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Truman's baseball field sits vacant but ready for young athletes to begin summer leagues. Kirksville Baseball and Softball Association's leagues work to build community in Kirksville.

Local baseball and softball summer teams build community

BY EMILY BATTMER
Staff Reporter

For kids throughout the Kirksville area, summer means warm weather, no school and ball games, thanks to the Kirksville Baseball and Softball Association.

KBSA helps kids ages 5 to 18 get involved with sports and build a community. This organization which has been in Kirksville since 1954, organizes teams for baseball and softball for local games and tournaments. No experience is necessary and enrollment costs \$50. Items including helmets and uniforms are supplied through the league.

Sophomore Henry Janssen is one of thousands of former KBSA players, and he said the association has meant a lot to him personally as well as to the community.

Janssen said the organization builds community and camaraderie, and thinks it's important for children to get involved. It's a way to make memories and have something to take pride in, he said, and he's glad he's a part of it.

"When I was a kid playing baseball, it was my first real exposure to being a part of something bigger than myself," he said.

Without KBSA, Janssen said Kirksville would be a much different place during the summer, and many strong relationships would never have been formed. For example, the father of Janssen's friend passed away a few years ago, and most of the people who spoke at his funeral were people he never would have known if it weren't for KBSA.

Janssen started playing baseball when he was 8 years old because he said his dad was a volunteer with the organization. Janssen said he fell in love with the sport

during those summers, and he continued to play throughout his entire childhood.

"Baseball was pretty much how I spent my summers growing up," he said.

Between his KBSA team and the travelling teams he found through the organization, Janssen said he would play 40 to 50 games every summer. Even when he wasn't playing, he said he spent a lot of time at the North Park Complex, where he'd meet up with friends and watch games. The complex was always a hot spot, he said, and when nothing else was going on, community members would gather to watch on game nights.

Being involved with KBSA not only improves the Kirksville community, but Janssen said it personally impacts his community of friends as well. Some of his closest friends are the people he met through KBSA, he said.

For some families, KBSA has reached across generations. KBSA secretary Pam Stuart also grew up playing for the organization and has passed her love for the sport on to her three children, who now play with KBSA as well.

Stuart said she still keeps in contact with some of the friends she made through softball, and she often sees others throughout the community who she remembers playing with. KBSA helps build a sense of family she said, and she thinks that's what makes the organization important.

"Any time you get involved in the community and get involved in sports, I think that helps make a well rounded individual," she said. "KBSA helps build a community and helps kids of all different skill levels interact with each other."

The association also helps build relationships with local businesses and organizations, she said. Sponsors throughout Kirksville help support the teams by donating items such as shirts

and hats for the teams. She said there are many ways for individuals and businesses to become involved with KBSA, but the most rewarding feature is the way it allows kids to grow and become well-rounded. Stuart said she can't imagine a summer without baseball or softball.

"Baseball is a very American pastime, and I can't remember a time in my life growing up when I wasn't at the ballpark playing myself or watching my older brother," she said.

The KBSA has been a part of Kirksville summers for 58 years, KBSA president Dallas Titus said. Titus has been involved with KBSA for about 10 years, and he said he has made friendships with many good people he wouldn't have met otherwise.

Titus said they typically register more than 600 players, and every child who signs up gets to play. He said it gives an opportunity to all children to get involved in the sport, regardless of who they are or what equipment they might have.

"The main thing is we want to see all the kids in the area have fun playing baseball and softball," he said.

KBSA Fast Facts

- 50-55 teams in the league
- Ages 5 through 16 can typically can play, older teams are formed if there is interest
- The City is hiring umpires
- For more information visit <http://www.kbsa.co.nr/>

Tour guides receive pay

Student ambassadors will receive a \$100 semesterly stipend beginning next year

BY KATE LINMAN
Staff Reporter

Starting next year, Truman State student ambassadors will receive more than just the knowledge that they might have helped a student decide Truman is the right choice — the 65 tour guides will receive a \$100 semester stipend.

The Admissions Office has reallocated funds to give each student ambassador a \$100 semester stipend for the work they do, Recruitment Assistant Director Jill Graves said.

Graves said, given the importance of student ambassadors' role of recruiting freshmen, along with all the hours put into this previously volunteer job, the Admissions Office wanted to say thank you to the student ambassadors.

"This is something that we need to make sure we have people committed and dedicated to the recruitment," Graves said. "Recruitment is an incredibly important part to the process, and if we don't have students [at Truman] we need to do everything we can to get students here so we can keep running the University."

The student ambassadors will need to fulfill requirements to receive the stipend, but those requirements have not been decided, Graves said. She also said she doesn't think the stipend will make a significant difference in the number of people interested in becoming a student ambassador because the amount isn't significant. She said she would be disappointed to see people wanting to become an ambassador just for the money.

Student ambassador junior Colton Richardson said he would have continued being a student ambassador next year regardless of the stipend because he gives tours for the chance to meet new people.

"I love meeting with potential students and families, being able to express what I love about this school and what, hopefully, they will love about this school," Richardson said.

He said student ambassadors volunteer for the job, yet put in nearly as many hours as a scholarship job would require. Richardson said he spends about 58 hours a semester volunteering as a student ambassador, and said the math comes out to \$1.80 per hour, so it doesn't affect his decision to continue.

He said there was a large number of students who applied for next year, and to his knowledge they were not told that it would be a stipend position next year.

"I don't really see it as getting paid for the job," Richardson said. "I see it as a 'thank you' at the end of the semester for the work that we do."

Senior Sarah Garcia has been a student ambassador since her sophomore year. Although she will graduate in May and the stipend decision won't affect her, she still said she thinks it could help recruit more students for student ambassador positions.

"I think it's good extrinsic motivation," Garcia said. "Everyone likes having a physical reward for the things they do, but I also think people should be intrinsically motivated to want to be an ambassador."

Classifieds

For Rent

*Wagner Enterprises rental properties are available for 2012-2013 lease. New units with 1-, 2- and 3-bedrooms are all within two blocks of campus! Complete with washer/dryer in each, all electric, central heat and air, private parking and maintenance staff. For more information, call 660-341-5538 or visit www.wespaces.net

*Behrmann Rentals is offering a nice 2-bedroom home close to TSU available May 15, 2012. This home rents for \$450 and has hardwood floors, stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer and dishwasher, central air and carpet. Visit www.housesinkirksville.com for photos and more information or call Jeff Behrmann, owner/agent, at 660-626-7598.

*Property Concepts LLC, your source for affordable student housing, now is leasing for the 2012-2013 school year. Studios, 1- and 2-bedroom units available. Apartments starting at \$325 with heat, water, trash, electric, wireless Internet and cable TV included. Two blocks from campus. On-site laundry. 24-hour maintenance. Pet friendly units available. Close to downtown. 660-627-1400. kirksvilleapartments.com

*Three- and four-bedroom houses close to campus. Newly remodeled. Washer/dryer, stove, refrigerator and microwaves included. Available May. 660-216-3803.

*Three-bedroom, 1- bath house. \$650/month. Cheap to heat. Washer and dryer included. Small pets allowed. Owned by TSU professor. 608 W. Patterson St. Call 660-988-0646.

*Three and four-bedroom apartment. Quiet neighborhood, no pets, water/trash included. Available May 2012. Call Corey Sanford. 660-341-1324 or leave message. \$500/month.

*Three - 4-bedroom ranch only 10 yards from TSU. Being nicely upgraded for new tenants. Best 3 - 4-bedroom left. All appliances including washer/dryer. 601 E. Patterson. Only \$900. Great parking. KPM 665-6380.

*Two-bedroom house, newly remodeled. New paint, new doors, new floors, and a new roof. \$550/month. Near TSU and ATSU. Call 660-216-7964.

*Four-bedroom, 2 1/2 bath large house for rent. Just south of campus. 1 Grim Ct. N. Walking distance, lots of space, large yard garage. Available mid-May for year lease. \$850/mo lawn care included. Mike 636-222-3815.

*Two-bedroom all electric apartment with washer and dryer, 2 blocks from campus. Water is included with rent. 660-341-1805.

*Nice 3-bedroom condo for only \$650. All appliances including washer and dryer. Attached garage for bikes. 909 Sundown very nice. KPM 665-6380.

*Four-bedroom house, completely remodeled with new paint, kitchen, appliances and bathrooms. Washer and dryer included with local landlords. A must see. Call today and receive your first months rent reduced. Call Jerry at 660-216-1794. www.northeastmissouriproperties.com

For Rent

*Missouri Riverside now is showing 1-, 2-, 3-, 4- and 5-bedroom apartments and houses for the 2012-2013 school year. Create a home away from home in one of our newly remodeled houses. Locally owned and managed with more than 20 years of service. Call 660-665-3779 today and schedule an appointment!

*For rent: Several nice one-, two- and three-bedroom units available in the Water Works, Boardwalk, Park Place, St. James and Community Chest Apartments. All within one block of campus. Please check our website at www.4horizonsrealty.com or call Four Horizons Realty, Inc. at (660) 655-3400.

*Four-bedroom, 2-bath/shower, 2 living rooms. Being remodeled now and available for May 2012. New refrigerator, stove, dishwasher and washer/dryer included. Close to TSU and fraternities. Lease now and choose color of paint for bedrooms, carpet color, etc. \$850 a month. Call Bobby Poston at 660-216-1445 to schedule showing.

*Four-bedroom, 2-bath/shower. Large living room and dining room. Washer/dryer included. \$650 a month. May lease. This house is huge with a lot of space. Neat and well maintained. Call 660-216-1445 to schedule showing.

*One-bedroom furnished apartment 2 blocks from TSU. Walk-in closet, washer/dryer, private entrance, off-street parking. A/C. No pets. Available now, May or August. 660-341-3246.

*One efficiency apartment. \$240 a month. Stove and refrigerator furnished. Off-street parking. Close to Truman. Water and trash paid. 660-216-1952.

*Five - 6-bedroom, 2-bath, with range, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer and dryer furnished. Call Evonne Baker 660-341-1785 or CENTURY 21, Whitney Agency 660-665-5678.

*Apartments for rent. One-bedroom upstairs - \$275/ month plus utilities. Two-bedroom upstairs - \$425/ month includes water and trash. Two-bedroom - \$450/ month includes utilities. Four-bedroom - \$940/month includes water and trash. Call 660-341-1934 broker/owner.

*Newer 2-bedroom duplex apartments. One block behind Barnett Hall. Walk-in closet, washer, dryer, refrigerator, range, central air, garbage disposal, off-street parking. Available May. \$450. 665-3208. 8-5.

*Two-bedroom, 1 bath house, just remodeled, walking distance to TSU/KCOM. Available 5/2012. Large living room, eat-in kitchen, laundry room, all new -refrigerator, dishwasher/disposal, washer/dryer, Central Heat and A/C. 660-988-5175. jim@kirksvillental.com www.kirksvillental.com

Nice 4-bedroom, 2 bath home with appliances, washer/dryer, high efficiency furnace/AC. Close to TSU, off-street parking. Rent has not increased in 10 years. One year lease, last month free. Available May 15. Owner/agent 660-341-0941.

For Rent

*High quality 2- and 3-bedroom apartments available for May, June and August 2012 leases. Oriented for the professional student who places a high emphasis on a quiet and safe environment with attractive modern surroundings. CALL ONLY 626-7695.

*Available May. Three-bedroom house close to TSU, nice yard, off-street parking. Hardwood floors, front porch swing, washer/dryer. Call Mike LaBeth, owner-agent 660-216-7144.

*Available August. Two-bedroom house close to TSU. Nice yard, off-street parking. Hardwood floors, washer/dryer. Big rooms. Call Mike LaBeth, owner-agent 660-216-7144.

*Newer 2-bedroom duplex apartments. Near Downtown. Walk-in closet, washer, dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator, range, central air, garbage disposal, outside storage shed. Off-street parking. Available May and August. \$425. 665-3208. 8-5.

*Large 4 plus bedroom apartment. Remodeled. Four blocks from TSU. All utilities paid including Internet and cable. Washer and dryer included. Available August 1. Call 660-216-8608 or 660-627-7243.

For Sale

*Brick Cape Cod house for sale by owner, (plus 2 additional lots) 2 blocks from TSU, central air, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 fireplaces, screened-in porch w/ second floor deck, family room 38' x 12', Call 660-627-0040 or 660-349-8466.

Miscellaneous

*Visit our Coin Laundry at 1003 W. Michigan for the cheapest rates in town!

*Lake Road storage units available starting at \$25. Larger units starting at \$75. Call 660-665-2028.

*Enclosed storage space for rent. Unit sizes from 8x8x9 up to 13x48x12. Covered RV storage space available. Visit www.KirksvilleStorage.com for additional information.

*Looking for a place with roommates. I will pay my share. I'm tired of commuting. Looking for a place to share with others. Easy going, in good shape, friendly, clean, non-smoker, Junior biology major, city pool lifeguard. I study during the week and enjoy fun on the weekends. Let's meet and see if it will work. Call Ross at 660-988-7561 or email at rah072@truman.edu

*Three Truman women students (Vis Com/French majors) seeking summer-only apartment. Nonsmoking, no pets, no parties. 573-248-9555.

*Wanted: Lounge/kitchen employees for Kirksville Country Club. Flexible hours, good atmosphere. Applications available at the club or can be requested by emailing aldaniels@cableone.net. 660-665-4121.