

Residents return to "Big Red"

BY KAITLYN DANIELS
Staff Reporter

The tenants of "Big Red," an Alpha Sigma Alpha house, began moving back into their rooms Sunday after temporarily leaving the house after it suffered damages from an electrical fire which occurred Aug. 12.

During the last three weeks, the house has seen repairs to prevent another fire and fix damaged parts of the house.

Jeff Behrmann, the property's landlord, said every ceiling, wall and floor had to be cleaned, painted or replaced due to smoke damage.

"Some areas had more smoke damage than others but then many areas had water damage so all the hardwood floors were refinished, the carpets were replaced in some of the rooms, and some of the rooms only had minor damage and were professionally cleaned," Behrmann said.

Behrmann said the kitchen had to be replaced entirely because it suffered the most damage from the fire, which began in a bedroom directly above it.

New walls, cabinets, flooring and a new ceiling were installed in the kitchen and work was done throughout the house to increase safety, he said.

"We also put in some GFCI's (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters) on every circuit in the house to try to make sure if something gets overloaded, it will trip easier and faster next time than a normal breaker does," Behrmann said.

When a fire or other damage occurs at a rental property, the rental contract says Behrmann only has 30 days to make the property habitable again and if he fails to do so, the contract is broken and the tenants are free to move elsewhere.

Behrmann said renovations in six of the eight bedrooms have been completed and six of the tenants have moved in as of Sunday.

He said two of the tenants, seniors Emma Flowers and Emily Schepers, will not be returning to the house because the rooms they were living in had direct fire damage and could not be repaired within the 30 day time-frame.

Behrmann said his property insurance will not cover the residents personal property loss.

"My landlord insurance covers the house and the appliances that are in the house," Behrmann said. "The rest of the items are covered by the tenants."

Senior and house resident Hannah Motes said the girls have implemented fundraisers at Leisure World and Wrongdaddy's to help pay for some of the damage. She said they also received money from the Red Cross.

"The Red Cross gave all the six girls who were living in the house at the time a debit card with \$80 for food and laundry," Motes said.

Motes said Wrongdaddy's manager Reese Everts helped organize the fundraiser which raised around \$850.

Craig Shorten, Dukum and Wrongdaddy's owner, said the idea of a fundraiser was presented by Everts and he thought it sounded like a great idea.

"We aren't generally open on Wednesday's so it was a good night to do it and I just let them do whatever they could," Shorten said.



Rose Sparks and Kathleen Barbosa/Index

Above, the "Big Red" house on E. Pierce Street stands with boards in its windows Wednesday afternoon. The house has been renovated to repair damage from an electrical fire, which began in a second story bedroom Aug. 12. Below, the observers wait for news about the fire after evacuating following the fire. Residents were allowed to move back into the house Sunday.

Shorten said he thinks the fundraiser was successful.

Senior Ellen Hunt, Alpha Sigma Alpha member, said she helped organize the fundraiser at Leisure World with owner Samuel Pfeiffer.

"We charged \$10 per person for entrance fees, \$3 for shoes with 70 percent of proceeds going to the Alphas and the rest to the bowling center," Hunt said.

Motes said they are not planning any other fundraisers for the Alpha house at this time.

"We're really appreciative of everyone helping out in the community and especially all of the organizations of Truman who have helped us out, but we feel like the community has done enough for us," she said.

Motes said other students living in apartments or houses should pay attention to their leases and learn from this event.

"Make sure you have renters insurance, because we didn't even know it existed, but apparently it's really cheap," Motes said. "And look over your leases to make sure what's covered and what happens if there's a house fire because some of us weren't allowed to break our lease."



Athletics community hosts pre-game party

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Truman State's first home football game of the season will kick-off with a barbecue and tailgate event Saturday that have been months in the making.

"Smoke at Stokes" will include a barbecue competition, live performances from blues band Deadwood and wet tailgating. The event will begin with the barbecue contest at 11 a.m. at the south parking lot at the corner of Franklin and Patterson streets.

Shea Carr, graduate assistant football coach, said he's been organizing the event since January in hopes that it will draw a large crowd that will then come watch the Bulldogs' home opener.

"We are really just trying to throw a party before our first home game," Carr said.

He said there are more than one dozen teams involved in the actual competition, which will last from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will be officially sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society.

Carr said there will be a \$5 cost for a wristband which includes access to the more than 80 pounds of donated meat from Farmland that will be cooked and grilled by members of the different barbecue teams from the competition. There also will be vendors from around the city selling products, including Sodexo.

"Five dollars is all it will cost and people can walk around and eat until it's gone," he said.

Entering the area to walk around or tailgate is free, Carr said.

There also will be a wet tailgating event from 4-7 p.m. in the same parking lot. Carr col-



laborated with the Department of Public Safety office to make sure alcohol doesn't enter the stadium, Carr said.

Saturday will be the second wet tailgating event occurring on-campus during the last two years, which requires special permission from University President Troy Paino.

"There's a Board policy that says no alcohol can be on-campus unless the president approves it," General Counsel Warren Wells said. "It isn't an event that happens often. They had one tailgate event last year and someone else rented the Student Union Building for a

wedding reception where alcohol was served a few years ago."

Carr said Paino gave them permission to host the upcoming wet tailgate during May, a few months after the trial run tailgate the Student Senate hosted.

Sophomore Aaron Pearson, a running back for the Bulldogs, said he looks forward to seeing if the event will bring more of a crowd to the football game that starts at 7 p.m.

"Attendance doesn't affect the way we play in the grand scheme of things, but it's an overwhelming thing to see people wearing purple and supporting your team," he said.

Dean joins loan board

A.T. Still University dean, Chris Halliday, serves on loan board

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Chris Halliday, A.T. Still University's dental school dean, was appointed to the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority by Governor Jay Nixon earlier this week.

Halliday will bring a different perspective from a private medical educational institution to the board, said Scott Holste, Governor Jay Nixon's press secretary.

Halliday was chosen to serve as a member of the Board because of his background in health and education, Holste said. He added that this experience will help him advance educational opportunities for Missouri's growing healthcare sector.

"Dr. Halliday has a stellar record in health over the past couple of decades," Holste said. "He will be a very fine addition to the MOHELA board. We believe that Dr. Halliday will bring expertise to this board and he will continue the fine tradition of Dr. Magruder."

Before coming to Kirksville, Halliday served as Chief Dental Officer for the U.S. Public Health Service and Chief of Staff for the U.S. Surgeon General, according to an ATSU press release.

Halliday replaces Dr. Jack Magruder, who has been serving on the Board since Nixon appointed him during June 2009, according to <http://>



Chris Halliday

Photo courtesy of A.T. Still University

governor.mo.gov/. Halliday's term begins immediately, but he will have to be confirmed by the Missouri Senate when legislators return, according to the ATSU press release.

The Board, which was created during 1981 while Governor Christopher Bond was serving, is designed to "promote access to higher education," according to their website. MOHELA currently services four billion dollars worth of student loans, according to its website.

Holste said the Board's work to promote education aligns with Nixon's education goal of a post-secondary degree or certification for 60 percent of Missourians by 2020.

Holste said hopefully Halliday's experience and knowledge of growing sectors, such as healthcare, will advance the Board's goals to make education more accessible.