



Krista Goodman/Index

The Kirkville Salvation Army assists more than 900 individuals and distributes 400 food baskets a month. Adair County has the second highest county poverty rate in the state of Missouri.

Organizations help Adair County needy

BY CHARUNDI PANAGODA
Staff Reporter

Junior Elizabeth Pulley, SERVE Center co-coordinator for the Big Week of Giving, had a friend who delivered pizza for Pagliai's Pizza. He told her about the most poverty-stricken areas in Kirksville he had come across while working. "[Truman students] are kind of stuck to [Highway] 63 or Baltimore, you know, between campus and Walmart," Pulley said. "That's about our span. Some people go to NEMO fairgrounds or to Thousand Hills. And at Thousand Hills, you see a lot richer and wealthier residents versus more of the people who live in more farm areas and even just like out in the country where you have different mobile home groups. Some are nice and some look a little unkempt." Adair County has the second-highest poverty rate in the state of Missouri, said Major William Hogg of the Salvation Army branch in Kirksville. More than

27 percent of the population lives below the poverty level in Adair County, according to 2008 U.S. Census Bureau statistics. The Kirksville community has non-profit organizations helping residents in need, including the Salvation Army and the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri. Most organizations are local food kitchens and pantries. The Salvation Army helps residents by supplying food, temporary housing facilities and paying rent, utility bills and prescriptions. The Salvation Army currently assists 948 individuals and gives out 406 food baskets every month in Kirksville. "[The] poverty level in Adair County is the second highest in the state of Missouri, and that makes agencies like ours a lot busier because there are more people who need help," Hogg said. "And we've seen that in the last four years. We typically do right now about 400 to 500 families a month when we're giving out

food. That a lot of people to help give food to." In 2010, the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri has so far helped 21,419 people and has distributed 27 pounds of food per person per month in Adair County. Mike DeSantis, community resource developer for the Food Bank said one of the challenges facing the Food Bank is increasing awareness of people who are in a position to help the needy. Considering the poverty level in Adair County, Truman students are only partially aware of the need for help in the Kirksville community, Pulley said. "We're uninformed," she said. "We kind of see what we see, like out of sight, out of mind. It's not like the public is informed of this is how many people here in Kirksville who don't have heating, this is how many people who need this. I think if the campus is more aware of what the situation actually is, you'd see more people trying to help."

PRISM drag show offers safe zone

BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA
Staff Reporter

Safety can be found in the presence of friends, at a campus full of people who are accepting — even when dressed in drag. PRISM, Truman's gay-straight alliance, will host a dance and drag show again this fall, with the theme "Double Rainbow All the Way Across the Sky!" PRISM has hosted this event every semester for 18 years, much longer than senior Trevor Grizzell has been at Truman. Grizzell joined PRISM as a freshman and now serves as PRISM's chairman.

He said the purpose of PRISM is to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues on campus and to create a safe environment for students in which they can feel comfortable about their sexuality. The dance is one way PRISM creates a safe environment for gay and lesbian students in the Kirksville community. He said PRISM hosts a dance because many gays and lesbians didn't get to attend homecomings and proms in high school with the people they wanted to go with. There also isn't a place where the gay and lesbian community can socialize in Kirksville. The closest gay bar is almost an hour and a half away, so this dance gives these students a place to gather and socialize. In past years, more than 500 people have attended the event to dance, meet new people and watch the drag show.

At the heart of PRISM is the goal to create a safe place for people to be themselves. "It creates a safe space for people to be who they are and do what they want to do pretty much for one night," Grizzell said. So far, there are five acts from Truman and the Kirksville community

signed up to participate in the show. Contestants dress up as both drag queens and kings and perform to a song of their own choice. Senior Tina Schutter joined PRISM after learning about it during a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students luncheon her freshman year. She currently serves as social chair for PRISM. Schutter explained that PRISM's effort to create a safe environment for students continues throughout the entire year. They host an annual coming out day, lobby for legislation in Student Senate, attend conferences and bring speakers to campus to raise awareness of issues facing the

gay and lesbian community. Schutter said this event offers a different kind of social environment than most other campus events. Drag shows, which are common in gay bars, often are not seen in rural Missouri. She also said the music played is more techno style than the music heard at a party. Schutter said the biggest problem facing gay and lesbian students on campus is being comfortable with themselves and getting other people to do the same. One of the largest hurdles in achieving this level of comfort occurs when people refer to things they dislike as "gay". Freshman Grace Stansbery agreed that the improper use of "gay" is offensive. Stansbery said she has many friends who are openly gay, and that she plans on attending the PRISM dance.

"I think it's really cool that we can embrace people for who they are and have a little fun with it," Stansbery said. "I think it is important to be comfortable enough with something to be able to laugh at it when it is appropriate." The event will be at NEMO Fair Grounds Nov. 13 from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Admission is \$7.

"I think it is important to be comfortable enough with something to be able to laugh at it when it is appropriate."

Grace Stansbery
freshman

Myth: Busted

Star of hit TV show visits Truman

BY AMANDA HERZBERG
Staff Reporter

Can a car be bullet-proofed using phone books? Is it easy to take candy from a baby? Is MythBusters really returning to Truman? At least one of these myths has been exposed. MythBusters' own Grant Imahara will represent the Discovery Channel's hit television show at Truman this weekend. As the SAB fall speaker, Imahara is set to entertain students with tales of his rise to stardom and his current, and rather adventurous, profession. MythBusters is a show devoted to proving or disproving myths. Each show opens with questions about widely believed myths. The show's cast then conducts experiments based on somewhat real-life situations to answer the questions by declaring

them either "myth" or "fact." The MythBusters have come to Truman before, but in the past the speakers were Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman, two of Imahara's co-stars on the show. This production promises a new voice and a different perspective on life as a MythBuster. Imahara's presentation is expected to consist of a personal account of his educational and career background, as well as some footage from the show. Imahara is a Los Angeles, Calif., native and a graduate of the University of Southern California, earning a B.S. in electrical engineering, according to his Discovery Channel biography. He has used this engineering background for a number of jobs, just a few of which include programming and supervising the movements of the Energizer Bunny, working on several Hollywood

blockbusters such as "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" and even operating George Lucas' beloved "Star Wars" character, R2-D2. Now, Imahara serves as the electronics and radio-control specialist for the MythBusters' build team. Junior Danielle West, special events chair on the Student Activities Board, said SAB decided to bring Imahara to Truman as the fall semester speaker after an overwhelming display of interest in the MythBusters presentation on the student activities survey. West coordinated this event and said the surveys are administered to all students at the end of each semester to select future event entertainers. "MythBusters, on the survey, won almost double compared to the others," West said. Senior Aubrey Balk has never been to a MythBusters



photo courtesy of tv.com

MythBuster's Grant Imahara will present at 7 p.m. Friday in Baldwin Hall Auditorium.

appearance at Truman but said she has high expectations. She is a big fan of the TV show and said Imahara's presence will motivate her to attend the event. "I like Grant," Balk said. "I think he is funny and more down to earth than the other guys." Graduate student Mark Treska will also attend this weekend's show. Although

not an avid MythBusters viewer, Treska figures this might be his only chance to experience the MythBusters live. Treska said he finds Imahara to be funny on the show and expects he might be in person as well. Treska and Balk both participated in the SAB surveys, which spurred Imahara's visit. Both think they selected MythBusters

as one of their desired performers and are pleased to see them returning to campus. Grant Imahara's MythBusters presentation will take place at 7 p.m. this Friday in Baldwin Auditorium with doors opening at 6:45. Student admission is free, and tickets are available at the SAB office in the Student Union Building.

NEWS ● TRULIFE ● SPORTS ● NEWS ● TRULIFE ● SPORTS

NEWS ● TRULIFE ● SPORTS

Spend your Thursdays with the

Truman State University

INDEX

NEWS ● TRULIFE ● SPORTS ● NEWS ● TRULIFE ● SPORTS

NEWS ● TRULIFE ● SPORTS