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Historic Missouri Theatre Renovation Gets \$500,000 Boost

U.S. Sen. Kit Bond's office recently notified the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts that it will receive \$500,000 from the Department of Interior to help restore the historic theater.

The funds will be used to renovate the building, built in 1928, into a progressive facility with a historically accurate façade, historically restored performance auditorium with state-of-the-art sound and lighting, as well as a new scenic design shop. Also included in the renovation is the new Columbia Art League Gallery, an expanded grand foyer with ADA elevator balcony service, the new Encore Lounge on the mezzanine level, a roof-top reception area, and expanded modern restroom facilities.

The restored Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts will serve as the home of the Missouri Symphony Society and

the Columbia Art League. A dozen other local arts organizations will also use the center including the Missouri Symphony Orchestra's Hot Summer Nights Music Festival, the Missouri Symphony Conservatory of Music featuring the Missouri Symphony Youth Orchestra, Junior Strings, and Children's Choir, as well as the nationally-recognized Plowman Chamber Music Competition, the Missouri Technical Theater Institute, Belly Dance United, Boonslick Chordbusters, Columbia Chorale, Columbia Civic Orchestra, Missouri Contemporary Ballet, the Mozart-Higday Music Trust Concert Series, P.A.C.E. Youth Theatre, Ragtag Cinema's Missouri Theatre Film Series, the True/False Film Festival, and the University of Missouri's Show-Me Opera.

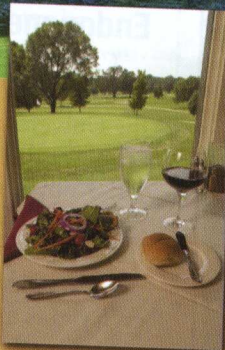
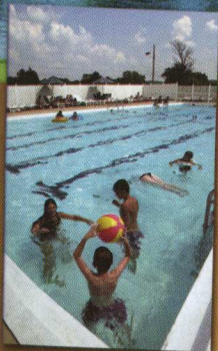
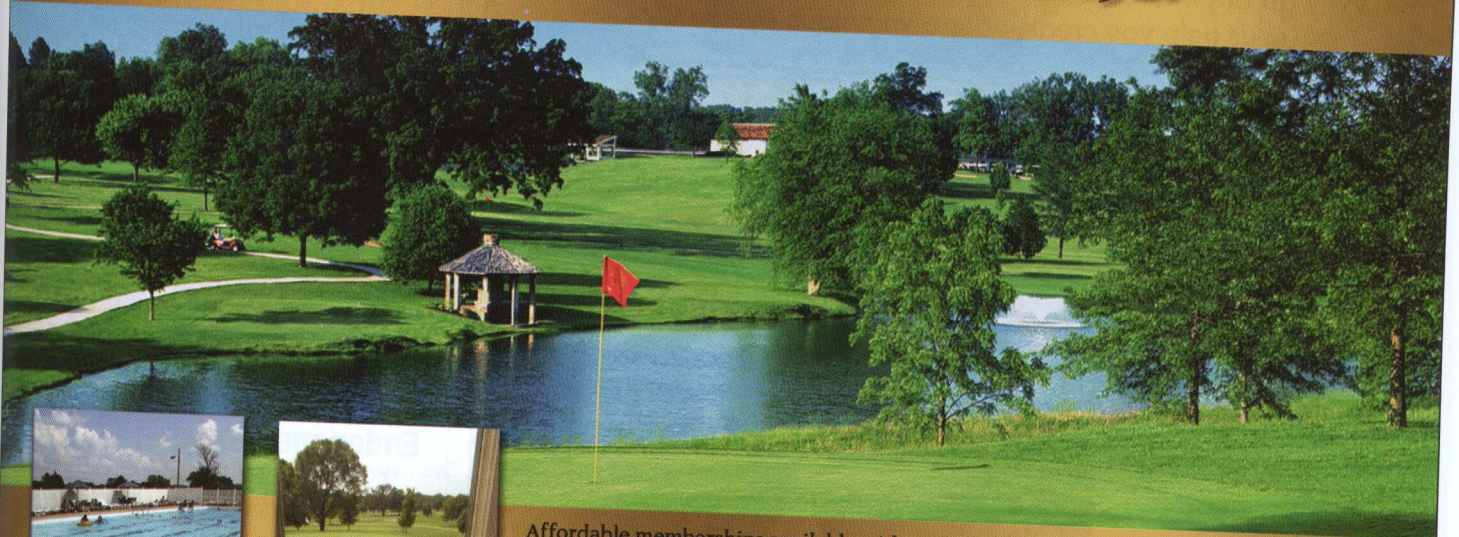
Socket Sends A Message To Rural Missouri

Socket, the largest Missouri-based telephone and Internet service provider in the state, recently submitted a six-point recommendation plan to Missouri's Rural High-Speed Internet Access Task Force to help Missouri reach its goal of improving rural access to high-speed Internet connections.

Socket's plan calls for quantifying and developing a public list of all areas currently lacking broadband access. The company also recommends the task force conduct a thorough investigation into up-and-coming technologies such as broadband wireless or broadband-over-powerline, so all technologies get equal consideration. ■



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