

PERSHING | Two campus construction projects near completion while three are in planning stages



Joyce Wong/Index

The construction in the south portion of Pershing is scheduled to be completed by the first of the year.

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should be complete and the building fully functional at about the same time the three tentative projects begin.

The south end of Pershing will be given a final inspection next week, and Health and Exercise Sciences offices will be occupied the first week in January after furniture is moved in, Schultz said.

The north end also includes the pool, fitness room and weightlifting room. The weight room likely will be in use by the end of the spring semester, Athletic Director Jerry Wollmering said. The weight room is fully funded by the athletic fee.

The new addition on the east side of Pershing is on schedule to be completed in February. The deadline originally was Winter Break, but it was moved back a because of inclement weather during last summer.

Joey Gerbes, River City construction project manager, said there should not be a problem meeting the February deadline, even with possible winter weather approaching.

Once completed, the east end of Pershing will house three classrooms, five labs, 25 faculty offices and two department offices. The old and new parts of Pershing will connect through a skywalk as well as an underground hallway.

The power plant, like the north side of Pershing, is scheduled to finish before the end of the year.

Schultz said the plant's new trim boiler

Current projects:		
Location	Time of completion	Project scope
Power Plant	December	A new boiler and controls
South Pershing	January	Renovation
East Pershing	February	Addition to Pershing
Ryle Hall	Summer 2011	Renovations to south end
Future projects:		
	Projected start date	
SUB	Summer 2011	Exterior work
Pickler Library	Summer 2011	Replace part of roof, fix exterior water leaks
Centennial Hall	Summer 2011	Renovation, mostly to infrastructure issues

Source: Campus Planner Mark Schultz

and the new controls on the existing two boilers are functional and "doing really good." The new controls allow the boilers to be turned down to a point that Truman is not wasting energy during warmer weather.

The old controls' lowest efficiency was too high for the spring, summer and fall, Schultz said.

"We hope to start seeing the payoff on that," he said. "It should lower our utilities. ... With the old controls you couldn't dial them back low enough to deal with the steam for

the spring, summer and fall. So we were blowing steam off all the time, or manually turning them off and turning them on. A steam boiler needs to be set and let it run and keep water at a boil."

Three other projects around campus currently are underway. Schultz said the Ryle Hall renovation is on schedule to be completed by the end of the summer. Also, work to complete the fiber optic system and Grim-Smith Hospital projects are nearly complete.

LIVESTOCK | Hundreds of visitors were in Kirksville last weekend for the annual Missouri Livestock Symposium

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has not yet been totaled but said that last year the event drew more than 1,700 people from 78 of Missouri's 114 counties and 17 states.

Lane said it likely will be a couple weeks before the committee has attendance information, but estimated attendance reached approximately 2,000 people.

Despite the influx of visitors to Kirksville this weekend, area hotel managers reported lower occupancy rates than the weekend of the symposium last year, although they said the symposium did contribute to business this weekend.

Dondi Bates, manager of the Super 8 Motel in Kirksville, said business was slower than usual this year.

"We were at 90 percent occupancy for Friday night, but Saturday we only had 46 percent occupancy," she said. "Usually we're at 100 percent full boat for the livestock symposium, so it was kind of odd. But it's definitely the best weekend of December for hotels and motels."

Maria Snodgrass, manager of the Depot Inn and Suites in La Plata, said the Depot Inn had a 40 percent occupancy rate this weekend, compared to 93 percent last year.

"Usually we are full for the livestock symposium but we were not this year," Snodgrass said.

Adam Keim, Holiday Inn Express staff member, said the hotel was almost full last year but only had a 55 percent occupancy rate this year.

Lane said the current economy could be a reason for low hotel occupancy rates.

"Another reason may be that in years past we've coupled the livestock symposium with other kinds of conferences," Lane said. "For example, a year ago we coupled the livestock symposium with the bio energy conference that was co-sponsored by the Truman State ag sciences department, and that brought additional people in as well. I think we're looking into partnering with other folks again on a potential double-up conference for the coming year, but it's a little too early to tell. But that might be the other reason, along with the economy."

The dates of the livestock symposium for the next two years already have been set for the weekend of Dec. 2 and 3, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 in 2012.

The symposium was free to attend and main sponsors include the University of Missouri extension office, the Illinois-based Sullivan Auctioneers, the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Pepsi and local media outlets.

SMOKING | The new smoking restrictions will be enforced through Student Affairs

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in the semester. He said knowing where smokers would be would have been helpful for those wanting to avoid them.

Freeland said the biggest problem impeding a smooth transition to this new restriction would be a lack of communication about the new regulation with student groups.

Concern has been voiced by Student Senate President Isaac Rob-

inson that the regulations are not enough to satisfy the student body, many of whom, Robinson said, support a full smoking ban.

"It's a step in the right direction," Robinson said. "I don't think it was a necessary step. I think we could've went more with a phasing in a full ban as the three major constituency groups on campus all support it."

Robinson said 77 percent of students wanted some sort of smoking

policy, whether fully banning smoking or designating certain areas according to a survey done by CASE.

Freeland said the Board might not have taken as much action as was desired by the campus community, but the resolution was a step.

"Do I think they were as responsive as those constituencies would have liked?" Freeland said. "No. Do I think that they did what they thought was best for the University? Yes."

Robinson said he doesn't plan to pursue a full smoking ban during the remainder of his term. Robinson said he thinks future senates probably will push the issue.

"Students of the future are going to keep pushing this issue," Robinson said. "I don't think we've heard the last on the smoking issue."

The resolution will amend the Board of Governors Code of Policy Chapter 12, which covers tobacco

use on campus.

Currently the only restriction on smoking outdoors on campus property is smokers must be at least 10 feet from residence halls while smoking, as stated in the Residence Life Handbook. This was added to the handbook in an effort to "avoid disturbing residents with odors and fumes," according to the handbook. Smoking too close to buildings currently can incur a fine.

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