

Campus undergoes several renovations

Summertime brought new renovations all across Truman's campus

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Truman State's campus has been buzzing this summer with the sound of power tools, hammers and construction. The campus planning office and the physical plant completed a series of campus renovations and plan to finish most projects within the first weeks of school.

Campus planner Mark Schultz said his office oversaw four major projects during the summer, including roof repairs to Violette Hall, Pershing and Baldwin Hall, new bleachers in Pershing Arena and renovations to Centennial Hall.

The \$13.9 million partial renovation of Centennial Hall began this June with work in the south wing. That wing will be closed for the duration of the school year while renovations continue, Schultz said.

This summer the sewer underneath Centennial was replaced, demolition within the building began, a new sanitary sewer and new pipes were installed and a new transformer was installed, Schultz said.

The project is expected to be completed by the Fall 2014 semester and includes electrical and plumbing replacements, new study rooms and a computer lab, a renovation of the dining hall and kitchen, repairs to the roof and elevator replacement, Schultz said.

The Physical Plant oversaw the installation of new sidewalk lights in Red Barn Park and behind Dobson Hall, Director Karl Schneider said. The cost of the 12 new lights amounted to \$50,000.

The lights were installed at the end of June, Schneider said. He said eight lights were installed in Red Barn Park and four were installed behind Dobson.

Lori Shook, campus planning office design project manager, said she has been in charge of the installation of new bleachers



Kate Linman/Index

About \$50,000 was spent in order to install twelve new lights to increase safety throughout Red Barn Park and behind Dobson Hall for students.

ers in Pershing Arena.

"They were just getting beyond the point where [maintenance] could repair them into good working order every year," Shook said.

The 1980s bleachers were removed during June and the new ones are in the process of being installed. The approved bid for this project was \$432,076, Shook said.

The campus planning project repairing roofs on Violette, Pershing and Baldwin cost \$2.26 million and also included necessary masonry repairs to the exterior of Baldwin Hall, Schultz said. Renovations to Violette and Baldwin are expected to be completed by the beginning of classes, he said. Additional roofing for Pershing is expected to be finished by the end of October.

A storm water improvement project was another item on campus planning's to-do list this summer, Schultz said. This project affected several areas of campus including an area between Ophelia Parish and Missouri Hall, between Magruder

Hall and Violette Hall, and in Red Barn Park.

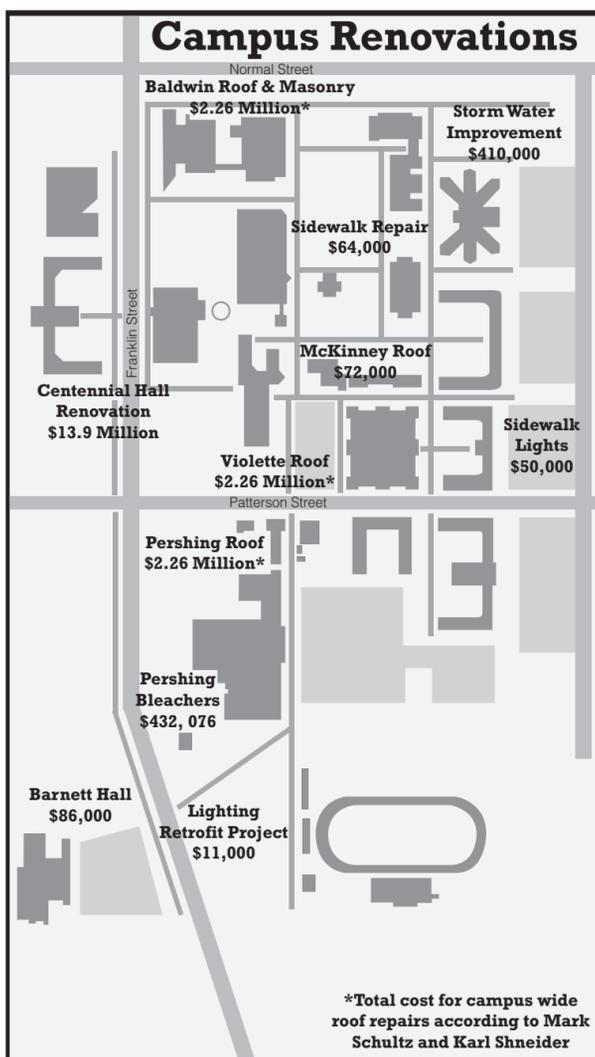
This project included adding risers at the stairs between Magruder and Violette and expanding a sewer running under the football field into Red Barn Park to eliminate the ditch cutting across the park, Schultz said. The project budget was \$410,000 and has been completed, he said.

The Physical Plant oversaw a contracted project repaving sidewalks throughout campus, Schneider said. Sidewalks were replaced North of McClain, at three spots around the library and several other locations. This project cost \$64,000 and began during the middle of July.

A bid was awarded for the replacement of the roof on the McKinney building, Schneider said. The bid was \$72,000 and work has not yet started on the project, he said.

The Physical Plant replaced 700 light bulbs across campus with energy efficient ones.

They also made alterations to Barnett Hall in preparation



for the military science and psychology departments to move into that building, Schneider said. Changes to Barnett include installing new carpet, rearranging moveable partitions and painting walls. Another major project will be to replace water damaged ceiling tiles in Baldwin Hall.

Money for renovation projects on campus typically comes from one of two budgets, Budget Director Dave Rector said. The Auxiliary Budget money comes from student fees and is used to make improvements to residence halls, the student recreation center and the Student Union Building. Rector said projects such as Centennial Hall are funded from this budget.

The other funding source, he said, is called the State & Local Capital Fund. This money is set aside in the operating budget

for maintenance and building repairs. Renovations to Baldwin, Pershing Arena and the campus sidewalks fit into this category, Rector said.

The amount of money in these budgets varies from year to year and can be supplemented with surplus money from other budgets, Rector said.

"We try to spend a million and a half to two million a year on renovations of the academic buildings alone," Rector said.

Due to budget cuts, money for repairs and renovations has become tighter and the school has not had enough money to start a large scale project such as the full renovation of Baldwin, Rector said. He said the University hopes to do a full renovation of the building within the next few years but it would require money from an outside source, such as a bond issue from the state.

Downtown theater now accepts cards, goes digital

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Customers at Downtown Cinema 8 can expect a more enjoyable movie experience after changes were made to the theater during the summer.

A more convenient ticket purchasing experience and better picture quality are just two of the improvements made during the first three weeks of July.

The theater purchased a new ticketing system, manager Jim Fitzpatrick said. The new system allows customers to pay for tickets and concessions with a debit or credit card. Fitzpatrick said most major credit cards are accepted.

This new system also changed the layout of the ticket stations, Fitzpatrick said. Customers now purchase tickets and concessions at the same time from one of the four ticketing stations. These stations have been moved from the corner of the theater entrance to the concessions area.

Fitzpatrick said another change to the business is that every theater has gone "digital". The theater's projection and sound systems were updated to accommodate more advanced movies. Previously, only one theater had a digital system, he said.

"We have pretty much automated the whole [projection] booth," Fitzpatrick said. "We do have to turn it on at the beginning of the day and turn it off at night, but it pretty much takes care of itself all day."

This means staff time can focus on other tasks, he said. The focus, color and brightness have all been adjusted by the new digital system, he said.

Fitzpatrick said an automated light system also has been installed in the theaters. This system dims the lights slightly during previews and automatically shuts all the lights off when the main feature begins.

He also said new 3D screens have been installed.

During renovations to the individual theaters, Cinema 8 was able to stay open for business, Fitzpatrick said. Only half the theaters were closed at one time and the conversion to digital took two weeks. Fitzpatrick said the cinema suffered no business loss during that time.

Overall he said he is happy with the changes made to the theater. He said it is taking time to figure all the new sys-



Rose Sparks/Index

The registers, pictured Tuesday, have been moved to allow tickets and concessions to be purchased at the same time. The new ticketing system allows customers to have the option of paying with cash, a debit card or a credit card.

tems out, but he expects it to provide a better experience for moviegoers.

"There are some advantages and disadvantages to this new system," Fitzpatrick said. "There are some things that I had developed for the old system that seemed to be a little bit quicker, but for the most part it's a better upgrade."

Sophomore Maddie Oberman said she thinks the improvements to the theater are great, as long as prices don't go up. She said the appeal of going to Cinema 8 is that it is cheap.

Fitzpatrick said customers should expect prices to stay the same throughout the near future.

He said if admissions do increase, it will not be any time soon and will be no more than a quarter. This change would

occur if the credit and debit card fees that the cinema now pays in order to accept those cards increase, he said.

Sophomore Claire Fielding said it surprised her that it took this long for the theater to offer the option of debit and credit cards. She said the convenience of this system is important for customer service.

"I think [the new system] will make it much more convenient for college students to visit," Fielding said.

Fitzpatrick said throughout the future he hopes to continue improving the theater by developing a system that will allow customers to purchase tickets online. He said he does not yet know when that feature can be expected. He said he also is looking into ways to set up midnight showings at the theater.

Board OKs staff salary increase

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The Truman State Board of Governors approved a 2.5 percent salary increase for faculty and staff during the June meeting.

This year's three percent tuition increase helped fund the raise which the Board passed in an effort to recognize the work ethic and performance of faculty and staff. The pay increase was needed in this economy, Budget Director Dave Rector said.

Prior to this, the last raise faculty saw was \$1000 during 2011, with a 2.5 percent increase to staff salaries, capped at \$1000, Rector said.

The morale of faculty and staff lowers when there is a long period between raises, Rector said, which in turn affects students.

He said the board recognizes faculty's and staff's need to continue to provide for their families during hard economic times.

"Everyone operates on a tighter budget now, the University and the faculty and staff," Rector said.

The length of time between the salary increases is a sign of the current economic state said Regina Morin, associate vice president for enrollment management. It was due to funding cuts and having to be strategic with the money the university did have, she said.

"I think anyone who works at Truman would say [the salary increase] was overdue," Morin said.

Salary increases mean diverting the University's resources from other investments, such as new computers for the computer labs or other essentials, Morin said.

The Board saw the big picture of how high quality learning increases the Truman experience, she said.

Recognizing the value of the staff also recognizes the value of the students, Doug Davenport, dean of the school of social and cultural studies, said. When employees know they are valued, it increases motivation and helps them prepare the students, he said. The decision has been well received by the faculty and staff, he said.

"I think [the salary increase] helps us do more in terms of our work and the students both," Davenport said.