



Returning home

Alumni from the men's basketball team return to their home court for the alumni basketball game

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Feds offer new loan payment plan

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN
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College graduates paying back college loans now have another option with the U.S. Department of Education's Pay As You Earn loan repayment plan.

This plan is aimed to help borrowers who are having trouble re-

paying loans during the first few years after graduation, especially teachers and other low-paid public service workers, according to a White House press release.

This plan caps monthly loan payments at 10 percent of discretionary income, the difference adjusted gross income and 150 percent of the poverty guidelines.

"Students shouldn't have to bor-

row a single dollar more than they have to, but as loans go, [Pay As You Earn] is definitely worth it," said Kathy Elsea, Truman State Financial Aid Director.

Elsea said it is important to note that not all recent graduates qualify for this program, and qualification is based on whether or not graduates are earning enough money to reasonably pay back loans. She said

students should talk to their loan servicer to find out if they are eligible. Graduates who already are paying loans back under another loan repayment plan can switch to Pay As You Earn, if eligible, according to the Federal Student Aid website. Students can find more information about eligibility at StudentAid.gov.

Elsea said about half of Truman students take out student loans and

she is unsure how many of those students will be able to utilize the Pay As You Earn program because it is based on income after graduation.

She said Pay As You Earn can help prevent students in difficult financial situations from defaulting on loans.

"I think the government needs to do everything they can to help

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Shot fired downtown

A shot was fired at about 2 a.m. Friday morning outside of Wrongdaddy's

BY DANIELLE WALDRON
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The Kirksville Police Department is investigating reports of gunfire near the downtown area early Saturday morning.

The shots were fired from the 300 block of West McPherson Street outside of Wrongdaddy's, according to the KPD. Detective Justin Jones said police officers were doing foot patrols in the downtown area at about 2 a.m. when the shots were heard. He said after hearing the shots, KPD made contact with several individuals.

Jones said one individual was taken into custody, which was semi-unrelated to the incident. The individual was not identified.

Wrongdaddy's owner Craig Shorten said he still is waiting for information about the gunshot reports.

"Staff and management of Wrongdaddy's know only of alleged incident through third-party reports," Shorten said. "[Wrongdaddy's] has not been contacted by authorities regarding this matter."

See <http://tmn.truman.edu/theindex> for updates as more information is released.

Graves visits Kirksville

Republican Sam Graves will visit Kirksville to discuss issues facing small businesses, jobs

BY ASHLEY JOST
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Congressman Sam Graves, R-Mo., will be hosting a meet-and-greet at 12:30 p.m. Friday at Lovegreen Ford to talk to residents and area business owners about top interest issues.

Graves will provide a legislative update regarding jobs and small businesses, communications director Jason Klindt said, as those are the topics that affect not only his district, but the country.

"The Congressman believes in representing his district to Washington, and not the

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Anna Grace and Ashley Jost/Index

Right, Marianne Farr, principal of Ray Miller Elementary School, swipes her ID card to enter the building Tuesday afternoon. The ID cards are one of the security procedures installed into the district, along with four to five security buttons that were installed in each building, including Kirksville Middle School, pictured above.



Local schools upgrade security

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN, Assistant News Editor

The Kirksville School District is installing an emergency response system, partially in response to the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

School Board president Neal Chamberlain said the new system will allow school officials to notify police dispatch of an emergency with the push of a button. The almost \$10,000 system will be installed in each of the Kirksville schools and in the Central Office by the end of January, Chamberlain said.

Superintendent Patrick Williams said during October, the Schools began discussing installing such a system, but the

installation process was quickened in response to the Sandy Hook shooting.

Williams said it "results in us all pausing [to emergencies] and what measures we need to have in places and ensure the community that we take student safety very seriously."

Chamberlain said the system could be compared to a bank security system because there are four to five buttons hidden in each building, and in case of an emergency, a building staff member can push one of the buttons to call 9-1-1.

"Minutes make a difference," Williams said.

Chamberlain said the funding for the

system is coming from this year's Kirksville School District budget.

He said this new system is one of several increased security measures Kirksville schools have taken during the past few years. Other measures include cards staff must scan to enter the building, the locking of entrances to monitor who is entering and leaving the buildings, more security cameras and an intercom system to notify teachers in case of an emergency.

"Having that many precautions in place makes every parent feel a lot better, especially considering everything that's happened," said Mendy Snyder, parent of a Ray Miller Elementary

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USDA provides loans

Emergency loans made available for farmers impacted by drought

BY DANIELLE WALDRON
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The United States Department of Agriculture is coordinating with local farms and providing emergency loans to farmers who were affected by the drought during summer 2012.

Philip Ayers, Adair County Executive Director of the USDA, said 31 counties in the state have been designated as natural disaster areas, including Adair County. He said Adair County is what is known as a "continuous county," meaning Adair County neighbors a



Danielle Waldron/Index

Kirksville farmer James Novinger checks a watering trough for his cattle. Water is supplied from ponds on the farm, which has been scarce because of the drought.

county that met disaster designations declared by Gov. Jay Nixon and President Barack Obama. Ayers said Adair County has about 900 farmers who

lost about two-thirds of their crop and cattle due to the drought.

Ayers said the natural

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Former Sodexo employee sentenced

Daniel Coy pleads guilty to child molestation charge

BY ROSE MCCRAY
Staff Reporter

Kirksville resident and former Sodexo employee Daniel Coy, 45, was sentenced to seven years in prison after he pleaded guilty to a first degree child molestation charge.

Adair County Prosecutor Matt Wilson urged a 10-year sentence that included a denial of probation, but Coy's attorney, Raymond Legg, asked for immediate probation.

"Daniel Coy plead guilty to statutory sodomy, where he



Daniel Coy

plead guilty to inappropriately touching a 13 year old boy," Wilson said. "He faced a punishment of up to 15 years in prison and a minimum of five years in

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