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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

TB case marks second since 2008

BY STEPHANIE HALL
News Editor

About 165 students and faculty will be tested after a case of active tuberculosis was confirmed on campus this week.

An e-mail sent out Tuesday by Truman health director Brenda Higgins informed students, faculty and staff of the case, and a second e-mail was sent to students and faculty who lived or worked with the student, alerting them that they will need to

be tested for TB Tuesday.

"With any kind of epidemiological investigation, you start with those who are closest with the patient, and so generally you look first at household contact and go from there to any social network the student would have spent a lot of time with," Higgins said.

A new policy was put in place last year that screens all incoming students for risk factors of exposure to TB. Risk factors include students from high-risk countries, as

well as students who have traveled to these countries and those who work in settings like nursing homes or correctional facilities.

All incoming, new students and transfer students must pass the screening, and those who qualify in high-risk categories for exposure are required to undergo a TB skin test. More than 100 students were tested at the beginning of the academic year. All students admitted before the policy are not required to be tested, including students who study abroad while at Truman.

Higgins said they chose not to screen all students because they did not want to apply the policy retroactively.

"Since we implemented the policy, we have identified a number of students with latent, not active, TB and they were able to be treated free with antibiotics," Higgins said.

Jo McClellan, registered nurse specializing in communicable diseases at Adair County Health Department, said tuberculosis is a lung infection that can cause

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Is your home
SAFE?

Local authorities say this many break-ins is unusual during a short school break

BY STEPHANIE HALL
News Editor

Senior Greg Robinson came back from Midterm Break to find a large kitchen knife on his bed, his first electric guitar gone and the back door swinging wide open.

Along with the guitar, Robinson and his roommates lost a 32-inch LCD TV, an Xbox, a PlayStation2, a Dell laptop, DVDs, a Guitar Hero game and an iPod shuffle.

Three off-campus houses were broken into during Midterm Break, Sgt. Steve Farnsworth of the Kirksville Police Department, said. All the houses were south of Jefferson Street. Farnsworth said that in past years police have not seen break-ins during Midterm Break, but sometimes they do during longer holidays.

"I would expect it more after the [Winter] Break since it's a longer break, but for like the [Midterm Break], we usually don't see that much, so that's not normal," Farnsworth said.

He said Kirksville normally only experiences one burglary a week at most, but usually it's Kirksville residents

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Photo illustration by Brian O'Shaughnessy and Mayank Dhungana

Vaccines for H1N1 given to nearly 300

Local health officials unsure of when more vaccine will come

BY TAWANDA KANHEMA
Staff reporter

Barely half a day into Adair County's two-day H1N1 vaccination program, the health department ran out of doses Monday after administering the vaccine to nearly 300 people between the ages of 18 and 24.

The arrival of the H1N1 vaccine was announced by the Student Health Center on Monday, just a few days after President Barack Obama declared the pandemic a national health emergency, triggering a flurry of student interest.

Claudine Frazier, administrator of the Adair County Health Department, said they were expecting another consignment from the Missouri state government.

"We have exhausted our resources, and we don't know how much more we will receive or when," Frazier said. "We administered the vaccines to between 250 and 300 people."

Frazier said 900 doses had been administered in Adair County since the vaccines became available, although no record had been kept of how many recipients of the vaccine were Truman students.

"The state controls the number of units we

A CLOSER LOOK

The health center has seen a significant rise in flu cases this year. The CDC said new reporting methods most likely contribute to this increase, rather than an actual change in the number of flu victims. Eighty additional students were confirmed to have flu-like illnesses this year when compared to last year.

get and [we] just accept whatever they [allocate] to us — we do not know what criteria they use," Frazier said.

More flu cases recorded this year

Figures obtained from Student Health Services show that there has been an astronomical increase in the number of reported cases of the seasonal influenza and upper respiratory infections at Truman this year, a factor likely to have been driven by awareness of the H1N1 virus.

Since the beginning of the year, 81 students have been diagnosed with flu-like illnesses, compared to only one case during the same period last year.

At least 199 cases of

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Smoking resolution does not pass

Student Senate does not pass ban after 7 to 7 vote

BY ELIZABETH KOCH
Staff Reporter

When it came time to vote on the smoking resolution at the Student Senate meeting Sunday night, the result was a seven to seven tie. One member abstained from voting, and the resolution did not pass.

The resolution began as a campus-wide smok-

ing ban and then turned into a discussion about regulating designated smoking areas. The final result was a resolution stating that smoking must be done at least 20 feet away from all buildings.

Current rules say students must be 10 feet from buildings.

Senior Kristyn Potter, the student affairs chair, said she thought more senators would vote for the resolution. After crafting a compromise at the forum hosted about the resolu-

tion and reading feedback forms, it was anticipated to pass, she said. At the forum, 57 students supported a campus-wide smoking ban, 26 opposed the resolution and four were indifferent. Potter said one of the main reasons it did not pass was because the students who voted against the resolution did not view smoking on campus as a problem, not because of the quality of the resolution.

"It just shows that a controversial issue cannot be won over on either

side," she said.

The student affairs committee met Wednesday to discuss the resolution, but nothing drastic will be done as a result, because the committee fulfilled its responsibility. Potter said the next step is accepting feedback from students and observing the campus environment.

Normally, once a resolution is voted on, it is not allowed to be brought up again until the next session, but because the vote resulted in a tie, the

resolution could be mentioned again after it went through certain procedures, Potter said.

Reactions from the resolution not being passed are varied from very happy with the result to not understanding how the resolution did not pass, she said.

"The vote of the resolution wasn't black and white, and it's not ever going to be an issue you can just easily resolve," she said.

Senior Dan Heagney, Please see BAN, page 7



Mayank Dhungana/Index Smokers like freshman Keenan Schott won't face campus smoking policy changes as the smoking resolution did not pass.