

Many people of all ages have helped during two arduous weeks of



Above: Flood water continued to rise after this photo was taken. Top right: Wet vacs, disinfectant and rubber gloves were in great demand. Bottom right: Remains of the VHS shop. Below: Three busloads of Gaston students spent a day helping clean up VHS.



Vernonia High School and Washington Grade School were declared "structurally sound" yesterday afternoon, clearing the way to reopen the two schools as soon as the clean up is completed.

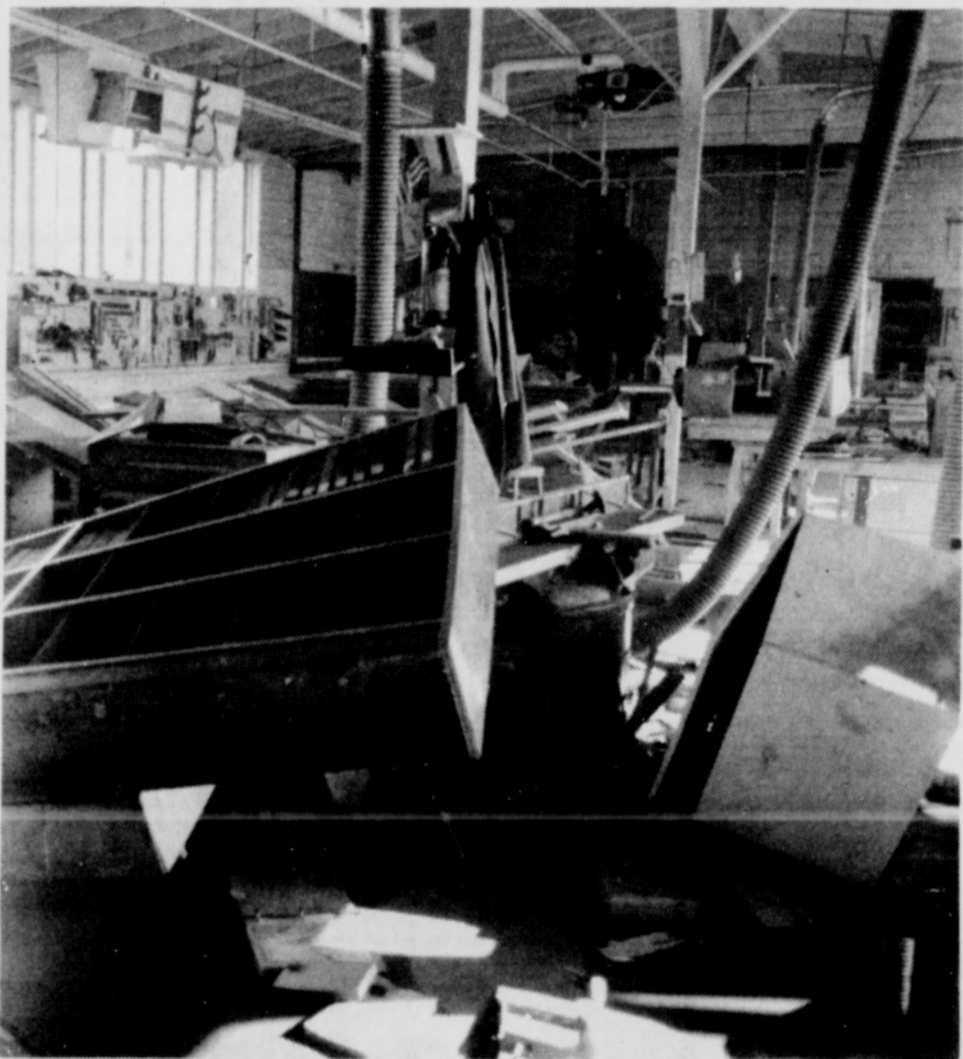
An exception to the structural approval is the modular

classrooms at VHS, which cannot be used as classrooms again.

Removal of flood-damaged asbestos tile in WGS should be completed today. It is hoped that asbestos removal at VHS will be completed next week.

Adding to the good news is a report that none of the school buses was damaged.

When school will reopen is still unknown, though Portland Community Classes have resumed and students enrolled in those classes will be allowed to make up the time lost.



cleaning, still no date can be set for resumption of district classes

Reopening school is complicated by the loss of the modular classrooms, the shop and the gym at the high school. Three classrooms at WGS will be reusable, as will the cafeteria, but not for some time. Additionally, about 50 percent of high school textbooks were lost to floodwaters and most of the junior high level texts.

The school district has not yet decided whether to run double shifts or to hold class during the scheduled spring vacation. The school board will meet tonight, Feb. 21, at Lincoln Grade School for a further update.



Lots of muscle was provided by volunteers to haul flood-ruined debris from the basement of Washington Grade



School. Others were kept busy sanitizing those items that were washable.

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