

# Legislators vote to change Prop B

BY ELIZABETH KOCH  
Staff Reporter

A bill proposed by the Missouri General Assembly earlier this month would change some regulations of Proposition B, which passed with 51 percent of voters in November, could occur as soon as next month.

The Missouri Senate passed the bill that amends Prop. B with a vote of 20 to 14 on March 10, according to the Missouri Senate website. When the House votes on the bill in April, the final decision will lie with Gov. Jay Nixon.

The new provisions in House Bill 131 renames Prop. B the Dog Breeders Cruelty Prevention Act and removes the provisions concerning living conditions and specific medical regulations for animals.

House Bill 131 states Prop. B is not applicable to breeders unless they own more than 100 female dogs, and breeders are permitted to own more than 50 dogs.

Other changes to Prop. B that would be omitted deal with scientific facts, such as specific dog cage temperatures, which would harm some puppy breeds, said Representative Zachary Wyatt, R-District 2, who supports the House bill.

The "domesticated animal" provision would be removed because it could mean any animal from a dog to a horse, cow or pig, he said. Therefore, under Prop. B, all the regulations would also apply to farm animals, which would be detrimental to agriculture, he said.

The most a breeder could be charged for licenses of the Animal Care Facilities Act would increase from \$500 to \$2,500 and would require all licenses to pay an additional \$25 annually to support

Operation Bark Alert, the dog abuse hotline for the United States Department of Agriculture.

Wyatt said he supports the revision, mostly because 79 percent of his district voted against it last year.

"We're still keeping a Prop. B because we think that we need to be able to enforce our laws a lot better, and we think Prop. B would be able to do that, but some of the provisions that were offered that [Humane Society of the United States] had pretty much co-written in there — it was an attack on agriculture," he said.

Wyatt said some provisions from Prop. B will remain, such as veterinarian recommendations. He said House Bill 131 defines certain terms more specifically as well, such as elaborating on "adequate rest" and explaining what not breeding more litters than recommended means.

In Missouri, 104 of 114 counties originally voted against Prop. B, but the urban areas helped pass it.

Wyatt said he thinks House Bill 131 bill will pass, and it would benefit Adair County.

"We have a lot of dog breeders up here that, that's their way of life, and it's a good economy for us up here because we have enough land and enough area to raise dogs," Wyatt said. "And I think if this bill passes it will protect those jobs. Right now, based on the Prop. B that was passed, none of the dog breeding facilities in the state of Missouri would pass inspection on that."

Representative Jill Schupp, D-District 82 in St. Louis County, said the revision process should not be taking place because Missourians voted to pass Prop. B.

"People have spoken, and they want to make sure our puppies are well treated and this does not continue to be the puppy mill capital of the world, so I think a lot of people in my district are disappointed this is going on," Schupp said.

She said she does not support the new bill because she is concerned with the way animals are treated in Missouri, and the original Prop. B was thought out thoroughly and planned for the best interest of animals.

"I'm also hopeful that it will help us to move in a direction of breeding and producing healthy dogs that everybody can feel ... confident purchasing pets for their homes," Schupp said.

Schupp said the issue is divided between rural and urban legislators because most people in the breeding business live in rural areas.

"They probably feel as if these laws affect them more directly in terms of the business aspect of it," Schupp said. "But I will tell you people in even my suburban district believe that it affects their quality of life because it affects the qualities of life of the animals that are bred."

She said if the bill passes, she hopes a separate bill will be written concerning the care of animals in Missouri.

## House Bill 131 Changes

- Removes provisions on living conditions and specific medical regulations

- Only applies to breeders with more than 100 female dogs

- Maximum license fee increase from \$500 to \$2500

- \$25 increase in license fee for Operation Bank Alert

James Przybylski, political science professor, said repeals are not common because legislators usually do not want to go against what the people vote for, especially this soon after the election.

Motives behind repeals can occur if propositions are unworkable or if politicians have certain people they want to satisfy, he said. A bill can be passed to overturn another, Przybylski said, but that can be risky because it could appear that the public will be being ignored.

"The urban areas were strongly for [the repeal], and the rural areas were pretty strongly against it," he said.

Przybylski said he thinks the proposition is controversial because rural animal owners don't want people interfering with their livelihood. He said people from more urban areas often think of animals strictly as pets, which causes them to see mistreatment of animals in a different light.

"My guess is since the Republican favor is changing a lot more, to a big majority of the legislature, that [the repeal] probably will pass," he said.

The purpose of Prop. B, according to the bill summary on the Missouri House of Representatives' website is to prevent cruelty to dogs by requiring large-scale dog breeding operations to provide basic care for the dogs they raise.

Debi Boughton, Kirksville director of tourism, is involved with FLATS and said she is excited to see the development of the new outdoor attraction.

Boughton said there are a lot of logistics that need to be worked out about the trail.

She said FLATS needs to determine where exactly the route of the trail will be, whether a parking lot is needed at the downtown trailhead and how many easements need to be obtained from land owners' property where the trail would be.

"We also need to have engineering and other people look at the grade of the land, how hilly it is, how many creeks we have to go across," Boughton said. "So, there's lots of steps in planning it."

Once the design for the trail is drawn out, FLATS will begin the bidding process for construction, although Kallerud said the DNR will be involved in building the trail.

"There aren't that many cities the size of Kirksville that are that close to a state park in Missouri," Holstein said. "It's a real advantage for the city to be located that close, and we think that this is tremendous that this organization is seeking the strength and the ties with this great recreational resource they've got right there in their own backyard."

"We have a lot of dog breeders up here that...and it's a good economy for us up here because we have enough land and enough area to raise dogs."

Rep. Zachary Wyatt  
R--District 2

# Thousand Hills receives grant

BY PHILIP ZAHND  
Staff Reporter

Gov. Jay Nixon visited Thousand Hills State Park on March 16 to announce a \$100,000 Recreational Trails Program grant to the Forest Lake Area Trail System committee for the construction of a new trail.

The 10-foot wide, concrete-paved and American Disabilities Association-approved trail will connect the petroglyph site to the marina and Thousand Hills Dining Lodge as well as Campground 1 within a .59-mile section. The new trail will be one of 32 new trails in Missouri that received a competitive RTP grant. Construction is expected to begin this summer and to be completed sometime in 2012.

Royce Kallerud, English professor and chair of FLATS Steering Committee, said that the ultimate goal is to connect downtown Kirksville to Thousand Hills via a 4-mile trail — a route three miles shorter than by road. Kallerud said a separate round of grants that potentially could help fund the larger project will be announced in April.

"The number of people who bicycle or walk or run is well over 50 percent of the population," Kallerud said. "These are the most popular physical activities and this is the kind of project that has

a direct and immediate public health impact."

Rachel Ruhlen, founder of Kirksville Area Motion — a Bicycle-Pedestrian Advocacy Group — uses her bike as her main source of transportation. She said she rides to Thousand Hills frequently and is excited about the trail to connect Kirksville to the park. The 9-mile ride from her home on Boundary Street usually takes her an hour to complete. She said the new 5-mile route would cut off approximately half an hour, and that she would ride to the park more often.

"For an experienced cyclist, it's really not a problem," Ruhlen said of her current route. "However, what this trail would do is make it so that anybody can access the park. You don't have to have a car. You don't have to be an experienced cyclist who can handle a highway. It's going to be a 4-mile trail. That's walkable."

Kallerud said FLATS volunteers worked with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to apply for the RTP grant, which was passed down through the Federal Highway Trust Fund. FLATS has gained support for the grant from various community partners including Truman, A.T. Still University, the Kirksville Rotary Club, the Missouri Army National Guard

and the Boy Scouts of America. An additional \$74,589 has been raised through in-kind donations and fundraisers.

"Thousand Hills State Park is an important resource for that region," said Scott Holstein, a spokes person for Gov. Nixon. "This is money that is going to help in developing the trail from downtown Kirksville to the park by completing this .6-mile-long section. ... It was a proposal that met the criteria of recreational needs."

Kallerud said a trail with visible trailheads, easy accessibility and a safe, direct route would be utilized heavily. People often bicycle to the park — foregoing the 65-mile-per-hour speed limit on Highway 6.

"There are not shoulders in significant portions and fast moving traffic," Kallerud said. "This trail would be about four miles long depending on the exact route. ... It would be closer. You'd be in the park in minutes from town. It brings the park right into town."

The idea for the trail has been around for decades, Kallerud said. The March 1997 Conceptual Development Plan of Thousand Hills State Park recommended construction of a trail to connect Kirksville to the park. Similarly, the 2002 Kirksville Adair Community Strategic Plan included the connection.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sheriff's Department assists Canadian military

The Adair County Sheriff's Office was called to assist the Canadian military last Saturday. The Sheriff's Office was notified Saturday afternoon that a Canadian military helicopter was experiencing mechanical issues with its fuel system and had to make an emergency landing in a field south of Highway HH in southwest Adair County. The crew was en route from Selina, Kan. to their home base in Canada when the mechanical problems started. Members of the five person crew walked to a nearby farmhouse and contacted the Sheriff's Office after the emergency landing. The Sheriff's Office, the Kirksville Police Department and the Kirksville Regional Airport got a fuel truck from the Kirksville Regional Airport to the helicopter. After refueling, the helicopter flew to the airport and then to the Downing-Peoria International Airport in Peoria, Ill.

### Sustainability series begins

The President's Sustainability Action Committee kicks off its Sustainability Series at 7 p.m. tonight in the SUB Georgian Room with keynote speaker Judi Schweitzer, a Truman alumna and founder of the California-based firm Schweitzer and Associates, a firm that works with companies and organizations to reach sustainability goals. The Sustainability Series will host guest speakers each semester. University President Troy Paino and several members of the PSAC committee also will be speaking tonight. Those interested in attending the speech should RSVP at sustainability.truman.edu. The next speaker in the Sustainability Series will be entrepreneur in the sustainability industry Ted Howard on April 21 and 22.

### Rec center open late Friday night

Truman Intramurals is hosting a "TRU Madness Night" from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. Friday night in the Student Recreation Center. The event will include free food, late night yoga, handball and table tennis. It is free for students with a Truman ID card.

### Bank pledges scholarship funds

The Northeast Missouri State Bank has committed \$50,000 to provide athletic scholarships to students for baseball, wrestling, men's swimming and men's tennis. Those programs recently were impacted by University budget cuts. The pledge will make available \$10,000 for scholarships each year, starting with the 2011-12 academic year and continuing for the next five years. The Bank's pledge is part of the Bright Minds Bright Futures campaign, which has generated a total of \$28 million in gifts so far, with the goal of reaching \$30 million by the end of June.

## STUDENT SENATE IN BRIEF

- Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$85 for posters promoting energy conservation.

- Senate upheld President Isaac Robinson's veto by a vote of 6-10-0 of the resolution to make Truman at the Capitol a standing money motion for the next three years. A two-thirds majority is required to override a veto. Robinson vetoed the resolution during last week's meeting.

## CRIME REPORTS

3/14 A theft between \$500 and \$25,000 was reported from Pickler Memorial Library.

3/18 Freshman Reese Kerlin received a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Alcohol.

3/18 Sophomore Katherine Lenger received a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Alcohol.

3/18 Freshman Melanie Goetz received a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Alcohol.



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**The Department of Education at Truman State University is hosting an accreditation visit by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) in September 2011.**

**Interested parties are invited to submit third-party comments to the visiting team.**

Please note that comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of professional programs offered, and should specify the party's relationship to the institution (i.e., graduate, present or former faculty member, employer of graduates, etc.).

We invite you to submit written comments to:  
Board of Examiners  
NCATE 2010 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036-1023