

GREYHOUND EXPRESS



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Expect more pain at the pump

By Monique Cole
Express Staff

With gas prices already hurting the pocketbook of many homes, the impending rise of the cost of fuel is another unwelcome sign on this road to recovery for the nation.

According to the Associated Press, the national average for gasoline in April is expected to reach \$4.25 per gallon. If gasoline reaches its projected cost of \$4.25, the nation will be looking at an increase of 54 cents more than the current average of \$3.71.

"The less I spend on gas, the more I'm able to spend on things I want, like going out to eat, buying toys and extra clothes for my child," Angelique Branch said. Branch commutes about 22 miles for work every day.

Although the price of gasoline usually rises in the summer months due to the special blend of gasoline required for cleaner emissions, the situation in Iran is upsetting oil markets this year due to Iran's

Strait of Hormuz possibly being a focal point for fighting to occur. The Strait of Hormuz exports about 20% of the world's daily oil; therefore it is the world's most important checkpoint for oil. Tensions with Iran are the driving force behind the higher spike of gas this year.

Chicago, IL. is usually above the national average. However, the east and west coasts get hit the hardest in the nation. These prices often soar above national average as well, with California's current average already at \$4.30 per gallon.

"The more customers spend at the pump, the less they spend inside, which is where we make our profit," Donald Dillard said. Dillard is the regional manager of eight gas stations in Central Missouri.

Although gasoline is the focal point of gas stations, they do not make profit of it and struggle like all other businesses.



Like many MACC students, Austin Miller, feels the strain in his wallet as he fills his fuel tank.

gasbuddy.com is now available on mobile apps for Android and iPhone to locate and compare gas stations prices.



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Awareness ride and auction

MACC students organize an awareness ride and auction. Proceeds will benefit victims of child abuse.

Article contributed by
Charlisa Wilkerson

Victimology students Kelsey Hendren and Charlisa Wilkerson have organized an "Awareness Ride, Dinner, and Auction" for April 21, 2012. The project is one of several semester projects planned and completed by students in Lynn Vandolah's Victimology class.

Hendren and Wilkerson chose child abuse as their project focus. Funds raised by the event will be donated to Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA). BACA, an international organization, works with victims and families of victims of child abuse. Members of the organization help the families as they proceed through court appearances and the other emotional strains associated with a child abuse situation.

Funds will be raised from the entry fee and other planned activities along the route. The route will start in Moberly at 9:30 a.m.

at the Family Life Fellowship Church on April 21 and continue to Madison, Paris, Shelbina, Macon, and end in Moberly at 4:15 p.m.

At each of the four brief stops, participants will learn information, be provided pamphlets, or hear speakers about child abuse in Missouri.

An auction in Shelbina will run entirely from local business donations. Proceeds from a \$5 plate luncheon after the auction, provided by local churches, will also benefit child abuse victims. At the Shelbina stop, BACA members will present their video presentation and answer questions.

Participants receive T-shirts and prizes donated by local businesses and will have a better awareness of the problems of child abuse in our area. For information about this event, call (573)795-2054 or (660)833-3311. Information is also provided on posters displayed around campus.



MACC students Kelsey Hendren and Charlisa Wilkerson are planning and organizing a child abuse awareness ride for April 21. Cory Foster, also pictured, is one of the participants in the ride.

MACC Students PRIORITY REGISTRATION DATES April 2 through April 20

32+ hours earned – April 2 through April 5
12+ hours earned – April 9 through April 13
0-11 hours earned – April 16 through April 20

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Steady increase for MACC student enrollment

By Kyra Shipp
Express Staff

MACC's student enrollment has grown steadily over the past several years; in fact, MACC had an increase of approximately 1,500 students from fall 2008 to fall 2010, as reported on MACC's accreditation website (www.macc.edu/accreditation2011).

According to Michele McCall, the dean of off-campus programs, the total enrollment for MACC has had a 2 percent increase from fall 2011 to spring 2012, resulting in a current number of more than 5,200 students. Even with these numbers, McCall explained that spring enrollment is usually less than fall enrollment.

The Columbia campus and online courses have seen the largest increase in enrollment. However, that does not mean the other campuses have not had changes as well. Currently, the Hannibal, Kirksville, and Mexico campuses have approximately 250-300, 300-400, and 400-500 students, respectfully, during the spring semester.

Columbia, Moberly, and online courses have the highest enrollment. Approximately 2,000 students attend classes in Columbia and online. Another 1,300 students attend classes at the main campus in Moberly.

Students' information from all MACC campuses goes through the financial aid department on the main campus. According to Amy Hagar, director of financial aid, the addition of campuses has "changed how we charge service." The internet and email have helped immensely.



Enrollment at MACC campuses including Moberly, Hannibal, Kirksville, and Mexico continues to increase.

According to Hagar, MACC serves about 16 counties in the northwest region of Missouri. The additional campuses were opened primarily so that MACC could reach a greater number of students in these 16 counties, especially those individuals who live in rural areas.

"We've been growing in a good way," McCall stated, explaining that the school is strong financially. "I expect we'll still see increases [in student enrollment]."

According to McCall, MACC is stable with its enrollment, and the school will probably not see huge spikes any time soon. However, statistics from the financial aid department indicate that MACC growth has been steadily increasing over the

last 10 years. In the 2000/01 academic year, only 1,829 students received some form of aid. For the 2010/11 year, that number has increased to more than 4,800 students.

McCall explained that

"We're not a small school anymore. When we have more than 5,000 students, that's more a medium-sized school."

when there is an increase of students, the financial aid department, business office, personnel department, and registrar offices are impacted; however, of these departments, financial aid is impacted the most.

With increasing enrollment, there have been more applications to process, according to Hagar. This increases the

processing time and adds to the overall work that must be done. Hagar's job is to make sure MACC complies with all federal regulations. Because of increased enrollment, the financial aid department has had to increase staff.

"We used to have one person doing loans, Hagar explained."

Since MACC has been increasing in number of students, financial aid has needed to add one full-time and one part-time staff members to loan processing. In fact, from 2008/09 to 2009/10 academic year, there was an increase from approximately \$5 million to \$7 million in loan distribution. Distribution of Pell money also increased from approximately \$4.7 million to \$9.9 million during this same year.

The greatest increase in

total money distributed occurred from 08/09 to 09/10, starting at approximately \$13 million and increasing to about \$20 million. This more than \$7 million increase has been the largest increase in money distribution in a single year in MACC's recent history.

Approximately 4,800 MACC students received some form of financial aid in 2010/11, which is more than 90 percent of the 5,200 students at MACC.

"We're not a small school anymore. When we have more than 5,000 students, that's more a medium-sized school," McCall explained.

Although the college is steadily growing, McCall believes that MACC is still a "caring school" that treats its students more like an individual than a number, which is perhaps why more people are drawn to MACC every year.

If MACC's enrollment does, in fact, become too large, the school is prepared to increase the number of staff and faculty in all areas because, as McCall explained, retaining the small school feel and individual, quality attention to students is still important.

"No matter how large or small MACC's growth may be," McCall said, "it is always the school's goal to provide the best for their students."

Texting Lingo: Friend or Foe

By Mariah Maiden
Express Staff

R texting abbreviations an enemy to spelling? According to some individuals, it could be... smh (shaking my head)! LOL.

For MACC students, texting is one of the most common methods of communication with friends.

According to a recent CNN report, individuals ages 18-24 send an average of 1600 text messages

a month. Most MACC students send just as many texts and admit to using text lingo commonly in social networking and emails to friends.

Many MACC students indicated in a recent survey that their use of texting short cuts carries over into their writing.

Short text abbreviations, such as "LTR, b4, and LOL," are widely used, and some MACC students believe that these abbreviations may be an enemy to their spelling skills.

Monica Kitchen, MACC student, stated, "You may be able to write well, but some of the abbreviations or different spellings you use in texting may make you forget how to spell certain words."

MACC instructors have seen the influence of text mes-

"Sometimes grammar and spelling are wrong in a text because they aren't proofread. We are reading `rough draft` form."

saging. Janis Lomax, adjunct instructor at MACC, responded, "Spelling is not important to students anymore. Students are not able to write concise, meaningful statements in papers with the shorthand, everyday use of texting."

Donna M. Monnig, MACC student, also believes texting may be harmful to vocabulary.

In a psychological study done by Roehampton University in London, when adults were exposed to texting lingo, it had a direct effect on their

spelling. In the study, adults were shown the correct spelling of certain words and a few days later shown the same words abbreviated. The study showed that many adults had forgotten the correct spellings.

According to Jill Mackey, language and literature instructor, the most common mistake found in students' writing that can be linked to text messaging is "u" used in the place of "you." MACC students confirmed this as one mistake they often make.

However, students believe they can catch their mistakes. Nathan Martin, MACC student, claims he does make mistakes when typing but can easily catch them.

Other MACC students believe that their texting lingo has no effect on their day to day lives.

Ashley Powell, MACC Hannibal student states, "I can separate my text lingo



CLGE STUDNTS, NATHAN MARTIN & JESSE MAHSMAN, DPND ON THR TXTNG 2 COMUNIK8 W/ THE WRLD.

from my everyday life, conversation, and writing."

Bethany Bragg states that she sends texts just like she writes her papers.

Karen Seward, language instructor, said she does not see too many problems in the classroom because of texting: "Sometimes grammar and spelling are wrong in a text because they aren't proof-

read. We are reading `rough draft` form."

While most participants in the survey acknowledge the threat of texting on their spelling, not all are ready to say that it is truly ruining the quality of spelling. The jury, as they say, is still out on whether the use of texting lingo is friend or foe.



PHI THETA KAPPA 5K RUN/WALK

On Saturday, April 28, 2012, Phi Theta Kappa will hold a 5K run/walk. A pre-registration fee of \$15 is due April 15 and a late registration fee of \$20 is due at 8 a.m. race day.

The race will be held at the Moberly Area Community College Activity Center in Moberly with registration time at 8 a.m. The race starts at 9 a.m.

Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome to join. Runners will be placed into specified age groups, and walkers will be placed into one category together.

A registration form can be obtained from a Phi Theta Kappa member or call Ann Parks at 660-263-4100 ext. 11272.

All proceeds will benefit the academic and service pursuits of the MACC Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.



MACC students Stacy Huber, Laura Rexrode, Kayla Starks, Christina Morrison, Shannon Grenke, and Donna M. Monnig learn puppetry skills in Children's Theatre.



Shannon Grenke, Kayla Starks, Donna M. Monnig, and Laura Rexrode wear their fashionable jester hats that they made during the ballooning unit in Children's Theatre.

Pauley's Puppets

By Addie Rose Davis
Express Staff

Everyone knows how it feels to want to get away and de-stress. According to the students in Joyce Pauley's Children's Theatre class, they have found the perfect stress reliever.

Pauley studied with Billy and Glenn Bishop in Chicago before she brought the Children's Theatre class to MACC. Billy was a guest on the popular WGN America show, *The Bozo Show*, and Glenn was a well-known close up magician. Not everyone has had the chance to work with people of such talent; therefore, Pauley is the only instructor around these parts truly certified to teach such a class.

The class is broken down into three units. The first is storytelling. Students must perfect a regular story such as a folktale or fairytale of their choice and perform that story memorized, with lots of energy and characterization. After that, students perfect a participation story which is

meant to get the audience involved. Once this is accomplished, the class goes forth and performs these stories for the kids at local elementary schools. For the participation stories, the children get involved by making noises or actions along with the story. According to Pauley, the kids absolutely love it.

The second unit is puppetry. Students act out a story using hand-held puppets, which according to the class is very challenging. The puppet's

"If you have to speak in front of people, I think it [Children's Theatre] prepares you for that even better than speech class."

"mouth" must move a certain way at a particular time, which makes it rather difficult to perfect.

The third unit is clowning which involves magic tricks, balloon work, and card tricks. Students must create an outfit, made or purchased for their clowning performances. They also must put together their own makeup

to go with their costumes. Once these arts are mastered, the class ventures out to nursing homes, hospitals, and more schools. According to Pauley, they sometimes do walk around clowning, and they sometimes put on a whole clown and magic show. She also expressed that the kids really like the puppets. At one particular show, the children pet the puppets on their way out, and she could tell it really made their day.

Students may think this class won't help them in their chosen field. According to Pauley, a former student of hers uses what she learned in these classes frequently as an elementary school teacher; she uses the card tricks and stories as a kind of reward.

Stacey Huber, a Children's Theatre student, stated, "If you have to speak in front of people, I think it [Children's Theatre] prepares you for that even better than speech class."

"I took it to be a better mom," explained student, Cristina Morrison. Morrison explained that this

class helped her bond with her kids because when she prepares for this class at home, her children like to get involved, and they really enjoy it.

Morrison's favorite part of this class is "the ability to be creative without any limits."



Shannon Grenke ties balloon animals during class. Students learn clowning as part of the Children's Theatre class.



Local singer goes to Hollywood



By Shelby Mahsman
Express Staff

MACC freshman, Jared Keim, lands three yeses and a golden ticket to Hollywood on American Idol with hard work and a passion for music.

Currently in its 11th season, American Idol holds auditions across the nation searching for the next big singer. Receiving a golden ticket gives the contestant passage into the next audition round in Hollywood. From there, contestants compete in round 1 and group auditions, where the judges make cut after cut.

Keim created a YouTube channel and posted videos of his musical talent. His videos have accumulated more than 50,000 views (www.youtube.com/43jaredk).

Jared's sister, Jessica Keim, always knew he was talented: "I was watching American Idol one night and thought, 'he needs to be on there'."

"My sister made a Facebook group and said I had to audition [for American Idol] if the page got 2,000 likes," said Keim.

Jared Keim made his way to the St. Louis auditions last June. Along for the ride were his parents, Dennis and Martha, two sisters, and other family members.

For the audition, Jared sang *When You Believe* by Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston. He said, "I was nervous, but it was fun."

He received a golden ticket.

"A lot was going through my mind, but all I thought was 'wow'. I was just ready to go through the doors and see my family."

The experience impacted the rest of his family as well.

"We were all so excited. I remember screaming, jumping up and down, and shaking," recalled Jessica.

Next stop: Hollywood. Because Jared is legally an adult, the show only paid his way to Hollywood; his mother paid her own way.

During the Hollywood auditions in December, Jared was overwhelmed. "It was amazing being around so many people who have the same passion, but it was also stressful," Keim said. "I probably only got five hours of sleep in five days."

In round 1, he performed the same song as his St. Louis audition. According to Keim, making it into the group round was "a big weight off my shoulders." Keim and his group, which included three other contestants, sang *Some Kind of Wonderful* by Grand Funk Railroad. Unfortunately, Keim did not make it past the group round.

Jared's family fully supports his music career: "I am incredibly proud. I truly hope he goes after his dream because most people don't," Jessica said.

Although this season's Idol journey has ended for Keim, he isn't stopping. His goal is "to never have to settle for not having music."

STUDENT PROFILES

Do you know how often Leap Year comes around?
Where did you go, and what did you do for Spring Break?



Laura Rexrode
"Every other year or every two years?"



Kayla Starks
"I went to see *The Hunger Games* with an old friend from college. We had a lot of fun."



Melinda Hackett
"Every seven years?"



Vince Smith
"I made a whole bunch of music, partied a lot, wrote a lot, and just had a good time."



Tiffany Shine
"Every fourteen years?"



2012 is Leap Year
Leap year happens every four years.



STUDENT PROFILES

The "safety net" for Missourian's Op-ed

Editorial by Hayden Campmier
Express Staff

Republican front runner, Mitt Romney made a statement that he wasn't "concerned about the very poor because they had a safety net." He added that his main focus was on middle class Americans.

I'm sure those families with \$22,000 a year incomes that have four children do not feel as though they have a safety net. Spending \$50 on each person, each week, means for four people that family will need \$960 a month just for groceries. Single moms may not have much of a safety net left after spending more than half of their incomes on food for themselves and their children.

The "safety net" is for families of four that make up to \$23,000 a year to get federal help. The net also includes food stamps for people with a monthly income less \$2,422 a month.

However, if these families of four are spending over \$900 dollars on groceries a month what difference does it make if they make \$2,500 a month? It still won't be enough to make it through the month securely.

How about we start distributing the wealth a little bit here? There is a growing gap between the rich and poor in the United States, especially in education. After rent and electricity for a four bedroom home, many single parents cannot afford to pay for math tutors and ballet lessons. There is no financial security for these people, unless they want to be in debt for the rest of their lives.

I realize that distribution of wealth can't be solved in one night, for many reasons. Especially, when higher social classes keep marrying the higher social class it only grows that class and furthers its wealth.

Maybe spending should go to the "very poor" so that they have an increased opportunity for education which may help to shrink the gap.

What about programs that give students with less opportunity a chance to have math tutors and ballet lessons, and instead of putting that towards war, put 1.26 trillion dollars towards math tutors.

Clearly there is no safety net or students from lower income families wouldn't gradually be scoring lower on tests and have a smaller number of their families generation not going to college.

So the next time someone says, "there is a safety net for the very poor" remember 15.1 percent of people in America are in that safety net, living with their four kids on their \$23,000 a year incomes.



How has the increase in gas prices affected you? How much are you paying and where?



Kyle Roberts

"I'm still driving as much as I used to, but it leaves me less money to spend on anything else."

"I pay about \$3.79 per gallon at Sinclair Mini Mart in Macon. It costs me about \$50 every time I fill up."



Anna Banton

"With gas prices I will have to cut back on how much I spend on my children and me."

"\$50 to fill up at the Shell station in Hannibal."



Brian Drewery

"It has limited my ability to go out and do stuff."

"I get gas at Phillips 66 where I last paid \$3.50 a gallon, and it cost me about \$40 to fill up."



The Greyhound Express is a student publication produced three times a semester at MACC, 101 College, Moberly, MO 65270. (660)263-4110. express@houndmail.macc.edu

Editorial Policy: All letters should be no longer than 150 words and must include identification as student or faculty and a phone number. Phone numbers will not be published. All letters are subject to editing for length. To place an advertisement: contact the faculty advisor, Ext 627, or the advertising manager to request rates, sample issue, etc.

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The Help

By Shelby Mahsman
Express Staff

When an unlikely friendship develops between Skeeter, Aibileen, and Minny, played by Emma Stone, Viola Davis, and Octavia Spencer, lines are crossed and morals are tested.

Set in the South during the 1960s, *The Help* digs into racial segregation. Skeeter is a brave, fresh-from-college journalist. She is in the midst of finding a career in the world of writing. She lands a job at the local paper writing for

the Ms. Merna column, which gives tips on housekeeping. Skeeter requests assistance for her column from her friend's maid, Aibileen.

An idea sparks when Skeeter witnesses how her friend, Elizabeth, treats Aibileen. Skeeter decides to take a risk and write a tell-all book from the perspective of the help, if she can convince Aibileen to tell her story.

With a bit of persuading, Aibileen decides to join the project. Soon after, Aibileen finds herself secretly meeting with her best friend, Minny, and Skeeter. Both Aibileen and Minny courageously share their experiences with Skeeter. Over time, nearly a dozen maids come forward to reveal their stories. A book, titled *The Help*, is published anonymously, seeing as though this type of interaction is highly unlawful. The book becomes famous and just about everyone finds a way to get their hands on a copy. With more hardships than good times, Aibileen finds her voice and learns that some things need to be said.

This film is based on a best-selling book, also titled *The Help*, written by Kathryn Stockett. The acting was exceptionally authentic. Every piece of the story line fit perfectly together. The movie's soundtrack includes a variety of music, ranging from the classic *Jackson* by Johnny Cash and June Carter, to a song called *The Living Proof* by Mary J. Blige, a song she sang specifically for this movie.

The Help has been nominated, with a few wins, for over 40 awards. Octavia Spencer, who plays Minny, won an Oscar as well as a Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a motion picture. With a little pop of romance, comedy, and history, *The Help* is a great movie for anyone to see. If you haven't seen it, *The Help* is

Change begins with a whisper.

the
Help



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SURE SIGNS OF SPRING...



Opening day at the ball park



Leap year celebrations. Students feasted on free popcorn at MaJic's Hound Town Grill on Feb 29.

The year without a winter

By Rachel Parks
Express Staff

The "snowpocalypse" of last winter was outshined by the 4 snow falls and balmy 40s of this year's much more mild winter, but what can the effects of this warmer winter bring to the spring and summer of the Midwest?

Aside from the warm weather niceties, the economy is seeing positive effects brought on by the mild winter. According to a study by USA Today, thousands of jobs in the construction field have been added to the market and auto sales have been on the rise. Consumer spending is also increasing with spending measured 3.3 percent higher in February 2012 than it was in February 2011. And since snow falls were light this year, the Missouri River is not ex-



pected to encounter as much flooding this summer as it did last summer.

But the temperature isn't the only thing breaking records this spring. The turn of warm weather has sent trees into pollen production over two weeks ahead of schedule, provoking the allergy symptoms related to the airborne pollen.

"When you get away from average conditions, there are people and animals and plants that really thrive and people and

animals and plants that really suffer," Donald J. Leopold said quoted on AccuWeather.com.

The mild weather has brought an early start to tornado season as well as seen by the tornados that rampaged through Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri on February 29.

However, the warmer weather isn't an accurate indicator on whether the Midwest will experience an active or dormant tornado season.

"We could go into a very active period, or we could stay relatively quiet for the coming weeks," said Greg Carbin, warning coordination meteorologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Weather Service quoted on CNN.

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