

DPS, KPD prepare to monitor parade

BY ASHLEY CRAVEN
Contributing Writer

Truman State University's student body and law enforcement departments are tackling heightened safety concerns in preparation for this year's Homecoming parade Oct. 22.

The Center for Student Involvement, Homecoming Committee, Blue Key Honor Society and Department of Public Safety are working with the Kirksville Police Department to ensure appropriate security measures for those participating in and attending the parade.

CSI Director Laura Bates has worked with committees on this parade for years. Because this is an election year, she said she expects it will have a much larger turnout.

"Usually we have about 60 to 75 cars in the parade," Bates said. "This year, if we're not closer to 80 or 90, I'll be surprised."

To accommodate such a large crowd, Bates said she must make sure proper safety protocols are followed in each vehicle.

"We have to start by petitioning the city to let us do the event," Bates said. "We fill out that application for the parade and the 5K held earlier in the morning. We also have to get insurance and participation waivers for both events."

Bates said she also has to make sure the parade is insured so the school is not held responsible for any incidents that might occur. She said each car is equipped with a fire extinguisher, and the CSI makes sure each person driving has a valid license.

Zach Lepperd, chair of the Truman State Homecoming Committee, works closely with Bates to organize parade participants throughout the semester.

In addition to the applications CSI goes through, Blue Key Honor Society, the organization in charge of putting on the parade, helps control crowds while the parade is taking place on The Square.

Blue Key president senior Reagan Simmons is working with Bates and the Department of Public Safety to direct traffic and to keep people on floats safe during the parade.

"The night before the parade, we spray paint the numbers on the spots to make sure that everyone knows where they need to be," Simmons said. "Then we stagger the parade so that not all the cars go at the same time."

Once everyone is in their spot, Simmons said Blue Key is responsible for driving the University president, the Board of Governors and other important political figures through the parade.

"They have to ride in nice vehicles, whether those are antique cars, Jeeps or trucks," Simmons said. "Kirksville Automotive supplies some vehicles, but we also have to find people we know and let us borrow their cars."

Campus organizations also team up with the Department of Public Safety and the KPD on this day to monitor the large crowds during the parade.

DPS Assistant Director Chad Whittom has been preparing for this event by increasing the staff working that weekend.

"We have to focus on providing immediate assistance and getting the emergency responders into the area if

there's an incident," Whittom said. "We work very closely with the city police that day because we have so many intersections that we have to work. We try to keep somebody moving up and down the parade route if we can, but our main goal is to keep people out of the way of the parade."

Steve Farnsworth, KPD deputy police chief, is not as concerned with the large crowds as he is with the safety of children during the parade.

"One of our main concerns is kids running out into the street during the parade," Farnsworth said. "For the majority of the parade route, we set up ropes and try to have kids stay behind the ropes."

The reason for this is on many of the floats, people will throw candy for the children. This causes them to run into the middle of the street, which could result in an accident.

Kirksville Police Chief Jim Hughes has written a letter to participants in the parade asking them not to throw anything off the floats.

Alumni connect with current students, past organizations at Homecoming events

BY RACHEL STEINHOFF
Sports Text Editor

Truman State University's Homecoming has long connected alumni to their pasts, but it's also about creating vital opportunities that benefit current students.

Truman welcomes an estimated 2,000 to 2,500 alumni for the biggest alumni-student event of the year, Alumni Relations Director Denise Smith said.

"We want to keep people connected so that they want to come back to Truman," Smith said. "So that they want to share their experience, speak to a class, mentor a student, provide an internship or attend the Career Expo."

Many alumni pour back into their old stomping grounds Friday morning as the weekend kicks off with the alumni leaders conference. Alumni attend brainstorming activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. that allow different voices to generate networking ideas and share campus updates.

The Bulldog Forever Banquet Friday night includes Hall of Fame inductions and the Golden Alumni Diploma ceremony for graduates 50 years out. Smith says around 30 alumni typically come back to earn their golden diploma.

These men and women who walked the sidewalks of Truman as seniors in 1966 now walk across a stage in the Student

Union Building Georgian Room to celebrate their lives as Bulldog alumni.

Smith said current students are encouraged to attend the seminar earlier in the day because the floor opens for students to offer suggestions and ask questions to an influential group.

"Students have the chance to weigh in on what alumni events they would most like to attend and create more networking opportunities now and for the future," Smith said.

"We want to keep people connected so that they want to come back to Truman."

-Alumni Relations Director Denise Smith

Smith said the alumni she works with always want to mingle around campus. She said proof of this could be found at Truman's yearly Career Expo, where 25 to 30 percent of the 300 companies in attendance send Truman alumni as their representatives.

"They think highly of our alumni," Smith said. "They know they are well prepared to enter the career path that they've

chosen, and they want to recruit future alums. They want to offer internships, careers or employment."

It's not all business all the time for alumni, however. Smith said the most interactive Homecoming event with current students is the tailgate, which is attended by an estimated 2,000 alumni and an even greater number of students.

Senior Lincoln McCoy serves as Greek Alumni Relations Intern and is a member of Beta Theta Pi, which he said averages a turnout of 80 to 100 alumni. McCoy said he coordinates opportunities for alumni to speak on different topics.

This semester, McCoy has arranged for a Greek alumnus to speak his expertise on mental health, following two suicides in Greek organizations this semester. McCoy said he later plans for talks on a professional area of interest, such as a higher up at an accounting firm.

"Chances are, there is someone who has been in the fraternity who is in a place that you want to get to," McCoy said. "Or they've been through a lot of the same things you have, with stressing over with the job search and things like that. They want to help you."

McCoy said many graduates want to return simply to reconnect with their old organizations that tie them to the University.

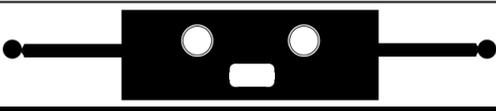
McCoy said Greek alumni and current members will have the opportunity to participate in a friendly cornhole tournament through the course of the tailgate. McCoy said the teams will be randomly selected so they can get to know each other and make connections for the benefit of both sides.

"It's kind of mind-blowing to me ... all of these people that you're meeting up with just trust you and have your back because you're part of the brotherhood," McCoy said. "That's super interesting to me because I've never even met these people before, but we have that connection because we hold the same core values."

Greg Jochems, Alumni Board student representative, said Friday's board meeting will focus on leadership skills. To encourage interaction, alumni and students work together in small groups organized by chapters, which will present their networking strategies to the board over the next six months.

Jochems said he is also working on ways to network from afar when Homecoming is over. Jochems said students can be on the lookout during the next year for "five for five" podcasts — virtual advice and experience sharing from former Bulldogs.

"The first couple are testimonials," Jochems said. "It's alumni talking about how they got involved in anything from nursing to being a librarian. It's diverse."



THE BODY OF CHRIST

1 Cor. 12:12-27

October 21-23, 2016 | Ekklesia Campus Ministry &
Kirksville Church of Christ | 110 Pfeiffer Ave

FRIDAY @ 7 PM
Bonfire and singing at Weichelts

SATURDAY @ 3 PM
Intro - "Inclusio" - Dan Green
The Body is One - v. 12 - Tad Morris
The Foot - v. 15 - Jordan Weichelt

**MEAL
SATURDAY @ 6:30 PM**
Ear - v. 16-17 - Wade Stanley

Saturday night fellowship at
Rehoboth Gym

SUNDAY @ 10 AM
Songs - John Kusmec
Eye - v. 17, 21 - Destry Klein
Lord's Supper - Dane Bossert
Hand - v. 15 - Sam Woody

**MEAL & Volleyball
SUNDAY @ 2 PM**
Individual members - v. 27
-Tad Morris



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OCT. 20	5:30 PM 7:30 PM	Laser Pop Laser Country
OCT. 21	7:00 PM 9:00 PM	Fright Light Laser Beatles
OCT. 22	2:00 PM 4:00 PM	SEVEN WONDERS followed by Pink Floyd's Darkside of the Moon ICE WORLDS followed by Laser Beatles
OCT. 22	7:00 PM 9:00 PM	Legends of the Night Sky - Orion Fright Light II

Show descriptions and the link to purchase tickets for **\$5 each** can be found at planetarium.truman.edu. Tickets may also be purchased at the door if they are still available.

Presented in conjunction with
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