



## Joe Epperson

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Kirksville resident Joe Epperson is running for City Council with the goal of bringing businesses to town and managing the City budget.

Epperson, a Kirksville native, went to the public schools and then-Northeast Missouri State University. He has worked in factories and retail, including delivery and repair services, and now drives a truck hauling scrap metal for Whispers, a local business.

Epperson said he decided to run for City Council be-

cause he thinks maintaining City projects drains too much money from Kirksville, such as City employees having to clear snow off sidewalks installed on residential or commercial property.

Epperson is also concerned with bringing new businesses to Kirksville.

"I know everyone would like to see a factory come to Kirksville, but you can't wave a wand and make it happen," he said. "It takes work to attract new industry to come to town."

He also encourages local residents to start small businesses, saying money from the government could aid the startups.

The Index profiles one City Council candidate a week. Election Day is April 3. The final candidate profile will run in the March 22 issue



## Here comes the sun



Senior Lisa Holmes and alumnus Tristan Wood lie on the grass by Pickler Memorial Library on Tuesday, enjoying the 75-degree weather. Activities on The Quad were in full bloom as Kirksville basked under cloudless skies.

Hanna Bilinski/Index

## Writing Center seeks to help with specific classes

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS  
Staff Reporter

Writing well isn't easy for all students. To improve writers, the Truman State University's Writing Center is conducting a pilot program this semester.

The program pairs writing center consultants, called fellows, with specific classes so they can cater to the needs of students in those classes.

Writing Center Director David Leaton said the goal of the pilot program is to see whether a permanent program of this type will work at Truman, and how it could function. He said this type of program is used at universities across the country, and has even been used at Truman during the past. Leaton said he is uncertain about the reason why the program ceased to exist.

Leaton said writing center fellows are paired with professors to help with classes taught by that professor. The professors choose what services they want the fellow to perform while working with the class, he said.

Some of the services a fellow might provide include voluntary consultation with students about writing, mandatory consultation, hosting workshops, leading small group discussions, whole class presentations and even helping an instructor with writing evaluations. Leaton said fellows also might provide professors with feedback about the clarity of writing assignments and course materials.

"Any kind of writing support that the instructor needs, the writing consultants are always there and can do that," he said.

The pilot program is active for six courses with six different professors. There are 11 fellows that are divided between the courses, Leaton said.

He said he tried to get a variety of classes to participate in the pilot to see how the program would work in different scenarios. Professors volunteered to have their classes participate in the pilot program, he said. During the future, professors will be able to request a fellow for their classes.

English professor Jamie D'Agostino said he volunteered his advanced creative writing class about novel writing for the pilot program because he knew the students in his class would benefit from it. He also volunteered because he wanted to support the Writing Center and the development of the consultants that work for the center.

### Pilot program services

- 1 Voluntary consultation
- 2 Mandatory consultation
- 3 Hosting workshops
- 4 Leading small group discussions
- 5 Whole class presentations
- 6 Help instructors with writing evaluations

D'Agostino said his class has two fellows who lead small-group workshops and meet with students individually to review their work.

He said the pilot program has been invaluable in his class. He said the fellows have been a great support system for the students in the class and for him as a professor. He said he plans to participate in the program in the future.

"I'm looking forward to working with writing fellows in future classes, in different contexts," D'Agostino said.

Senior Josh Kehe said he has been a writing center consultant for three years and wanted to be involved in the new pilot program. He said he is a fellow for D'Agostino, as well as taking the class that he consults for.

Kehe said he really likes that the fellows program allows the consultants to work directly with the professors so they can better understand the needs of the students.

Leaton said this program is a win-win situation — the students receive writing help, the professors have writing support and the fellows gain professional experience.

"So far with the pilot program this semester, everyone has gotten what they wanted," Leaton said. "All of the resources the instructors needed were provided."

Leaton said the pilot program will be heavily assessed at the end of the semester through student surveys and meetings with professors and fellows. He said the program is going well and he plans to implement the program permanently during the fall.

## Less snowfall changes plans

### Mild winter affects snow removal businesses and city spending

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS  
Staff Reporter

The lack of snow this winter had mixed effects for local snow removal companies.

Some were hit hard financially because of the decrease in work available, while others were able to survive with other services they provide.

Kirksville resident Steve Embree said he has been plowing snow the last several years in Kirksville and relies on that income during the winter. Embree said that last year, he pushed snow three or four times a month, but has only had to do it three times so far this year.

Embree said he usually hires one or two people to help him plow the properties that he has contracted. This year he didn't need the extra help. He said he has about 40 contracts to plow snow this year and didn't even need to work on half of them.

Embree said he had to work several part-time jobs this winter to make up for the income he usually earns from plowing. The money he did earn from plowing only covered the costs of the supplies needed for the job.

"Next year I might look at doing something entirely different and not depending on snow removal at all," Embree said.

Snyder's New Lawn Service hasn't been affected much by

the lack of snow, owner Shannon Snyder said. He said the snow has run in cycles like this throughout the past and he is used to having the occasional mild winter and less income from snow removal.

He said the company makes enough money from lawn care services during the summer that it doesn't have to rely on snow removal during the winter. The company is based on landscaping but provides snow removal services so that it can maintain its yearly contract, he said.

Snyder said his employees technically are unemployed during the winter months and only work for him when snow removal is needed. Because they collect unemployment checks during the winter, the lack of snow has little financial impact on Snyder's employees, he said.

The lack of snow is a good thing for local businesses, Snyder said, because they don't have to pay for the snow removal, especially after the heavy winter last year.

The City also is saving money because of the lack of snow, said Ray Sandstrom, Kirksville Street Maintenance Supervisor. He said the City didn't have to buy salt or pay overtime, and has saved the equipment from a lot of wear-and-tear. Sandstrom said Kirksville needed a year like this after the amount of snow the area received last year.

"After last year, I don't really care to see a whole lot of snow this year," Snyder said.



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