

## CRIME UPDATE | Student facing felony charges released on bond and awaits preliminary hearing March 18

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The defendant is subject to warrantless searches, with or without probable cause and has surrendered his passport to the Adair County Sheriff's Office, according to the filing.

Adair County Prosecutor Matt Wilson said the March 18 hearing is to establish or refute probable cause.

"The purpose of the hearing is to ensure that there is factual basis to proceed with charges," Wilson said.

Wilson said the possible sentence for a first degree rape charge, should the defendant be convicted, could range from the 10-year minimum to a maximum life sentence. Wilson said in Missouri, the life sentence typically is 30 years. He said regardless of sentence length, should the student be found

guilty, he would be under the supervision of the Department of Justice's Division of Probation and Parole for the rest of his life.

Wilson said the other two charges carry various sentence lengths, and if convicted of a combination of the proposed offenses, the actual time served could vary greatly depending on whether the judge decides to assign the sentences consecutively or concurrently. Wilson said consecutive sentencing means the allotted times from multiple offenses would be added together, while concurrent sentencing could allow the sentences essentially to be served simultaneously for the duration of the longest term. Wilson said the jury is allowed to make a recommendation, but it is the judge who will make the final decision.

## TOBACCO | Truman plans to implement a tobacco-free campus plan including smoking cessation

See TOBACCO, page 3

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for student health, recommendations from the University's insurance provider and support from students and faculty were driving forces for passing the ban. Higgins said she is optimistic the cessation program will help make the transition to a smoke-free campus easier for tobacco-using students, staff and faculty.

"Individuals don't have to commit to stop smoking — we will be happy to provide resources just when they are on campus," Higgins said. "We want to help [tobacco-users] in whatever way, whatever their goals are that they are wanting to achieve."

Higgins said Student Affairs is open to listening to student opinions. She said changes could be made to the cessation program if they would improve the experience for the students. Higgins said she aims to help all of Truman State adapt to the new policy.

Junior Joe Haddox said he occasionally uses tobacco to cope with stress from the daily demands of being a student.

"I didn't know anything about a cessation program — I just knew I couldn't smoke past a certain date," Haddox said.

Haddox said he teaches smoking cessation classes at Preferred Family Healthcare. He said it would be better to offer smoking cessation classes for groups on campus. Haddox said he would like to see a promotional campaign on campus to inform students of the cessation program avail-

## METH | Reported incidents of methamphetamine drug use decline in Adair county during 2014

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before the ordinance was implemented. Hardwick said methamphetamine and the products used to make it still travel into the community through other means, but not to the same degree it was before last year.

"When you're selling 1,600 packs [of this product] every month in this community and over 16,000 packs [are purchased] a year by individuals, you can just imagine that product everywhere in this community because they're buying it so freely ... but that option has been taken away," Hardwick said.

Hardwick said despite this positive change, the overarching issue of methamphetamine use in the county still exists. He said the sheriff's department will continue to use law enforcement resources to combat the drug problem in the community.

Hardwick said many other types of crime, such as assault and domestic violence, often can be attributed to drug use, and he said the sheriff's department housed many arrestees of drug crimes who were arrested again for non drug-related crimes.

Jim Hughes, Chief of the Kirksville Police Department, said KPD has seen an increase in meth coming into the county, rather than the drug being made at local operations. Hughes said while the pseudoephedrine ordinance was helpful, it hasn't completely eliminated the problem.

"We don't want people to think that just because they haven't seen as many news articles or media stories about meth labs ... that it's gone away because it hasn't," Hughes said.

"We are certainly concerned that there's some other things that have happened and have been put in place by the drug culture to take the place of what they lost through the pseudoephedrine ordinance."

Hughes said meth labs cause many environmental problems, including fire risks and child endangerment. He said inappropriately disposed of meth by-products could pose risks to passing bystanders as well.

KPD Detective Steve Feeney said KPD cannot tell whether methamphetamine usage has gone down as a whole, since the statistics from the State Highway Patrol only are reported incidents. Feeney said methamphetamine arrests still are being made, but it is difficult for officers to identify how heavily the drug still is used. He said the means to produce meth in the county still exist, though the amount of meth produced by using alternative products would be much less than the amount that could be produced by pseudoephedrine drugs.

"They're still going to be making it — it just makes it more difficult for them to get it," Feeney said. "If they go get a box of pills and everything else, they're going to get maybe one gram of methamphetamine out of one buy. For them to be able to do that, to make any money, they have to have an influx of people going and buying and doing that."

Feeney said "mom and pop" operations, or operations that only produce enough of the drug for one or two users to support their habit, currently are more prevalent in the county than bigger selling operations.

## Community to discuss transmission line

BY LUCAS MEYRER

Staff Reporter

The Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois will host an open house from 10 a.m. to noon, Feb. 26 at the Kirksville Days Inn for citizens concerned with the upcoming Mark Twain Transmission Project.

The Mark Twain Transmission Project is a 100-mile electricity power line system that will stretch across western Illinois, northern Iowa and northeast Missouri, with a substation to be built in Kirksville.

The project was approved during 2011 and is scheduled to be built during 2018. The project will provide 200 new construction jobs and bring

345,000 volts of electricity to serviceable areas. The open house will be regarding the 2.5 mile connector project to connect the Mark Twain Transmission Project with an existing power station in Kirksville.

Sophomore ECO member Kaitlyn Meyer said this initiative has been actively combated by a grassroots, Kirksville-based coalition called Neighbors United Against Ameren's Power Line, or Neighbors United.

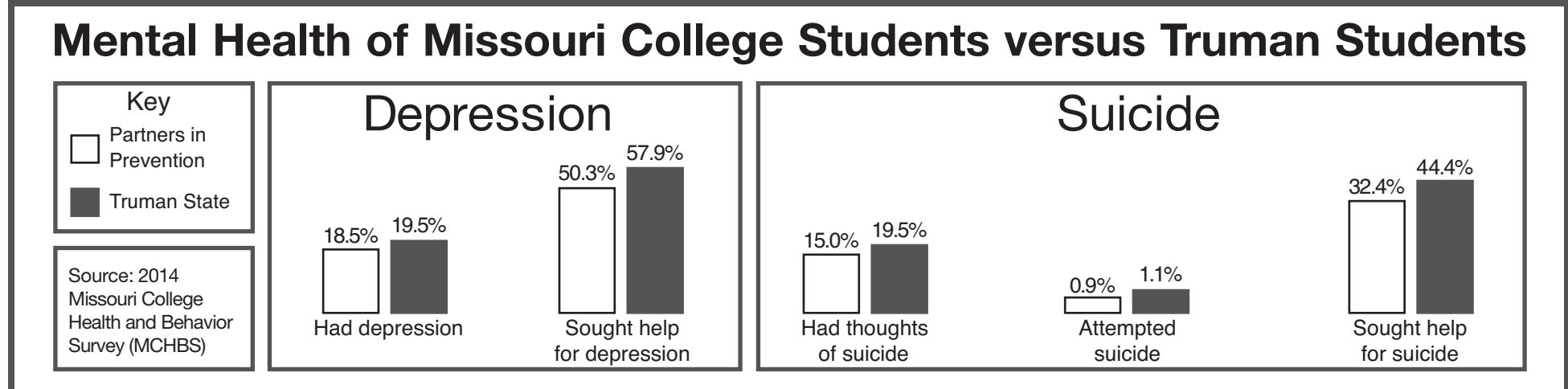
Meyer said she has been involved heavily with Neighbors United, and she said the organization's stance is that no power line should interfere with the property of any landowners or impede their ability to farm.

"The transmission line is going to go over the land of many farmers and families, and transmission lines have been linked to negative health effects, including childhood leukemia," Meyer said.

Meyer said Neighbors United's efforts to stop the project have included distributing flyers, presenting information to counties outside of Adair County and addressing city council members by contacting them and attending city council meetings.

More information from Ameren can be found at [www.ameren.com/mark-twain](http://www.ameren.com/mark-twain), and Neighbors United's website can be found at [www.neighborsunitednemo.com](http://www.neighborsunitednemo.com).

Ameren did not return requests for contact.



## SURVEY | The Missouri College Health and Behavior Survey offers insight into the mental health and habits of students at PIP-21 schools during 2014.

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closely with several groups across campus to address topics of physical and mental health at Truman. Cannon-Breland said the committee includes Hamilton as well as representatives from the Center for Student Involvement, the health and exercise science department, Truman's Department of Public Safety, Kirksville's Preferred Family Healthcare and several student-led health organiza-

tions including Eta Sigma Gamma and Phi Epsilon Kappa.

Cannon-Breland said this committee meets every two weeks to discuss strategies intended to improve student safety and well-being, particularly in regards to stress, alcoholism, substance abuse, risky drinking behaviors and bystander intervention. She said a representative from her committee participates at monthly PIP-21 coalition meetings, where representatives from

the coalition's higher learning education institutions in Missouri get together to discuss common trends in the student issues stated above. Then, she said they decide how to implement the yearly Health and Behavior Survey.

Cannon-Breland said Truman's administration, as well as most other PIP-21 schools, have succeeded in raising awareness of these issues, such as the CHEERS program. Truman has implemented new Truman

Week programs to help incoming freshmen face some of these concerns, such as bystander intervention training and the Consent, Coercion and Consequences presentations. She said Truman will take further steps in the future to continually broaden the awareness of the student body.

Cannon-Breland said she and her committee likes to get student perspectives on these issues since the issues directly

affect them. She said one of the most important goals of her committee is to help students learn positive coping strategies that will enhance their health and well-being while at Truman and beyond.

"We want to make sure student voices are heard on these issues," Cannon-Breland said. "This is all geared toward making students successful in every area of their life and well-being."

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