1st QUARTER 2008
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, 2008 TO March 31st, 2008. 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
JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU NEWS AT 10	1/1	10:00 PM	1:20	WHEN FILLING UP YOUR TANK WITH GASOLINE YOU MAY NOTICE A NEW YEAR'S TWIST. THERE'S A NEW LAW THAT WILL CHANGE THE WAY YOU FUEL YOUR CAR. THIS NEW YEAR YOU'LL BE TOPPING OFF YOUR TANK WITH A CLEANER FUEL. ALL GASOLINE SOLD IN MISSOURI MUST NOW CONTAIN 10 PERCENT ETHANOL. THE ETHANOL-BLENDED GASOLINE IS A CLEANER ALTERNATIVE TO PETROLEUM BASED FUELS. FOR MANY DRIVERS THE CHANGE WILL GO UNNOTICED...EXCEPT WE MAY SEE THE PUMP PRICE GO DOWN A BIT--ETHANOL IS CHEAPER THAN GAS. GOVERNOR BLUNT SAYS THE STATE IS A LEADER IN ALTERNATIVE FUELS. WELLS AGREES SAYING THE CHANGE IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION... SO, WHEN FILLING UP YOUR TANK...YOU'LL KNOW THE REGULAR GASOLINE HAS SOMETHING NEW. ASHTON GOODELL, KOMU NEWS, COLUMBIA. MISSOURI IS THE THIRD STATE TO IMPLEMENT AN ETHANOL MANDATE. THE CORN BASED-FUEL IS CHEAPER THAN GASOLINE.

					SO, MANY MISSOURI GAS STATIONS MADE THE SWITCH MONTHS AGO.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6**	**1/2**	**6:00PM**	**1:30**	A WEEK FROM TODAY... LAWMAKERS GATHER AT THE CAPITOL TO TAKE PART IN THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION. HERE'S A PREVIEW OF SOME BILLS THAT COULD BECOME LAW THIS YEAR. BILLS TO KEEP AN EYE ON RANGE FROM THE DEATH PENALTY, ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, SCHOOL FUNDING AND BIODIESEL FUEL. STARTING WITH BIODIESEL...A PRE-FILED BILL CALLS FOR ALL DIESEL FUEL IN 2010 TO BE BIODIESEL-BLENDED FUEL...THIS MEANS DIESEL FUEL WILL CONTAIN FIVE PERCENT BIODIESEL. AS FOR SCHOOLS... LAWMAKERS ARE PROPOSING A BILL THAT ESTABLISHES A SAFE SCHOOL FUND. THIS FUND WOULD RECEIVE 9 MILLION A YEAR AND GO TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN PROPORTION TO THEIR AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE. TO BE ELIGIBLE, SCHOOL DISTRICTS WOULD HAVE TO HAVE LOCK-DOWN PROCEDURES. CALL IT MORE THAN JUST A SLAP ON THE WRIST FOR EMPLOYERS...BUSINESSES WHO HIRE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS COULD BE FINED UP TO TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER EMPLOYEE...AND BE CONVICTED OF A CLASS A MISDEMEANOR. FINALLY...THE DEATH PENALTY FACES DEBATE THIS YEAR--A BILL STRIKES THE LAW DOWN--AND MAKES THE CRIME OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER PUNISHABLE BY LIFE BEHIND BARS WITHOUT PROBATION OR PAROLE. FOUR BILLS SURELY TO ATTRACT SOME ATTENTION THIS SESSION. ON THE SENATE DOCKET ALONE THERE ARE 200 PRE-FILED BILLS.

HEALTH	KOMU NEWS AT 5	1/3	5:00PM	1:30	DOCTORS ALWAYS TELL THEIR PREGNANT PATIENTS TO EAT WELL, AVOID ALCOHOL, AND DECREASE THEIR CAFFEINE INTAKE... BUT COULD OTHER FOODS PLAY A ROLE IN FERTILITY? WE EXPLAIN HOW THERE MAY BE EVEN MORE LINKS BETWEEN THE TYPE OF FOOD YOU EAT AND THE ABILITY TO CONCEIVE. MANY WOMEN DON'T CONSIDER THE ROLE OF THEIR DIETS WHEN THEY'RE TRYING TO GET PREGNANT ... EVEN IF THEY'RE HAVING PROBLEMS. DOCTORS SAY THEY'RE LEARNING FOOD MAY AFFECT FERTILITY MORE THAN YOU MIGHT EXPECT. THERE ARE MANY REASONS A COUPLE COULD HAVE PROBLEMS CONCEIVING. POLYCYSTIC OVARIAN SYNDROME AFFECTS ABOUT FIVE PERCENT OF WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE. SHE CHANGED HER DIET AND STARTED WORKING OUT. SHE WAS PREGNANT WITHIN WEEKS. DOCTORS SAY IT'S NOT THE KEY FOR EVERYONE, BUT GOOD NUTRITION NEVER HURTS BE SURE TO CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR FIRST IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT ADVICE ABOUT FOOD AND FERTILITY.
CRIME	KOMU NEWS AT 10	1/4	10:00PM	1:15	NEIGHBORS WANT TO MAKE SURE A VERSAILLES MAN STAYS BEHIND BARS. JOSHUA BURRIS STANDS ACCUSED OF STABBING AN 83-YEAR-OLD MAN DURING A ROBBERY. TODAY A MORGAN COUNTY JUDGE INCREASED BOND FOR BURRIS AFTER RESIDENTS VOICED THEIR CONCERN OVER HIS RELEASE. THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE HERE ON NOVEMBER 26TH. POLICE SAY BURRIS BROKE INTO STANLEY EGERER'S HOUSE BY THROWING A ROCK THROUGH HIS DOWNSTAIRS WINDOW. POLICE SAY BURRIS THEN RAN UPSTAIRS AND ATTACKED EGERER, DEMANDING MONEY.

					POLICE SAY WHEN EGERER SAID HE HAD NO MONEY BURRIS STABBED HIM SEVERAL TIMES IN THE HEAD, NECK AND ARM. EGERER SAYS THE ATTACK STILL HAUNTS HIM. BURRIS FACES FIVE FELONY CHARGES. THE FIRST IS ASSAULT IN THE FIRST DEGREE. THE SECOND IS ARMED CRIMIAL ACTION. BURRIS ALSO FACES FIRST DEGREE BURGLARY CHARGES AND THEFT OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE FOR STEALING PERSCRIPTION DRUGS FROM EGERER. POP LASTLY BURRIS FACES A CHARGE FOR POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE. A PRELIMINARY HEARING WILL TAKE PLACE ON FEBRUARY 8TH.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10**	**1/5**	**10:00PM**	**2:30**	IT'S SOMETHING MOST OF US USE EVERY DAY...THE INTERNET. TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS ARE SWEEPING THE NATION. AND IT'S PLAYING A KEY ROLE IN ELECTING THE NEXT PRESIDENT. THE INTERNET'S ROLE IN DETERMINING THE NEXT PRESIDENT IS OBVIOUS FROM ABC'S FACEBOOK DEBATE TO THE YOUTUBE DEBATE.... THE INTERNET IS ANOTHER VENUE FOR POLITICS. THE BOONE COUNTY DEMOCRATS CAN SEE A CHANGE IN CAMPAIGNS THIS YEAR. EVERY CANDIDATE HAS A WEBSITE AND SOME EVEN LAUNCHED THEIR CAMPAIGNS ONLINE. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ARE CAMPAIGNING THROUGH BLOGS, ONLINE VIDEOS, MYSPACE, AND EVEN FACEBOOK. SOME FEEL THAT INTERNET USE IS GROWING JUST BECAUSE IT'S EASIER. YOU CAN NOW EVEN REGISTER TO VOTE ON FACEBOOK. AS THE INTERNET IS CHANGING, SO IS THE WAY

					AMERICAN VOTERS ARE VOICING THEIR OPINIONS. IF YOU'D LIKE TO VOICE YOUR OPINION ONLINE HEAD TO THE LINKS AND NUMBERS SECTION OF KOMU-DOT-COM AND TAKE OUR SMART DECISION VOTER SURYEY. WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT ISSUES MATTER TO YOU THIS ELECTION YEAR.
HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 10**	**1/6**	**10:00PM**	**3:00**	IT'S THE MOST COMMONLY USED DRUG... AND MOST OF YOU PROBABLY HAD SOME TODAY... IT GIVES US THE BUZZ ON THIS WIDELY CONSUMED DRUG. IT'S A SOUND THAT WE ALL KNOW. AND IT'S A DRUG NEARLY NINE OUT OF TEN AMERICANS CONSUME DAILY... KAT REIDER ADMITS SHE NEEDS HER CUP OF JOE. NOT HAPPY BECAUSE IT'S A FORCE OF HABIT AND WITHOUT IT... BUT REIDER ISN'T ALONE. ANDREW DUSCHARME WORKS AROUND COFFEE FIVE DAYS A WEEK. AND CAFFEINE HELPS HIM JUMP START HIS DAY. BUT WHY IS THIS COMMONLY USED DRUG CREATING SUCH A BUZZ? DIETITIANS AND PHYSICIANS SAY CAFFEINE FITS THE DEFINITION OF AN ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCE -- YOU BUILD TOLERANCE WHEN YOU DRINK MORE... AND THERE ARE PHYSICAL CRAVINGS: WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS WHEN YOU DON'T DRINK IT. AND THERE ARE OTHER HEALTH RISKS TOO. ALTHOUGH COFFEE AND SODA ARE TWO POPULAR CAFFEINATED PRODUCTS... TEA AND CHOCOLATE CAN BE A BIG PART OF THE ADDICTION. NOW, ENERGY DRINKS HAVE ENTERED THE CAFFEINE RACE. BUT ARE CAFFEINATED AND DECAFFEINATED PRODUCTS THAT DIFFERENT?

					FREEMAN SAYS CONSUMING IN MODERATION IS OKAY, AND FOR THOSE THAT WANT TO CUT BACK... AS FOR CUTTING BACK, REIDER DOESN'T SEE THAT HAPPENING. IT TAKES THREE TO SIX HOURS FOR THE AVERAGE ADULT TO ELIMINATE ONE-HALF OF THE CAFFEINE THEY'VE CONSUMED.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 5**	**1/7**	**5:00PM**	**1:20**	ONE COLUMBIA PROGRAM GIVES KIDS THE CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE MORE THAN JUST THE HEAT. ONE EXPERIENCE TAKES KIDS TO PERRY NISSAN, WHERE THEY CAN LEARN THE CAR DETAILING PROCESS. THE CITYWIDE C.A.R.E. PROGRAM BEGAN IS NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR THAT JOB AND OTHERS AROUND COLUMBIA. EMPLOYERS SAY KIDS CAN TEST-DRIVE THE JOB BUT STILL MAKE TIME TO HAVE FUN. C.A.R.E. PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ALSO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF MAKING MISTAKES BEFORE THEY MOVE INTO THE REAL WORLD. C.A.R.E. IS OPEN TO COLUMBIA KIDS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14 AND 18. THE CARE PROGRAM TRAINS KIDS ABOUT EVERYTHING FROM INTERVIEW TIPS... ...TO WHAT TO WEAR TO WORK.
GOVERNMENT/ CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 6**	**1/8**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	COPS AND CABLE TV. IN THE WAKE OF COLUMBIA'S FAST-RISING CRIME RATE, THE CITY COUNCIL MOVED LAST NIGHT TO RE-ENFORCE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. IT MIGHT DO IT WITH CABLE TV TAXES. IT'S NOT A DONE DEAL, BUT MORE PATROLMEN WILL LIKELY BE ON THE STREET THIS SPRING. VIOLENT CRIME IN COLUMBIA JUMPED LAST YEAR. 459 VIOLENT CRIMES IN 2006...567 LAST YEAR, AND DECEMBER 2007 NUMBERS HAVE NOT EVEN BEEN TABULATED. THE COLUMBIA VIOLENT CRIMES TASK FORCE WAS CREATED IN NOVEMBER BECAUSE OF RISING

					FEARS OVER RISING CRIMES. AND THEN IT WAS DISBANDED. NOW THE CITY COUNCIL EXPECTS TO FUND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO HELP HIRE NEW AND REPLACEMENT OFFICERS. EXACTLY HOW DOES THE COUNCIL EXPECT TO FUND MORE BEAT COPS AND OFFICERS? SO NOW, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF HIRING. THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS 154 SWORN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES. TO READ THE CITY COUNCIL ARGUMENTS ABOUT COPS AND CABLE TV, GO TO KOMU-DOT-COM.
HEALTH/ GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10**	**1/9**	**10:00PM**	**1:45**	FREE FOOD... FREE DRINKS... BUT NO CIGARETTES. TONIGHT'S SUPPORTEERS OF THE CLEAN AIR ORDINANCE PACKED THE BLUE NOTE TO CELEBRATE. OPEN NATS-MUSIC A LITTLE MUSIC AND BEER...BUT NO SMOKING ALLOWED... THE BLUE NOTE HOSTED THE EVENT. WHILE SOME PEOPLE THINK A CIGARETTE AND A DRINK GO HAND IN HAND...RICHARD KING SAYS NO SMOKES MEANS BETTER BUSINESS. BUT NOT EVERY BUSINESS SUPPORTS THE BAN. BOOCHES JUST DOWN THE STEET LETS ITS VOICE BE HEARD BY THE WRITING ON THE WALL. AND WE SHOULD MENTION THE BOONE LIBERTY COALITION ASKED THE CITY COUNCIL TO REPEAL THE BAN LAST MONTH... BUT MANY BUSINESSES DOUBT THE REVERSAL WILL PASS BECAUSE THE BAN MADE THE ONE YEAR MARK.

CRIME	KOMU NEWS AT 5	1/10	5:00PM	1:10	A HOMOCIDE AND SUICIDE NEAR FULTON... THE CALLAWAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IS INVESTIGATING THE TWO DEATHS... CALLAWAY DEPUTIES, FOUND A HUSBAND AND WIFE DEAD AFTER RESPONDING TO A 9-1-1 HANG-UP CALL FROM A MOBILE HOME SOUTH OF FULTON. THE DEATHS APPEAR TO BE A HOMICIDE-SUICIDE. AS OF YET, WE HAVE SEVERAL UNCONFIRMED REPORTS. WE CAN CONFIRM THAT MAYOR CHARLIE LATHAM TELLS US, TWO CITY EMPLOYEES, DID NOT SHOW UP TO WORK TODAY. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT FLAG AT THE FULTON POLICE DEPARTMENT IS FLYING AT HALF STAFF. AROUND 1:40 THIS AFTERNOON, OFFICIALS REMOVED TWO BODIES, FROM THIS HOME, AT 7691 COUNTY ROAD 407. NO NAMES HAVE BEEN RELEASED AT THIS TIME. THE BODIES HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED TO THE MEDICAL EXAMINER IN COLUMBIA. AN AUTOPSY WILL BE SCHEDULED LATER IN THE WEEK. JUST TO REITERATE... CALLAWAY COUNTY DEPUTIES RECOVERED TWO BODIES BELIEVED TO HUSBAND AND WIFE. IN A HOMICIDE, SUICIDE. WE HAVEN'T CONFIRMED THEIR IDENTITIES AT THIS TIME.

HEALTH	KOMU NEWS AT 6	1/11	6:00PM	3:50	KOMU DEVOTED AN HOUR AND 15 MINUTES OF AIR TIME TO OUR SERIES COMBATING AUTISM FROM WITHIN. FOR THE SERIES ASHLEY REYNOLDS AND HER TEAM TRAVELED TO FOUR STATES AND TEN CITIES... NO SEGMENT ON KOMU IN RECENT HISTORY HAS EVER GENERATED THIS MUCH VIEWER FEEDBACK. WELCOME TO YOUR VIEW...THE PLACE WHERE EACH WEEK, WE FEATURE YOUR FEEDBACK ON KOMU NEWS. RECENTLY, KOMU FINISHED A 14 PART SERIES ON THE COMPLEXITY OF AUTISM AND SOME VIEWERS HAD A PROBLEM WITH US QUESTIONING SCIENCE. WE RECEIVED MORE THAN A THOUSAND RESPONSES FROM PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD....TO ASHLEY REYNOLDS' "COMBATTING AUTISM FROM WITHIN". MOST OF THE COMMENTS CAME AFTER OUR REPORT ABOUT A POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN MERCURY IN SOME VACCINES AND AUTISM. BETH, WE DID INTERVIEW A PEDIATRICIAN....DR. JUDITH MILES FROM THE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED THOMPSON CENTER FOR AUTISM. KOMU ALSO RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM PHYSICIANS COMMENDING OUR COVERAGE OF AUTISM. THE GOAL OF THE SERIES WAS TO ENABLE PEOPLE WITH INFORMATION SO THEY COULD MAKE THEIR OWN EDUCATED DECISIONS ABOUT VACCINES. A REMINDER YOU CAN WATCH THE ENTIRE AUTISM SERIES ONLINE AT KOMU-DOT-COM AND IN FEBRUARY DURING AN HOUR LONG BROADCAST. AND IF YOU CLICK ON THE YOUR VIEW TAB, YOU CAN ALSO COMMENT ABOUT WHAT YOU SAW. THEN WATCH FRIDAY NIGHTS AT 6 AS WE REPORT YOUR VIEW OF THE NEWS.

CONSUMER ISSUES/CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 6**	**1/12**	**6:00PM**	**1:50**	RESIDENTS IN A NORTH COLUMBIA NEIGHBORHOOD SAY THEY'RE LOSING DIRECTION. MANY OF THE STREET NAME SIGNS ARE MISSING... AND NEIGHBORS THINK THEY KNOW WHY. SO RESIDENTS SAY PEOPLE STEAL THE SIGNS BECAUSE OF THOSE NAMES WHICH ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE SUBDIVISION. BUT, THEY SAY THEY'RE TIRED OF REQUESTING NEW SIGNS. IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE... AND SOMETIMES IT EVEN IS INSIDE... THESE WILD ANIMALS LIVE JUST OFF OF SAFARI... ON CROCODILE DRIVE. IT'S A SUBDIVISION NAMED FOR EXOTIC ANIMALS. AND THESE KIDS SPEND THEIR DAYS PLAYING WITH THEIR STUFFED ANIMALS AND DREAMING UP EXOTIC ADVENTURES. BUT SOME OF THEIR FAVORITE ANIMALS HAVE GONE MISSING. THIEVES STEAL THE STREET SIGNS AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD. RESIDENTS SAY THE SIGNS ARE GONE ALMOST AS FAST AS THEY'RE PUT UP. THERE ARE SOME FAVORITES AMONG THEIVES...INCLUDING THE KOALA, TORTOISE, AND SAFARI. THE SUBDIVISION IS LOCATED JUST NORTH OF I-70 OFF OF BLUE RIDGE ROAD. BUT IN THE WILD LANDS OF SUBURBIA...THESE STREETS ARE PARTICULARLY HARD TO NAVIGATE WITHOUT THE STREET SIGNS. THE CITY REPLACES THE STREET SIGNS, BUT IT TAKES A WHILE FOR THE SIGNS TO BE MADE AND POSTED. NEIGHBORS SAY THEY THINK PEOPLE WILL STOP STEALING SIGN ONCE THE NEIGHBORHOOD BECOMES MORE ESTABLISHED.

JOBS/ECONOMY	KOMU NEWS AT 10:00	1/13	10:00PM	2:10	MISSOURI WINE GROWERS EXPERIENCED MAJOR CROP LOSSES LAST YEAR. AFTER SPRING STORMS DESTROYED THOUSANDS OF VINES...WINERIES SAY THE 2007 CROP HAS A NEW LOOK...BUT A DISTINCT TASTE. AND, THOUGH WINE PRODUCERS HAD A SMALLER CROP AFTER UNPARALLELED LOSSES... THEY MADE ADJUSTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. AND DESPITE THE CROP CRISIS, THEY SAY THIS YEAR'S WINES ARE SOME OF THEIR BEST. AFTER A SHARP SPRING FREEZE MISSOURI WINE GROWERS THOUGHT THEY LOST 90-PERCENT OF THEIR CROP OR MORE. THEY HAD TO WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SEASON TO SEE THOSE LOSSES LEVEL OFF. MANY WINE GROWERS WERE PUT OVER A BARREL, LOSING THEIR MISSOURI LABEL BECAUSE OF THE FROST. DESPITE THE DOMINATE VINES PRODUCERS MADE THEIR WINES WITH THE HELP OF GRAPES FROM OTHER STATES. BUT, 75-PERCENT OF THE WINE MUST BE MADE FROM MISSOURI GRAPES TO CARRY A MISSOURI LABEL. SO, THIS YEAR SOME OF THE BOTTLES READ "AMERICAN MADE." STONE WINERY SAYS THEY WORRIED PEOPLE WOULDN'T COME TO THE WINERY BECAUSE OF THE KNOWN LOSSES. BUT, WINE ENTHUSIASTS STILL MADE THEIR WAY TO MISSOURI WINE COUNTRY FOR THE HERMANN WINE TRAIL. THE TRAIL CONNECTS SEVEN HERMANN WINERIES... WINE TASTERS DRIVE TO EACH WINERY TESTING THEIR PLATTE AGAINST A WIDE VARIETY OF WINES. ONE WINE ENTHUSIAST SAYS THE WINERIES HAVE A ROBUST FEELING NOT JUST FROM THE WINE BUT

					ALSO THE WINE MAKERS. THEY SAY THERE'S A BOTTLE FOR EVERYONE... AND IF YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR PARTICULAR PALATE STONE WINERY SAYS THIS IS THE YEAR. IF YOU MISSED TODAY'S EVENT YOU CAN GO TO THE CHOCOLATE WINE TRAIL IN FEBRUARY JUST IN TIME FOR VALENTINE'S DAY.
GOVERNMENT/ EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**1/14**	**5:00PM**	**1:15**	THE COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT DID THE MATH... AND FOUND THEMSELVES WITH A MAJOR FINANCIAL DEFICIT. 10-POINT-FOUR MILLION DOLLARS THAT'S THE DEFICIT THE SCHOOL BOARD IS FACING, I'M LIVE IN FRONT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING WHERE IN TONIGHT'S SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SUPERINTENDENT PHYLLIS CHASE PLANS TO RECOMMEND A 54-CENT TAX INCREASE FOR EVERY ONE-HUNDRED DOLLARS OF ASSESED PROPERTY. I SPOKE WITH MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD AND BOARD OF EDUCATION, THEY SAY A DECREASE IN FEDERAL FUNDING AND NO EXTRA HELP FROM THE STATE MAKES MONEY HARD TO COME BY. WITH 70 EXTRA HIRED STAFF AND INCREASED PAY THE SCHOOL BOARD HAS GONE INTO A MAJOR DEFICIT. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE TAX INCREASE GOES THROUGH, THE SCHOOL BOARD PLANS TO TIGHTEN ITS SPENDING BY ABOUT FIVE-MILLION DOLLARS. AND TONIGHT'S MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT SEVEN P.M. AT THE DISTRICT'S ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING ON WORLEY.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**1/15**	**6:00PM**	**1:15**	LAWMAKERS MET TODAY TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE TODAY AT THE CAPITOL... JUST DOWN THE HALL HEALTH CARE ADVOCATES DISCUSSED THE CHANGES THAT STILL NEED TO BE MADE. MISSOURI'S PRO-VOTE COALITION SAYS BLUNT IS OVER-LOOKING THE STATE OF HEALTHCARE IS MISSOURI.

					IT SAYS HEALTHCARE IS IN A STATE OF CRISIS. MEMBERS OF THE COALITION MET TODAY TO DISCUSS HOW HEALTHCARE CUTS AFFECT PEOPLE ON DISABILITY. THE COMMITTEE WILL HEAR TESTIMONY FROM HEALTH CARE EXPERTS AND UNINSURED MISSOURIANS. BUT, BOB PUND SAYS THE ISSUE EFFECT MORE THAN JUST THE UNINSURED AND DISABLED. REPRESENTATIVE SCHAAF SAYS THE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS LIKE INSURE MISSOURI NEED MORE MONEY THEN FIRST PROJECTED. HE SAYS THE LEGISLATURE NEEDS TO CONSIDER THE RIGHT WAY TO APPROACH HEALTH CARE... LAWMAKERS WILL CONTINUE DEBATING HEALTH CARE VERSUS MORE SPENDING IN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS. BUT, FOR TONIGHT THE GOVERNOR WILL ADDRESS WHERE HEALTHCARE STANDS IN MISSOURI.
CONSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/16**	**10:00PM**	**6:20**	FOR ONE MISSOURI RESIDENT, THE DREAM OF RETIRING TO HER FAMILY'S HOMESTEAD IS GETTING A LITTLE FUZZY. THE OWNER IS FIGHTING WHAT SHE DESCRIBES AS PROPERTY THEFT, BY AN UNLIKELY SUSPECT. JANET BECK WALKS TODAY WHERE SHE STOOD AS A CHILD - PLAYING ON HER UNCLES FARM. THE MORROW HOMESTEAD, AS IT'S CALLED HAS BEEN IN BECKS FAMILY FOR MORE THAN 150 YEARS. SHE PLANNED TO USE THIS PROPERTY WHEN SHE RETIRES. BECK SAYS THE PROPERTY IS UNUSEABLE BECAUSE POWER POLES -- SHE CLAIMS WERE BUILT IN 2006 -- DISSECT THE PROPERTY INTO FOUR SMALL PIECES...RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE. IN THIS LETTER FROM THREE RIVERS TO BECK, THE CO-OPS MANAGER OF OPERATIONS SAYS ALL LINES ON THE MORROW HOMESTEAD HAVE BEEN THERE SINCE 1949. IT SAYS THE COMPANY HAS AN EASEMENT SIGNED BY GEORGE MORROW, BECKS UNCLE. BECK SAYS THERE'S NO WAY HER UNCLE SIGNED

					AN EASEMENT. AFTER REQUESTING TO SEE THE ORIGINAL EASEMENT, BECK WAS MAILED THESE COPIES. BECK SAYS THREE RIVERS HAS NOT ALLOWED HER TO SEE THE ORIGINAL. THE EASEMENT WAS NEVER RECORED AT COLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND HAS NO NOTARY SEAL, BUT THREE RIVERS SAYS THAT WAS COMMON PRACITCE FOR MANY EASEMENTS AND ARGUES THEY ARE STILL ENFORCEABLE. THE CATCH IS -- BECK SAYS THERE WAS NO EASEMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE. BECK THEN MAILED THE EASEMENT COPIES TO TWO HANDWRITING ANALYSTS. - WHILE NEITHER RETURNED A FINAL DECISION WITHOUT SEEING THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT, BOTH SAID THEIR PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION - BASED ON THE COPIES - WERE THAT GEORGE MORROW DID NOT SIGN THE EASEMENTS HIMSELF. AND ON THE DAY IN QUESTION? THREE RIVERS, IN THIS LETTER TO BECK LAST FEBRUARY ASSURED HER THE DOCUMENTS WERE NOT FRADULENT. THE NEXT PARAGRAPH THEN ARGUES EVEN WITHOUT THE SIGNED EASEMENT, BY HAVING POLES ON THE PROPERTY FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS IT GRANTS THREE RIVERS A PRESCRIPTIVE EASEMENT TO USE HER PROPERTY. BECK SAYS THIS SAME PROBLEM HAPPENED IN 1987. - IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE HILLTOP WAS DEEDED FROM MORROW TO BECK. WHILE NO EASEMENTS WERE RECORDED ON THE TITLE INSURANCE, SHE SAYS THREE RIVERS BUILT NEW POLES ON THE PROPERTY. AFTER CONTACTING THE CO-OP, SHE SAYS THEE RIVERS TOOK THE POLLS DOWN IMMEDIATELY AND EVEN ISSUED AN APOLOGY FOR THE MIX-UP. BECK SAYS SHES IN THE DARK - IT JUST DOESNT

					ADD UP. SHE EXPLAINED WHAT SHE SEES AS THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 87 AND 06 WHEN SHE SAYS THE POLES WERE BUILT AGAIN. BUT THESE PHOTOS BECK SAYS ARE FROM 1999 HELP PAINT A DIFFERENT PICTURE. VIDEO TAKEN BY KOMU NEWS FROM WHAT BECK SAYS IS THE SAME SPOT CLEARLY SHOWS POLES AND LINES APPARENTLY ABSENT IN 1999. AFTER EXAMINING THEM IN OUR INTERVIEW, THREE RIVERS CHALLENGED THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS. BECK HAS CONTACTED ATTORNEY GENERAL JAY NIXON, AND COUNTY SHERIFFS AND PROSECUTORS, ALL OF WHICH HAVE RESPONDED SAYING THERE IS NO CRIMINAL ACTION THEY CAN PURSUE - AND THAT THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON FORGERY HAS LONG SINCE EXPIRED. ---LEAVING BECK WITH PROPERTY SHE SAYS IS WORTH NOTHING BUT THE MEMORIES. BECK SAYS UNLESS SHE GETS THE LINES REMOVED, HER DREAM OF RETIRING TO THE FAMILY HOMESTEAD WILL BE OFF THE GRID - INDEFINITELY. THREE RIVERS TOLD ME THEY HAVE OFFERED TO MEET BECK AND HER ATTORNEY AT THE RUSSELVILLE PROPERTY -- AN OFFER SHE HAS DECLINED. BECK TOLD ME THE EXPENSES INVOLVED IN A CIVIL BATTLE OVER HER FAMILY'S LAND ARE TOO MUCH TO BEAR.

CONSUMER ISSUES/CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**1/17**	**5:00PM**	**1:00**	THIS TEXT SCAM TARGETS CENTRAL BANK, WHOSE HEADQUARTERS ARE IN JEFFERSON CITY. PEOPLE BEGAN RECEIVING TEXTS YESTERDAY SAYING THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH THEIR ACCOUNT AND TO GO TO A CERTAIN WEBSITE. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU ARE A CENTRAL BANK MEMBER OR NOT. IF YOU GET ONE OF THESE TEXTS HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD DO: DO NOT GIVE OUT ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION... SCAMMERS ONLY GET INFORMATION IF YOU GIVE IT OUT. CALL YOUR LOCAL BANK TO REPORT THE SCAM. IF YOU DID GIVE OUT INFORMATION, TELL YOUR BANK IMMEDIATELY SO IT CAN CANCEL YOUR DEBIT CARD OR ACCOUNTS. ALSO REPORT THE SCAM TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONSUMER PROTECTION HOTLINE: THAT'S 1-800-392-8222. CENTRAL BANK SAYS TEXTING IS JUST THE NEWEST FLAVOR OF THE SAME OLD SCAM. CENTRAL BANK DID GET THE PHONY WEBSITE SHUT DOWN. BUT PEOPLE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE THE TEXTS TODAY.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**1/18**	**6:00PM**	**1:00**	HUNDREDS OF FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS GATHERED TO QUIETLY MORN THEIR LOSS. RICHARD MCKEE WAS 13-YEAR VETERAN OF THE FULTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ITS CHIEF DETECTIVE. THE CALLAWAY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IS INVESTIGATING HIS DEATH AND SAYS IT APPEARS MCKEE'S WIFE LORIE KILLED HIM WHILE HE WAS ALSEEP AND THEN KILLED HERSELF. THE FUNERAL TOOK PLACE AT CALLAWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN FULTON. POLICE AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

					GATHERED TO QUIETLY MOURN THE LOSS OF A MAN THEY CALL A HERO. THE CHURCH PARKING LOT OVERFLOWED WITH MOURNERS. POLICE OFFICERS CAME FROM AS FAR AWAY AS ST. LOUIS TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS. THE PROCESSION MOVED PASSED THE FULTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR ONE FINAL GOOD-BYE ON THE WAY TO THE CEMETERY. MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TOLD KOMU THEY'LL MISS MCKEE AND WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIM FOR HIS SMILE. UNDERSTANDABLY, NO ONE WANTED TO GO ON CAMERA TODAY. BUT, A FELLOW OFFICER SAID THIS IS A SOLEMN DAY FOR THE FULTON POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY. DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE MORGANNE MCKEE EDUCAITON FUND.... YOU CAN FIND THAT INFORMATION ON THE LINKS AND NUMBERS SECTION OF KOMU DOT COM.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/19**	**10:00PM**	**:30**	AND WEDNESDAY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HANDED DOWN A 42 COUNT INDICTMENT AGAINST A FORMER COLUMBIA CHARITY. THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CLAIMS THE ISLAMIC AMERICAN RELIEF AGENCY OR I-A-R-A PROVIDED $130,000 TO DEVELOP, OR IMPROVE, TERRORIST-CONTROLLED BUILDINGS. THE INDICTMENT ALSO INCLUDED ALLEGATIONS OF MONEY LAUNDERING. THE FBI RAIDED THE IARA'S HEADQUARTERS IN COLUMBIA BACK IN OCTOBER OF 2004. FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THESE STORIES AND ANY OTHERS FROM THE WEEK CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT KOMU DOT COM.

HEALTH	KOMU NEWS AT 10:00	1/20	10:00PM	2:20	WORLD AIDS DAY IS A DAY DEDICATED TO RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE AIDS PANDEMIC. THE VIRUS IS NO LONGER THE ONLY PROBLEM FOR RESEARCHERS AND ADVOCATES. TACKLING HIV AND AIDS... IT'S STILL A MYSTERIOUS DISEASE THAT MARC JOHNSON AND A TEAM OF RESEARCHERS AT THE LIFE SCIENCES CENTER IN COLUMBIA ARE SLOWLY FIGURING OUT. IT'S THE BASICS ABOUT THE VIRUS THAT BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND NEARLY THREE DECADES OF RESEARCH CAN'T DETECT. BOONE COUNTY AND ITS SURROUNDING COUNTIES ARE EXPERIENCING ROLLERCOASTER LIKE REPORTS OF HIV CASES...WITH THE HIGHEST REPORT OF NEW CASES THIS PAST YEAR. HIV AND AIDS ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE... FOR THAT REASON...RESEARCHERS SAY FINDING A CURE MAY BE HARDER JUST THREE YEARS AGO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH FUNDED NEARLY 25 PERCENT OF HIV AND AIDS RESEARCH. JOHNSON SAYS HE IS HAPPY THE VIRUS IS MANAGEABLE, BUT FOR HIM...THAT ISN'T ENOUGH. HE ISN'T EXPECTING A CURE DURING HIS LIFETIME, BUT HOPES TO INSPIRE YOUNGER PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED WITH RESEARCH. THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL SAYS ABOUT 250 THOUSAND PEOPLE IN THE U-S DON'T KNOW THEY ARE INFECTED.

CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**1/21**	**5:00PM**	**:50**	THE CALLAWAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE A CHAINSAW ATTACK AT A HOMELESS SHELTER IN NEW BLOOMFIELD. THE SHELTER, KNOWN AS THE MID-AMERICA CARE CENTER, SITS NEAR CHRISTIAN T-V STATION, K-N-L-J. THE ATTACK HAPPENED SATURDAY AFTERNOON AS MEMBERS OF THE SHELTER WERE GETTING READY TO CELEBRATE THEIR 36TH YEAR OF MINISTRY. THAT'S WHEN THE CALLAWAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SAYS 28-YEAR OLD MATTHEW WATKINS STARTED ATTACKING SEVERAL MEN WITH A *CHAINSAW* AND ALSO A KNIFE. THE ATTACK INJURED 4 MEN... 2 ARE AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN SERIOUS CONDITION... BOTH THE CENTER AND T-V STATION ARE OWNED BY REVEREND LARRY RICE... AND EACH SERVE AS A TRAINING FACILITY FOR PEOPLE WHO WERE FORMERLY HOMELESS. RICE WILL COMMENT ON THE ATTACKS TOMORROW AT A NEWS CONFERENCE.... WE'LL HAVE MORE ON THAT TOMMOROW ON KOMU NEWS AND KOMU DOT COM
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**1/22**	**6:00PM**	**1:45**	MISSOURI IS ONLY TWO WEEKS AWAY FROM ITS "SUPER TUESDAY" PRIMARY. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MADE IT MORE EXPENSIVE FOR COUNTIES TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE. AS COOPER COUNTY'S CLERK FOR TWENTY-TWO YEARS, DARRYL KEMPF HAS MONITORED MORE ELECTIONS THAN HE CAN REMEMBER...BUT NEW VOTING MACHINES ARE INCREASING THE PRICE TAG OF HIS ELECTIONS THIS YEAR. AFTER CONGRESS PASSED THE "HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT" OR H.A.V.A. IN 2002, PAPER BALLOT MACHINES WERE BANNED IN ALL FEDERAL ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, THE ELECTRONIC REPLACEMENTS

					MORE THAN TRIPLE COSTS IN COOPER COUNTY. PLUS FIVE TO SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS MORE IN PROGRAMMING COSTS.SEVEN MID-MISSOURI COUNTY CLERKS SAY THE COST OF EQUIPPING THEIR COUNTY FOR FEDERAL ELECTIONS INCREASED AS WELL. THE CLERKS SAY MACHINE MAINTENANCE AND PROGRAMMING COSTS ARE TO BLAME. COUNTIES ONLY RECEIVE STATE FUNDING TO PAY FOR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES. EACH COUNTY IS REQUIRED TO PAY FOR ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH FEDERAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS.
GOVERNMENT/ EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/23**	**10:00PM**	**1:30**	IT'S A BILL THAT AIMS TO PROTECT STUDENTS FROM SEXUAL OFFENDERS IN THE CLASSROOM. THE MEASURE'S SPONSORS WANT TO KEEP TEACHERS WITH SEXUAL MISCONDUCT IN THEIR PASTS FROM JUMPING SCHOOL DISTRICT TO SCHOOL DISTRICT. REPRESENTATIVE JANE CUNNINGHAM, THE SPONSOR OF THE BILL, SAID SHE WANTS TO PUT AN END TO WANTS KNOWN AS "PASSING THE TRASH." THAT'S WHEN A TEACHER IS FIRED FROM ONE SCHOOL FOR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, BUT THAT INFORMATION DOESN'T FOLLOW THE TEACHER TO THE NEXT SCHOOL....SO THE TEACHER GETS HIRED SOMEWHERE ELSE. THIS NEW BILL WOULD ACTUALLY MAKE AN OFFENDER'S PREVIOUS SCHOOL LIABLE IF ANYTHING HAPPENS AT THE TEACHER'S NEW SCHOOL. THE BILL WOULD ALSO REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO RUN BACKGROUND CHECKS ON TEACHERS USING THE FAMILY CARE SAFETY REGISTRY. AT TODAY'S HEARING, REPRESENTATIVE CUNNINGHAM PRESENTED 8 WITNESSES IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL. TWO OF THEM WERE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT.

					HESTIR-DAVIS SAYS THE TEACHER WHO ABUSED HER IS STILL TEACHING IN MISSOURI. WHILE NO ONE OPPOSED THE BILL IN PERSON, A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION ENTERED A WITNESS FORM TO CHALLENGE THE NECESSITY OF THE BILL.
HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**1/24**	**5:00PM**	**1:50**	MANY PARENTS MAKE SURE THEIR KIDS GET VACCINATED...BUT THEY'RE A LITTLE LESS CAUTIOUS WHEN IT COMES TO THEMSELVES.... AND WITH 50-THOUSAND ADULTS A YEAR DYING FROM PREVENTABLE DISEASES... IN YOUR HEALTH N-B-C'S TRACIE POTTS EXPLAINS THAT HEALTH EXPERTS ARE SAYING ADULTS NEED TO START GIVING VACCINES A SHOT. SHINGLES IS THE ADULT VERSION OF CHICKEN POX... IT USUALLY HITS SENIORS... AND IT'S VERY PAINFUL. ADULTS CAN ALSO GET WHOOPING COUGH. THERE ARE NEW VACCINES FOR BOTH -- BUT THE CDC REPORTS, ONLY ABOUT TWO PERCENT OF ADULTS HAVE TAKEN THEM. ADULT VACCINATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR 14 ILLNESSES -- INCLUDING MEASLES... MUMPS... MENINGITIS... HEPATITIS AND HPV. BUT IN A SURVEY BY THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES -- VERY FEW ADULTS EVEN KNEW ABOUT THEM. ONE SUGGESTION: MAKE IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO GET THESE VACCINES OUTSIDE A DOCTOR'S OFFICE. INSURANCE COVERS SOME VACCINES. DOCTORS SAY THEY'D BE MORE LIKELY TO OFFER THEM IF INSURANCE PAID THE FULL COST. HEALTH EXPERTS ARE TRYING TO GET THE WORD OUT -- TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN...YOU ALSO HAVE TO PROTECT YOURSELF. IF YOU'RE WONDERING EXACTLY WHICH VACCINES TO GET, AND WHEN, THERE'S A WHOLE LIST ON THE C-D-C'S WEB SITE. TO FIND A LINK TO THAT WEBSITE JUST LOG ON TO OUR

					WEBSITE, KOMU DOT COM, AND CLICK ON THE LINKS AND NUMBERS PAGE.
GOVERNMENT/ COSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**1/25**	**6:00PM**	**2:10**	AS TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES, PEOPLE RELY MORE AND MORE ON THEIR CELL PHONES, FOR EVERYTHING FROM PHONE CALLS TO E-MAILS TO TEXT MESSAGES. NOW THE COLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WANTS TO JOIN THE HIGH-TECH TREND. THE COLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT LAUNCHED A PLAN TODAY TO TELL PEOPLE ABOUT EMERGENCIES IN WHAT COULD BE THE FASTEST WAY POSSIBLE... RIGHT TO THEIR CELL PHONES. MOST PEOPLE KNOW THERE'S AN EMERGENCY WHEN THEY SEE ONE OF THESE... OR ONE OF THESE... BUT WHAT IF YOU COULD LEARN ABOUT AN EMERGENCY FROM ONE OF THESE? NOW THE COLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CAN TEXT MESSAGE EMERGENCY INFORMATION STRAIGHT TO A CELL PHONE. THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND A TEXT MESSAGE COMPANY CALLED "TEXTCASTER" CREATED THE NEW ALERT SYSTEM. ROBIN BLEVINS JUST LEARNED HOW TO SEND

					THE MASS MESSAGES. RESIDENTS CAN SIGN UP ONLINE FOR TEXT MESSAGES, OR E-MAILS, OR HOME PHONE MESSAGES. BUT THE NEW SYSTEM ISN'T JUST FOR SENDING OUT TEXT MESSAGES, THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE CAN GET TEXTS FROM PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY. THIS TECHNOLOGY WILL HELP THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED. AND WHEN A MESSAGE COMES IN... WHITE AND HIS STAFF AGREE, THE NEW SPEEDIER SYSTEM WILL MAKE THE COUNTY SAFER. IT COSTS NOTHING TO SUBSCRIBE, BUT STANDARD TEXT MESSAGE RATES APPLY BASED UPON YOUR WIRELESS PLAN. FOR A LINK TO THE SHERIFF'S WEBSITE WHERE YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS GO TO K-O-M-U DOT-COM
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/26**	**10:00PM**	**:55**	YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILDS HOMES. BUT, THERE'S A LOT MORE TO DO AFTER THE FINAL TILE IS PLACED... AND THE LAST NAIL IS HAMMERED. THAT'S WHERE THESE GUYS COME IN. A JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND 4-H BRINGS STUDENTS TOGETHER FROM ALL OVER THE STATE TO HELP WITH THE INTERIOR DESIGN OF A HABITAT HOME. THE STUDENTS WORK WITH THE FAMILY TO CHOSE A DECOR AND THEN PUT IT TOGETHER. BUT, FOR THE STUDENTS, IT'S ABOUT A LOT MORE THAN CHOOSING A PAINT COLOR OR PICKING A LAMP SHADE. THE PROJECT WILL CONTINUE THROUGH MARCH... AFTER FINISHING THE INSIDE... THE STUDENTS WILL MOVE OUTSIDE TO WORK ON THE LANDSCAPING.

GOVERNMENT/CRIME	KOMU NEWS AT 10:00	1/27	10:00PM	1:50	COLUMBIA POLICE HOPE MORE BADGES ON THE STREET WILL MAKE YOU SAFER. GOOD EVENING ... I'M SARAH FRENCH... THANKS FOR JOINING US TONIGHT. COLUMBIA POLICE ANNOUNCED THE CHANGES THIS MORNING. PEOPLE IN COLUMBIA WILL SEE MORE COPS ON THE STREET DURING THE BUSIEST TIMES. THEY STARTED THE NEW PLAN THIS MORNING. HERE'S THE BOTTOM LINE: COLUMBIA POLICE WILL IMPLEMENT FIVE NEWLY FORMED TEN HOUR SHIFTS. THERE WILL BE SOME OVERLAP WITH THOSE SHIFTS... AND THAT'S DESIGNED TO GET MORE COPS ON THE STREET DURING BUSIER TIMES OF THE DAY. ALSO THE DEPARTMENT ADJUSTED THEIR BEAT PLAN TELLING OFFICERS WHERE TO PATROL. POLICE ENLARGED SOME BEATS... COMBINED SOME... AND ELIMINATED SOME. POLICE SAY IT PROVIDES BETTER COVERAGE ACROSS COLUMBIA. COLUMBIA HAS SEEN A SPIKE IN VIOLENT CRIME OVER THE PAST YEAR. ONE MAN WE TALKED WITH ON GARTH AVENUE SAYS HE'S ALREADY SEEN AN IMPROVEMENT IN POLICE RESPONSE... ESPECIALLY AFTER SOMEONE BROKE INTO HIS HOME JUST A COUPLE WEEKS AGO. IF YOU WANT TO SEE JUST HOW THE CITY'S POLICE BEATS HAVE CHANGED... TAKE A LOOK AT THEIR NEW MAP -- IT GOES DOWN TO STREET LEVEL. YOU CAN FIND IT ON OUR WEBSITE KOMU DOT COM. POLICE SAY THE CITY WILL POST THE NAMES OF THE ACTUAL OFFICERS PATROLLING EACH BEAT ON THEIR WEBSITE. OF COURSE THAT ALSO IS ON OUR WEBSITE AT KOMU.COM.

GOVERNMENT/ CONSUMER ISSUES	KOMU NEWS AT 5:00	1/28	5:00PM	1:30	TAX REASSMENTS CAN MEAN STICKER SHOCK FOR MANY HOMEOWNERS. NOW SOME LAWMAKERS ARE WORKING TO TAKE THE GUESS WORK OUT OF THOSE REASSESSMENTS. SENATE BILL 7-11 WENT BEFORE THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE THIS AFTERNOON. THE BILL IS MEANT TO PROTECT ALL PROPERTY OWNERS FROM TAX INCREASES CAUSED BY REASSESSMENT. THERE'S STILL SOME MECHANICS TO WORK OUT, BUT THE BILL WOULD GIVE EARLIER MORE PREDICTABLE ASSESSMENTS AND INCREASE TAX RELIEF FOR LOW INCOME CITIZENS AND THE DISABLED. ABOUT A DOZEN PEOPLE GAVE TESTIMONIALS BEFORE THE SENATE MEMBERS TO URGE THEM TO ADOPT THE BILL. THEY WERE MET WITH NO OPPOSITION. ALTHOUGH NOBODY SPOKE OUT AGAINST SENATE BILL 7-11 TODAY, SOME ASSESSORS SAY SOME PARTS OF THE BILL SHOULD BE AMMENDED. THEY'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THE TIME TURN AROUND BETWEEN WHEN THEY FIRST SEND THEIR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT OUT AND THEN WHEN THEY FIND OUT HOW MUCH IT'S GOING TO COST THEM.
CONSUMER ISSUES	KOMU NEWS AT 6:00	1/29	6:00PM	1:35	AFTER ASHLEY FURNITURE CLOSED ITS DOORS LAST WEEK, LESS THAN A YEAR AFTER IT OPENED, MANY CUSTOMERS WERE LEFT WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED. THE PUPOSE OF FURNITURE IS TO MAKE A HOUSE INTO A HOME, BUT PEOPLE SELDOM THINK ABOUT THE LINK BETWEEN REAL ESTATE SALES AND FURNITURE SALES. FURNITURE STORES ACROSS MID-MISSOURI NOTICE THE NEED FOR MORE PEOPLE TO MAKE PURCHASES. FURNITURE SALES ARE SUFFERING DUE TO A DECREASE IN HOMES SALES. IN BOONE COUNTY THE NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD DROPPED EIGHT-AND-A-HALF PERCENT IN 2007, AND

					EXPERTS SAY THIS IS HURTING TO OTHER INDUSTRIES. IN 2006, REALTORS SOLD TWO THOUSAND THREE-HUNDRED-AND-TWELVE HOUSES IN BOONE COUNTY. IN 2007, THEY ONLY SOLD TWO-THOUSAND-ONE HUNDRED-AND-TEN HOMES. THE SALE OF BRAND NEW HOMES TOOK THE HARDEST HIT, AND MANY PEOPLE ARE CHOOSING, INSTEAD, TO REFURNISH THEIR CURRENT HOME. BUT UNTIL MORE PEOPLE START BUYING THE AMERICAN DREAM... THE FURNITURE STILL WILL STAY IN THE SALESROOM. REALTORS SAY ALTHOUGH HOMES ARE NOT SELLING AS WELL AS USUAL, THE VALUE OF CURRENT HOMES HAS NOT DECREASED.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**1/30**	**10:00PM**	**1:55**	EIGHT FAMILIES WERE BURNED OUT OF THEIR HOMES IN COLE AND CALLAWAY COUNTIES IN THE PAST WEEK AND A HALF. AN AMERICAN RED CROSS WORKER SAYS THERE'S BEEN NOTHING LIKE THIS FOR SEVEN YEARS. THE AMERICAN RED CROSS GIVES IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE FAMILIES BY PROVIDING FOOD, CLOTHES AND OTHER NECCESSITIES. IT ALSO HELPS THESE FAMILIES REBUILD THEIR LIVES. VICTIMS OF FIRE NEED GUIDANCE TO WALK THROUGH AN EMOTIONAL PERIOD. THE RED CROSS'S MISSION IS TO HELP DISASTER VICTIMS REBUILD THEIR LIVES. IT HELPS VICTIMS FIND TEMPORARY SHELTER, GIVES THEM A CLIENT ASSISTANCE CARD TO BUY FOOD, CLOTHES OR ANY OTHER ITEMS THEY NEED. WORKERS SAY THERE IS NO GREATER EXPERIENCE THAN BEING ABLE TO HELP SOMEONE IN NEED, EVEN THOUGH IF THIS MEANS GETTING OUT OF BED IN THE MIDDLE OF A COLD WINTER NIGHT. WORKERS ALSO ENCOURAGE VICTIMS WITH A SMALL TOY...SOMETHING FOR THEM TO HANG ONTO.

					THE RED CROSS HELPED NEARLY 300 FAMILIES LAST YEAR. OFFICIALS HOPE THE COMMUNITY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THEIR WORK BY DONATING MONEY AND VOLUNTEERING.
JOBS/ECONOMY/ EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**1/31**	**5:00PM**	**1:00**	A LOCAL BUSINESS WANTS THE CHANCE TO SEE IF THEY CAN SAVE COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT SOME MONEY. E-P-M IN FULTON MANUFACTURES AN ADVANCED WAY TO CONTROL THE TEMPERATURE OF BUILDINGS. E-P-M REPLACES THE OLD DIRECT DIGITAL CONTROL SYSTEMS WITH AN ADVANCED "COMPUTERIZED TEMPERATURE CONTROL" SYSTEM TO SAVE MONEY AND ENERGY. LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS LIKE FULTON, HOWARD COUNTY, AS WELL AS OZARK AND ADAIR COUNTY HAVE MADE THE SWITCH. ON AVERAGE, E-P-M SAYS THE NEW SYSTEMS CUT ENERGY USAGE BY 30 PERCENT. E-P-M CUSTOMIZES THE PRODUCT TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL BUILDING THEY WORK ON. THEY ARE NOT CERTAIN THEY CAN CUT COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT'S COSTS AND ENERGY USAGE BY A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT, BUT WOULD LIKE TO CONDUCT A FREE ANALYSIS ON THE SCHOOLS TO BE SURE.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/1**	**6:00PM**	**2:40**	IT'S A PROBLEM THAT HAS LED TO A COMMUNICATION STANDOFF IN CALLAWAY COUNTY. THREE FIRE DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTY ARE REFUSING TO PAY THE CALLAWAY COUNTY COMMISSION'S FEES FOR 9-1-1 SERVICES. EVEN AFTER THE COMMISSION SENT OUT LETTERS THIS WEEK SAYING IF PAYMENT WAS NOT RECEIVED, 9-1-1 DISPATCHING SERVICES WOULD BE SUSPENDED IN SIX MONTHS TIME. HOLTS SUMMIT, MILLERSBURG AND NEW BLOOMFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS HAVE NOT

					PAID THE FEE. AND THEY SAY THEY HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE OTHER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS IN CALLAWAY COUNTY. THE COMMISSION PAYS 900-THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR FOR 9-1-1 SERVICES AND EXPECTS THE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS TO PAY 33 THOUSAND OF THAT. THE ONLY PROBLEM IS THE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS SAY THEY DON'T HAVE THE BUDGETS TO FORK OUT THAT MUCH MONEY FOR 9-1-1 SERVICES, AND DON'T LIKE TO FEEL THREATENED. BUT THE HOLTS SUMMIT, NEW BLOOMFIELD AND MILLERSBURG FIRE DISTRICTS SAY THEY DON'T FEEL IT'S THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO COME UP WITH THE FUNDS FOR DISPATCHING SERVICES. THEY ALSO DON'T LIKE HOW THE COMMISSION SPENDS ITS MONEY, SAYING 9-1-1 SERVICES ARE IN DIRE NEED OF UPGRADES. THE COMMUNICATION STANDOFF CAME TO A HEAD THIS WEEK WITH THREATS FROM THE COMMISSION TO TERMINATE DISPATCHING SERVICES IN SIX MONTHS IF THEY DIDN'T RECEIVE A CHECK. I'VE ACTUALLY GOT THE LETTERS THE COMMISSION SENT THE MILLERSBURG AND HOLTS SUMMIT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS WHICH IS THE ONLY CORRESPONDENCE THE FIRE DISTRICTS HAVE HAD WITH THE COMMISSION, AND IN HOLTS SUMMIT'S IT WILL BE A YEAR IN APRIL.. FOR MORE INFORMATION LOG ONTO OUR WEBSITE AT KOMU-DOT-COM.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/2**	**10:00PM**	**1:45**	FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON CONTINUED HIS CAMPAIGN FOR WIFE, HILLARY CLINTON, AT THE M-U REC COMPLEX THIS AFTERNOON. THINGS ARE CALM NOW COMPARED TO THE ATMOSPHERE EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON. SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, HEEL TO HEEL...FOR A COUPLE BLOCKS... THAT'S THE LINE TO SEE FORMER PRESIDENT

					BILL CLINTON SPEAK AT THE MU REC CENTER. BUT WAS IT WORTH THE WAIT? ONCE THE DOORS OPENED... IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO FILL UP THE STANDING ROOM... IN FACT MANY WERE TURNED AWAY. BUT THOSE WHO DID SEE THE FORMER PRESIDENT HEARD HILLARY'S PLANS TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMY, MAKE HEALTH CARE MORE AFFORDABLE, AS WELL AS MAKING IT EASIER FOR STUDENTS TO ATTEND COLLEGE. THE FORMER PRESIDENT SPOKE FOR ABOUT AN HOUR... AND THE CROWD WAS RESPONSIVE TO THE POINTS HE MADE ABOUT HILLARY'S CAMPAIGN, AND HER PLATFORM.
HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/3**	**10:00PM**	**3:50**	32,000 AMERICANS COMMIT SUICIDE EVERY YEAR. STILL THE NUMBER OF SUICIDE *ATTEMPTS* IS FAR GREATER. THOSE WHO ARE SUICIDAL OFTEN GIVE WARNING SIGNS, BUT FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE UNAWARE OR DON'T KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO THEM. KOMU'S KARINA PETERSEN SHOWS YOU HOW TO KEEP A SHARP EYE OUT FOR A CRY FOR HELP. A PATH TOWARD SELF-DESTRUCTION. THINKING THE PHYSICAL PAIN WOULD TAKE AWAY THE EMOTIONAL SUFFERING. TO PROTECT HER IDENTITY, WE'RE CALLING HER JANE. ONLY JANE KNOWS WHY SHE PUNISHED HERSELF BY CUTTING HER BODY WITH RAZORS AND KNIVES. THE SELF MUTILATION STARTED AT AGE 15 FOR JANE. ACCORDING TO SELF INJURY DOT COM, *MOST* PEOPLE WHO CUT START IN THE TEENS. YOUNG ADULTS FACE PROBLEMS THAT SNOWBALL INTO SOMETHING BEYOND THEIR CONTROL. KAREN FARRIS WORKS FOR THE SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION AT PATHWAYS COMMUNITY

					BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE. BECAUSE TEENS ARE SUCH A HIGH-RISK GROUP, THE COALITION FOCUSES ON YOUTH. BUT PEERS MIGHT NOT REALIZE HOW BIG THE PROBLEM REALLY IS. IT'S ALL ABOUT RECOGNIZING SIGNS. HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES CASEY GOON AND RAYMOND SCHMIDT ARE WELL AWARE OF THE RISKS. CASEY AND RAYMOND WANTED TO RAISE AWARENESS. SO THEY TEAMED UP WITH PATHWAYS ORGANIZING A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR LOCAL SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS. ADD SEVERAL VOLUNTEER BANDS AND A 300 PERSON TURNOUT AND YOU GET MORE THAN FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS. THE KEY IS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO WATCH FOR THE WARNING SIGNS AND STOP ANYTHING BEFORE IT GETS TOO DANGEROUS. ACCORDING TO JANE, SHE GOT LUCKY. HER PARENTS SAW THE SIGNS AND STEPPED IN. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT NEEDS HELP; CALL THE 24-HOUR CRISIS INTERVENTION HOTLINE AT 1-800-833-3915. THERE ARE SO MANY RESOURCES AVAILABLE, INCLUDING SUPPORT GROUPS AND CRISIS CENTERS. WE WANTED TO GIVE YOU AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT'S ALL AVAILABLE TO YOU ON K-O-M-U DOT COM.
GOVERNMENT/ JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**2/4**	**5:00PM**	**1:25**	A CONSTRUCTION SITE IS CAUSING QUITE A STIR AMONG SOME NEARBY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, THE COLUMBIA PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, AND THE CITY. AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING TONIGHT THE LAND DEVELOPERS AND MEMBERS FROM THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS WILL FACE OFF... PERHAPS REACHING

					YET ANOTHER COMPROMISE ON THE PLANS FOR THE LAND. THE MAIN COMPLAINTS FROM THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS ARE ABOUT A PROPOSED CAR DEALERSHIP THAT MAY TAKE UP THE LARGEST PART OF THE LAND VISIBLE BEHIND ME. PLANS FOR THIS LAND WILL BE DISCUSSED TONIGHT... BUT SOME NEIGHBORS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE OVERALL LOOK OF THE NEW CONSTRUCTION. NEIGHBORS SAY THE NEW SUBDIVISION THAT WENT IN JUST ACROSS THE STREET IS FINE... BUT THEY DON'T WANT TO SEE A LOT OF FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS, A CAR DEALERSHIP, LARGE SIGNAGE, OR ANOTHER GAS STATION. I WAS NOT ABLE TO GET HOLD OF ANYONE FROM THE CITY BUT I DID SPEAK TO ANOTHER NEIGHBOR WHO SEEMED NOT TO MIND WHATEVER THE CONSTRUCTION MAY BRING TO THIS INTERSECTION. HE SAID DEVELOPMENT IS BOUND TO COME AS COLUMBIA GROWS LARGER.
CONSUMER ISSUES/ JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/5**	**6:00PM**	**1:20**	OSAGE BEACH MOTORISTS -- GOING HOME OR GOING TO THE POLLS -- WILL RECEIVE ELECTION UPDATES. AND NOT FROM THEIR RADIO. THERE'SUS A NEW, DIGITAL BILLBOARD WHICH DISPLAYS MORE THAN JUST ADVERTISMENTS. THIS IS ONE OF LAMAR'S NEW DIGITAL BILLBOARDS. IT LOOKS LIKE ANY ADS YOU MIGHT SEE ON A CONVENTIONAL BILLBOARD. BUT IT'S MORE HIGH TECH...LIKE THE JUMBOTRON AT BUSCH STADIUM. AND ON SUPER TUESDAY, DRIVERS SEE MISSOURI PRIMARY UPDATES ON 23 OF THESE AROUND THE STATE. MCWHIRTER SHOWED HOW THE IOWA CAUCUS SIGN READ. LAMAR ALSO USES THE BOARDS FOR OTHER

					PUBLIC SERVICE USES TOO, INCLUDING AMBER ALERTS AND WANTED POSTINGS. AND IT'S ALL IN REAL TIME. LAMAR WILL BEGIN RUNNING THE UPDATES ON ITS OSAGE BEACH BOARD IN ABOUT 25 MINUTES.
COSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/6**	**10:00PM**	**1:45**	85-THOUSAND MID-MISSOURIANS RELY ON THE CENTRAL MISSOURI FOOD BANK TO MAKE ENDS MEET. TODAY IS FOOD CHECKOUT DAY... THE GOVERNOR USED THE DAY TO REMIND MISSOURIANS ABOUT HELPING TO REDUCE HUNGER. GROCERS DONATE FOOD THAT DOESN'T GET SOLD, LIKE BAKED GOODS AND BRUISED PRODUCE, TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES. AND GOVERNOR BLUNT SAYS PEOPLE SHOULD DO THEIR SHARE TOO... FOOD CHECKOUT DAY MARKS THE DAY THE AVERAGE PERSON HAS MADE ENOUGH MONEY FROM THE FIRST OF THE YEAR, TO PAY FOR A YEARS WORTH OF FOOD. THE AVERAGE PERSON SPENDS 24-HUNDRED DOLLARS, OR 10-PERCENT OF THEIR YEARLY INCOME, ON FOOD. BUT MANY FAMILIES CAN'T AFFORD THAT. TO PUT FOOD CHECKOUT DAY INTO PERSPECTIVE.... THE MISSOURI FARM BUREAU STATES IT TAKES THE AVERAGE AMERICAN 116 DAYS TO EARN ENOUGH TO PAY THEIR FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL TAXES... 62 DAYS TO PAY HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES... 52 DAYS TO COVER HEALTH AND MEDICAL EXPENSES... AND 36 DAYS FOR RECREATION, CLOTHING AND IT ALSO TAKES 36 DAYS TO EARN ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOOD COSTS. MISSOURIANS CAN GET SOMETHING BACK WHEN THEY GIVE TO FOOD PANTRIES. A LAW PASSED LAST YEAR ALLOWS A TAX CREDIT THAT'S EQUAL TO ONE-HALF OF THE FOOD OR MONETARY GIFT TO A FOOD PANTRY.

CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**2/7**	**5:00PM**	**:45**	HIGHWAY 63 IS BACK TO NORMAL NOW AFTER A BIZZARE CHASE THAT COVERED MORE THAN 40 MILES. POLICE WANTED TO ARREST ROBERT WILLIAMS FOR VIOLATING PAROLE, BUT BEFORE THEY COULD DO THAT... WILLIAMS TOOK OFF IN HIS CAR... UP HIGHWAY 63 AND OVER TWO POLICE SPIKE STRIPS. HE RODE HIS CAR ON TWO RIMS.... ALL THE WAY TO MOBERLY! POLICE SAY IT ALL FINALLY CAME TO AN END NEAR THE MOBERLY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER. NEW AT SIX TONIGHT.... WHAT WILLIAMS WAS RUNNING FROM. HIS FELONY PAST BEFORE HE WENT ON THE WILD RIDE
COSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/8**	**6:00PM**	**1:00**	THE TRUE FALSE FILM FESTIVAL IN COLUMBIA IS THREE WEEKS AWAY. AND MOVIE FANS ARE ANXIOUSLY AWAITING THE LIST OF FILMS THEY'LL SEE THIS YEAR. THE GOOD NEWS IS YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL TO SUNDANCE OR CANNES FOR A FILM FESTIVAL. TOP NEW DOCUMENTARIES HAVE BEEN SELECTED FROM THOSE MAJOR FILM FESTIVALS AND THEY'RE COMING TO MID-MISSOURI FOR THE TRUE FALSE FILM FESTIVAL... THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL WILL HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR WITH ENTRANTS FROM AS FAR AWAY AS AUSTRALIA. THE TITLES, DATES AND TIMES OF 70 DIFFERENT FILMS ARE OUT FRESH TODAY AND THEY ARE AVAILABLE FROM A LINK ON OUR WEBSITE. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE OSCAR NOMINATED "TAXI TO THE DARK SIDE" AND HEADLINING MUSICAL GUEST. "THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS." THE TRUE FALSE FILM FESTIVAL RUNS FEBRUARY 28 THROUGH MARCH 2-ND. THE FESTIVAL IS STILL HOLDING ON TO ONE PIECE OF INFORMATION--JUST WHAT THE FINAL FILM

					WILL BE. AND WHILE RUMORS ARE FLYING - THEY SAY YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO BUY A TICKET TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/9**	**10:00PM**	**2:00**	REPUBLICANS MET IN SPRINGFIELD TODAY TO DISCUSS THE DIRECTION THE PARTY IS HEADING FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION. AFTER A SURPRISING ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ONE OF THE CANDIDATES DROPPED OUT OF THE RACE -- MISSOURI REPUBLICANS RE-ASSESSED THE STATE OF THE GUBERNATORIAL RACE. THESE REPUBLICANS ARE HAVING A GRAND OLD TIME... THAT BECAUSE THESE ARE SOME OF THE SWEETEST DAY FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY....WELL, THE LINCOLN DAYS THAT IS. AND THE PARTIES FOUNDER EVEN MANAGED TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE. ENGELBACH SAYS HE DRESSES LIKE AB LINCOLN TO REMIND CANDIDATES TO FOCUS ON THE PARTIES PRINCIPALS. BUT, HE SAYS MISSOURIANS NOW HAVE TO PICK THE RIGHT CANDIDATE TO PIN THERE LOYALTY TO. AFTER LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PETER KINDER DROPPED OUT OF THE RACE THE PARTY RE-FOCUSED ON THE CANDIDATES VYING FOR THE GOVERNOR'S SEAT... KENNY HULSHOF AND SARAH STEELMAN EXCHANGED IDEAS AS THEY SHARED A MEAL WITH MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED REPUBLICANS. SITTING SIDE BY SIDE...THE MEETING WAS JUST ICING ON THE CAKE AS THE TWO MAKE THEIR GRAB FOR THE GOVERNOR'S SEAT. AND THE MAIN COURSE OF THE EVENING... THE TWO STARTED LATER IN THE RACE THAN THEIR DEMOCRATIC COUNTERPART...THEY SAY IT'LL BE A PUSH TO THE ELECTION IN NOVEMBER. KOMU CAUGHT UP WITH BOTH CANDIDATES VYING FOR

					THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION. THEY EACH SAID THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF DROPPING OUT OF THE RACE. LOG ONTO KOMU DOT COM TO SEE OUR TRIP TO SPRINGFIELD AND THE REPUBLICANS RALLY FOR THEIR FAVORITE CANDIDATES. JUST CLICK ON THE SMART DECISION TAB.
CONSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/10**	**10:00PM**	**1:30**	FLOWER SHOPS ARE ADJUSTING TO INCREASING COSTS... MEANING YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY MORE FOR THOSE PETALS THIS VALENTINE'S DAY. WE TALKED TO A LOCAL FLORIST WHO SAID THE PRICES ARE HIGHER THAN EVER. THE DOORS ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS... AND INSIDE THE SMELL OF BEAUTIFUL, FRESH CUT ROSES FILLS THE AIR. BUT EVERY ROSE HAS ITS THORNS... AND PROBLEMS ARE STEMMING FROM AN INCREASE IN FUEL COSTS. THE PROBLEM IS THE ROSES MIGHT BE SOLD HERE IN MID-MISSOURI BUT THEY ARE GROWN ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE. THE LAHUE'S SAY SALES AREN'T FALLING... IN FACT, THE SHOP IS BUSIER THAN EVER. IT'S JUST THE PRICE YOU PAY FOR A SPECIAL DELIVERY. THE EXTRA COST IS JUST A MORE EXPENSIVE WAY OF SAYING..."BE MY VALENTINE." THE SECRET GARDEN SAYS THEY STILL PLAN ON MAKING JUST AS MANY VALENTINE DELIVERIES THIS YEAR. THEY SAY THE FLOWERS MAY BE A LUXURY, BUT THEY'RE A MUST HAVE FOR FEBRUARY 14-TH.
GOVERNMENT/ CONSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**2/11**	**5:00PM**	**1:00**	COPPER IS A HOT COMMODITY AND SOME LEGISLATORS WANT TO CRACK DOWN ON THOSE WHO ARE GETTING IT ILLEGALLY. COPPER THEFT IS HAPPENING ON PLACES LIKE

					FARMS, CONSTRUCTION SITES AND EVEN AT UTILITY COMPANIES. IN MID-MISSOURI, IT'S BECOMING A MAJOR ISSUE FOR FARMERS. ONE AUDRAIN COUNTY FARMER SAYS IN LESS THAN A YEAR, THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN 25 THEFT REPORTS JUST IN HIS AREA. ON HIS FARM, SOMEONE STOLE COPPER WIRING FROM TWO OF HIS PIVOT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS WORTH FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS EACH. A MISSOURI SENATOR SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT HE HOPES WILL HELP PREVENT THE GROWING PROBLEM. THE SENATOR SAYS COPPER THEFT COULD EVENTUALLY PUSH INSURANCE RATES HIGHER, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS. HE SAYS A LOT OF THESE FARMERS ARE HIT MORE THAN ONCE BY COPPER THEFT. SENATOR MAYER HOPES THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WILL VOTE SENATE BILL 1034 OUT OF COMMITTEE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS
GOVERNMENT/ HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/12**	**6:00PM**	**1:20**	A NEW BILL COULD GIVE MANY MISSOURI NURSES THE POWER TO PRESCRIBE. TODAY IS NURSES ADVOCACY DAY... AND NURSES FROM ALL OVER THE STATE CONVERGED ON THE CAPITOL TO PUSH FOR THE RIGHT TO PRESCRIBE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES. EARLIER TODAY, NURSES SAT IN ON A HEARING AS IT MOVED THROUGH THE SENATE. ACTUALLY ANGIE, IT'S NOT EVEN CLOSE. THE BILL HAS ONLY PASSED THROUGH THE SENATE'S FIRST ROUND APPROVAL AND STILL NEEDS ANOTHER VOTE TO MAKE IT TO THE HOUSE. THE MISSOURI NURSES ASSOCIATION MET TODAY IN JEFFERSON CITY FOR 22ND ANUAL NURSE ADVOCACY DAY. THEIR TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY THIS SESSION

					IS TO GET THIS BILL PASSED. THE MEASURE WOULD GIVE CLINICAL NURSES, NURSE PRACTITIONERS AND MID-WIVES THE RIGHT TO PRESCRIBE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES LIKE MEDICINE WITH CODEINE, LOMOTIL FOR DIARRHEA AND ANTI-ANXIETY DRUGS. BUT THERE ARE SOME STIPULATIONS.... THERE ARE MORE THAN THREE THOUSAND PRACTICING NURSES THIS BILL WOULD AFFECT BUT LIKE I SAID, IT STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO MOVE THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/13**	**10:00PM**	**1:50**	THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT RELEASED ITS CRIME STATS FOR 2007 TODAY. THE NUMBERS MAY BE ALARMING. JOSH HENDREN, GENERAL MANAGER OF COLUMBIA PET CENTER HAS FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE WITH CRIME IN COLUMBIA. SOMEONE THREW A CINDER BLOCK THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR AND BROKE INTO HIS STORE EARLIER THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO COLUMBIA POLICE, FROM 2006 TO 2007, PROPERTY CRIMES INCREASED BY 7%. BURGLARY WAS UP 9%. WHILE AUTO THEFTS DECREASED BY 2%... LARCENY JUMPED 7%. OVERALL. VIOLENT CRIME IN THE CITY INCREASED 34% FROM 2006 TO 2007. WHILE THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN MURDER, RAPE INCREASED 30% FROM 23-30 CASES. ROBBERY SAW A 25% INCREASE. AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WENT UP BY 38%. HENDREN, WHO HAS LIVED IN COLUMBIA HIS ENTIRE LIFE, SAYS HE'S AFRAID THE CRIME RATES WILL CONTINUE TO RISE AS THE CITY KEEPS GROWING. CAPTAIN NELSON SAYS THERE IS NO SINGLE REASON FOR THE RISE IN CRIME BUT HE SAYS ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE MAY BE A FACTOR.

GOVERNMENT/ DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE	KOMU NEWS AT 5:00	2/14	5:00PM	1:35	MAKING IT TOUGHER TO DRINK AND BOAT IN MISSOURI... THAT'S THE GOAL A BILL UNDER CONSIDERATION AT THE STATE CAPITOL. RIGHT NOW... THE BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL LEGAL LIMIT FOR BOATING IS POINT ONE-OH... BUT FOR DRIVING IT'S POINT OH-EIGHT. THE NEW LAW WOULD CREATE AN ACROSS THE BOARD POINT OH-EIGHT LIMIT FOR BOATING AND DRIVING. ANOTHER PART OF THE BILL WOULD CREATE HARSHER PUNISHEMENTS FOR PEOPLE CONVICTED OF MORE THAN ONE DRINKING AND BOATING VIOLATION. HERE'S A LOOK AT HOW IT WOULD BREAK DOWN. SOMEONE FOUND GUILTY OF A SECOND DRINKING AND BOATING OFFENSES WOULD BE CALLED A "PRIOR OFFENDER" AND SERVE AT LEAST FIVE DAYS BEHIND BARS. SOMEONE FOUND GUILTY OF A THIRD OFFENSE WOULD BE CALLED A PERSISTENT OFFENDER AND SERVE AT LEAST TEN DAYS IN JAIL. SOMEONE FOUND GUILTY OF FOUR OFFENSES WOULD BE AN "AGGRAVATED OFFENDER" AND SERVE AT LEAST TWO MONTHS BEHIND BARS. AND THE HIGHEST LEVEL -- "CHRONIC OFFENDER" IS RESERVED FOR THOSE WITH THE WORST RECORDS --- FIVE OR MORE OFFENSES. THOSE PEOPLE HAVE TO SPEND AT LEAST TWO YEARS IN JAIL. NEW AT SIX TONIGHT... WHAT THE WATER PATROL TODAY SAYS ARE PICTURES OF PROOF... WHY OFFICERS SAY MISSOURI NEEDS A NEW DRINKING AND BOATING LAW. THIS WEEK WE AIRED TWO TARGET 8 REPORTS ABOUT DRINKING AND BOATING, CALLED BOATS... BOOZE AND THE BADGE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW RESEARCHERS ARE USING THE LAKE OF THE OZARKS TO

					HELP DEVELOP A BOATING SOBRIETY TEST, AND TO WATCH BOTH STORIES ONLINE... GO TO OUR WEB SITE, KOMU-DOT-COM.
EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/15**	**6:00PM**	**2:00**	MISSOURI'S TASK FORCE FORMED LAST YEAR FOLLOWING THE VIRGINIA TECH MASSACRE. MEMBERS TALKED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE, MENTAL-HEALTH OFFICIALS EVEN STUDENTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO SEE WHAT PLANS DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES HAD IN PLACE. THE PROBLEM IS NO MATTER HOW WELL PREPARED A CAMPUS THINKS IT IS, IT'S NEVER GOOD ENOUGH. ANOTHER SHOOTING, MORE LIVES LOST AND STILL THE SAME QUESTIONS. JAMES IS REFERRING TO THE RECENT SHOOTING IN KIRKWOOD AND THE INABILITY TO ALWAYS PREVENT THESE TYPES OF TRAGEDIES. JAMES AND STEIN BELIEVE A SOLID PLAN IS THE ONLY WAY TO REDUCE LOST LIVES. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN ALL COLLEGES SHOULD HAVE THE SAME PLAN. RESPONSBILITY THAT MEANS ASKING HARD QUESTIONS... GOVERNOR BLUNT APPOINTED STEIN TO THE MISSOURI HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL FOLLOWING HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE TASK FORCE. STEIN SAYS HIS NEW ROLE IS TO MAKE SURE THAT UNIVERSITIES IN MISSOURI FOLLOW UP WITH THE TASK FORCES RECOMMENDATIONS... RECOMMENDATIONS YOU CAN FIND ON OUR WEBSITE AT KOMU-DOT-COM.
HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/16**	**10:00PM**	**2:00**	HEART DISEASE IS THE NUMBER ON KILLER OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES. IT KILLS MORE PEOPLE THAN THE NEXT FOUR LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH COMBINED. THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION SAYS PEOPLE ARE OFTEN RELECTANT TO CHECK UP ON THEIR HEART

					HEALTHINESS. THEY SAY THAT'S BECAUSE MANY PEOPLE THINK IT SIMPLY CAN'T HAPPEN TO THEM. BUT, TONIGHT THE ORGANIZATION TRIED TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF HEART DISEASE BY SHOWCASING... WHO THEY CALL A "LOCAL CELEBRITY." LIFESTYLE OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS... IS THE THEME OF THIS YEARS HEART BALL. THE NIGHTS EVENTS FEATURED A STORY OF SURVIVAL COMPELLING ENOUGH FOR THE BIG SCREEN... BUT, SMALL ENOUGH FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO SNAP A MEMORY OF A SPECIAL NIGHT ON THE TOWN. MCGRAIL IS A FIFTEEN YEAR OLD HEART DISEASE SURVIVOR. SHE SAYS HER FRIGHTENING BATTLE WITH HEART DISEASE IS A STORY OF HOPE. THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION IS SPOTLIGHTING THE CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE, BECAUSE THEY SAY IT'S A SILENT KILLER. THEY'RE ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET FOR HEART DISEASE CELEBRITIES TO SAY... THEY SAY THE GALA SHOULD UNCORK SOME UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HEART DISEASE. THE FUNDS RAISED DURING TONIGHT'S GALA WILL GO TO THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION. THE CHILDREN HEART HEALTH INITIATIVE WILL BENEFIT FROM THE SILENT AUCTION... IT WILL RECEIVE FUNDING FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND EDUCATION RELATED TO CONGENITAL HEART DEFECTS.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/17**	**10:00PM**	**:20**	POLICE FOUND THE BODY OF A SOUTHERN MISSOURI MAN IN A ROCK QUARRY IN LACLEDE COUNTY. POLICE FOUND 20-YEAR-OLD DUSTIN SKAGGS AND HIS CAR AT THE BOTTOM OF AN OLD QUARRY NEAR LEBANON. THE LACLEDE COUNTY SHERIFF SAYS IT

					APPEARS SKAGGS DIED FROM BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA. THE SPRINGFIELD AREA MAN WENT MISSING LAST MONDAY. POLICE CHARGED FOUR PEOPLE WITH FIRST-DEGREE MURDER
GOVERNMENT/ CONSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**2/18**	**5:00PM**	**:40**	SMILE COLUMBIA, YOU MAY SOON BE CAUGHT ON CAMERA. THAT IS IF YOU DRIVE THROUGH A RED LIGHT. THE CITY IS WORKING WITH LASERCRAFT INC. ON THE RED LIGHT PROJECT. TODAY, TESTING BEGAN ON SEVEN INTERSECTIONS TO SEE WHICH COULD SUPPORT CAMERA SYSTEMS. IF CAUGHT, LIGHT RUNNERS MAY FACE FINES AROUND ONE-HUNDRED AND TWENTY DOLLARS. COMMANDER OF COLUMBIA'S TRAFFIC UNIT, CAPTAIN ZIM SCHWARTZE SAYS THE CAMERAS WILL NOT BE A SURPRISE FOR DRIVERS. SCHWARTZE SAYS SHE HOPES THE CAMERAS WILL HELP DRIVERS SLOW DOWN, RATHER THAN SPEED UP WHEN THEY SEE A YELLOW LIGHT.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/19**	**6:00PM**	**1:30**	A FORMER COLUMBIA POLICE OFFICER CONVICTED OF MURDER IS BACK IN TOWN. STEVEN RIOS WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR THE MURDER OF JESSE VALENCIA IN 2005. LAST YEAR, THE MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS WESTERN DISTRICT GRANTED RIOS A NEW TRIAL. THE FIRST STEP IN THE PROCESS TOOK PLACE TODAY. TODAY THE JUDGE CONFIRMED RIOS' LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR HIS SECOND TRIAL. HIS COUNSEL IS A MOBERLY ATTORNEY. OFFICER STEVEN RIOS WAS CONVICTED OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE IN 2005. THE VICTIM: 23 YEAR OLD JESSE VALENCIA, AN M-U STDENT. RIOS ADMITTED TO HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH THE

					STUDENT BUT MAINTAINED HIS INNOCENCE. THE TIMELINE BEGINS IN APRIL, 2004 WHEN OFFICER RIOS RESPONDED TO A NOISE COMPLAINT AND MET 23 YR OLD M-U STUDENT JESSE VALENCIA. IN JUNE 2004, FRIENDS OF RIOS FOUND HIM DEAD IN HIS FRONT YARD WITH HIS THROAT SLASHED. IN MAY 2005 A JURY CONVICTED RIOS OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE. FAST FORWARD TO APRIL 2007. THAT'S WHEN THE MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT GRANTED RIOS A NEW TRIAL BECAUSE OF HEARSAY STATEMENTS ALLOWED DURING THE FIRST TRIAL. RIOS' CASE WILL BE HEARD IN THE BOONE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT. BECAUSE HE IS A FORMER POLICE OFFICER, THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FROM CAPE GIRARDEAU WILL BE HANDLING THE CASE AGAIN.
JOBS/ECONOMY/ HEATH	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/20**	**10:00PM**	**1:50**	WHILE MOBERLY IS LOSING JOBS, JEFFERSON CITY IS ADDING THEM, WITH THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW HOSPITAL. ST MARY'S HEALTH CENTER ANNOUNCED TODAY IT WILL BUILD A NEW HOSPITAL ... A 200-MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT. ST MARY'S IS GOING TO BUILD A FULL-SERVICE HOSPITAL AND ALL THE PATIENTS WILL HAVE PRIVATE ROOMS. STAFF MEMBERS GREETED THIS NEWS WITH A LOT OF EXCITEMENT. MANY GATHERED AT ST MARY'S HEALTH CENTER TODAY TO CELEBRATE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HOSPITAL. HOSPITAL STAFF SAY THE NEW SITE WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR PATIENTS. HIGHWAYS SURROUND ST. MARY'S CURRENT LOCATION AND LIMITS ITS EXPANSION. THE NEW SITE WOULD BE ON ALONG ROUTE 179, WITH MORE THAN A HUNDRED ACRES OF LAND FOR

					DEVELOPMENT. DOCTORS ALSO SAY THE NEW HOSPITAL WILL IMPROVE PATIENT CARE. THIS PROJECT WOULD ALSO IMPACT THE ECONOMY OF THE AREA. STAFF MEMBERS SAY THEY HOPE THE NEW FACILITY WILL ALLOW THEM TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY FOR THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS. CONSTRUCTION STARTS IN TWO YEARS, AND THEY'LL MOVE INTO THE NEW BUILDING IN 2012. AS OF NOW, THE HOSPITAL HAS NO PLANS FOR THE CURRENT SITE AFTER THE MOVE.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**2/21**	**5:00PM**	**1:45**	THE WINTER WEATHER PROBABLY MADE IT TOUGH FOR YOU TO DRIVE TODAY. BUT CARS WERE THE HOT TOPIC FOR AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT REASON AT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE. NO IT'S NOT SARAH. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MADE NEWS A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO BY USING STATE VEHICLES FOR WHAT SOME CALLED PERSONAL TRIPS. NOW STATE AUDITOR SUSAN MONTEE IS LOOKING AT THE GOVERNOR. JUST LIKE A LOT OF THE STATE'S TOP POLITICAL OFFICIALS, BLUNT AND HIS STAFF USE OFFICIAL VEHICLES. MONTEE, A DEMOCRAT, RELEASED HER AUDIT OF REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR BLUNT'S OFFICE TODAY. NOW, OTHER STATE OFFICIALS FELL INTO A LEGAL GREY AREA WHERE THERE WAS NO STATUTE FOR HOW THEY SHOULD RE-IMBURSE THE STATE FOR THEIR DRIVING. BUT APPARENTLY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FALLS UNDER A STATUTE THAT ALLOWS HIM UNLIMITED USE OF OFFICIAL VEHICLES... THAT'S REGARDLESS OF THE PURPOSE... FOR NOW.

					SO MONTEE'S RECCOMENDATION IS THAT LAWMAKERS TIGHTEN THE STATUTE'S LANGUAGE TO BAR FREE USE OF STATE VEHICLES ON PERSONAL TRIPS. PLUS WE'LL HEAR FROM THE REPUBLICANS, WHO SAY THIS REPORT AMOUNTS TO AN ILL-TIMED CAMPAIGN STUNT IN ATTORNEY GENERAL JAY NIXON'S RACE FOR THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE.
EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/22**	**6:00PM**	**1:25**	WINTER WEATHER BROUGHT SNOW AND ANOTHER FREE DAY FOR MANY MID-MISSOURI STUDENTS... BUT THAT FREE DAY COULD COST THEM... A SNOW DAY CAN BE FUN FOR KIDS, BUT IT'S A HEADACHE FOR SUPERINTENDENTS TRYING TO FINISH THE SCHOOL YEAR ON TIME. STUDENTS DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL TODAY HERE AT HICKMAN HIGH, AND ONE MORE SNOW DAY WILL MEAN ONE LESS DAY OF SUMMER. MOST MID-MISSOURI SCHOOLS TOOK A SNOW DAY YESTERDAY AND TODAY MOST DISTRICTS PLAN ON 1-3 SNOW DAYS IN THE YEAR, BUT FOR MANY THIS WAS THE 4TH OR 5TH SNOW DAY, MEANING TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO MAKE UP THE DAYS. A STATE LAW REQUIRES AT LEAST 174 DAYS OF SCHOOL, SO DOING THE MATH... FULTON SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS ALREADY ADDED DAYS TO THE END OF THE YEAR AS OF TODAY BUT THE SUPERINTENDENT SAYS THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO MAKE UP THE DAYS. SO AGAIN, A SNOW DAY WON'T BE A DAY OFF ANYMORE FOR FUTLON PUBLIC SCHOOLS OR COLUMBIA SCHOOLS, IT WILL BE A DAY TO MAKE UP WHEN SPRING DOES FINALLY COME AROUND. TO FIND OUT HOW MANY SNOW DAYS YOUR DISTRICT HAS LEFT OR HOW IT PLANS TO MAKE UP THE DAYS VISIT OUR WEBSITE, K-O-M-U- DOT COM.

CONSUMER ISSUES	KOMU NEWS AT 10:00	2/23	10:00PM	:45	THIS AFTERNOON ONE CLASS LEARNED A SAUCEY LESSON. THESE STUDENTS ARE LEARNING TO BE CERTIFIED KANSAS CITY BAR-B-QUE SOCIETY JUDGES. THE COURSE INCLUDED HOW TO JUDGE APPEARANCE, TASTE AND TENDERNESS. MANY OF TODAY'S TRAINEES ARE GETTING CERTIFIED TO JUDGE THE CAPITOL CITY COOK-OFF FRED MARSH KNOWS THERE ARE MORE RULES THAN MEET THE EYE. IF YOU'D STILL LIKE TO GET IN ON A BBQ CERTIFICATION CLASS YOU HAVEN'T MISSED DINNER. K-C-B-S IS OFFERING A COURSE IN COLUMBIA ON MARCH 15 AND WE'VE LINKED TO THEM ON OUR WEBSITE KOMU DOT COM.
GOVERNMENT	KOMU NEWS AT 10:00	2/24	10:00PM	2:10	ON THE EVE OF ANOTHER POLITICAL VISIT IN MID-MISSOURI.... TONIGHT WE TAKE A LOOK BACK AT JUST HOW WE GOT HERE. TOMORROW REPRESENTATIVE JUDY BAKER OF COLUMBIA WILL MAKE A CAMPAIGN STOP IN COLUMBIA AND MEXICO. BUT HER VISIT IS ONLY A SMALL SNAPSHOT IN A MUCH LARGER PICTURE. WITH HIM OUT OF THE PICTURE AS GOVERNOR IN 2008... AS WE'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT HERE ON KOMU NEWS... THREE OTHERS WANT BLUNTS JOB. TONIGHT WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE IMPACT OF THAT DECISION AND AN OVERALL LOOK AT THE OTHER RACES IT OPENS UP. THE ENTIRE POLITICAL SHUFFLE REVOLVES AROUND THE COVETED GOVERNORS OFFICE. WHEN BLUNT ANNOUNCED HE WOULD NOT SEEK A SECOND TERM... AFTER LITTLE DELAY REPUBLICAN'S SARAH STEELMAN AND KENNY HULSHOF ANNOUNCED THEY'D TRY FOR THE STATE'S TOP JOB. DEMOCRAT JAY NIXON HAD PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED HE WOULD ALSO RUN.

					BUT THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT CREATED OPENINGS FOR THEIR JOBS. STATE TREASURER.... U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FOR MISSOURI'S 9TH DISTRICT... AND ATTORNEY GENERAL. TAKING THE LATEST LOOK AT THE TREASURER RACE... REPUBLICAN STATE SENATOR BRAD LAGER... ARNOLD MISSOURI MAYOR, DEMOCRAT MARK POWELL AND DEMOCRAT ANDRIA SIMCKES -- A COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER ARE ALL NOW VYING FOR STEELMAN'S OLD JOB. TURNING TO KENNY HULSHOF'S CONGRESSIONAL SEAT...DEMOCRATIC STATE REPRESENTATIVE JUDY BAKER... FORMER HOUSE SPEAKER STEVE GAW.... REPRESENTATIVE DANIE MOORE... AND FORMER MU FOOTBALL STAR BROCK OLEEVO ARE ALL IN THE RACE. FINALLY... WHEN JAY NIXON ANNOUNCED HE'D RUN FOR GOVERNOR... REPUBLICAN STATE SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEM MIKE GIBBONS... DEMOCRATIC SENATOR CHRIS KOSTER... DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVE MARGARET DONNELLY... AND DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVE JEFF HARRIS ANNOUNCED THEY'RE ALL LOOKING TO BE THE NEXT MISSOURI ATTORNEY GENERAL. SO CLEARLY A WHOLE MESS OF CANDIDATES ARE IN A BUNCH OF RACES... ALL OPENED UP BECAUSE OF BLUNTS DECISION ABOUT A MONTH AGO. SO WE CAN EXPECT MORE VISITS LIKE BAKER'S FROM ALL CANDIDATES IN THE FUTURE. AND IT'S WORTH NOTING MISSOURI'S PRIMARY... WHERE YOU'LL GET TO MAKE YOUR CHOICE AMONG ALL THESE CANDIDATES... IS AUGUST 5TH.
GOVERNMENT/ JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**2/25**	**5:00PM**	**1:35**	THEY'LL ROLL THE DICE IN APRIL WITH A VOTE... AND TONIGHT'S MEETING MAY SHOW IF A RIVERBOAT CASINO IS IN THE CARDS FOR JEFFERSON CITY... THERE'S STILL TIME TO MAKE PLANS TO COME TO THE

					MEETING. IT STARTS AT SEVEN TONIGHT. A SPEAKER FROM THE MISSOURI GAMING COMMISSION WILL GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF GAMING LAWS IN MISSOURI. ATTENDEES WILL HEAR THE PROS AND CONS OF A RIVERBOAT CASINO COMING TO THE CAPITAL. THE ISSUE IS ALREADY ON THE BALLOT TO BE VOTED ON TUESDAY APRIL 8TH. AND TONIGHT'S MEETING COULD HELP CITIZENS MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION. NO CASINO HAS ACTUALLY SHOWN INTEREST IN BRINGING ITS BUSINESS TO JEFFERSON CITY... BUT ONE FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER WANTS THE VOTE TO PASS JUST IN CASE THE OPPURTUNITY DOES COME UP. WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT JEFF CITY RESIDENTS THINK ABOUT THE ISSUE AT TONIGHTS MEETING. AGAIN IT STARTS AT SEVEN PM AT THE JEFFERSON CITY COMMUNITY CENTER.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/26**	**6:00PM**	**1:00**	SOME DISTURBING NEWS FROM HICKMAN HIGH SCHOOL IN COLUMBIA TONIGHT... EYEWITNESSES SAY POLICE BROKE UP A LARGE FIGHT THIS AFTERNOON. THEY SAY POLICE TASERED A MAN NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE SCHOOL TO HELP STOP THE FIGHT. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT LYNN BARNETT CONFIRMS POLICE ARRESTED *EIGHT* STUDENTS AFTER THE FIGHT BROKE OUT SHORTLY BEFORE NOON. SHE SAYS THE INITIAL FIGHTING STARTED AT THE DAIRY QUEEN YESTERDAY.... AND TODAY WORKED ITS WAY ACROSS THE STREET ONTO SCHOOL GROUNDS. SHE ALSO SAYS THE USE OF THE TASER SHOULD NOT COME AS A SHOCK. POLICE SAY STUDENTS FROM HICKMAN AND DOUGLASS

					HIGH SCHOOLS WERE INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT. THE SCHOOL REPORTS NO STUDENT OR FACULTY INJURIES.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**2/27**	**10:00PM**	**1:30**	LAWMAKERS HEARD TESTIMONY TODAY AIMED AT PROTECTING CHILDREN WHO ARE TESTIFYING IN COURT. THE MISSOURI HOUSE IS CONSIDERING THE "CHILDREN'S BILL OF COURTROOM RIGHTS." THAT'S RIGHT, JIM. I DO HAVE A FRIEND WITH ME TONIGHT. THE PROPOSED BILL INCLUDES A SECTION THAT GIVES CHILDREN THE RIGHT TO HAVE A STUFFED ANIMAL LIKE THIS LITTLE GUY WITH THEM WHEN THEY TESTIFY. IT'S ONE OF THE MANY THINGS THIS "BILL OF RIGHTS" HAS TO HELP MAKE KIDS MORE COMFORTABLE IN THE COURT ROOM. FAMILY LAWYERS I SPOKE WITH TODAY EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT THE "SUPPORT PERSON" ASPECT OF THE BILL. THEY ALSO SAID A LAWYER WHO HAS TO STOOP TOO INTIMIDATING A CHILD ON THE STAND IS PROBABLY DOING HIS CLIENT MORE DAMAGE THAN GOOD. THEY SAY SINCE MOST OF THE THINGS I MENTIONED ARE ALREADY COMMON PRACTICE IN MISSOURI COURT ROOMS --- THE BILL IS UNNECESSARY. REPRESENTATIVE DIXON RESPONDED THAT IF IT'S ALREADY COMMON PRACTICE THEN WHY SHOULD MAKING IT LAW BE A PROBLEM?
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**2/28**	**6:00PM**	**1:45**	THE TRUE FALSE FILM FESTIVAL BEGINS TONIGHT. THIS IS THE FIFTH YEAR FOR THE FESTIVAL IN COLUMBIA. PEOPLE OUT HERE ARE EXCITED AND READY TO GET OUT OF THE COLD. TONIGHT THE FIRST SHOWS KICKED OFF FOR THE FESTIVAL. IN THIS THEATRE, A MOVIE "SHAKE THE DEVIL OFF" IS PLAYING.

					TICKETS FOR ALL SHOWS ARE GOING QUICKLY, BUT THERE IS STILL A CHANCE IF YOU WANT TO STOP BY. PASSES FOR THE TRUE FALSE FILM FESTIVAL SOLD OUT WEEKS AGO. BUT THERE ARE STILL TICKETS LEFT. THE BOX OFFICE OPENED AT NOON, BUT THE LINES STARTED THREE HOURS EARLIER. THIS IS THE FIFTH YEAR FOR THE FESTIVAL IN COLUMBIA AND ITS POPULARITY IS GROWING. FOR THOSE WHO DIDN'T GET A PASS, THERE IS STILL HOPE TO CATCH A SHOW. THE BOX OFFICE IS OPEN FROM NINE IN THE MORNING UNTIL TEN AT NIGHT, BUT IF YOU GO AND THERE ARE NO MORE TICKETS LEFT, YOU HAVE ONE MORE SHOT. SHOW UP TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE SHOW AT THE VENUE AND YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO BUY ONE OF THE REMAINING TICKETS. FOR A LIST OF ALL THE MOVIES AND TIMES, YOU CAN FIND A LINK TO THE TRUE FALSE FESTIVAL'S WEBSITE ON KOMU DOT COM.
HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**2/29**	**5:00PM**	**:55**	BOONE HOSPITAL IS GIVING ITSELF A PAT ON THE BACK ITS BRAND NEW SPINE CENTER THE HOSPITAL HELD A CEREMONY ON THE FIFTH FLOOR TODAY FOR THEIR NEW SPINE CENTER WING. THE FIFTH FLOOR NOW FEATURES 20 PRIVATE ROOMS FOR PATIENTS, MOBILE CARTS TO ALLOW NURSES TO TREAT PATIENTS ON THE GO... AND QUICK ACCESS PATIENT SERVER STATIONS IN THE ROOMS TO HELP NURSES ADJUST TO ORDINARY NEEDS WITHOUT HAVING TO WALK DOWN THE HALL. BOONE HOSPITAL PRESIDENT DAN ROTHERY SAYS THE PROJECT'S COMPLETION WAS A LONG AWAITED PROCESS. THE HOSPITAL SAYS IT PLANS TO OPEN THE WING UP

					PARTIALLY ON MONDAY AND WILL BE RUNNING AT FULL CAPACITY BY THE SUMMER.
CRIME/GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/1**	**6:00PM**	**1:10**	THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT SAYS IT HAD NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT RACIAL PROFILING DURING TRAFFIC STOPS LAST YEAR. AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE -- COLUMBIA POLICE SENT ITS 2007 RACIAL PROFILING REPORT TO THE MISSOURI ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE FRIDAY. IN 2007, COLUMBIA POLICE OFFICERS MADE MORE THAN 15-AND A HALF THOUSAND TRAFFIC STOPS. ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF THE STOPS INVOLVED WHITE DRIVERS. 23 PERCENT INVOLVED BLACK DRIVERS. A FRACTION OF THE TRAFFIC STOPS INVOLVED LATINO OR ASIAN DRIVERS--ABOUT 2-PERCENT FOR EACH GROUP. THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 7 TRAFFIC STOPS INVOLVING NATIVE AMERICAN DRIVERS, THAT'S LESS THAN HALF OF 1-PERCENT. SO HOW DO THESE NUMBERS COMPARE TO THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE CITY.... THERE IS A DIFFERENCE. HERE'S THAT GRAPHIC WE SHOWED YOU A MOMENT AGO... ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF THE TRAFFIC STOPS INVOLVED WHITE DRIVERS... WHITES MAKE UP ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF COLUMBIA'S POPULATION. AND HERE'S WHERE THE NUMBERS MAY CAUSE A PROBLEM: 23 PERCENT OF THE TRAFFIC STOPS INVOLVED BLACK DRIVERS... BLACKS MAKE UP ONLY ABOUT 11 PERCENT OF COLUMBIA'S POPULATION. THE REST OF THE NUMBERS ARE GENERALLY IN LINE WITH THE CITY'S DEMOGRAPHICS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VIEW THE ENTIRE RACIAL PROFILING REPORT, YOU CAN FIND A LINK ON OUR WEB SITE, KOMU-DOT-COM.

HEALTH	KOMU NEWS AT 10:00	3/2	10:00PM	2:10	AN ANCIENT ART IS MAKING A COMEBACK IN MID-MISSOURI THROUGH A SOMEWHAT UNLIKELY GROUP. A COLUMBIA WOMAN IS COMBINING HER LOVE OF BELLYDANCE AND MIDWIFERY TO HELP NEW MOMS AND MOMS TO BE STAY STRONG. THIS IMAGE CAN BE SEEN IN DANCE STUDIOS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY, NOT JUST IN COLUMBIA. HOWEVER, THIS IS WHERE THE SIMILARITIES STOP. THE PARTICIPANTS IN THESE BELLYDANCE CLASSES ARE EXPECTANT OR NEW MOTHERS. AFTER HAVING HER FIRST CHILD, DEE DEE FARRIS-FOLKERTS BEGAN TAKING BELLY DANCING LESSONS. SO A FEW YEARS AGO FOLKERTS BEGAN TO TEACH BELLY DANCING CLASSES TO PREGNANT WOMEN. AND THE CLASSES GREW TO INCLUDE NEW MOTHERS AS WELL. BUT FOLKERTS IS NOT THE FIRST TO USE BELLYDANCE TO HELP EASE LABOR PAINS. SOME HISTORIANS SAY BELLY DANCE ORIGINATED NOT AS THE SENSUAL DANCE IT HAS BECOME IN MODERN CULTURE. ... BUT AS A WAY FOR WOMEN TO CONNECT WITH OTHER WOMEN AND PREPARE THEIR BODIES FOR CHILDBIRTH. BUT LEARNING HOW TO MOVE THEIR BODIES ISNT THE ONLY REASON WOMEN ENJOY THE MOTHERHIP CLASSES. GETTING A LITTLE BIT OF EXERCISE IS PRACTICAL FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AS WELL AND IT HELPS WHEN... BUT THE BEST PART OF THIS CLASS MAY JUST BE GETTING TIME TO PREPARE FOR YOUR BABY OR SPENDING TIME WITH YOUR NEWBORN. THE MOTHER-HIP CLASSES TAKE PLACE EVERY FRIDAY EVENING AND NEW WOMEN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.
CRIME	KOMU NEWS AT 5:00	3/3	5:00PM	1:30	WE'RE LEARNING MORE TODAY ABOUT THAT WEEKEND PROSTITUTION STING IN JEFFERSON CITY. SATURDAY'S BUST OF AN ALREADY

					CONTROVERSIAL SEX SHOP IN JEFFERSON CITY HAS BROUGHT CHARGES FOR THE SHOP'S OWNER. THE OWNER OF SHAKEL'S SECRET IS FREE TONIGHT, BUT HIS SHOP IS CLOSED FOR BUSINESS. NOW A PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT FROM THE COLE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY IS SHEDDING MORE LIGHT ON EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE STING. SHAKEL'S SECRET OWNER MICHAEL BARNARD IS FACING CHARGES OF FELONY PROMOTION OF PROSTITUTION AND MISDEMEANOR COUNTS REGARDING ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION. COLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES RAIDED SHAKEL SECRET JUST WEST OF THE JEFFERSON CITY LIMITS AT 6 O'CLOCK SATURDAY NIGHT. THE PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT SAYS BARNARD ADMITTED TO AUTHORITIES AFTER THE BUST HE WAS PLANNING TO PAY TWO WOMEN TO PERFORM SEX ACTS IN FRONT OF UNDERCOVER OFFICERS. NEIGHBORS IN THIS RESIDENTIAL AREA SAY THE STING WAS VERY WELCOME NEWS. THAT PARTY, GERMANDER SAYS, WAS A CELEBRATION AMONG NEIGHBORS THAT OFFICIALS HAD BUSTED SHAKEL'S SECRET. AS I SAID, THE ESTABLISHMENT IS IN A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD THAT'S HOME TO TWO CHILD CARE FACILITIES. THE COLE COUNTY PROSECUTOR SAID BARNARD MAY FACE MORE CHARGES AS ALL THE DETAILS OF THE STING ARE SORTED OUT.
GOVERNMENT/ DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/4**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	MISSOURI LAWMAKERS WANT ACTION AGAINST DRUNKEN BOATERS. THE STATE HAS ONE OF THE WORST DRINKING AND BOATING PROBLEMS IN THE COUNTRY. NOW LAWMAKERS ARE ONE STEP AWAY FROM A PARTIAL FIX. CLEAN UP THE PARTY COVE AND SAVE LIVES.

					THAT IS WHAT THE MISSOURI SENATE CAN DO THIS WEEK IF IT VOTES TO LOWER THE ALCOHOL LIMIT ON BOATERS. SENATOR SCOTT SAYS MISSOURI IS INFAMOUS FOR ITS RIVERS AND LAKES FULL OF DRUNKS. THE NEW LAW WOULD LOWER THE BLOOD ALCOHOL LIMIT TO POINT ZERO EIGHT -- SAME AS FOR HIGHWAY DRIVERS. SCOTT'S DISTRICT HAS MORE SHORELINE THAN ANY OTHER. HE HOPES TO SEE THE LAW'S BENEFIT... THE CURRENT BLOOD ALCOHOL LIMIT IS ZERO POINT ONE. THE NEW, LOWER LIMIT WOULD ONLY BE ENFORCED FOR BOATS WITH MOTORS ON MAJOR RIVERS AND LAKES. ALCOHOL LIMITS WOULD NOT BE ENFORCED ON SMALL STREAMS AND PRIVATE WATERWAYS.
CONSUMER NEWS	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/5**	**10:00PM**	**1:30**	WHEN THIS STORE CLOSED IN JANUARY, IT CAUSED A LOT OF HEADACHES... AND NOW THE STORE'S NEW OWNERS HOPE THEY'VE GOT THE ASPRIN. THE ASHLEY FURNITURE STORE IN COLUMBIA HAD ITS GRAND RE-OPENING TONIGHT. IT COMES MORE THAN A MONTH AFTER ASHLEY CLOSED ITS DOORS --- LEAVING CUSTOMERS WONDERING WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THEIR FURNITURE. THE CHANGE IS NEW OWNERSHIP. THIS IS WHAT IT'S BEEN LIKE HERE FOR THE MORE THAN FIVE WEEKS --- DOORS LOCKED, LIGHTS OFF, PUBLIC SHOPPING SOMEWHERE ELSE. AFTER ASHLEY CLOSED IN JANUARY, 44 CUSTOMERS FILED OFFICIAL COMPLAINTS WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO MAKE SURE THEY GOT THE ITEMS THEY PAID FOR. BACK THEN, EMPLOYEES TOLD KOMU THE LAW

					SAY WHEN THE STORE CHANGED OWNERS IT WAS REQUIRED TO CLOSE FOR AT LEAST FOUR DAYS. NOW --- FIVE WEEKS LATER --- THE STORE REOPENS. TONIGHT WAS THE OFFICIAL RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY. THE STORE OPENS TO PUBLIC FRIDAY, I SPOKE WITH THE NEW OWNERS WHO SAID THEY'RE ANXIOUS TO CHANGE THE PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF ASHLEY FURNITURE IN COLUMBIA. PHILLIPS TOLD ME AS FAR AS HE KNEW ALL THE COMPLAINTS TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE HAD BEEN TAKEN CARE OF. BUT, HE SAYS, IF YOUR PROBLEMS HAVEN'T BEEN RESOLVED... CONTACT THE STORE.
GOVERNMENT/ HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**3/6**	**5:00PM**	**1:30**	BETTER TRACKING OR JUST MORE WORK? A MEASURE TO HELP CRACK DOWN ON DOCTOR SHOPPING HAS LOCAL PHARMACISTS TALKING. THIS AFTERNOON... PHARMACISTS ARE REACTING TO A NEW DRUG BILL IN THE MISSOURI SENATE. AS WE TOLD YOU YESTERDAY... THE BILL WOULD CRACK DOWN ON DRUGS USED TO MAKE METH... AND IT'S ALSO AIMED AT STOPPING WHAT'S CALLED "DOCTOR SHOPPING". IT'S WHEN SOMEONE GOES FROM DOCTOR TO DOCTOR... GETTING MULTIPLE PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED AT MULTIPLE PHARMACIES. HERE'S HOW THIS BILL WOULD WORK: BASICALLY WHEN YOU FILL VIRTUALLY ANY PRESCRIPTION... A PHARMACIST WOULD TAKE YOUR NAME AND RECORD HOW MUCH OF WHAT DRUG YOU'RE GETTING... AND SUBMIT IT TO A STATEWIDE DATABASE. NOW WE TALKED WITH PHARMACISTS ACROSS MID MISSOURI TODAY... THEY SAY THEY'RE WORRIED THAT LOGGING EACH FILLED PRESCRIPTION WOULD BE A LOT OF EXTRA WORK, WORK THAT SOMEONE WOULD HAVE TO DO.

					AND WHATS WORSE... OTHER PHARMACISTS WE TALKED WITH SAID THIS NEW SYSTEM COULD CAUSE EVEN LONGER LINES WHEN YOU GET YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED... AND THE PROGRAM COMES WITH A HEFTY PRICE TAG. NEW AT SIX TONIGHT... WHAT THE PROGRAM WILL COST YOU.... AND THE WAY LAWMAKERS ARE LOOKING TO AVOID ALL THIS ADMINISTRATIVE MESS.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/7**	**6:00PM**	**2:45**	AFTER MANY ATTEMPTS AT OWNERSHIP...AN HISTORIC LANDMARK IN MID-MISSOURI MAY FINALLY HAVE A NEW OWNER MORE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT COULD MAKE ITS WAY TO BOONVILLE AS A RESULT IT'S ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER KEMPER MILITARY SCHOOL. RIGHT NOW, THE CITY USES THE OUTDOOR PORTION OF THE SITE FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITES AND FESTIVALS... BUT THE CITY OF BOONVILLE IS READY TO MAKE USE OF THE INSIDE AS WELL. KATHERINE PORTERFIELD REFLECTS ON HER TIME AS A STUDENT AT KEMPER MILITARY SCHOOL THE ABANDONED SCHOOL IS OWNED BY THE CITY OF BOONVILLE ((NATS)) AND IT CHOSE KEMPER DEVELOPMENT LLC. TO GIVE THE PROPERTY NEW LIFE. PORTERFIELD ALSO LIVES ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE SCHOOL AND SAYS IT'S READY FOR DEVELOPERS BUT KEMPER DEVELOPMENT WILL DO JUST THAT. THE CITY ALSO CHOSE THE DEVELOPERS BECAUSE THEY'VE WORKED ON OTHER PROJECTS IN THE CITY AND THEY WILL MAKE SURE PARKING IS AVAILABLE. AS FOR PORTERFIELD...SHE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW VIEW. KEMPER DEVELOPMENT IS WORKING ON SPECIFIC PLANS FOR THE PROPERTY TO PRESENT TO THE

					BOONVILLE CITY COUNCIL LATER IN THE YEAR.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/8**	**10:00PM**	**1:30**	WITH THE POLITICAL CALENDAR GROWING SHORTER EACH DAY... EVERY PRIMARY AND CAUCUS HAS BECOME CRUCIAL IN THE DEMOCRATIC RACE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION. TODAY'S BATTLE GROUND WAS WYOMING. AND FOR A STATE ONLY A SENDING DOZEN DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION... WYOMING SURE GOT A LOT OF ATTENTION. WYOMING ONLY HAS A DOZEN DELEGATES AT STAKE ... BUT AS THIS ROLLER-COASTER OF A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST RACES ONWARD ... THESE ENTHUSIASTIC CAUCUS-GOERS ARE WIELDING MORE POWER THAN THEY HAVE IN DECADES. BY WINNING THE BIG PRIZES OF TEXAS AND OHIO THIS PAST WEEK ... HILLARY CLINTON HALTED WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN A RUNAWAY VICTORY FOR BARACK OBAMA. NOW SOME FEAR THE FIGHT WON'T END UNTIL THE CONVENTION THIS SUMMER. FOR NOW ... THE DEMOCRATS ARE SLUGGING AWAY AT EACH OTHER. WHILE THE CANDIDATES TOOK A RARE DAY OFF ON SATURDAY ... FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON WAS ON THE GROUND IN MISSISSIPPI ... WHICH HOLDS THE NEXT PRIMARY --ON TUESDAY. FOR THE DEMOCRATS -- A MARATHON RUN THAT COULD DRAG ON FIVE MONTHS LONGER. BARACK OBAMA WAS THE BIG WINNER TONIGHT --- POSSIBLY HALTING HILLARY CLINTON'S MOMENTUM FROM LAST WEEK. THE NEXT BIG CONTEST FOR THE TWO TOP DEMS... AMERICA SAMOA WITH NINE DELEGATES. THE CAMPAIGNS ARE SURE TO INTENSIFY

					BEFORE PENNSYLVANIA'S PRIMARY TOWARDS THE END OF APRIL.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/9**	**10:00PM**	**1:20**	TONIGHT, COLUMBIA POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING YET ANOTHER FIGHT IN THE GARTH AREA. POLICE SAY TONIGHT'S BRAWL MIGHT BE RELATED TO A SIMILAR FIGHT THAT OCCURRED YESTERDAY AROUND THE SAME AREA. POLICE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AFTER A "SHOTS FIRED" CALL ON BRYANT STREET NEAR GARTH AND WORLEY IN COLUMBIA... BUT LATER POLICE CANCELED THAT CALL. THEY SAY IT WAS ONLY SOMEONE THREATENING SOMEONE ELSE WITH A GUN. NONETHELESS... COPS SWARMED THE AREA. POLICE SAY EVERYONE IN THE STREET SCATTERED WHEN THE FIGHT BROKE OUT TODAY... SO THERE WEREN'T MANY WITNESSES. POLICE TELL US THEY SUSPECT THIS FIGHT IS RELATED TO ANOTHER FIGHT THAT STARTED ON FRIDAY AT PEPPERS NIGHT CLUB IN COLUMBIA. THEY SAY THAT SAME GROUP CONTINUED FIGHTING YESTERDAY -- THIS TIME WITH BATS AND STICKS... AT A GAS STATION ON THE BUSINESS LOOP. THOSE WEAPONS CAME OUT AGAIN TONIGHT POLICE SAY... AROUND BRYANT STREET. NOW BECAUSE EVERYONE RAN AWAY WHEN THIS FIGHT BROKE OUT... POLICE SAY THEY'RE HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING WITNESSES. AND TONIGHT... POLICE ARE BEEFING UP FOOT PATROLS AROUND BRYANT STREET. TONIGHT IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED... POLICE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. CALL CRIMESTOPPERS AT 573 875 TIPS....
GOVERNMENT/ CONSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**3/10**	**5:00PM**	**1:25**	A RECENT REPORT SHOWED DRINKING WATER ACROSS THE COUNTRY CONTAMINATED WITH ALL SORTS OF THINGS, BUT DO YOU REALLY NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DRINKING WATER IN MID-MISSOUR? A NATIONAL CONCERN IS CAUSING WAVES ACROSS THE

					COUNTRY, AND HERE IN MID-MISSOURI. MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE WONDERING ABOUT WHAT YOU GET FROM YOUR WATER FAUCET. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS TESTED WATER FROM CITIES ACROSS THE U-S, INCLUDING MISSOURI. THEY FOUND CONCENTRATIONS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN DRINKING WATER FROM CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. BUT CITY OFFICIALS IN COLUMBIA, SAY THE WATER HERE IS SAFE. THAT'S BECAUSE THE CITY GETS ITS WATER FROM DEEP-WELLS, NOT MAJOR RIVERS LIKE MANY CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE COLUMBIA WATER TREATMENT PLANT MONITORS THE WATER QUALITY CONTENT AND SAYS OUR DRINKING WATER IS IN GREAT SHAPE, AND PASSES REGULATIONS SET FORTH BY THE NATIONAL AND STATE LEVEL. TO VIEW COLUMBIA'S COMPLETE WATER QUALITY REPORT YOU CAN LOG ONTO KOMU-DOT-COM. YOU CAN ALSO CALL THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S HOTLINE--ITS NUMBER IS LISTED ON OUR WEBSITE AS WELL.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/11**	**6:00PM**	**1:10**	MOHELA TAKES A HIT. IT MAY NOT BE AN OFFICIAL RECESSION YET, BUT HARD ECONOMIC TIMES MAY HAVE CAUGHT UP WITH MOHELA. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS 27 YEAR HISTORY, MOHELA IS REPORTING A FINANCIAL LOSS. THE MISSOURI STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY SAYS THAT IT HAS LOST MORE THAN TWELVE MILLION DOLLARS SO FAR THIS YEAR. AND YET, MOHELA STILL SAYS THERE IS NO NEED FOR STUDENT BORROWERS TO WORRY MOHELA DIRECTOR RAYMOND BAYER JR. SAYS THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE LOSSES AND GOVERNOR BLUNT'S PLAN TO USE 350 MILLION DOLLARS

					OF MOHELA ASSETS TO FUND CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. SENATOR ROBERT MAYER AGREES. THERE IS ONE EX-MOHELA BOARD MEMBER WHO SAYS IT'S MORE THAN JUST ECONOMIC HARD-TIMES HURTING MOHELA. JOHN GREER BELIEVES THE AGENCY WOULD BE IN BETTER SHAPE IF IT HAD NOT SOLD OFF ASSETS TO FINANCE BLUNT'S CONSTRUCTION PLANS.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/12**	**10:00PM**	**:45**	A SURPRISING ARREST BY THE MID-MISSOURI INTERNET CRIMES TASK FORCE. A WOMAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY. LAST NIGHT THE TASK FORCE ARRESTED JENNIFER MCCRACKEN AFTER A FOUR MONTH INVESTIGATION. THE ARREST IS A FIRST OF A FEMALE BUT DETECTIVE ANDY ANDERSON SAYS IT WON'T BE THE LAST. IN ADDITION TO THE CHILD PORN CHARGES, PROSECUTORS ALSO CHARGED MCCRACKEN AND A MAN INSIDE THE HOUSE...WITH A DRUG CHARGE...
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/13**	**6:00PM**	**1:50**	TONIGHT A SMALL TOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT WANTS TO KNOW WHY ONE OF ITS OWN IS DEAD... THE FAMILY CAN'T ACCEPT THE ORIGINAL RULING OF SUICIDE. NEARLY TWO WEEKS AGO INVESTIGATORS FOUND HOLTS SUMMIT POLICE OFFICER MELISSA WINNIE DEAD FROM A GUNSHOT WOUND TO THE HEAD. THEY RULED IT A SUICIDE. BUT NOW FAMILY MEMBERS SAY THERE IS SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE CASE. INVESTIGATORS AREN'T RULING ANYTHING OUT ANYMORE... THAT'S BECAUSE WINNIE WAS SET TO TESTIFY AGAINST DOZENS OF SUSPECTS AS AN UNDERCOVER DRUG DETECTIVE IN WARREN COUNTY... A JOB SHE HAD BEFORE SHE BECAME A HOLTS SUMMIT OFFICER.

					NOW THE PROSECUTOR SAYS HE'LL HAVE TO DROP ALL THE CASES BECAUSE WINNIE WAS THE ONLY POLICE WITNESS. THE HOLT'S SUMMIT POLICE CHIEF SAYS THOSE SUSPECTS MAY NOT BE INVOLVED IN THE DEATH... BUT WHAT HE HEARD FROM SOME OF THOSE SUSPECTS WAS APPALLING -- HE SAYS THAT THEY WERE IN A -QUOTE- CELEBRATORY MOOD WHEN THEY HEARD ABOUT WINNIE'S DEATH. THE CHIEF SAYS HER FAMILY IS IN SHOCK AND THE LAST THING THEY THOUGHT SHE'D EVER DO IS TAKE HER OWN LIFE. POLICE SAY WINNIE DIED DURING A VISIT TO HER FRIENDS HOUSE IN AUDRAIN COUNTY SO OFFICIALS THERE ARE CONTINUING THE INVESTIGATION. THE POLICE CHIEF SAYS HER DEATH IS A HUGE LOSS... HE TOLD ME SHE WAS ALMOST LIKE FAMILY TO EVERYONE AT THE DEPARTMENT.
CONSUMER ISSUES/ JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/14**	**10:00PM**	**1:30**	A NEW WAY TO SAVE MONEY COULD BE IN THE WORKS... THOUGH, YOU BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON THE CALENDAR... LAWMAKERS HAVE ANNOUNCED A SPECIAL REBATE TAX-FREE HOLIDAY FOR *ANYONE* LOOKING TO BUY NEARLY ANYTHING. RICKY FONTENOT IS IN THE APPLIANCE BUSINESS... BUSINESS, THAT AT TIMES...CAN GET A LITTLE SLOW...IN NEED OF A PICKMEUP... THE IDEA OF A "ONE-TIME" TAX FREE WEEKEND IS CURRENTLY WASHING AND DRYING ITS WAY THROUGH THE STATE HOUSE... IF PASSED, THE PLAN WILL ALLOW FOR *ALL* ITEMS PURCHASED UNDER $600 TO BE TAX-FREE. IN LIGHT OF THE NATIONWIDE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, GOVERNOR BLUNT WANTS TO SEE IT FAST-TRACKED TO HIS DESK. CIRCLE YOUR CALENDARS... THE BIG DAYS TO SAVE MONEY ARE JUNE 27TH,

					28TH AND 29TH... JOHN GRAVES SAYS THE PLAN COULD BE GREAT NEWS FOR CONSUMERS... THE SHOW-ME GREEN TAX HOLIDAY PLAN PASSED THE HOUSE AND IS WAITING TO BE DEBATED BY THE SENATE.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/15**	**6:00PM**	**:25**	THE NUMBER OF PAROLEES COMMITTING NEW CRIMES IS DOWN. THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. TAKE A LOOK AT THIS -- IN 2005 -- THE PERCENTAGE OF CRIMINALS ON PAROLE WHO REVERTED BACK TO CRIME WAS A LITTLE MORE THAN 17 PERCENT. THAT FELL TO 15 PERCENT IN 2006. AND IT WAS DOWN AGAIN LAST YEAR... DROPPING TO 14 POINT FIVE PERCENT. IN TOTAL, THE STATE HAS NEARLY 17-THOUSAND OFFENDERS ON PAROLE.
HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/16**	**10:00PM**	**1:45**	ADDICTION IS DESCRIBED AS A COMPULSIVE BEHAVIOR THAT COMPLETELY DOMINATES A PERSON'S LIFE, OFTEN JEOPARDIZING ONE'S STUDIES, JOB OR RELATIONSHIPS. DIAGNOSISED, DUE TO MODERN TECHNOLOGY. HOW MUCH TIME ARE YOU OR YOUR KIDS SPENDING ONLINE? WHAT'S TOO MUCH? THERE'S A GROWING PROBLEM WITH INTERNET ADDICTION THAT DOCTORS ARE STARTING TO RECOGNIZE. SO WHAT SHOULD YOU BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR? PLAYING SIMULTANEOUS GAMES ON TWO COMPUTERS HAS BECOME A RITUAL FOR THIS FOURTH GRADER. HER PARENTS KNOW SHE SPENDS A LOT OF TIME IN FRONT OF THE COMPUTER. BUT DON'T THINK SHE'S HOOKED. INTERNET ADDICTION IS A VERY REAL PROBLEM. DR. ROBERT REINER SAYS HE GETS A NEW PATIENT WITH INTERNET RELATED ISSUES ONCE A WEEK.

					THE EASE OF ACCESSING THE WORLD WIDE WEB HAS MADE IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO BECOME ADDICTED TO BLOGGING, EMAILING AND PLAYING GAMES. THE CENTER FOR INTERNET ADDICTION ESTIMATES FIVE TO TEN PERCENT OF THE POPULATION IS ADDICTED TO THE WEB. THERAPISTS WHO TREAT ON-LINE ADDICTION SAY IT'S LIKE TREATING ANY OTHER ADDICTION ... BY FOCUSING ON MODERATION AND CONTROLLED USE OF THE INTERNET. THE CENTER FOR ONLINE ADDICTION OFFERS RESOURCES AND A TEST TO SEE IF YOU'RE HEADED FOR TROUBLE BY SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME ON-LINE. THERE'S A LINK ON OUR WEBSITE KOMU-DOT-COM, JUST LOOK IN THE LINKS AND NUMBERS SECTION.
EDUCATION	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**3/17**	**5:00PM**	**1:20**	RIGHT NOW COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE BEYOND CAPACITY... AND THE SCHOOL BOARD IS TRYING TO FIX THE PROBLEM. THE OVERCROWDING AT DERBY RIDGE ELEMENTARY IS THE WORST. BUT ANOTHER FIELD ELEMENTARY MAY PLAY A ROLE IN THE DISTRICTS PLANS. I'M AT FIELD ELEMENTARY WHICH COULD BECOME AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER. IF THE SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES THAT DECISION IN MAY. RIGHT NOW IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THIS PLANNING BECAUSE IT COULD EVENTUALLY HOUSE THE PRESCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL OFFICES THAT ARE TAKING UP ROOM IN OTHER SCHOOLS. OVERCROWDING IS THE WORST AT DERBY RIDGE. IT'S ALSO AN ISSUE AT SHEPARD LEE, BLUE RIDGE AND BENTON. THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WILL BE BUILT IN NORTHEAST COLUMBIA AT OFF THE NEWEST EXTENSION

					TO WACO. THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WILL OPEN IN 2009 IT WILL HOLD 575 STUDENTS. AGAIN A DECISION ON FIELD WILL BE MADE IN MAY. THE STUDENTS THAT ATTEND FIELD NOW WILL BE RELOCATED BASED ON WHERE THEY LIVE.
EDUCATION/ JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/18**	**6:00PM**	**1:40**	AS SOME KIDS WERE HAPPY GETTING OUT OF SCHOOL TODAY... ANOTHER SET OF PEOPLE WERE BUSY TRYING TO GET INTO SCHOOL. TODAY, THE "MISSOURI OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION JOB FAIR" GAVE STUDENTS AND OTHER TEACHERS A CHANCE AT NEW TEACHING JOBS. IT'S COMMON TO SEE PEOPLE STRIVING FOR PERFECTION AT THE HEARNES CENTER... THE PERFECT FLIP... THE PERFECT LANDING... FOR A PERFECT TEN... TODAY... IT WASN'T GYMNASTICS... BUT THESE FOLKS STILL BROUGHT THEIR A-GAME. THE PERFECT GREETING.... THE PERFECT RESUME... FOR A PERFECT JOB. A NATIONWIDE EFFORT TO ATTRACT PEOPLE INTERESTED IN ONE PROFESSION AT THE MISSOURI OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION JOB FAIR... IT'S A LESSON IN PERSERVERANCE... BECAUSE THESE 500 TEACHER WANNABES WON'T STOP WITH JUST ONE INTERVIEW. IT HAS BEEN A LONG FIELD TRIP FOR SOME OF THESE RECRUITERS. A LONG DAY... LOOKING FOR JUST THE RIGHT FIT. BUT IT'S AN EVEN LONGER WAIT FOR THE JOB HUNTERS.... A ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE WITH SKY HIGH HOPES FOR AN ENTRY LEVEL JOB. THIS WAS THE 15TH YEAR FOR THE MISSOURI

					OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION JOB FAIR.
GOVERNMENT/ CONSUMER NEWS	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/19**	**10:00PM**	**1:45**	THERE'S PLENTY OF WATER OUTSIDE, BUT TONIGHT NOT ALL MISSOURIANS HAVE WATER INSIDE. EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON COLE COUNTY RESIDENTS IN WATER DISTRICT 2 FOUND THEIR WATER PRESSURE WEAKENING, AND SOME HAD NO WATER AT ALL. OFFICIALS FROM ALL OVER COLE COUNTY TEAMED UP TO FIND AND FIX THE PROBLEM. WATER IS RUSHING NOW, BUT RESIDENTS IN COLE COUNTY DISTRICT 2 SPENT MOST OF THE DAY WITHOUT IT. THAT'S BECAUSE A WATER MAIN BROKE, AND IT TOOK CREWS HOURS TO FIND THE LEAK... SO NO ONE KNOWS HOW MUCH WATER WAS LOST. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE DISTRICT CALLED AN EMERGENCY MEETING TO OUTLINE THEIR TOP PRIORITIES. THEIR TEMPORARY SOLUTION... THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT KNOW WHO DOESN'T HAVE WATER, BUT THE MAIN BREAK COULD AFFECT UP AS MANY AS 100 HOUSEHOLDS. EVEN WHEN WATER IS RESTORED, THERE WILL STILL BE ISSUES. IN THE MEANTIME, PUTNAM SAYS THOSE WHO NEED WATER, ESPECIALLY ELDERLY RESIDENTS, SHOULD CALL PUBLIC WORKS, AND IT WILL TRY TO GET BOTTLED WATER TO THOSE RESIDENTS. THERE ARE NO SCHOOLS, NURSING HOMES, OR RESTAURANTS IN THE DISTRICT BUT I WAS TOLD THE JEFFERSON CITY NEIGHBORHOOD ON GREEN MEADOWS DRIVE MAY BE WITHOUT WATER LONGER THAN OTHER HOUSES IN DISTRICT 2.

CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**3/20**	**5:00PM**	**1:20**	THERE ARE NEW DEVELOPMENTS TONIGHT IN THE CASE OF A FORMER MID-MISSOURI MAYOR ACCUSED OF THE UNTHINKABLE. EARLIER THIS WEEK... RANDOLPH COUNTY DEPUTIES ARRESTED FORMER CLARK MAYOR KEN STORLA FOR CHILD MOLESTATION... INVESTIGATORS SAY THE VICTIM IN THIS CASE WAS ONE OF STORLA'S OWN RELATIVES. IN ADDITION TO THE CHILD MOLESTATION CHARGE... HE'S ACCUSED OF SODOMY AND INCEST. AND TONIGHT WE'VE LEARNED THAT THIS ISN'T HIS FIRST BRUSH WITH THE LAW. RANDOLPH COUNTY DEPUTIES ARRESTED STORLA THIS WEEK AFTER AN INVESTIGATION FROM A CHILD ABUSE TIPLINE. WE ALSO FOUND OUT TODAY THAT BEFORE THESE MOST RECENT CHARGES... HE ALSO HAD A PROTECTION ORDER FILED AGAINST HIM IN JANUARY. NEIGHBORS WE TALKED WITH SAID IT'S SOMETHING THEY WOULD NEVER HAVE BELIEVED FROM THE GUY NEXT DOOR. WE TALKED WITH OTHER NEIGHBORS IN CLARK THAT DISAGREE WITH THAT... NEW AT SIX... WHY SOME OTHERS THINK THOSE PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO GO ON CAMERA AND TELL US THEIR VIEWS. WE COULDN'T FIND AN ATTORNEY FOR STORLA TODAY, AND DID NOT REACH HIM AT THE JAIL. WE'LL STAY ON IT FOR ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS.
GOVERNMENT/ JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/21**	**6:00PM**	**1:00**	THE STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE TODAY MADE AVAILABLE SPECIAL LOANS FOR FARMERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY THE RECENT RAIN AND FLOODING. TREASURER SARAH STEELMAN WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO VICTIMS OF THE FLOOD WHEN EVALUATING APPLICATIONS FOR "BIG" MISSOURI PROGRAM LOANS. IN MOST CASES, APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE SAME-DAY TURNAROUND.

					THE BIG MISSOURI PROGRAM ALLOWS FARMERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES TO GET UP TO 5-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN LOW-INTEREST LOANS.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/22**	**10:00PM**	**3:10**	FOR VEGETABLE FARMERS, THE GROWING SEASON IN MISSOURI IS NOT TYPICALLY A YEAR-ROUND EVENT. IN THIS WEEKS COVERAGE FROM CALLAWAY, WE'LL MEET WITH A FARMER HOPING TO PLANT THE SEED THAT INSPIRES MORE WINTER FARMING. ITS STILL WINTER... BUT IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT IN HERE. GREEN... HAVEN'T SEEN THAT COLOR IN AWHILE. WALKER CLARIDGE IS THE PIONEER FARMER IN HIS FAMILY, AND IT'S ALLOWED HIM TO PIONEER A NEW METHOD. WALKER HAS MADE FARMING A 12 MONTH SOURCE OF INCOME... AND HE'S DONE IT FOR THE PAST 6 YEARS. HE FOUND HIS NICHE... AND IT'S A CHILLY ONE. AND GO WITHOUT IT HE DID. THIS IS A COLD FRAME... THERE IS NO HEAT PUMPED IN, SO THESE ROW COVERS HELP PROTECT THE VEGETABLES WHEN THE TEMPERATURE DIPS TOO LOW. WALKER'S ABLE TO GROW AND SELL VEGETABLES IN THE WINTER THAT MOST LOCAL RESTAURANTS HAVE TO ORDER FROM OUT OF STATE. HE ALSO SUPPLIES HIS OWN STORE - THE ROOT CELLAR. WALKER'S GOAL IS TO MAKE GROWING VEGETABLES A VIABLE LINE OF WORK. TO HELP WITH THAT, HE WANTS MORE BACKING FROM THE STATE. ONE THING WALKER WANTS THE STATE TO MAKE EASIER IS ORGANIC CERTIFICATION. HE SAYS THE PROGRAM USED TO BE FAIRLY SIMPLE, BUT IT GOT CUT BY THE STATE AND NOW YOU HAVE TO USE A THIRD PARTY FOR CERTIFICATION... A PROCESS THAT'S PRETTY PRICEY.

					ESPECIALLY WHEN IN A SMALL COMMUNITY... YOU SELL DIRECTLY TO THEM. ULTIMATELY, WALKER WANTS OTHER FARMERS TO KNOW THEY CAN DO THIS TOO. WALKER SAYS IT CAN... ALL YEAR LONG. CLARIDGE SELLS HIS VEGETABLES IN HIS STORE; IN THE COLUMBIA FARMER'S MARKET; AS WELL AS A ST. LOUIS FARMER'S MARKET ON WEDNESDAYS.
HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/23**	**10:00PM**	**3:35**	IT'S ALWAYS BEST TO LOSE WEIGHT THROUGH A HEALTHY DIET AND REGULAR EXERCISE. STILL, IF YOU'RE AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE TRIED AND CAN'T SHED THE POUNDS THAT ARE CAUSING YOUR HEALTH PROBLEMS, BARIATRIC--OR WEIGHT LOSS--SURGERY MAY BE AN OPTION. FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY AND GO THROUGH WITH THE SURGERY, IT ALL BUT GUARANTEES SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS TO LIFE AND HEALTH. WE SAT DOWN WITH A MAN WHO HAD BARIATRIC SURGERY AND GIVES UP THE SKINNY ON HOW IT'S CHANGED HIS LIFE. AT JUST 29 YEARS OLD, JUSTIN DELAP TOPPED THE SCALES AT 450 POUNDS, HE KNEW HE HAD TO DO SOMETHING IF HE WAS GOING TO BE AROUND FOR HIS WIFE AND TWO YOUNG SONS. HE HAD HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND WAS BORDERLINE DIABETIC... A CHEST PAIN EPISODE FINALLY CONVINCED HIM TO LOOK INTO SURGERY. I T'S NOT FOR EVERYONE BECAUSE IT'S NOT AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS... LIFESTYLE CHANGES ARE A NECESSITY. NO MORE HIGH SUGAR, HIGH FAT FOODS. OBESITY IN OUR COUNTRY HAS INCREASE NEARLY 75 PERCENT IN ABOUT 15 YEARS. DR. ROGER DE LA TORRE: FOR THE MOST PART WITH MORBID OBESITY, THERE'S A MULTITUDE OF FACTORS, MANY ARE HEREDITARY, AND MANY INVOLVE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE BRAIN. IT'S NOT SOMETHING WE SHOULD POINT THE OBESE PERSON AND SAY IT'S YOUR FAULT IF

					YOU COULD JUST PUSH THAT PLATE AWAY. EXERCISE WHEN YOU'RE 450 POUNDS IS LIKE TRYING TO EXERCISE WITH A 250 POUND WOOL SUIT ON. FOR THOSE WHO DO HAVE SURGERY, THE HEALTH RESULTS ARE STAGGERING. IT REDUCES YOUR CHANCE OF DYING FROM WEIGHT RELATED HEALTH PROBLEMS BY 89 PERCENT. 85 PERCENT NO LONGER HAVE DIABETES, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND HIGH CHOLESTEROL IS UNDER CONTROL... SLEEP APNEA AND ACID REFLUX BOTH SEE IMPROVEMENTS IF AREN'T RESOLVED ALL TOGETHER. AND HOW MUCH WEIGHT YOU MIGHT WONDER. MOST PATIENTS LOSE A POUND OF TWO A DAY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, AND ON AVERAGE HAD SHED 100 POUNDS IN ABOUT 10 MONTHS. USUALLY ENDING UP ABOUT 15 PERCENT ABOVE THEIR IDEAL BODY WEIGHT. INSURANCE WILL OFTEN COVER THE COST OF THE SURGERY AND SOMETIMES MEDICARE AND MEDICAID WILL TOO. YOU HAVE TO HAVE A BODY MASS INDEX OF 40 OR ABOVE, THAT USUALLY MEANS YOU'RE ABOUT 100 POUNDS OVERWEIGHT.
CONSUMER ISSUES	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**3/24**	**5:00PM**	**1:20**	LAWMAKERS AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS RODE THE RAILS FROM JEFFERSON CITY TO ST. LOUIS. LAWMAKERS RIDE THE RAILS TO SEE IF MISSOURI'S RAILROADS CAN GET BACK ON TRACK. MAYORS, LEGISLATORS, AND TRAIN OFFICIALS ARE LOOKING AT THE FUTURE OF MISSOURI RAIL TRANSPORTATION. I JOINED THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY TODAY, TO HEAR WHAT PROBLEMS THEY WANT TO ADDRESS. MORE THAN 200-THOUSAND PASSENGERS RODE THE MISSOURI RAILS IN 2001, BUT LAST YEAR THAT NUMBER DROPPED BY MORE THAN 50-THOUSAND RIDERS. MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BLAMES OVERLOADED TRACKS, MAINTENANCE

					PROBLEMS, AND DELAYS FOR THE REDUCTION IN RIDERSHIP. AMTRAK AND MO-DOT ARE ASKING LAWMAKERS FOR A 10.6 MILLION DOLLAR FUNDING INCREASE. TWO OF MISSOURI RAIL'S MAJOR LAG AREAS ARE THE OSAGE AND GASCONADE RIVER BRIDGES.
GOVERNMENT	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/25**	**6:00PM**	**2:50**	CALL IT THE DOMINO EFFECT... KNOCK ONE OVER AND THE REST COME TUMBLING DOWN. GOVERNOR BLUNT ANNOUNCED HE WOULD NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION. OTHER POLITICIANS STEPPED UP TO FILL HIS SEAT... AND *THEIR* SEATS ARE NOW OPEN FOR NEW FACES TO MOVE IN. TODAY WAS THE LAST OFFICIAL DAY FOR CANDIDATES TO FILE FOR THE AUGUST 5TH PRIMARY. SO WE NOW CAN BE CERTAIN WHO'S RUNNING FOR WHICH SEATS. WITH A LOT OF NAMES YOU'LL RECOGNIZE AND A LOT OF OTHERS YOU WON'T... I'LL SHOW YOU THE DOMINO EFFECT OF MISSOURI POLITICS. LET'S START ON THE LOCAL LEVEL... IN COLUMBIA, DEMOCRAT JUDY BAKER'S 25-TH DISTRICT STATE REPRESENTATIVE SEAT IS UP FOR GRABS. WHY? STANDBY! REPUBLICAN RYAN ASBRIDGE IS RUNNING UNOPPOSED WHILE THE DEMOCRATS OFFER UP THREE CANDIDATES FOR THEIR PARTY'S NOMINATION. BAKER WANTS TO MOVE FROM JEFFERSON CITY TO WASHINGTON, D.C. SHE'S ONE OF THREE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR THE 9-TH DISTRICT U-S REPRESENTATIVE SEAT LEFT OPEN BY REPUBLICAN KENNY HULSHOF. MORE ON HIM IN A MOMENT. BUT BOTH PARTIES LOOK TO THE REPUBLICAN RACE WITH FOUR CANDIDATES, INCLUDING FORMER M-U RUNNING BACK BROCK OLIVO.

					HULSHOF WANTS TO CHANGE HIS TITLE FROM U-S REPRESENTATIVE TO GOVERNOR. HE WILL FACE FOUR OTHER REPUBLICANS IN THE RACE FOR THE SPOT LEFT OPEN WHEN MATT BLUNT'S DOMINO FELL. NIXON -- THE DEMOCRATIC FRONTRUNNER FOR GOVERNOR -- WILL GIVE UP HIS TITLE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL. FOUR DEMOCRATS WILL FIGHT TO REPLACE FELLOW DEMOCRAT NIXON WHILE REPUBLICAN MIKE GIBBONS IS UNOPPOSED. THE POLITICAL PARTY DOMINO GAME CONTINUES UNTIL THE MISSOURI PRIMARY ON AUGUST 5TH. AGAIN, AS YOU HEARD, AFTER MATT BLUNT GAVE UP THE GOVERNORSHIP... SEATS OPENED UP AS CANDIDATES PUSHED UP TO RUN FOR THAT HIGHER OFFICE. AFTER AUGUST, MISSOURIANS WILL HAVE TO WAIT JUST THREE MORE MONTHS UNTIL NOVEMBER HITS... TO FIND OUT WHO WILL WIN THE ELECTIONS AND START A NEW ERA OF MISSOURI DOMINOS.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/26**	**10:00PM**	**1:40**	IT'S TAX PREPARATION TIME. AND THIS YEAR IN MISSOURI, YOU CAN GET YOUR TAX RETURNS FASTER. THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SAYS ALL TAXPAYERS CAN GET THEIR TAX REFUNDS FASTER THIS YEAR. THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECRUITED AN ADDITIONAL THREE HUNDRED TEMPORARY STAFF MEMBERS, AND SAYS THEY'VE TRAINED THEM WELL. THE ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES WORK DAY AND NIGHT SHIFTS, TO PROCESS THE TAX RETURNS MORE EFFICIENTLY. NEW TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS THE 2-D BARCODE, HAS ALSO HELPED SPEED UP THE RETURN PROCESS. IT WORKS FOUR TIMES FASTER THAN SOMEONE INPUTTING THE INFORMATION MANUALLY.

					ON AVERAGE, MISSOURIANS CAN EXPECT TO GET THEIR TAX RETURNS IN ABOUT 3 DAYS THIS YEAR. WORKERS HAVE PROCESSED MORE THAN 1 POINT 5 MILLION STATE TAX RETURNS AND MORE THAN 1 POINT 2 MILLION REFUNDS SO FAR. IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR RETURN, YOU CAN LOG ON TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE'S WEBSITE. YOU CAN FIND A LINK TO THAT WEBSITE ON OUR WEBSITE, KOMU DOT COM.
CONSUMER NEWS	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**3/27**	**5:00PM**	**:45**	THE CITY OF COLUMBIA MAY GO DARK SATURDAY NIGHT. THE COLUMBIA CLIMIATE CHANGE COALITION IS ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO TURN OFF THE LIGHTS FOR ONE HOUR SATURDAY NIGHT. THEY CALL IT THE "EARTH HOUR." TWENTY LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES HAVE DECIDED TO STOP USING ANY ENERGY DURING THE HOUR. THE CITY OF COLUMBIA WILL SEND EMAILS TO ITS EMPLOYEES TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION. EARTH HOUR STARTED IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA LAST YEAR. TO CHECK THE PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES AND AGENCIES, PLEASE LOG ON OUR WEBSITE AT KOMU.COM.
JOBS/ECONOMY	**KOMU NEWS AT 6:00**	**3/28**	**6:00PM**	**1:30**	THREE MID-MISSOURI NEWSPAPERS WILL HAVE A NEW OWNER COME NEXT MONTH. WEHCO MEDIA INC OF ARKANSAS BOUGHT THE JEFFERSON CITY NEWS TRIBUNE, FULTON SUN, AND CALIFORNIA DEMOCRAT. THE PAPERS CAME CLOSE TO KEEPING THEIR LOCAL OWNER. IT WAS A QUIET MORNING AT THE FULTON SUN... EVEN AFTER FINDING OUT THE PAPER HAD BEEN SOLD THE DAY BEFORE. THE WELDON FAMILY OF JEFFERSON CITY

					CURRENTLY OWNS THE SUN ALONG WITH THE JEFFERSON CITY AND CALIFORNIA PAPERS. THREE SIBLINGS INHERITED THE PAPERS AFTER THEIR MOTHER, BETTY WELDON, DIED LAST YEAR. ONE SISTER, TONI WELDON, WANTED TO RUN THE PAPERS HERSELF. SHE SAYS WAS WAITING FOR FINANCING WHEN HER SIBLINGS MADE THE DEAL WITH WEHCO PRESIDENT WALTER HUSSMAN. NO ONE AT THE NEWS TRIBUNE OR AT THE SUN WOULD GO ON CAMERA FOR AN INTERVIEW. THE OTHER TWO OWNERS ALSO DECLINED COMMENT. HUSSMAN SAYS HE'S EXCITED TO SELL PAPERS IN MID-MISSOURI. FULTON SUN READERS HAVE YET TO DECIDE IF THIS CHANGE WILL BE GOOD OR BAD FOR THE PAPER. HUSSMAN SAYS HE ANTICIPATES THE PAPERS WILL STAY TRUE TO THEMSELVES. HE SAYS ONE CHANGE READERS CAN EXPECT IS MORE EDITORIALS. HUSSMAN SAYS HIS COMPANY WILL CLOSE THE DEAL ON APRIL 30TH.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/29**	**10:00PM**	**1:40**	THE INCIDENT HAPPENED AROUND PARK AVENUE NEAR DOUGLAS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD AROUND 11-15. ONE TEEN IN A CAR FIRED OFF A FEW SHOTS AT ANOTHER TEEN STANDING IN THE STREET. LEMYRA NUNLEY SAYS LAST NIGHT FIGHT SHOULD PROVOKE NEIGHBORS TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE. THE SHOOTING UNFURLED JUST OUTSIDE THIS HOME. POLICE SAY THE GUNMAN SHOT THE VICTIM FROM A CAR PARKED HERE. POLICE AND NEIGHBOR AGREE THAT WARMING WEATHER COULD MEAN MORE CRIME. NUNLEY SAYS NEIGHBORS NEED TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD... POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR TERRON A. TAYLOR AS A

					POSSIBLE SUSPECT IN THE SHOOTING. THEY ARE STILL INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT. POLICE SAY THEY DON'T KNOW THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE VICTIM AND THE SHOOTER. AND THEY SAY THEY DON'T KNOW WHY THE FIGHT BROKE OUT... IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION CALL CRIME STOPPERS AT 875-TIPS.
HEALTH	**KOMU NEWS AT 10:00**	**3/30**	**10:00PM**	**1:40**	IT'S A VITAMIN WE OFTEN MISS WHEN WE'RE LOOKING TO STAY HEALTHY, BUT NEW RESEARCH SAYS IT'S MORE IMPORANT THAN WE ONCE THOUGHT. A FLURRY OF RESEARCH IN THE LAST FEW YEARS SUGGESTS LOW LEVELS OF VITAMIN D, MAY BE PARTLY TO BLAME FOR MUCH OF THE ILL HEALTH OF MANY AMERICANS. MARY HEFFERNAN, LIKE MANY PEOPLE, PROBABLY DOESN'T GET ENOUGH VITAMIN D EACH DAY. SHE'S TESTING PEOPLE AT MU AS PART OF A STUDY LINKING VITAMIN D AND INFLAMATORY MARKERS IN THE BLOOD, WHICH CAN AFFECT BONE HEALTH. BUT NEW RESEARCH SAYS VITAMIN-D GOES FAR BEYOND BETTER BONES. IT'S ALSO PROVING EFFECTIVE TO WARD OFF THE FLU, DIABETES, HEART DISEASE AND EVEN SOME NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS. IT SEEMS TOO SIMPLE TO BE TRUE: THE AVERAGE PERSON ONLY NEEDS ABOUT 15 MINUTES OF SUNLIGHT A DAY DURING THE SUMMER. PETERSON IS USING THOSE WHO DON'T TAN AND THOSE WHO REGULARLY TAN FOR HER STUDY, SINCE TANNERS GET THE LIGHT NEEDED FOR OPTIMAL VITAMIN D PRODUCTION. PETERSON IS STILL COLLECTING DATA AND NEEDS MORE TANNERS TO SIGN UP. AND HEFFERNAN HAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, HER BONES LOOK STRONG.

					IF YOU NEED TO GET SOME VITAMIN D, BUT IT'S A CLOUDY DAY LIKE TODAY . . . VITAMIN D IS FOUND NATURALLY IN FATTY FISH LIKE SALMON, AND FISH LIVER OILS.
CRIME	**KOMU NEWS AT 5:00**	**3/31**	**5:00PM**	**:45**	THE CITY OF COLUMBIA HAS SEEN AN INCREASE IN CRIME LATELY. THIS PAST WEEKEND THERE WERE TWO ARMED ROBBERIES. COLUMBIA'S POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFERS WAYS TO HELP YOU STAY SAFE. RESIDENTS NEED TO BE AWARE OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS AND TRY TO STAY IN HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS. WALKING IN GROUPS OF AT LEAST TWO OR MORE IS PREFERRED RATHER THAN WALKING ALONE. THE COMMUNITY SERVICE UNIT HAS PAIRED WITH GROUPS WITHIN COLUMBIA TO HELP KEEP NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM, LOG ONTO OUR WEBSITE AT KOMU-DOT-COM.