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DPS struggles to fill open positions

DPS operates two officers understaffed for more than a year

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN
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The Truman State Department of Public Safety has been understaffed while looking to hire two police officers for more than a year.

DPS Chief of Police Tom Johnson said while being short staffed has no impact on students, the officers each have to work about 20 hours of overtime per month. DPS has to pay the officers more for overtime work, which is more expensive than hiring more officers.

Johnson said DPS is having difficulty finding replacements because DPS is looking for a police academy graduate who can pass all of the necessary tests, including a background check,

lie detector test, drug test, psychological test and physical exam. Johnson said these have always been the requirements to work as a DPS officer.

Johnson said during the past year, one employee retired and another left the department, and they have been unable to find qualified candidates to fill the vacancies.

While Johnson said DPS does not want to pay for someone to be trained by the academy, if he can't find anyone to fill the position, DPS will consider applicants who

still need academy training if the applicants meet the other requirements.

Because of the difficulty of finding someone, Johnson said DPS plans to use the Truman Career Exposition during March to try to find Truman students interested in the positions. He has worked with Career Coordinator Brandi Wriedt during the last month to publicize information about the job.

Wriedt said she helped Johnson post about the job opening on websites such as higherjobs.com and

with sending information about the job to returning military veterans, who might be good job candidates.

Wriedt said it is difficult to find candidates because many potential candidates want a higher-level position instead of starting at the bottom and working their way up through the ranks. She said many candidates want to work Monday through Friday but DPS has a rotating schedule, meaning officers take turns working nights

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Submitted photo

Country artist Lee Brice is known for his song "Love Like Crazy," which was the longest-charting country single throughout Billboard history, according to the SAB press release. Brice will be performing at 8:15 p.m. May 3 at Pershing Arena.

Brice selected for concert

Student Activities Board scheduled country artist Lee Brice to perform this spring

BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA
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Country music artist Lee Brice is scheduled to perform on campus for the Student Activities Board Spring Concert May 3.

SAB Vice President senior Alec Sydlow said SAB tries to bring a variety of artists to campus and they are excited to bring a country music artist to campus.

Brice was listed on the Big Entertainment Survey, which students took during the fall, and 21.1 percent of students listed him as a preferred artist. Four other artists including Phillip Phillips, Matt and Kim, Macklemore and Mat Kearney received more nominations as a preferred artist from students than Brice, but because of price

and a lack of available weekend dates, SAB will be bringing Brice.

Sydlow said the entertainment survey often results with indie rock bands top choices so it is nice to accommodate a different interest on campus.

Senior Andrew Korte, SAB concert committee chair, said SAB is anticipating more Kirksville residents at this concert because there are many country music radio stations in the area.

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Nixon allows funding distribution

Missouri Governor releases \$400,000 to Truman State from previous withholdings

BY NATASHA MCCALLISTER
Staff Reporter

Truman State is receiving \$400,000 out of \$8.4 million that Governor Jay Nixon is granting to Missouri's higher education institutions.

Scott Holste, Press Secretary for Missouri Governor, said the economy is improving, which is the reason why Truman and other universities have received this money. Truman received 1 percent of the \$8.4 million. The University is still deciding how best to use the funds.

University President Troy Paino said this money is what Nixon initially withheld at the start of the fiscal year. The Governor wasn't completely confident the state would have enough money in the budget to cover all of the expenses, he said.

Holste said Missouri's general revenue has improved by 18 percent.

Paino said the Governor is comfortable enough to release the money that was withheld from Truman.

Budget Director David Rector said because of the \$400,000 Truman will have \$100,000 extra to spend.

There are some ideas about how the money will be used but nothing is certain at this point, Paino said. He said the money will be invested toward academics. He said the money will impact the classroom learning experience for

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Economic development group gains members

Kirksville economic group holds membership drive

BY DAN ROMINE
Staff Reporter

Kirksville Regional Economic Development, Inc. recently completed a membership drive that increased its numbers.

The membership drive, which ran from Nov. 13 to mid-January, recruited about 25 new business owners, bringing KREDI's membership to about 80, said Carolyn Chrisman, Director of Economic Development at KREDI. She said KREDI only had been expecting to receive 10 to 15 new members.

KREDI is a non-profit organization with the goal to improve the economy of northeast Missouri, Chrisman said. She said KREDI does this by attracting and retaining business. Chrisman said the low cost of land and business as well as an adequate workforce for nearly every business are major attractions for businesses. She actively solicits businesses by traveling to various states around the country, including Kansas, Illinois and California.

KREDI members can receive a variety of benefits depend-

ing upon the membership level they purchase. The lowest level, individual, can be purchased for \$100 and allows members to attend general meetings and receive quarterly e-news. Platinum level membership can be purchased for \$5,000 and includes nearly 20 benefits, including a Board of Directors seat.

Chrisman said the idea for the membership drive was brought up around the same time she started working for KREDI a year ago. She said many members agreed the structure of the membership program needed work, so the board met once a month to redefine each level of membership. She said the original program began when KREDI's predecessor, Northeast Economic Development, was restructured to form KREDI during 2000.

Chrisman said attracting businesses has been rough lately because of the poor economy. She said examples of KREDI's success are Hard-Sole Hardwoods' presence in Kirksville, the \$6 million they've invested locally after their purchase of Reliant Hardwoods and the expansion they're currently planning that will provide more jobs for the community.

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Students travel to the state capital

Truman State students are visiting the capital to meet legislators

BY DANIELLE WALDRON
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Student Senate is planning the Truman State at the Capital event that will occur March 20.

Student Senate members, Truman students and University staff present University projects at the capital's rotunda every year to make state representatives aware of the University and how legislation impacts students, specifically the merit-based funding formula.

Student Government Staff Advisor Laura Bates said University students who attend have a chance to meet Missouri District 3 State Representative Nate Walker and their hometown representative.

Senior Hannah Overfelt, Student Senate External Affairs Chair, said this is the 13th year Student Senate has organized Truman at the Capitol. She said each year students have a specific topic they present to legislators.

Every year, the presented topics are representative of Truman and the community, and Overfelt said the strategy this year is to talk about the

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Submitted photo

From left to right, former Student Senator Erin Blankers, former state representative Sheila Solon and Student Senator Hannah Overfelt pose at the Missouri state capital last spring during Student Senate's visit.