

Compost workers see cuts

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While one local environmental organization is facing a depleted budget, another is getting national attention.

After expanding into Missouri Hall last semester, some Compost Crew student workers will lose their institutional jobs for the rest of the semester because of a budget shortfall.

The Compost Crew program takes and composts food waste from everywhere food is served on campus. Students collect leftover food scraps during peak hours in the dining halls, convenience stores and coffee shops and others transport it to the University Farm to compost.

At its inception, the Compost Crew used a grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Solid Waste Management Program. After money from the grant ran out, the University agreed to pay an equal amount of institutional hours as scholarship and work-study hours.

Junior Kyle Lavelle, last semester's Compost Crew intern, said that when the program expanded into Missouri Hall during the fall, it used more institutional workers than work study or scholarship, and exhausted the funds available for paid workers.

Senior Zach Miller, the current Compost Crew intern, said biology professor Michael Kelrick was able to get the program about \$1,000 more, meaning institutional workers will be able to work until the end of this week. There are about 40 students working on the Compost Crew, 15 that work for institutional pay, he said.

This isn't necessarily bad news, Miller said. The Compost Crew doesn't work during Final Exam Week, so students will only be unemployed for a few weeks.



Two Compost Crew workers save food scraps sent back on plates by students in Centennial Hall on Tuesday afternoon. A transporter takes the scraps to the compost plot on the University Farm.

Hanna Billinski/Index

"We had to add on another five shifts six days of the week [in Missouri Hall last semester], so this is a great thing," Miller said. "We're providing jobs for students and it's very positive and hopefully the University recognizes what we do."

Meanwhile, another local compost organization is receiving national recognition. Rot Riders, a local organization that picks up

Kirkville residents' compost, works with the Compost Crew, said junior Logan Riney, Rot Riders co-founder. The group entered a contest sponsored by GOOD magazine during February to win \$500, and won second place. Good wrote a story about the Rot Riders on its website, and the organization has seen a lot of feedback, Riney said.

A student from Massachusetts Institute

of Technology contacted the group and offered to help with advertising, and a member of a Missouri science teachers group also would like to write an article about the group in the association's newsletter.

To sign up to volunteer for the Rot Riders or to have your compost picked up, email rot-riders@kvpermaculture.org.

Semester's registration to come with wait lists

BY CHRISTA DECLUE
Staff Reporter

Truman State students can put their name on a wait list starting this semester to get a spot in a full class, rather than constantly checking TruView for an open slot.

When a spot in the class opens up, an email will be sent to the first person wait-listed, University Registrar Maggie Herron said. She said Sungard, the Truman's information technology provider approached the Registrar's office with the new feature. The University adopted it because it had been something that departments had approached the Registrar's about during the past.

If a student tries to register for full classes, a message will pop up and ask the student if they would like to be put on a wait list for that class, Herron said. If a person drops out of that class, the first person in line will receive an email telling them they have 24 hours to register for that class, Herron said. The number of students on a wait list can vary, she said.

"It depends on the department, it can be anywhere from zero to 99, but it is recommended not to double the size of their classes," Herron said.

There also are priority forms students can fill out, to send a request to the instructor explaining why they need to be at the top of the wait list. These are used for situations such as seniors who need the class to graduate and transfer students who need to be in a course to stay on track, Herron said.

Overrides still will be made

New Wait List Feature

- * When a class is full, students can enroll on a wait list
- * If someone drops the class, the first person on the wait list receives an email notification.
- * Students can submit a priority request form to get on the top of the wait list.
- * Overrides still will be available for certain circumstances: if students need the course to graduate or stay on track.



available for certain circumstances, such as pre-requisite classes that are crucial to the student's progress that semester, Herron said.

The wait lists take anxiety away from students because they now can wait list multiple sections of one course, Herron said. Departments requested the wait list feature because of many override requests, hoping it would alleviate the stress of registration for students.

This is the first time Truman has enacted wait lists, but it was brought up during Spring 2011 at a Dean's meeting. The Deans unanimously supported the implementation of wait lists, Herron said. Some of the departments had manual wait lists where a professor could go and manually add people to a wait list, which was a long process, she said.

"[In the past] it wasn't a seamless process, with this upgrade it became

less of a manual process," Herron said.

Truman looked at other colleges with wait lists to see how well they worked, Herron said. At the school, University of California, Davis, which has 30,000 students, the students go through two tasks of registering, Registrar's Assistant Helen Wi said. The two tasks are used for the students who register for the class, then there is a delay period that allows time for drops to happen, and the second registration task occurs, when they register again, Wi said.

She said that after the second task, the wait list will open up for students. It is a longer process but the student body is bigger, Wi said.

"I think [wait lists] benefit our university because even if you're just on the wait list, a professor can expand the class to add ten seats if there are that many people on the list," Wi said.

Sheriff checks sex offenders' compliance

BY PHILIP ZAHND
Staff Reporter

The Adair County Sheriff's Office conducted an unannounced update of registered sex offenders in the county during the first three weeks of March to comply with the state-determined restrictions.

All but one of the 56 offenders were found to be in compliance, according to a Sheriff's Office press release. The individual had not registered his residence address within three days of the last 90-day period. The Sheriff's Office filing charges against the offender.

Sheriff Robert Hardwick said most, if not all, offenders are found to be in compliance during the unannounced operations.

Offenders throughout Missouri who committed a sex offense against a person younger than the age of 18 must report their information every 90 days, according to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Missouri Sex Offender List. Offenders who committed a sex offense against a person 18 or older must report twice a year.

All sex offenders in the United States must report at these periodicals for the rest of their lives after a 2010 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, Hardwick said.

Hardwick said sex offenders are not required to report their residence to surrounding neighbors. Although some offenders have living restrictions, such as not being allowed to reside within 1000 feet of a school or playground, Hardwick said. Some offenders are required to post a sign stating, "No candy or treats at this residence" during Halloween.

Hardwick said the Sheriff's Office occasionally receives complaints about the living arrangements of sex offenders. He said most residents are satisfied after he explains the regulations.

Bill King, Chief of Operations for the Sheriff's Office, said people often mistakenly categorize all sex offenders into the same category. In reality, different offenses warrant different regulations and restrictions, he said.

"Everybody thinks a registered sex offender is a child molester, and that's not the case," King said. "Anyone who is convicted of a sexual offense is a sex offender."

He said most offenders are allowed to be around children if they are not on probation.

"Some of them are married and have children," Hardwick said.

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