

McClanahan urges residents to vote

BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA
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Rebecca McClanahan, Democratic candidate for district three state representative, celebrated her birthday and reminded constituents about the importance of voting with less than two weeks until the election.

McClanahan chose to highlight the differences between her and her opponent, Republican Nate Walker, during her birthday bash Tuesday night at West Winery at Jackson Stables.

With the Nov. 6 election approaching, McClanahan is encouraging all registered voters to vote in the election because she said it could mean the difference in the state representative race.

During her speech, McClanahan said if all the registered voters in the district voted, that she would be able to win the election.

McClanahan won Adair County with 54.6 percent during the last presidential cycle.

This area accounted for 73 percent of the total 15,795 district votes that were cast during 2008, according to the secretary of state's website.

While McClanahan won the 2008 election with 8,626 votes, she was voted out of office during the 2010 midterm election while carrying 39.4 percent of the 11,217 votes cast, according to the Missouri Secretary of State's website.

McClanahan's campaign manager Zach Buckler said events such as the birthday bash and Wednesday's health care roundtable are opportunities to connect with voters.

Buckler said about 80 people attended the event.

During her speech, McClanahan reminded attendees about her major issues including women's health and the need for a strong advocate for higher education funding in the Missouri House Representatives.

McClanahan also discussed her commitment to women's issues and her opposition to Missouri Senate Bill 749.

She talked about the pur-

posed funding formula changes for higher education and explained how Truman State would not benefit as much from a formula that awards funding based off of total enrollment.

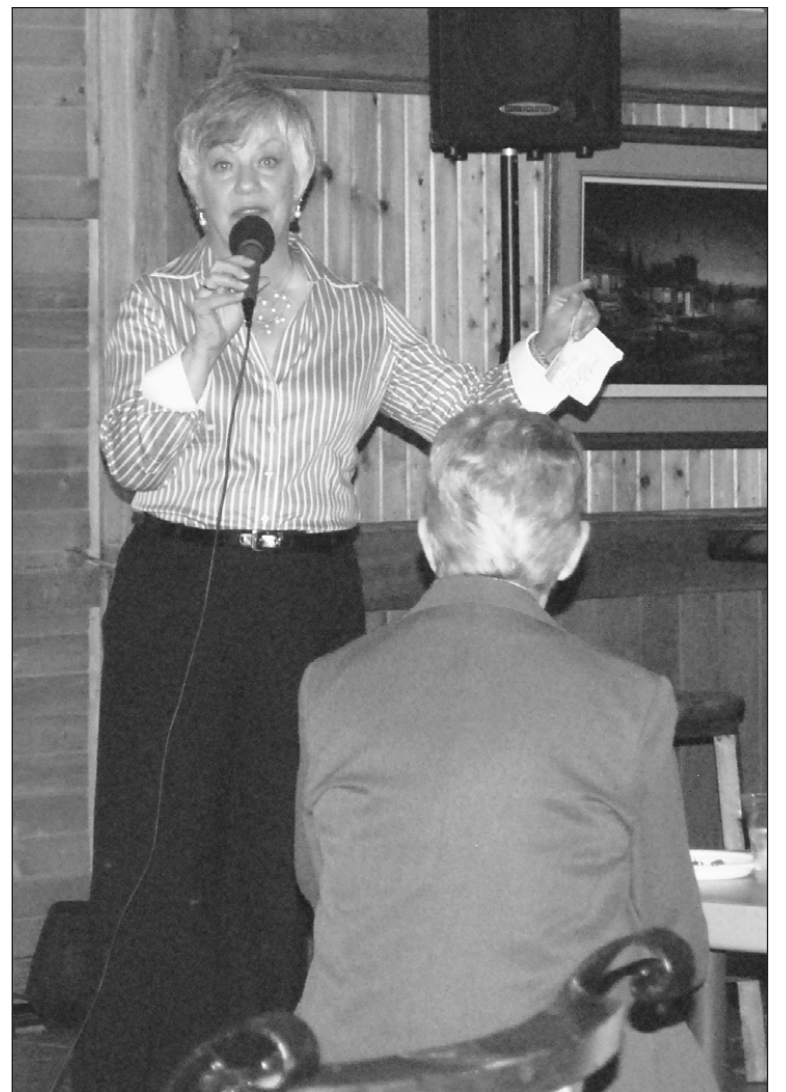
She highlighted the differences between the amount of outside money spent on her behalf compared to the money spent for Walker's campaign.

"The people can speak, we can vote and nobody can buy that or take that away from us because of the money they have spent," she said.

Senior Alec Kelley, McClanahan's campaign staffer, said the campaign still is promoting its Friend-to-Friend program where people send post cards to other members of the community to encourage them to vote.

Kelley said he hopes this encouraged people to stay motivated during the last two-week push before the election.

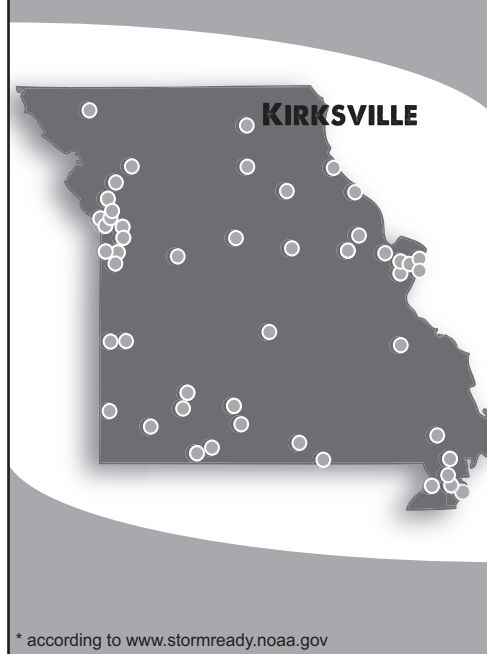
"It's been a long haul," he said. "We started October of last year, so I hope [the birthday bash] was an energizing experience for people."



Kathleen Barbosa/Index
Rebecca McClanahan, Democratic candidate for district three state representative, celebrated her birthday with friends, family and supporters Tuesday night at West Winery at Jackson Stables.

Kirksville recognized as a StormReady community

STORMREADY CITIES ACROSS MISSOURI



* according to www.stormready.noaa.gov

City emergency weather services approved through StormReady certification

BY ROSE MCCRAY
Staff Reporter

The National Weather Service recognized Kirksville as the 39th city in Missouri to become a StormReady community.

The StormReady certification allows a community to demonstrate to community members that it has sufficient communication and safety skills aimed at preparing for or recovering from a weather emergency.

Kirksville Fire Chief Randy Behrens said he sent the application for the community, and six months later, Kirksville became certified by the National Weather Service.

"A lot of these [plans] were already in place," he said, referencing the plans an applicant must have in place in order to be certified.

Andy Baylor, a weather coordinator at the National Weather Service in

Pleasant Hill Missouri, helped Behrens with the application process.

Baylor said the certification is a testament to a community's commitment to emergency weather safety. He said Kirksville, as a StormReady community, can access information from the National Weather Service and request help from the Service while purchasing new equipment.

"We're looking to make sure the community has a very robust weather operations plan," he said.

Baylor said this plan includes components such as storm spotters, community severe weather education and weather radios in public buildings.

Vanessa Alonso, a meteorologist at KTVO, said KTVO is one of the media outlets that works to alert community members of an emergency situation.

"We alert the community by telling them what the situation is, and we keep track of the storm system," she said.

Behrens said Kirksville has a 911 center with an emergency operations plan and the City routinely trains spotters to watch for storms. He said all stores have contacts to receive emer-

gency messages, and the public has access to information about the weather. Behrens said there are warning sirens, as well as an automated calling and text-messaging system.

Baylor said there are 66 entities across Missouri designated as StormReady including eighteen counties, 40 communities, four universities, two commercial sites and seven supporters. Baylor said a supporter is defined as a business or similar enterprise.

More than 1,954 StormReady sites are established throughout the country in 48 states, plus Guam and Puerto Rico.

Ninety percent of all presidentially declared national disasters are weather-related according to StormReady's website, causing 500 deaths each year and \$14 billion dollars of damage.

Baylor said he thinks the program especially is useful for the Midwest region, considering the high rate of tornadoes and severe thunderstorms. As an example, he said the tornado that hit Kirksville during May 2009 that killed two people shows the need for severe weather preparation.

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Danielle Cohen	Lauri Craig
Beth Eyanson	Kristin Haynes
Amanda Hinkle	Casey Jepson
Michael Kosiek	Shelby Kukia
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