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Breaking News

Elcho school project surges ahead

The new front entrance of the Elcho school is taking shape, adding emphasis to an ongoing \$18 million project that will almost totally remake the footprint of the complex.

Under the direction of Earl Doc Smith of EDS Builders, crews from a variety of trades have been working at a snappy pace on the building, which should be ready for students at the opening of the 2018-19 school year, just 10 months away.

It's going very well and there is a lot of excitement in the air, District Administrator Bill Fisher said. I can't tell you how impressed I am with all the contractors. They are doing an excellent job.

The project, approved by voters in November, 2015, will move the main office and entrance from the south to the north end of the school complex with secure doors; add an additional gymnasium with a seating capacity of 1,200; and revamp existing locker rooms and music and band areas. The existing library will be downsized, with a portion turned over to an early childhood center.

New construction will also include a community fitness center, commons/cafeteria with seating for 300 to 350 and an adjoining kitchen; technology education and a mix of classrooms.

I think they are actually a little ahead of schedule, Fisher said, and although he would make no guarantees, there are rumblings that a late season basketball game or two may be able to be played in the new gymnasium.

Once classes are adjourned in spring, crews will swoop in and demolish the 1938 school building and the existing main entrance, with that area re-purposed for the child care program.



The new main entrance to the Elcho School is beginning to take shape.