

# The Oskaloosa Herald

## 2006 - A YEAR IN REVIEW

### Osky church 'a total loss,' but is looking toward 'a new beginning'

By JARED McNEILL  
The Oskaloosa Herald

OSKALOOSA — A fire, originating in the basement of the Oskaloosa First Church of the Nazarene, claimed the church building Saturday night as firefighters battled the blaze early into the morning.

"It looks to be a total loss," said Oskaloosa Fire Chief Frank Glandon at an impromptu press conference during the fire.

According to Glandon, the Oskaloosa Fire Department was called out at 7:01 p.m. to The Oskaloosa First Church of the Nazarene, 300 S. 11th St. Four more fire departments had been called to the scene: New Sharon, Fremont,

Eddyville and Ottumwa. A number of other agencies were helping out as well.

The fire originated in the basement in the area of the furnace room then worked its way up to the area of the sanctuary.

He said that a person was at the church readying it for a prayer meeting when smoke was discovered.

He said that no one was in the building at the time of the fire, so there was no fear of injuries in that regard.

Also, at the time of the press conference, no injuries were reported from the personnel.

The health of the firefighters was at the forefront of the church's mind, according to the Oskaloosa

Nazarene Church Board Secretary Joe Milledge.

"Our immediate concern is the safety of the firefighters, obviously, and we want to stay out of their way so that they can do their work," he said.

"Secondarily, our concern is also for our congregation and that they have a place to meet and worship and we also have a concern for the safety of the premises after the fire is put out because this will be a hazardous area."

Milledge said that the church's campus was more than just one building. Five other buildings encompass the block.

Though when asked whether church would be held in another building, he said that arrangements had been

made at an 8:30 p.m. church board meeting that Sunday's church service would be held at George Daily Auditorium.

A pastor from Fellowship Bible Church, who had a child in the Missoula Children's Theatre performance at George Daily Auditorium Saturday night, got word of what had transpired and asked Wright if it would be OK if the Nazarene church could use the auditorium's facilities for worship.

He agreed. Phone calls were made and it happened.

Wright said that this is just how things are in Oskaloosa "with people collaborating together and sharing their resources freely and that's why the community's able to do the things it does."

### What's happened at the church since the fire

OSKALOOSA — A lot has happened since the night of Jan. 21, 2006.

The church has hired a new senior pastor, new associate pastor, youth pastor, music and worship arts pastor, youth pastor and now they're looking for a children's pastor.

As far as the building, due to the investigation into the cause — which was found to be electrical — among other issues, the building was finally torn completely down at the beginning of this past summer.

Where the main church building once stood, nearly a year ago, is now a

grassy lawn.

The people of the church have been through a lot, says Oskaloosa First Church of the Nazarene Associate Pastor Rich Doering, from the fire itself to new pastors to worshiping at a completely different place — George Daily Auditorium — to moving into a building that really wasn't meant for corporate worship — the church's Christian Life Center.

"I'm just really proud of our people," he said.

The church is still looking into the logistics of a new place in which to worship and a completion date has not been set.

### Penn building project grows

OSKALOOSA — It was learned at the William Penn University President's Convocation this year that the major project undertaken by Penn was going to carry a much bigger price tag than the original \$5 million and the opening dates have been pushed back as well.

"These projects have grown in size and complexity and hence that's part of the delay," said William Penn President Dr. Sours. "They've also grown in cost. The original estimate of \$5 million has now grown to \$12.5 million."

Sours talked about the three buildings that Penn has plans to construct on the Oskaloosa campus.

The PAC (or Penn Activity Center) is set to be the largest building in Oskaloosa and is estimated to be the size of a football field. It is to be 160

feet wide, 350 feet long and more than 60 feet high at its peak.

The COLT (for classrooms, offices, locker rooms and training rooms) building connects the PAC to the old gymnasium and runs behind the heating plant.

The building is set to be three stories high and holds within its walls 60,000 square feet.

On the northeast corner of campus will be the new technology building that will bear the name of Musco — the company that donated the money to make the building possible.

Included in the 44,000 square feet will be the industrial technology and communications program with state-of-the-art equipment and more than enough space for the programs in the building.

## William Penn to build Student Activity Center on Osky campus

By DUANE NOLLEN  
The Oskaloosa Herald

OSKALOOSA — William Penn University President Richard Sours announced Thursday that the university is undertaking a \$5 million construction and renovation project for a new student activity center and expanded classroom space.

William Penn University is "poised for great leaps forward," Sours said in an address to students and the public at William Penn Gymnasium. The university's finances are in order, the leadership team is in place, and the faculty, staff and student body are up beat, he

said. The university has a goal to increase enrollment during the next three years and a new student activity center is one way to reach the goal, he said.

The 48,000-square-foot facility will be one of the largest buildings in Oskaloosa. The Penn Activity Center will be twice the size of Penn Hall, Sours said. Construction will begin soon, and university officials hope to complete it by the beginning of the fall semester 2006, he said.

"This project is big," William Penn University Board of Trustees Chairman Joe Crookham said. The open space inside the activity center will be about 70 feet tall,

150 feet wide and 320 feet long. It will be "bigger than a football field," he said.

The new activity center will be devoted to student activities such as fitness and wellness, intramural sports and graduation ceremonies, Sours said.

The facility's uses are "limited only by our imagination and creativity," he said.

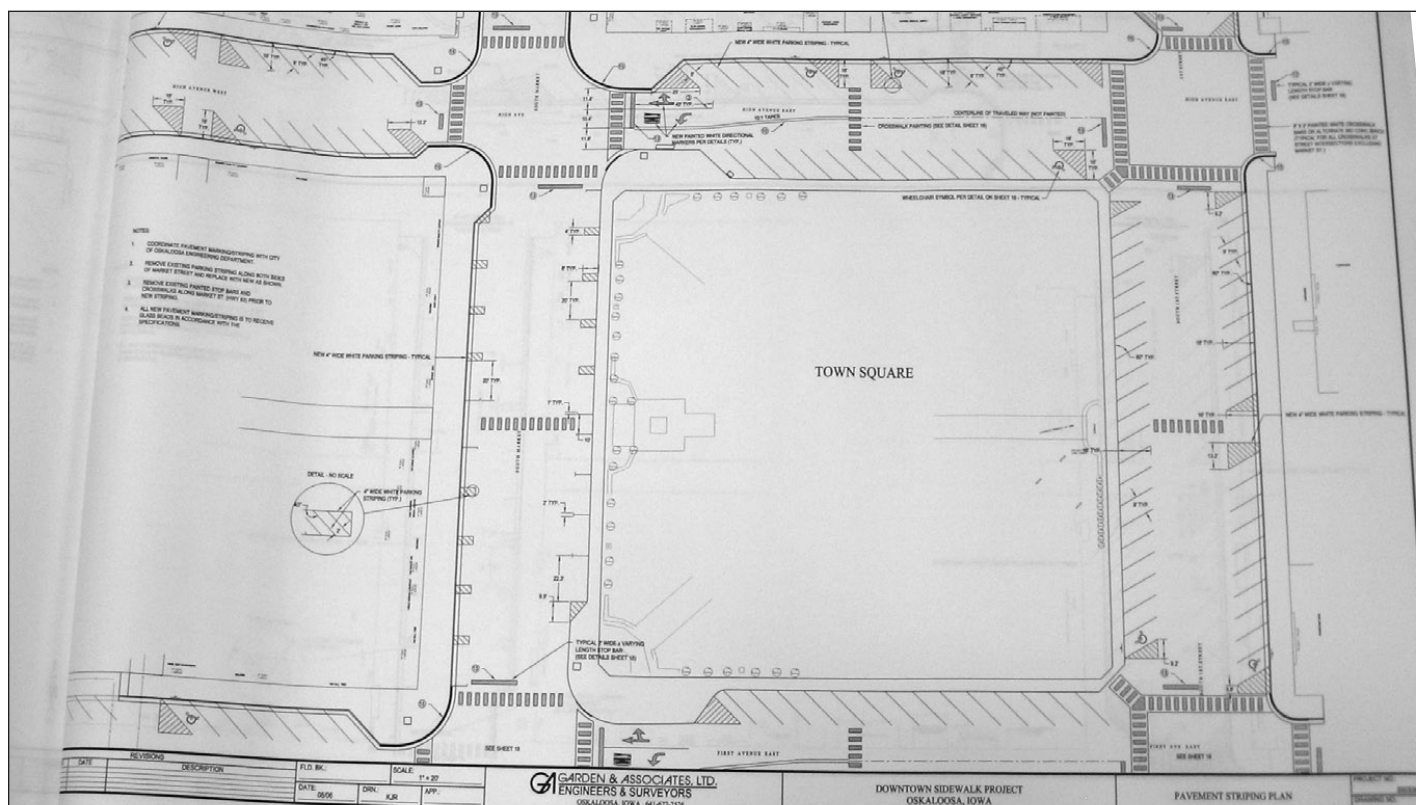
The new activity center also will feature some office space, a fitness center, game room and showers. A new addition to one end of the gymnasium will have about 5,000-square-feet of team locker rooms and will connect the activity center to the gym.

Crookham said a camera will be mounted on the top of Penn Hall so people can watch the construction process on a Web site.

Also part of the construction and renovation project is new space for the Industrial Technology department. The Industrial Technology facilities will grow to 14,000 square feet of classrooms, laboratories and other academic space. University officials also want to use the space for the development of programs such as Media Technology.

The Maintenance Department will move from the Industrial Technology building to the "Old County Shop" adjacent to the campus.

## Oskaloosa Streetscaping project



### Oskaloosa Streetscaping facts

- The Oskaloosa Downtown Streetscaping project was awarded to TK Concrete Inc. of Pella.
- It is anticipated TK Concrete will start the project next spring.

Estimated cost for the project is \$1,368,874.

\$1,955,000 in general obligation bonds were sold to UMB Bank of Kansas City to finance the Streetscaping project plus other improvements.


The project area is from:  
South First Street between First Avenue East and A Avenue East  
South Market Street

between Second Avenue and A Avenue

First Avenue East between South Market Street and South First Street  
High Avenue East between South Market Street and South First Street

The work to be done:  
Remove existing sidewalks from building to curb.  
Pour new concrete sidewalks with a 2-foot wide decorative brick strip inlaid along the back of the curb.  
Place other brick patterns in the crosswalks.

Remove and replace the existing curb and gutter.  
Remove and replace street and sidewalk lighting.  
Overlay the streets with asphalt.



Join us in our newly renovated

## Christian Life Center

at

### 1215 3rd Ave. East Oskaloosa

**Sunday Worship**  
9:00 and 10:30 AM

**Adult Sunday School**  
9:00 or 10:30 AM

**Teen Sunday School**  
10:30 AM

**Children's Church**  
9:00 AM

**Children's Sunday School**  
10:30 AM

*Excellent Nursery Services provided for every service!*