1st QUARTER 2007
KOMU-TV COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

THERE FOLLOWS A LISTING OF SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT ISSUES RESPONDED TO BY STATION KOMU-TV THROUGH ITS NEWS PROGRAMMING FOR THE PERIOD January 1st, 2007 TO March 31st, 2007. THE LISTING IS BY NO MEANS EXHAUSTIVE, BUT INSTEAD SHOWS THE DEPTH AND BREADTH OF COVERAGE. THE ORDER IN WHICH THE ISSUES APPEAR DOES NOT REFLECT ANY PRIORITY OR SIGNIFICANCE.

1st QUARTER ISSUES: CONSUMER ISSUES, CRIME, DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE, GOVERNMENT, HEALTH, EDUCATION, JOBS/ECONOMY

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE	PROGRAM/ SEGMENT	DATE	TIME	DURATION	NARRATION OF TYPE AND DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SEGMENT
GOVERNMENT	KOMU NEWS AT 10	1/1	10:00 PM	1:50	MID-MISSOURIANS GATHERED TO MARK A SOLEMN MILESTONE IN IRAQ. THE U-S MILITARY SAID YESTERDAY IT HAS NOW LOST THREE THOUSAND TROOPS IN THE WAR. THAT NUMBER SPARKED A DEMONSTRATION AIMED TO STOP ANY MORE DEATHS. MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE GATHERED AT THE BOONE COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL. SMALL ARMS FIRE KILLED DUSTIN DONICA OF SPRING, TEXAS THURSDAY IN BAGHDAD. GROUP MEMBERS WANT TO MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT THE WAR IN IRAQ HEARING THE NAMES READ OUT LOUD ALLOWS ONE MARCHER TO PERSONALIZE THE WAR.
GOVERNMENT/CRIME	KOMU NEWS AT 6	1/2	6:00PM	1:30	PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE CENTER OF COLUMBIA WILL BE GETTING TO KNOW THE OFFICERS WHO PATROL THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD. THE NEED FOR REGULAR OFFICERS DURING BUSINESS HOURS CAME AFTER BUDGET CUTS TO THE COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY DIDN'T ALLOW FOR THE HIRING OF MORE SECURITY STAFF. THE POLICE HAVE SPENT THE MOST TIME PATROLLING DOWNTOWN DURING LATE AFTERNOON AND NIGHT TIME HOURS.

					BUT THAT HAS ALLOWED CRIME TO RISE DURING THE DAY--THE MOST PREVALENT--DRUG SALES IN PUBLIC. WHILE THE OFFICERS ARE INTERESTED IN CUTTING DOWN ON CRIME, THEY BELIEVE THAT GETTING TO KNOW THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THEIR NEW JOB. THE TOTAL AREA THE TEAM WILL COVER FROM STADIUM BOULEVARD EAST TO PROVIDENCE ROAD AND FROM BUSINESS-LOOP 70 SOUTH TO BROADWAY.
CONSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 10**	**1/3**	**10:00PM**	**1:50**	REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMISSION MADE A STOP IN COLUMBIA TO HEAR WHAT LOCAL RESIDENTS HAD TO SAY ABOUT ITS REQUEST TO RAISE THE PRICE OF NATURAL GAS THE MEETING WAS SCHEDULED TO START AT 6:00, BUT THE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION STARTED EARLIER... THAT'S WHEN CUSTOMERS GOT THE CHANCE TO LET OUT THEIR FRUSTRATION. AMEREN OFFICIALS ENCOURAGED RESIDENTS TO TESTIFY AT THE MEETING ON ANYTHING THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT. AND THAT'S JUST WHAT THEY DID. COLUMBIA RESIDENT MILLIE BRINKER NERVOUSLY APPROACHED THE MICROPHONE TO LET AMEREN OFFICIALS KNOW SHE NOT ONLY WOULD BE HIGHLY AFFECTED BY THE INCREASE, BUT ALSO THE BILLS AMEREN SENT OUT WERE NOT CLEAR TO HER. OTHER CITIZENS STRESSED THE EXTREME COLD IN MID-MISSOURI. DELORES GOULD SAYS SHE WOKE UP TO THE UNPLEASANT SURPRISE OF HAVING NO HEAT... THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMITTE HAS BLOCKED OFF MOST OF THE MONTH OF MARCH TO TRAVEL AROUND MISSOURI AND GET FEEDBACK FROM ITS CUSTOMERS.

CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 6**	**1/4**	**6:00PM**	**2:10**	THERE'S APPARENTLY A PROSTITUTION PROBLEM ON THE NORTH SIDE OF COLUMBIA. JAMIE BLOUNT DOESN'T WANT HER KIDS TO SEE THE STEADY STREAM OF CUSTOMERS SHE SEES NEXT DOOR TO HER DAYCARE CENTER. THE CRIMES ARE HARDLY CHILD'S PLAY. ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, POLICE ARRESTED YANG YOON ON A PROMOTING PROSTITUTION CHARGE. JIN PAO FACES A PROSTITUTION CHARGE. AND STEPHEN WALLACE IS ACCUSED OF PAYING FOR PROSTITUTION. THREE WEEKS AGO POLICE ARRESTED FOUR PEOPLE ABOUT A MILE NORTH AT LYNN'S MASSAGE PARLOR. IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, PROSTITUTION ARRESTS HAVE FLUCTUATED ANYWHERE FROM ZERO TO SEVEN IN COLUMBIA. BUT BOTH POLICE AND THIS DAYCARE WORKER SAY, NUMBERS DON'T REALLY SHOW WHAT'S GOING ON BEHIND THE SAUNA DOORS. SOMETHING BLUNT SAYS THE CHILDREN UNDER HER WATCH SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT.
CONSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 10**	**1/5**	**10:00PM**	**1:30**	THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI IS DOING A BIT OF SPRING CLEANING EARLY. AND IT'S USING THE WEB TO HELP. SAY YOU RUN A UNIVERSITY AND YOU CLOSE AN ENTIRE DORM FOR RENOVATION. WHERE DO YOU PUT HUNDREDS OF BEDS AND DESKS? CHAIRS, COMPUTERS, AND REFRIGERATORS OF EVERY STYLE AND COLOR END UP AT UNIVERSITY SURPLUS PROPERTY WHEN M-U BUYS NEW. BO SOLOMON SAYS IT'S NICE TO SEE THESE TYPES OF ITEMS STAY IN THE AREA. AND THAT KITCHEN SINK AND OTHER ITEMS ARE SELLING ON-LINE. M-U IS USING E-BAY FOR THIS WEEKEND'S AUCTION OF DORM FURNITURE. SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE MONEY GOES BACK TO THE DEPARTMENT THE ITEM CAME FROM. THIRTY-FIVE

					COVERS SALARY AND OPERATING EXPENSES. SORT A LIKE A GARAGE SALE IN ONE OF THE MOST UNLIKELY LOCATIONS.
GOVERNMENT/ HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 6**	**1/6**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	COLUMBIA RESTAURANTS ARE GEARING UP FOR THE NON-SMOKING SWITCH. AFTER TUESDAY YOU WON'T HAVE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION "SMOKING OR NON? IN COLUMBIA" THAT'S BECAUSE THE CITY AMENDED AN ORDINANCE TO BAN SMOKING IN ALL RESTAURANTS AND BARS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS. THAT TAKES EFFECT ON JANUARY 9TH; BUT ONE RESTAURANT HAS ALREADY SWITCHED TO A SMOKE FREE ATMOSPHERE. ONE SMOKER SAYS THIS CHANGE MAY MOTIVATE THOSE WHO WANT TO QUIT ALTOGETHER. THE GRAND CRU RESTAURANT WILL CELEBRATE THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BAN BY SMOKING CIGARS AND OPENING A BOTTLE OF VINTAGE WINE. BUSINESS OWNERS SAY WHILE THERE MAY BE A HIT ON BUSINESS, THEY DON'T EXPECT CUSTOMERS TO DISAPPEAR ALONG WITH THE ASHTRAYS.
HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 10**	**1/7**	**10:00PM**	**2:30**	THERE'S NEW HOPE FOR BRAIN CANCER PATIENTS, BUT NOT THE TYPICAL KIND OF HOPE WHICH INVOLVES RECOVERY FOR SOME, RECOVERING FROM BRAIN CANCER ISN'T EVEN AN OPTION. WITH A CERTAIN DIAGNOSIS, THE "WHO YOU ARE" COULD BE TAKEN FROM YOU IN A MATTER OF MONTHS. SO UGLY, PATIENTS ONLY HAD A FOUR TO SIX MONTH LIFE EXPECTANCY FROM THE TIME OF DIAGNOSIS. BUT, IN 1996 RESEARCHERS CREATED THIS DIME-SIZED DEVICE. DOCTORS REMOVE THE PATIENT'S TUMOR, THEN WAFERS CONTAINING CHEMOTHERAPY ARE PUT IN PLACE. AFTER SURGERY, THE PATIENT UNDERGOES RADIATION. BUT NOW, A NEW STUDY COMBINING THE WAFER WITH

					CHEMO AND RADIATION TREATMENTS SPARKED MORE INTEREST FROM DOCTORS. NOT EXACTLY A HAPPY ENDING, BUT AT LEAST A CHANCE TO WRAP UP LIFE. AN OPPORTUNITY OTHERS WITH THIS TYPE OF BRAIN CANCER DIDN'T GET IN THE PAST.
GOVERNMENT/ HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 6**	**1/8**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	THE SMOKING ORDINANCE THAT PASSED IN OCTOBER TAKES EFFECT AT MIDNIGHT. THE ERA OF LIGHTING UP IN RESTAURANTS IN COLUMBIA IS GOING UP IN SMOKE. LITERALLY. SMOKERS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS LAST CHANCE TO ENJOY A CIGARETTE IN ESTABLISHMENTS INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS. BUT THE ORDINANCE IS AFFECTING MORE THAN JUST BAR SMOKERS. THE FESTIVITIES BEGAN EARLY AT THE GRAND CRU RESTAURANT WITH CIGARS AND A STEAK DINNER. BLAME SECOND HAND SMOKE FOR THE NEW RULES. BUT SOME RESIDENTS THINK IT'S A FIRST CLASS PAIN. SO WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ALL THOSE ASHTRAYS WHEN THE CLOCK STRIKES MIDNIGHT?
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 10**	**1/9**	**10:00PM**	**1:30**	IT WAS A NIGHT JEFFERSON CITY RESIDENTS WILL NEVER FORGET. A PLANE CRASH... IN THEIR OWN BACK YARD. THE TRANSCRIPTS FROM THE COCKPIT FLIGHT RECORDER SHOW THE PILOTS WERE JOKING AS THEY FLEW THE CANADAIR C-J-R-2. AT 9-52 THAT NIGHT, ONE PILOT ASKS THE OTHER IF HE'D LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK. "A PEPSI?" SAYS THE SECOND PILOT. "I THOUGHT YOU SAID A BEER MAN. YEAH, I'D LIKE ONE." JUST A FEW MINUTES LATER, AT 9-55, THE PILOTS REALIZE THEY'RE IN TROUBLE. "WE DON'T HAVE ANY ENGINES." "WE'RE NOT HOLDING ALTITUDE." AT 9-58 THE PILOTS PULL ON THEIR OXYGEN MASKS. JUST AFTER 10 P-M AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TELLS THE

					PILOTS THEY SHOULD AIM FOR EITHER THE COLUMBIA OR JEFFERSON CITY AIRPORTS. AND A FEW MINUTES LATER THE TRANSCRIPTS SHOW THE PILOTS ARE LOOKING FOR A RUNWAY BUT DON'T SEE ONE. THEN AT 10-14, THE CHILLING "DUDE, WE'RE NOT GONNA MAKE THIS THING." AND JUST BEFORE IMPACT: "WE'RE GONNA HIT HOUSES DUDE." THE RECORDING ENDS WITH THE SOUND OF IMPACT AT 10:15. BOTH PILOTS DIED WHEN THE PLANE CRASHED, BUT NO ONE ON THE GROUND WAS HURT. THE N-T-S-B SAYS THE ACCIDENT SHOWS A NEED FOR REGIONAL AIR CARRIERS TO ADOPT HIGHER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR PILOTS.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6**	**1/10**	**6:00PM**	**1:15**	IT MAY BE CALLED THE CLEAN WATER COMMISSION BUT CRITICS SAY IT'S POLLUTED WITH THE COMMISSION'S MAKEUP. KEN MIDKIFF WANTS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ENFORCE A STATUTE. THE CURRENT STATUTE SAYS NO MORE THAN THREE MEMBERS OF A SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY CAN BE ON A COMMISSION...BUT FOUR REPUBLICANS AND TWO DEMOCRATS CURRENTLY HOLD SEATS. THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE SAYS THE STATUTE IS VAGUE BUT MIDKIFF DISAGREES. MIDKIFF WANTS THE COMMISSION'S ACTIONS CONSIDERED INVALID. BUT THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DISAGREES. BOTH SIDES SAY COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE NOT TO BLAME.

CONSUMER ISSUES/JOBS ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10**	**1/11**	**10:00PM**	**1:50**	TONIGHT JEFFERSON CITY AREA RESIDENTS SPOKE UP ABOUT AMEREN'S PUSH FOR RATE HIKES. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONERS HAVE HEARD PUBLIC COMMENT FROM AROUND THE STATE DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS... NOT EVERYONE IS A SATISFIED CUSTOMER. AND TONIGHT WAS NO DIFFERENT. AS THE SUPERINTENDENT OF ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOLS IN MILLER COUNTY, SID DOERHOFF HAS BEEN FRUSTRATED BY THE SERVICE AMEREN U-E HAS PROVIDED TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. IN HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TONIGHT, DOERHOFF SAID STUDENTS IN HIS DISTRICT HAVE HAD TO TWICE LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY BECAUSE OF BLACK-OUTS. AMEREN WANTS TO INCREASE REVENUE FROM ELECTRICAL SERVICE TO MORE THAN 360 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY, COSTING THE AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER SIX MORE DOLLARS A MONTH. NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS WOULD ALSO PAY SIX MORE DOLLARS A MONTH. THE HIKES WOULD INCREASE AMEREN'S BOTTOM LINE BY MORE THAN 10 MILLION DOLLARS. THE P-S-C SAYS AMEREN IS ALREADY OVER-EARNING BETWEEN 136 AND 168 MILLION DOLLARS AND OPPOSES ANY RATE INCREASE TO ELECTRICAL RATES. BUT A SPOKESMAN FROM AMEREN SAYS ITS COSTS HAVE GONE UP AND RATES HAVE STAYED THE SAME FOR 20 YEARS. THE P-S-C HAS ELEVEN MONTHS TO DECIDE ON A RATE HIKE, SO RESIDENTS MAY HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL JUNE BEFORE KNOWING THE FUTURE OF THEIR RATES.

GOVERNMENT/ JOBS ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6**	**1/12**	**6:00PM**	**1:50**	A JEFFERSON CITY NEIGHBORHOOD BRACES FOR A CONTROVERSIAL BUSINESS. A NEW STRIP CLUB IS TRYING TO GET OFF THE GROUND RIGHT OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS. OUTSIDE CLUB SHAKEL, THE SIGN SAYS IT'S SCHEDULED TO OPEN SOON. NEIGHBORS ON ARDEN DRIVE HOPE SOON IS NEVER. BARNARD WANTS TO PUT THE STRIP CLUB BEHIND HIS ADULT BOOKSTORE. IT OPENED ABOUT A YEAR AGO. JOSHUA GERNENDER IS 4 AND HIS MOTHER EMILY IS HEAD OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM. SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF A STRIP CLUB NEAR HER HOME. BARNARD WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT, AND WITH NEIGHBORS UNHAPPY AND BARNARD STILL TRYING TO OPEN THE CLUB, THE COLE COUNTY COMMISSION IS LOOKING INTO THE MATTER. ONE COMMISSIONER SAYS A COMPROMISE ISN'T LIKELY. BUT WITH A LICENSE ALREADY GRANTED, ALL THE COMMISSION CAN DO IS MAKE SURE BARNARD FOLLOWS THE RULES.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/13**	**10:00PM**	**2:00**	WELCOME HOME SIGNS COVERED THE TOWN OF UNION. JUST OUTSIDE ST. LOUIS, SIGNS WELCOMING BEN OWNBY AND SHAWN HORNBECK HOME WERE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE CITY. THIS COMES JUST ONE DAY AFTER WHAT SOME ARE CALLING THE MISSOURI MIRACLE. BOTH FAMILIES WENT BEFORE THE MEDIA TODAY TO EXPRESS THEIR JOY OVER THIS HAPPY ENDING. THE SIGHT OF 15-YEAR OLD SHAWN HORNBECK BACK IN HIS MOTHER'S ARMS WAS A SIGHT MANY IN MISSOURI DOUBTED THEY WOULD EVER SEE. HORNBECK HAD BEEN MISSING FOR FOUR YEARS ... KIDNAPPED NEAR HIS HOME IN RICHWOODS IN OCTOBER 2002. 13 YEAR OLD BEN OWNBY WAS MISSING FOR FOUR DAYS... KIDNAPPED LAST MONDAY NEAR HIS HOME IN A

					NEIGHBORING COUNTY ALSO OUTSIDE ST. LOUIS... AND ALSO... NOW FREE ALTHOUGH THEIR ABDUCTIONS ARE SEPARATED BY FOUR YEARS, BOTH BOYS WILL BE FOREVER LINKED BY THE SAME DAY THEY WERE FREED FROM THE SINGLE MAN ACCUSED OF KIDNAPPING THEM. THE TWO WERE FOUND FRIDAY INSIDE THE SURBURBAN ST. LOUIS APARTMENT OF 41 YEAR OLD MICHAEL DEVLIN WHOSE WHITE PICKUP TRUCK PARKED OUTSIDE LOOKED A LOT LIKE THE TRUCK THAT WAS SEEN SPEEDING AWAY FROM THE SITE WHERE BEN OWNBY DISAPPEARED LAST MONDAY. THE HOMETOWNS OF THE TWO BOYS ARE GETTING IN ON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR RESCUE AND WHILE NEITHER SPOKE PUBLICLY TODAY, THEIR FAMILIES DID TALK OF THE VALUE OF HOPE. AN OFFICAL WITH THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDERN SAYS THIS CASE IS QUITE RARE. CENTER SPOKESWOMAN JOANN DONNELLAN SAYS ABOUT 56-THOUSAND CHILDREN ARE REPORTED MISSING ANNUALLY, BUT THE VAST MAJORITY RETURN HOME SAFELY.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**1/14**	**6:00PM**	**1:35**	PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE IS A THEME IN MISSOURI THIS WEEKEND. ACROSS THE STATE, PEOPLE WITHOUT POWER HAVE TURNED TO THEIR COMMUNITIES FOR ASSISTANCE, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS HAVE RISEN TO THE OCCASSION. THE ICE MAY HAVE STARTED TO MELT, BUT PEOPLE IN IBERIA WERE BRACING THEMSELVES FOR ROUND THREE OF THIS WEEKEND'S STORM. THE MAYOR OF IBERIA OPENED UP THE SCHOOL SATURDAY NIGHT FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT POWER AND WATER. BY EARLY AFTERNOON TODAY, ALL FIFTEEN PEOPLE WHO STAYED IN THE SHELTER HAD GONE HOME. VOLUNTEERS STAYED AT THE SCHOOL TO PREPARE IT

					FOR ANYONE WHO MAY NEED TO STAY SUNDAY NIGHT. SOME PEOPLE IN IBERIA ARE STILL TOUGHING IT OUT AT HOME, THOUGH. IBERIA ISN'T THE ONLY TOWN WHERE RESIDENTS ARE EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS. THE TOWN OF VIENNA IS ALSO DEALING WITH POWER OUTAGES. THE MARIES MANOR HEALTHCARE AND REHABILITATION CENTER LOST POWER AROUND TEN SATURDAY NIGHT. THE CENTER IS RUNNING OFF OF A GENERATOR AND STAFF HAVE OPENED THE MANOR'S DOORS TO OTHERS WITHOUT POWER.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/15**	**10:00PM**	**2:00**	THIS ROUND OF WINTER STORMS HAS LEFT MANY MISSOURIANS WITHOUT POWER SINCE SATURDAY. WITH SHELTERS AROUND THE STATE FULL, MANY MID-MISSOURIANS ARE HAVING TO FIND ALTERNATE WAYS TO STAY WARM. JIM FENNEWALD MAY NOT HAVE POWER, BUT HE'S NOT OUT IN THE COLD. FENNEWALD IS USING A GENERATOR TO KEEP HIS MOTHER'S HOUSE IN WESTPHALIA WARM. AND HIS SON DUANE IS USING A GENERATOR TO KEEP THINGS LIKE MILK AND MEAT IN HIS GROCERY STORE COOL. FROZEN POWERLINES ACROSS THE CITY HAVE FORCED CHURCHES, BANKS AND EVEN GAS STATIONS TO CLOSE. BUT DUANE IS DETERMINED TO STAY OPEN FOR BUSINESS. AND WITHOUT POWER THE FENNEWALD'S SAY THE TOWN IS VIRTUALLY DESERTED. BUT IF NEIGHBORS COME BACK NEEDING HEAT, JIM'S GENERATOR WILL SAVE THE DAY. BOTH MEN AGREE THIS IS THE LONGEST POWER OUTAGE THEY'VE EVER SEEN... BUT THEY'RE PREPARED TO WEATHER THE STORM WITH A LITTLE HELP THAT IS.

JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU NEWS AT 6:00	1/16	6:00PM	1:30	MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN USING GENERATORS TO HEAT THEIR HOMES AND KEEP FOOD FRESH. THE FAMILY I SPOKE WITH TODAY SAYS THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE'VE BEEN WITHOUT POWER SINCE THEY'VE LIVED IN LOOSE CREEK. LAURA BAILEY SPENT THE DAY CLEANING OUT HER REFRIGERATOR AND GETTING HER DAYCARE CENTER READY TO REOPEN TOMORROW. BAILEY WAS ORIGINALLY PLANING ON OPENING THE DAYCARE ON MONDAY BUT THE POWER WAS STILL WHILE LAURA WAS BUSY GETTING HER DAYCARE READY FOR WEDNESDAY HER DAUGHTER SPENT THE DAY WITH HER GRANDPARENTS... WHO ALSO JUST GOT THEIR POWER BACK. LOOSE CREEK IS ONE OF SEVERAL COMMUNITIES THAT LOST POWER DUE TO THE WEEKEND'S ICE STORMS. OFF-CAMERA, THESE AMEREN U-E WORKERS TOLD KOMU THEY'RE WORKING ON RESTORING POWER TO THE REST OF MISSOURI AND ARE MAKING PROGRESS.
GOVERNMENT/JOBS ECONOMY	KOMU NEWS AT 10:00	1/17	10:00PM	1:50	THE PUBLIC OPENED THE DOOR FOR A PAY RAISE WITH A VOTE IN NOVEMBER. BUT SOME MISSOURI STATE LAWMAKERS DISAGREE ON THE ISSUE. LEGISLATORS OPPOSED TO A PAY RAISE HAVE LESS THAN 4 WEEKS TO PASS A RESOLUTION TO STOP IT. REPUBLICAN SENATOR KEVIN ENGLER DOES NOT WANT A PAY INCREASE. TODAY ENGLER PROPOSED A RESOLUTION REJECTING THE SALARY INCREASE FOR JUDGES, LEGISLATORS AND STATEWIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS. THE CITIZEN COMMISSION RECOMMENDED JUDGES AND STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS GET A RAISE OF $1,200 AND 4 PERCENT OF THEIR ANNUAL SALARY BEGINNING JULY 1, AND THE SAME FOR LEGISLATORS IN JANUARY 2009. WOODY COZAD SAYS THE MISSOURI BAR ASSOCIATION STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PAY RAISE. HE SAYS MANY LAWYERS WON'T BECOME JUDGES.

					WHILE THE COMMITTEE PLANS ON DISCUSSING THE RESOLUTION WITH OTHER SENATE MEMBERS, MAJORITY LEADER CHARLIE SHIELDS SAYS THE RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE TO PASS THROUGH THE SENATE AND HOUSE BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY BEFORE FEBRUARY SECOND, TO VOID THE PROPOSED PAY INCREASE.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**1/18**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	THE MID-MISSOURI INTERNET CRIMES TASK FORCE COMBINES THE EFFORTS OF THE BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND COLUMBIA POLICE TO CATCH INTERNET CRIMINALS TARGETING KIDS. DETECTIVE ANDY ANDERSON SURFS THE INTERENT ALL DAY--FINDING DANGERS TO CHILDREN. ANDERSON WORKS ON THE INTERNET CRIMES TASK FORCE WHICH IS JUST TWO WEEKS OLD. LIKE DATELINE'S TO CATCH A PREDATOR, LOCAL DETECTIVE'S MAY POSE AS CHILDREN TO FIND INTERNET PEDOPHILES. TASK FORCE MEMBERS SAY THEY WILL FOCUS ON CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN AT FIRST BECAUSE THEY ARE PREVALENT AND IMPORTANT. THE TASK FORCE SAYS YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR FAMILY BY HAVING SPECIFIC SAFETY RULES FOR CHILDREN ON THE INTERNET. TALKING WITH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT STRANGERS ON THE INTERNET. KEEPING COMPUTERS IN A COMMON AREA. AND MONITORING WHO YOUR CHILDREN CHAT WITH ON THE INTERNET.
CONSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/19**	**10:00PM**	**1:20**	MOST OF US WOULD RATHER AVOID A WALK ACROSS AN ICY PARKING LOT. THE WINTER WEATHER STILL HASN'T STOPPED PEOPLE FROM RUNNING ERRANDS OR GOING TO THEIR FAVORITE RESTAURANT. FOR SOME, A DRIVE-THRU MAKES IT POSSIBLE. WITH ONGOING FREEZING TEMPERATURES, THE DRIVE-THRU IS THE PERFECT SOLUTION FOR THOSE TRYING TO

					AVOID THE WINTER WEATHER. STILL, THE ICE AND COLD CAN'T CHANGE SOME ROUTINES. AND THE REASON FOR BEARING THE COLD IS SIMPLE... DRIVE-THRUS AREN'T JUST FOR THOSE IN THE FAST LANE. AND SAFETY DURING THIS WEATHER COMES FIRST. LUNCH IS THE BUSIEST TIME FOR DRIVE-THRUS. LOCAL BUSINESSES HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE IN DRIVE-THRU TRAFFIC EARLY IN THE MORNING AND LATE AT NIGHT WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE AT THE LOWEST.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/20**	**10:00PM**	**1:50**	THIS IS JUST SNOW - NO FREEZING RAIN THIS TIME AROUND. IT IS COMING DOWN VERY HEAVILY RIGHT NOW - VISIBILITY IS WAY DOWN, MEANING IF YOU'RE OUT AND ABOUT TONIGHT, DRIVE VERY CAREFULLY. NOW, WHILE THIS ROUND OF WINTER WEATHER MIGHT CAUSE ITS OWN PROBLEMS, SOME FOLKS IN BOONVILLE ARE STILL CLEANING UP A BUILDING COLLAPSE FROM THE LAST STORM. AS I FOUND OUT TODAY, IT WAS A RACE TO BEAT MOTHER NATURE. ALMOST FORTY YEARS GONE BY FOR LLOYD RHOTON IN BOONVILLE... AND NEVER IN THAT TIME HAS ONE OF HIS OWN BUILDINGS SPLIT IN HALF AND COLLAPSED. NOW, IT'S ALL ABOUT CLEAN-UP. FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS - THEY'RE ALL CRANKING UP THE CHAINSAW... AND TEARING DOWN THE REMNANTS OF WHAT HOUSES RHOTON'S ROOF MANUFACTURING BUSINESS. AND WHAT ONCE WAS A WOOD STRUCTURE... WILL SOON BECOME A MUCH STURDIER STEEL STRUCTURE. FOR NOW, THOUGH, RHOTON IS STILL IN DISBELIEF THIS ALL HAPPENED.
GOVERNMENT/ HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/21**	**10:00PM**	**1:20**	BLUE ACRES CONVENIENCE STORE AND RESTAURANT IS LOCATED LITERALLY JUST A FEW FEET OUTSIDE

					COLUMBIA CITY LIMITS. THIS MEANS THE CITY-WIDE SMOKING BAN THAT WENT INTO EFFECT A COUPLE WEEKS AGO DOESN'T APPLY TO THIS RESTAURANT. THE RESTAURANT ALLOWS SMOKING, BUT IT ALSO HAS ROOM FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE NOT TO LIGHT UP. EMPLOYEES SAY THEY HAVE RECEIVED A GOOD RESPONSE BY CONTINUING TO ALLOW CUSTOMERS TO SMOKE. NOW THE RESTAURANT IS EXPANDING AND HOPING TO CATER TO MORE COLUMBIA SMOKERS.
EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**1/22**	**6:00PM**	**1:30**	MID-MISSOURI SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE TRYING TO MAKE SCHOOL BUS TRIPS IN BAD WEATHER BOTH EASIER... AND SAFER. NOT EVERY ROAD IN NEW BLOOMFIELD IS AS CLEAR AS THIS ONE. COLD TEMPERATURES ARE KEEPING MELTING AT SLOW DRIP PACE, SO SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE BUSSES RUNNING ON SNOW ROUTES. PARNELL SAYS HIS DISTRICT'S BIGGEST CONCERN IS GETTING STUDENTS TO AND FROM SCHOOL SAFELY. THAT'S A HUGE CONCERN FOR PARENTS TOO. SNOW BANKS ON THE SIDES OF SEEMINGLY CLEAR ROADS CAN MAKE IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR BUSSES TO GET THROUGH. PARNELL BELIEVES BLOCKED ROADS SHOULDN'T BLOCK EDUCATION. BUT WILSON THINKS SOMETIMES EDUCATION NEEDS TO TAKE A BACKSEAT TO SAFETY. FOR NOW ALL OF NEW BLOOMFIELD'S TEN BUSSES WILL CONTINUE RUNNING THEIR SNOW ROUTES.
GOVERNMENT/JOBS ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/23**	**10:00PM**	**1:40**	SENATORS MET TODAY TO TALK ABOUT CHANGING DIESEL IN MISSOURI. SENATE BILL 204 WOULD REQUIRE ALL DIESEL SOLD IN THE STATE AFTER JANUARY 1, 2009 TO CONTAIN AT LEAST FIVE PERCENT BIO-DIESEL. ANYTIME ANYTHING AGRICULTURAL IN MISSOURI IS

					DISCUSSED, A CROWD GATHERS AND THAT WAS THE CASE AT THE CAPITOL. AGRICULTURE AND PETROLEUM INDUSTRY MEMBERS GATHERS TO TALK ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OF THE BILL AND WHAT IT COULD MEAN. HOWEVER, THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE TIME-CRUNCH. AFTER SPEAKING WITH THE SPONSOR OF THE BILL, HE FEELS THE CONCERNS REGARDING THE TIME AND THE QUALITY OF THE FUEL ISN'T AN ISSUE. BIO-DIESEL SUPPORTERS FEEL THE SWITCH FROM TRADITIONAL DIESEL TO BIO-DIESEL WON'T JUST HELP THE ENVIRONMENT, BUT LESSEN THE U.S.'S DEPENDENCY ON FOREIGN OIL.
GOVERNMENT/JOBS ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**1/24**	**6:00PM**	**1:30**	PRESIDENT BUSH WANTS TO PRODUCE SEVEN TIMES MORE RENEWABLE AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS LIKE ETHANOL. THE PRESIDENT SAYS HE WANTS THE COUNTRY TO PRODUCE 35 BILLION GALLONS OF RENEWABLE AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS BY THE YEAR 2017.IS THIS POSSIBLE? RIGHT NOW, TWENTY PERCENT OF THE NATION'S CORN SUPPLY ALREADY GOES INTO ETHANOL. THAT MEANS RENEWABLE FUELS WILL HAVE TO COME FROM OTHER SOURCES AS WELL. ONE POSSIBLE CHOICE IS CELLULOSIC ETHANOL. THAT'S MADE FROM MANY THINGS THAT USED TO BE CONSIDERED AGRICULTURAL WASTE... LIKE CORN STALKS, WOOD CHIPS, AND EVEN GARBAGE. BUT CORN AND GRAIN PRODUCERS REST ASSURED, THEIR PRODUCTS AREN'T GOING OUT OF STYLE ANY TIME SOON...
EDUCATION/JOBS ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/25**	**10:00PM**	**2:00**	AN AGRICULTURE PROFESSOR AT M-U TODAY RELEASED THE FINDINGS OF A TWO-YEAR STUDY INTO THE ADVANTAGES OF BURNING CORNCOBS. THE PROOF OF HIS STUDY CAN BE SEEN EVERYDAY A FEW BLOCKS FROM HIS OFFICE. FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS, MU'S ON CAMPUS POWER

					PLANT HAS EXPERIMENTED WITH BURNING CORN COBS ALSO KNOWN AS BIOMASS. AG PROFESSOR THOMAS JOHNSON SAYS THE IDEA IS FEASIBLE HERE BECAUSE CORN FIELDS ARE EVERYWHERE. MID MISSOURI FARMERS COULD SEE A BOOST IN PROFITS FOR SELLING A LEFT OVER ONCE CONSIDERED USELESS. BUT THERE'S A RISK. A RISK FOR SOME, A FUTURE ENERGY SOURCE AT MU. AND OVER TIME, JOHNSON SAYS BIOMASSES COULD REDUCE THE WORLD'S GREENHOUSE GASSES.
CONSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**1/26**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	FUTURE PRICES ARE ANYONE'S GUESS, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO SETTING PRICES, NOT ALL GAS STATIONS ARE CREATED EQUAL. SHERRY BROCK IS PROUD OF WHAT HER GAS STATION HAS DONE WITHOUT THE BACKING OF A BIG OIL COMPANY. `BUT LOYALTY ONLY GOES SO FAR. BROCK SAYS IF SHE TRIED TO LOWER HER PRICE, THE BIG OIL COMPANIES WOULD BE UPSET. THE NUMBERS ARE HARD TO IGNORE. AT TWO DOLLARS, COLUMBIA AND JEFFERSON CITY HAVE THE HIGHEST GAS PRICES STATEWIDE. AROUND THE STATE, CITIES OF ALL SIZES SEE LOWS AROUND A DOLLAR EIGHTY, BUT NOT IN COLUMBIA AND JEFFERSON CITY. SOMETHING CUSTOMERS SAY THEY JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT. SO HOW DID WE GET THE HONOR OF THE STATE'S MOST EXPENSIVE GAS? BROCK HAS HER THEORIES. MIDDLE OF THE STATE OR NOT, BROCK SAYS SHE THINKS THE DAYS OF DOLLAR GAS ARE FAR BEHIND US.

EDUCATION/ GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/27**	**10:00PM**	**1:50**	TODAY VOLUNTEERS GATHERED FINGERPRINTS AND PHOTOS THAT CAN HELP AUTHORITIES FIND CHILDREN IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY. IT'S NOT SCHOOL PICTURES BUT KIDS SMILED TODAY FOR INFORMATION PARENTS HOPE THEY'LL NEVER NEED. PARENTS LIKE TOATES HOPE THIS IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION COULD BRING BACK ONE OF 3 HER SONS SHOULD THEY EVER GO MISSING AS KIDS GO THROUGH THE STATIONS, ORGANIZERS SAY CURRENT INFORMATION IS KEY. BRENT HUNT IS FROM ST. JOSEPH; HE'S HELPING MAKE THIS TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO MORE MID MISSOURI COMMUNITIES. HUNT AND THE VOLUNTEERS WORK TO HELP PARENTS USE THE INFORMATION TO KEEP THE KIDS SAFE. PARENTS LEAVE WITH TWO LAMINATED ID CARDS AND A COMPUTER DISC WITH FINGERPRINTS, DIGITAL PHOTO GRAPHS AND THE CHILD'S PERSONAL INFORMATION ON IT. AND MOTHERS LIKE TOATES SAY THE SHORT STOP IS WORTH IT.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/28**	**10:00PM**	**1:00**	COLUMBIA POLICE MAKE TWO ARRESTS IN THE CASE OF AN INFANT SHOT IN THE FOOT. BUT THIS ALL STARTED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON WHEN POLICE SAY THEY FOUND AN 11-MONTH OLD INFANT WITH A GUNSHOT WOUND. THE COLUMBIA POLICE MAJOR CRIMES UNIT INVESTIGATED THE CASE AND INTERVIEWED NEIGHBORS... AND DETERMINED THE INFANT WAS SHOT INSIDE A TRAILER. POLICE SAY THE INFANT'S WOUNDS ARE NOT LIFE THREATENING. MEANWHILE LAST NIGHT... POLICE ARRESTED SHAUNTORYIA C. JONES AND ROBERT E. WALLACE BOTH OF COLUMBIA. POLICE ARE CHARGING THEM BOTH WITH ENDENGERING

					THE WELFARE OF THE CHILD. THEY ARE ALSO CHARGING WALLACE WITH ASSAULT AND ARMED CRIMINAL ACTION. KOMU CHECKED WITH SOME OF WALLACE'S NEIGHBORS TODAY... AND THEY SAY THEY'VE SEEN A CHANGE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. POLICE WON'T SAY HOW THE SUSPECTS AND INFANT ARE RELATED....
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**1/29**	**6:00PM**	**1:30**	THE NEWLY PROPOSED AMENDMENT WOULD REQUIRE FUTURE STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE MISSOURI GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY OF A STATEWIDE VOTE... NOT JUST A SIMPLE MAJORITY, LIKE IT IS NOW. AMENDING THE U-S CONSTITUTION IS LIKE CHANGING THE COURSE OF THE BIG MUDDY... IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO DO AND TAKES A LOT OF PEOPLE YEARS TO ACCOMPLISH. AMENDING THE MISSOURI STATE CONSTITUTION IS MORE LIKE CHANGING HINKSON CREEK... A SMALL GROUP WITH THE RIGHT TOOLS COULD PROBABLY DO IT. AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW ONE SENATOR FEELS. REPUBLICANS CURRENTLY HOLD 57-PERCENT OF THE SEATS IN THE MISSOURI GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THAT'S ENOUGH TO RATIFY AN AMENDMENT UNDER THE CURRENT SYSTEM... BUT 10-PERCENT SHORT IN SENATOR GROSS'S PLAN. THE RECENTLY PROPOSED AMENDMENT ALREADY HAS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT. IN NOVEMBER'S ELECTION, THE STEM CELL RESEARCH AND TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AMENDMENTS WOULD NOT HAVE PASSED UNDER SENATOR GROSS'S PROPOSAL. IRONICALLY, THE AMENDMENT WOULD ONLY NEED A SIMPLE MAJORITY TO BECOME A PART OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

EDUCATION/CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/30**	**10:00PM**	**1:30**	A MID-MISSOURI TOWN IS IN SUSPENSE OVER REPORTS REGARDING THE STATUS OF ONE OF IT'S TEACHERS. IN A SMALL TOWN, THE GAS STATION CAN BE THE PLACE WHERE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND. HOWEVER, THAT WASN'T THE CASE NEAR SCHOOL OF THE OSAGE. IN A STATEMENT FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, SHE SAYS A FACULTY MEMBER HAS BEEN PLACED ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE. WHEN WE ASKED IF IT WAS IN REGARDS TO INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT BY A TEACHER, SHE DECLINED TO MAKE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS. THE FACT PARENTS HAVEN'T BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE ISSUE UPSET AT LEAST ONE MOM. HANKS CLAIMS THIS SITUATION IS NOT FAIR TO PARENTS OR THE STUDENTS AS NANCY HANKS ALLUDED TO, THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME AN INCIDENT LIKE THIS HAS HAPPENED AT SCHOOL OF THE OSAGE. ACCORDING TO PARENTS, A SIMILAR SITUATION TOOK PLACE LAST YEAR WHEN A FACULTY MEMBER LEFT BECAUSE OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR WITH A STUDENT. THAT FACULTY MEMBER PLEADED GUILTY AND GOT A SEVEN YEAR PRISON SENTENCE. WHEN I TRIED TO TALK TO THE PRINCIPAL OF SCHOOL OF THE OSAGE HIGH SCHOOL REGARDING TODAY'S MATTER, HE REFUSED TO COMMENT.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**1/31**	**6:00PM**	**1:30**	A NEW MID-MISSOURI DISTRIBUTION CENTER SAYS MORE JOBS ARE ON THE WAY. 1605 ELMWOOD USED TO BE THE HOME OF A SHOE FACTORY. NOW, MEXICO EMPLOYEES OF THE SOFT SURROUNDINGS COMPANY ARE KICKING UP THEIR HEELS OVER THEIR NEW HOME. THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY AT THE NEW SOFT SURROUNDINGS DISTRIBUTION CENTER COULD BE

					DESCRIBED IN ONE WORD… SOFT SURROUNDINGS IS GROWING AT 35-PERCENT A YEAR. THE COMPANY STARTED ABOUT SIX YEARS AGO. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ITS HAD A FACILITY TO ITSELF. WHEN HOME DEPOT PURCHASED ITS OLD ROOMMATE, SOFT SURROUNDINGS DECIDED TO STAY IN MEXICO AND THAT MEANS BIG THINGS FOR EMPLOYEES. THE ST. LOUIS BASED COMPANY SPECIALIZES IN BEAUTY CARE, BEDDING, AND WOMEN'S CLOTHES. CUSTOMERS, EMPLOYEES AND MEXICO RESIDENTS SEE THE OPENING OF THE NEW CENTER AS A GOOD FIT IN ALL SIZES.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/1**	**10:00PM**	**1:40**	JUST AS THE SMOKE SEEMED TO CLEAR NEW FIRES HAVE STARTED BURNING AMONG COLUMBIA BAR OWNERS. LESS THAN 30 DAYS AFTER THE SMOKING BAN WENT INTO EFFECT, OWNERS ARE ALREADY COMING TOGETHER TO GET THE ORDINANCE OVERTURNED. THESE DAYS THE TABLE CENTERPEICES AT OTTO'S BAR AND GRILL ARE A LITTLE LESS CROWDED. BAR OWNER JOEL THIEL SAYS THAT'S A PROBLEM FOR HIS POCKETBOOK. AFTER THREE WEEKS OF SPARSE CROWDS, THIS CROWD IS A FLUKE. THE MISSING INGREDIENT… ASH TRAYS AND 15 BAR OWNERS CAME TOGETHER TO TALK ABOUT HOW MUCH BUSINESS IF OFF SINCE THE SMOKING BAN TOO EFFECT IN JANUARY. THAT'S WHY A NEW PETITION IS CIRCULATING IN COLUMBIA. OWNERS WANT THE CITY COUNCIL TO PUT THE ISSUE TO A CITY-WIDE VOTE… BECAUSE THEY SAY THE ISSUE IS MORE THAN SMOKING. HEATHER BEAR WITH PUBLIC HEALTH SAYS SHE UNDERSTAND'S OWNERS FRUSTERATIONS, BUT PUBLIC HEALTH TAKES PRECEDENCE.

					THE GROUP OF BAR OWNERS NEEDS MORE THAN TWO-THOUSAND SIGNATURES BY THE END OF MARCH.
CONSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/2**	**6:00PM**	**1:10**	IT'S A NEW RULE THAT PUTS "COOL" TO THE TEST FOR YOUNG MALL-GOERS. THE POLICY APPLIES ON FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AFTER 4PM AT COLUMBIA MALL AND CAPITOL MALL IN JEFFERSON CITY. MALL OFFICIALS SAY IT SHOULD CREATE A SAFER SHOPPING ENVIRONMENT. EXTRA SECURITY GUARDS WILL CHECK ID'S AT THE DOOR AND MAKE ROUNDS STARTING AT 3:30 P-M SEEING IF ANYONE IS VIOLATING THE POLICY. MANY PEOPLE SAY THE LARGE NUMBER OF UNACOMPANIED YOUTH HAS CREATED ROWDY CROWDS AT THE MALL AND SOME SHOPPERS TELL US THEY AVOID THE MALL ON WEEKNED NIGHTS FOR THOSE REASONS. AND DESPITE THE FACT THE UNDER 17 DEMOGRAPHIC IS A BIG PART OF HIS SALES THE OWNER OF MR. BULKY PROUDLY SUPPORT THE POLICY. OBVIOULSY SOME SHOPPERS UNDER 17 ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THE NEW POLICY BUT FOR THE TIME BEING THEY BETTER BRING THEIR ID'S.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/3**	**10:00PM**	**2:10**	SINGLE DIGIT TEMPERATURES ARE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR PEOPLE WALKING OUTSIDE... BUT THE WEATHER BECOMES DANGEROUS FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ON OUT ON THE COLD STREETS. FINDING WARMTH IS A MUST, AND LIKE WE FOUND OUT THIS EVENING, PLACES DO EXIST OUT THERE THAT LEND A HELPING HAND. SINGLE DIGIT TEMPERATURES ARE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR PEOPLE WALKING OUTSIDE... BUT THE WEATHER BECOMES DANGEROUS FOR THOSE WHO LIVE OUT ON THE COLD STREETS. NOW, THE NEW LIFE EVANGELISTIC CENTER IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF SOME MORE WINTER CLOTHES.

					THINGS LIKE GLOVES, HATS, AND MEN'S WINTER JACKETS - ANYTHING THE CENTER COULD USE.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/4**	**10:00PM**	**1:50**	IT'S SUPERBOWL SUNDAY AND MID-MISSOURI FOOTBALL FANS HUDDLED AROUND T-V SCREENS TO WATCH THE BIG GAME. SUPERBOWL SUNDAY IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST PARTY DAYS OF THE YEAR... WELL FOR COLTS FANS THE REAL PARTY STARTED ONCE THEY SAW THAT FINAL SCORE OF 29-17. BUT BUSINESSES IN COLUMBIA HAVE SEEN ANOTHER SCORE... ONE WITH A DOLLAR SIGN. IN MIAMI AS FANS PACK THE PRO PLAYERS STADIUM, A CROWD IN COLUMBIA PACKS CARTS AND SUPERMARKET AISLES. BUSINESSES USE THEIR OWN VERSION OF A PLAYBOOK... AS THEY ORDER MORE OF BIG SELLERS. SO THE HY-VEE STAFF BRINGS ITS "A" GAME THIS GAME DAY... KEEPING STORE SHELVES STOCKED. ACROSS TOWN, SPORTS BARS LIKE BUFFALO WILD WINGS SAY THEY TOO ARE READY FOR BIG CROWDS. MANAGERS AT THIS WILD WINGS SAYS THEY'RE STAFFING EXTRA PEOPLE... 21 TONIGHT. ORDERS HAVE BEEN AS BIG AS 500 WINGS IN A SINGLE ORDER.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/5**	**10:00PM**	**2:20**	YOU CAN SEE CRACKS IN THE FOUNDATION OF HOMES, IN WALLS, CEILINGS, AND BROKEN WINDOWS NEAR THE CONSTRUCTION SITE. AND THAT'S JUST WHAT'S VISIBLE. WORK TO PREPARE THE LAND IS UNDERWAY... BUT THE ACTUAL PLAN TO SELL LOTS FOR BUSINESS WAS UP FOR DISCUSSION TONIGHT IN THE JEFFERSON CITY COUNCIL. THE PROPOSED STONERIDGE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT IS PLANNED ALONG MISSOURI BOULEVARD... IT WOULD INCLUDE A NEW ROAD, KOHL'S DEPARTMENT STORE AND MORE... BUT IT'S ALREADY DISTURBING THE PEACE FOR THE

					PEOPLE WHO LIVE ALONG SOUTH TEN MILE DRIVE. SCOTT SURFACE'S HOME SHOWS THE CONSEQUENCES OF NEARBY ROCK BLASTING THAT STARTED IN NOVEMBER... AND HE FELT IT AGAIN YESTERDAY. THIS QUIET STREET OFF OF MISSOURI BOULEVARD IS USED TO A ROCK QUARRY NEARBY. BUT THE PREPARATIONS FOR NEW BUSINESSES BROUGHT THE BLASTING CLOSER TO HOME. OTHER RESIDENTS SAY THEY ALSO HAVE DAMAGE. BUT THE EXCAVATION COMPANY THAT IS BLASTING THE ROCKS REFUSES TO TALK TO THE HOME OWNERS. THE ADDITION OF A NEW ROAD WILL COMPLETELY ALTER HOW THE NEIGHBORS GET IN AND OUT OF THEIR STREET... AND THAT WORRIES MANY. NEIGHBORS PROPOSE MOVING ACCESS TO THE NEW ROAD FARTHER AWAY FROM THE MISSOURI BOULEVARD INTERSECTION. CITY PLANNERS SAY THEY ARE LISTENING TO RESIDENTS CONCERNS. NOW RESIDENTS STRESS THEY DO NOT HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE STORE, NOR DO THEY HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ANY OF THE OTHER DEVELOPMENT. THEIR ONLY CONCERNS ARE WITH THE SAFETY OF THEIR HOMES AND DRIVING IN AND OUT OF THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD. THERE IS ANOTHER NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING FOR INTERESTED RESIDENTS NEXT WEDNESDAY FROM FOUR TO SIX PM AT THE HYDE PARK BUILDING.
GOVERNMENT/ JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/6**	**6:00PM**	**1:00**	THE MISSOURI HOUSE IS AIMING AT DOCTORS WHO CHEAT MEDICAID. THE BILL WOULD BAN HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS CONVICTED OF FRAUD FROM PARTICIPATING IN MEDICAID. IT WOULD ALSO INCREASE PENALTIES. THE SPONSOR OF THE BILL SAYS AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL MAKE IT TOO TOUGH, AND THAT COULD KEEP DOCTORS FROM SEEING MEDICAID PATIENTS.

					OTHERS SAY IT'S NOT TOUGH ENOUGH. THE BILL NEEDS ANOTHER VOTE BEFORE IT MOVES TO THE SENATE. THE COLUMBIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LIKES GOVERNOR BLUNT'S PLAN TO SELL OFF STUDENT LOANS. CHAMBER MEMBERS HOPE THE ADDITIONAL MONEY FROM THE SALE OF THE MISSOURI HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN AUTHORITY WOULD ALLOW NEW CONSTRUCTION ON THE M-U CAMPUS. TOP ON THE LIST IS A NEW HEALTH SCIENCE RESEARCH FACILITY. CHAMBER OFFICIALS SAY THIS PLAN WOULD BRING NINE HUNDRED HIGH TECH AND HIGH PAYING JOBS TO COLUMBIA ALONG WITH EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT TWELVE YEARS. A FORMER M-U CURATOR, REPRESENTATIVES FROM M-U HEALTHCARE, AND BUSINESS LEADERS, WERE AT A MEETING THIS MORNING TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVE. GERDING SAID THE NEXT STEP IS TO GO TO JEFFERSON CITY TOMORROW TO SHARE THE CHAMBERS SUPPORT WITH THE SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE.
CONSUMER ISSUES/ GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/7**	**10:00PM**	**1:30**	PAYDAY LOAN COMPANIES MIGHT FIND DOING BUSINESS IN MISSOURI A LITTLE TOUGHER. THAT'S THE SECOND HIGHEST IN THE NATION. AND ATTORNEY GENERAL JAY NIXON WANTS TO BE SURE MISSOURIANS DON'T OVERPAY. MARYLYN DEFEO HAS BEEN HELPING THOSE IN NEED FOR MORE THAN 19 YEARS. BUT SOME THINGS ARE OUT OF HER CONTROL, LIKE WHEN PEOPLE FALL DEEP INTO DEBT. NIXON SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT WOULD LIMIT PAYDAY INTEREST RATES TO ABOUT 36 PERCENT APR....PROHIBIT RENEWALS OF LOANS WHICH GO AROUND RATE RESTRICTIONS...GIVE HIS OFFICE POWER

					TO ISSUE CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS AND SUE FOR INJUNCTIONS AND CIVIL PENALTIES...AND FINALLY MAKE SURE LIMITATIONS APPLY TO ALL LENDERS, WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE LICENSED. AS FOR MRS. DEFEO HER WORDS OF WISDOM FOR THOSE IN A FINANCIAL CRUNCH ARE SIMPLE. CONGRESS RECENTLY PASSED LEGISLATION PROTECTING SIMILAR LENDING PRACTICES FOR THE MILITARY. NIXON SAYS THERE IS SUPPORT IN BOTH THE MISSOURI HOUSE AND THE SENATE. HE BELIEVES THE BILLS WILL HAVE HEARINGS SOON.
GOVERNMENT/ EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/8**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	THE MOHELA SALES PLAN COULD PAY FOR 5 NEW BUILDINGS AT M-U. BUT A SENATE COMMITTEE HAS PUT THE WRECKING BALL TO TWO OF THOSE PROJECTS. BUT IT'S UP TO LEGISLATURE WHETHER MIZZOU AND OTHER STATE CAMPUSES GET 24 NEW BUILDINGS. REPUBLICANS WANT THEM... DEMOCRATS WANT THEM.... BUT REPUBLICANS WANT TO BE SURE NEW RESEARCH CENTERS DON'T HARBOR HUMAN CLONING. AND DEMOCRATS WON'T TAKE BUILDINGS THAT COME WITH RESEARCH RESTRICTIONS. THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI DOESN'T WANT RESTRICTIONS EITHER, BUT IT WILL TAKE WHAT IT CAN GET. ESPECIALLY IN A PROPOSED 85 MILLION DOLLAR RESEARCH CENTER. BUT WITH THE BILL AS IT IS, THIS BUILDING IS GONE. NOW IT'S UP TO SENATE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO PUT THOSE BUILDINGS BACK IN THE BILL OR NOT. LAST NIGHT THE COMMITTEE VOTED TO REMOVE 113 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE BILL. THE HEALTH SCIENCE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER ACCOUNTS FOR THE BULK OF THAT.

GOVERNMENT	KOMU NEWS AT 10:00	2/9	10:00PM	2:30	FORMER LT. GOVERNOR HARRIET WOODS PASSED AWAY LAST NIGHT AT HER HOME IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY. HARRIETT WOODS WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO DO A LOT OF THINGS IN MISSOURI. WHEN SHE SAW SOMETHING THAT WASN'T RIGHT, SHE DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT. AND IN THE PROCESS SHE BECAME A TRUE MISSOURI PIONEER. A CLEAR PATH THAT FORMER REPRESENTATIVE GRACIA BACKER FOLLOWED. BUT NO MATTER HOW PEOPLE REMEMBER HER, SHE'LL ALWAYS BE ONE THING TO HER SON. WOODS CONTINUED TO WORK IN POLITICS EVEN AFTER SHE WAS DONE AS LT. GOVERNOR. SHE WAS IN WASHINGTON LAST MONTH TO SEE SENATOR MCCASKILL SWORN IN. WOODS IS SURVIVED BY HER SISTER AND THREE SONS. A MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD LATER THIS MONTH.
CRIME	KOMU NEWS AT 6:00	2/10	6:00PM	:45	TONIGHT... HOWARD COUNTY IS ROCKED WITH ITS FIRST MURDER CASE IN 4 YEARS. AT THIS HOUR... CHARLES O'NEAL IS BEHIND BARS AT THE HOWARD COUNTY JAIL FACING MURDER AND ASSAULT CHARGES. POLICE SAY EARLY THIS MORNING... CHARLES O'NEAL SHOT DAWN KELLY AFTER AN ARGUMENT. POLICE SAY O'NEAL BEGAN DRINKING ALCOHOL... THEN LEFT TO GET A RIFLE. HE CAME BACK... AND SHOT KELLY IN THE HEAD. THE HOWARD COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY SAYS HE HASN'T DECIDED IF HE WILL SEEK THE DEATH PENALTY AGAINST O'NEAL IF CONVICTED. THE JUDGE HAS NOT YET SET BOND IN THIS CASE.
GOVERNMENT/ HEALTH	KOMU NEWS AT 10:00	2/11	10:00PM	1:50	POLICE HOPE THIS WEEK WILL HELP MAKE CHILDREN SAFER. TODAY MARKED THE FIRST DAY OF NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK... THE GOAL IS TO MAKE SURE THE YOUNG ONES ARE SAFE IN THE CAR SEAT.

					DEPENDING ON THE CHILD'S HEIGHT AND WEIGHT... HE OR SHE MAY NEED A BOOSTER SEAT OR OTHER CHILD SAFETY RESTRAINTS. POLICE DEPARTMENTS LIKE JEFFERSON CITY'S WILL BE LOOKING OUT THIS WEEK FOR KIDS IN THE CAR THAT NEED MORE THAN JUST A SEATBELT. WHEN IT COMES TO BUCKLING UP... IT'S A COMMON MISCONCEPTION. SIGNS AROUND MID MISSOURI SERVE AS A REMINDER... BUT KIDS OFTEN NEED MORE PROTECTION THAN JUST THE BELT. HERE ARE SOME OF THE PROVISION'S IN MISSOURI'S CHILD SAFETY RESTRAINT LAW. A CHILD RIDING IN A CAR THAT IS FEWER THAN 4 YEARS OLD NEEDS TO BE IN A RESTRAINT SYSTEM. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO KIDS FEWER THAN 40 POUNDS. SOME KIDS MORE THAN 4 YEARS OLD OR 40 POUNDS NEED TO RIDE IN A BOOSTER SEAT. MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL SAYS THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN INVESTIGATING A TRAFFIC CRASH WHERE A CHILD HAS BEEN INJURED. NATIONAL STUDIES SHOW A CONNECTION BETWEEN BUCKLED UP PARENTS AND THEIR KIDS. AMONG DRIVERS WHO USE THEIR SEATBELTS... 92 PERCENT PROPERLY USE BOOSTER AND CHILD SAFETY SEATS... BUT WHEN YOU LOOK AT DRIVERS WHO DON'T WEAR THEIR SEATBELTS... THAT NUMBER DROPS TO 62 PERCENT. THE CHILD SAFETY RESTRAINT LAW HAS MANY PARTS TO IT.... DEPENDING ON THE AGE AND WEIGHT OF THE KIDS IN THE CAR.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/12**	**6:00PM**	**1:30**	SHE'S A CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE IN THE BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT... NOW... SHE SAYS SHE'S QUITTING. BUT CURRY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CHIEF STEVE PAULSELL HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY.

					THE RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN AT THE CENTER OF SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS AND ONE LAWSUIT AGAINST THE DISTRICT. CURRY MADE MORE THAN 93-THOUSAND DOLLARS LAST YEAR. WHILE FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS WON'T GIVE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION OR FURTHER COMMENT ABOUT CURRY'S RESIGNATION... ONE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER SAYS THE BOARD WISHES CURRY LUCK IN THE FUTURE. HERE'S A LOOK AT CURRY'S PAST WITH THE DISTRICT. SHE BECAME ASSISTANT CHIEF IN 2001... AFTER A PROMOTION FROM A SECRETARIAL POSITION WITH THE DISTRICT. IN THE SUMMER OF 2005... THE DISTRICT FIRED FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF ROB BROWN AND FORMER ASSISTANT CHIEF OF TRAINING BRUCE PIRINGER. THOSE TWO SAY THEY WERE FIRED BECAUSE THEY WERE CRITICAL OF CURRY AND PAULSELL. AND LAST NOVEMBER... FORMER ASSISTANT CHIEF BRUCE PIRINGER FILED A FEDERAL DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT AGAINST THE DISTRICT. AMONG HIS CLAIMS, THAT CURRY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PAULSELL AFFORDED HER SPECIAL PRIVILEGES. LAST OCTOBER POLICE AT A SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT IN COLUMBIA ARRESTED CURRY ON SUSPICION OF DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED. IN CURRY'S RESIGNATION LETTER... SHE MENTIONED SHE WAS PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE FIRE DISTRICTS MANY ACHIEVEMENTS....
GOVERNMENT/ EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/13**	**10:00PM**	**4:00**	AFTER WORD OF A TEACHER'S SUSPENSION IN THE SCHOOL OF THE OSAGE, TARGET EIGHT INVESTIGATORS WERE TIPPED OFF TO DEEPER PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT. SOME SAY THE MOST RECENT PROBLEM WOULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF AN EMAIL WAS TAKEN MORE SERIOUSLY.

					THE LAKE OF THE OZARKS GETS PRETTY QUIET IN THE WINTER MONTHS. THE STRIP HARBORS VERY FEW TOURISTS AND TRAFFIC IS NEARLY NON EXISTENT. BUT THE CALM DOESN'T HOLD TRUE AT THE SCHOOL OF THE OSAGE. NANCY HANKS IS PART OF A GROWING GROUP OF PARENTS CONCERNED THE SCHOOL OF THE OSAGE ISN'T PROVIDING THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT FOR THEIR KIDS. LAST MONTH, THE DISTRICT PUT A SCHOOL OF THE OSAGE COACH ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE... BUT DIDN'T GIVE ANY REASON TO THE PUBLIC. PARENTS STILL QUESTIONS WHAT WENT ON INTERNALLY. THE TEACHER SENT THAT EMAIL NINE MONTHS AGO... IN MAY OF 2006. ADDRESSED TO SUPERINTENDENT MARY ANN JOHNSON AND A FORMER PRINCIPAL, THE EMAIL RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT THE COACH'S BEHAVIOR. THOSE CONCERNS INCLUDED ACCUSTATIONS THAT THE MALE COACH REGULARLY TOOK STUDENTS OUT TO EAT AND VISITED OTHER STUDENTS HOUSES WHEN PARENTS WEREN'T THERE. ALSO INCLUDED WERE ALLEGED STUDENT COMPLAINTS THE COACH REGULARLY WALKED INTO THE WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOM AND KEPT TALKING EVEN IF SOME PEOPLE WERE NOT FULLY DRESSED. ONE STUDENT EVEN WENT AS FAR TO SAY THAT IF SHE HAD A DAUGHTHER, SHE WOULDN'T WANT THEM TO PLAY ON HIS TEAM. SO WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SINCE THEN? AND WHEN HANKS FIRST SAW THE EMAIL... SHE WAS ASTONISHED. SHE DOESN'T THINK THE DISTRICT TOOK ACTION QUICKLY ENOUGH. NE SCHOOL EMPLOYEE, WHO WANTED TO REMAIN

					ANONYMOUS FOR FEAR OF GETTING FIRED, TELLS US THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME THIS HAS HAPPENED. WE HAVE REPLACED THE EMPLOYEES VOICE TO INSURE ANONYMITY. BUT THIS EMPLOYEE SAYS OTHER TEACHERS KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON, BUT HAVE BEEN TOO AFRAID TO SAY ANYTHING. AND WHEN ASKED ABOUT ANY OTHER INCIDENTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL... THE CAMDEN COUNTY SHERIFF PUT THE COACH ON 24-HOUR HOLD EARLIER THIS MONTH, BUT LATER RELEASED HIM. THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR HAS NOT FILED CHARGES YET, BUT THE COACH IS STILL ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE.
GOVERNMENT/ EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/14**	**10:00PM**	**1:50**	THE MISSOURI LEGISLATURE IS DOING ITS PART TO GIVE SCHOOLS A BREAK. THAT BREAK MAY COME IN THE FORM OF A SHORTER SCHOOL YEAR. THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE HAS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED A BILL TO LET SCHOOLS IN 38 COUNTIES SKIP SIX MAKEUP DAYS FOR TIME LOST TO JANUARY'S ICE STORM. IN MID-MISSOURI, THE BILL APPLIES TO SCHOOLS IN BOONE, CALLAWAY, CAMDEN, COLE, GASCONADE, MARIES, MILLER, MONTGOMERY AND OSAGE COUNTIES. BUSINESS OWNERS MIGHT BE HAPPIER THAN THE STUDENTS TO HEAR THIS NEWS. BUT WITH THE HELP OF THIS BILL, MID-MISSOURI STUDENTS CAN GET TO WORK--OR THE BEACH--RIGHT ON TIME THE CREDIT FOR DAYS LOST DOES NOT APPLY TO. SCHOOLS THAT LOST DAYS IN DECEMBER OR THIS WEEK. THE NEXT STEP FOR THE BILL IS A DEBATE ON THE HOUSE FLOOR.

GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/15**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	INTERSTATE 70 IS BROKEN...AND WE NEED TO FIX IT. THAT WAS THE MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON TODAY. MISSOURI TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS GATHERED TODAY TO DECIDE THE DIRECTION OF THE STATE'S TRANSIT FUTURE. THE STATE HAS PLANS IN PLACE TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING INTERSTATE. BUT SOME PLANS CALL FOR CHANGING ITS LOOK AND FUNCTION ALTOGETHER. US SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION MARY PETERS ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE AND PLEDGES FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR IMPROVING THIS MAJOR EAST-WEST ROUTE. THE CONGESTION INITIATIVE WILL PROVIDE MORE RESOLUTIONS, MORE FUNDING TO HELP URBAN AREAS IN MISSOURI ACCOMPLISH GETTING RID OF CONGESTION AND HELPING THEM FIND REAL TOOLS TO THAT WILL DEPLETE IT." THE FEDERAL HELP WILL BE NECESSARY. RAHN SAYS MISSOURI DOES NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO MAKE ANY SWEEPING CHANGES TO I-70 IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE CONFERENCE ADDRESSED OTHER ISSUES INCLUDING BUILDING ANOTHER ST. LOUIS BRIDGE OVER THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER...AND THE COMPLETION OF "THE SMOOTH ROADS INITIATIVE."
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/16**	**10:00PM**	**2:20**	WHEN COLUMBIA BUSES STARTED THIS MORNING THE BUS DRIVERS HAD COMPANY! WHEN BUS RIDERS BOARDED TODAY THEY GOT A SURPRISE. THIS IS A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM, ABOUT 20 MEMBERS OF GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZING GOT ON BUSES ACROSS THE CITY TO KICK OFF RIDE AND REGISTER. IT'S A PROGRAM THAT MAKES REGISTERING TO VOTE AS EASY AS GETTING ON THE BUS. GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZING TRAVELED AROUND

					COLUMBIA TODAY. REGISTERING RIDERS BEFORE THE MARCH 7TH DEADLINE. HUSSMANN SAYS RIDE AND REGISTER IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST GETTING PEOPLE TO VOTE, IT'S ABOUT GETTING PEOPLE INVOLVED. GEORGIA JOHNSON IS ONE OF THOSE THAT SIGNED UP TO VOTE. SHE SAYS RIDE AND REGISTER IS GOOD FOR COLUMBIA. HUSSMAN SAYS NO MATTER WHAT THE FINAL NUMBER IS, IT'S IMPORTANT TO GIVE PEOPLE A CHOICE. THE BUSES STARTED AT ABOUT 6:30 THIS MORNING AND STOPPED ABOUT 8 O'CLOCK BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER. MEMBERS OF GRO WERE HAPPY WITH THE RESULTS. THE FINAL TALLEY....MORE THAN 60 PASSENGER REGISTRATIONS.
EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/17**	**6:00PM**	**3:30**	HOW DO YOU FIT LABOR DAY, THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS BREAK, SPRING BREAK, AND MEMORIAL DAY ALL INTO A SINGLE SCHOOL YEAR? TONIGHT, IN "THE FOLLOW UP FILES", WE'LL SQUEEZE 174 DAYS INTO 365 DAYS, IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT DIFFICULT. IT'S 2:55 ON THIS COLD AND ICY AFTERNOON IN FULTON, THESE KIDS ARE NOT THINKING ABOUT AIR CONDITIONING. FULTON SUPERINTENDENT MARK ENDERLE IS EXPLAINING WHY HIS DISTRICT BEGINS CLASSES IN MID-AUGUST. MISSOURI PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN SESSION 174 DAYS. YOU CAN START BEFORE LABOR DAY OR AFTER, YOU CAN TAKE AS MANY BREAKS AS YOU WANT, YOU CAN FINISH IN MAY, YOU CAN FINISH IN JUNE, JUST AS LONG AS KIDS SPEND 174 DAYS IN THE CLASSROOM. MISSOURI STATE SENATOR JACK GOODMAN WANTS TO STOP THAT TREND.

					GOODMAN IS SPONSORING THIS BILL, IT FORCES DISTRICTS TO BEGIN THE SCHOOL YEAR WITHIN 10 DAYS OF LABOR DAY. TWO BLOCKS AWAY FROM THE CAPITOL AT THE MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION. BRENT GHAN SAYS STATE CONTROL ISN'T NEEDED. THE VIEW IS THE SAME IN FULTON AND MOST OTHER DISTRICTS. SENATOR GOODMAN SUPPORTS LOCAL CONTROL TO A POINT. GOODMAN SAYS HIS BILL DOESN'T JEOPARDIZE LEGITIMATE LOCAL CONTROL. ENDERLE DEFENDS THE FULTON SCHOOL BOARD FOR KNOWING WHAT'S BEST. AFTERALL, ALL FULTON CLASSROOMS HAVE AIR CONDITIONING. ENDERLE SAYS BY STARTING IN MID-AUGUST IT BALANCES THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR. ENDERLE SAYS ANOTHER FACTOR IS THE MAP TEST TAKEN IN THE SPRING, MISSOURI EDUCATORS PREFER AS MANY DAYS IN THE CLASSROOM BEFORE THE TEST NOT AFTERWARDS. WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED ON WHETHER THE BILL PASSES OR NOT.
HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/18**	**10:00PM**	**2:10**	YOU'VE HEARD OF THE TERM "MODERN MEDICINE," OF COURSE, BUT WHAT ABOUT "FUTURE" MEDICINE? SOME FUTURISTIC TECHNOLOGY TO TRAIN YOUNG DOCTORS FOR THE MEDICINE THEY'LL DO IN THE YEARS AHEAD. NOT MANY OF US WANT TO BE THE FIRST PATIENT A NEW DOCTOR TRIES A PROCEDURE ON FOR THE FIRST TIME. NOW MIZZOU MEDICAL STUDENTS CAN LEARN AND MAKE ANY POTENTIAL MISTAKES ON RUSS, AND HE DOESN'T MIND AT ALL. DON'T WORRY; HE'S GOING TO BE FINE. RUSS IS A MEDICAL MANNEQUIN; HE'S A FAR CRY FROM THE CPR DOLL WE REMEMBER FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

					HE CAN MIMIC THOUSANDS OF PHYSICAL RESPONSES. THAT'S RIGHT, RUSS REACTS TO DRUG JUST LIKE YOU OR I WOULD, HE BREATHES, HE HAS A PULSE, HE CAN ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS AND HE CAN DIE OVER AND OVER AGAIN. BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, HE OFFERS YOUNG DOCTORS SOME INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE. BUT MISTAKES MADE ON RUSS ARE LEARNING EXPERIENCES, NOT REASONS FOR A MALPRACTICE SUIT. WHEN THE NEW SHELDEN CLINICAL SIMULATION CENTER OPENS ON THE M-U CAMPUS NEXT YEAR, RUSS WILL BE JOINED BY AN ENTIRE FAMILY OF MEDICAL MANNEQUINS, A PREGNANT ONE SO OB/GYN STUDENTS CAN PRACTICE DELIVERING A BABY AND A CHILD MANNEQUIN FOR PEDIATRIC DOCTORS. THEY'RE ALSO GOING TO HIRE ACTORS TO BE FAMILY MEMBERS SO DOCTORS LEARN HOW TO DEAL WITH THOSE SITUATIONS TOO. IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHY THEY NAMED THE MANEQUIN "RUSS," IT'S NAMED AFTER DR. RUSSELL SHELDEN. DR. SHELDEN AND HIS WIFE, MARY, DONATED 2 POINT 3 MILLION DOLLARS TO START THE CLINICAL SIMULATION CENTER. DOCTOR RUSS IS A GRADUATE OF THE M-U SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/19**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	FIRE DESTROYED A WOMEN'S DORM AT LINCOLN UNIVERSITY LAST SEPTEMBER. STUDENTS WHO HAD TO MOVE TO HOTELS AFTER THE BLAZE ARE BACK IN RENOVATED ROOMS. LINCOLN STUDENT ERIKA REED DID NOT PLAN TO LIVE IN A HOTEL WHEN SHE STARTED CLASSES LAST FALL. BUT REED AND MORE THAN SEVENTY OTHER LINCOLN UNIVERSITY WOMEN HAD TO MOVE OUT OF THEIR DORMS AND INTO HOTEL ROOMS AFTER FIRE DESTROYED PARTS OF THEIR DORM, DAWSON HALL IN SEPTEMBER.

					THE UNIVERSITY PROVIDED A SHUTTLE SERVICE TO AND FROM CAMPUS, BUT IT WASN'T THE SAME. REED SAYS LIVING IN THE HOTEL WASN'T ALL BAD. BUT SHE'S READY TO BE BACK IN THE DORMS. SOME PARTS OF THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH FLOORS ARE STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, BUT THE ROOMS AND BATHROOMS ARE FULLY FUNCTIONING. SO STUDENTS LIKE REED CAN FINALLY START LIVING A TYPICAL COLLEGE LIFE. THE UNIVERSITY INSTALLED SPRINKLER SYSTEMS AND FIRE DETECTORS IN EACH OF THE NEW ROOMS. BUT ROOMS ON OTHER FLOORS OF THE DORM STILL DON'T HAVE SPRINKLERS. THE UNIVERSITY HOPES TO GET THE REST INSTALLED BY NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/20**	**10:00PM**	**3:30**	WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD? MOST WOULD SAY, NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT. SO WHEN A CHILD DISAPPEARS, WE EXPECT TO USE EVERY RESOURCE AVAILABLE TO BRING THAT CHILD BACK HOME SAFELY. AMBER ALERT... TWO WORDS THAT BRING FEAR, HORROR, AND HOPE, OF FINDING A MISSING CHILD. AN AMBER ALERT IS MORE THAN JUST A LINE ACROSS THE BOTTOM OF YOUR SCREEN, IT'S A SYSTEM... A SYSTEM MOST MISSING CHILDREN DON'T QUALIFY FOR. CRYSTAL DEBRODIE WAS MISSING HER SON. HIS BIRTH CERTIFICATE SAYS ABRAHAM MONROY, BUT HIS MOM CALLS HIM DAKOTA. UNTIL, DEBRODIE SAYS, HIS FATHER, FELIPE MONROY, TOOK HIM WHILE DEBRODIE WAS AT WORK. THEN HER LIFE FELL TO PIECES. BUT SINCE IT WAS AN ALLEGED PARENTAL ABDUCTION, ABRAHAM'S CASE DIDN'T QUALIFY FOR AN AMBER ALERT. TO FILE AN AMBER ALERT OFFICIALS HAVE TO REASONABLY BELIEVE A STRANGER ABDUCTED THE CHILD, AND THAT THE CHILD IS IN SERIOUS DANGER.

					THERE ALSO HAS TO BE A DESCRIPTION OF BOTH THE ABDUCTOR, AND THE CHILD - WHO HAS TO BE UNDER 17. IN MISSOURI, IN 2005, THERE WERE 10,559 MISSING CHILDREN CASES AND ALMOST NONE OF THEM QUALIFIED FOR AN AMBER ALERT. AN OVERWHELMING 8,859 WERE RUNAWAYS. OFFICIALS DON'T KNOW THE REASON BEHIND 1,411 CASES. 284 INVOLVED PARENTAL ABDUCTIONS. ONLY 5 WERE STRANGER ABDUCTIONS. SO EARLY THIS YEAR HIGHWAY PATROL CREATED AN ENDANGERED PERSON'S ALERT. JUST WITHOUT THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM OR THE AMBER ALERT IMPACT. BUT THE STATE WILL STILL ALERT LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, WHICH SOMETIMES HAS ITS OWN SYSTEM. FOR INSTANCE, COLUMBIA'S SYSTEM ALERTS ALL CITY DEPARTMENTS AND LOCAL MEDIA. AND FAST. FOR FINDING, AND LOSING. THAT'S SOMETHING DEBRODIE KNOWS ALL TOO WELL. BUT HER STORY DOES HAVE A HAPPY ENDING. SINCE MISSOURI STARTED USING THE AMBER ALERT IN 2003, OFFICIALS HAVE RECOVERED EVERY CHILD WHO HAD AN ALERT. BUT JUST IN 2005 MORE THAN THIRTEEN-HUNDRED CHILDREN REMAINED MISSING IN MISSOURI. THE COLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HAS FELIPE MONROY IN CUSTODY.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/21**	**6:00PM**	**2:10**	A CONTROVERSIAL PLAN COULD MEAN LOSING NATIONAL FOREST LAND IN MID-MISSOURI. PRESIDENT BUSH'S RENEWED INTEREST IN SELLING FEDERAL FOREST PROPERTY IS MAKING SOME ASHLAND RESIDENTS UPSET AGAIN. THE PLAN INCLUDES LAND NEAR ASHLAND IN THE MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST.

					BUSH RECOMMENDED A SIMILAR PLAN IN CONGRESS LAST YEAR. THAT PLAN STALLED BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION FROM BOTH DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS. ASHLAND RESIDENTS WANT THE PRESIDENT TO KNOW THEY ARE NOT WILLING TO GIVE UP THAT LAND THE TRICKLE OF WATER. THE WHISTLE OF WIND IN THE LEAVES. THESE ARE JUST A FEW SOUNDS SOME ASHLAND RESIDENTS WAKE UP TO IN THE MORNING. BUT PRESIDENT BUSH'S RENEWED INTEREST IN MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST COULD TAKE IT ALL AWAY. SENATOR CHUCK GRAHAM IS SPONSORING A BILL TO OPPOSE THE PLAN TO SELL MISSOURI NATIONAL FOREST LAND. HOMEOWNERS ALONG NEARBY BURNETT SCHOOL ROAD SAY THIS IS A BATTLE THEY'VE ALREADY FOUGHT AND WON. NOW, THEY'RE FIGHTING IT AGAIN. BUT NO MATTER THE EXPECTATION, RESIDENTS SAY THIS ISN'T A FIGHT THEY ARE WILLING TO LOSE. LAST YEAR, MISSOURI LAWMAKERS CRITICIZED THE SALE BECAUSE MOST OF THE PROCEEDS WOULD SUPPORT SCHOOLS ON THE WEST COAST. THIS YEAR, THE PRESIDENT PROPOSES KEEPING HALF OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE LOCAL LAND SOLD IN MISSOURI.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/22**	**10:00PM**	**1:40**	A GROWING CITY MEANS GROWING PROBLEMS ON THE STREET. COLUMBIA'S EXPANSION IS STALLING TRAFFIC ON THE CITY'S NORTH SIDE. SOME OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS COME ALONG RANGELINE BETWEEN BIG BEAR AND PRATHERSVILLE ROAD. TRAVELING ALONG RANGELINE, NORTH OF BIG BEAR BLVD. CAN TAKE A WHILE. FOUR LANES CONVERGE TO TWO. AND FOR PEDESTRIANS...NO SIDEWALKS.

					BUT MODOT HAS A PLAN TO DEAL WITH THIS TWO-LANE TIE-UP. THE PROJECT WILL COST ABOUT 30 MILLION DOLLARS. BUT SEVERAL BUSINESSES ALONG THE ROAD SAY THE CHANGE IS WORTH THE COST AND THE INCONVENIENCE. PROPERTY OWNERS CAN SIGN A UTILITY EASEMENT NOW TO LET MODOT START MAKING CHANGES SOONER. BUT PEOPLE WHO DON'T OWN PROPERTY ARE WORRIED ABOUT OTHER THINGS. CONSTRUCTION SHOULD START EARLY NEXT YEAR AND WRAP UP LATE IN 2009. MO-DOT IS WORKING ON BIDS FOR PURCHASING PRIVATE PROPERTY FOR THE NEW RIGHT OF WAY.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/23**	**6:00PM**	**1:20**	IT'S IN RESPONSE TO A WASHINGTON POST REPORT THAT UNCOVERED EXTREME NEGLECT IN WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER IN WASHINGTON D.C. MCCASKILL DISCUSSED THE LEGISLATION HERE TODAY WHICH SHE'LL INTRODUCE NEXT WEEK WITH ILLIONOIS SENATOR BARACK OBABMA. IT WOULD DECREASE PAPERWORK AND INCREASE CASEWORKERS FOR RETURNING SOLDIERS. SHE SAYS SHE HASN'T HEARD OF ANY PROBLEMS IN MISSOURI BUT IT'S STILL AN IMPORTANT ISSUE. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE VA HOSPITAL IN COLUMBIA SAYS THE WASHINGTON POST REPORT ISN'T REFLECTIVE OF THEIR HOSPITAL. HE SAYS SOME OF THE ISSUES HAVE ALREADY BEEN ADDRESSED. FOR INSTANCE, HE SAYS NATIONAL FUNDING FOR CASEWORKERS FOR RETURNING SOLDIERS HAS BEEN RISING OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AND AS A RESULT MORE HAVE BEEN HIRED IN COLUMBIA.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/24**	**10:00PM**	**2:10**	AS THE TEMPERATURES CLIMB, THE NUMBER OF DAYS LEFT UNTIL SUMMER FUN AT THE LAKE ARE GOING DOWN. THE CATCH IS FOR BUSINESSES LOOKING TO LURE IN EMPLOYEES.

					SOME HAVE LINES OF PEOPLE LOOKING FOR JOBS, BUT OTHERS SAY THEY HAVE TO GET CREATIVE IN HOW THEY BAIT THEIR HOOKS. RAINY SATURDAYS BRING CUSTOMERS INSIDE, AND AS THE WEATHER HEATS UP, AT RISKY'S, SO DO MORE PIZZAS. JIM WEDIG SAYS THE START OF HIS SUMMER SEASON BEGINS AROUND ST. PATRICKS DAY AND HE'S GETTING READY FOR THE SUMMER SEASON. ACROSS THE STRIP AT HYVEE THEY SAY SALES DOUBLE IN THE SUMMER, AND THEY NEED AN EXTRA 100 PEOPLE. HYVEE IS USING A PROGRAM TO GRAB LOCAL EMPLOYESS AND HELP THE COMMUNITY AT THE SAME TIME. SCHIELKE HOPES WITH INCENTIVES AND SOME AIR CONDITIONING THEY'LL GET ALL THE HELP THEY NEED. LAKE BUSINESSES TAKE ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO GET EMPLOYEES ON BOARD. SOME USE LOCAL ADVERTISING; OTHERS USE HEADHUNTERS WHO BRING SEASONAL WORKERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. EITHER WAY IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO GET STARTED NOW IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THAT SUMMER JOB BY THE LAKE.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/25**	**10:00PM**	**1:50**	FOR THOSE WITH SOMETHING ON THEIR MINDS... IT WAS A CHANCE TO SPEAK UP. COLUMBIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HELD ITS ANNUAL "LETS TALK COLUMBIA" DISCUSSION THIS WEEKEND.... IT WAS A TWO-DAY DISCUSSION. THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR? -- TOWARD A MORE PERFECT UNION. AND THAT GOAL CERTAINLY RANG TRUE TODAY. THE SOUND OF A BELL STARTED THE DISCUSSION.... THE FINAL DAY OF A WEEKEND-LONG TALK THAT OPENED EYES AND EARS. JONI BRAMON HELPED LEAD ONE OF THE DISCUSSIONS...

					((NATS: LAUGH)) SHE'S BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE MEETING FOR THREE YEARS. AFTER A MAIN MEETING... GROUPS SPLIT UP TO TALK ABOUT TOUGH ISSUES IN A SMALL SETTING. ONE ISSUE ON THE AGENDA... DISCRIMINATION IN A DIVERSE COMMUNITY. PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY SHARING A LITTLE HEART TO HEART -- TRYING TO OPEN UP THE HEARTS OF OTHERS. NOW... ORGANIZERS DID SAY PARTICIPATION WAS A BIT LESS THIS YEAR THAN LAST.... BUT PEOPLE SEEMED TO LIKE THAT... THEY SAID IT ACTUALLY MADE THE DISCUSSION DEEPER.
CONSUMER INFORMATION/ JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/26**	**10:00PM**	**1:50**	IT STARTS WITH ETHANOL AND COULD END WITH HIGHER GROCERY PRICES FOR CONSUMERS. INCREASED ETHANOL USE HAS CREATED A HIGHER DEMAND FOR CORN AND WHILE CORN FARMERS ARE PROFITTING...OTHERS ARE NOT. HOW MUCH HIGHER CORN PRICES WILL GO AND HOW MUCH OF AN EFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON FOOD COSTS IS DEBATABLE. RIGHT NOW BEEF AND POULTRY FARMERS WHO USE CORN FOR FEED HAVE TO ABSORB THE ADDED COSTS THEMSELVES. THE QUESTION IS HOW LONG THEY CAN LAST BEFORE THEY RAISE COSTS TO CONSUMERS. FRED ATKINSON IS EXCITED TO SOW HIS CORN THIS YEAR. AS THE MAIN INGREDIENT IN ETHANOL, CORN IS A WANTED COMMODITY. IT'S SIMPLE SUPPLY AND DEMAND. INCREASED ETHANOL USE HAS RAISED THE DEMAND FOR CORN... LEADING TO AMERICAS LOWEST CORN SUPPLIES IN 34 YEARS...AND HIGH PRICES. BUT AT CALLAWAY LIVESTOCK CENTER FARMERS WISH THEY COULD STOP THE RIPPLE EFFECT.

					THOSE RIPPLES HAVEN'T REACHED CONSUMERS YET... BUT THE ECONOMICS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND FORECAST CORN TO BE IN HIGH DEMAND AND AT A HIGH PRICE FOR AWHILE. ESTIMATES SAY THAT FARMERS NEED TO PLANT 12 PERCENT MORE CORN THIS YEAR TO MEET PROJECTED DEMAND. IF THEY UNDER-PRODUCE CORN PRICES COULD RISE EVEN MORE.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/27**	**6:00PM**	**3:00**	AFTER A BOMB SCARE AND WORRIES ABOUT A WHITE POWDERY SUBSTANCE, OFFICIALS SAY THE WHOLE THING WAS A HOAX. THAT'S RIGHT EVEN THOUGH THE POLICE TAPE IS STILL UP, STUDENTS AND FACULTY HAVE THE ALL CLEAR TO RETURN TO CLASS TOMORROW. THIS AFTER TODAY WHERE AN INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT MADE A BOMB THREAT... 2:32- INTERTNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT MAKES THREAT AT CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING. 2:32 AND 8 AM- 23 PEOPLE MOVED FROM CIVIL. ENGINEERING TO PHYSICS BECAUSE OF BOMB THREAT 8:00- CHANCELLOR CANCELLS CLASS. 10:00- MILITARY TEAM FROM FORT LEONARD WOOD ENTERS BUILDING. 2:00- SUBSTANCE ON SUSPECT AND BUILDING IDENTIFIED AS POWDERED SUGAR. A DAY FULL OF GAS MASKS AND CANCELLED CLASS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ROLLA. AN INTERNATIONAL GRAD STUDENT IN CIVIL ENGINEERING APPARENTLY MADE A BOMB THREAT THIS MORNING AND POLICE FOUND A WHITE POWDERY SUBSTANCE ON HIM. THOUGH IT WAS NOT AS BAD AS FIRST THOUGHT, THE ROLLA FIRE DEPT. ASKED THE UNIVERSITY TO CANCEL CLASS. THE SUSPECT IS NOW IN THE PHELPS COUNTY JAIL AS THE LONG DAY IN ROLLA COMES TO A CLOSE.

					SEVERAL STUDENTS AND FACULTY SPOKE ABOUT THE EMOTIONAL IMPACT OF TODAY'S EVENTS. MOST SEEMED GENUINELY CONCERNED THAT A THREAT LIKE THIS HAPPENED HERE AT THEIR SCHOOL. ONE PROFESSOR IN THE MICROBIOLOGY DEPARTMENT WAS CONCERNED, BUT WAS ABLE TO DISMISS THE THREAT BECAUSE AS AN EXPERT ON MICRO-ORGANISMS AND PATHOGENS, SHE KNEW THE STUDENT PROBABLY DIDN'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE MATERIAL HE CLAIMS TO HAVE. EVERBODY I TALKED TO SAID THEY WERE OF COURSE WORRIED BUT LOOKED FORWARD TO THINGS RETURNING TO NORMAL.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/28**	**10:00PM**	**1:20**	FOR THE SECOND TIME IN FOUR MONTHS A CAR HITS AND KILLS A PEDESTRIAN ON HIGHWAY 63 NEAR THE A-C EXIT IN COLUMBIA. THE HIGHWAY PATROL SAYS 52-YEAR-OLD JOHN GREGG WAS TRYING TO CROSS 63 TO GET TO HIS HOME AT THE SUNSET MOBILE HOME PARK. A CAR HIT HIM IN THE SOUTH BOUND LANES AND HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD AT THE SCENE. IN NOVEMBER ANOTHER MAN WAS HIT AND KILLED AT ALMOST THE EXACT SAME PLACE. PEDESTRIANS OFTEN CROSS HIGHWAY 63 FROM THE MOBILE HOME PARK TO GET THE BLUE ACRES CONVENIENCE STORE. THIS STRETCH OF ROAD HAS DEFINITELY SEEN ITS FAIR SHARE OF ACCIDENTS. IN THE ACCIDENT TODAY THAT KILLED JOHN GREGG, THE DRIVER SUFFERED ONLY MINOR INJURIES AND REFUSED TREATMENT. HE WILL NOT BE CHARGED. THE LAST PEDESTRIAN DEATH HERE CAME BACK IN EARLY NOVEMBER... AND IT INVOLVED THE SAME STORY. GERALD WIMMER WAS CROSSING HIGHWAY 63 FROM THE MOBILE HOME PARK TO GO TO THE STORE. HE DIED AT THE SCENE.

					A WITNESS WHO SAYS HE HEARD THE ACCIDENT TODAY CAME RUNNING TO HELP. HE SAYS HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAN'T MAKE THINGS SAFER FOR DRIVERS AND WALKERS. A KOMU REPORTER SHOT THIS VIDEO THE DAY AFTER GERALD WIMMER'S DEATH... DESPITE THE ACCIDENT, BIKERS AND WALKERS WERE BACK OUT THE VERY NEXT DAY CROSSING I-63 AGAIN. BACK IN NOVEMBER AFTER THE FIRST ACCIDENT HERE WE SPOKE WITH A MODOT OFFICIAL WHO SAYS SHE COULDN'T IMAGINE IT WOULD BE MODOT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ADD A WALKWAY AT THIS LOCATION.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/1**	**6:00PM**	**1:50**	MOBERLY RESIDENTS HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL CLEANING UP A BIG MESS. LAST NIGHT'S STORMS TORE A DEVASTATING PATH THROUGH THE COMMUNITY. FOR MOBERLY RESIDENTS THE CLEAN UP IS JUST BEGINNING, BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE. A STRING OF POWERFUL STORMS HIT MID-MISSOURI LAST NIGHT. POWERFUL WINDS AND RAIN DAMAGED AREA BUSINESSES. AND ROOFS WERE COMPLETELY THROWN FROM THIER HOMES. MOBERLY POLICE SERGEANT KEVIN PALMATORY SAID THE EVENING WASN'T TOO HECTIC DESPITE THE DAMAGE. THE STORMS PATH WAS SPORADIC HITTING ONE AREA BUT NOT OTHERS. AT THE AIRPORT, THE WIND BLEW ROOFS OFF HANGARS AND OFFICES. AND ACROSS FROM THE AIRPORT ON HIGHWAY 63, A FIFTY YEAR OLD BARN IS NOW UNRECOGNIZABLE. MOBERLY RESIDENTS SAY THE STORM WAS LOUD BUT NOTHING LIKE A TORNADO. THAT'S ALL, BUT IT SEEMS THAT WAS ENOUGH.

					THE HOMEOWNERS I TALKED WITH SAY THEY PLAN TO REBUILD THEIR BARN AND THEY SAY THEY'RE LUCKY THE DESTRUCTION DIDN'T HIT THEIR HOME.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/2**	**10:00PM**	**2:20**	COLUMBIA'S MAYOR REACTS TO NEWS THAT THE NAZIS ARE COMING TO TOWN. THAT GROUP WILL BE MARCHING THROUGH DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA NEXT WEEKEND. THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST MOVEMENT IS PROTESTING THE "PROMOTION OF MARXISM" BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI. MARXISM? OR JOURNALISM? THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI HAS COME UNDER FIRE FROM THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST GROUP FOR ALLEGEDLY PRODUCING MARXIST REPORTERS. MAYOR DARWIN HINDMAN SAYS ALTHOUGH THE GROUP IS LEGALLY ALLOWED TO HAVE A MARCH, HE WANTS TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE. THE MARCH WILL TRAVEL THROUGH DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA. THE ROUTE INCUDES ELM STREET, HITT STREET, UNIVERSITY AVENUE AND NINTH STREET. AT TONIGHT'S TRUE/FALSE FILM FESTIVAL, MOVIE GOERS SAID THEY DON'T THINK THE PARADE SHOULD BE ALLOWED MAYOR HINDMAN SAYS THE BEST RESPONSE TO GROUPS LIKE THIS IS TO RESPOND WITH OPINIONS "BETTER THAN THEIRS." HE WANTS TO HAVE A NEWS CONFERENCE THIS WEEK WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS TO SHOW THAT COLUMBIA IS 100% AGAINST SATURDAY'S MARCH. POLICE SAY MARCHES OF THIS TYPE ARE MEANT TO SPARK VIOLENCE. CAPTAIN NELSON'S ADVICE IS TO IGNORE THE PARADE. THE NAZI GROUP ESTIMATES IT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY 20 TO 50 MARCHERS NEXT WEEKEND.

EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/3**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	A LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE BROUGHT A CROWD TO THE M-U CAMPUS. TODAY MARKED THE 8TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. LEADERSHIP TAKES MANY ROLES, AND IT DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN BEING A PROJECT MANAGER. THESE WOMEN LEARNED AND DISCUSSED LEADING IN THEIR EVERY DAY LIFE. IN MEMORIAL UNION, WOMEN GATHERED TO LEAVE THEIR MARK. THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS SPOKE OF THEIR EXPERIENCES IN TRADITIONALLY MALE DOMINATED INDUSTRIES; ONE RUNS A BUSINESS IN SHIPPING. THEIR MESSAGE... DREAM BIG, AND DON'T LET ANYTHING GET IN THEIR WAY. IT'S A MESSAGE RYAN TOOK TO HEART, NOW SHE HELPS PLAN THIS EVENT AND IS EXCITED TO PRESENT A TOP HONOR... THE PHENOMENAL WOMEN AWARD TO HER MENTOR. AND EVEN THOUGH IT'S A WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, SOME MEN LEARNED LEADERSHIP VALUES TOO. KEA SAYS THAT'S THE KIND OF EXCITEMENT THEY'RE HAPPY TO HAVE. THE EVENT'S THEME THIS YEAR WAS "LEAVING YOUR MARK". IT INCLUDED EVERYTHING FROM BREAKING INTO MALE DOMINATED CAREERS TO MANAGING LIFE AND FAMILY.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/4**	**10:00PM**	**1:20**	TWO MEN ATTACKED A PIZZA DELIVERY DRIVER IN COLUMBIA EARLY THIS MORNING... AND NEIGHBORS SAY THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH. THE ASSAULT AND ROBBERY HAPPENED AT ABOUT TWO THIS MORNING... WHEN SOMEONE PHONED A PIZZA ORDER FOR A VACANT HOUSE. IT WAS ON THE 200 BLOCK OF CATHERINE DRIVE IN SOUTH COLUMBIA. WHEN THE PIZZA DELIVERY DRIVER ARRIVED... TWO TEENS CAME UP TO HIM AND ATTACKED HIM... TAKING

					THE PIZZA TOO. AFTER THE ASSAULT... THE TWO RAN AWAY WITH THE PIZZA. NEIGHBORS SAY KIDS PLAY IN THE AREA AND THEY'RE FED UP WITH THE VIOLENCE. OTHER NEIGHBORS KOMU SPOKE WITH SAID THEY WANT TO MOVE OUT. THE BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IS STILL LOOKING FOR THE TWO TEENS... BETWEEN 15 AND 18 YEARS OLD. BOTH WERE ABOUT SIX FEET TALL. ONE WORE A BLACK PUFFY JACKET AND THE OTHER WORE A RED HOODED PULLOVER SWEATSHIRT. THEY'RE ASKING ANYONE WITH INFORMATION TO GIVE THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE A CALL AT 875-1111.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/5**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	THE CITY OF COLUMBIA PREPARES FOR A RARE... AND POSSIBLY DISRUPTIVE WEEKEND. MEMBERS OF A NEO-NAZI GROUP WILL MARCH DOWNTOWN ON SATURDAY... AND COMMUNITY LEADERS WANT TO KEEP THE PEACE. ABOUT FIFTY COMMUNITY LEADERS MET AT THE COLUMBIA POLICE STATION THIS AFTERNOON. THEIR MAIN GOAL IS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE FROM ERUPTING DURING THE PARADE THIS SATURDAY. BUT LEADERS DISAGREE ABOUT HOW TO REACH THIS GOAL. SOME FEEL THAT PARADE OPPONENTS SHOULD PEACEFULLY MAKE THEMSELVES SEEN AND HEARD. WHILE OTHERS THINK STAYING COMPLETELY AWAY FROM THE GROUP IS THE ANSWER. ONE ALTERNATIVE TO THE MARCH IS A DIVERSITY CELEBRATION, EITHER HERE AT DOUGLASS PARK OR AT THE COURTHOUSE. ANOTHER OPTION IS A FUNDRAISER WHERE PEOPLE CAN DONATE MONEY FOR EVERY MINUTE THE GROUP IS MARCHING IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA. A PUBLIC MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SIX PM

					TOMORROW AT THE ST. PAUL A.M.E. THE CITY OF COLUMBIA GRANTED THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY ITS PARADE PERMIT LAST WEEK. THE NAZI GROUP SAYS IT'S MARCHING TO PROTEST THE PROMOTION OF MARXISM BY U-M SYSTEM PRESIDENT ELSON FLOYD AND THE MISSOURI SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM. IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE THE PLANNED ROUTE FOR THE MARCH ON SATURDAY, GO TO OUR WEB SITE, KOMU-DOT-COM. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, KOMU NEWS IS A TEACHING LAB FOR THE SCHOOL'S RADIO-TELEVISION SEQUENCE.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/6**	**10:00PM**	**1:50**	A STATE EMPLOYEE BLOWS THE WHISTLE ON UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS A HOUSEKEEPING MANAGER'S TIP LED TO A MAJOR INVESTIGATION OF A CONTRACTOR THAT SUPPLIED JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR STATE BUILDINGS. THE TIP CAME FROM VERNON MORRIS, A HOUSEKEEPING MANAGER. HE SAID HE HEARD RUMORS OF THE WORKER'S ILLEGAL STATUS AND WENT STRAIGHT TO CAPITAL POLICE. THE DETAINEES WORKED FOR SAM'S CUSTODIAL SERVICE OUT OF OKLAHOMA. AND TONIGHT GOV. BLUNT ANNOUNCED THE STATE IS CANCELLING ALL CONTRACTS WITH THAT COMPANY. ABOUT A DOZEN OF THE WORKERS WERE BROUGHT TO THE STATE INFORMATION CENTER FOR QUESTIONING. AND ONCE THEIR STATUS IS DETERMINED THEY WILL BE TAKEN TO KANSAS CITY WHERE IMMIGRATION CUSTOMS AND ENFORCEMENT WILL TAKEOVER. THE STATE HAD HAD CONTRACTS WITH SAM'S SINCE 1998. THERE ARE TEN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS WHERE THESE WORKERS DID JANITORIAL TASKS. IN JEFFERSON CITY, THEY INCLUDE THE TRUMAN STATE OFFICE BUILDING, THE DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND THE HEALTH LAB.

					THE INVESTIGATION INCLUDED BUILDINGS ON VANDIVER AND HEREFORD IN COLUMBIA, AND THE FLETCHER DANIELS BUILDING IN KANSAS AGAIN GOVERNOR BLUNT SAID TONIGHT THE STATE WILL NO LONGER DO BUSINESS WITH SAM'S JANITORIAL SERVICES. AS OF RIGHT NOW THE COMPANY ITSELF IS NOT FACING ANY CHARGES. AND BY EXECUTIVE ORDER THE GOVERNOR IS REQURING ALL NEW STATE CONTRACTORS TO DO IMMIGRATION CHECKS ON EMPLOYEES.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/7**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	MEMBERS OF A COLUMBIA CHARITY FACE FEDERAL INDICTMENTS... FIVE MEMBERS OF THE ISLAMIC AMERICAN RELIEF AGENCY FACE CHARGES RANGING FROM MONEY LAUNDERING TO ILLEGALLY SENDING MONEY TO IRAQ. TODAY, A GRAND JURY RELEASED A 33-COUNT INDICTMENT AGAINST THE FIVE MEN AND THE AGENCY. AFTER THE FIRST GULF WAR, PRESIDENT BUSH 41 ISSUED AN ORDER MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO SEND ANY MONEY TO IRAQ WITHOUT A LICENSE. THAT IS WHAT THE MAJORITY OF THE CHARGES COME FROM. FEDERAL AGENTS RAIDED THE CHARITY'S HEADQUARTERS IN OCTOBER OF 2004. AFTER THE RAID, KOMU NEWS SPOKE TO SOMEONE WHO WORKED AT THE AGENCY. SHE THOUGHT THEY WERE DOING LEGITIMATE WORK BY SENDING FOOD, MEDICINE AND CLOTHES INTO IRAQ. THE U.S. ATTORNEY SAYS THAT'S NOT THE CASE... TWO OF THE FIVE MEN INDICTED TODAY STILL LIVE IN COLUMBIA. MUBARAK HAMED WAS THE AGENCY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FROM 1992 UNTIL THE GROUP WAS SHUT DOWN IN 2004. AHMAD MUSTAFA RAISED MONEY FOR IARA STARTING IN 1996.

					THE INDICTMENT SHOWS EVIDENCE OF TRANSFERS OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OVERSEAS. PROSECUTORS SAY THOSE TRANSFERS WERE SENT TO JORDAN AND THEN ULTIMATELY ON TO IRAQ. SOME COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE STILL UNSURE OF WHAT THE I-A-R-A WAS DOING. KOMU WILL BE TALKING WITH THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY TONIGHT TO GET THEIR REACTION
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/8**	**10:00PM**	**1:30**	REPUBLICANS INTRODUCED A NEW PLAN FOR THE MOHELA MONEY TODAY. THEY'RE STILL HOPING TO RAISE MILLIONS FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS BY SELLING OFF STUDENT LOAN ASSETS. MU'S COLUMBIA CAMPUS HAS ONLY ONE PROJECT LEFT, A 32 MILLION DOLLAR EXPANSION OF ELLIS FISCHEL CANCER HOSPITAL. BUT 85 MILLION DOLLARS FOR A NEW LIFE SCIENCES CENTER IS GONE. OTHER NEW FUNDS FOR MU WOULDN'T COME TO COLUMBIA AT ALL--INSTEAD GOING TO SMALL FACILITIES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE. AND MU'S SHARE DROPS FROM 94 TO 52 MILLION. BUT REPUBLICANS SAY THE NEW PLAN IS REALISTIC. M-U SAYS WHAT IT STILL RECEIVES WILL REMAIN IMPORTANT FOR THE UNIVERSITY. BUT THE SCHOOL WILL HAVE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR MORE FUNDING. NODLER WILL INTRODUCE THE PROPOSAL.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/9**	**6:00PM**	**2:20**	FOR MANY TROOPS, THE BATTLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH CAN MAKE THAT HOMECOMING BITTERSWEET. IT WAS MOSTLY DOCTORS AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS, BUT A FEW FAMILIES WANTED TO KNOW HOW TO HELP THEIR LOVED ONES. THEY SAY THE MILITARY DEVOTES A LOT MORE TIME TO PREPARING TROOPS FOR DUTY, THAN LOOKING AFTER THEM WHEN THEY'RE DONE. NUMBERS CAN BE SOBERING. BUT THEY CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO BARBARA

					SCHNEIDER. SCHNEIDER'S SON STEPHEN HAS SEEN TWO TOURS OF DUTY WITH THE MARINE CORPS. AFTER HIS FIRST HOMECOMING, EVERYDAY EVENTS HAD THE POTENTIAL TO TAKE STEPHEN BY SURPRISE. DOCTORS GATHERED TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER HOW BEST TO TREAT POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, AND OTHER PROBLEMS FACING VETERANS. EVEN WITHOUT THE OPTIONS FAMILIES HAVE AVAILABLE, SCHNEIDER KNOWS FROM EXPERIENCE THAT NOTHING COULD OUTWEIGH THE JOY OF HAVING STEPHEN HOME. SCHNEIDER SAYS THE COLUMBIA MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP IN UNDERSTANDING HER SON'S LIFE IN THE MARINES. FOR INFORMATION ON THE SUPPORT GROUP YOU CAN LOG ON TO OUR WEB SITE AT KOMU-DOT-COM.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/10**	**10:00PM**	**5:40**	NEO NAZIS TOOK TO THE STREETS AND FILLED DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA WITH CONTROVERSY. MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN, THE COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER TO STAND STRONG AGAINST HATE AND CALL FOR UNITY. FREE SPEECH WAS PUT TO THE TEST IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA. ASIDE FROM A FEW ARRESTS, TODAY'S MARCH WAS WITHOUT ANY MAJOR VIOLENCE. THE MARCH LASTED ABOUT AN HOUR AND AS CURIOSITY BROUGHT HUNDREDS TO THE STREETS, JUST A FEW MILES AWAY, PEACE WAS THE THEME OF THE PROTEST IN DOUGLASS PARK. TONIGHT WE HAVE COVERAGE FROM BOTH SIDES OF THIS WAR OF WORDS. ON CROWDED SIDEWALKS, IT'S EASY FOR A SCUFFLE TO GET OUT OF HAND. THOUGH THE STREETS WERE TECHNICALLY OPEN, SOME WHO'D COME ONLY TO WATCH FOUND THEMSELVES TRYING TO ESCAPE INTENSE CONFLICT. WALKING ALONGSIDE, AND IN FRONT OF THE MARCH

					WERE THOSE WHO HOPED TO INSPIRE PEACE WITHOUT SHIELDS OR WEAPONS. STACK DIDN'T YELL WITH OR AT THE PROTESTORS. HE TRIED TO CALM THOSE GETTING RILED UP AND IN EACH OTHER'S FACES. A LITTLE FURTHER BACK IN THE MARCH ASHLEY YATES HELD HER FIST IN THE AIR FOR PEACE. YATES WAS LIKE MANY IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA, SHE STAYED ON THE FRINGE AND USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE OTHERS SHE TALKED WITH DOWNTOWN. GENELLE JACKSON DECIDED TO JOIN THE MARCH AND PASS OUT FLYERS. AND WHILE THE MARCH DIRECTLY ENCOUNTERED RELATIVELY FEW, THEY WERE THERE AFTERALL TO COMMUNICATE A MESSAGE. THE MESSAGE AT DOUGLASS PARK WAS FAR FROM ONE OF ANGER AND HATE. INSTEAD, IT WAS A MESSAGE OF PEACE TO ERASE RACISM. SARAH MYERS WELCOMED THE PEACE DEMONSTRATION FOR GOOD REASON - SHE'S JEWISH. SHE SAYS COLUMBIA WILL NOT AND SHOULD NOT STAND FOR THE NEO-NAZI MESSAGE. TO SHOW THEIR DISTASTE FOR THE NEO-NAZIS, PEACE ADVOCATES TRANSFORMED THE PARK INTO A COMMUNITY WIDE GET-TOGETHER. DANCERS HOSTED A STEP-SHOW TO ENCOURAGE COLUMBIA RESIDENTS NOT TO ACCEPT HATE. AS POSITIVE AS THE GATHERING WAS, THOSE LIKE SARAH MYERS SAY THE COMMUNITY STILL NEEDS TO DO MORE. BESIDES THE GATHERING AT DOUGLASS PARK, SOME COUNTER-PROTESTERS MET AT THE BOONE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, AN HOUR BEFORE THE MARCH. ABOUT ONE HUNDRED 50 PEOPLE SHOWED UP TO OFFER PRAYERS AND HOPES OF PEACE. THE GROUP WANTED TO EXPRESS THAT COLUMBIA

					WON'T TOLERATE HATE SPEECH. HERE AT KOMU WE GAVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO HOW WE WOULD COVER THE NEO-NAZI MARCH. IN THE END, KOMU NEWS DIRECTOR STACEY WOELFEL DECIDED KOMU NEWS WOULD BEST SERVE THE COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING BALANCED COVERAGE OF THE DAY'S EVENTS. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT TODAY'S EVENTS AND OUR COVERAGE, JUST GO TO OUR DISCUSSION BOARDS AT KOMU-DOT-COM CLICK ON "COMPLETE MARCH COVERAGE" WE ALSO HAVE SLIDESHOWS FROM THE PARADE ROUTE AND A TIMELINE OF EVENTS THROUGH OUR REPORTERS BLOGS. ALSO FEEL FREE TO EMAIL US YOUR PICTURES FROM TODAY TO NEWS AT KOMU-DOT-COM
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/11**	**10:00PM**	**2:30**	ON MARCH 12, 2006, A TORNADO RIPPED THROUGH THE TOWN OF RENICK. THE STORM KILLED FOUR PEOPLE AND DESTROYED MANY FAMILIES' HOMES. AROUND FIFTY PEOPLE CAME TO WATCH A PRESENTATION ABOUT LAST YEAR'S TORNADO. RENICK FAMILIES, AND VOLUNTEERS FROM OTHER TOWNS, CAME TO COUNT THEIR BLESSINGS THAT THEY'RE STILL ALIVE TODAY. FOR MANY OF THESE FACES IT'S BEEN ONE DAY SHORT OF A YEAR SINCE THE LAST TIME THEY SAT IN THIS SCHOOL'S GYM... ROBERTS' JOB LAST YEAR WAS TO KEEP MORALE UP, BUT TODAY HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT. THE TOWN ALSO THANKED THOSE WHO HELPED PICK UP THE PIECES AFTER THE TORNADO. HIS CREW CAME IN AFTER THE TORNADO AND HELPED GET PEOPLE ELECTRICITY AND WATER. THE MEETING ENDED WITH THE UNVEILING OF PLANS FOR A MEMORIAL. THE MAYOR IS STILL WORKING WITH FAMILIES IN RENICK TO GET A GRANT FOR TORNADO SIRENS.

					HE ALSO IS WORKING TO CREATE A FUTURE DISASTER RELIEF PLAN. LAST YEAR'S SEVERE WEATHER STARTED ON MARCH 11. THAT DAY BASEBALL SIZED HAIL BOMBARDED CENTRAL MISSOURI. ON MARCH 12-TH, 38 TORNADOES TOUCHED DOWN IN THE SHOW-ME-STATE... MOST WERE SHORT LIVED, AND PRODUCED SPORADIC DAMAGE. THE STORM KILLED FIVE MID-MISSOURIANS.... 4 IN RENICK AND 1 IN SEDALIA.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/12**	**10:00PM**	**1:00**	THE MOHELA BILL OR WHAT IS OFFICIALLY CALLED THE LEWIS AND CLARK INITIATIVE IS ON THE SENATE FLOOR. DEMOCRATS AREN'T HAPPY... AND THE BOXING GLOVES CAME OFF AFTER THE ISSUE WENT UP FOR DEBATE ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO. SENATOR CHUCK GRAHAM BEGAN A FILIBUSTER THAT DEMOCRATS SAY COULD GO ALL NIGHT AND INTO TOMORROW. HE WARNED LAWMAKERS OF WHAT HE CALLED DANGERS OF THE MOHELA BILL. TOMORROW, THE HOUSE VERSION OF THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED.... WE'LL STAY AT THE CAPITOL AND BRING YOU THE LATEST AS IT HAPPENS. STAY TUNED TO KOMU LATE FOR MORE ABOUT MOHELA DEBATE.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/13**	**6:00PM**	**1:10**	A STAY OF EXECUTION...FOR EXECUTIONS. THE MISSOURI DEATH PENALTY COULD BE PUT ON HOLD FOR THREE YEARS. HOUSE BILL 4-45 WILL STOP ALL EXECUTIONS IN MISSOURI UNTIL JANUARY 1ST, 2011. AT THE HEARING TODAY, NO ONE TESTIFIED AGAINST THE BILL. SINCE NO ONE OPPOSED THE BILL, SUPPORTERS HOPE IT PASSES. HOUSE BILL 445 DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE DEATH PENALTY.

					IT JUST DELAYS IT FOR TIME BEING. PEOPLE ON DEATH ROW GET TO WAIT LONGER. DURING THE THREE YEARS, FIRST DEGREE MURDER CONVICTIONS WILL BE REVIEWED. REPRESENTATIVE BILL DEEKEN SPONSORED THE BILL, WORRIED THAT INNOCENT PEOPLE MIGHT -- JUST POSSIBLY -- MIGHT BE EXECUTED. THIS BILL DOES NOT STOP JUDGES FROM HANDING DOWN THE DEATH PENALTY. IT JUST REQUIRES A WAITING PERIOD UNTIL 2011.
EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/14**	**10:00PM**	**2:10**	WHAT IF TEASING TURNS INTO SOMETHING HARSHER? AND DOES THE STATE HAVE A ROLE IN PROTECTING CHILDREN? AS A PEER MEDIATOR, ROSS SHELTON KNOWS BULLYING IS A PROBLEM. PROGRAMS WORK AT SOME SCHOOLS. BUT EXPERTS SAY THE ISSUE NEEDS ATTENTION. STATE LAWMAKERS WANT TO STEP IN. THE BILL PROHIBITS BULLYING BASED ON THINGS LIKE RACE, RELIGION, GENDER, SEXUAL OREINTATION, AND PHYSICAL APPEARENCE. IT ALSO PROHIBITS BULLYING AT SCHOOL AND ON THE BUS. AND FINALLY IT ESTABLISHES A 5 STEP PROCEDURE TO DEAL WITH BULLYING. BUT, SOME OPPOSE IT. AND MAKE OUR SCHOOLS SAFER FOR EVERYONE THE STUDY, SPONSORED BY THE GAY, LESBIAN AND STRAIGHT EDUCATION NETWORK SHOWS THAT ALMOST HALF THE STUDENTS WHO'VE BEEN HARASSED OR ASSAULTED AT SCHOOL DID NOT REPORT IT. THEY OFTEN BELIEVED ADMINISTRATORS EITHER WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, OR THEIR EFFORTS WOULD MAKE THINGS WORSE.
EDUCATION/JOBS/ ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/15**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	AS GAS PRICES GO UP AT LOCAL PUMPS, CHEAPER, RENEWABLE BIOFUELS COULD BE MORE PLENTIFUL SOON.

					A BIOFUELS CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI TODAY BROUGHT EXPERTS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. PEOPLE GATHERED AT THE 4TH ANNUAL LIFE SCIENCES SYMPOSIUM TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET OFF GAS AND ONTO BIOFUELS SOON. THE REASON THE MOVE IS SO IMPORTANT--DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL. FARM STATES LIKE MISSOURI SEE OTHER BENEFITS TO EASING THAT DEPENDENCE. ASIDE FROM ETHANOL, BIODIESEL AND BIOBUTANE ARE BECOMING MORE POPULAR AND PLENTIFUL. WITH LOWER COSTS, RENEWABILITY, AND OTHER BENEFITS, COMES CHANGE.
DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/16**	**10:00PM**	**2:10**	HUNDREDS OF MISSOURI POLICE OFFICERS, DEPUTIES, AND HIGHWAY PATROL TROOPERS WILL BE MANNING SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS THIS WEEKEND. AFTERALL, TOMORROW IS ST. PATRICK'S DAY, A DAY WHEN GROWN UPS TEND TO GET A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY, WITH ALCOHOL. SOME CALL IT A SOBER CHAUFFEUR...SOME A DESIGNATED DRIVER...AND OTHERS SIMPLY CALL IT A GOOD FRIEND... THE BOTTOM LINE, IF YOU GET CAUGHT DRIVING WITH A BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT ABOVE POINT 0-8, YOU'RE GOING TO PAY DRUNKEN DRIVING IS ONE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES. THIS WEEKEND, DWI CHECKPOINTS AND ADDITIONAL OFFICERS WILL HELP TRY AND MAKE SURE NO ONE BECOMES A STATISTIC. LAW ENFORCEMENT FROM ACROSS MISSOURI WILL BE WORKING AS PART OF A STATEWIDE DWI ENFORCEMENT EFFORT. COLUMBIA POLICE WILL ALSO HAVE MORE OFFICERS ON THE STREET. COLUMBIA HAD MORE THAN 50 ALCOHOL RELATED

					ACCIDENTS IN 2006. THE MOST DANGEROUS STREET WAS PROVIDENCE, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY STADIUM BOULEVARD. TONIGHT AND TOMORROW, COLUMBIA POLICE WILL HAVE ABOUT 15 ADDITIONAL OFFICERS OUT ON THE STREETS. SO REMEMBER, YOU DRINK, YOU DRIVE, YOU PAY!!
JOBS/ECONOMY/ GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/17**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	LEPRECHAUNS PLAYED TRICKS ACCROSS MID MISSOURI THIS ST. PATRICKS DAY. IT'S A GREEN TRADITION ON THE SEVENTEENTH OF MARCH. EVERYTHING IS GREEN ON ST. PATRICKS DAY..... INCLUDING DIE HARD IRISH LIKE CHRIS BROWN. BROWN AND THE REST OF THE JOE BROWN CLAN CONTINUE THEIR LONG RUNNING FAMILY TRADITION. THOUGH THIS MORNING IT WAS SNOWING THE BROWN CLAN SAYS THEY'VE SEEN MUCH WORSE. THE BROWNS SAY THEY'VE WATCHED THE TOWN AND THE PARADE GROW. THIS YEAR A CANDIDATE FORUM FOR LAKE AREA ELECTIONS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PART OF THE GREEN GET TOGETHER BUT IT SEEMS A LEPRECHAUN LEFT MANY CONFUSED. THAT'S MAYOR SALE AND KOMU WAS INVITED TO THE SAME PHANTOM RALLY.
HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/18**	**10:00PM**	**1:40**	IT AFFECTS 20 MILLION AMERICANS... THAT'S ONE IN NINE. KIDNEY DISEASE HITS MANY AMERICAN FAMILIES CLOSE TO HOME... INCLUDING ONE MISSOURI LAWMAKER. THE BROTHERS PEDALED 143 MILES FROM ST. LOUIS TO THE STATE CAPITOL... THEY TOOK OFF EARLY FRIDAY MORNING AND THEY FINALLY FINISHED THEIR JOURNEY LATE TODAY. 143 MILES.... FOR A REASON. 143 MILES... TO RECOGNIZE A DISEASE. JUST SIX YEARS AGO, EL-AMIN SAVED HIS FATHER'S LIFE

					BY GIVING HIS DAD ONE OF HIS OWN KIDNEYS. SIX YEARS LATER, EL-AMIN GIVES AGAIN FOR KIDNEY DISEASE. HE AND HIS BROTHER LARRY RODE TO RAISE AWARENESS AND MONEY FOR THE NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION. EL-AMIN AND HIS BROTHER SAY THEY PLAN ON DOING SOMETHING AGAIN NEXT YEAR TO WITH THE SAME GOAL IN MIND.
EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/19**	**6:00PM**	**1:10**	THE HUNT FOR A NEW UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI LEADER IS ON... AND THE PUBLIC IS HAVING ITS SAY. THE SEARCH COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF FINDING A REPLACEMENT FOR ELSON FLOYD CAME TO COLUMBIA TODAY FOR A PUBLIC HEARING. THE BOARD SAYS IT WILL LIKELY SELECT AN INTERIM PRESIDENT AT THEIR NEXT MEETING ON APRIL 6TH. THE INTERRUM PRESIDENT WILL SERVE UNTIL A PERMENANT PRESIDENT IS SELECTED. AS THE BOARD TRAVELS AROUND THE STATE IT SAYS IT HEARS A COUPLE CONSISTENT OPINIONS FROM THE PUBLIC. ONE OF THOSE OPINIONS: THE PUBLIC WANTS A GOOD COMMUNICATOR, SOMEONE WHO IS OPEN WITH THEIR WORK AND LETS THE PUBLIC KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. THEY ALSO WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL COMMUNICATE WELL WITH ALL U OF M BRANCHES. THE SECOND CONSISTENSY IS THE PUBLIC WANTS TO SEE THE TUTION DROP. TONIGHT AT TEN, WE'LL TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO GET TO PLAY A ROLE IN PICKING THE NEXT UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SYSTEM PRESIDENT. THE BOARD NEXT STOPS IN SPRINGFIELD AND ROLLA FOR PUBLIC FORUMS.
EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/20**	**10:00PM**	**1:10**	BLAIR OAKS IS HAVING TROUBLE ACCOMODATING ALL ITS STUDENTS... THE BOARD IS ASKING FOR A THIRTY CENT TAX INCREASE TO FUND A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL.

					OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS BLAIR OAKS HAS SEEN AN INCREASE IN 217 STUDENTS... ABOUT 70 NEW STUDENTS A YEAR. TONIGHT ABOUT 20 PEOPLE CAME TO BLAIR OAKS HIGH SCHOOL TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED FACILITY. TONIGHT SUPERINTENDENT JIM JONES TALKED ABOUT WHY A MIDDLE SCHOOL WOULD BE MORE BENEFICIAL THAN AN ELEMENTARY OR HIGH SCHOOL. THE PROPOSAL WILL BE ON THE APRIL 3RD BALLOT. THE FUNDS RAISED FROM THIS TAX INCREASE WILL ONLY GO TO BUILDING THE NEW SCHOOL NOT TOWARD ANY OPERATIONAL COSTS. IF FOR SOME REASON THE PROPOSAL DOES NOT PASS THE BOARD PLANS TO ADD SIX MOBILE CLASSROOMS TO THE DISTRICT DURING THE NEXT YEAR.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/21**	**6:00PM**	**1:50**	THE CENTRALIA CITY COUNCIL HAS VOTED TO FIRE POLICE CHIEF SAM HARTSELL. MEMBERS SAY THE REASONS ARE "ISSUES NOT RELATED TO THE DEPARTMENT..." BUT THE FIRING OF SAM HARTSELL SET OFF A FIRESTORM OF COMPLAINTS ALLEGING POLICE HARRASSMENT. CENTRALIANS I SAY THEY'RE SO FED UP... THEY COULD BOIL OVER. LUNCHTIME AT CHUBBY'S PUB AND GRILL IN CENTRALIA MEANS IT'S TIME TO TURN ON THE DEEP FRYER... BUT L.T. EASTIN AND OTHERS SAY POLICE ARE COOKING UP CONTROVERSY. THE FIRING OF SAM HARTSELL LEAD SOME RESIDENTS TO THINK THE COPS ARE CORRUPT. RESIDENTS SAY THE POLICE ARE TOO NIT-PICKY. CHUBBY'S OWNER SAYS OFFICERS SIT AND WAIT BY HIS BAR ON FRIDAY NIGHTS TO TARGET CUSTOMERS. DESPITE THE DISAGREEMENT... EASTIN SAYS THERE'S STILL PROBLEMS WITH THE POLICE FORCE. AND IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS CONTROVERSY... THE CENTRALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT NOW HAS TO FIND A

					NEW CHIEF. THE MAYOR DECLINED TO GIVE US A SPECIFIC REASON FOR WHY THE CITY COUNCIL FIRED HARTSELL.
EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/22**	**10:00PM**	**1:50**	NO ACCESS... IT'S A MESSAGE SEEN ON COMPUTERS ACROSS THE COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT. THE DISTRICT ADDED FILTERS TO PROTECT STUDENTS FROM INAPPROPRIATE WEB SITES. BUT SOME STUDENTS COMPLAIN FILTERS ALSO BLOCK INFORMATIVE SITES. THE DISTRICT FILTERS INTERNET CONTENT... IT'S SUPPOSED TO BLOCK PORNOGRAPHY, CRIMINAL SKILLS, GAMES AND GAMBLING... ALONG WITH STREAMING MUSIC AND VIDEOS. BUT THE BROAD FILTER MAY PREVENT SOME LEARNING EXPERIENCES. USING THE COMPUTER IS AN EXPECTED PART OF THE LEARNING PROCESS... BUT SOME SAY FILTERS ARE GETTING IN THE WAY. GRAHAM TEACHES A POP-CULTURE CLASS AND SOME BLOCKED SITES INCLUDE THE B-B-C AND EVEN THE SEARCH ENGINE YAHOO. AND THE PROBLEM ISN'T ONLY AT ROCK BRIDGE. MEREDITH COLGIN IS A DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE AND SHE SEES THE PROBLEM AT OTHER SCHOOLS. THE DISTRICT SAYS IT HAS UNBLOCKED SOME OF THE SITES... BUT IT'S A SLOW PROCESS. MANY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS SAY THEY DON'T COMPLAIN AS MUCH AS THEY USED TO... BUT THEY'RE STILL FRUSTRATED.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/23**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	A MID-MISSOURI FIRE DEPARTMENT IS SEVERELY UNDER-STAFFED AND HOPES RESIDENTS WILL HELP OUT. THE OSAGE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT HOPES A NEW TAX WILL PAY FOR EXTRA MANPOWER. THE TAX WILL GO TO A GENERAL REVENUE FUND THAT WILL PAY FOR THE SALARIES OF ADDITIONAL FIREFIGHTERS.

					WITH TWO BONDS EXPIRING IN THE SPRING OF 2009, THE FIRE DEPARTMENT SAYS THEY CAN PROPOSE THE TAX DECREASE. WITH THE LAKE BECOMING A YEAR-ROUND TOURIST DESTINATION, THEY SAY THIS TAX IS VITAL TO BETTER SERVE THE GROWING NUMBER OF PEOPLE. THE OSAGE BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT USED TO GET A CALL A DAY FOR HELP. NOW WITH THE LAKE BECOMING A PRIME TOURIST DESTINATION FOR MISSOURIANS, TIMES ARE CHANGING. AND WITH THE ABUNDANCE OF PHONE CALLS THE DEPARTMENT FEELS IT'S TIME TO ADD EXTRA MANPOWER. THEY'RE PROPOSING A TAX DECREASE THAT WOULD HELP PAY FOR 6 ADDITIONAL FIREFIGHTERS. SINCE THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO BE DEBT FREE BY 2009, THE TAX WOULD GO TOWARDS PAYING THE WAGES OF THE NEW FIREFIGHTERS, INSTEAD OF PAYING FOR BONDS. RESIDENTS OF OSAGE BEACH SEE THE NEED FOR MORE FIREFIGHTERS. THE DEPARTMENT DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO THINK OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE PROPOSAL DOESN'T PASS. CURRENTLY 5 FIREFIGHTERS ARE ON CALL AT ALL TIMES. IF THE TAX PASSES THAT NUMBER WOULD INCREASE TO 7. RESIDENTS OF OSAGE BEACH WILL VOTE ON THE TAX APRIL 3RD.
CONSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/24**	**10:00PM**	**2:00**	PARKED CARS FOR AS FAR AS YOU CAN SEE... ALL FOR A FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION. PERHAPS YOU NOTICED THE NEARLY 300 PICK-UP TRUCKS PARKED ALONG THE OUTER ROAD OFF INTERSTATE 70 THIS AFTERNOON IN CALLAWAY COUNTY. IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE SO MANY PEOPLE SHOWING UP FOR A FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION, BUT THEY DID. IT HAPPENS EVERY YEAR AT THE CALLAWAY LIVESTOCK

					CENTER AND THIS YEAR WAS NO DIFFERENT THEY CAME IN DROVES... FARM EQUIPMENT FOR SALE AND LOTS OF IT. FARMERS FROM ALL OVER MID-MISSOURI SHOWED UP TO MAKE PURCHASES OF ALL KINDS FOR ALL SORTS OF FARMS. PAUL DUBBERT FROM LADDONIA IS ONE OF THEM. HE SAYS AN EQUIPMENT AUCTION LIKE THIS IS NOT ONLY ABOUT THE GOODS, BUT ALSO ABOUT THE GOOD TIMES. EVEN THOUGH INCREDIBLY MUDDY... FARM EQUIPMENT CAME AND WENT. BUT THAT MUD DIDN'T STOP ANYBODY. HARRISON EXPECTS TO RING UP NEARLY 700-THOUSAND DOLLARS IN BUSINESS TODAY. ONE OF THOSE COMBINES - 25-THOUSAND DOLLARS A PIECE.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/25**	**10:00PM**	**1:20**	LAST FALL, FARMERS WERE BEGGING FOR RAIN FOR THEIR CROPS. WITH THE HEAVY SNOW THIS WINTER AND A WET START TO SPRING, JUST HOW HAS THE OUTLOOK CHANGED FOR THIS YEAR'S CROPS? THE ANDERSON FARM HAS 200 HUNDRED ACRES WAITING FOR CORN. FARMERS WERE GLAD TO SEE THE RAIN, BUT CAN'T PLANT WHEN THE GROUND IS TOO WET. THE DRY WEATHER LOOKED LIKE TROUBLE FOR FARMERS AND THEIR CROPS LATE LAST YEAR AND EARLIER THIS YEAR... BUT SINCE THEN, THINGS HAVE TURNED AROUND. ADEQUATE FOR SOME CORN GROWING, BUT THAT WILL CHANGE IF THERE'S RAIN THIS WEEK. ANDERSON SAYS FARMERS LEARN TO DEAL WITH WHAT MOTHER NATURE GIVES THEM. BUT, ANDERSON HOPES THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BE DRY ONES. ANDERSON SAYS HE THINKS MOST FARMERS WILL

					BEGIN PLANTING CORN NEXT WEEK. BUT, REALLY, IT JUST ALL DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH RAIN WE GET.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/26**	**6:00PM**	**1:30**	SOME MISSOURI LAWMAKERS ARE ASKING BOTH STATE HOUSES TO BACK OFF FROM THE IMMIGRATION ISSUE. STATE LAWMAKERS SAY IT'S AN ISSUE THE STATE SHOULD LEAVE UP TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. STATE SENATOR JOAN BRAY OF SAINT LOUIS AND REPRESENTATIVE JOHN TALBOY OF KANSAS CITY JOINED MEMBERS OF MISSOURI IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE ADVOCATES, OR MIRA, TO PRAISE FEDERAL LAWMAKERS FOR A BILL THAT WOULD ESTABLISH NEW LAWS ON IMMIGRATION NATION-WIDE. JOAN SUAREZ, CHAIRPERSON FOR MIRA, SAYS THE BILL CALLED THE STRIVE ACT, OR SECURITY THROUGH REGULARIZED IMMIGRATION AND VIBRANT ECONOMY, WOULD ALLOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH IMMIGRATION ISSUES BETTER THAN ANY STATE. LAWMAKERS IN ALMOST ALL 50 STATES HAVE TRIED TO ADDRESS IMMIGRATION IN THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION. SPEAKERS AT THE CONFERENCE ALL AGREED THAT 50 DIFFERENT PLANS FOR 50 DIFFERENT STATES WON'T SOLVE ANY PROBLEMS. THE STRIVE ACT RECEIVED BIPARTISAN SUPPORT WHEN A DEMOCRAT FROM ILLINOIS AND A REPUBLICAN FROM ARIZONA PRESENTED THE BILL THIS MORNING ON THE U-S HOUSE FLOOR. YOU CAN READ THE FULL VERSION OF THE BILL BY CLICKING ON THE "LINKS AND NUMBERS SECTION" ON OUR WEBSITE, KOMU-DOT-COM.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/27**	**10:00PM**	**2:10**	SHOTS FIRED IN JEFFERSON CITY TODAY WERE ALL PART OF A DEMONSTRATION. WITH THE DEATH TOLL IN IRAQ AT MORE THAN 3-THOUSAND, A MISSOURI COMPANY HOPES TO BETTER PROTECT U-S TROOPS. DEFBAR SYSTEMS OF LEBANON, MISSOURI SHOWCASED A NEW ARMOR PLATING FOR MILITARY VEHICLES.

					DEMONSTRATORS HOPED THE LIVE-FIRE DEMO WOULD SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE NEED FOR BETTER ARMOR IN THE MILITARY. SENATOR FRANK BARNITZ WANTS THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE MISSOURI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TO RECOMMEND THAT MISSOURI TROOPS USE THE ARMOR. MISSOURI RESIDENT RICHARD LABRASH AND HIS PARTNER BEGAN WORKING ON THIS NEW ARMOR PLATING CALLED ZOULINE ALMOST 3 YEARS AGO. THE MAIN GOAL OF ZOULINE? TO SAVE MORE MISSOURIAN AND AMERICAN LIVES. SENATOR FRANK BARNITZ SAYS MISSOURI COULD BE A LEADER IN THE NATION FOR BETTER PROTECTION OF SOLDIERS... AND THAT'S NOT THE ONLY BENEFIT. IN THE DEMONSTRATION, ZOULINE WAS THE ONLY ARMOR TO WITHSTAND THE SHOTS. THE ROUNDS WENT RIGHT THROUGH A ONE INCH STEEL PLATE AND THICK CONCRETE LABRASH SAYS ZOULINE'S CAPABILITIES FAR OUTDO WHAT IS CURRENTLY BEING USED BY THE MILITARY. THE OWNER DIDN'T HAVE AN EXACT PRICE RANGE FOR THE ARMOR PLATING, BUT DID SAY THE COST OF THE ZOULINE ARMOR WOULD BE LESS EXPENSIVE THAN WHAT THE MILITARY IS CURRENTLY USING.
GOVERNMENT/JOBS/ ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/28**	**6:00PM**	**2:00**	A POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR AMEREN U-E AND ITS CUSTOMERS... AND THE FIRST SHOT IN THE NEXT GOVERNOR'S RACE. AMEREN WANTS TO RAISE ITS RATES IN MISSOURI, BUT HAS TO GET STATE APPROVAL. ONE MAN SAYS HE HAS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, BUT HE HASN'T BEEN ALLOWED TO TESTIFY. MARTIN SAYS AMEREN AND ATTORNEY GENERAL JAY NIXON ARE KEEPING HIM FROM TESTIFYING. MARTIN SAYS NIXON CO-ERCED AMEREN INTO DONATING MONEY TO NIXON'S CAMPAIGN.

					NIXON IS ALSO THE LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE STATE IN THE RATE INCREASE CASE. MARTIN SAYS THE DONATION CREATES A CONFLICT OF INTEREST THAT THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT. ATTORNEY GENERAL JAY NIXON WOULD NOT GO ON CAMERA BUT HIS OFFICE RELEASED A STATEMENT SAYING QUOTE - IT IS BOTH SAD AND DISCONCERTING THAT THE GOVERNOR CONTINUES TO POLITICIZE THE AMEREN RATE CASE AND THE TAUM SAUK ISSUE. THE GOVERNOR ASKED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO REPRESENT THE STATE OF MISSOURI IN THIS RATE CASE, AND WE HAVE BEEN DOING SO VIGOROUSLY AND EFFECTIVELY - END QUOTE. NIXON'S STATEMENT ALSO SAID QUOTE - BY INTERFERING IN THE RATE CASE AS WE NEAR THE CONCLUSION, THE GOVERNOR IS ONCE AGAIN PUTTING HIS POLITICAL AMBITIONS AHEAD OF DOING WHAT IS RIGHT FOR MISSOURI - END QUOTE. MARTIN'S ACCUSATIONS ARE BASED ON A CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH THE GENERAL COUNSEL FOR AMEREN, STEVE SULLIVAN. SULLIVAN DENIES MARTIN'S CLAIMS AND SAYS AMEREN WAS NEVER CO-ERCED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. MARTIN SAYS HE WILL CONTINUE TRYING TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/29**	**10:00PM**	**:40**	SOME COLUMBIA RESIDENTS ARE TRYING TO OVERTURN THE SMOKING BAN THAT JUST WENT INTO EFFECT IN JANUARY. BUT AT THE SAME TIME IN FULTON, THE COUNCIL IS JUST BEGINNING TALKS OF POSSIBLY ENACTING A SMOKING ORDINANCE THERE. AT TUESDAY NIGHT'S MEETING, COUNCILMAN JIM MCCALL BROUGHT UP THE IDEA OF A SMOKING BAN. THE COUNCIL DECIDED IT WOULD SET UP A COMMITTEE TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PERFORM RESEARCH ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE BAN.

					IT ALSO WANTS TO WAIT A LITTLE BIT AND SEE HOW THE COLUMBIA SMOKING BAN PLAYS OUT. SOME COLUMBIA RESIDENTS ARE TRYING TO OVERTURN THE SMOKING BAN THAT JUST WENT INTO EFFECT IN JANUARY. BUT AT THE SAME TIME IN FULTON, THE COUNCIL IS JUST BEGINNING TALKS OF POSSIBLY ENACTING A SMOKING ORDINANCE THERE. AT TUESDAY NIGHT'S MEETING, COUNCILMAN JIM MCCALL BROUGHT UP THE IDEA OF A SMOKING BAN. THE COUNCIL DECIDED IT WOULD SET UP A COMMITTEE TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PERFORM RESEARCH ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE BAN. IT ALSO WANTS TO WAIT A LITTLE BIT AND SEE HOW THE COLUMBIA SMOKING BAN PLAYS OUT.
EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/30**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	THREE YEARS AGO, A COMMITTEE REPRESENTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS MISSOURI FILED A LAWSUIT AGAINST THE STATE, CLAIMING THE SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL. THE CASE IS STILL RUNNING THROUGH THE LEGAL SYSTEM. TODAY WAS THE SECOND DAY OF CLOSING ARGUMENTS. THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUALITY REPRESENTS ABOUT 2-HUNDRED AND 50 SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS MISSOURI. THEY CLAIM THE STATE'S FUNDING FORMULA IS FLAWED, GIVING A FINANCIAL ADVANTAGE TO WEALTHIER DISTRICTS. THE FORMULA USES ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE FROM EACH COUNTY TO ESTABLISH AN ACCURACY TARGET STANDARD. THAT STANDARD DETERMINES AN AVERAGE VALUE THE STATE CAN SPEND ON EACH STUDENT. BUT THE COMMITTEE SAYS IT'S FLAWED, BECAUSE IT'S BASED ON INCORRECT VALUES. THE STATE ARGUES, THE FORMULA IS ACCURATE, BECAUSE A STUDY PROVING INCORRECT VALUES

					WASN'T PUBLISHED UNTIL LAST YEAR. THE COMMITTEE ARGUES ANY ERRORS; CREATE A DIFFERENCE IN THE ENTIRE FUNDING FORMULA. MEANING NOT ALL STUDENTS GET AN EQUAL EDUCATION. BOTH SIDES OF THE LAWSUIT WILL CONTINUE THEIR CLOSING ARGUMENTS NEXT WEEK. BUT ONE OF THE ATTORNEYS FOR THE COMMITTEE SAYS HE DOESN'T EXPECT THE JUDGE TO RULE UNTIL MAY.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/31**	**10:00PM**	**1:20**	ON A DAY OF WICKED WEATHER IN MID-MISSOURI... ONE GROUP LEARNED HOW TO HELP REPORT IT. TODAY A GROUP CALLED THE COMMUNITY COLLABOARATIVE RAIN HAIL AND SNOW NETWORK... OR "COCORAS" FOR SHORT MET IN PART TO LEARN HOW TO SPOT AND REPORT SEVERE WEATHER. THESE SPOTTERS CAN SEND THEIR REPORTS TO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, WHICH CAN THEN ISSUE WATCHES OR WARNINGS THAT GO OUT TO THOUSANDS OF MID MISSOURIANS. THE GROUP WOULD NORMALLY HELP WITH SNOW AND RAINFALL DATA... RECORDING RAINFALL AMOUNTS... GIVING METEOROLOGISTS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS MORE DATA FOR CLIMATOLOGY REPORTS. YOU TOO CAN HELP REPORT SEVERE WEATHER WHEN IT HITS.... YOU CAN CONTACT THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WHO WILL TAKE DOWN YOUR INFORMATION. BE SURE TO HAVE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT WHATEVER YOU'RE REPORTING. YOU CAN ALSO CALL THE KOMU NEWSROOM WITH SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS... AND WE'LL PASS IT ALONG.