

FIRE DEPARTMENT | The Kirksville City Council and Fire Department continue discussions about contracts

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 Bishop said if the proposed plan goes into effect, the firefighters only would make \$2 more per hour of overtime than other city employees of their pay range make working regular time. Bishop said there was no way to describe that as a fair deal.
 Davis said the City hasn't spent enough time negotiating the proposed plan with the union. He said the contract was reviewed by the City last August, but the City only has met with the union three times.
 Detweiler said the City has been trying to cut overtime as much as possible, which affects firefighters differently than other departments.
 "Firefighters are physically at their jobs for 48 hours," Detweiler said. "If you took a sick day and came back after that, you'd be put into overtime. Now, if you take a sick day or a vacation

day, it wouldn't count into overtime."
 Despite trying to cut expenditures as much as possible, the City approved a 2.5 percent raise for all city employees, which went into effect Jan. 1, Detweiler said.
 "I felt that was really an absolutely unbelievable increase in salary," Detweiler said. "I thought that would take care of any problems."
 Detweiler said the 90-day extension for negotiations was necessary because the City needs to know if it must adjust its budget as soon as possible. If a deal can't be reached by then, the council can impose the new agreement on the firefighters, but Detweiler said he doesn't want to do that to "our friends and our neighbors."
 "I want everyone to be on the same page, singing from the same hymnal," Detweiler said. "We're all in this together."

FIRE | An electrical fire caused damage to the residence of three Truman State students



Kathleen Barbosa/Index
 Furniture ruined by an electrical fire sits outside the house at 201 Missouri in Kirksville. The fire, which began in one of the three Truman State student's bedrooms, caused about \$40,000 worth of damage.



Calli Lowry/Index
 Adair County citizens gather to listen to Rep. Craig Redmon (R-4), Sen. Brian Munzlinger (R-18) and Rep. Nate Walker (R-3) discuss the state of the district.

ADDRESS | Kirksville government officials addressed constituents last Friday about Medicaid, appropriations and more

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 one of the most important resolutions the House recently passed related to Missouri's right-to-farm policies. Redmon said it "reaffirms" Missouri farming laws protecting farmers from "outside entities" bringing nuisance suits against them. Redmon said these laws — that make it so Missouri farmers can do business without unnecessary interference — reminded him of a lesson growing up.
 "My mom was one of the easiest-going people I'd ever met until you got into the kitchen and started to tell her how to cook," Redmon said. "And then she'd say, 'You need to back off.' And I think that's what Missouri needs to tell a lot of these entities."
 Redmon was appointed chairman of the Agricultural Appropriations committee during December 2012. His review of appropriations requests from several Missouri government departments revealed what he thought were better ways to spend the money, including taking \$500,000 from the "decision money" of the Department of Natural Resources and putting it toward school transportation.

Munzlinger said he emphasized the importance of government transparency and Career Technical Education. The latter, he said, is essential for Missouri business and industry.
 "If you can get those local businesses and industries to work with local career tech they will be teaching those students the skills that are needed," Munzlinger said. "But you also get to keep those people close to home and the industries are helped."
 Although the three men have more than 16 years' experience in the state legislature combined, they said they still are excited about new issues and challenges. Despite serving as a representative and Minority Whip during the 1980s, Walker said he is in unfamiliar yet thrilling territory because he was assigned to the Urban Issues Committee. He said he's a "country boy," and questioned his own credentials for the task, but it has become one of his "favorite committees now," he said.
 "We're taking up issues that are important to urban issues, and also issues for the black community and the minority communities," Walker said.

CABLE | Truman State is switching to INC, which will provide on campus residents with more HD channel options

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 switch from TeleVideo because INC offers more options and still is within the budget.
 The contract change was followed by a survey of on campus housing last spring concerning the quality of channels, which channels the majority wanted added and other channels that could be deleted.
 "The decision to change companies was based on INC having more channels, especially in HD, for approximately the same price," Gardner said. "We're losing a few channels, but none that were popular according to our survey."
 Gardner said this option was not offered sooner because high definition television was not in demand in past years.
 "However, today a lot of students are already buying high definition televisions, so we wanted to improve the cable options within the fiscal constraints of our budget," Gardner said.

Students without high definition televisions still will be able to access the new channels, as part of the move to a new digital QAM technology.
 "We decided to go with a hybrid contract, because we wanted students to still be able to access the channels on their current televisions without having to go out and buy a new one," IT Services employee Dustin Howard said.
 Howard said the University will keep its existing analog systems, but a few high definition channels might only be available to students with compatible televisions.
 However, all public area televisions will be high definition-capable to view all the channels.
 "We may have to switch out some of the current public televisions, but ultimately all the channels will be accessible to all on campus students from in the public areas, like the SUB and resident hall lounges," Howard said.

FUNDING | The funding formula created by the Joint Committee on Education has been adapted into Senate Bill 437

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 charged with creating a funding formula for higher education in Missouri. The final plan the committee released covers 40.61 percent of four-year masters level university's operating costs, according to the Joint Committee website. Ninety percent of this funding is based off factors such as credit hours, research and public service expenditures.
 The remaining 10 percent is performance based and includes factors such as freshman to sophomore retention rates, six year graduation rates and institution specific missions.
 After the bill is read by the Senate Education Committee, Pearce said it will be voted on by the committee, likely on April 3. If it is approved by the committee, it will be voted on by the entire Missouri Senate.
 If this bill is passed by the Missouri legislature, it will go into effect Aug. 28 and the formula will be used to allocate funding for fiscal year 2014.
 "I agree with performance funding formula for higher education, and in order for that to happen, legislation needs to be passed," Pearce said. "It's the next logical conclusion."
 University Budget Director Dave Rector said it is challenging to predict the impact the bill could potentially have on Truman State.
 "The model they ran showed new money flowing in through this process, and it doesn't hurt us, but it's never been answered how this will work if we don't have new money appro-

riated to higher education," Rector said.
 Truman's target amount to come from state funding is \$41,965,610 for fiscal year 2014, according to a simulation of the formula released by the Joint Committee. Governor Jay Nixon recommends that Truman receives \$39,919,610 from state funds for fiscal year 2014, according to the simulation. Truman is underfunded by \$2,454,686, according to the simulation.
 After this formula was released by the Joint Committee Feb. 4, higher education institutions had the opportunity to submit comments and concerns about the formula. Truman submitted comments regarding the school's liberal arts mission. Rector said the Joint Committee addressed some of these comments before the final formula was released, but concerns still remain because the formula is based heavily on enrollment.
 "The primary issue still is the model is running on student enrollment and the incentive is to enroll more students," Rector said. "It's driven by head count and credit hours so that's concerning for us because we've grown a bit, but we might not grow any more. We're just seeing what happens next and keeping our fingers crossed."
 Nate Walker, R-3, said he does not think funding formula legislation is necessary, and he is unsure if Senate Bill 437 will make it to the General Assembly. Walker said whatever the outcome, he supports University President Paino and the Truman Board of Governors.

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