




## Daniel Branstetter

**BY ASHLEY JOST**  
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Daniel Branstetter, a Green City, Mo., native, said that when he was growing up, Kirksville, Mo., was "the place to be," which is one of the reasons he is running for City Council. Younger than his competitors, 29-year-old Branstetter said he decided to run because it seems like the right time.

"There are very few young people running for elected office anymore," he said. "I've talked to a few others from our generation and finally got tired of just talking about it and decided to put my money where my mouth was."

Branstetter said his biggest concern is the lack of jobs in Kirksville. "Now is the time to be laying the groundwork to pick things back up," he said.

He said he's sure there are some businesses wanting to expand, but Kirksville needs to become more marketable before the city loses "really

great chances to bring jobs into town." To make Kirksville more marketable, he said, the City should back K-REDI's work and its efforts in looking at potential businesses to come to town, and what it would take to make that happen. "Kirksville is a great place to live," Branstetter said. "But it has room for improvement." These improvements are what he said he hopes to fix if elected to Council.

Branstetter lives in Kirksville with his wife and 2-year-old son. He works at Home Depot as a sales associate. "I think I'm bringing something different to the table with my age and with my hope to really bring work back to Kirksville," he said.

**The Index has profiled each of the City Council candidates. Election Day is April 3.**

Betty McClane-Iles  
Robert "Bob" Russell  
Joe Epperson  
Daniel Branstetter

## Vehicle thefts

between March 15 and March 19

**5200 block of North Baltimore St.**  
propane torch, electric cords, radar detector, CDs

**1700 block of South Baird St.**  
approximately \$4500 in tools

**East Jefferson St.**  
1000 block \$20 cash    900 block \$10 cash  
900 block ring        700 block musical instruments

**1000 block East McPherson**  
bank card

**1000 block North Osteopathy**  
medication

# String of thefts hits car owners

**KPD investigates eight car break-ins during a five-day period**

**BY ASHLEY JOST**  
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Kirksville Police Department is investigating eight motor vehicle thefts that occurred March 15-19.

The stolen items range from \$10 in cash to \$4,500 worth of tools, according to an investigative document from the police department.

Detective Justin Jones said there's reason to think more than one person is involved in the thefts, especially in the case of the stolen tools.

"We get hit with these [thefts] every time it gets warm," Jones said. "It slows down during the winter because not even the thieves want to be outside in the cold."

Jones said these instances usually occur because people leave their windows down or their doors unlocked. He said there generally isn't damage to the car.

"Thieves don't take time to break a window out of a car for \$5 in change, but they might for a laptop," he said.

Jones said he suggests not leaving anything valuable in the car and making sure the windows are rolled up, because even a small amount of room can allow someone to use a coat hanger to hit the power lock buttons.

Information about suspects and the victims has yet to be released as the investigation is underway.

# Senior attempts world-record game

**Student plays four-and-a-half days of basketball for charity**

**BY JACKIE KINEALY**  
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While Div. 1 athletes play 40-minute basketball games in the NCAA Midwest Regionals this weekend at the Edward Jones Dome in downtown St. Louis, one Truman State senior is playing a 6,600-minute game across the street.

Senior Brandon Carter is one of 24 men who will attempt to continuously play basketball for 110 hours to break the Guinness World Record for longest basketball game and raise money for Joplin, Mo., — where the deadliest tornado in 60 years occurred this summer.

The tip off was 5 a.m. yesterday and ends 7 p.m. Sunday at the venue is the Missouri Athletic Club in downtown St. Louis.

Carter said he and his younger brother stumbled upon the team during Winter Break while playing a pick-up game at the YMCA. Two men on the court were organizing the record-breaking game and invited the Carter brothers to join, he said.

The game is raising money through corporate sponsorships and individual donors for the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce — an organization they chose because it dispenses money to individuals and businesses in need of assistance.

Carter said he helped persuade Wells-Fargo Advisers to sponsor one of the teams and to donate \$10,000 — twice the amount required for a corporate sponsorship.

He said he's been using a half-marathon training schedule to prepare for the four-and-a-half-day game, which "is less about basketball and more about endurance." The training has put him in the best shape of his life, he said.

Carter said he loves basketball, but he's expecting to need a long break from the game after hearing the sounds of the ball bouncing on a gym floor for 110 hours.

The event producers, who have organized two world-record baseball games, advised him to bring something completely unrelated to basketball to occupy him during his shifts off court, Carter said. For him, it will be homework.

Steve Pona, one of the event producers, said that when he checked earlier this week, the game had raised more than \$100,000 and he hoped to raise \$250,000 for Joplin by the final buzzer Sunday night.

Pona said disaster relief still is greatly needed.

"They'll be rebuilding for 10 years," Pona said based on his observations from a visit to Joplin eight weeks ago.

Pona said the fact that the NCAA tournament is across the street is not accidental.

"We planned to do the event while basketball was in the hearts and minds of the whole



Senior Brandon Carter practices Monday afternoon in the Student Recreation Center. Carter said he might need to take a vacation from basketball after playing in the marathon game this weekend.

country," he said.

Pona and his co-producer Chuck Williams started planning and training for the event a year-and-a-half ago.

The money raised through the

basketball game will go into the Business Recovery Fund, which the Joplin Chamber of Commerce manages, Chamber Vice President Tonya Sprenkle said.

The fund provides low-interest

loans and employee training for small business owners who need assistance returning to pre-tornado functioning. It also supports Children's Haven, a daycare center that serves tornado-affected families.



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