

Buddy Pack program cuts costs

BY DANIELLE WALDRON
Staff Reporter

The increase of food and fuel prices has created challenges for the Buddy Pack program, according to the Food Bank's fact sheet for Adair County. To combat these challenges, the Food Bank has to trim costs and cut overhead costs however possible, while also providing for the increased demand during the holiday season.

During the last seven years, the Buddy Pack program created by the Food Bank aided elementary, middle and high school students throughout Adair County by sending healthy food home in a backpack every week to students in need, according to the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri website. The need for aid has increased now that the holiday season has arrived and students will be home for extended breaks.

Kirkville School's Food services director Sue Barrett said there are currently 156 local students part of the program, with 91 from the Kirkville School District. She said there

are about 10 students on a wait list to be part of the program.

Barrett said the students in the program are chosen for the program by free- and reduced-lunch criteria, as well as teacher observation.

"We work in cooperation with our schools," said Mike DeSantis, Adair County Regional Coordinator of the Food Bank. "We are not in competition. It is very much a partner relationship."

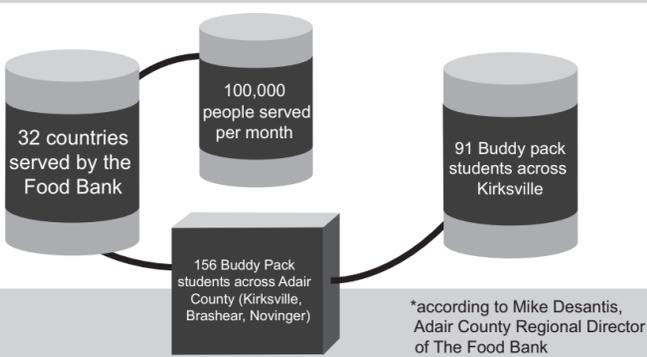
DeSantis said all money raised within a community stays local to support Kirkville students. The Food Bank serves 32 counties overall, which is about 100,000 people per month.

"We want to be good stewards of other people's money," DeSantis said. "We want to run as efficiently as possible to serve as many people as possible."

Campus organizations at Truman State such as the Muslim Student Association have worked with the Buddy Pack program.

"Students can feel good that their money went to help other kids in the community,"

Buddy Pack Distribution Breakdown



said Sandi Bowers, junior and MSA president. "It's important to give back."

Bowers said all the money raised during the organization's annual Taste of Islam dinner was donated to the Buddy Pack program.

The Food Bank said students looking to donate to the Buddy Pack program can contact the campus SERVE center for more information. The Food Bank always accepts food and monetary donations.

November sees increase in deer-related accidents

BY ROSE MCCRAY
Staff Reporter

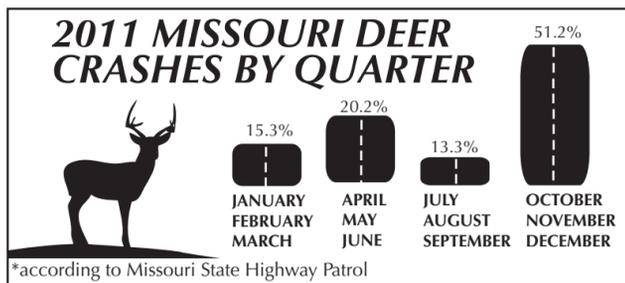
Reports of auto automobile accidents involving deer increased during November due to the seasonal rise in the deer population, said Ron Beck, director of the Statistical Analysis Center for the Missouri Highway Patrol.

Last year, there were 3,563 auto accidents involving deer, according to a crash report released for 2011. Of these crashes, 25 percent happened during November, higher than any other month of the year. The reports on these crashes detail the nature of crashes, including damage to the vehicle, severity of the crash and how many crashes of that type occurred each hour.

"We compile annual crash reports for the state of Missouri," Beck said. "We put out a deer involved crash report each year."

In 2011, four people were killed and 375 were injured during car accidents involving deer. There have been five deer-related crashes throughout Adair County this year, all resulting in property damage.

Senior John Harker said he was in an accident due to a deer when a deer ran into the road and hit his car while he was driving at night. Harker said



the deer managed to get to the other side of the road, where it ran into the forest. He said the car sustained a broken headlight. Harker said they were lucky the car was not hit front on, or the deer might not have survived.

Matt Wolker, the Missouri Department of Conservation's Regional Supervisor, said incidents like these are common during October, November and December because these are the months during which deer are most active.

"It's because of harvest going on and the [breeding season]," Wolker said. "The deer are breeding and very active. They are most active at night, early in the evening, and early in the morning. You have to be especially careful and keep your eyes out for

deer crossing the road,"

He said drivers should drive slowly through these areas because there might be more deer than a driver can see from the road. Wolker said a driver might see a deer crossing the road further ahead and assume they are safe, but then another deer crosses in front of the car because the driver let their guard down. He said drivers should not swerve the car to avoid hitting a deer because doing so could result in the car going off the road.

Wolker said if a deer is hit, contact the local law enforcement if a police report is needed for insurance reasons. If the deer dies and the driver wants to keep it, have the police contact a Department of Conservation agent who will provide the proper paperwork.

Missouri raises minimum wage

BY KENNY WARNER
Staff Reporter

Missouri's minimum wage will increase during 2013 from \$7.25 to \$7.35.

The changes are set to go into effect Jan. 1, 2013, according to the Missouri Department of Labor.

The increase is because of a bill that changed the Missouri Statutes to increase the minimum wage in accordance with inflation in the price of living. This measure was approved during 2006, according to the Missouri Secretary of State's records of the 2006 election.

"By law, we are charged with calculating the wage rate each year and enforcing it," said Amy Susan, director of Communications at the Missouri Department of Labor. The Department bases increases in the minimum wage on fluctuations of the Consumer Price Index, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Based on the current budget for student employment, Budget Director Dave Rector said he expects the 1.4 percent wage increase to cost the University \$43,150. He said out of

the University's \$120 million, this cost is significant but is not going to cause a great upset to the budget.

Rector said the increase could affect student employment for the 2013-14 academic year. He said the number of student employees hired could decrease or hours could be cut for student employees.

He said he expects the budgets of most departments to be able to absorb the cost of the wage increase and that the wages of student workers are not a particularly significant part of the University's budget.

Junior Nicola Fish, Study Abroad Office student worker, said though the increase is not large, it is progress toward higher wages. Despite thinking the increase is a positive change for students, she said she is concerned about the finances of the University, knowing it has undergone budget cuts during recent years.

Since 2006, the minimum wage has increased four times, according to the Department of Labor website. The last increase was \$7.05 to \$7.25 in July 2009.



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