

**News:** Truman offers new graduate programs **PAGE 3**

**Opinions:** Sig Tau deserves stronger sanctions **PAGE 4**

**Sports:** Nesbitt hired as new football coach **PAGE 15**

**INDEX SPORTS SHOW**

www.trumanindex.com

**WINTER WASSAILING**

**PAGE 9**



Truman State University  
**INDEX**

101 years of excellence

Thursday, December 10, 2009

The University's student-produced newspaper

Kirksville MO, 63501

**Alumna dies after race**

BY ANDREA HEWITT  
News Editor

Truman alumna Molly Trauernicht died Saturday after participating earlier in the day in a half-marathon for St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Trauernicht graduated from Truman in 2000 with a Bachelors of Arts in Accounting and in 2001 with a Master's in Accounting, said Diane Bloskovich, coordinator of operations for the office of advancement.

Laurie Turner, assistant professor of accounting, said she knew Trauernicht when she went to Truman through her membership in Beta Alpha Psi. Trauernicht was a good student and a great leader, Turner said. "Molly was a very happy person," Turner said. "What I remember most was at an event in Beta Alpha Psi we needed someone to speak at a meeting and although she had not originally been involved in the project she stepped up and had to do some studying to get ready for it. But she took over and made a presentation at the annual meeting for us."

Mark Parkinson, Missouri state representative

for District 16, said his wife walked the full half-marathon with Trauernicht after training early on Saturday mornings.

"Her and my wife — I saw them both cross the finish line and hug," Parkinson said. "Then they said, 'Well we've got one more done.' Then, Molly kind of sat down and that's when people started calling for a medic. There were two guys there almost absolutely immediately who ran the race and were also paramedics."



Molly Trauernicht

Trauernicht was taken to University Methodist Hospital and passed away there, Parkinson said. Her death was shocking because she was active and in shape, he said. The cause of death is still unknown, according to a Dec. 8 article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

"She passed away helping others," Parkinson said. "All the proceeds went to St. Jude's Children's Hospital."

Molly finished the half-marathon in three hours and 18 minutes, according to stjudeamarathon.org.

**8** What do the numbers mean?

Applications increase 8 percent, which could ease budget crunch

BY ELIZABETH KOCH  
Staff Reporter

Truman might be a little more crowded next year, after an increase in applicants. Currently, the received applications are up 8 percent, but that number changes daily.

Director of Admissions Melody Chambers said that for the past few years, 4,000 in-state incoming fresh-

men have applied to Truman. The exact number of students technically cannot be determined until the first day of classes, she said, but compared to other Missouri colleges and universities, Truman has one of the largest freshman classes and is the only highly selective four-year public university in Missouri.

"In all honesty, students sometimes are making their decision until

the very last minute," Chambers said. "We encourage students who want to receive full consideration for scholarships to apply for admission by Dec. 15 of their senior year."

With 4,000 to 4,300 applicants, Truman usually enrolls between 1,400 and 1,500 freshmen each year, she said. Recently, the enrollment has been a little less than 1,400 stu-

Please see Applications, page 7

**THE BREAKDOWN**

Even with less than half accepted students actually enrolling, Truman might see some more freshman by the beginning of the next school year.

5,800-5,850  
Target number of students

4,000-4,300  
Standard number of applicants

1,342  
This year's freshman class

1,380  
Goal for next year's freshman class

Enrollment down this year by 100



Sophomore Betsy Koehne stands with one of the recycled playground parts for the students at Head Start.

**Students create playground**

BY DAN WARNER  
Staff Reporter

Hot plastic, king of the mountain and innumerable skinned knees are the legacy of playgrounds, and a group of Truman students recently took it upon themselves to solidify the playground's place in the memories of Kirksville children.

The idea to build a playground out of recycled materials was the project of a group of Truman students in the student-initiated Grassroots Environmentalism course. Sophomore Betsy Koehne, junior Emily Stewart and seniors Laura Lamb and Angie Skosky

said they worked together to organize the building of the playground for the new location of Head Start, a federally subsidized early-childhood education center at 915 Locust St..

Senior Will Erker, the playground group's supervisor for the course, said the group worked well with the community by helping with a community need in an environmentally friendly way, while also raising awareness for reusing materials.

Head Start teaches children ages 3 to 5 who are mostly from low-income families. It is a non-profit organization and has to match the federal money it receives

at 20 cents to the dollar from donations, said Vickie Grinde, Center Supervisor for Kirksville Part-Day Head Start.

"Any kind of project like this or donations of time or material goods, ... we would ordinarily have to pay for those things," Grinde said. "So, this will be a wonderful thing for [Head Start]."

The students said they raised funds through a vegetarian potluck and a game night that brought in \$130, which was mostly spent on equipment. Koehne estimated that the group would spend an additional \$100 to install the equipment, which she hopes will

Please see RECYCLE, page 7

**City Council votes for city employee pay raise**

BY JANE KRIENKE  
Staff Reporter

An amendment to the proposed 2010 budget for the city of Kirksville will allow for a 2 percent pay raise for city employees.

During a Dec. 8 meeting, the City Council decided to amend the proposed budget after its first of two mandatory public readings. The total budget now will be more than \$127,000.

Every year the city council goes on a retreat which consists of eight hours of budget meetings. One of the focus points of the last few years of meetings was to raise city employees' wages by 2 percent, city manager Mari Macomber said. Macomber does not believe this

increase will have a negative effect on the city budget.

"We have to have \$1.2 million in a restricted balance, and we have \$700,000 in our unrestricted balance, which is better than we've had in the past," Macomber said.

Pat Meredith, director of human resources for the city, said that employees' wages are 15 to 20 percent lower compared to other cities that are comparable in size, such as Moberly, Ottumwa and Hannibal. The city conducts surveys of other cities that are around the 17,000 citizens mark, Meredith said.

After the citizens of Kirksville voted against an increase in sales tax, the city took matters into its own hands.

"We decided that if we were

going to increase employee salaries and wages, we would have to do it by trimming the budget," city councilman Todd Kuhns said.

The pay increase will affect all city employees, with the exception of the city manager, seasonal employees and part-time employees. The city council members also will be unaffected, because their pay is set at \$100 per month.

"We can do this increase now," Kuhns said. "We have had a large gap over the last 10 years. We have been underpaying our employees, and we need to close the gap. We can do this with money we already have, by conservative budgeting."

"We have a problem. When you have underpaid employees, you have lower employee morale, employee

retention becomes harder and recruitment becomes more difficult."

The city is having increased difficulty in the areas of recruitment and retention with the police and fire departments, Kuhns said.

"This year is the ideal year to close that gap because few people are receiving a cost of living increase this year, so we can play catch-up," Kuhns said. "We have the money. Actually we found the money, so there's no reason not to do it if it is the right thing to do. I believe it is the right thing to do."

"We also have problems with gaps," Kuhns said. "We have supervisors making about the same as the people they are supervising. It's a problem to keep and

recruit people when salaries are not competitive."

The unemployment rate in Adair County as of October 2009 was 5.8 percent, compared to Missouri at 8.9 percent and the United States at 9.5 percent, according to the Missouri Economic Development Web site. After viewing these numbers, Kuhns said Kirksville is not in terrible shape.

"Minimum wage has increased because of the cost of living, most private company salaries are increasing because of the cost of living and inflation," Kuhns said. "For some reason, when it comes to government, people don't want to give employees increases. We shouldn't have to fight this battle every year."