall 1304

- Visit the ASG and WRC sponsoring Breast Cancer Awareness Week / Women's Health Fair 10/13 - 10/17. For more information contact the Women's Resource Center at 785-7224.
- Sign your team up for the Bowl For Gold Bowling Tournament on 10/18, 2-5pm at Leisure World. For more information contact the SERVE Center at 785-7222.
- Purchase your tickets for the American Heart Association Rhapsody in Red Heart Gala taking place November 8, 6 p.m. at A.T. Still's Connell Center. For more information contact Amy Currier @ 785-4222.