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Fund drive aims at final \$600,000 for Sheridan

By LESLIE EIKLEBERRY

Campaign coordinators are hoping to "fire up" fundraising personnel to raise the remaining \$600,000 needed for the renovation of Sheridan Coliseum on the Fort Hays State University campus.

University officials hope to raise \$2 million in private funds to help turn the 69-year-old landmark into a performing arts center. Space for most of the university's administrative offices, now located in several campus buildings, will also be provided in the building once the renovation is complete.

In addition to the privately raised \$2 million, university officials hope to get another \$4 million from the Legislature.

Although Gov. John Carlin has proposed that \$100,000 be given to the university in fiscal year 1987 to finance the preparation of Sheridan's interior for renovation, the Legislature has yet to act on the proposal. The proposed \$100,000 would come from the State Educational Building Fund.

Carlin's five-year capital improvement plan calls for the Sheridan renovation to be complete in fiscal 1990.

Bob Schmidt, president of KAYS Inc. and co-chairman of the fund drive, said that fundraisers hope to raise the amount remaining of the \$2 million goal by the middle of the year. When the fund drive began in the spring of 1985, campaign coordinators planned to raise \$2 million by the end of 1985.

Schmidt said that the fund drive got into full swing later than officials had expected, causing the delay in reaching the goal.

"But at least we're running downhill now," Schmidt said. "For the effort expended, I think we've

done exceptionally well."

He said that another reason the fund drive was behind schedule was the area economy.

"I know of several individuals who had in mind large gifts, but they had to trim them down," Schmidt said. "That's one of the reasons it has taken longer."

Schmidt said that several donors are participating in the named gift program. In the program, areas within Sheridan can be named for someone, depending on the amount of money contributed.

Amounts range from \$750,000 for the performing arts auditorium to \$3,500 for offices or a dumbwaiter system. Someone who gives \$1 million can rename the entire building, originally named for Gen. Philip Sheridan who was once stationed at Old Fort Hays.

Schmidt said that another of the fundraising programs, the purchase of auditorium seats for \$500 each, may help fundraisers reach their \$2 million goal.

"We're counting on that to help put us over the top," Schmidt said.

Ron Pflughoft, vice president for university development and relations, said that as of Jan. 21, 250 seats had been purchased. At \$500 a seat, the remaining 1,200 seats would bring in \$600,000.

The renovation project has also received donations from several campus organizations that have sponsored fundraising events. Schmidt said that he was glad the organizations were trying to help the project.

"We've received an awful lot of support from these groups. They've given us higher visibility," Schmidt said. "The more people feeling that they are involved the better. I hope they continue."