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Truman State University
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101 years of excellence

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The University's student-produced newspaper

Kirksville MO, 63501

SPEED TRAP

Local police officers set up new operations for Thanksgiving weekend

BY TAWANDA KANHEMA
Staff Reporter

As Thanksgiving Break approaches, Missouri state troopers are putting the final touches on an elaborate network of state-wide highway patrol operations aimed at reducing road fatalities. Thousands of motorists are expected to fill Missouri's highways

during the Thanksgiving Break, one of the busiest travel holidays of the year. Troop B of the Missouri State Highway Patrol will deploy troopers every 10 miles along Highway 63 from noon to midnight on Nov. 25 and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Nov. 29, the Sunday many college students will be returning to school. State troopers also will enforce

Operation CARE, Combined Accident Reduction Effort, a national road safety program that will run through the Thanksgiving weekend in a bid to cut down on irresponsible driving. Similar operations are underway in other cities in Missouri as well as in other states. Captain John W. Elliott, commanding officer of the Macon-

based Troop B, said state troopers would stake out Highway 63 and be on the lookout for travelers driving recklessly as well as to assist motorists.

"Thanksgiving weekend is one of the busiest holidays for travel in our nation and the Missouri State Highway Patrol is committed to making Missouri highways safe

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Tuition freeze costs Truman

State funding for higher tuition will be reduced by 5.2 percent

BY ANDREA HEWITT
Assistant News Editor

Truman faces a five percent cut in state funding, following an announcement from Gov. Jay Nixon's office Tuesday. The funding cut will cost Truman \$2.3 million.

"The governor announced an agreement with the presidents of Missouri's four-year universities and colleges that would freeze tuition for the 2010-11 school year," Nixon's spokesman Scott Holste said. "If this goes through, this will be the second year in a row that tuition was frozen for in-state undergraduate students at those universities."

The terms of the agreement dictate that the funding for these schools will be reduced by 5.2 percent or \$42 million, Holste said. However, there are multiple steps before the agreement will be made into policy.

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THE NUMBERS:

Fatal crashes decrease in Missouri



40

Fatal crashes during the month of November compared to 46 in 2008

960

Missouri's annual number of fatal crashes in 2008 compared to 993 in 2007

34,017

National total of fatal crashes in 2008 compared to 39,252 crashes in 2005

Stores prepare for Black Friday

Residents, student advisers gear up for Nov. 27 sales

BY ELIZABETH KOCH
Staff reporter

Kirksville residents and student advisers will be causing a commotion Nov. 27 to hunt down deals the day after Thanksgiving.

Senior student adviser Aaron Zlokovich said he was working during Thanksgiving Break in 2008 and decided to go shopping the day after Thanksgiving for the cheap prices.

When Zlokovich and the SAs on holiday duty arrived at Wal-Mart, there were about 100 people there, including families with children, he said.

"It was controlled chaos in the sense that, yes, everyone was hustling and bustling to get somewhere, but they're not going to be so inhumane as to shove you down and stomp on you and walk away," Zlokovich said.

Wal-Mart store manager Doug Nichting said planning for the 2009 day-after-Thanksgiving sale was more detailed than in previous years.

"We start in about July to map

out where we're going to place the items," Nichting said. "We determine how many people we're going to need to stay with the items and help hand them out."

He said customers don't line up outside the store because the Kirksville Wal-Mart doesn't close for Thanksgiving. People begin walking around the store around midnight, figuring out what they want to buy, he said. By 5 a.m., the customers already are stationed by the item they want to purchase, he said.

This year, Wal-Mart is only allowing one major item per customer to eliminate a portion of the mad rush, Nichting said. An outside company that usually deals with sporting events was hired to help with crowd control planning, he said. The customers in Kirksville are organized and courteous, usually talking to each other across the store on cell phones or walkie talkies, he said.

The Kirksville Wal-Mart is providing a map showing locations of the top 12 items, such as laptops, cameras, toys and High Definition TVs. The map is available on their Web site. Each top item will have an employee stationed nearby a roped-off line, Nichting said.

"It's pretty organized, and everyone is assigned a task, so probably,

actually, just about everyone that we employ will work that day at some point, from the night before through the next night," he said.

In 2008, the Kirksville Wal-Mart set a record amount of sales for the day after Thanksgiving, with sales increasing about 20 percent from the past, he said. Nichting said the sales this year should be about as high, depending on how customers are affected by the economy.

Nichting said people planning to visit Wal-Mart the day after Thanksgiving should know what they want, have a plan, come early and take the one-item rule into consideration because it's a new policy this year.

J.C. Penney store manager Janet Gremaud said Christmas 2009 could be a "back to basics" Christmas because of the economy. The store will be stocked with quality, basic family necessities, she said. Customers begin lining up around 3:30 a.m., Gremaud said.

J.C. Penney will have plenty of workers because almost every employee of the store will be working, she said.

"We happen to open at 4 a.m. that day [after Thanksgiving]... so people will be lined up at our doors at 4 a.m., and they'll come in and

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Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Kirksville resident Nellie Sizemore finishes her shopping at Wal-Mart before the after Thanksgiving rush commences.

Presidential search committee narrows list

DANA BRUXVOORT
Staff Reporter

The search for a new University president is moving forward smoothly and as scheduled.

Since the application deadline of Oct. 30, committee members have been evaluating the applications they received.

The President's Office would not release figures on how many people applied for the position. However, Cody Sumter, student representative to the Board of Governors, said the number of applicants "far surpassed" the University's last presidential search, when Barbara Dixon was hired in 2003 from almost 50 applicants.

The committee met Saturday and narrowed the list of applicants to those whom they will

conduct phone reference and background checks on, Sumter said.

The committee contracted a company to conduct the background checks, and the company will report back to the committee at a meeting Dec. 5. At that point, the committee will further narrow the list and select candidates they will interview at neutral sites.

After the neutral site interviews, the short list of finalists will be made public. Those candidates will visit campus, at which point students, faculty, staff and the community will have the opportunity to interact with them and ask questions.

"The reason we bring the candidates to campus is we want to solicit that input," Sumter said. "We want someone that will mesh with the environment that we have here. So it is very impor-

tant what student input is, what faculty input is and staff input is. The time to bring up a concern is not after we've selected someone, but when we've brought them to campus for exactly that purpose. We want that feedback."

Sumter said the committee had an excellent and qualified pool of candidates to choose from, but there are still challenges the committee faces in selecting the next president.

"We're in an interesting time right now where we have budget considerations as well as our mission considerations," he said. Pulling all of those together into a single person is a challenge.

"There's different aspects that the president has to face. It has to be internal — toward the faculty, staff and students, but also outwards, to-

wards, say, alumni, toward the state for funding. Basically, the president has to be both the internal facing and the external facing embodiment of the University. So I think the candidates are quite qualified for that."

Sumter said the committee has achieved consensus in its decisions thus far, and the selection process is going as scheduled.

"Everything is going very smoothly," he said. "I was actually expecting things to take longer than they were, but we're almost ahead of schedule."

Ken Read, chairman of the presidential search committee, said he would like to have the new president selected as soon as possible, but by its nature, such a process is time-consuming.

"It's the kind of subject that takes time, and

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