



Winter 2007

Established in 1910

Construction Starts at Jackson High School

Construction on the highly anticipated high school campus for Jackson School District commenced with groundbreaking on October 10, 2006. Penzel Construction Company is the contractor for the \$15.5 million extensive renovation project that incorporates two of the existing buildings into one large footprint of approximately 110,000 square feet.

For the Jackson, Missouri, community, the quality of the schools has always been a source of immense satisfaction. No community has shown more pride in its children's education and extracurricular activities than the citizens of Jackson. The school district's reputation has been a contributing factor to Jackson's growth and prosperity for many years. This new construction project ensures that an exceptional curriculum will be available to the city's youth for a long time.

The existing buildings have served well, but need to be brought up to 21st century standards. Penzel Construction Company built both the A Building in 1920, at a cost of \$54,858, and the C Building, to use as an elementary school, in 1938. The B Building was built in 1950 for a student body of 424. With an aging high school campus and a growing student population, an integral overhaul is required.

Mainly due to a student population that has surged since many of the buildings were constructed more than 50 years ago, the high school has been struggling with space issues and deteriorating building conditions for quite a while. With close to 1,200 students in grades 10-12, it is



Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Jackson, Missouri, school district's campus development. Right: Phil Penzel addressed the crowd at the groundbreaking ceremonies.



the largest school district in Southeast Missouri. Overall, the lack of space has created scheduling problems, safety hazards and has prevented program growth. Industrial technology, music, agribusiness, and family and consumer sciences programs all share B Building.

The problems are numerous. The band is forced to practice in the gymnasium because there is not enough room for instruments. Some FACS classes actually have to meet in the First Baptist Church, a block away on High Street. The locker rooms located beneath the gymnasium were built for a football team of 30 players, but today there are about 80 students playing football at Jackson. Only part of the team can fit in the locker room before the game and during halftime; the rest of the players wait outside. The gymnasium has a capacity of 1,000, and cannot hold all the high school's students, meaning no all-school assemblies, pep rallies or proms can take place on campus. The last time a district basketball tournament was held in Jackson, in the early 1990s, hundreds

of people were turned away at the door because the gymnasium could not hold them.

The new development includes replacement of the current music/ag building, construction of spaces with suitable acoustics and practice rooms for the music programs, a new cafeteria with commons areas, and new art rooms. Key to the plan is an events center, scheduled for completion in late 2007, with upper and lower level seating, new locker rooms, and a sports floor to serve as both a high school gymnasium and a place for performing arts. Other parts of the existing campus will be renovated, and most of the high school buildings will be brought together under one roof. An elevator will be installed to offer entry to both levels and for additional access the C Building.

The construction site will encompass both the front and back of the C Building and the

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Signature Packaging To Open

Signature Packaging & Paper Company, headquartered in Conyers, Ga., is opening a production facility in Jackson. Company president/CEO Dennis Vinson has relocated to the area to oversee the day-to-day operation of the plant. Penzel Construction is the design-build contractor for the project, an 80,000-square-foot manufacturing area with 4,700 square feet of administrative offices. By design, the facility allows for 166,000 square feet of additional expansion.

Signature is a full service packaging organization (concept to delivery), with specialized point-of-purchase capabilities. Jackson's proximity to Procter & Gamble's paper products was the key to Signature deciding to locate here. Signature will provide packaging to P&G and other companies in the region. Plans call for an initial 40 employees, with more added as growth dictates. An early 2007 opening is anticipated.

Project Updates

- The **Trinity Lutheran School** project consists of a new gymnasium building addition with a gross floor area of 9,802 square feet. An elevator was installed to accommodate the existing three-story structure. The project was completed this fall. Tim Johnston served as project superintendent.
- **Route 34 Phase II** started May 15th. The project involves widening the existing roadway, and includes staged bridge construction, asphalt work and various related items. Completion is anticipated this summer. Dave Conrad and Mike Williams are the superintendents for this project. Jack Conklin, Jr. is the bridge superintendent.
- **McAlister's Deli** in Marion, Illinois, was completed on schedule. The full service restaurant features sandwiches, hoagies, salads, boxed lunches, catering, and their famous sweet tea. Penzel was the design-build contractor. Phil Penzel served as project manager, with Tim Johnston as the site superintendent.
- **Christ Church of the Heartland** in Cape Girardeau started last June. Phase I site work is underway and the building construction work has begun. Dennis Ward is the project superintendent.
- **Jackson RII School District Warehouse** is on schedule, with Penzel providing and erecting a pre-engineered steel building. Our scope of work will be completed this winter.
- **The Bank of Missouri** second floor build-out will be completed shortly. Penzel provided design-build services for this upscale executive office complex. Phil Penzel managed the project and Bob Sachse was site superintendent.
- **Wood and Huston Bank's** Jackson facility's construction is underway. Penzel provided design-build services for the new branch on East Jackson Boulevard. Phil Penzel is the project manager and Tim Johnston is job superintendent.
- **The Bank of Missouri's** new facility construction recently started. Penzel is the design-build contractor for the bank's second Jackson location. Phil Penzel is the project manager.

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front of the multipurpose building. The facilities will remain occupied throughout construction. To control disruption to normal daily activities, safety, scheduling and phasing are top priorities. Penzel's Construction team is led by project manager Howard Hemmann, P.E., and project superintendent Dave Mirgeaux.

Jackson School District's freshly renovated and expanded high school campus expects to open for classes on the first day of the fall semester in 2008. Students will be in high spirits as the first ones to sit in the chairs, tap at the new computer keyboards, practice for their next concert or create a work of art. Teachers will be just as excited to have new space and modern equipment that will help them instruct students more effectively. Maintenance workers and other staff members look with favor at new fixtures and equipment designed to work better and make their jobs easier. For the school administrators and citizens of the district, opening day will be a celebration of the successful guidance of this project from concept to reality.

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