



NEWS

Campus group plans to form committee to focus on sustainability

see page 3



FEATURES

Phillip Phillips finds his home on stage and looks to pursue his dreams

see page 7



SPORTS

Transfer basketball player Reed Mells looks to give team a boost

see page 14

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY INDEX

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Submitted Photo

A sample of the design submitted by senior Theresa Wildhaber, one of the four art students who provided designs. Voting for the designs currently is taking place on the Kirksville Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

Provost Poor might leave Truman

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN
Staff Reporter

Provost Joan Poor might leave Truman State to become President of Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Poor currently is interviewing for the position. Thomas Pink, Lake Superior State Public Relations Director, said Poor is one of three candidates being considered.

If she is offered and accepts the position, Pink said Poor likely would start during May or June because current Lake Superior State University President Tony McLain's contract ends during June.

Pink said the Lake Superior State Board of Trustees will make the final decisions about who to hire as University President. He said Lake Superior State started searching for a new University President a year ago, when McLain announced his retirement.

He said candidates also are meeting with employees, students and community members, and these individuals will be able to provide input as well.

University President Troy Paino said he has not yet begun to consider what will happen should Poor leave Truman.

"At this stage in the game, it's a little early to start thinking about succession plans and what we might do if she in fact does leave," Paino said.

Search committee chair Patrick Egan said the committee is down to a small number of candidates. He said Dr. Poor is a strong candidate.

Egan said a decision will be made during the coming weeks.

"This is a really important time for us to find out about the candidates and for the candidates to know more about the culture at Lake Superior State University and what the job looks like and entails," Egan said.

Egan said Lake Superior State worked with the search committee EFL Associates to find potential candidates.

The other two candidates being considered are Thomas Pleger, University of Wisconsin-Baraboo Executive Officer and Dean, and Neal Weaver, West Texas A&M University Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

EFL Associates contacted Poor about the position, Egan said. Lake Superior State is an environmentally-oriented university near the Canadian border, and Egan said Poor was contacted because she might work well in this environment.

"We're also small, and we need to distinguish ourselves," Egan said. "We saw those as Dr. Poor's strengths. This is what she is about and what she does."

The Provost's Office declined to comment for this story.

Students submit park designs

Four designs for Kirksville skatepark currently are being voted on

BY CALIE HOLDEN
Staff Reporter

The Kirksville skatepark is about to get a facelift. Public voting for new murals for the park's ramps will end Nov. 30.

Four designs submitted by Truman State art students have been posted for public vote on the Kirksville Parks and Recreation Facebook page, or at the Parks and Recreation Department in the Aquatic Center, said Heather Darrah, Recreation Specialist at the Parks and Recreation Department.

Darrah said after the voting is completed, the top two designs will go to the Lakes, Parks and Recreation Committee, a committee of Kirksville community members. The LPRC will vote for the designs at the December meeting, Darrah said.

Darrah said this is a project the Department had wanted to do for a while. The skatepark, located by the softball fields in the North Park Complex, hasn't been repainted since it was built roughly five years ago.

The paint on the ramps is chipping and the paneling needs to be repaired,

Darrah said.

Earlier this fall, Darrah said she contacted art professor Aaron Fine about having students submit possible designs.

"He jumped on board with it, and within a week he had all of their murals on display in the hallway at Ophelia Parrish," Darrah said.

Darrah said she and her colleague, Recreation Specialist II Robin Harden, selected the top four designs, which now are open for public voting.

One of the four artists, junior Emma Vonder Haar, said the Parks and Recreation Department gave the students few criteria, leaving them open to be creative with their designs.

Vonder Haar said her design was hand painted watercolors of Kirksville landmarks. However, designs varied greatly — some had a graffiti look or others were photoshopped, she said.

Fine said he proposed the project as a service learning assignment to his Drawing III class.

"I am interested in trying to help students connect their activity that

they do in this dark studio somewhere to the outside world," Fine said.

Fine said he especially was drawn to the mural project because of its community focus. He wants to teach his students not only to work for a client, but also for an entire community, he said.

Fine said he foresees a continued partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department after the LPRC decides on the final design.

"I think it would be really nice to get it done in the spring semester, with Truman helping finish the job," Fine said.

Fine said he thinks it would be a good idea for the art department to give the winning designer an opportunity to work on the installation for credit.

He said he is recruiting a service organization interested in helping to put up the mural.

Fine and Darrah said students and community members can vote on the Kirksville Parks and Recreation Facebook page, at facebook.com/KirksvilleParksandRecreation.

Vote for designs at
[facebook.com/
KirksvilleParksandRecreation](http://facebook.com/KirksvilleParksandRecreation)

Truman debuts new faculty health initiatives

BY AUSTIN HORNBOSTEL
Staff Reporter

New health initiatives aiming to promote good health and early detection of chronic issues among Truman State's faculty and staff were implemented this month.

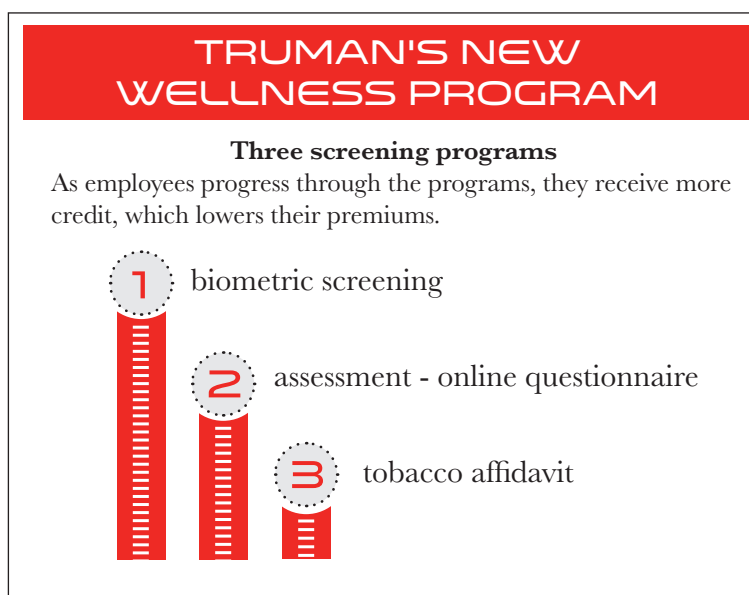
Sally Herleth, Executive Human Resources Director, said the new wellness program works with wellness credit, obtainable by participating in the three screening programs. The credit is offered in a tiered program through the University and rewards staff for their good health and participation. Based on how much of the program employees have completed, the credit increases, which will then lower employee premiums.

Herleth said full-time employees with insurance who want to get a "full wellness premium," or one with the full suite of wellness credit, have to complete the screening, assessment and tobacco affidavit. Tobacco users also can gain access to the full wellness credit by agreeing to take part in a tobacco cessation program.

"If you use tobacco, you can't get the full wellness [credit]," Herleth said. "What's changed is having to do with these new tiers [to the insurance] and having to complete these wellness programs."

The program is not mandatory, but Herleth said faculty who do not participate will see increased insurance premiums. She said participation rates among faculty were better than anticipated. The estimate before the program's implementation was participation from 520 employees, but the turnout ended up being closer to 575.

"It came on quick and there's some things we're going to look at for next year to see where we'll go from here," Herleth said.



"Overall, I think it's gone okay."

Economics department chair Terry Olson said Truman is different than other institutions because it is self-insured. He said in terms of the cost of premiums, prices tend to rise by the year.

"The insurance company we have is more of a claims processing company," Olson said. "Truman really just uses claims

health, University counseling and disability services, said health screenings through the student health center used to take place for faculty and staff during the spring. She said this has changed because of the differences between the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

processing primarily, or at least that's how it has been historically."

Olson said if an organization has a lot of big claims, insurance rates tend to rise. He said any rise in rates is more likely a result of higher claims rather than the new wellness program itself.

Brenda Higgins, director of student health, University counseling and disability services, said health screenings through the student health center used to take place for faculty and staff during the spring. She said this has changed because of the differences between the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

She said the health center uses FERPA confidentiality rules if they are providing exclusively to students and HIPAA rules if they are providing to faculty and staff. It works out better for the health center if they are using FERPA rules designed for schools, Higgins said. She said if the health center treated faculty and staff as well as students, they would not be able to abide by FERPA rules.

Regarding privacy, Higgins said the biometric screening was done through an outside source, Onsite Health Diagnostics. She said specific individual health information is not made known to Truman's human resources department beyond aggregate data, such as whether or not employees had completed the biometric screening or whether they were tobacco users, but said the screenings pay off throughout the long run.

"If you didn't know you had a high blood pressure and you don't go get your yearly exam, this will be one time where you decide to get that checked out," Higgins said. "Ignorance isn't bliss when it comes to your health."