

GIVING 'TOPSOIL' A NEW MEANING



ROBERT NANDELL/THE REGISTER

CURRENT WORK

Soil-Tek, a Des Moines company, is blowing a soil/sand mix onto the roof of the \$32.3 million downtown library as the first step in creating a green roof. Soil-Tek plans to put down 1,000 cubic yards — or 800 tons — of soil/sand mix and lava rock, said Tom Truelsen, Soil-Tek's president.

WINTERIZE

The roof will help stabilize the roof and keep away ice, and the top layer of soil will include a bonding substance to prevent wind erosion during the winter.

SPRING PLANS

In spring, two or three varieties of sedum, a flowering ground cover, will be planted. In about two to three years, the sedum will fully cover the roof, according to EnviroScape, the Madison, Ind., company in charge of the roof project. The roof will lower energy costs and reduce water runoff, the company reports.