

MIAA WIN

Women's tennis wins 5-4 against Emporia State

PAGE 17



INSIDE

News: Local foods store will open on Square PAGE 2

Opinions: Bell repairs add to aesthetics PAGE 4

EDITORS SAY GOODBYE
INDEX SPORTS SHOW
www.trumanindex.com



CLEAN GREEN

Local cleaners share healthy tips

PAGE 9

Truman State University INDEX

101 years of excellence

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Paino amends graduation policy

Students scheduled to graduate in August can apply to walk at the May graduation ceremony

BY LISA KUCHARSKI
Staff Reporter

Senior Steve Mobley will be able to walk with his fellow classmates and celebrate with family and friends in the May 8 graduation ceremony instead of waiting until December.

Troy Paino, provost and vice president for academic affairs, amended the previous commencement policy to allow students graduating in August to participate in the May ceremony. The previous policy said that students completing their degrees in August should attend the December commencement of that year or wait until the May commencement of the following year. Truman has no August ceremony.

“Attending the May ceremony is more convenient, and it’s a pleasure to be able to go out and celebrate.”

— Steve Mobley, Senior

Mobley has two more exercise science courses to complete before earning his degree in August. Mobley said he was very grateful that Truman offered the opportunity for August graduates to walk in the May ceremony.

“All my friends are graduating in May,” Mobley said. “Attending the May ceremony is more convenient, and it’s a pleasure to be able to go out and celebrate instead of coming back in December and not being able to celebrate that moment with family and friends.”

In the past, the commencement policy had been the same as Paino’s amendment. Paino said that a few years before he took office at Truman, the policy had changed to prevent August degree candidates from walking in the May ceremony and to make them wait until the December commencement. Paino’s reason for changing

Please see GRADUATION, Page 7



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Newly-elected mayor Todd Kuhns watches a presentation by Cape Airlines in City Hall on Wednesday night. Cape Airlines is bidding to become Kirkville’s new air transportation service (see story page 2). Kuhns will continue his ITS job at Truman in addition to mayoral tasks.

Kuhns aims to revamp business

New mayor hopes to make Kirkville a more attractive town

BY TAWANDA KANHEMA
Staff Reporter

Juggling a job as a Web integration manager for a university and serving as the mayor of a city at the same time might seem like a her-

culean task, but for Todd Kuhns, Truman information technology specialist, balancing the two appears to be a walk in the park.

The City Council elected Kuhns as mayor of Kirkville last week, after he served as a councilman for two years. He said the work he has to do as mayor is “small potatoes” compared to what municipal staffers and Adair County staffers do on a daily basis

to keep the city running.

“It makes for some late evenings, but much of the work I do at Truman is project-oriented, so I can handle it,” Kuhns said.

Kuhns, a Truman alumnus, has been involved in local governance since he was a student and said Kirkville has great potential both as a destination for investment and as a place to live for young professionals.

“Kirkville’s geographical location is its biggest challenge as well as its biggest strength,” he said. “It is difficult to attract businesses and people to the city because they want amenities like chain stores and shopping malls, but at the same time, we do have a pretty high standard of living and low cost of living.”

Kuhns said his goal as mayor is to

Please see KUHNS, Page 7

Griffin’s trial canceled, case scheduled for plea

BY DAN WARNER
Staff Reporter

Junior Brandon Griffin’s jury trial for charges on one count of sexual assault and one count of deviate sexual assault has been canceled.

The trial was set to begin today but was canceled April 12 for a future plea hearing, Adair County Circuit Clerk Linda Decker said. Adair County Prosecutor Matt Wilson said a plea has been worked out with the approval of the victim and her lawyer.

Wilson said he and Griffin’s attorney are working to schedule the plea hearing.

Griffin was indicted in October on the two charges, both Class C felonies. Each charge carries up to seven years of incarceration in the Missouri Department of Corrections or a maximum of one year in the Adair County Law Enforcement Center, as well as up to a \$5,000 fine or a combination of incarceration and fines, Wilson said. Griffin pleaded not guilty to the

charges in November.

The indictment stemmed from an incident that was reported to the Kirkville Police Department on Aug. 24.

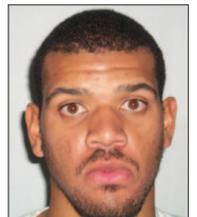
Wilson said the plea agreement had been worked out before he entered the prosecuting attorney position. He said he discussed the plea with the victim’s lawyer to be sure it was what she agreed to. He declined comment on the details of the plea.

Griffin’s attorney Timothy Reuschel said there still

is the possibility of a jury trial because nothing is finalized until a plea actually happens. He said Griffin still is facing the same charges at this point.

David Hoffman, assistant dean of Student Affairs, said he would not comment about the case until after a hearing occurs with the conduct board and if the individual is found to be responsible.

“We try to protect the privacy of our students, so until a final decision has been made, we won’t



Brandon Griffin

discuss the case,” Hoffman said.

Hoffman said that in cases of sexual as-

Please see PLEA, Page 7



Tawanda Kanhema/Index

Freshman Kevin Heiland talks on his iPhone 3G in the SUB. AT&T will officially activate the new platform, which will improve signal strength and call clarity, at the end of April.

Kirkville 3G improves reception

BY TAWANDA KANHEMA
Staff Reporter

AT&T subscribers in Kirkville woke up to a pleasant surprise last week after the network provider turned the switch on its 3G network. The new network is part of an ongoing roll-out of the additional cell towers and high speed Internet services in Missouri.

Chuck Hayes, store manager of Mid-America Wireless, AT&T’s authorized dealer in Kirkville, said AT&T activated its 3G platform on April 15 as part of a preliminary testing period and will officially launch the network at the end of April.

“We are just trying to keep up with the times,” Hayes said. “We switched it on Thursday morning and will be testing the network and picking out any bugs over the next two weeks.”

Hayes said 3G will significantly improve signal strength and in-call clarity for subscribers within Kirkville and at

least five miles outside the city limits.

“Access to 3G comes at no extra cost, and it is open to all A&T subscribers,” Hayes said. “And our 3G is GSM [Global System for Mobile Communication]-based, so it allows subscribers to have faster browsing speeds and simultaneous voice and data usage.”

Freshman Kevin Heiland, who uses AT&T on an iPhone 3G, said the introduction of 3G to Kirkville is a relief because he had become accustomed to having 3G access in St. Louis and other cities.

“It’s a service that I pay for, so I feel entitled to have it,” Heiland said. “The voice quality is better. I used to have only one or two bars on campus, which was a pain. Because I now have 3G, I no longer need to use the Truman network for accessing the Internet.”

Heiland said that with 2G, he could not access AT&T’s wireless signal in Violette Hall, and simultaneous use of

Please see 3G, Page 7