

## CLOSING | Kirksville Planned Parenthood to shut its doors, patients disappointed

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the other two Planned Parenthoods in its district, Lake of the Ozarks and Rolla.

"We are channeling our limited resources towards those other two clinics, so they are continuing to stay open," she said.

The two employees at the Kirksville clinic were notified about the closure in August, and Ecsi Davis said both have other jobs they are pursuing.

"It was a very hard decision to make, it makes us very sad that we have to close our doors, but on the other hand it's the best business decision that we could make at this point," she said.

Ecsi Davis said Planned Parenthood is trying to help patients transfer their records to other care providers in the area.

"We know with some of our clients, it's a matter of getting a pap smear or paying your electric bill so we want them to continue to get care," she said.

Kelsey Cler, president of Students for Choice, said she was sad about the closing. The group, formerly known as Vox, was a student group that worked with Planned Parenthood, assisting with education and volunteering at the clinic.

Cler said the group will undergo several changes now that they are no longer associated with the organization.

"We're going to try to work with the Student Health Center, especially with the issue of birth control, and we'll probably work with the Med Students for Choice at KCOM," Cler said. "Because [Vox] represented Planned Parenthood, we couldn't be political, but this year we're going to try to be a lot more political."

Students for Choice also plans to work



Planned Parenthood will close because of a lack of funding, among other reasons. Lisa Ecsi Davis, director of education and public affairs at the Tri-Rivers Planned Parenthood, said they are now in the process of helping patients transfer their health records to other area providers.

Krista Goodman/Index

with Kirksville High School, but Cler said she was unsure whether the group would work with other local clinics.

Senior Jeni Graves said she has used Planned Parenthood's services since she began at Truman four years ago getting birth control, pelvic exams and Gardasil

shots. She said she is now faced with the problem of where to get her birth control.

"I don't use the pill, I use the [Nuva] ring, and the ring has to be refrigerated," Graves said. "They have the ring at Hy-Vee, Wal-Mart, pretty much everywhere, but the ring at Planned Parenthood is \$17, the

ring at Wal-Mart is \$60."

Graves said she's very upset the clinic is closing.

"It's unfathomable that it would be closing," she said. "It's a great resource in the community. I think people are going to miss it once it's gone."

## H1N1 | H1N1 on campus climbs to nine cases

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testing. But there are no indications on whether the flu is receding or still on the offensive.

"We are no longer sending in specimens to the state laboratory since it is now evident that we do have the H1N1 on campus," said Brenda Higgins, director of the Student Health Center.

At least 1,640 swine flu cases have been reported from 165 colleges, according to a recent survey by the American College Health Association.

Truman has spent between \$10,000 and \$12,000 on publicity and sanitation to prevent the spread of H1N1, according to figures gathered from different departments, and campus awareness campaigns have gone into overdrive. Still, flu cases have climbed from one to nine during the past two weeks.

"It appears that the majority of our students are doing what they've been encouraged to do," Higgins said. "That is to self-isolate at home until they have no fever for 24 hours."

"I think this has really been helping to keep the numbers down. The students who have had the H1N1 have recuperated without incident."

There are some unreported cases involving students who have not checked into the health center, but instead opted to seek medical attention at home in line with response procedures recommended by the institution.

Higgins said unreported cases have made it difficult for health officials to know how many cases there are, as many students are attempting self-care at home without reporting to the health center.

### When the south sneezes...

The flu so far has breached the best contingency measures put in place to curb its spread, mainly because of the high mobility of people, especially by air travel. New cases mostly have been reported after long weekends like the Labor Day holiday, which saw millions of people travelling across states. A combination of travel and the onset of the winter season is expected to have the effect of gasoline on fire.

Kirksville family medicine physician Justin Puckett said he thinks Truman and the broader Kirksville community have been particularly lucky to have a relatively low number of cases, a trend he attributes to the awareness campaigns. But he said winter is likely to bring a resurgence of the flu.

"For a university of [Truman's] size, the numbers are relatively low comparatively," Puckett said. "Overall, we have been lucky. It appears much of our public education has worked here. We are staying home when we are sick. We are washing our hands. Truman students have implemented the recommendations of public health officials to prevent spread of the virus."

Puckett said countries in the southern hemisphere already have had their winter, enabling medical professionals to have a glimpse into the behavior of the virus. He said observations were that H1N1 didn't seem to make people sicker than the seasonal flu. However, viral infection rates for both H1N1 and seasonal flus are expected to increase in winter as more people are pushed inside by colder weather.

"The big difference is that, especially for the younger groups with less antigen (virus) exposure, the virus is just passing to others more easily, and so more people are getting sick," Puckett said. "If more people are infected with the flu in a flu season, more are going to have complications, and more people are going to die. Even if the fractions are the same, the raw numbers are expected to be higher this year."

### Is Truman prepared?

From the onset, the presence of sound contingency measures has been the key factor in determining the rate at which flu cases spread, as well as the speed at which infected individuals seek medical attention. Kirksville's health system has an ongoing plan for outbreaks of disease, which would be activated in case of a flu outbreak. Until now, officials have put their faith in awareness, which Puckett said will allow health officials to focus their efforts on individuals with the most serious complications.

None of the cases reported at Truman have ended in hospitalization, according to the health center, and most students recover with just symptomatic treatment for coughs, sore throats and fevers. Higgins said the health center prescribed Tamiflu only a couple of times to patients who had underlying chronic health conditions that elevated them to a high-risk category.

Truman departments so far have stocked up on antibacterial hand cleaners and cleaning and antiseptic supplies in a bid to restrict the spread of H1N1, but there doesn't seem to be a surefire strategy in place to curb a possible outbreak.

## CRIME | Three cases of sexual assault reported since August

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Hughes said that although the incidents aren't related, both happened at parties. And in both cases, the victims and alleged offenders were under the influence of alcohol, Hughes said. He said the crimes are under investigation and no charges have been filed at this time.

The Aug. 24 incident allegedly occurred at a residence south of campus and involved a 20-year-old female victim. Hughes said the investigation in this case is progressing. Police Sgt. Steve Farnsworth said earlier this week that evidence from this case has been sent to the crime lab.

"We're still investigating and waiting for stuff to come back," Farnsworth said. "Then we'll send a report to the prosecutor."

Hughes said he could not confirm if alcohol was present at the Sig Tau house Sept. 13. Last weekend was

part of dry rush week for members of Greek life at the University.

"There was alcohol involved, but I'm stopping short of saying the alcohol was [at the party]," Hughes said.

Sigma Tau Gamma president junior Ryan Cochran stated in an e-mail sent to an Index reporter Wednesday that "alleged rape is a serious issue, and one that Sigma Tau Gamma does not take lightly."

"Currently, we are looking into the facts and investigating the situation," Cochran said in the e-mail. "We believe that the facts will come to us in a reasonable time, but we do not believe that there are enough facts for us to comment on the situation. However, we are taking the appropriate actions with the information at hand."

Interfraternity Council president Marty Jayne said

that unless someone files a complaint with the IFC, the IFC would not take any action against the fraternity. He also said the IFC probably would not become involved unless it becomes clear that the fraternity as a whole was breaking rules.

Although Hughes said alcohol was involved in the two most recently reported incidents, and both victims were under the age of 21, he encouraged victims of sex crimes not to hesitate to report the incident because of any possible punishment the victim might receive for illegally consuming alcohol.

"We take these [sexual assault] cases very seriously," Hughes said. "We can't excuse people from drinking, but that's not the focus of our investigation. Our primary concern, in fact our only concern, is with the safety of the victim and, if necessary, bringing someone to justice."

## TAILGATING | Parents want alcohol area during for tailgating

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"If you're 21, you can use alcohol two hours before the game and up through halftime," Hughes said.

After halftime, all consumption of alcohol must cease.

Jerry Wollmering, director of athletics at Truman, said many people enjoy tailgating without alcohol.

"I don't think the definition of tailgating requires alcohol in it," Wollmering said. "You can pull up in our lot and throw the football around or whatever, but most of the people in our society associate [alcohol] with tailgating."

"The biggest reason people tailgate is [that] they want to connect and socialize with friends and family."

Wollmering said he would support a policy that allows fans to tailgate with alcohol before the game, but stop once the

game starts.

"I think more people would tailgate around the stadium and obviously if that means more tailgating, if more people do come, that could be a monetary effect at the ticket gate," he said.

Nancy Mayszak, a member of the Touchdown Club, has organized tailgates at a car wash just off of campus, which the club is calling "The Dog Pound." She said 150 people showed up to tailgate at the first home game of the season.

Mayszak said she would like to work with the University to get official tailgating on campus.

"I'm getting a lot of positive feedback from the community," she said. "We already have businesses involved with the tailgates. Everyone I've talked to has been very positive about it and realizes it could be really good for the University."

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