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Breaking News

New parts of Elcho school get closer

Students are beginning to use portions of the new Elcho School, and plans are on track for the final basketball game of the season to be played in the sparkling and expansive gymnasium.

Earl Doc Smith of EDS Builders, the construction manager for the \$18 million building and renovation project, reported today that work is proceeding at a brisk clip, with the gymnasium bleachers and scoreboard scheduled for delivery in just over a week.

Everything is looking really good, Smith said.

With a capacity of 1,200 spectators, the gymnasium is among the hallmarks of the project. It features the purple and gold colors of the Elcho Hornets along with a hardwood floor purchased locally from Robbins Flooring of White Lake.

The public should get a good look at the season's final basketball game on Feb. 15, barring unforeseen issues.

Crews have begun to demolish the former shop area, and students and instructor Travis Goeks are beginning to move equipment into the new technology education department.

He starting to set up his equipment and the students are helping, Smith said.

Ceilings and drywall are also nearing completion, bathrooms are being tiled, and the offices receiving coats of paint.

This is one of the highest quality jobs I have worked with in my 38 years, Smith said. The quality of the workmanship is just outstanding and the architect, SDS, has done a nice job on the design work.

The project will move the main office and entrance from the south to the north end of the school complex with secure doors; and revamp music and band areas into an area that previously housed a second small gymnasium and multi-purpose room. The existing library will be downsized, with a portion turned over to an early childhood center.

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

The 1938 elementary structure remains in use for this school year. Once it is removed, the area will be redeveloped into a playground for youngsters up to grade two.



The new Elcho gymnasium floor is ready for striping, and on track for an inaugural basketball game in early February.

The goal is to complete the construction with the least disruption educationally. Occupancy is slated for the start of the 2018-19 term.

The \$18 million referendum was approved by voters in November, 2016, by a 57 to 43 percent margin.