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Provost search postponed until fall 2011

Budget concerns a factor in Paino's decision to postpone search

BY BRENNIA MCDERMOTT
Editor in Chief

President Troy Paino has postponed the search for Truman's next permanent provost until next year. Interim Provost Richard Coughlin will extend his temporary position

through the 2011-12 academic year. Paino said the decision was based on both budget cuts and finding the right person to take the position of Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs. The University is saving approximately \$125,000 while the permanent provost position is vacant, Budget Director Dave Rector said.

"The decision was made for really one primary reason, and that is given the difficult budget times that we're

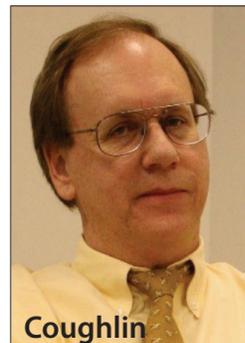
facing and some of the difficult decisions that are going to have to be made over the course of the next 12 months or so," Paino said. "I thought it was best if we got the University through this time with someone who had a deep knowledge of the institution."

Coughlin has served as dean of libraries and museums since 1995. His experience, Paino said, will help with budgetary decisions that need to be made.

"I thought it would be, first of all, unfair to bring someone in the middle of this and all of a sudden put on his or her desk, 'Oh yeah, by the way you have to cut \$4 million,' and for them to even begin to know where to start on something like that," Paino said.

Paino said he probably will form a second search committee at the end of this academic year and possibly put out an advertisement for the job as early as

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Coughlin

Woman charged with rape

Kirksville woman sentenced to five years in prison

BY DAN WARNER
Assistant News Editor

A Kirksville woman has been sentenced to five years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for statutory rape in the second degree.

Melissa Songer, 26, pleaded guilty to the charge in June and was sentenced Sept. 21, said Matt Wilson, Adair County prosecuting attorney. He said the charge was regarding an incident that took place in September 2008.

Wilson said Songer was indicted in May for statutory rape in the first degree, which applies when the victim is under the age of 14. This charge was later reduced to statutory rape in the second degree, he said.

Wilson said Songer will participate in a sex offender treatment program for 120 days. Upon completion of the program, he said, the judge can decide to place Songer on probation rather than require her to serve the rest of her sentence.

Wilson said the judge's decision will be based on Songer's performance in the program. He said, in such cases, it is not often that the judge releases the defendant without serving the remainder of their sentence.

Wilson said Songer had been released on bail before she was arrested on a separate charge this summer. He said she was arrested for fraudulently attempting to obtain a controlled substance. He said those charges are still pending the outcome of her program.

Upon release, Songer will have to wear a GPS tracking device for the rest of her life, Wilson said.



Melissa Songer



SAB picks Jack's Mannequin

Photo courtesy of TCDC Media

SAB announces fall concert and speaker

BY ANDREA HEWITT
News Editor

Jack's Mannequin will be headlining the fall concert with Relient K.

The Student Activities Board announced that the concert will take place 8 p.m. Nov. 6 in Pershing Arena.

SAB President senior Colleen Pace said she was excited to bring the acts to campus, especially because they were voted the No. 1 and 2 choices by students in the spring student survey.

Pace said they will sell approximately 2,400 tickets to the show because that is Pershing Arena's capacity with a stage. Tickets will be \$8 for students and \$15 for general admission. Tickets will go on sale for students Oct. 11 and Oct. 14 for general admission.

"We're still technically in contract negotiation," Pace said. "That happens until the day of the concert. I can't say when they were signed, but I can say that whenever they accept our bid or we get a contract — that's legally binding, so from that point on we can announce it."

Pace also announced the fall speaker, Grant Imahara. Imahara is part of Discovery Channel's show "Mythbusters."

Imahara is set to perform 7 p.m. Nov. 16 in Baldwin Auditorium. Tickets are free for students and will be available Oct. 18. General admission tickets will go on sale Oct. 20 for \$5.

SAB's budget this year is approximately \$270,000, but the cost for each event is unavailable.

"We can't release the performance fees, Please see CONCERT, Page 7

Kirksville receives grant to make parks accessible

BY JACKIE KINEALY
Staff Reporter

Kirksville children of all physical abilities will soon be able to enjoy the P.C. Mills Park and Memorial Park playgrounds.

The City of Kirksville will use two grants totaling \$70,000 from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund to replace the playgrounds at P.C. Mills Park and Memorial Park with handicap-accessible play-

ground equipment to meet standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The city has two years to complete the grant projects, said Melanie Smith, community services director for the City of Kirksville.

"We'll probably do one at a time," Smith said. "I would guess we'll probably do P.C. Mills first and we'll start that sometime in the spring. It'll be after the first of the year, when we're in the next fiscal cycle."

P.C. Mills Park is located on Hamilton Street, west of Osceola. Memorial Park is on Cottonwood Street, five blocks west of Highway 63.

The Americans with Disabilities Act went into effect in 1992. ADA regulations are aimed at ending discrimination against disabled people by requiring public accommodations to be accessible for people with disabilities.

Public playgrounds must provide equal opportunity for

play for disabled and non-disabled children by including pathways, platforms, ramps and handrails that disabled children can use, according to the ADA accessibility guidelines for playgrounds.

Smith said that anytime public facilities are updated, they have to meet ADA standards. She said she is unsure of the last time the playgrounds at P.C. Mills and Memorial Parks were replaced, but ADA standards either weren't in place or weren't

enforced at the time.

Smith said P.C. Mills and Memorial Parks were chosen for the grants because they were the next projects on the Parks and Recreation Department's five-year capital plan. Except for the swing sets, the playground equipment will be totally replaced in both parks, she said.

The Parks and Recreation Department has not yet decided which playground equipment manufacturing company they will contract for the projects, but

they will be soliciting bids after Jan. 1, 2011, Smith said.

Smith said plans for the handicap-accessible playgrounds are still in the early stages, so specific designs have not yet been approved. She said the designs will likely include wheel chair-friendly ground material, transfer platforms to move wheelchairs on and off some equipment, and ground level features that disabled children can easily access.

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