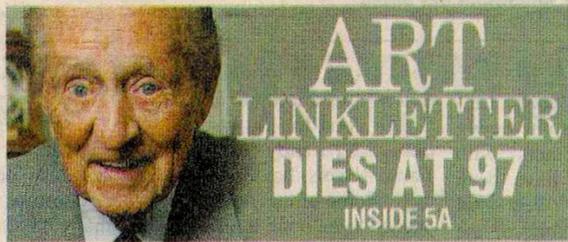
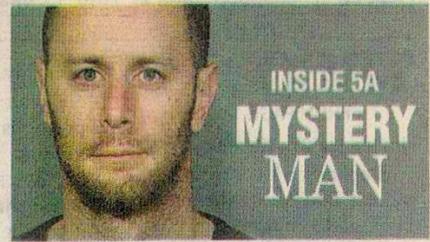


**CLEARWATER
LOSES 4-3**
SPORTS 1B



**ART
LINKLETTER
DIES AT 97**
INSIDE 5A



INSIDE 5A
**MYSTERY
MAN**

Daily American Republic

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THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2010

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College foresees \$1.4 million hit in FY11

TRCC lays off 45, cuts child care

By **TIM KRAKOWIAK**
Staff Writer

of students while state revenue is down and costs are rising, higher education officials testified.

After receiving the Three Rivers Board of Trustees' consent during executive session last week, administrators met face to face with approx-

imately 30 full-time and 15 part-time employees Tuesday, giving them 30 days' notice that their contract would not be renewed in fiscal year 2011.

"While these are difficult decisions for the administration to make, we all have to

consider what is ultimately in the best interest of the institution," said Dr. Devin Stephenson, Three Rivers president. "Our focus must be on keeping the college strong so that we can successfully face the

See **TRCC/2A**

“With the experience of our leadership team, we believe that this ‘right sizing’ will play well into the growth and expansion of the college.”

— **DR. STEPHENSON**

Forty-five layoffs were announced at Three Rivers Community College, including the elimination of child care services, in order to serve an increasing number

Van Buren's top graduates

VAN BUREN, Mo. — Van Buren High School held graduation ceremonies Friday, May 14.

The following students earned the Van Buren Class of 2010's highest honors.

VALEDICTORIAN:

Katlyn Smith

PARENTS: Jennifer and Kelly Smith of Van Buren

FUTURE PLANS: To attend Three Rivers Community College and major in pre-pharmacy, with plans to become a pharmacist. "I'm interested in math and science."

REASON FOR SUCCESS: "Just what my parents have taught me, to work hard."

IMPORTANT PEOPLE: "My

See **TOP/2A**



**Katlyn
Smith**



**Logan
Smith**



Ralph Freer works on a sculpture, which will be unveiled at his gallery opening Saturday. His workshop is housed in a century farmhouse that was once home to his great-uncle.

Mo. docs: Don't eat raw crayfish

By **JIM SALTER**
Associated Press Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — When Adam Brewer tagged along with a friend's family for a float trip down the Jack's Fork River in southern Missouri last June, he also decided to join in one of their family traditions — eating raw crayfish.

Big mistake.

"Uncles and older cousins on the float trip had been doing it for years, to make the little kids laugh," said Brewer, a 19-year-old college student from Flo-

rissant. "So I just kind of joined in."

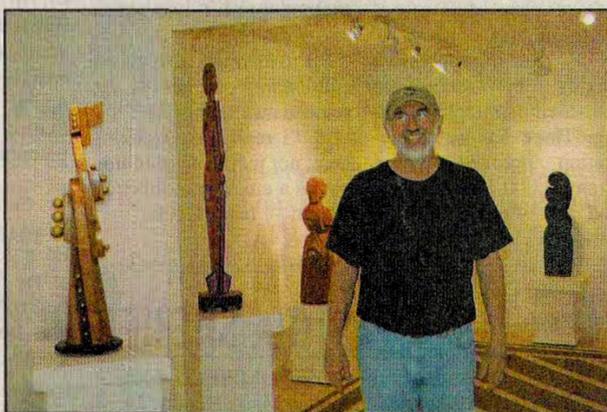
It wasn't until September that Brewer got sick. First he thought he had the flu. Then his lungs filled with fluid. Over the next several months, doctors checked him for pneumonia, blood diseases and cancer.

Finally, in March, physicians from Washington University came up with the diagnosis: A rare but severe parasitic infection caused by the raw crayfish Brewer had eaten nine months earlier.

See **RAW/2A**

116-yr.-old Collins Store building turned into art gallery

Ralph Freer is surrounded by his art in the 1894 farmhouse, which was once Collins Store, on Highway W. It will open Saturday as the Flying F Gallery.



By **DONNA FARLEY**
Staff Writer

More than 30 years after the one-time community center Collins Store closed, the great-grandson of its founder has found new purpose for the site.

Ralph Wayne Freer will open his art gallery, the Flying F, to the public for the first time Saturday. The sculptor held his first art show in 1978,

See **GALLERY/2A**

Dr. Kathleen Prejean, TRCC biology instructor, was recently given the newly created 'Leading by Example' award from the admissions office for her pivotal role as a faculty member.

DAR/Paul Davis



TRCC honors Prejean for Leading by example

By **TIM KRAKOWIAK**
Staff Writer

An award was created in recognition of a model teacher at Three Rivers Community College who has been labeled a "mini-celebrity" among young students because of her passion for science.

Biology instructor Dr. Kath-

leen Prejean was presented the first annual "Leading by Example" emblematic compass during the Three Rivers board meeting last week for aiding in the retention and recruitment of area students by bringing them on campus.

"Dr. Prejean is a shining example of what a community

See **PREJEAN/2A**



Nation-World/**3A**
Opinion/**4A**
Record/**6A**
Sports/**1B**
Comics/**4B**
Classifieds/**5B**
Outdoors/**8B**



FRIDAY:
**PARTLY
CLOUDY**
HIGH 85
SEE **PAGE 6A**



Hugh Flippin — Chesterfield, Mo.
Cecil Taylor — Warrenton, Mo.
Ethel Harris — Poplar Bluff, Mo.
Wayne Hughes — Clarkton, Mo.
Alberta Robertson — Fredericktown, Mo.
Kevin Edinger — Clarkton, Mo.
Earl Hamm — Festus, Mo.
Marie St. Clair — Dexter, Mo.



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TRCC

FROM PAGE 1A

challenges that lie ahead."

Stephenson's executive cabinet had spent the past 11 months evaluating the institution, he explained, analyzing strengths and weaknesses; assessing organizational structure, operations and personnel; and focusing on functional areas in which the college can run more efficiently.

Expecting to realize upward of \$600,000 in savings from the cuts made, the president said the reorganization has involved scrutinizing every job responsibility to ensure that all departments are working as effectively as possible. "Unfortunately," Stephenson said, "this means the elimination of some positions at the college."

The reduction of payroll will help make up for the \$1.4 million hit the community college is anticipating in FY11, which includes \$250,000 less in state appropriations, on top of hikes in health insurance and retirement, while a tuition freeze has been implemented in a

compact with Gov. Jay Nixon.

More than a dozen full-time positions, some newly created and others with merged duties, have been posted on the Web site: www.trcc.edu. None of the employees that were let go were in the faculty ranks, Stephenson pointed out, adding that Three Rivers' core mission — to award associate degrees and certificates — will not be compromised.

Departments impacted at the community college include custodial services, which will be outsourced to the same company used by Briggs & Stratton.

The Early Childhood Learning Center will be discontinued at the end of July, along with paying the salaries of its eight-person staff. Even with hiking up the fee recently, the auxiliary service was being operated at a \$40,000 to \$50,000 deficit this academic year, according to community college officials.

"It's always tough when you have to make these decisions because you're taking someone's liveli-

hood away, but at the same time we need to think about what's good for the institution," said Randy Winston, Three Rivers board secretary. "Some of this probably needed to be done long ago, as we became overstaffed at some point in the past, and it has caught up with us in this difficult economic time."

About 350 people will continue to be employed at Three Rivers, half of whom work part time or are adjuncts, according to Stephenson. He added that 63 percent of Three Rivers' \$18 million operational budget goes to personnel.

"With the experience of our leadership team, we believe that this 'right sizing' will play well into the growth and expansion of the college," Stephenson said. He further elaborated in a prepared statement: "By working together, by working smarter and harder, by making difficult decisions for the right reasons, Three Rivers will emerge stronger, more competitive and in a better position to reach our goal of being the preeminent community college in the nation."

PREJEAN

FROM PAGE 1A

college faculty member should be," said Marcia Fields, Three Rivers director of admissions and recruitment. "She is a kind, caring instructor who takes time out of her busy schedule to ensure that the dream of education doesn't die in any student."

During a recent 'shadow day' held for eighth graders, a Three Rivers tradition over the past four years, Prejean volunteered to allow groups of students to sit in on her lab class. She taught the boys and girls how much bacteria can live on their skin as well as in "hot spots" around campus, such as water fountains.

When Three Rivers president Dr. Devin Stephenson, and Chris Adams, admissions coordinator, toured the high schools in the community college's service area spring semester, a mother of a Naylor, Mo. junior high student commented how her son bragged about receiving test results in a follow-up e-mail from Prejean herself.

"They just love those little, rainbow jelly plates and learning that there's a universe of organisms that exists underneath their fingernails, as they gain a new understanding of their world from a microbiological perspective," Prejean explained. "We're sparking their imagination and proving that science is fun and exciting and applies to our everyday lives."

Prejean's outreach efforts have also penetrated the

classroom through a series of workshops she continues to host for hundreds of area educators through a partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The latest visit featured a 'touring the solar system' theme, through which aerospace education specialist John Weis brought a meteorite radioactively dated in part to be as old as the Earth, while the other half is said to be about twice the age of the sun, indicating that the rock came from a previous star system.

Weis, who works out of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama, said in an e-mail Wednesday that he is honored to be involved in the movement Prejean has initiated.

"I have been truly impressed with Dr. Prejean's dedication to improving the level of interest in science education in Southeast Missouri," Weis wrote. "I have full confidence that, through her leadership, her vision of turning Poplar Bluff into a 'science mecca' will be realized in the near future."

Having completed her dissertation through the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville — on proving that life could exist on Mars with NASA funding — Prejean said she wants to bring the annual science fair that takes place southwest of here to our area.

For her progressive thinking in accordance with their strategic planning, Three Rivers administration approved funding for an \$8,000 laminar flow hood that was installed in

Prejean's classroom this week so students can work with microorganisms. The project was made possible through a \$500,000 equipment grant that Three Rivers received several months ago from House Bill 22, formerly known as the "Caring for Missourians" initiative.

"We have a strong commitment to science, technology, engineering and math here at Three Rivers Community College because if we're going to be competitive globally, we have to continue the good work our staff does in promoting these areas," Stephenson said. "We will continue to provide faculty the tools they need to maintain a contemporary platform in improving the quality of life in Southeast Missouri."

Prejean has a grant of her own in the works through the National Science Foundation to hopefully expand DNA technology that is available within the local school systems.

Hailing from Tuscon, Ariz., she attributed her success to her supportive husband, Steve Prejean, who manages their farm north of town, while she herself works overtime, she said half-jokingly. Kathleen Prejean has taught as an adjunct instructor at Three Rivers since 2003, being promoted to full time status two years ago.

"I'm learning from giants and leaning on giants in the science and math wing," she said. "I really like working here, not just as an educator, but as a creative member of a team — team TRCC."

Improve to 34 in Wayne County is under way

PIEDMONT — Work to improve Highway 34 from Piedmont to Silva in Wayne County is well under way, according to the Missouri Department of Transportation.

"So far, the major excavation work has been completed," said MoDOT Resident Engineer Steve Bubanovich. "Also, most of the culvert extensions and replacements have been completed."

Work to replace one of the remaining culverts is scheduled to begin next week. The bridge, located near County Road 331, will close on Wednesday, June 2, weather permitting. During improvements, Route 34 traffic west of Patterson will be shifted to a temporary bypass.

In conjunction with MoDOT's bridge construction, the Wayne County Highway Department will close County Road 331 to construct a new box culvert.

"MoDOT and the county worked to coordinate the projects as a cost-saving measure," said Bubanovich.

The bridge projects are expected to be completed in July, weather permitting.

"With culvert work wrapping up and the progress that has been made on shouldering, widening and drainage work, major paving operations will begin this summer," said Bubanovich.

Once major paving operations on Route 34 are underway, motorists can expect various shifts in traffic and up to 15 minute delays at times.

For more information on the Route 34 project, contact Bubanovich at (573) 840-9781 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center at (573) 472-5333. For more information on the county bridge work, please contact the Wayne County Commission at (573) 224-3010.

Butler County Sheriff's Department Confidential Crime & Narcotics Information
HOT LINE
573-686-7876

Crisis Line
1-800-356-5395

STOD. SHERIFF

BLOOMFIELD, Mo. — Jessica Marie Hendry, 24, of Advance, Mo., was arrested on a warrant for attempted second-degree assault. She was booked at the Stoddard County Jail.

BLOOMFIELD, Mo. — Clinton Dale Lawrence, 32, of Dudley, Mo., was arrested on a warrant for manufacture of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance. He was booked at the Stoddard County Jail.

BLOOMFIELD, Mo. — Quincy Borden Murphy, 48, of Bernie, Mo., was arrested on a warrant of manufacture of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance. He was booked at the Stoddard County Jail.

DEXTER POLICE

DEXTER, Mo. — Paula Faye Still, 47, of Dexter was arrested at 5:40 p.m. Wednesday on a Stoddard County warrant for stalking. She was booked at the Dexter City Jail.

RAW

FROM PAGE 1A

Crawfish — also known as crayfish or crawdads — are common in Missouri and many other states. They live under rocks in rivers, streams, creeks and ponds. They're fine to eat, as long as they're cooked.

Raw crawfish are no delicacy — Brewer can attest to the fact they don't taste good — so eating them fresh from the river may seem like an odd choice.

Still, the practice is common enough that last year, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services put out a warning urging people not to do it. Posters have been placed at some state parks.

"They're mostly intoxicated when they do it," said Dr. Gary Weil, professor of medicine and molecular microbiology at Washington University. "Sometimes they're just showing off, but it is a nutty thing to do. And they pinch."

Washington University physicians have treated six people with illnesses caused by eating raw crawfish in the past three years — all from rivers and streams in Missouri. Three of the cases, including Brewer's, have occurred since September. Before the six Missouri cases, only seven other cases of the infection, paragonimiasis, had been reported in North America.

Another Washington University physician, Michael Lane, said there are probably many other cases that have not been diagnosed.

"I think we're potentially seeing the tip of the iceberg from people going out on the river, having a good time, having too much to drink and enjoying some Missouri sushi," Lane said.

The parasitic worm that causes the infection is the size of the tip of a pen when ingested but can grow to the size of a grape once inside the human lung, Weil said. They usually travel from the intestine to the lungs and some-

times can cause severe headaches and vision problems. Washington University physicians treated one man who went partially blind from the parasites. He recovered his eyesight after treatment.

Symptoms include fever, difficult or labored breathing, chronic cough, coughing up blood and chest and abdominal pain.

The illness is curable but rare enough that physicians often overlook it. Symptoms, if left untreated, can persist for years, even decades.

The infection is treated with an oral drug, praziquantel. Within a week to 10 days, experts say, symptoms are generally gone.

After months of illness and undergoing agonizing tests over and over again, Brewer said he recovered almost immediately once his ailment was diagnosed. He said he learned a lesson the hard way.

"Don't eat anything raw out of the river," Brewer said. "I'd never do it again."

GALLERY

FROM PAGE 1A

the same year Collins Store was shuttered.

Freer has renovated the 116-year-old former home and business to house the modern art he creates next door in another century-old family farmhouse. Both are on a University of Missouri designated Centennial Farm.

"It really was a labor of love," Freer said, during a tour of the white and blue house on a curve of Highway W about 9 miles north of Poplar Bluff. "I've always thought of this place as a diamond in the rough. This really is a culmination of a dream, having a place of my own."

From the new roof to the repaired floor joists and patches for every wall in between, Freer has brought life back to a crumbling and nearly abandoned building.

The home was built around 1894, almost 20 years after Freer's great-grandparents, William and Louisa Collins, moved to Butler County from Tennessee.

The couple created a legacy of providing for the needs of their neighbors. Collins farm has held everything from blacksmith and watch repair shops, to

a main location for mail delivery and the general store that made it famous.

The location of Collins Store was identified on Missouri maps by 1930, Freer said, and can still be found on more detailed state maps.

Freer's gallery was a home for his grandparents until 1925. The building was then turned to face the road and became a general store and gas station.

"My mom, (Letha), was born in this building and so were all of Lee and May's children," said Freer. "I've always thought it had a nice presence, here along the road."

Freer and his wife, Gaëlle, began purchasing land that comprised the original 300-acre farm in 1991 with plans to retire in Poplar Bluff. Freer left the Florida school system in 2001 and, with the move north, began to focus on his art.

He works mostly with wood and says he finds it gratifying to create something artistically new.

"When I see things, I mentally rearrange them in my head, like abstract doodling," Freer said.

Freer's work was more realistic when he first tried his hand decades ago at carving the napping figure of a man from a bar of Ivory

soap. "Abstract is more liberating. I find it more interesting when I'm not restricted by what you see, just what's in my head," said Freer, whose sculptures can be found throughout the United States, Germany and Canada.

The pieces, cut from mahogany, cherry and many other varieties of wood, range from sweeping curves that appear to take the form of a person to the sharp geometrical angles of work with a more industrial feel.

Freer's workshop is located near the gallery, at a home built in 1910 for Lee's brother.

"People are unusually identified by their paying job," Freer said. "It took a while for me to stop saying I'm retired. I'm not, I'm an artist."

Freer has a son, Alexander of Poplar Bluff, and a daughter, Blake Smoot and husband, Scott, of Key West, Fla.

The opening will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday. The Flying F Gallery is located on Highway W, about one-eighth mile south of the KK Highway intersection. It will be open by appointment only after Saturday.

For more information, call 573-778-0513.

On the web: www.flyf-gallery.com

POLICE

Daniel Edward Seehaver, 44, of the 1000 block of Butler was arrested at 5 p.m. Wednesday on Highway 53 on a Butler County failure to appear warrant for no valid license. He was booked and placed in a city holding cell.

Sonia L. Bailey, 31, of Wappapello, Mo., was arrested at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Walmart Supercenter on suspicion of stealing. She was booked at the Butler County jail.

Rhonda Madonna Franklin, 23, of the 400 block of Lester was arrested at 6:03 p.m. Wednesday on Lester near Fifth Street on a Butler County failure to appear warrant for driving while intoxicated. She was booked at the Butler County jail.

Justin Len Parks, 23, of the 100 block of Magazine was arrested at 7:14 p.m. Wednesday at the intersection of Davis and Alice streets on

a municipal failure to appear warrant for no seat belt and improper state registration. He was booked and released on bond.

Deric Shane Silman, 31, of Doniphan, Mo., was arrested at 7:44 p.m. Wednesday at the intersection of Pine and Ninth Street on a Probation and Parole warrant for being an absconder from conditional release supervision on an original charge of resisting arrest. He was booked at the Butler County jail.

Timothy L. Hartwick, 43, of the 1000 block of Adam was arrested at 3:31 a.m. Thursday at his residence on suspicion of third-degree domestic assault. He was booked at the Butler County jail.

Tracy Dean Reese reported unknown person(s) forcibly entered Keith Atnip's residence in the 1400 block of Vincent between 5 and 7

p.m. Wednesday and stole a stereo.

Thomas W. Barnett of the 300 block West Henry reported his residence was forcibly entered between 5 p.m. Monday and 1:45 a.m. Tuesday and a PlayStation 3, portable PlayStation and several video games stolen.

A detective with the department's Criminal Investigation Bureau processed the scene.

Adam E. Myers of the 2700 block of Holly Trail reported a watch was stolen from his residence between 11:30 p.m. Monday and 12:30 a.m. Tuesday.

According to the report, a purse, belonging to Amantha S. Lawson of the 2100 block of Township Line Road, also was stolen. Her driver's and nursing licenses; Social Security and bank cards; camera; money and rings were among the items in the purse at the time of the theft.

TOP

FROM PAGE 1A

parents and my teachers. My parents have been my support and motivators. My teachers helped me get to where I'm at."

SCHOLARSHIPS: Trustees Scholarship and AAA Scholarship, both from TRCC

SENIOR YEAR ACTIVITIES: Senior Beta Club, Future Business Leaders of America and co-yearbook editor

SALUTATORIAN: Logan Smith
PARENTS: Ferniece

and William Smith of Van Buren

FUTURE PLANS: To attend Three Rivers Community College and later Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., with a major in physical therapy. "I want to help people figure out a good way to go. One of my classmates was in a bad wreck and that pushed me in this direction."

REASON FOR SUCCESS: "Working hard, staying focused and really dedicating yourself to it."

IMPORTANT PEOPLE: "My parents and my entire family. I have a little

girl, Ryonn (22 months) and they really helped me with her."

SCHOLARSHIPS: Opportunity Scholarship from TRCC, Carter County Extension Council Scholarship, the Paul E. Christian Memorial Scholarship and Lewis Geiger Memorial Scholarship

SENIOR YEAR ACTIVITIES: Softball, Pep Club, Senior Beta Club, attended Westwood Baptist Church and Church of God of Prophecy

EDITOR'S NOTE: The valedictorian and salutatorian are not related.