

PLEA | Student's jury trial canceled

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sault, the details of the case determine the punishment that the University hands down. He said the punishment in sexual assault cases can range from suspension to expulsion, depending on the situation and if the individual is found responsible.

"With sexual assault, it's complicated, and the [conduct] board has to hear a testimony before a decision is made," Hoffman said.

The Registrar's Office and Hoffman would not comment on whether Griffin was enrolled in courses at Truman this semester.

3G | New network provides faster service

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voice calling and data services was slow.

"I was worried that, if there was some sort of emergency that required me to contact DPS, I would not be able to make an emergency call because I lost signal every 10 minutes or so in the dorms, and that's not something I need to worry about anymore," Heiland said. "I use wireless Internet everywhere

now. Truman wireless in the dorms is slower. I get a higher speed with my phone, so it's a lot easier."

Tiffany Griggs, wireless sales consultant at Mid-America Wireless, said Truman students had responded positively to the introduction of 3G, as it coincided with a new promotion, Economics 101, for Truman students. The program will give students a 15 percent discount on qualified charges.

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

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the policy was because of the large amount of requests for exceptions he received from students.

"I received too many hardship stories," Paino said. "It was burdensome and inconvenient for the students and their families."

Changing the policy to benefit the students, however, does not mean the August degree candidates have graduated. Paino emphasized that participating in a commencement and graduating are different.

"It's fine as long as students understand walking through a ceremony does not equate to graduating," Paino said.

Paino said more students find it appealing to walk in May than in December. Many students don't come back for the December graduation ceremony, so having this option offers students an opportunity to participate in a commencement. Paino said he made this change to cre-

ate an opportunity for students to enjoy their graduation despite having to take a few courses in the summer to complete their degree.

"It's important for students to have this moment to celebrate with family and friends," Paino said. "This really was a student- and family-friendly decision."

Paino said the only potential difficulty with offering this opportunity would be the larger number of people. He said having a larger commencement in May might be harder to manage and could be a challenge for families seeking lodging because of the limited number of hotels nearby.

Mobley said his friends and family are happy that he will be able to participate in the May commencement.

"My parents are more pleased with this," Mobley said. "They sent me to this four-year university, and I know they wanted to be able to see me graduate with my friends."

Breaking bread



Krista Goodman/Index

Diners serve themselves at the Local Foods Dinner on Monday night in the SUB. The Environmental Campus Organization hosted the event, which used produce and meat from local farmers. Sophomore Steve Reisenberg organized the meal and said it unites students and community members who are interested in environmentalism.

KUHNS | Kirksville's newest mayor hopes to make Kirksville a more attractive city

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mayor is to champion the transformation of Kirksville into a city that is attractive for all age groups, especially young professionals.

"With two universities and a regional airport, we are a hub for the surrounding communities, and we have no competition for that position," Kuhns said. "While other small cities that sit on the margins of bigger cities are fighting to protect their businesses, people here spend locally — a lot of our dollars end up staying local."

Kuhns said the first challenge is for Kirksville to improve its infrastructure to attract service-oriented businesses, which typically look for cities with good office space, high standards of living and good transport and communications infrastructure.

The second challenge is to make Kirksville attractive to outsiders by improving streets, increasing the number of green spaces and building bike lanes to make the city friendlier to pedestrians, he said.

"Things are not very cute for some people, and that kills the deal," Kuhns said. "First impressions matter. Making Kirksville an attractive place to live is an issue we need to address."

The city currently is building a bike lane that stretches to Wal-Mart along

Baltimore Street, and work has begun on rehabilitating streets damaged by water during winter.

Discussions also have started about plans to harness renewable energy by replacing the city's current warning sirens with new, solar powered ones.

Kuhns said Kirksville managed to weather much of the financial storm because property owners and developers did not engage in the speculative construction of houses, but he said the city still needs to grow its population and broaden its revenue base.

He said the city should work to attract at least two more businesses in the industrial park as well as increase its efforts to complete the ongoing task of revitalizing downtown businesses.

During his time as councilman, Kuhns spearheaded efforts to make the city's services more efficient and accessible through the integration of information technology solutions that improved the city's visibility online with an interactive website.

Now, he said there is a need to build on that platform and break down the communication gap between the community and the city government through enhanced communication systems like the recently installed

Telecasting system for public alerts.

"I would like to see a fiber network up here," Kuhns said. "Even if Google doesn't choose us, we will use the groundwork that we have laid so far to do something for ourselves."

With its significantly older population and medical institutions like A.T. Still University, Kirksville can consider experimenting with new technologies for in-home care for the elderly, he said.

Kuhns said he thinks local politics are more engaging than state and national politics.

"I don't have any long-term political objectives," Kuhns said. "I am primarily concerned with where I live. Here we can see the effects of our decisions immediately. We can do things quicker, and we can impact ourselves and our neighbors more directly. That's more attractive for me."

Kuhns said Truman and the city have a good relationship, so balancing his job as mayor and webmaster for Truman will be doable.

"The fates of Truman and Kirksville are intertwined," Kuhns said. "What's good for the city is good for Truman, and what's good for Truman is good for the city."

Local farmer opens grocery store on Square

BY COLETTE LINTON
Staff Reporter

A new store is sprouting on The Square and the owner has a rooted interest in organic and locally grown produce.

Local farmer Steve Salt will open Near and Far Downtown Grocery Store in May. It will be open as a part-time grocer on Tuesdays and Thursdays through the summer before it opens full-time in August.

Salt said the time was ripe to invest in a business that will provide Kirksville with produce from local farmers in a "mom and pop" atmosphere with a small library and lounge area.

"We're still trying to recruit people," Salt said. "We have a list of all the products we want to offer and we're trying

to go out looking for people that raise it and meet our quality standards. I and a couple of others are going to sell vegetables. We have a dairy product supplier, we have beef, we have lamb and we're working on honey, tofu and sorghum."

"We're hoping that throughout Kirksville and Northeast Missouri, we will become more self-sustaining in terms of food."

Steve Salt
Near and Far
Grocery Store Owner

Marketing to large stores can be difficult for local farmers, Salt said. Large stores require large quantities of highly standardized products delivered on time. This becomes difficult when dealing with the weather.

"We're hoping that, by having some cooperative approaches, the number of local growers we can get together, we can offer their stuff at one location," Salt said. "We're hoping that, throughout Kirksville and Northeast Missouri, we will become more self-sustain-

ing in terms of food."

Tom Primmer, owner of Primmer's Pasture Pork, has been raising pigs his entire life and only recently has been raising products for retail in and around the Kirksville area and will supply Near and Far with pork products.

He said he didn't anticipate selling meat in retail until reports of swine flu broke out. Soon after that he received calls from people who wanted hogs to butcher because there was a demand for people to know where their meat was coming from.

"Since there seemed to be a demand, we decided to sell retail," Primmer said. "So most of what we have done has been through word of mouth. How it helps us is, by selling directly [through Salt's store], we get a better price for our product. Because of how the hog industry has changed, there really aren't many places to sell them and we don't receive as good a price. We are able to cut out the middle man."

Salt provides his locally grown foods to subscribers



Amy Vicars/Index

The new grocery store will sell produce from owner Steve Salt's farm and pork from Primmer's Pasture Pork. Salt also is trying to sell beef, lamb, honey, tofu and sorghum.

registered through the Community Supported Agriculture website in addition to opening his store. His registration to the website connects him with customers, locally and nationally, who buy weekly shares of his produce.

"CSA has become a popular way for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from

the farmer," said Erin Barnett, director of Local Harvest. "A farmer offers a certain number of shares to the public. Typically, a share will consist of a box of vegetables, but other farm products may be included. Interested consumers purchase a share [through a membership or subscription agreement with the farmer] and in

return receive a box of seasonal produce each week throughout the farming season."

Advantages for farmers participating in CSA include the ability to market their produce early in the year and the chance for farmers to receive payment early in the season, according to CSA's Local Harvest website.



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