

Red Barn receives construction

BY KAITLYN DANIELS
Staff Reporter

Red Barn, a Truman State University icon, has been undergoing roofing construction since Sept. 24 and is expected to be completed before Homecoming, Campus Planner Mark Schultz said.

Maintenance to Red Barn is part of an ongoing campus repair project that has been in progress since the beginning of the summer.

Schultz said the barn eventually will receive a coat of paint and other restoration at a later date. The University has removed the water-damaged, rotten shingles and boards and is re-shingling the roof because of holes that were letting water into the structure. He said the barn needed fixing before it deteriorated to the point where it wasn't salvageable.

Schultz said the construction for the roofing costs \$50,000 and is being funded by the school's budget for the campus roofing project that has been going on throughout the summer.

He said there are certain people on campus who would like to see the Red Barn go away, but because there is so much town and University identity associated with the barn, it can't be torn down.

"The community and University don't want to see it lost because it is a University icon, so we spend money every now and then to try and preserve it," Schultz said.

He said Red Barn currently is being used for incidental storage, including University items such as the cannon used during football games.

Missouri Hall director Zac Burden said it is important and worthwhile to spend money preserving Red Barn because it represents a connection to the University's past and things that continue as traditions. Red Barn was one of the last parts of the



Rose Sparks/Index

Contracted construction workers replace the shingles of Red Barn on Tuesday as part of an effort to preserve the historic nature of the building. Construction on the roof has been ongoing since Sept. 24 and is expected to be completed before Homecoming weekend.

University Farm that was located on campus before it was moved. The barn has served many functions during the years, including stabling the Department of Public Safety's Tennessee Walking Horse, Howls Prince, that was used for security at football games and parades.

Burden said it is important to maintain and preserve this link to the University's past.

"Here's a barn that's a part

of a functional farm that we had here on campus," he said. "It's not part of the functional farm now, but the barn itself and the park that it's in has become an experience for people."

Burden said students and the community should understand the importance of why University icons continue to be preserved.

"I'm always happy to see where we're going with our

projects whether it be something as boring and mundane as a drainage project all the way up to something exciting like renovating an academic building or even Red Barn," he said.

Junior Bill Serber if the sole purpose of the renovation is that it's an icon and it has history, but he doesn't know if that purpose justifies spending the budget.

Serber said he doesn't know that the amount of money spent

on renovating Red Barn can be justified by solely being an effort to preserve a building with history.

"If the University is willing to put so much money and effort into this project, they should make more of a community relations effort to use it for its original purpose to bring together the Kirksville Community and the Truman student body," Serber said.



Bhupendra Subedi/Index

Left to right, Willadean Walker, Anna Ruth Lambert, Le Mack and Lella London all get their first shovel-full of dirt during the groundbreaking ceremony Sunday at the Hamilton Street Baptist Church. The ceremony is celebrating a new \$559,000 building addition, which will allow the church to host more activities for its congregation.

Church celebrates groundbreaking

BY EMILY KOENIG
Staff Reporter

The Hamilton Street Baptist Church hosted a groundbreaking for a \$559,000 addition to their church Sunday afternoon.

The addition is rebuilding space lost during 1996 when structural problems caused the old fellowship building to cave in on itself. The addition is expected to be completed within six months.

Pastor Charles Jackson said with the addition, the church will have more room to host the Adair County Mobile Food Pantry, an organization that distributes food to needy families.

"Last month we had 180 plus families come through, or about 250 people," Jackson said. "Some of them stood in line for two hours waiting for the food truck to arrive and to get the food ready for dispersion, and in the winter we can't do that."

The church distributes an average of 6,378 pounds of food to 133 families representing 409 people.

Jackson said the addition will be able to accommodate the large number of the church's young children.

"Right now, one of the preschool classrooms has 11 students in a room that has a square footage for five," Jackson said. "One of our church's focuses is to offer support for families, so this will provide more means for doing that."

However, even with the 2004 addition of the interim fellowship hall, the church did not have enough room, hitting their maximum capacity of 220 to 230 people. The new addi-

tion will increase the capacity of the church. Jackson said half of the \$559,000 fund for the building was provided by the congregation, who personally promised to pay the church certain amounts by pledges, and by a loan from the Bank of Kirksville. During the time of pledging, nearly \$200,000 of the congregation's personal funds was promised to the church.

During October, the church will begin grace offerings, a time when members of the church will offer funds freely. The church has three years to meet the goal of \$219,000 with grace offerings. The remaining balance becomes the basis for future loan payments. As of now, nearly \$75,000 has been given to the building fund.

Congregation member Debbie Athon said her family has pledged to give, but many people prefer not to pledge and feel led by their faith to give during grace offerings.

"We're all excited about having the opportunity to use this space for our church and for our community," Athon said.

She said she thinks building will be a great opportunity for community outreach and a space to host activities for children.

"We had some years where we didn't have a lot of young families, but right now we have a lot of young families and a lot of children, and we're going to be able to use this space to have activities," Athon said.

Athon said she remembers the collapse of their fellowship building from faulty tresses during 1996, and said before the 2004 addition of the interim fellowship space, the church spent several years trying to decide what to build.

University examines emergency drills

BY CHELSIE YOKUM
Staff Reporter

In the event of a bomb threat, such as the Sept. 14 incidents at the University of Texas-Austin and the University of North Dakota-Fargo, Truman State's Residence Life and Department of Public Safety have precautions in place to protect students.

Residence Life director John Gardner said the first step Truman takes for this kind of situation is to gather as much information as possible and relay it to DPS, then follow instructions from there.

"While we can certainly assist with responding to those situations, we want to make sure that we're putting those types of situations in the hands of the professionals who are really trained to handle them," Gardner said. "Obviously, we want students to be as safe as possible, and finding a way to communicate that to them is key."

One way Truman communicates information to students is by the campus Text Alert System, Gardner said. The system, which was updated last year to Rave Wireless, allows DPS to send an emergency alert text directly to the cell phones of every student, faculty or parent who is signed up for the system. Students can sign up for alerts through TruView.

Residence Life staff also has the ability to update its website from cell phones if computer access is not available during an emergency, and if directed to secure a building, they can lock down any residence hall building from any computer on campus through the perimeter access system, he said.

Gardner said he could not recall a bomb threat occurring on campus during his time at Truman. During the fall of 2009, there was an incident in which a group of students carried around Airsoft guns that were mistaken for real guns. DPS was alerted, the buildings were searched, the Airsoft guns were found and the situation was resolved, he said.

"I think a lot of what Truman tries to do is we try to make sure that all of our students are receiving the type of attention they need so that we can try to head off these situations before they happen," Gardner said. "We have a pretty good network of folks in various offices that are paying attention to students that may be struggling or may be concerned and trying to intervene with those students before they would get to the point where they would think something like

that would be necessary."

The Students of Concern Committee is a group on campus made up of students and faculty from Student Affairs which takes input from the Truman community about students, Gardner said. If someone is concerned about a student, they can contact the committee, who will then take appropriate action to assess and assist the student.

DPS's first step in dealing with a threat also is to learn as much information about the situation as they can, and to determine the validity of the threat, Assistant Chief Officer Chad Whittom said. DPS has officers trained to teach active shooter response to the department to increase the department's level of preparedness, he said.

As a result of past incidents such as the Columbine shooting, law enforcement in general has made it a goal to respond to emergencies involving shooting and bomb threats more quickly, Whittom said.

He said past tactics have been to contain the issue and call in a SWAT team, however, they have found that a response like that is not the best solution.

"We've done things to try to make our response faster, get people on the scene faster and to try to change our techniques to try to limit the amount of time," Whittom said, "because the more time that goes on in an active shooter situation the more casualties you're going to have."

In the event of an active shooting emergency or bomb threat, the first thing students should do is stay calm, Whittom said. He said panic spreads quickly, making the situation more difficult.

If there is an active shooter, students should find a safe place and secure the area to limit the number of people coming in and out. Students should relay any information regarding the suspect, location to the police department. Students should be aware of their surroundings, and let someone know if something seems strange or unusual.

"I would much rather have somebody come to me with a concern and find out that it's nothing than have somebody think, 'Well, it doesn't seem like that big a deal, I won't bother anybody with it,' then find out later there was something to be concerned about," Whittom said.

DPS provides an Emergency Procedures guide detailing specific instructions students should take during all types of emergency situations, which can be found at the DPS office as well as in most classrooms on campus, Whittom said.

How to register for the Text Alert System:

1. Log in to TruView
2. Click on "Emergency Text Messaging" on the "Truman" tab
3. Input cell phone number and click "submit changes"