

WEATHERIZATION | The Community Action Agency helps residents make their homes more energy efficient

Continued from Page 1

look at windows, doors, insulation and then minor repairs after that," Garrett said. Health and safety issues include making sure furnaces, stoves, water heaters and other appliances are running properly.

The weatherizing process can cost between hundreds or thousands of dollars, but it can save more than \$1,000 a year for the family, said Eric Amini-Rad, a Weatherization Auditor for the Agency. He also said the Weatherization Program saves an average of \$9.4 million statewide each year for energy costs.

Weatherization is free to anyone below the 200 percent poverty level, unless it's a renting situation, in which the landlord might be asked to contribute up to \$300, Garrett said.

After the home is approved as safe and weatherized, it is provided with Energy Assistance, which amounts to \$1,800 during the winter and \$300 during the summer, Garrett said.

LIHEAP Energy Assistance operates from Oct. 1 to March 31 but another part of the LIHEAP program is the Energy Crisis Assistance Program, which provides emergency funds to families that run out of propane or need their furnace fixed, said Garrett. ECIP runs year-round, though this ends up being a problem for the Agency because of budget cuts.

"We have had [budget cuts] every year," Rohn said. "We always run out of utilities assistance funding."

The budget cuts have affected most programs the Agency offers, she said, which makes it difficult for the Agency to fight poverty in the five counties it services.

WAP has been hit particularly hard, Amini-Rad said. Their crew's size has been cut almost in half and they often don't have the funds to weatherize every home that is eligible. The Agency usually only weatherizes about 300 homes a year, he said.

The main poverty-fighting strategy of the



Submitted Photo

Two employees from the Kirksville Community Action Agency work on weatherizing a house last year by protecting the windows with a plastic material that helps insulate the house. The weatherization process means different aspects of the house, such as the windows and doors, are made more energy efficient using processes such as the wrapping above.

Agency is to "remove barriers so that people can be self-sufficient," Rohn said.

The Agency does this with programs such as LIHEAP and WAP so families spend less time and money on utilities, Rohn said. Other programs offered by the agency, such as a Community Services Block Grant program, a GED program, a Steps to Success program and a Head Start program, con-

tribute to help impoverished families become more self-sufficient.

The Agency's effects in the area have been hard to see, because the poverty level throughout the state has risen nearly 4 percent during the past decade, and the poverty level in the agency's service area is much higher than average, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

"I would like to think that if we weren't

here that poverty would be worse — I would hope that we're making a difference in small amounts — but really it has to do with the whole community," Rohn said.

For more information about what the Agency does to fight poverty, or to volunteer, visit their website at <http://www.nmcaa.org/> or their office in downtown Kirksville.

SPENCE | Republican gubernatorial candidate Dave Spence visited area Republicans to discuss his business approach to politics, the economy and higher education

Continued from Page 1

success for businesses. To do this, he said he would like to make Missouri a "right to work" state, meaning employees would have the option to join a union, rather than it being mandated.

"We need a fresh face, fresh energy, fresh ideas and to bring in new blood to our state so we can get it growing," he said. "I just don't think a career politician knows what's going on outside of the aquarium of politics."

Spence is running against democratic incumbent governor Jay Nixon.

"There are 16 divisions of the government," Spence said. "Do we really need all of those? The Governor appoints 12 of those 16. What we need to do is unleash the power of 56,000 state employees to find how we can make more efficiencies in our state."

During his speech to the local Republican Club, Spence discussed Nixon being absent from discussions with legislative leaders, something that concerned some legislators such as Rep. John Diehl, R-87, who spoke about his concerns during the speech.

Senior Josh Foster, College



Ashley Jost/Index

Dave Spence, the Republican candidate for Missouri Governor, spoke at the College Republican meeting Tuesday night in Violette Hall 1430. Spence discussed the economy, his opponent and higher education.

Republicans chairman, said from his experience interning at the Capitol, concern of the Governor's involvement in the work outside of the

second floor is common.

"Dave says he's going to take an active role and work with leaders in both chambers," Foster said. "I hope

he does in fact try to work [with everyone] to get legislation passed and not sit on the sidelines and watch legislators duke it out on their own."

Foster said he was hoping to hear more about higher education during both of Spence's speeches, so at the College Republicans meeting he asked what plans Spence had for higher education, comparing the 12 percent cuts that originally were proposed to the department by Nixon last spring.

Foster said overall education is something that benefits the state economy, and therefore it's an important issue to him as a college student.

"He didn't give me a lot of specifics because he really can't yet," he said. "He's dedicated to making higher education a priority for our state."

Spence, who has four children, ages 14 to 20, said his family helps give him the chance to see life through the eyes of the younger generation.

"If you want somebody that's walked in the shoes of businesses, will get Missouri's economy going, will get us out of zero percent growth and will fight to restore the higher education cuts, I'm your guy," Spence said.

WYATT | Rep. Zachary

Wyatt, R-2, endorsed Libertarian U.S.

Senate candidate Jonathan Dine

Continued from Page 1

35,000 constituents understand and appreciate.

Elected officials sometimes "toe the party line," Dine said, putting the blame of current issues on the Democrats or Republicans.

"It's interesting that someone can see both parties are to blame for the fiscal mess that we're in right now," he said.

Wyatt said he decided not to side with his party's candidate, Todd Akin, due to a few issues concerning Akin's performance, which he found disappointing. Most importantly, he said he was disappointed to not see a farm bill passed, which he said Akin was against.

Wyatt said Akin's comments about getting rid of the federal school lunch program were contributed to his concerns.

"There are a lot of kids that are unfortunately living in poverty and don't have what they need provided for them every day," he said. "I don't see that as a type of welfare. In a way, it's a hand-up."

Wyatt said his main reason for not choosing to endorse McCaskill is that she voted in support of the Affordable Care Act when 73 percent of her Missouri constituents voted against it.

"I can't really forgive someone that votes against what their state believes," he said.

When Wyatt campaigned, he said he focused on people having a voice in the government, something he thinks Dine will continue to strive to accomplish as well.

"He is what I believe is needed to make a good representative, a good Senator, in Washington D.C.," Wyatt said. "He's someone that can work with both sides."

EDUCATION | Truman State reinstates special education Masters of Arts in Education program after reevaluating its quality during last semester

Continued from Page 1

special education teachers and regular education teachers to work closely together. Eliminating the special education program would limit a high-needs area while diminishing other MAE programs at Truman.

Yoder said there has been a statewide decline in all higher education enrollment throughout Missouri. He said the MAE programs at Truman tend to maintain consistent

numbers, but there are 39 teaching preparation institutions in Missouri and all are facing similar enrollment issues, especially for special education.

"We do have an obligation to the state," Yoder said. "Truman State University is one of a handful of institutions in Missouri that is seen as a state leader when it comes to education. With the push in special education, it is really important that we're out in front."

Yoder said Truman places emphasis on the quality of the MAE programs. He said the education department took this opportunity to assess whether the department could continue to provide the same level of quality to students.

Yoder said that after realizing the viability and the necessity to continue the special education program, the department simply re-opened the application process to students.

He said there were no changes made to the program itself, and students will apply for the same program now that they would have applied for last year.

"I am relieved that the program is continuing, because it's a really excellent program," graduate student Bethany Hoekzema said. "The faculty is great and Truman has a good partnership with the Kirksville schools. It would have been a shame to see that go away."

BETA THETA PI
MEN OF PRINCIPLE

The Men of Zeta Xi chapter of Beta Theta Pi would like to congratulate our new initiates:

| | |
|--|---|
| Griffin Smith Tyler Rogers Carson Whitley Nick Franta | Josh Jackson Dan Karlskin Alex Taylor Drew Fuemmeler |
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