



Kirksville Art Association exhibit features local youth art  
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# Truman State University INDEX

104 years of excellence

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## Funding formula discussion continues

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN  
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Senate Bill 437 regarding funding for Missouri higher education was read to the Missouri Senate Education Committee March 27.

Senator David Pearce, R-21, sponsors the bill. He said the bill incorporates much of the funding formula released by the Joint Committee on Education Feb. 26.

Stacey Preis, Joint Committee Executive Director, said the only difference between the plan released by the Joint Committee and Senate Bill 437 is the bill includes community colleges in the performance funding formula as opposed to calculating funding for community colleges differently from universities.

The Joint Committee on Education was composed of Senators and Representatives  
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## On campus cable options to expand

BY SARAH-WONDER AGBEHIA  
Staff Reporter

Beginning July 1, Truman State students with high definition televisions will be able to watch a variety of new channels on the campus cable network.

Residence Life Director John Gardner said the University will receive 40 more analog channels and 26 high definition channels. As part of the new contract with a new provider, INC cable company, students with high definition televisions will be able to view more channels exclusively in high definition.

The University currently is finalizing the terms of the contract. The change to INC cable was made after a six and a half year contract with Campus TeleVideo, which provided students with about 75 analog channels.

"Per state statute, the contract must be renewed approximately every five years," purchasing supervisor Kim Murphy said. "We decided to go with a new company, INC, and we are currently in the process of negotiating the contract."

Murphy said Truman decided to  
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## Fire Department and City Council continue to bargain about contract

BY DAN MIKA  
Staff Reporter

The Kirksville City Council approved a 90-day extension of the current bargaining agreement with the Kirksville Fire Department last week after failing to reach a new contract agreement at private meetings.

The local firefighter's union and City Council had been negotiating for several months but couldn't agree about certain parts of a new collective bargaining agreement, including overtime pay, Kirksville Mayor Richard Detweiler said. The negotiations went pub-

lic during a City Council meeting March 18, when several members of the International Association of Firefighters Local 2952 testified against the proposed deal.

If an agreement is not reached, the City Council can legally impose the proposed plan on the fire department to ensure the fire department continues functioning and providing services.

Local 2952 President Jeremy Davis said that the biggest issue the union has with the new agreement is that if a firefighter took a sick day, he would not be paid overtime. Davis also said that under the new deal, fire-

fighters would also lose some vacation days..

"We'd be the only department that if you take a sick day, you wouldn't get overtime," Davis said.

The proposed plan would change the current overtime pay for firefighters from double time to time-and-a-half, said Local 2952 Vice President Mike Bishop during the council meeting. He said firefighters are the only department getting paid double time because they are paid \$3.50 per hour less than other city employees of their pay scale.

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This rental property on Missouri Street that was home to three Truman State students caught fire Monday night. The residents all are unharmed, but the house currently is not suitable for living and many possessions were destroyed.

Kathleen Barbosa/Index

## Student residence catches fire

The three residents of the house are unharmed but the fire caused \$40,000 worth of damage

BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA, Editor-in-Chief

Three Truman State students are safe after a fire broke out in their house Monday night in Kirksville.

Seniors Chelsea Krueger and Claire Ackiss, who were home at the time of the fire, and junior Rachel Marler were living in a rental house at 210 Missouri Street when an electrical fire started in one of the bedrooms.

Battalion Chief David Rigdon from the Kirksville Fire Department said the fire started at an electrical box. Krueger said that the box was located in Marler's closet and that the fire was contained to Marler's room but the heat and smoke from the fire

damaged other areas of the house.

The property owner, Jerry Mills of Northeast Missouri Properties, said the outlet was located in one of the bedrooms. The department received the call at 10:04 p.m. and responded with 18 firefighters. Mills said the fire department was finished around 11:30 p.m.

Mills said he estimates damages to be between \$40,000 to \$50,000 and items including clothes, a mattress and other furniture were ruined.

Mills said he has never had a fire at one of his rental properties before and the next

step is to wait for the claims adjustor to inspect the property.

The residents are currently staying with friends in Kirksville.

Krueger said that the community response after the fire has been "amazing."

"I can't even believe it," she said. "My whole sorority has been asking what I need. I have a friend that has talked to Hy-Vee and were supposed to be getting gift cards from them. We each got money from the Red Cross and the bookstore gave us gift cards just recently so its been really good to get us back on our feet."

## Government officials update citizens about state of district



Rep. Craig Redmon (R-4), Sen. Brian Munzlinger (R-18) and Rep. Nate Walker (R-3) address about 25 constituents at the State of the District address March 22 at the Adair County Annex.

Calli Lowry/Index

BY CONNOR STANGLER  
Staff Reporter

The Kirksville area's top state government officials discussed Medicaid expansion, appropriations and right-to-farm laws at the State of the District address last Friday at the Adair County Annex.

Rep. Nate Walker (R-3), Rep. Craig Redmon (R-4) and Sen. Brian Munzlinger (R-18) met to report their legislative accomplishments and challenges they'll face after they return from their spring break.

Walker did not commit to either side of the Medicaid issue. Walker said he visited local hospital and mental health facility administrators to solicit their opinion about the issue.

According to the 2010 Affordable Care Act, acceptance of the expansion would require Missouri to increase Medicaid eligibility to 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Line, up from Missouri's current threshold of 19 percent for parents.

Walker stressed the impermanent nature of legislation

and said he wanted to make an informed decision based on the final version of the bill, but said the optional eligibility increase and funding would probably come with some changes.

"Nothing is dead in the legislature until we adjourn," Walker said at the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event. "But I do know that a lot of people including doctors, hospital administrators and others do agree that there needs to be some reform ... Just a blank increase in funding probably is not going to happen without some reform."

Redmon, House Budget Committee member, said they did not allow for the Medicaid expansion in the upcoming budget, but said anything could happen.

"That can always be changed, but to put it in there and then back out wouldn't be prudent on our part," Redmon said. "You can always go back in and add money."

Redmon, whose district skirts Kirksville city limits, said  
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