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TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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EXCELLENCE SINCE 1909

THE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-PRODUCED NEWSPAPER

tmn.truman.edu

KRCCU is refunded & operational

BY BETHANY BOYLE
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The Kirksville Regional Computer Crimes Unit resumed operation during February after one month spent offline.

KPD Detective Steve Feeney was reinstated as KRCCU investigator Feb. 17 and immediately returned to work in the computer crimes lab.

Feeney said the Kirksville Police Department is applying to receive the grant backing for the unit because the state since has released grant funding, but the department first must apply and be approved to receive it. He said the applications currently are being reviewed and the department should be notified soon with the funding decision.

Feeney said KPD has not had problems securing funding for the Computer Crimes Unit during the past, and if all goes well, the small task force will be fully funded soon. He said the total budget allocated for computer crimes task forces in Missouri is \$1.5 million. KPD has applied to receive enough grant funding for the detective salary and training trips.

Gov. Jay Nixon had withheld funds for the State Cyber Crime Grant since June 2014, which included the funding used to maintain the Computer Crimes Unit. The Kirksville Police Department continued to fund the task force out-of-pocket for the duration of 2014 until it became impossible for the department to continue.

The department declared the unit inoperational Jan. 18, without a clear indication of when or how it would regain operational status. Nixon then released the grant funding during February making the grant capital available to law enforcement agencies in Missouri with task forces devoting special attention to Internet crime.

Truman discontinues U. Conference Day



BY TAYLOR LAY
Staff Reporter

Truman State administration no longer will host University Conference Day because of the decline in participation, strain on campus resources and interference with course schedules.

According to information from truman.edu, University Conference Day was dedicated to the personal and professional growth and enrichment of all members of the Truman community. According to the website, it



Submitted Photos
Left, University President Troy Paino speaks during the 2010 University Conference. This day has been a tradition at Truman State for many years, but has had a decline in student participation. Above, faculty and staff participate during a 2010 University Conference session. Truman no longer will sponsor Conference Day.

primarily was used for faculty and staff development during the spring semester. It served as a resource for faculty, staff and administration to think about practices in teaching, the University's mission, how the faculty educates and how to improve campus, according to the website.

University President Troy Paino said the conference was around for a long time and was getting more difficult to plan. Paino said it had become a burden on Academic Affairs and a strain on University resources to make the day meaningful. Paino said the administration has heard from faculty, particularly in the sciences, about the burden it has had on their coursework. Science faculty claimed the days off were difficult for them because their courses with weekly lab components were cancelled for Conference Day, interrupting course schedules.

Paino said declining participation was another major factor — fewer faculty members and students were coming to the events. He said the University had a particularly difficult time engaging students during the day. See CONFERENCE, page 3

Residence Life addresses concerns in Ryle

BY AUSTIN HORNBOSTEL
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The Physical Plant will address facility issues in Ryle Hall this week, following a series of isolated incidents that occurred during the first half of this semester.

The residence hall has experienced malfunctions with its fire alarm, hot water and heating systems. In an email released to Ryle residents, Director of Residence Life John Gardner said Residence Life's goal is to provide students with a comfortable living environment and keep residence

hall facilities operating optimally. In the email, Gardner said Residence Life tries to inform the Physical Plant of facility issues so they can resolve them as quickly as possible.

In the email, Gardner said while the heat from showers caused issues with the fire alarm and heat sensor system during previous incidents, his understanding from the Physical Plant is normal-length, hot showers no longer will cause any problems.

Gardner said the Physical Plant will work to deactivate the part of the alarm system that previously has reacted to the heat from hot showers during the past few weeks, according to the email.

In the same email, Physical Plant Director Karl Schneider explained some of the facility issues that have occurred in Ryle.

Schneider said system control panel damage in the building's mechanical room that occurred during February has rendered the ventilation system for Ryle bathrooms inoperational, according to the email. Schneider said because of this, the heat detectors in Ryle bathrooms are more susceptible to moisture damage and can cause the fire alarm system to sound.

Regarding the water heating system, Schneider said a valve issue with

in the system has caused the hot water to go out during multiple occasions.

Additionally, in the email Schneider said the Physical Plant has taken some actions to resolve the issues in Ryle. He said repair parts have been ordered and should be installed this week, and he said the valve system for hot water has been repaired and should function correctly. Additionally, Schneider said the Physical Plant is evaluating methods of future protection for the ventilation system control panel. He said the Physical Plant is investigating strategies to reduce fire alarm system impacts from moisture. See RYLE, page 3

Ameren proposes to connect power substations

BY JOHANNA BURNS
Staff Reporter

Ameren hosted an open house Feb. 26 at the Kirksville Days Inn to inform community members about possible routes for a new transmission line.

The proposed 161,000 volt transmission line will link the Ameren Missouri Adair Substation and the Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois Zachary Substation. The event was open to the public and Ameren notified landowners that potentially will be affected by the new line.

Currently, there are two proposed routes for the 161 line and meeting attendees were provided with specific information about the two potential routes. Ameren experts and officials were present to answer questions about the line and hear concerns landowners might have. Concerned

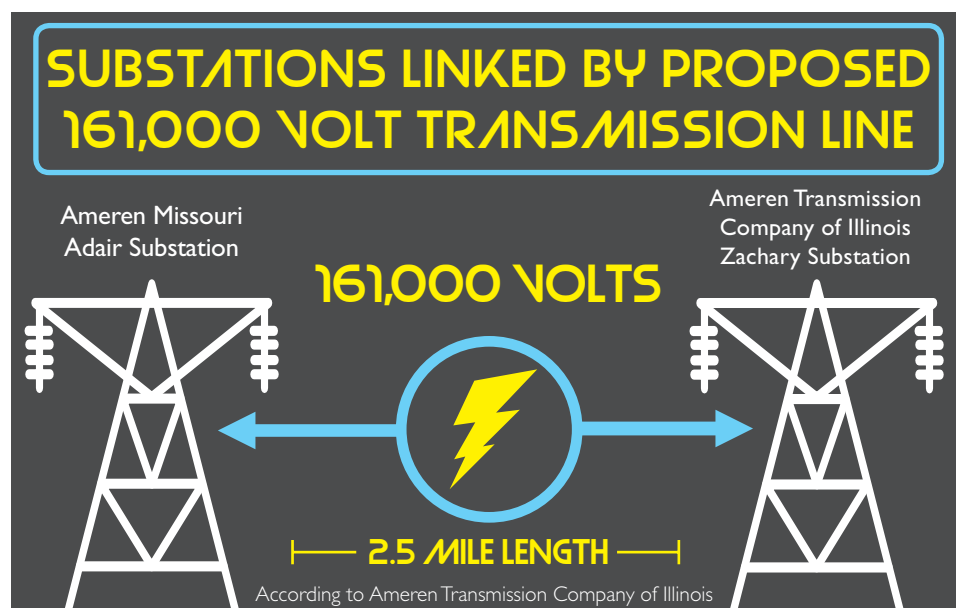
residents had the option of filling out a comment form.

Peggy Ladd, Ameren Director of Stakeholder Relations, said this open house specifically was for the 161 line and not the 345,000 volt line known as the Mark Twain Transmission Project. Ladd declined to discuss the 345 line because that route already has been finalized. She said she wanted to focus on the routing of the 161 line.

"That's where they have the greatest impact," Ladd said. "I really want people to tell me what's right with the route and what's wrong with the route."

Ladd said Ameren tries to work with the landowners to reach a route design with the least impact, but also the smartest route.

Ladd said she hopes to have the route finalized by April for submission to the Public Service Commission. She said as long as the project goes through the process and the PSC approves it, Ameren can



begin making real estate offers to landlords to compensate them for their property by this time next year.

The Mark Twain project should have a beneficial impact on the community, Ladd said. She said since the new lines run at a higher voltage, they should be more energy-efficient.

Ladd said the line will cause a five cent increase on Ameren customers' monthly bills, but she thinks the benefits outweigh the cost. She said the new lines will make the area more attractive to manufacturers, retailers

or any other company requiring a significant source of consistent power.

Members of Neighbors United, a local grassroots group opposed to the new power lines, attended the open house. Neighbors United formed in opposition to the Mark Twain Project and meets every week to discuss strategies and ideas on how to prevent the project from moving forward. According to the website for Neighbors United, the group currently is opposed to all proposed route options.

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