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Breaking News

Elcho school project nearly done

The grounds have been seeded, and curb and gutter installed as the Elcho school construction and renovation project tries to outrace winter weather.

The project, which got off to a speedy start following ground-breaking in April, 2017, was bogged down over the past summer with unanticipated asbestos abatement problems and a longer-than-anticipated process to demolish and remove the old elementary school. That was a structure that had to be gone before the final playground and parking lot layout could begin.

But this week, crews and heavy equipment were buzzing around the facility and Earl "Doc" Smith of EDS Builders, the construction manager, was optimistic.

"It's still fall," Smith said. "The parking lot is scheduled to be completed by the end of next week."

It's been a long road dating from community surveys in the summer of 2016 through the successful referendum in November of that year, the ground-breaking and, now, approaching the conclusion.

The project moved the main office and entrance from the south to the north end of the school complex with secure doors; and revamped music and band areas into an area that previously housed a second small gymnasium. The existing library was downsized, with a portion turned over to an early childhood center.

New construction was highlighted by a gymnasium with a capacity of 1,200 students, featuring the purple and gold colors of the Elcho Hornets along with a hardwood floor purchased from Robbins Flooring of White Lake.

It also includes a commons/cafeteria with seating for 300 to 350 and an adjoining kitchen; fitness center, technology education department, a mix of classrooms, and a new heating and ventilation system.

The \$18 million referendum was approved by voters by a 57 to 43 percent margin.



The final stages of the Elcho school complex took shape this week with the installation of curb and gutter, sod and seed around the revamped school. Paving is scheduled next week.