BY JARED YOUNG
Staff Reporter

Only half of Pershing renovations will commence during Thanksgiving Break. After seeing re-drawn several times, the renovation plans are almost ready for bids. To get to this point, new plans had to be made up to accommodate for the new budget. "The plan you saw on the screen was changed in June," Budget Director Dave Rector said. "The governor vetoed some projects and then placed a withhold on several, including Pershing, to primarily balance the budget for the state." Rector said the project had to be re-done with the new budget plan. "We had the architects and engineers go back to the drawing board, literally in this case, and develop a phase one and phase two plan that was realistic and meet our goals." The first phase plan had to be changed. "The last revision of the plan was out for the coaches, but a new plan was needed because of the new budget," Rector said. He then said that a final plan would not be certain until bids are in on the project. "When we get the bids, the contractors coming in, we'll be able to discuss all of that," Rector said. "With the project being reduced in scope, we're going to have more control over what we're getting for our money." Phase two, which has an unknown start date, includes renovation to the north half of the existing auditorium, which will be a new dining area. Director of Athletics Jerry Schultz said he is looking forward to the start of Pershing renovations. "It sure is exciting not to have to look over our shoulder," Schultz said. "It's not the best time of year to put the roof up, but that's the way things fall right now." Schultz said phase one of Pershing is to build a new mezzanine, an area that will include half of the existing building and the construction of a new building. He said this phase will soon be out for bids and that it should take a year to year and a half to be complete. "If more money from the state or from private funds is made available in the future, work on the remaining renovations will begin," he said.

We're looking at final documents being out to the phase one of Pershing on Sept. 20 with a request for bids to be turned in by Oct. 22," he said. "Once bids are in and a contractor is chosen, we will have our final plans. Once the contractors are in, we can start to move them into temporary offices, probably over Christmas break." Schultz said. "We're going to move them into temporary offices to make things easier for people to come see what we're getting into." Schultz said. "I want to … get them on site and see how the bids come in." Rector said that it's just part of the process. "It's not the best time of year to put the roof up, but that's the way things fall right now."

The first phase of Pershing is to build a new mezzanine for the swimming pool and convert the racquetball courts into a new weight room. Schultz said a new building will include half of the existing building. "The plan for the south side of Pershing is to build a new mezzanine for the swimming pool and convert the racquetball courts into a new weight room," Schultz said. "We will have a new building with the roof and the weight room done," he said. Schultz said phase one of Pershing is to build a new mezzanine. "We're looking at bid documents being out to the phase one of Pershing on Sept. 20 with a request for bids to be turned in by Oct. 22," he said. "Once bids are in and a contractor is chosen, we will have our final plans. Once the contractors are in, we can start to move them into temporary offices, probably over Christmas break." Schultz said. "We're going to move them into temporary offices to make things easier for people to come see what we're getting into." Schultz said. "I want to … get them on site and see how the bids come in." Rector said that it's just part of the process. "It's not the best time of year to put the roof up, but that's the way things fall right now."

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