

Worlds Aids day



Students gathered around a flame outside Kirk Memorial on Tuesday to share stories of people whose lives have been effected by AIDS for World AIDS Day.

Mayank Dhungana/Index

Bullying leads to arrest

ANDREA HEWITT
Assistant News Editor

Adair County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Williams said 17-year-old Jerod Reed of Kirksville was charged with harassment for creating a Facebook group that targeted a 13-year-old girl.

"The allegations are that he created a Web site on Facebook that was geared towards hating this 13-year-old girl," Williams said. "On that Web site, there were entries about her and it's alleged that he said, 'I don't care if she kills herself, I'm not deleting this.' And we thought at that time that this had gone beyond saying, 'I don't like somebody.'"

Until August 2008, the harassment statute in Missouri didn't include harassment through computers or text messaging, Williams said. The statute was changed when 13-year-old Megan Meier from St. Louis committed suicide after being cyber bullied.

These are the first charges of harassment via Internet or text message in Adair county, Williams said.

Melanie Von Fange, the mother of the girl allegedly targeted by Reed, said she was

involved in the letter writing campaign to change the statute in 2008.

"When the Megan Meier story hit, I was absolutely angered because at the time [my daughter] was 11 years old and [my daughter] was just getting to that age, and I could see a lot of [my daughter] in Megan," she said. "I didn't realize that I'd actually ever have to really utilize it, but just in case anything ever happened to any other child they wouldn't get bullied."

Von Fange said that when she originally saw the group she thought it was a joke — until she said she read the description that said her daughter "has become a growing nuisance in Kirksville."

Von Fange said she read a post from Reed that said, "I promise if she kills herself I'll delete this lol," and that was the final straw. She reported it to the police and Facebook Nov. 5.

"The guidance counselor came over here the next day to talk with [my daughter] because there was no way she was going back

to school until it was resolved and a safety plan [was put] in place for [her] because there were over 120 people invited to the group," Von Fange said. "[There were] 120 after I had closed the group down. It included people's parents and cousins that were invited to the group."



Jerod Reed

72-hour take down period for abusive-type groups, and they never did anything."

Facebook did not respond to requests for an interview.

City to upgrade sewer system

BY TAWANDA KANHEMA
Staff Reporter

Kirksville needs at least \$2 million to upgrade its outdated storm drain system, which is beginning to choke after two consecutive years of heavy rains that engineers say are likely to stress the city's sewer system if nothing is done to improve drainage.

Residents expressed concern with the state of Kirksville's drainage system following the heavy rains that pounded the city for a few hours at the beginning of November and rendered some roads impassable.

John Buckwalter, city engineer and public works director, said the municipality is working on a long-term project to upgrade and expand the storm water drainage system, which he said might take up to 10 years.

"There is significant concern," Buckwalter said. "We want to start quickly, but this is a project that will have many components and will take a long period of time. We are looking for up to \$2 million and a Community Developmental Block Grant that would have a maximum \$300,000, and a city match."

The City Council is expected to meet Monday during the City Council study session to discuss

ways of solving the storm drain issue and identify sources of funding.

Outdated system

Buckwalter said some subdivisions constructed in Kirksville in the 1960s were built with no provisions to control storm water, and because of the heavy rains during the past two years, these subdivisions have begun to pose drainage problems to new developments downstream.

The City Council has set aside funds in its 2010 budget to engage consultants to review the drainage system and make recommendations on what needs to be done. Funds also have been allocated to the street department for intermediate improvements.

"How can the city's roads flood after only five hours of rain?" Charles Rudd, a resident of Brashear Park, said. "This has been going on for some time."

For the completion of a comprehensive upgrade of the system, Buckwalter said the city would require additional funds in the form of a bond or a CDBG grant, which would enable the implementation of any recommendations made by the consultants.

Pressure on sewer system

The storm drain system's failure to sustain pressure from the heavy rains has resulted in strain

on the sewer system, which in some cases caused the submergence of affluent into storm water and feedback into some homes.

"When we have extremely high rainfall, we have high flow discharge and the sanitary sewer system is being overloaded," Buckwalter said. "Some manholes have overflowed and there has been feedback into homes."

Buckwalter said the \$2 million project was expected to indirectly solve some of these problems.

"We are continuing to work, up-size and increase sewers," he said. "Anything we do with storm water should indirectly improve the sewer system. We have made significant investments on the sewer system over the years."

Kirksville's storm drainage system covers thousands of acres and is not totally in control of the municipality as it incorporates both natural and man-made drainage channels.

The city drains storm water into seven different basins, which have generally coped with high volumes of water in previous years. Storm drains, Buckwalter said, have been treated as a subset of the street system, but engineers have focused on areas that the city can easily control.

"The past two years have highlighted that we need to look

beyond that and identify alternatives on how we can seek additional funding to pay for improvements to storm drains," he said.

Current studies by the city are focused on addressing the issues with the quality and quantity of water flowing off the roads into the ditches.

The Department of Natural Resources also has expressed concerns on the quality of storm water, which engineers say may carry pollutants and other toxic materials off the streets and parking lots.

"This is a major, major undertaking, and we are not going to do this in one construction season," Buckwalter said. "It is an ongoing problem. We have at least 10 years' worth of work to do."

Red Barn cannot be rescued

Truman students mainly were affected by flooding at Red Barn park, which blocked access to Barnett Hall on the walkway that runs past Pershing Building. But Buckwalter said this is not something that a storm drain improvement could resolve.

"The flooding around the red barn is natural, it's not a problem that can be fixed by a storm drain," he said. "In extremely heavy rainfall, it will continue to flood."

NEWS | In Brief

WRC hosts auditions

The Women's Resource Center will host auditions for their annual performance of the Vagina Monologues today at 8:30 p.m. in the Student Union Building 1110. Performers do not need to prepare a piece. The Vagina Monologues is performed in the spring semester during V-Week.

Directing class hosts one-act festival

The Fall 2009 directing class will put on a one-act festival from 8 to 10 p.m., Dec. 10 to 12, in Ophelia Parrish Severns Theatre. Nine shows will be performed during the three days.

WRC hosts self-care day

The Women's Resource Center will host a Relaxing Day for Self-Care from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday in the Missouri Hall Sheridan room. The event will include healthy snacks, yoga, spa treatments, journaling and calming tips during finals week.

Council sponsors stuffed animal drive

The Student Council for Exceptional Children is sponsoring a stuffed animal drive through Friday. Donation boxes are located in all of the residence hall main lobbies.

Donations will be used as prizes for the Olympic Village at the Northeast Missouri Special Olympics spring games. For more information, contact Annie Woodruff at 402-305-4264 or Peter Kelly at 660-785-4681.

Health Center fights H1N1

H1N1 influenza vaccinations will be available in the Student Union Building down under from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. and from 1:30 to 4 p.m. today. Five-hundred doses are available, 300 of which are the nasal vaccine reserved for healthy persons up to the age of 49. Two-hundred doses are the injectable vaccine recommended for healthy persons and high-risk groups.

All vaccinations will be provided free of charge to individuals with a Truman ID. For more information, contact Brenda Higgins at the Student Health Center.

PML continues food for fines program

Pickler Memorial Library will be accepting canned foods in exchange for fines until Dec. 11. All items collected will go to the Central Missouri Food Bank. Food will not replace lost/damaged or billed items.

Music department hosts dinner

The Truman music department will sponsor the fifth annual Renaissance Madrigal Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 4 and 5 in the Student Union Building. Tickets are available online at music.truman.edu/madrigal.

Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$17 for students and \$9 for children between the ages of 2 and 8. For more information, contact Jon Gil at jjgil@truman.edu.

BOG to meet Saturday

The University Board of Governors will meet meeting at 1 p.m., Saturday in the Student Union Building conference room.

Theater troupe hosts workshop

The Half Full Players theater troupe will host Professors Day Out from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The event will include crafts and entertainment for children and grandchildren of professors. The cost is \$5 per child and is open to children ages 4 to 11. For more information, contact Garry Polley at halffullplayers@live.com.

AAUP will meet Friday

The American Association of University Professors will meet at 4:30 p.m., Friday at the University Club House. For more information, contact Marc Becker at marc@truman.edu or call 660-785-6036.

Student Senate | In Brief

• Student Senate did not pass any resolutions or money motions at their Nov. 29 meeting.

CRIME | Reports

11/17 A bicycle was reported stolen outside of Ophelia Parrish.

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