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THE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-PRODUCED NEWSPAPER

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Johanna Burns/Index

Newly elected City council member Phillip Biston, center, stands with Kirksville Mayor Pro Tem, Richard Detweiler, Left, and current council member Rick Steele, Right.

Biston Wins City Council Seat

Out of 1258 voters

Phillip Biston
Race Winner
41.65%

Robert "Bob" Russell - **32.92%**

Betty L. McLane-Iles - **22.66%**

Kevin A. Alm - **1.75%**

Write-in - **1.03%**

BY JOHANNA BURNS
Staff Reporter

First-time candidate Phillip Biston won the April 7 City Council election. The election results were released at the Adair County courthouse Tuesday night.

Biston ran for the open City Council seat against candidates Betty Louise McLane-Iles, Kevin A. Alm and incumbent Bob Russell. Biston won with 41.65 percent of votes and Russell came in second with 32.91 percent of 1,258 votes.

Following the release of the results, Biston said he was surprised and was trying to let everything sink in. Biston said he ran for City Council as the next step in his civic career. His first move as a council member will be to become familiar with the inner workings of the city council, he said.

"I've been in other city committees, and commissions and things like that, and some civic organizations, and it was kind of the next, natural step to run for City Council and see what I can do there," Biston said. "First, I think I will have to learn all the ins and outs and what's going on to get up to

speed with what's going on with the city, and go from there."

Biston has been a resident of Kirksville since 1989 and is a member of the Kirksville Downtown Improvement Committee and the Kirksville Historic Preservation Commission.

Un-elected candidate McLane-Iles said if she had been elected, her first steps as a city council member would have been to expand areas of tourism, specifically agricultural tourism, by working with area farmers. McLane-Iles said she would have worked on providing funding support to small businesses. She said as a council member, she would have worked out ways for the city and Truman State to work together and collaborate.

"I feel that I am qualified and that I want to make a further contribution to the city," McLane-Iles said. "I want specifically to help the job situation ... I feel that I can make substantial contributions to the welfare of the city."

Candidates Alm and Russell were not present to comment at the courthouse during the release of the election results.

Source: Adair County Clerk's Office

Admin. discuss managing risk & mental health

BY TAYLOR LAY
Staff Reporter

Following a recent Truman State alumnus' death, campus organizations and administration are starting conversations about mental health awareness and proactive risk management practices to help ensure students' safety.

Peers play an influential role in mental health — 88 percent of Truman students initially go to friends and peers on campus for help with personal concerns, according to the Missouri College Health Behavior Survey. Truman students are more likely to seek initial assistance with mental health concerns from friends and family than students at other Missouri public and private universities, according to the survey. In the survey, Truman students said personal reflection and discussion with peers were significant sources of support and information in their decision to make positive life changes.

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Faculty vote against plus-minus grading

BY CLAYTON BERRY
Staff Reporter

The plus-minus grading proposal failed during a faculty-wide referendum last week.

The Truman State University Faculty Senate announced the Nov. 20 Plus-Minus Grading Proposal failed by a majority vote. The Plus-Minus Grading Proposal would have changed the way Truman students' grade point averages would be calculated by including plus and minus suffixes in addition to A through F letter grades. Because the proposal was controversial, Faculty Senate decided a faculty-wide vote would provide more accurate representation on the matter.

Faculty Senate President Vaughan Pultz said because the referendum did not pass, it is his understanding there will not be a plus-minus grading scale implemented at Truman. He said Truman's administration has the final say about the matter, but they rarely go against the vote of faculty referendums.

"Faculty Senate wanted to give the entire faculty a sense of buy-in to this decision, rather than it just being something that faculty governance decided," Pultz said.

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KPD offers closer look at law enforcement

BY JOHANNA BURNS
Staff Reporter

Citizens attending the third annual Citizen's Police Academy in Kirksville during fall 2015 will find active shooter situations and other current event topics have been added to the curriculum.

The Kirksville Citizens' Police Academy will start Aug. 11 and end Nov. 10. The academy will explore different areas of law enforcement including communications, internal affairs, criminal investigations, patrol functions and S.W.A.T., and will include a jail tour. A new session will instruct participants about what to do during an active shooter situation and the academy will address issues surrounding current events, such as the conflict in Ferguson, Missouri.

Police Chief Jim Hughes said the academy will address misconceptions about how law enforcement works. He said the academy aims to accomplish this by allowing citizens a chance to see firsthand what law enforcement does.

"An important piece of that is not only what we do, but why we do it," Hughes said. "The 'why' is actually as important, sometimes, as the 'what.' Almost everything that we do, we have some kind of rational reason behind it."

Hughes said the instructors encourage questions and are dedicated to being transparent about their procedures. He said the Citizens Academy provides an opportunity to develop a relationship between the police and the com-

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY CURRICULUM



[INTERNAL AFFAIRS]



[COMMUNICATIONS]



[APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 17]



[ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATIONS]



[PATROL FUNCTIONS]



[BACKGROUND CHECK WILL BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE]



[S.W.A.T.]



[CONFLICT IN FERGUSON, MO]

SOURCE: KIRKSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

munity where the citizens can feel comfortable approaching the police.

There will be a variety of instructors present to address all areas of law enforcement. Adair County Sheriff Robert Hardwick will speak about law enforcement from a county perspective.

Hardwick said the work of the Sheriff's Office is distinct from that of the Police Department. He said KPD is responsible for matters regarding municipal laws and ordinances while the Sheriff's Office has jurisdiction

regarding state laws and oversees operations at the local jail.

Hardwick said the class will inform participants about how the Adair County jail is operated and how many inmates they house. He said he aims to give participants an idea of the cost of running a jail, the personnel involved, and the procedures for processing and holding someone in the jail.

Hardwick said he will discuss how many inmates the jail currently houses and how many are repeat offenders or

from other counties. He said he will also give the participants a tour of the jail.

Hardwick said this year he will discuss replacing old surveillance cameras and adding new cameras, and touch screens for electronic doors to provide up-to-date security.

Brenda Kelsey, from the Police Department's Administrative Office, said anyone interested in enrolling in the academy should pick up an enrollment packet at the Kirksville Police Department.

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