

Claremore Progress

On its way up

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Progress Trends Editor

Of the \$214,000 set as a goal for the Claremore Performing Arts Center Select-A-Seat campaign to raise money for the PAC's seating, \$101,570 has already been donated.

"That speaks pretty well," Frank Robson said. Robson and his wife, Ludmila, are contributing \$8 million toward the facility's construction and \$3 million for an endowment fund for building maintenance and the employment of a director. The Walton Family Foundation is also giving \$3 million.



The Claremore Regional Hospital Auxiliary will be raising additional money for the campaign with a fund-raiser dinner from 6-8 p.m. Friday, April 8 at the VFW Post Hall. The auxiliary has already raised \$1,050.

"To me, that's the strength of the country right there," Robson said. He commended the auxiliary for working to make things better for others.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Entertainment will be provided by the Will Rogers Junior High Jazz Band, and door prizes will be awarded. Tickets can be purchased in the hospital Gift Shop. For more information about the fund-raiser dinner, call 342-6712.

Construction on the multi-million dollar facility, located across Florence from Will Rogers Junior High, has been delayed due to some inclement weather. The anticipated date of completion is May 2006.

Once completed, the 64,000 square foot structure, which will be about 81 feet tall at its highest point, will be given to Claremore Public Schools. A band room, a choir room and soundproof practice rooms will accommodate high school classes. In the band room, 18 foot ceilings will compliment the sound. A stagecraft area will be situated so that sets can be rolled onto the stage or the black box theater, which will house small productions.

The \$450,000 Claremore Public Schools has pledged for the project will purchase equipment such as an orchestra lift, an orchestra shell and portable stage-lighting equipment. Rick Mosier of Robson Properties said he anticipates that the school system will offer classes instructing students in the use of the equipment.

Since some areas will be used daily, separate heat and air systems will save money.

The main auditorium will seat 1,060. The stage will be 114 feet by 45 feet. Lighting equipment will be stowed in two catwalks that will be hidden from the audience below by curved wallboard.

An elevator and a wheelchair lift will make the facility accessible. The orchestra pit will also be accessible to wheelchair users.

Special attention was given to including an adequate number of restrooms.

The parking lot adjacent to the PAC, which will have entrances on Florence and Stuart Roosa, will be updated and lit, and the high school and junior high parking lots will also provide parking for PAC performances. The area's drainage system has been improved.

In addition to technical concerns, appearance of the facility, inside and out, is being considered. Patterned concrete will pave the way to the PAC. Lighting for the landscaping is under consideration. Inside, the lobby will feature terrazzo floors.

"There's a lot more to the building than just putting something up," Robson said.

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