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Builder leads White Lake tour

Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012

After the White Lake School District's annual meeting Tuesday evening, Doc Smith took some of those in the gallery on a tour of the addition to the elementary and high school complex just days before it will be completed.



Doc Smith leads a tour of the addition to the White Lake School Tuesday.

Smith has been a steady resident of White Lake during project, serving as the on-site manager for EDS Builders, a Minneapolis firm.

Since the ground breaking on April 19, EDS and its fellow contractors have built stunning gymnasium, commons area, fitness room — two giant-screen televisions, and the showers, locker rooms and rest rooms that come along with a project of this scale.

The night of the White Lake meeting, a firm had put a final coating of sealer on the gymnasium floor, but Smith suggested the big room will be ready for the start of the Laker basketball season in the middle of November.

"Players will be practicing on the floor next week," he predicted.

The \$3.58 million project was approved by district voters in a referendum in November, 2011 by a 60 percent margin.

The planning was launched, contractors were hired and when spring arrived, Smith was on his way to White Lake.

"We worked together as a team," he said, blending the people of the school district with construction workers, architects and engineers.

Smith explained that the community had worked closely on the project, donating and volunteering whenever they could.

He noted several examples including donating of maple logs and the work of Robbins, Inc., of White Lake, to build one of the world's finest athletic floors in the gymnasium.

Smith, who has managed many major construction projects during his career, said the White Lake facility reflect strong pride by members of the community, and it extended to the dozens of workmen and women who have created the building and its stunning facilities.

Of course, Smith seemed to be quite proud, too