

Produce sales hurt by rainy weather

BY ELIZABETH KOCH
Staff Reporter

The Kirksville Kiwanis Farmer's Market closed its stands for the season last Saturday, ending a season filled with crop shortages due to rainy weather.

Steve Salt, owner of The Downtown Grocery Store and a farmer's market vendor for 20 years, said business at his stand was down from other years because of supply, not demand.

Salt said there was a small decrease in vendors at the market, possibly because of a lack of products to sell or vendors moving to other places. He said there were plenty of customers but that frequent rain from April through July affected growth. His profits also decreased from last year but won't affect what he sells next year, he said.

"[Plants] washed away or couldn't get planted in the first place," Salt said. "I've been gardening for 53 years — this is probably the roughest year I've ever experienced. Farming is the world's biggest casino."

He said the rain drowned his beets and turnips, and sweet corn couldn't even be planted because of the rainfall. Once vegetables would start to grow, the weeds made it harder to take care of them.

Although Salt had less produce to sell than in previous years, his peppers did well, along with vegetables grown in the greenhouse.

Salt said his outdoor plants that were located on top of a hill did better because they weren't drowned as easily as

the plants in the valleys.

Three hundred pounds of seed potatoes in a low spot produced only 30 pounds of potatoes instead of the expected yield of 3,000 pounds.

Salt said the Community-Supported Agriculture program helped his sales. Through CSA, customers pay a set fee to Salt in advance and then come to the farmer's market to pick up the produce they want from his stand. Eighty percent of his production went through the CSA program, which put a slight damper on the amount of produce sold at his stand in the farmer's market.

"[CSA] is very popular in many places in the country," he said. "I think we're the only one in Kirksville, though, which is kind of like a buying club for veggies."

Salt said the farmer's market is a major social gathering place, and it's a good way for younger people to get involved with local food.

"We need more growers," he said. "Too many people here buy and resell from auctions. We need more young people getting into this — I'd be glad to teach them."

Alan Truitt, of Kirksville, said he saw the consequences of the rainy weather in the form of slightly more expensive produce prices when he shopped at the farmer's market this season.

"But you can't get this quality in the supermarket," he said. "[The price] is worth it."

Seniors Ali Helmig and Katherine Hernandez were first-time vendors at the farmer's market



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Stephanie Bruno and Chris Hernton of San Francisco attend the Kirksville Kiwanis Farmer's Market. Last Saturday was the final sale for the season. The farmer's market will reopen May 7.

this year, selling bread and a variety of baked goods. Helmig and Hernandez said their business this year was successful and better than they expected.

"I think there were a few items that really attracted people, like artisan breads, the cookie sandwiches, things like that, because artisan bread isn't really sold around here," Hernandez said.

Hernandez said they made a decent profit from their sales, and if she and Helmig weren't graduating this year, they would continue vending at the farmer's market next year. They have developed regular customers who continue to buy certain baked goods from them through vending at the farmer's market, Helmig said.

Hernandez said they decided to become vendors at the farmer's market while they were baking on a Sunday afternoon.

"We've talked about starting a bakery or pastry business for four years, so this is kind of just a step in that direction," Helmig said. "It's only five dollars to have a table here, so if you're selling just a couple of things you'll make your money back... it's easy to profit."

Hernandez said their biggest challenge was baking enough goods on time, and Helmig said figuring out how much to make was also a challenge.

They usually baked approximately ten loaves of bread, three to four dozen cookies and muffins, fudge and scones.

ITS plans to purchase faster Internet

BY KAITLIN DAVIS
Staff Reporter

Information Technology Services has converted campus computers to a virtual desktop system this year and seeks to further improve technology with faster Internet the next few months.

ITS technical director Jim McNabb said ITS has been communicating with Truman's current Internet provider, MOREnet, but is also pursuing other alternatives for faster Internet at cheaper rates. He said they hope to have some resolutions within the next two months, including faster Internet.

"The majority of our traffic is out to the Internet," McNabb said. "What people often don't realize is more and more of our local services are actually hosted out on Internet resources."

McNabb said he has been talking with MOREnet to see if Truman can get faster Internet.

He said Truman currently pays \$45,000 per year for a 100 Mbps Internet connection and that an upgrade to a 150 Mbps connection through MOREnet would cost \$75,000 per year.

McNabb said that because of the expense of upgrading with MOREnet, ITS has been looking into some alternatives for getting Truman's Internet services from other providers at a cheaper rate.

"We have some interesting leads on that," McNabb said. "But we're not at the point of actually being ready to make a decision yet."

McNabb said the two major alternative choices being considered are the MoBroadbandnow project and the Google Fiber project

The MoBroadbandnow project will aid not only Truman and Kirksville, but also the nearly 1.5 million Missourians who lack access to high-speed Internet. The project will potentially reach hundreds of institutions and promote economic development, education and health care statewide, according to the fact sheet for U.S. Congress on MoBroadbandnow.com.

McNabb said the project has officially been approved and the state now has two years to complete it.

Google is offering a chance for a community to receive an extensive fiber-optic network that would provide faster Internet to every business and home in that community.

Mayor Todd Kuhns said a group of interested citizens worked together on Kirksville's application.

Kuhns said the application inquired about the Kirksville's resources, descriptions of the city's building permits and what the best seasons are for construction projects.

"I think Google wanted to know how many hurdles we are going to put in their way in terms of being able to get this project done fast," Kuhns said.

Kuhns said he hopes to hear back from Google by the end of the year.

"Just like all the other communities, we're sitting on pins and needles waiting, and we've heard absolutely nothing from Google, which is exactly what we expected," Kuhns said.

Virtual Desktop System
McNabb said ITS now has found a smarter way to save the University a lot of money.

McNabb said ITS has switched Truman to a virtual desktop system in which everything still functions the same, but all applications

such as Microsoft Office now are stored on a server and not the computer itself.

McNabb said this system is more cost effective and allows better performance from the computers.

McNabb said the other benefit of the virtual desktop system is that it allows access beyond the library and computer labs. He said that with this system, students could use the Truman server in residence halls, off-campus houses or even in a person's hometown on a MAC, PC or Linux computer.

"There are a lot of software programs in the computer labs that are very expensive and are only licensed to Truman, especially the math programs," McNabb said. "But with the virtual desktop system, a student can remotely access any of these software programs."

There are step-by-step instructions to download the virtual desktop online at its.truman.edu.

Freshman Louis Steuber-Roshe said that the slow Internet hasn't caused him any problems with getting schoolwork accomplished, but it has made certain recreational activities like playing video games very difficult.

"Video games that are online-based basically do not work at all," Steuber-Roshe said. "I had to call the ITS guy, and he said that video games and pretty much anything besides the actual Internet are not set high on the priority list they have, and therefore run really slow."

Steuber-Roshe said that ITS took him through a process that then allowed his online games to operate more quickly. He said the entire process to be able to do something recreational was annoying.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Brotherhood of Murder' to play

The film "Brotherhood of Murder" will be shown from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday in Violette Hall 1000. The film is based on the true story of Tom Martinez, a white supremacist group member turned informant for the FBI. Tom Martinez himself will host a discussion titled "Inside the Brotherhood of Hate" at 7 p.m. Nov. 11 in the SUB Georgian Room B. The events are sponsored by Amnesty International and Students for Social Change.

'Soul food' to be served

SUEDE's Soul Food Supper will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday in the Missouri Hall Chariton Room. Tickets are available in advance from SUEDE members for \$5 or can be purchased at the door for \$7. Students can e-mail tsuede@gmail.com to contact a SUEDE member for tickets.

Jack's Mannequin to perform Saturday

The Student Activity Board's fall concert, featuring Jack's Mannequin and Relient K, will take place from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday in the Pershing Arena. Tickets are currently on sale in the SAB office on the first floor of the Student Union Building. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$15 for general admission.

Organization sells fair trade products

The Chasqui Bolivian Fair Trade Co-op will continue from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and Friday on the Quad. Chasqui Manos de Bolivia is a nonprofit group that sells a variety of clothing items and blankets. Proceeds go toward efforts to improve the standard of living for the people of Bolivia. The event is sponsored by Sigma Lambda Gamma.

Speaker to address social justice project

Keith McHenry, co-founder of Food Not Bombs, an activist organization concerned with peace and hunger, will speak about the ongoing project "Baked Goods Not Bank Bailouts" from 8 to 10 p.m. tonight in Magruder Hall 2001. The presentation will include a short film, a question-and-answer session and bread baked in a solar oven. Discussion topics range from social justice to sustainability. The event is sponsored by Truman's Peace Fellows, Students for Social Change, ECO, TIA and the President's Sustainability Action Committee.

CRIME REPORTS DPS & KPD

10/27 A bicycle was stolen from outside Missouri Hall.

10/30 Junior Damon Locke was charged with a noise violation.

11/1 A theft of between \$500 and \$25,000 was reported in Ryle Hall cafeteria.

STUDENT SENATE IN BRIEF

• Student Senate appointed graduate student Danielle Lewis as student representative to the Graduate Council.

• Student Senate appointed graduate student Melissa Wright as student representative to the Graduate Council.

• Student Senate appointed sophomore Lauren Hearold as ΣΣΣ organizational representative.

• Student Senate appointed freshman Kathleen Barbosa as vice chair of academic affairs.

• Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$40 for the Athletics Roundtable.

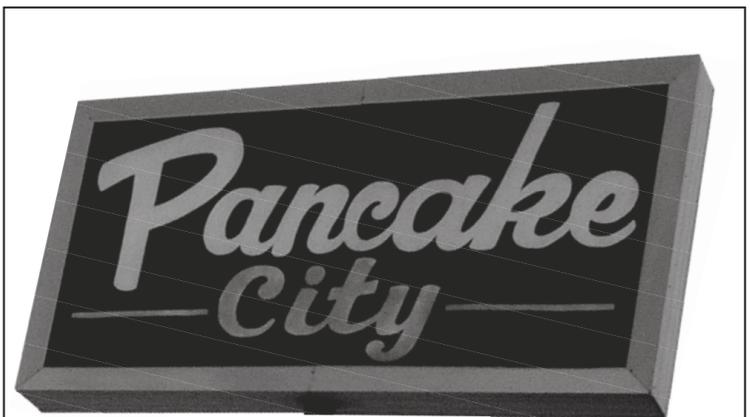
• Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$40 for the Residence Life Roundtable.

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