

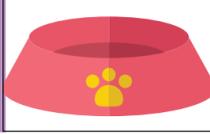
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EXCELLENCE SINCE 1909

THE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-PRODUCED NEWSPAPER

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**CONCEALED CARRY WEAPON**

A Missouri CCW permit does not authorize any person to carry concealed firearms in any of these seven places. To see the full list of all 17 locations in which a person cannot carry a concealed weapon in go to [missouricarry.org](http://missouricarry.org)

[www.missouricarry.com](http://www.missouricarry.com)

## Concealed carry law changes won't permit firearms on campus

BY KIRA HINTZ  
Staff Writer

A new statutory law, a result of Bill 656, which took effect Jan. 1, 2017, allows the concealed carrying of firearms in Missouri without a required permit, background check or training. The law has raised concerns about the general safety of Truman State University's students, faculty and Kirksville public.

Sara Holzmeier, Department of Public Safety director, said Truman isn't necessarily affected by the new concealed carry law. Although the bill authorizes legally purchased guns within the state to be concealed without a permit, Holzmeier said the bill includes 17 different areas where concealed carry is prohibited. One of those areas, Holzmeier said, are higher education campuses. Holzmeier said the law gives governing boards of universities the power to grant or deny permission for people to carry on campus. Holzmeier said currently no one at Truman, except for certified DPS officers, has been granted concealed carry.

Holzmeier said the consequences of being on Truman property with a concealed weapon and not a CCW permit can result in a class B misdemeanor, which is considered a lesser offense as opposed to a class A misdemeanor. Holzmeier said the offender is then arrested. Holzmeier said if a person is found carrying a concealed firearm on campus but has a CCW permit, they will instead receive a fine of \$100, in addition to an administrative mark of violation on their concealed carry permit.

Holzmeier said there have been no serious incidents with guns at Truman, with reports either turning out to be air soft guns, nerf guns or items mistaken for weapons but there's still a continual discussion of firearm safety.

Holzmeier said Residence Life goes over the fact that there are no firearms allowed in the residence halls or on campus.

"We're pretty upfront with the kids as far as the policies go," Holzmeier said. "My officers and I also have an hour to talk to the freshmen now, as of this year — we started this year — and one of the things we go over is that [there's] absolutely no firearms on campus. Also we let them know if you're a part of the Sharp Shooters or if you want to rurally hunt up here and live on campus, we can store [your guns] for you over at DPS."

Holzmeier said she thinks good can come out of Bill 656 — such as more people having the opportunity to carry concealed firearms — but there are some issues that arise too. Holzmeier said, universities have been seen as soft targets for gun violence because they contain a large amount of people who can't carry guns. Holzmeier said there's also danger that no one can really know who has a gun or who doesn't have a gun in public.

Holzmeier said one thing she dislikes about the new bill is that people don't have to go through training and therefore are not always taught how to identify themselves as someone

who's carrying.

"My worst fear is that I'm going to have somebody pull a gun and I'm going to think they're a bad person instead of a good person trying to help," Holzmeier said. "And if they don't know the right way to identify themselves, to do anything that a law enforcement officer says and drop their weapon, I don't want to end up having something tragic happen just because somebody was uninformed about what to do when a law enforcement officer approaches."

Holzmeier said the addition of Bill 656 won't change things for DPS because police officers are taught to assume that everyone is armed. For the most part, Holzmeier said she thinks the people who are going to carry concealed are the more responsible people. Holzmeier said typically those people who have gone as far as getting the concealed carry weapons permit have grown up with guns their whole lives and know how to treat them. Holzmeier said that the best way for people to stay safe is to be vigilant, aware of their surroundings and call DPS if they're uneasy.

Holzmeier said there was a bill in the process of getting passed in 2016 that would've allowed concealed carry on college campuses. Holzmeier said the bill failed but the bill might be considered again in this next year to get passed.

Robert Hardwick, Kirksville's Sheriff since November 2008, said prior to Bill 656 that Missouri had a concealed carry process and individuals could make applications for it. Hardwick said a permit, along with a background check and training in order to carry a concealed firearm under CCW is still in effect. But Hardwick said as of Jan. 1, people are not required to have training or a background check. Hardwick said people can basically choose to carry whatever firearm they want, whether it be a handgun or any other legal gun.

Hardwick said prior to January, the CCW permit allowed people to carry in other states, but there were 18 states that wouldn't honor the Missouri CCW permit. Hardwick said Bill 656 allows an individual to carry a concealed firearm but only in the state of Missouri because the new law isn't honored by other states.

Hardwick said the CCW permit came into effect around 2008 or 2009 with the state adopting the right to carry several years ago in order to allow an individual to carry a CCW permit. Hardwick said the first action of CCW was the process of going through training, a background investigation and then an application which was completed by the sheriff who would then issue the permit.

"I'm a firm believer in the Second Amendment," Hardwick said. "I believe everybody has the right to keep and bear arms and always have been, but on the same token, speaking for myself, I feel that people need to be properly trained and they need to be properly educated on the liability requirements and the statutory requirements of carrying a firearm in regards to use of force."

Dave Rector, Vice President of Ad-

ministration, Finance, and Planning, said Bill 656 doesn't financially impact Truman much because of the [Board of Governors not allowing guns on campus, but what could impact Truman cost wise would be allowing students to bring guns to campus. For example, Rector said Residence Life might have to buy secure storage or "gun lockers" for students to store their guns in. Rector said he doesn't know how much money would go into increased gun safety measures, but it's the sort of thing that could definitely cost Truman something.

**"I'm a firm believer in the Second Amendment. I believe everybody has the right to keep and bear arms and always have been, but on the same token, speaking for myself, I feel that people need to be properly trained and they need to be properly educated on the liability requirements and the statutory requirements of carrying a firearm in regards to use of force."**

-Adair County Sheriff Robert Hardwick

If concealed carry were less strict on campus, Rector said Truman would probably not hire more security just because of the current budget situation. What would probably happen, Rector said, is there would be more training involved and some educational programming on guns for Residence Life staff with the help from Public Safety Officers.

Rector said Truman has previously looked into buying metal detectors for campus before.

"One bill that was proposed last year implied that what you would do is set up checkpoints — [kind of] like you have at an airport — and of course the problem with that is that it would be very expensive because you have to have someone staffing it," Rector said. "You'd have to have someone there all the time, like the TSA folks, and we're open from 7 in the morning to 11 at night, so that'd be very expensive. Unless we were mandated by the state that you had to do it, it would be so expensive that I'd doubt if we would do it."

Rector said he thinks it would be better to not have concealed carry on campus because of the complications that could occur and some bad decisions that students occasionally make. Rector said Truman doesn't want a potentially tragic accident to happen.

## Truman responds to travel ban

BY KIRA HINTZ  
Staff Writer

Truman State University has responded to President Donald Trump's recent immigration ban, which took effect Friday, by releasing a statement on the Diversity and Inclusivity webpage Jan. 30 that clarifies Truman's support and acceptance of international students.

Regina Morin, Vice president of Enrollment Management, said Truman's statement toward the immigration ban reflects Truman's desire to make every member of the University community understand that they're welcomed and valued at Truman, regardless of whether they're a domestic or international student or faculty member. Morin said Truman values the diversity of international students, especially the cultural dimension and richness they bring to campus.

Morin said the statement was written by several people with different perspectives so the statement could be from the entire Truman community and not just the University president. People who collaborated on the statement, Morin said, included herself, Center for International Students Director Melanee Crist, Public Relations Director Heidi Templeton, Compliance Officer Jaime Ball and Interim University President Sue Thomas.

See **TRUMAN RESPONSE**, page 6

## County fire department seeks volunteers

BY RACHEL FECHTER  
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Chris Drennan, Adair County Fire Department Chief, fought his first fire when he was 13 years old, after his house in Adair County caught on fire. The concept of calling 9-1-1 during emergencies had not been created yet so Drennan, in a panic, contacted the Kirksville Fire Department and was told the Kirksville Fire Department did not deal with fires in the rest of Adair County. His family, left to fend for themselves, put out the fire with pots and pans.

"I vowed then at 13 years old — if there was any way I could avoid someone having the same problem, I would," Drennan said.

That moment, Drennan said, ignited his passion to fight fires for the rest of his life. Drennan said the Adair County Fire Department is now looking for volunteers who share this passion and who want to give back to their community.

Drennan said volunteers for fire departments are down by 15 percent nationally. Drennan said Adair County Fire Department is trying to find ways to get more Truman State students involved in the organization.

"There's a lot of people that go to Truman that were on volunteer fire departments where they came from," Drennan said. "We want to give them the opportunity to come join us if they want to continue their fire service."

Drennan said plans are in the works for the Adair County Fire Department to start building a new fire station with living quarters so college students can live there for free in exchange for responding to fires. He said the Adair County Fire Department has a budget of around \$80,000 a year and this new fire station would cost close to \$200,000. Because of this, Drennan said the fire department is slowly making progress on the project. Drennan estimates the new fire station will likely be up and running in the next year and a half to two years.

Among some of the Truman students who already volunteer with Adair County Fire Department is junior Kara Wehmeyer.

"I wish everyone in my fire department was like Kara," Drennan said. "She has a passion for firefighting. She's smart. She's tough. She has leadership skills. She's an extremely quick learner. She actually came to me with the idea of putting on a basic firefighting course. Anyone who shows initiative like that is outstanding."

See **FIRE DEPARTMENT**, page 4