

New local grocer plans to open store

BY LISA KUCHARSKI
Staff Reporter

Customer support has been growing for the Near & Far Downtown Grocery Store which will finally open for public sales the week of Aug. 23.

Owner Steve Salt said more customers join the Grocery Co-op every day, and it has helped the store. The Co-op includes an up-front payment of \$495 to the store. The customers who choose to do this get their first \$50 of groceries each month free for a year and a 10 percent discount off any purchase for the year. Salt has been able to open the store because of the co-op.

"I am very pleased that a lot of people are joining," Salt said. "It's really a win-win situation. [The customers] help us get started, and we help them get low-cost groceries later."

Salt said it's not only the special discounts that make it an attractive place to shop but also the store's location. At 111 S. Franklin St., the store is situated just off the square. Salt said the store is a short walk for students at Truman and is convenient for downtown residents.

"I think it's going to offer something unique," manager Leland Lay said. "It has a little bit of everything — providing a convenient source for people in the downtown area and a market for the local farmers."

This market for local farmers is what makes the Near & Far Grocery Store different from stores like Hyvee and Wal-Mart. Salt said the store is not looking to compete with the big grocery stores. Instead it focuses on locally-produced foods that are purchased directly from nearby farmers. The purpose is to stay away from the modern store atmosphere and instead create a fun and friendly shopping experience with an old-time feel.

"We're trying to keep an old-fashioned theme," Lay said. "A place where you can know your grocer personally."



Top: Owner Steve Salt and manager Leland Lay prepare to open the store.
Bottom: Lay admires some produce already set up in the store.

Lay said the store will cater to the needs of many different people. The store sells fruits, vegetables, herbs and meat purchased from local farms. It also offers general products such as canned goods and ethnic foods. Lay said international food sources will appeal to the immigrant community, and the store also buys from the same food sources used by the Amish and Mennonite communities.

Along with a variety of food choices, Salt said he plans to incorporate cooking classes and a library of cookbooks to the store.

"We want it to be a functional experience as well as a place to buy your food," Salt said.

Salt said he looks forward to opening to the public and to the grand opening for the grocery store the week of Sept. 13.

Electrical problem causes small fire in BNB

No injuries occur from electrical storage.

BY BAILLIE JAMES
Staff Reporter

An electrical shortage Aug. 2 caused a small fire in the basement of the Blaton/Nason/Brewer residence hall. The fire destroyed one electrical panel and caused no injuries.

The Kirksville Fire Department responded to the fire alarm at approximately 5 p.m. Fire Chief Randy Behrens said last week that the fire report was brief and this incident was a minor emergency. He said the accident was electrical in nature, but the exact cause is unknown.

John Gardner, Director of the Office of Residence Life, said that BNB Hall Director Hannah Hitterman and her family, the community coordinator and seven undergraduates attending "Bridge to Degree," a camp for international students, were in the building at the time of the fire. Everyone evacuated the building when the alarms sounded.

Gardner said although the fire destroyed the panel, damage did not spread to other areas.

"This could happen with any electrical panel anywhere, even in someone's home," Gardner said. "We hope to have it repaired as soon as possible."

Tim Baker, director of the Physical Plant at Truman, said he expected the new panel to arrive by Aug. 16 so it could be installed before the residence halls opened to students. He said Truman paid overnight shipping charges for the custom-made panel to arrive as soon as possible.

The new panel will be almost identical to the old one. It has to fit into the existing enclosure, and the terminal blocks and circuit breakers within the panel have to line up with the original locations.

Baker said the panel that caught fire controlled all the electrical plug-ins in the basement and on the first floor of BNB. However, the wires that feed power to other panels controlling receptacles on the second, third and fourth floor passed through the destroyed panel. Baker said the destruction of that electrical feed itself caused the loss of power in Brewer, rather than the demolition of the panel.

"The model had nothing to do with the fact that it burned up," Baker said. "We know where it shorted, but we don't know why it shorted. There's no reason to think that the panel was defective or anything like that. The panel had been in place for at least 15 years, and there's other panels just like it in that building that we haven't had any trouble with at all."

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Director of the Physical Plant

Gardner named Director of Residence Life

BY LISA KUCHARSKI
Staff Reporter

With a higher number of students in the residence halls this year, the Director of the Office of Residence Life will have a lot to do.

John Gardner has become the new Director of Residence Life. He has been involved in student affairs and housing for five years and served as the assistant director last year.

When Andrea O'Brien, the previous director, stepped down last September, Gardner filled in as an interim Director in April. He went through the interview process and was selected to become the new director.

As the assistant last year, some of Gardner's responsibilities included overseeing Missouri Hall, Blanton, Nason and Brewer halls and West Campus Suites. Now, Gardner will handle all operations of the department and has many goals in mind.

"You need to know enough about everything to get things done," Gardner said.

Gardner has a list of things to get done this year, starting with getting the perimeter access system up and running. The Ryle Hall renovations went as planned, giving Gardner an item to check off his list. Gardner said the North half of the building has been successfully re-opened.

Gardner already helped to improve Residence Life fees for many students this semester. In January, \$100 discounts off housing were offered to 700 students and two students were randomly selected to receive free housing for the fall. Since housing fees are raised minimally each year and increased 3 percent this year, Gardner said he thought these discounts were very beneficial to students.

"We're pretty self-sustaining and not getting state funding [for housing] impacts us," Gardner said. "We try to keep costs low."

Another change this year is that the Identification Office will become a part of Residence Life instead of the Student Union.

Gardner said he is most focused on communicating with the students

this year and he wants to make sure Truman is providing the best experience to students that it can.

"The biggest thing for me is to have conversations with students about their living situations," Gardner said. "I'm always interested in hearing what students have to say."

Student advisers who have worked with Gardner said they know of his commitment to Residence Life. 2010 Truman graduate Caleb Forrest had the opportunity to work with Gardner for the past two years as a student adviser.

"Truman's Residence Life has wonderful people working for it, and John Gardner is the perfect man to run such an awesome organization," Forrest said. "He is dedicated and truly has the students' intentions and lives at the forefront of his daily activities."

Like Gardner, Student Adviser Victoria Bradley said her favorite part about Residence Life is interacting with students. She is starting her second year as an SA. Bradley said she is excited and looks forward to what Gardner will bring to Residence Life this year.

"He is very responsible and approachable," Bradley said. "I expect a lot of great things to happen. He knows his stuff and yet is still willing to learn. We may experience some changes, but they will be good ones."



Submitted photo
John Gardner was named the Director of the Office of Residence Life in June.

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