

# Park fire destroys public bathrooms



The fire destroyed about 50 percent of the restroom facility. Portable restroom facilities will be available through the end of October.

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER  
Editor in Chief

Local police and fire departments are investigating a Sunday fire that caused extensive damage to the restroom facilities at Brashear Park, located at the corner of Cottage Grove and Normal streets. No one was injured in the fire.

Kirksville Fire Chief Randy Behrens said his department thinks someone started the fire intentionally.

Law enforcement received a call about the fire at 9:28 p.m. Sunday night, said Sgt. Steve Farnsworth of the Kirksville Police Department.

Behrens said it took firefighters about 20 minutes to control the fire once they arrived on site.

The fire destroyed about 50 percent of the restroom facility, Behrens said. Farnsworth

said it appears the fire was started at the paper towel dispenser in the men's restroom. No ignition source was found, Behrens said.

"The men's bathroom was destroyed, and there is a lot of smoke damage in the women's restroom," Farnsworth said. "And there's a storage part of the building that had stuff damaged."

Farnsworth and Behrens said it is unclear how many people were responsible for the blaze.

The restroom facility is now closed and portable restroom facilities will be available at the park

through the end of October, according to a press release sent by Kirksville's Community Services Director Melanie Smith.

Once the investigation is complete, city crews will start evaluation of the structure to

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Sgt Steve Farnsworth  
Kirksville Police Department

plan for repair or replacement, according to the press release. The timetable of repairs is pending based on further review of the damage.

Anyone with information about the fire at Brashear Park can call the Kirksville Police Department at 660-785-6945 or the anonymous tip line at 627-BUST.

# Tru-Positions takes off

BY ALEX DALECKI  
Staff Reporter

Truman welcomed its own career Web site in July, Tru-Positions, billed as "Truman's centralized position database" by Tom Stuart, financial aid officer and Tru-Positions administrator.

Tru-Positions, accessible online at [tru-positions.truman.edu](http://tru-positions.truman.edu), offers a single location for prospective job seekers and on-campus employers to converge and fill job positions. It has listings for work study, scholarship and institutional positions. There currently are 57 listings available, most with numerous positions per listing, with more on the way.

"A lot of positions were already filled for this year," Stuart said. "We're hoping this coming year we can meet with enough departments so, come January, it will all just be right there for [the students]."

Students needed to go to individual departments to inquire about job positions in the past.

"It was a lot of chaos, and the students were on their own," Stuart said. "We're hoping to change that."

Finding student workers wasn't easy for departments either, and it usually required a lot of individual work without much success.

"We put posters up, we'd use our display cases, and that

was about it," said Mary Kay Cowan, secretary for the Center for Student Involvement. "Basically it was word of mouth. We tried e-Recruiting, but it just didn't seem to work as well."

Cowan has hired two front office assistants through Tru-Positions.

Departmental feedback has been very positive so far, with many departments seeing far greater responses than in the past. Student interest also is evident. During the roughly six weeks the site has been active, 737 students have logged into Tru-Positions and 506 students have submitted a total of 1,332 applications.

"This way students don't have to go around from department to department to check," Cowan said. "People can just put it on Tru-Positions, and it's on one spot, so they can pick and choose what they want to apply for."

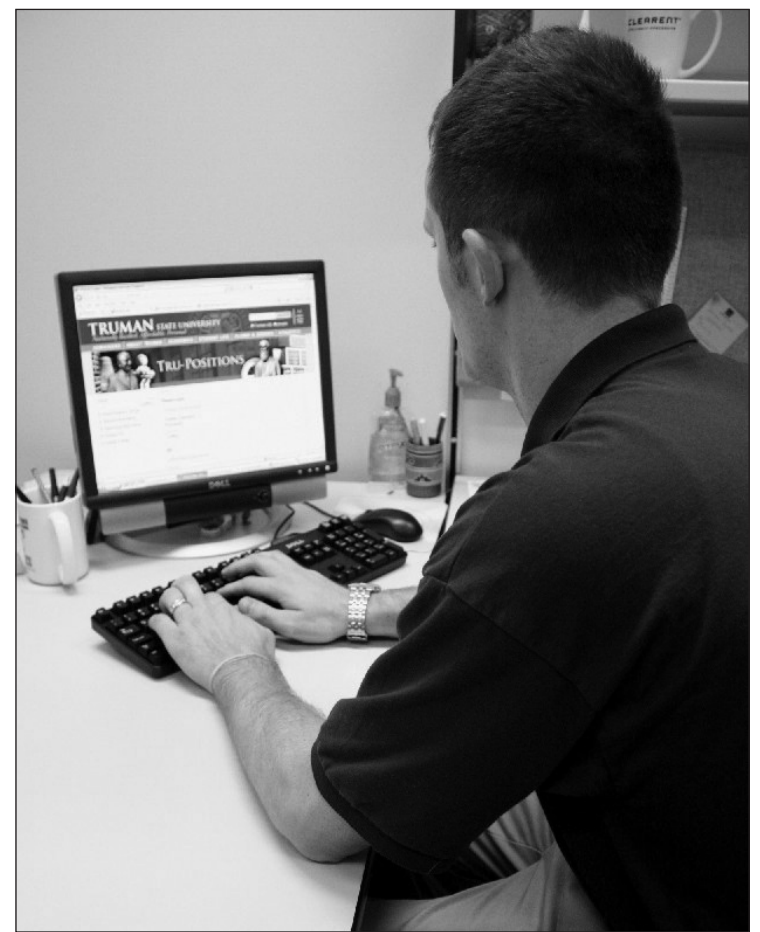
Each department can easily create new job listings on the Web site, using an online interface — no direct contact with the financial aid office is required.

"Even though we're calling it centralized, we're not actually running the Web site," Stuart said. "We've just provided the tool, the database, for departments to use to track people down for the positions."

Although Tru-Positions is expected to streamline job applications, the intent was to provide a service, not focus on eliminating expenditures in other areas. The University has not incurred any cost in building the Web site.

**"We've just provided the tool, the database for departments to use to track people down for the positions."**

Tom Stuart  
Financial aid officer and Tru-Positions administrator



Tom Stuart, Tru-Positions administrator, shows off his new project Tru-Positions, which reached more than 737 students.

# Truman receives award

BY ANDY MOORE  
Staff Reporter

Truman proves once again to be the best in the Midwest.

U.S. News & World Report's 2010 edition of "America's Best Colleges" ranked Truman as the No.1 Public University with a master's program in the Midwest region, making this the 13th year in a row that Truman received such recognition.

Truman also ranked 8th in "Best Universities - Master's Category," which includes both public and private universities. In addition, Truman ranked fourth for "Top Up-and-Coming Schools" and 13th for the "Great Schools, Great Prices" category.

The U.S. News & World Report ranks schools according to a variety of sources, including peer assessment, graduation rates and availability of financial aid.

Heidi Templeton, director of public relations, said Truman's credibility is more complex than mere numbers, and that administrators at Truman do not necessarily strive to maintain high rankings.

"We do not try to be in the rankings," Templeton said. "That's not our goal. Our

goal is to provide a high quality education to our students."

Templeton said she remains optimistic that the rankings in U.S. News & World Report will get Truman's name out to potential students.

Regina Morin, associate vice president for enrollment management, said Northeast Missouri State was an ordinary regional college with moderate selectivity in the late 1970s, but throughout the years the stakes kept getting higher for incoming students.

"We did manage to attract a slightly higher-ability student than the other regional institutions at the time," Morin said. "That was a ball we started to roll with."

Morin said that when she started working at Northeast Missouri State, it changed into a nationally-recognized school in a very short period.

"We went from [being a] pretty commonplace [school] to this institution that is just consistently recognized by a variety of measures and that carries some weight in this [ranking]," Morin said. "We operate and we treat our students and we have a curriculum that is very much like a private institution."

Director of Admissions Melody Chambers said it is great that Truman was recognized, but that the admissions process for prospective students is more personal and not necessarily related to Truman's ranking.

"That kind of recognition has been out there for a number of years," Chambers said. "I think that we are doing other things to help students find out what the right reason is for them to choose Truman, and it may not be about the ranking."

Paul Wagner, Northeast Missouri alumnus and Deputy Commissioner for the Missouri Department of Education, said that when he was deciding on where to go to college back in 1988, Northeast Missouri State had a "more rigorous curriculum" than any other school in Missouri.

"I think [Truman] has a pretty clear vision for what it wants to become, and it's really maintained a cohesive vision of what it takes to be the kind of school it wants to be," Wagner said. "The persistence with which the faculty and staff and administration have stuck to that vision, I think, is primarily responsible [for Truman's reputation]."

# Freshmen ACT scores reach an all-time best

BY ANDY MOORE  
Staff Reporter

ACT scores are at an all-time high for Truman's freshmen class. For 2009 the average first time freshman ACT score was 27.57 up from 27.22 in 2008.

Truman students' average ACT scores have risen about four tenths of a point during the past 20 years and it plateaued at about 27 for the past 10 years.

"[Admission] isn't just about a test score," Director of Admissions Melody Chambers said. "It's one factor among many that are considered in admission decisions."

Chambers said the admissions committee also looks at the difficulty of high school classes, grades, involvement in school and community and the admissions essay.

"We still want to maintain the general academic quality, though, of our student population, so we're trying to keep [ACT scores] as one of the many things we're looking at," Chambers said.

The statewide average ACT score is 21.6, said Paul Wagner, Northeast Missouri alumnus and Deputy Commissioner for the Missouri Department of Education.

The average high school GPA of the freshman class has increased about four points during the past two decades.

In 2008, the average high school GPA was 3.76 and it has remained steady for the past 10 years.

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