

## Students buy treats for their sweets



Junior Nick Moody buys cupcakes from Sigma Alpha Iota members, sophomore Colleen Ryan and junior Jaina Linsley, Feb. 14, in the Ophelia Parrish lobby. SAI, a women's music sorority, decorated the cupcakes for Valentine's Day. **Calli Lowry/Index**

## Officials meet with legislators

**Kirkville officials visit Capitol to talk about community projects**

**BY DANIELLE WALDRON**  
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Kirkville officials went to Jefferson City yesterday to represent northeast Missouri at the annual Day at the Capitol event.

Different business owners and representatives from Kirkville went to meet with legislators at the Capitol to speak about community projects.

Sandra Williams, Executive Director of the Kirkville Chamber of Commerce, said multiple Kirkville-area groups attend the event, including the Chamber of Commerce, Adair County officials and Northeast Regional Medical Center.

Each group distributes information about Kirkville and what their departments do for northeast Missouri, Williams said, and they meet with legislators in the Capitol Rotunda. She said she wants to remind legislators of the economic importance of northeast Missouri, specifically Kirkville.

Williams said the Day at the Capitol event is Truman's event and the University works with the City to coordinate the event. She students from the University and officials from the City are set up in the rotunda together.

"We enjoy being able to go down and represent our community together," Williams said. "It shows a united front. We want legislators to remember that we have a lot to offer and we have a lot of their constituents from all over the state that attend school in Kirkville."

A.T. Still University also participates at the event with the City to help create awareness about current legislative topics for state representatives, said Virginia Halterman, A.T. Still Acting Associate Vice President for Communication and Marketing.

Halterman said A.T. Still has attended the event for about five years and works in collaboration with the other City attendees, such as Kirkville Regional Economic Development, Inc., Chamber of Commerce and Adair County Commissioners.

"There are key issues that do have an impact for us, such as student loans and health care reform with the Affordable Care Act," Halterman said. "We do have a significant economic impact, though, in northeast Missouri for bringing students in from all over the country and then delivering health care services to the nation upon graduation."

Kirkville Mayor Richard Detweiler said he doesn't want legislators to forget about the City and what it has to offer, especially because of the City's location. Detweiler said because of two universities, a community college and an R-3 school district, education is the City's economic force and the "heart and soul" of Kirkville.

Detweiler said it is important for state representatives to be aware of the support from the City.

"Everyone works so hard," Detweiler said. "We all work for the same goals to promote Kirkville. Many people can do many things and we set high goals. Together, we achieve them."

## The City supports Medicaid expansion

**City endorses plan to expand Missouri Medicaid funding**

**BY DAN MIKA**  
Staff Reporter

The Kirkville Chamber of Commerce endorsed Gov. Jay Nixon's plan to expand Medicaid funding throughout Missouri.

Sandra Williams, Kirkville Chamber of Commerce Director, said Nixon's plan could bring \$5.7 million into the state. Williams also said the plan would also have the federal government reimburse hospitals when they take care of patients that cannot afford treatment and expand coverage. The Chamber of Commerce endorsed the plan because the extra funding would protect jobs in the Kirkville area due to the amount of health care organizations located in town, Williams said.

"I'm afraid if funding goes away, we will end up cutting jobs all over the place," Williams said. Williams said the plan will expand coverage to about 300,000 additional people across the state.

She said the state currently funds 60 percent of Medicaid in Missouri while the federal government funds 40 percent. If the plan is put into effect, the federal government would cover 100 percent of Medicaid costs throughout the state for three years, Williams said. After that, the state will pay 10 percent and the federal government will pay 90 percent of the Medicaid costs, Williams said.

The Medicaid expansion, while endorsed by Nixon and lauded by health care groups,

### Medicaid Expansion

Nixon's plan will bring in \$5.7 million in state  
Could expand coverage to 300,000 additional people

If the Federal Government covers 100 percent of in-state Medicaid costs,  
10 percent will be paid for by the state  
90 percent will be paid for by the federal government

\*according to Sandra Williams, Kirkville Chamber of Commerce Director

has faced some opposition from Moody's, an agency that assigns credit ratings to corporations and governments. Moody's changed its rating outlook Feb. 5 for the state of Missouri from "stable" to "negative," according to a Moody's press release.

The change is due to the increased dependence on the federal government if Missouri expands Medicaid, according to the press release. The U.S. government currently has a "negative" rating outlook by the agency, according to the press release. Moody's currently assigns Missouri and the U.S. government a triple-A rating, which is the highest possible rating.

Missouri legislators also are concerned about how much the expansion would cost in the future, economics professor Terry Olson said. Olson said if the plan goes into effect, the state would receive more money from the federal government than it pays during the first few years.

However, the rate will change several years after the expansion happens and might have the state paying more to the federal government than it receives, Olson said.

"That might be money you'd otherwise spend on other things like roads and education," Olson said. "They would have to put that money into

Medicaid instead."

Scott Holste, a spokesman for Nixon, said the state would be paying more because the federal government isn't paying as much to the state.

"If we don't move forward with this, the budget of the state would bear more of the burden and Missouri's Medicaid costs would continue to grow," Holste said.

Holste said if Medicaid stays as it is in Missouri, billions of taxpayer dollars would be sent to other states.

"The governor believes that sending our money to other states is not the fiscally responsible approach," Holste said.

## Princeton Review ranks Truman a 'Best Value' college

**Truman State featured in The Princeton Review for affordability, low student debt**

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Truman State was featured as a "Best Value" college for the 2013 Princeton Review, a college ranking book, earlier this month.

The University ranked third out of 75 public schools for out-of-state affordability. It was also the number one public school in Missouri for lowest average student debt upon graduation.

David Soto, The Princeton Review Content Development Director, said schools listed are measured for academic rigor, quality of incoming students, current student experience, financial aid provided to students and total cost of attendance.

He said it is important to consider what schools are doing to offset the cost of attending college, such as by providing grants and scholarships. Soto said the list of colleges and universities provides a cross section of affordable options for prospective students and their parents.

"We already hold Truman in a high regard, and students enrolled there prob-

ably do the same," Soto said. "We take the opinion of current students very seriously and students always provide candid feedback on student surveys."

Truman frequently is featured on other lists as well, said Regina Morin, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management. She said the University often appears on mainstream lists such as Kiplinger's as well as on those that are not as highly publicized, like the Washington Monthly, which are both college ranking lists.

She said the information for rankings are available on the University's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems report, which is public information with the U.S. Department of Education. The federal IPEDS report provides information about a university's graduation percentages, retention rates and loan information and must be reported to the government on a yearly basis, Morin said.

She said every ranking system Truman appears on uses different criteria for ranking and it helps convey the strengths of the University. For example, she said Truman was ranked 19 on Kiplinger's Best Value list, Morin said.

The information about the different ranking systems and the University's rank can be found on the Truman website.

The Princeton Review gathers data from a random sampling of student

## PRINCETON REVIEW

**FACTORS CONSIDERED WHEN COMPRISING LISTS IN THE PRINCETON REVIEW:**

- » ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
- » COST
- » FINANCIAL AID
- » STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEYS

**OUT OF 75 PUBLIC COLLEGES, TRUMAN RANKS:**

- #3 IN OUT-OF-STATE AFFORDABILITY**
- #1 IN LOWEST AVERAGE STUDENT DEBT AT GRADUATION**

\*ACCORDING TO DAVID SOTO, DIRECTOR OF CONTENT DEVELOPMENT AT THE PRINCETON REVIEW

surveys, Morin said, and the subjective student opinion are synthesized when comprising the list.

The ranking on The Princeton Review and other lists is an honor, Morin said, but rankings are just a portion of the college search process. She said the ranking is a helpful tool for families to use when beginning the college selection process and creates top-of-mind awareness for the University.

Polly Matteson, University Career Center Assistant Director, said the rank-

ing gives recognition to the University and thus aids current students and graduates when applying for internships or searching for a career. She said the distinction helps showcase the University's quality programs and students.

"When I am marketing Truman to employers, the different lists that Truman is ranked on are one of my initial talking points and it does carry weight," Matteson said. "It gives us more credibility and visibility to the outside world and gives us a great conversation to start with."