



Truman State University
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Thursday, March 4, 2010

The University's student-produced newspaper

Kirksville, Mo., 63501

Trial pushed back

Rodgerson awaits the outcome of misdemeanor charge

BY JESSICA RAPP
Managing Editor

Kirksville city councilman Aaron Rodgerson's jury trial originally set for Feb. 25 and 26 has been pushed back.

Rodgerson, a pastor at Southside Baptist Church, was set to appear in court for a misdemeanor charge of practicing law without a license. If convicted, Rodgerson will receive a \$100 fine.

Adair County prosecutor Mark Williams said Rodgerson's trial was set behind another case that has proceeded longer than expected.

Williams said Rodgerson also has pending motions in court, including a motion to dismiss based on an interpretation of the statute, that are holding up the date.

The case will turn over to the succeeding prosecutor after Williams resigns from the position Friday. Williams said he hopes the next person continues to prosecute the charges. He said he has no plans to ask the attorney general to take the case.

The state previously dropped a class A misdemeanor charge against Rodgerson. That charge suggested he allegedly failed to report child abuse or ne-

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Blaise Hart-Schmidt/ Index
Centennial Hall students waited in the SUB early Tuesday morning after evacuating the residence hall due to a fire on the south fourth floor. Students returned to their rooms around 4:45 a.m., except for those living on 4 South. Residents of the room will be permanently relocated.

C-Hall fire results in evacuation

Initial investigation says cause of fire was accidental, one DPS officer suffers from smoke inhalation

BY ANDREA HEWITT
News Editor

Centennial Hall Room 463, then occupied by sophomores Jennifer True and Sarah Foster, caught fire early Tuesday morning, resulting in the evacuation of C-Hall students for several hours and a Department of Public Safety officer suffering from smoke inhalation. No other injuries were reported.

"At about 3 a.m. a couple students identified that there

was a fire in one of the rooms in Centennial 463," said John Gardner, interim director of Residence Life. "Either the fire set off the alarm, or they pulled the alarm. Students evacuated, and DPS was there almost immediately. DPS and our staff member went up to check on the situation and determined it was a legitimate fire."

The Kirksville Fire Department arrived minutes later and extinguished the fire, Gardner said. The fire department investigated

the situation while students were moved to the Student Union Building.

"Whenever we have an actual fire, it takes a while before the fire department will OK us to let students back in," Gardner said. "We wanted to make sure students were warm and had a place to stay and relax a little bit."

Kirksville Fire Chief Randy Behrens said the Department of Public Safety Missouri State Fire Marshall investigated the room Tues-

day, but has not determined anything. The case is still under investigation.

Freshman C.J. Hoffman lives in 4 South and said she questioned the legitimacy of the alarm at first.

"At first we thought it was just cooking because that's happened before," Hoffman said. "We nonchalantly got ready, put our coats on. Then when we walked we saw all the smoke and thought, 'This might be something.'"

Once the students were

in the SUB, student advisers separated them by floor and took roll to confirm everyone was accounted for. Students not living in 4 South returned to their rooms at 4:45 a.m.

"Then at 9 a.m. we were all able to get back to our rooms, except for a few rooms that were right next to the room," Hoffman said.

Gardner said the fire was initially determined to be electrical.

"Many things could lead

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GOP's Wyatt files against McClanahan

BY DAN WARNER
Staff Reporter

Republican Zachary Wyatt of Novinger announced his candidacy to run for Democrat Rebecca McClanahan's seat in Missouri's House of Representatives.

Both individuals filed for candidacy Feb. 23 for District 2 state representative.

Wyatt, 25, is a former U.S. Air Force linguist and recently returned to Missouri after being stationed in England for more than two years. Wyatt graduated from Adair County R-1 High School in Novinger in 2003 and joined the Air Force soon after. He said he learned to speak Russian and Chechen through the Defense Language Institutes and taught himself Ukrainian as well.

While at the Defense Language Institute in Washington D.C., Wyatt said he interned for Missouri Republican Sen. Christopher Bond, dealing with issues in education and agriculture. Wyatt said his experiences interning and serving in the military have helped prepare him for public service and understanding the issues. He said education is a major is-

sue he will focus on.

"Too many times I have [read] about the different bills going through the legislature right now," Wyatt said. "The governor is pretty much cutting a lot of main programs for education."

Wyatt said there should be more cuts in social programs and fewer in education, which would keep people from needing welfare in the first place.

"I think I'm going to be able to energize the Republican Party and also energize the area," Wyatt said. "People want to see a different outcome ... from Jefferson City because they are not getting the job done right now, especially for this area."

Wyatt said his age is not a problem, but rather gives him an advantage over his opponent.

He said his experiences in the military have given him the necessary leadership skills required for the position. He said he was among the first to enter Georgia during the Russian invasion in 2008 and translated for U.S. forces, which required a lot of responsibility and dedication to his country.



Blaise Hart-Schmidt/ Index

Zach Wyatt filed for Missouri Representative against incumbent Rebecca McClanahan.

Rebecca McClanahan, who is a member of the Appropriations Committee, said she worked to save more than \$3 million in budget cuts that would have been made to the Department of Mental Health as part of the committee's recent \$60 million proposal of cuts toward social programs.

"The people that are served by these programs are some of the most vulnerable people in Missouri," said McClanahan.

She said the government has an obligation to help them receive care.

McClanahan said she is working to protect funding for schools in her district and that

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Coughlin to serve as interim provost

BY SHIHARA MADUWAGE
Staff Reporter

Although the search for the next University President is finished, the search for Truman's next Provost continues.

Dean of Libraries Richard Coughlin will take over May 10 for Troy Paino and act as the interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. Meanwhile, the Provost Search Committee will work toward hiring a new provost, who oversees the academic departments of the University.

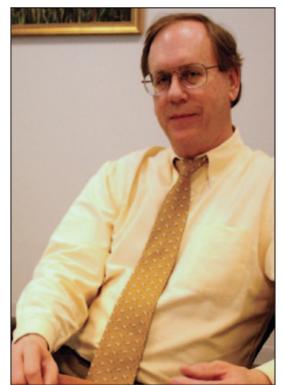
Coughlin said the duty of provost includes the administration of all the departments and schools as well as managing the library, Information Technology Services and several other areas.

"The first thing for me would be to find out exactly what is the scope of the work of that office," Coughlin said. "But I don't have any personal agenda. The major [thing] is to fill in for [the provost] until the search is completed."

He said one of his goals is to assist Paino as he makes the transition to president and to make sure everything goes smoothly during this period.

"My primary goal is to keep the work here at the office progressing while we have this interim period," Coughlin said. "And as issues come up related to the state budget problems and how they affect Truman, [my goal is] to be part of that and sorting that out."

"I think really [a provost] needs to be steeped in the academic expe-



Amy Gleaves/ Index

Dean of Libraries Richard Coughlin was named interim provost.

rience of the University. [A provost should] have faculty experience and teaching, research and real familiarity with the tenure promotion process used here at Truman."

Coughlin said he was not involved with the provost search committee, nor is he a candidate for the position of full-time provost.

Janet Gooch, program chair of communication disorders, is the co-chair of the search committee. She said the goal of the committee is to receive applications, review them, narrow down the list of candidates and pick ones who would be most suitable to bring to campus. She said the committee would also be doing interviews

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