



Women's basketball team break records from beyond the arc  
See page 16

# Truman State University INDEX

104 years of excellence

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## Nixon appoints two Board members



Mike LaBeth



David Bonner

BY ASHLEY JOST  
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Two new members of the Truman State Board of Governors were appointed by Gov. Jay Nixon during the last month, filling the Board's two vacancies.

Kirksville resident Mike LaBeth and alumnus David Bonner were appointed to fill the positions currently held by Ken Read and out-of-state governor John Hilton, both of whose terms expired Dec. 31.

LaBeth, who was appointed Jan. 4, said he is looking forward to having the

opportunity to serve the University and learning about Board operations.

"I grew up in a college family," LaBeth said, as his father worked for William Jewell College in Kansas City, Mo. "I admired the college atmosphere and am a big fan for education, especially higher education."

LaBeth has served as Chamber of Commerce President, as a member of the City's Planning and Zoning Committee and as a member of the Kirksville Regional Economic Development, Inc. Board.

Bonner, who will serve as the out-of-state governor, graduated from Truman with a political science degree

during 2007.

During his time at the University, Bonner said he was involved with Student Senate, College Democrats and Association of Black Collegians, among others. He said he served as a member of Student Senate during all four years of college and always enjoyed working with the Board, but was never able to serve as the student representative because he was an out-of-state student.

"It was always a dream of mine to serve on the Board as a student, and this was an opportunity," Bonner said. "I thought I could do a lot as a student because I was involved and I

Please see BOARD, Page 3

## PAC gets circulation approval

BY DAN ROMINE  
Staff Reporter

Missourians for Equality received approval from the Missouri Secretary of State at the end of December to begin collecting signatures for a petition to amend Missouri's nondiscrimination policy.

The political action committee filed for approval Nov. 7, 2012 and after the typical six to 10 week waiting period, they received permission to begin collecting the 105,000 signatures they need to get on the 2014 ballot, said Monica Nelson, co-founder of Missourians for Equality.

To kick off the campaign, Missourians for Equality is hosting six events across the state during the weekend of Jan. 19, said Brenda Fraser, Resource Director for Missourians for Equality.

She said kickoff parties occur an opportunity for supporters to share their stories with the public and gather further support for the campaign, as well as signatures for the statewide petition. Fraser said events will be held in St. Louis, Kansas City, St. Joseph and Kirksville. Additionally, there will be events Jan. 18 in Columbia and Jan. 20 in St. Charles.

The Kirksville event will take place from 7-8:30 p.m. Jan. 19 at Trinity Episcopal Church and soft drinks and snacks will be provided, said Kevin Minch, Senior Warden at Trinity Episcopal Church and Director of the Truman Institute.

He said personalized invitations have been sent via email and Facebook, and between the confirmed RSVP's and the people he's talked to, he hopes for a good turnout, but it's too soon to tell.

"We're targeting everybody, but obviously Kirksville will have a fairly high concentration of students because it's predominantly a

Please see EQUALITY, Page 3



Submitted Photo

Juniors Anna Lotts and Chelsea Krueger and senior Francois Makarewicz pose at the Blue Heron Orchard east of Kirksville where they visited and participated in a work day, planting and harvesting vegetables. All three students worked with the Farm-to-School program during this past summer, growing and harvesting food at the University Farm.

## Lack of funding could affect Farm to School program

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS  
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Truman State's Farm to School program was unable to obtain funding from the University for the main staff position for the program during the coming year.

Without funding for the position, the program might not be able to continue operating, said junior Chelsea Krueger, former program intern. The Local Foods Coordinator, the position that did not receive funding, manages all fruit and vegetable production, which is then sold to Sodexo and at the Market on the Mall,

she said. The position also mentors the summer interns, she said.

"Basically [the program] loses someone who has the time to focus on the production," Krueger said.

The University made this decision because no new staff positions were approved for the upcoming fiscal year and because there was not enough funding available for the full cost of this position, said Michael Seipel, agricultural science department chair and Farm to School advisor.

He said he was informed just before the end of the semester by John Gering, Dean of Science and Math, that the Local Foods Coordinator position would not be funded by the University.

The position would not be funded by the University.

The program made a request through the School of Science and Math and the Academic Affairs Office during November for the University to create a staff position for the existing Local Foods Coordinator, Seipel said.

This position was previously funded by a grant that expired this fall and is an integral part of the program, Seipel said.

The request for the position was made through Gering with the annual School of Math and Science staffing request, Seipel said. He said the program needed about \$25,000 a

Please see FARM, Page 3

## Truman ranks on "Best Value" list

BY KAITLYN DANIELS  
Staff Reporter

Truman State was placed in the top third of Kiplinger's Personal Finance's list of 100 Best Value Schools this year, climbing 12 spots from 31 to 19 in its ranking.

University President Troy Paino said Truman has remained at the top of Kiplinger's Best 100 Value list since he became president during 2008.

Paino said each publication and institution has slightly different ranking criteria for evaluating different institutions, and Truman does well in almost all the national rankings.

It is not just any one ranking, Paino said, but the breadth of the recognition the University receives. Truman is being recognized as a high-quality institution, Paino said, not only throughout the state but in comparison to in-

stitutions across the country.

"The reason why Truman does so well is that we've been focused on the right things for a long period of time, and that's a commitment to excellence and student learning," Paino said. "If we lose sight of that and start getting focused on what Kiplinger's or News and World thinks of us, I think we would start making the wrong decisions."

Paino said Truman's mission, priorities and values have focused on student learning. Paino said sometimes Truman is criticized for its strong focus on academics because the outside world wants universities to concentrate on what gives them a lot of attention, such as athletics. That is what sets Truman apart from other institutions, Paino said.

Truman's success also is a reflection of the quality of its students, Paino said. Truman attracts some of the best students from around the country and the world, he said.

Please see KIPLINGER'S, Page 3

## New charges filed in homicide case, victim's name released

BY ASHLEY JOST  
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Charges against Kirksville resident Paul Potter were upgraded Tuesday in the homicide case involving the dismemberment of a Village '76 Kirksville resident.

Potter's second degree murder charge for the killing of Willis E. Meredith, who went by the name of Jake Steadman, was enhanced from second to first degree murder, said Matt Wilson, Adair County Prosecuting Attorney.

The identity of the victim was announced Tuesday by Coroner Brian Noe.

Additional charges also were filed against Potter, including armed criminal action and first degree burglary. Potter still is facing previous charges for second degree arson and first degree tampering with a motor vehicle.

Potter was taken into custody after officers responded to a vehicle fire at Valley Forge Drive on Jan. 6.

Officers were made aware of a disturbance at 169 and 170 Valley Forge Drive — a street within the Village '76 living community — involving two apartment fires, according to the probable cause statement filed by detective Jeremy Cordray from the Kirksville Police Department.

Officers witnessed Potter throwing human arms at witnesses, and a dismembered body was found in apartment 170.

"This case, the scene and everything was kind of complex, so we've had to get all of that together and formulate the events that occurred that night, in what order, how and why," Wilson said. "That's going to take time, but I think we



Paul Potter

have enough information to keep moving forward to keep the case going."

Kevin Locke, Potter's attorney, spoke on Potter's behalf during a court date yesterday morning, heard by judge Kristie Swaim. Potter's preliminary hearing will be heard at 9 a.m., Feb. 22.