

Opinions

Trista Sullivan discusses schools teaching about drug rehabilitation see page 3



Features

Delta Sigma Theta comes back to campus after brief absence see page 3



Sports

Women's soccer raises to No. 13 in national rankings see page 7



TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY INDEX

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Missouri House Speaker Todd Richardson addresses The Capitol Press Corps following the Missouri veto session Sept. 14 in Jefferson City. The Veto Session is an annual meeting in September among Missouri's legislators to determine whether to overturn vetoes on bills originally passed by Missouri's congress.

KFD purchases new AEDs

BY EMILY MERKLE Staff Writer

City departments in Kirksville and surrounding areas, including the Kirksville Fire Department, recently purchased Automated External Defibrillators from NEMO Heart Health. Often found hanging on walls in busy places, AEDs automatically administer shocks to the heart if needed during a medical emergency.

Kirksville Fire Chief Tom Collins said the Kirksville Fire Department purchased two AEDs from NEMO Heart Health. Collins said the department has two front-line trucks that run standard calls which already had AEDs on board. He said the new AEDs will be available for use on ladder trucks or smaller vehicles.

Collins said the department paid \$200 for each AED and will have ongoing costs to keep the AED pads and batteries updated. Collins said the department used money from their small-equipment budget to purchase the AEDs.

Collins said having the AEDs on all of the department vehicles will be advantageous because the sooner a shock is administered, the more effective the shock is at saving a life. He said having the AEDs on the trucks decreases time needed to get an AED to an emergency scene. See AEDs, page 4

Students weigh in on Veto Session

BY CLAYTON BERRY Staff Writer

Truman State University students express competing views on new and upcoming state laws pertaining to concealed carry and voter identification, which resulted from the Missouri General Assembly voting to overturn vetoes on bills during last week's Veto Session.

The 2016 Veto Session took place from 12-9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14 at the Capitol Building in Jefferson City. The Veto Session is an annual meeting during September where the Missouri General Assembly determines whether to overturn vetoes on bills that originally passed through the House and Senate during regular sessions, but were vetoed by the Missouri governor. This year, the General Assembly voted to override seven House vetoes and six Senate vetoes. The General Assembly failed to override two other vetoes, and the seven remaining vetoes were not discussed.

State Representative Nate Walker, R, represented Adair County at the Veto Session along with Representative Craig Redmon, R, and Senator Brian Munzlinger, R. Walker said Senate Bill 656's veto was overridden, and Walker said this bill was sponsored by Senator Munzlinger to increase gun rights for Missouri citizens. Walker said the bill contains several new state laws that will go into effect at various times, but none of them later than Jan. 1, 2017. He said some of these laws include removing the need of a concealed carry permit, removing the requirement that one must retreat from an assailant before it is permissible to use a firearm in self-defense, allowing citizens to apply for a lifetime open carry permit, and allowing college faculty to carry concealed firearms on college campuses if permission is granted by a university's highest governing body.

Walker said House Bill 1631's veto was also overridden, but this new voter identification law must be voted on in the November election as an amendment to the Missouri constitution. If passed, Walker said the new law will require Missouri citizens

to have a photo ID to vote in future public elections. Walker said counties currently can recommend voters bring a photo ID to elections, but said they cannot require it unless HB 1631 becomes state law.

Representative Walker said these bill vetoes have been discussed at length among legislators for some time now, so he said the Republican legislators met with their majority caucus on Wednesday morning to make a final decision on what bills to bring to a vote during the Veto Session. He said they first asked the bill's sponsor if they wanted to bring up the vetoed bill. If they wanted to, then Walker said the caucus tried to determine how many votes the veto override would most likely get, as well as how much of a priority the bill was among the others. Walker said some bills didn't have time for a discussion, so those bills are probably over. However, he said they can make changes to those bills and bring them up in future sessions, or even make changes to bills that do pass and become law if they discover the bill did not have the intended results. Walker said the General Assembly's votes were not too different from when the bills originally passed because both parties made up their minds on them during the Regular Session. Walker said he got a lot of feedback from his constituents about SB 656 and HB 1631, among others, and said he voted according to their feedback. Walker said he tries to include student feedback as much as possible, and he said students can contact him, Redmon, or Munzlinger if they have any feedback.

"I visit campus quite a bit," said Walker. "I encourage students to email me if they need to reach out to me."

Senior Jake Buxton, College Republicans State Chair, said he was satisfied with the results of the Veto Session. Buxton said he organized a trip with college students from across the state, including Truman State, to attend the session. Buxton said the two goals for the visit were to support the veto overrides, as well as get more students involved in the political process.

"The biggest thing was to advocate for what we believed in," said Buxton. "I think

the students who went with us will be the future of the College Republicans."

Buxton said he spoke in favor of concealed carry rights on college campuses during last Spring semester's gun control debate at Truman. He said he was disappointed most students present voted against his position because he said concealed carry would help students defend themselves from threats to their safety, such as active shooters. Buxton said student concealed carry was supposed to be part of HB 2698, which was brought up in Regular Session in March 2016, but said student concealed carry was taken out of the bill because the issue was still an ongoing debate. However, he said he was satisfied with SB 656's veto override, because he said it would potentially allow faculty trained in firearm safety to protect students in crisis situations. He said SB 656 might make it easier to pass future legislation involving students' gun rights, and he said he is confident state legislature will revisit this topic in the near future.

Buxton said he also supported HB 1631 because he said photo identification will prevent voter fraud. He said if we need to show photo identification to get into R-rated movies and rent out books in the library, then he thinks we should have to provide photo identification to vote in elections. He said voter fraud can have a big impact on local elections, and said there are several examples of past elections that were determined by a very small margin of votes amidst allegations of voter fraud. He said individuals can simply take a sensitive document from another person, vote in their name, and get away with it. He said he also disagrees with Democrats who say photo ID requirements disenfranchise some potential voters, because Buxton said the state would provide free transportation, a free photo ID if they do not have one, and other means to attain identification. Buxton said that the best case scenario is voter fraud isn't a big problem, but he said there is less to lose from implementing more voter ID rules than hoping the problem doesn't exist.

"I'm very proud and excited for what we accomplished, and our work is only just starting," said Buxton.

Junior Jacob Brooke, Director of Recruitment for College Democrats for Missouri, said he believed the Veto Session was much more controversial than Republican legislators made it out to be, because he said Democrats do not have enough representation in the House or Senate to be able to oppose either of the Republican super majorities. He said super majorities can be defined as having more than 2/3 of the total legislators needed to override bill vetoes. Brooke said it is difficult for Democratic legislators to represent their constituents because their party has been the historic minority in the General Assembly. But Brooke said the Democratic legislators still do their best to represent their constituents, including this Veto Session, by using filibusters, such as one that lasted more than two hours in opposition to HB 1631.

Brooke said the filibusters were useful because they helped prevent some legislation from being voted on, but more importantly he said filibusters were used as a last resort to express dissent to an issue, thus making a moral point to delay the passage of something for as long as possible to protect their constituents. Brooke said Republican legislators ended the filibusters with a previous question, which ended the filibuster, ended the debate, and called everyone to vote. Brooke said ending filibusters via PQ, has been historically rare to do in Missouri politics overall, but said it seems to be recently frequent from the current Republican legislature as a means to oppress opposition. Also, he said PQ, has been used to end Democratic filibusters three times in the last two Veto Sessions, which were the only three times PQ, has ever been used in Missouri Veto Session history.

"The Republican legislators didn't want to listen to those who disagreed with them," Brooke said. "At least not enough to respect their colleagues and voters, so they forcibly shut it off." See VETOES, page 4

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MISSOURI CONGRESS IN BRIEF

SENATE



160 total (163 with vacancies)

7 out of 12 vetoes overridden house bills overridden: 1414, 1432, 1631, 1713, 1763, 1976, 2030



6 out of 10 vetoes overridden senate bills overridden: 608, 656, 844, 847, 994, 1025

31 total (34 with vacancies)

Source: house.mo.gov and senate.mo.gov