

# BASKETBALL PREVIEWS

Men, women begin their seasons next week in Pershing Arena.

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# Truman State University INDEX

101 years of excellence

Thursday, November 12, 2009

The University's student-produced newspaper

Kirksville MO, 63501

## Masten seeks new trial

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER  
Editor in Chief

Defense attorney Aaron Smith filed a pair of motions in federal court last week for former Kirksville mayor Debbie Masten, one seeking a new trial and the other requesting Masten's release from prison while she awaits a new trial.

Masten was convicted of arson in 2007 for intentionally setting fire on Jan. 1, 2005, to Too Talls Two Eatery and Spirits, a Kirksville bar and restaurant she owned. Masten has served



Debbie Masten

25 months of her 63-month sentence, and she currently is being held at a federal women's prison in Pekin, Ill. In the motion for a new trial, Smith argues that original surveillance video of the night of the fire contains exculpatory evidence that could exonerate Masten. The government suppressed the original surveillance video and showed a copy of the video at the trial, according to the motion, and Smith argues that the original surveillance video "was significantly better" than the copy and "contained evidence and information that was never given to the jury to consider."

A judge ordered in June that the government release the original video for inspection by the defense. A video expert for the defense examined the video in early August.

"We just hope that the motion for  
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## Local man indicted for child porn

BY STEPHANIE HALL  
Staff Reporter

Kirksville resident Joseph Ketsenburg, 32, was indicted on federal charges of possession of child pornography last Thursday, according to a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Acting U.S. Attorney Michael Reap announced Ketsenburg was indicted by a federal jury for two felony counts of possession of child pornography, according to the press release. Each count carries a penalty range of 10 to 20 years in prison and/or fines up to \$250,000 if he is convicted.



Joseph Ketsenburg

Ketsenburg previously pleaded guilty in November 2002 to two counts of statutory rape in the second degree and one count of statutory sodomy in the second degree in a Marion County circuit court, according to the press release. Adair County prosecuting attorney Mark Williams said the current case spawned out of an assault case.

"We had charged Ketsenburg with a domestic assault case," Williams said.  
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# BANKS CUTTIES



Bank's 40-year relationship with schools comes to an end as the federal government replaces the Federal Family Education Loan Program with their Direct Loan Program to save \$80 billion dollars. The money saved will go back to student funding.

**Dec. 5, 2009**

Last day to submit student loan applications to the bank

**July 1, 2010**

All schools should have converted to Direct Loan Program

**July 1, 2010**

Between 4,000 and 5,000 schools will need to be processed under DLP



## Feds replace student loan program to save money

BY TAWANDA KANHEMA  
Staff Reporter

Banks have started to sever the financial ties they held with schools for more than 40 years as a new student loan regime designed to cut private financiers out of the business of issuing loans under the Federal Family Education Loan Program looms on the horizon.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, currently awaiting U.S. Senate approval, will replace

FFELP with the Direct Lending Program, under which students will borrow directly from the federal government.

The federal government expects to save \$80 billion that it has been paying to banks and private financiers in subsidies through FFELP and will plough this money back into student funding. All schools are required to switch to Direct Lending by July 1, 2010.

Truman has been dealing with about 30 banks and financiers

under the FFELP program, disbursing \$13.8 million to 2,461 students in the 2009 fiscal year alone. At least 256 Truman students had \$1.6 million in private loans this year.

Kathy Elsea, director of financial aid, said students would continue to get the same amount of money through Direct Lending, but the July 1 deadline would make it difficult for schools to switch from FFELP.

"Our concern is the time frame they have imposed on schools," El-

sea said. "We are hoping that we would still have another year for transition. We have been getting better service under FFELP and a lot of schools are worried about switching over."

The push for direct lending, which originated in the 1990s, was reactivated by the withdrawal of funding by some banks during the financial crisis. The volume of student loans from banks and private sectors fell by 52 percent in the 2008-09 school year, according to  
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## University weighs in on health bill

Head of nursing department says bill will benefit hospitals, nurses

BY JARED YOUNG  
Staff Reporter

Government-regulated health care is one step closer to becoming a reality for U.S. residents, as President Barack Obama's health care bill passed through the House of Representatives on Saturday. Now it moves on to the Senate, where it will go through more debating and refining.

Stephanie Powelson, head of the department of nursing, said people with pre-existing conditions regularly have trouble obtaining insurance.

Government-regulated health care will help insure those who cannot find anyone in the private sector willing to insure them she said.

"It makes them extremely expensive to insure, or they aren't insured, for something like high blood pressure or a kidney infection," Powelson said. "The older you get, the more likely you are to get episodes of asthma, diabetes, heart disease or whatever."

Ninety-six percent of legal U.S. residents would be insured under the proposed health care bill according to nursinglink.com. Powelson said coverage like that would relieve Americans' stress about health care.

"There are so many times in your life where you need the insurance, and can't afford it as an individual," Powelson said. "I think that if Americans could count on health insurance, it would probably give us greater peace of mind. We would probably be a healthier population."

The new health care bill would benefit hospitals, nurses and physicians as well, Powelson said. She said that if everyone had health insurance, emergency rooms would not be as busy.

"We all know our emergency rooms have gotten backed up because the uninsured might use them for care, rather than going to see somebody else," Powelson said. "That's very frustrating to nurses, physicians



Junior exercise science majors Amy Schloss (left) and John Venner study a cadaver at Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. A new health care bill could keep emergency room population down.

and patients. It's also very expensive to hospitals to pay for that uninsured care."

Government-regulated health care is not a new idea. Many places around the world have similar plans to the proposed health care bill.

"You don't have to look very far to see that Canada, Germany, and England do have a national health plan that covers them, whether they're healthy or well," Powelson said. "I just see lots of positives about it. I think it's something we've been needing for a long time."

Senior Sean Cooksey, a member of College Republicans, said that although he expected the bill would pass through the House of Representatives, he hopes the Senate will not follow suit.

"I don't think it's good," Cooksey said. "I think, ultimately, if this bill becomes law, it will be a big burden on most middle income families. I'm extremely skeptical about its ability to ... lower health care costs."

Although Cooksey and the College Republicans are opposed to the health care bill,

he said the organization has no plans to voice their opinions to Truman.

"I don't think we want to harp on that topic even though it's in the headlines," Cooksey said.

"Ultimately, we're looking to spread out the different kind[s] of political topics so that we can talk about them here on campus, besides health care."

Jaime Diaz, president of the College Democrats, said the passing of the health care bill through the House came at a perfect time.

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