

Truman installs sirens

Two new sirens capable of warning students of tornados and other emergencies

BY MAXIMILIAN ERNST
Staff Reporter

Truman is gearing up for this year's tornado season after last year's big storm.

Two new tornado sirens recently were installed at Truman. One was installed at Stokes Stadium and the other behind Kirk Memorial Building. They also will serve as loudspeakers to make announcements in case of other emergencies. The Department of Public Safety operates the announcement function, and the 911 dispatch center at City Hall directly controls the tornado warnings.

Although the sirens were installed less than one year after a tornado destroyed about 70 homes in the northern part of Kirksville, Johnson said the two events are not directly linked, as he has been planning their installation for much longer.

"I have been working on this project for more than two years now, and now it is finally happening," said Tom Johnson, director of the Department of Public Safety.

Johnson said the nicest thing about the new sirens is their capability to play prerecorded voice messages as well as a freelance message from a microphone on DPS' control panel. These can be used to warn students during all kinds of campus emergencies, and the two sirens are loud enough to cover the complete campus area.

The system also is able to implement more sirens, but no such upgrades are planned. Johnson said he hopes the new system will be hooked up with the city's tornado warning system this week.

"We are glad that more sirens are [being] implemented on the Truman campus, but I would like to remind everyone that these systems are mainly for the warning of people outside," said Randy Behrens, Kirksville Fire Chief and Emergency Management director. "If you are inside, you might not be able to hear the sirens, and so we encourage everyone to get a weather radio."

The National Weather Service's statistics



The new tornado siren behind Stokes stadium, in addition to one behind the Kirk Memorial Building, can also be used as loudspeakers in case of emergency.

show that most tornado fatalities occur inside homes, mobile homes and trailers, stressing the issue of warning systems for these areas.

Behrens said people should follow the weather news online, on television or by radio, and people should be very cautious when a tornado watch is announced. Tornado watches are announced by the National Weather Service on the chance of a tornado occurring due to the overall weather situation.

The sirens are set off only if a tornado has been spotted on the ground, close to Kirksville and moving in its direction. This is mainly to avoid false alarms, as they cause inconvenience and could lead to people ignoring the alarm if they happen too often. Last summer, the alarm went off just 10 minutes before northern Kirksville was hit, Behrens said.

The two storms that hit Adair County last year were rated only F1 and F2 on the Fujita

scale by the National Weather Service. The Fujita scale extends up to five, indicating the highest amount of destruction caused by a tornado. However, the Kirksville storms were strong enough to kill two people in Adair County and damage 70 homes and five businesses. Behrens said storms like these are a very rare occurrence in Kirksville. It was the first tornado on record in more than 100 years.

The National Weather Service estimates an average of 1,000 storms per year in the U.S., with an average of about 60 fatalities. The storm season starts around this time of year in the southern states east of the Rocky Mountains and then gradually moves north during the spring and early summer.

"However, there were storms in the Midwest as late as December before," Behrens said. "We always have to stay alert."

NEWS | In Brief

Former resident pleads guilty for meth

Former Kirksville resident Sherri Thomas pleaded guilty to federal charges involving the manufacture of methamphetamine Monday in St. Louis.

A co-defendant, David Leo Jr., also a former Kirksville resident, was indicted on the same charges and is awaiting trial. Thomas' sentencing is set for June 14. Each count carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines.

Index, Detours win national best

College Media Advisers named the Index and Detours Magazine "Best in Show" for their respective categories at CMA's National Spring Convention in New York City this week.

The Index won for best non-daily broadsheet student newspaper and Detours won for general interest magazine. CMA has awarded the Index "Best in Show" five times since 2003. Detours has won the award three times since 2006.

Asia Fest to take place Friday in SUB

The Society for Sino-American Studies will host Asia Fest from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday in the SUB Georgian Room A and B. The festival will include games, origami, food and drinks featuring aspects of Asian culture. Admission is free, and food is \$1.

"Matchmaker" begins performances

The Curtain Call Theatre Company will present Thornton Wilder's "The Matchmaker" at 7 p.m. today through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at Willard School Gymnasium at 707 N. Centennial St.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$7 for students and seniors and are available at Edna Campbell's Bookstore.

UCS sponsors trip to Wrigley Field

The University Counseling Services will sponsor a trip to Chicago on April 15 to see the Cubs play the Milwaukee Brewers. Students can sign up for one of the 50 spots on the trip at 4 p.m. Friday at the SUB Information Desk. Those attending will leave Truman at 4 a.m. and will return around midnight.

Tickets for the trip are \$30 for students attending the game and \$20 for students not attending the game. Only current Truman students may attend. For more information, contact briank@truman.edu.

Society of Dance Arts to perform

The Society of Dance Arts recital will take place at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Baldwin Hall Auditorium. In addition to dancers from the organization, the event will feature performances from Showgirls, University Swingers and Illusionz Danz Team.

Theatre presents "Die Fledermaus"

Tickets are now available for Truman Opera Theatre's presentation of Johann Strauss' "Die Fledermaus" at 8 p.m. today through Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for general admission.

Muslim student group hosts event

The Muslim Student Association will host Chai and Chat at 7 p.m. Saturday in the SUB Georgian Room A and B.

Students can enjoy the traditional Muslim drink and a discussion led by Aftab Ahmed, a certified speaker on the religion of Islam who has spoken to more than 300 groups about Islam as a way of life. For more information, contact Maryam Kayani at 573-230-0454.

Sodexo hosts annual food drive

Students can donate non-perishable food items or Dining Dollars, meal blocks or Bonus Bucks to Sodexo's annual Food Drive from March 22-26. Sodexo will take food items to the Kirksville Food Bank for distribution to families in need of assistance.

Voters can meet candidates at forum

Kirksville City Council and School Board candidates will have a forum at 6:30 p.m. March 25 at the El Kadir Shrine Club on Baltimore St.

Student Senate | In Brief

• Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$1,200 for the Earth Week Celebration.

Nixon discusses education cuts

BY BAILLIE JAMES
Staff Reporter

Gov. Jay Nixon suggested in a speech March 11 that department consolidation, cutting programs and dropping student funding for private institutions will help Missouri meet this year's budget. Cuts will total about \$500 million.

Regina Morin, associate vice president for enrollment management at Truman, said that in the past few months the legislature talked about regulating the financial aid given to students and getting rid of the graduated system currently used. Within the graduated system, students attending private schools receive more state funding because of higher tuition costs, not because of greater financial need.

Morin said Nixon's proposal to cut financial aid entirely for students at private institutions was surprising because the idea had never been discussed openly before. She said this cut would save the state money and that she doubts financial assistance for public school students would increase.

Kirksville superintendent Patrick Williams said K-12 education had to cut expendi-

tures and lower costs. He said the district has had no staff cuts or elimination of student extra curricular programs or athletics. However, as staff members leave or retire, the district has not hired replacements and has cut back on expenses like faculty travel.

Scholarships also might suffer some cuts. Truman will re-

ceive information in coming months about whether Access Missouri and Bright Flight scholarships will decrease going into next year, Morin said.

"It's likely that the Access Missouri amount would be slightly less and that the amount of the Bright Flight amount would be slightly less," Morin said. "There aren't as many dollars and they have to go to many places. It would be realistic to think that those amounts would not be the same as last year."

Nixon also proposed combining the Department of El-

ementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Higher Education. He said 1,000 state positions would be cut, possibly some from this department.

Kathy Love, the public information officer for the Missouri Department of Higher Education, said this consolidation will be a smooth transition.

"I know in the last couple of years there's been a number of initiatives where the two commissioners have worked together to share data and to align programs," Love said. "And so I think currently we have a very cooperative and collaborative approach to education in the state."

This consolidated department would support the "K-20" approach that Robert B. Stein, commissioner for the Department of Higher Education, has endorsed in the past. This idea seeks to prepare students to graduate from college starting in kindergarten.

"My blueprint for change will recalibrate the size and scope of state government, giving us government that is leaner, nimbler and less costly."

Jay Nixon
Governor

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