

Women rally to raise vote

BY MISSY GREENE
Staff Reporter

With a female on the ballot for vice president and another having led a strong campaign in the presidential primaries, voting organizations are trying to stress the importance of women voting.

On Saturday, Sept. 27, Northeastern Missouri National Organization for Women and the Women's Resource Center are holding a rally centered on the importance of the female vote. From 2 to 3 p.m. at Brashear Park in Kirksville, Why Women Must Vote will offer voter registration and feature speeches with a mixture of political viewpoints, from the Missouri Obama Coalition to KTVO's Dana Jay.

The speakers will address specific issues in the election, but the main goal is to express how important it is for women to vote.

"We've had the right to vote for a hundred years, but women still vote

less than men," said junior Sarah Ehrhard, a speaker at the rally. "It determines the next four years, so it's important now to get people rallied."

The function also will offer a chance for women to register to vote or to switch to the surrounding district. Ehrhard said she thinks transferring to Kirksville's district will help increase voter turnout.

"There will be a focus on college students and switching their vote to their current residence," Ehrhard said. "The whole idea is to get more people to vote."

Truman students are not the only women that Why Women Must Vote is targeting. By having the rally off campus, Ehrhard said she thinks more women from the community will feel encouraged to come.

Northeastern Missouri NOW is participating in the event and might attract more females from Kirksville's community. Speakers from other organizations based in Kirksville also will work to bring in women who



Amy Gleaves/Index

The Women's Resource Center will host a rally to encourage women to vote. Both students and Kirksville residents can participate in this effort, which will include speeches from the Missouri Obama Coalition.

want to express their views.

Issues pertaining to a female vice president also are expected to spark voting interest. The campus was buzzing last year as the primaries began and a female candidate became a prospect. Senior Lorrie Riley, who is speaking at the rally on the behalf of the League of Women Voters on Sat-

urday, thinks a female presence will warrant more female votes.

"Last year [the campus] got heated and really excited with a woman in the running," Riley said. "People are really passionate when they can relate."

With the rally coming up, organizations are working hard to get the word out, and with the election less

than two months away, the effort to encourage female voters is escalating. Sophomore Jaime Kelley said she plans to attend the rally to support the woman vote.

"It will influence people to consider things," Kelley said. "It will definitely express to people why it's important to vote so more people will."

NOAA weather radio enhances emergency program

BY JESSICA RAPP
News Editor

Crackle. Shhhh. This is the NOAA weather radio operating at a frequency of 162.52 megahertz. Here is the forecast for the following counties.

The emergency device that sits waiting by bedsides in many homes has shown up on the doorsteps of universities across the U.S. Call it a stork delivery because some universities weren't expecting this effort by Congress to improve schools' emergency plans nationwide.

A package mailed to the University President's office a few weeks ago quickly found its way to Department of Public Safety Director Tom Johnson's desk. A Reecom Electronics Inc. Weather Radio sat inside the box with a note and brochure.

"In addition to preparing staff, students and school communities for emergencies, this access to alerts and warnings will provide you with the information you need to respond quickly and appropriately should an incident develop," read the letter from the Department of Commerce, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education and the Department of Homeland Security.

Johnson said Truman already has a weather radio but that adding an extra



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Congress issued 180,000 weather radios to campuses nationwide. Truman's weather radio is located at the Department of Public Safety.

couldn't hurt.

"Ours was getting kind of ratty, so it was due to be upgraded," he said.

He said having a weather radio supplements other equipment in the DPS office, including online radar pictures and the international crime computer. Colleges or universities that have campus security instead of a police department

won't have access to this information, he said. The Reecom radio will send missing children alerts and other security warnings in addition to relaying the status of the weather.

About 77,000 schools nationwide participated in this government program sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a parent

agency to the National Weather Service, two years ago. An extension of this program provided the \$60 radios free to all public and private colleges and universities within the last month.

"There's some recognition by them that at least some things can be done," Johnson said. "And higher education isn't always the same. You can't just put a cookie cutter on it that you can do in K-12. ... Most of the time in K-12, you got one building or a couple of buildings where in higher [education], you can have 60 buildings with people coming and going all of the time, and not just during the daytime."

NOAA sent 180,000 radios to two- and four-year colleges and universities, funded by the Department of Homeland Security. A Reecom representative said the company gave discounts to the state and federal government after getting bids on its radios from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Kirksville High School received a radio from Midland, a second company that received bids for purchasing mass quantities of its product for the program. Bookkeeper Sallie Martin said that unlike Truman, the high school didn't have a weather radio before.

She said that normally, staff members would check the status of weather emergencies, such as flash flooding and

tornado warnings, by looking at online radar pictures provided by KTVO's local weather site.

"[The radio] certainly doesn't hurt anything, since they actually followed through and sent them out to everybody," Martin said. "So I would rather see that, and I'm sure they've been allocated this money and they have it, so I just as soon see them spend it on something that would be worthwhile that would actually do some good."

Chris Vaccaro, a spokesman for NOAA, said the agency encourages recipients of the radios to register with the program so that it can send schools updates to the program when necessary.

Vaccaro said that although many schools might already have an emergency plan set in place, school officials shouldn't disregard the benefits of this program. He said this program was in the works even before Hurricane Katrina. Congress wanted to develop a way to make sure school systems could receive government alerts because it provides a key step in responding efficiently to emergencies, he said.

"Even if it serves as a simple backup or allows it to enhance a second radio — you don't want a single point of failure," he said. "Even the redundancy here is potentially life-saving."

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges



Eligibility

Seniors graduating in December, May, or August
2008-2009 Academic Year

Active in campus or community activities
2.75 cumulative GPA

Evaluation Criteria

Excellent academic record

Character

Breadth and depth of leadership

Impact on the University or community

Nominations are due Sept. 26

Applications are due Oct. 17

Pick up/drop off at

Student Union Building 3100

For more information, call X4111

The Campus Life

Spirit and Fun Working Group

commissioned by
President Dixon

The group has finished its report from the results of the Art and Science report. It is available for all Truman Students, faculty and staff to view at :

<http://saffairs.truman.edu/clsfreport/>

This is a secure site so your username (truman/xxxxxxx) and password are needed to view the report.