

ROAD LOSS

Women lose 98-6 to Emporia State University

Sports
Page 17



TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY
INDEX

Celebrating 100 years as the University's student-produced newspaper

CO-OP UPDATE

Bike business takes off

TruLife
Page 9



Thursday, September 11, 2008

www.trumanindex.com

Kirkville, Mo. 63501

Downtown guessing game

Renovations to Pickler's Famous remain under wraps as reveal date draws near

BY CAITLIN DEAN
Assistant News Editor

It's not a juice bar/strip club combo, and it's not an Italian restaurant.

Todd Kuhns, Truman Web master, city councilmember and now business owner, won't reveal anything more than this about the new enterprise on the Square, Pickler's Famous. Although Kuhns will be the sole owner of the business, he shares ownership of the building with family practitioner Justin Puckett. Kuhns said he has considered such an enterprise for a couple of years, but he only recently learned of

"We think that Kirkville could use a little excitement, some positive energy, that we're trying to spur from this."

Todd Kuhns
City Councilmember

we're trying to spur from this," Kuhns said. "It's fun to have people guessing. It's also neat to hear ideas of what people think it should be. We just thought it was more fun this way."

For those who can't stand the suspense, the new business owners offer an Inner Circle on their Web site, picklersfamous.org. Kuhns said more than 300 members belong to the Inner Circle, which receives e-mailed Web clues designed by Kuhns. Those following the Web riddles will have a good idea of what Pickler's Famous will be prior to the tar-

get opening date of Dec. 1, 2008, he said.

Pickler's Famous first opened in 1880, and although many different businesses have occupied the building since then, the partners intend to return the building to both its original look and name. They have engaged in collecting and verifying stories about the history of the building and doing historical research, and they also will contact relatives of Samuel Pickler who

Please see PICKLER, Page 7



Amy Gleaves/Index
Workers and volunteers began gutting and renovating the Harrison St. property less than a month ago. Kuhns said he hopes to open Pickler's Famous Dec. 1.

Letter writer gets 18 months

Local man sentenced to prison for sending threatening letters

BY JESSICA RAPP
News Editor

A Kirkville man was sentenced to 18 months in prison Friday after sending threatening letters to Adair County residents.

Lonnie Sutton, 33, faces three felony charges of mailing threatening letters to victims after pleading guilty in June, although he has been suspected of writing at least six letters.

Sutton sent his first stream of letters through the postal service in 2003 to two female acquaintances.

These threatening letters brought the case to the attention of the Kirkville Police Department, which began an investigation.

Detective Justin Jones, who led the first half of the investigation, said Sutton also sent a letter to Justin Harris, a boyfriend of one of Sutton's female acquaintances. The letters to all three recipients contained similar threats, he said.

"This Mr. Sutton, he's not very grounded in real life," Jones said. "He has a very active imagination and fantasy life."

According to a December 2007 indictment, Sutton sent a letter in

Please see LETTERS, Page 7

MoDOT pushes plan for alternate route

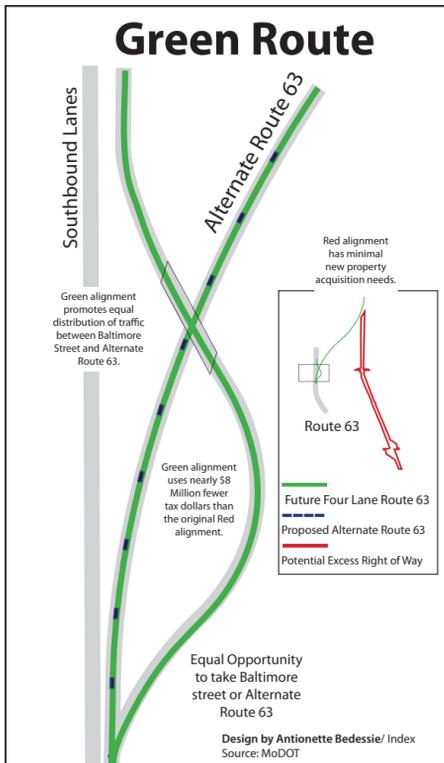
BY T.J. FAUST
Staff Reporter

Alternate Route 63 is finally in the works almost 60 years since the first idea of a bypass was documented.

On Sept. 4, the Missouri Department of Transportation hosted an open meeting at Kirkville High School for the public to evaluate the three possibilities for construction of the alternate route. The meeting informed the public about MoDOT's three possible scenarios to gain helpful feedback that will affect which route is chosen.

According to information presented at the meeting, the originally proposed green route costs almost \$8 million less than the red route. The savings from this will be used for other transportation needs in the northern central region of Missouri. MoDOT prefers the green route because it accomplishes the alternate route at the lowest possible cost.

The green route maximizes the use of existing facilities, such as the four-lane completion of Route 63 from Macon to Kirkville. It best promotes equal distribution of traffic between Baltimore St. and the alternate route, provides the best connectivity between Kirkville and the airport and minimizes environmental impacts, according to MoDOT.



The green route alters 1.5 acres of wetland compared to the red route's effect on 3.1 acres. The green route affects four streams, two streams fewer than the red route. The green route affects two lakes or ponds, but the red route affects three, according to MoDOT.

However, the green route requires the acquisition of the most new land. This land will displace one resident and one business and might affect 10 other residents' property.

The orange route was proposed as an option to mediate between the green and

Please see ROUTE, Page 7

Ready for action



Joe Barker/Index

Freshman running back Donald Harvey stiff arms a defender during practice Wednesday night. The finishing touches to the new artificial turf are being made and the field will host its first game at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Soup heir makes unplanned stop at Kirkville airport

BY ROBERT WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

Bennett Dorrance, the heir to the Campbell Soup Company fortune, was forced to land at Kirkville Regional Airport on Friday.

At 8:20 a.m., his plane took off from San Jose International Airport with a pilot and co-pilot also on board. About halfway through the intended flight, the crew made an emergency landing at Kirkville's airport after the pilot noted smoke in the cockpit and fire on the windshield of the Rolls-Royce Gulfstream IV jet, Airport Director Dave Hall said.

Airport officials said the windshield caught fire at 45,000 feet. The crew shut off the heating element that caused the fire and landed safely. When the Gulfstream Jet finally touched down at 1:25 p.m., the fire was out and there was no imminent danger, Fire Chief Randy Barron said.

The top and middle layers of the right side of the windshield had separated in flight, airport operator Robert Brown said. The National Transportation Safety Board still has not released an official statement about what caused the electrical troubles or the windshield becoming separated or "de-

laminated," he said.

The crew contacted Gulfstream Engineers and determined that because the base of the three layers of the windshield wasn't damaged, the jet could be flown, Brown said. The jet left Kirkville airport after five hours for Outagamie County Regional Airport in northeast Wisconsin, and it later flew to San Juan, according to public tracking knowledge available online.

About two hours after the landing, a Beechcraft Hawker, a similar style commuter jet, flew in to pick up the billionaire so he could arrive at his

Please see PLANE, Page 7

INSIDE | this issue

Troubling Technology

Columnist Andrew Kindiger thinks fear stands in science's way



See Other Voices, Page 5

Skateboarders Fundraise

Local organization brings in more money than expected



See News, Page 2

Rocky Horror Show

Community theatre group puts on popular unique show



See TruLife, Page 11

WEATHER

Thursday Friday Saturday



T-storms High 74 Low 64
T-storms High 71 Low 65
T-storms High 72 Low 60