

# Flood damage at Vernonia schools not completely repaired yet

Vernonia students attending Washington Grade School will find that all facilities damaged by the February flood have been put back in shape. Work has been completed in all areas of the basement, including the cafeteria, which will be open as usual for breakfast and lunch. It is also possible that a temporary classroom will be placed in the basement to relieve overcrowding.

Vernonia High School students won't be quite so lucky, though some areas will be ready when classes resume.

The new floor in the gymnasium has been laid and the striping has been done, but it won't be quite ready when school starts Sept. 3 because the paint used for the striping will need several more days of curing time. The gym will be ready for use on Monday, Sept. 9. The boys' and girls' locker rooms, and the bleachers are ready for use.

The Band room, Home Economics room and Room 10 will be nearly ready, with new paint and flooring, but the cabinets won't be installed. The company that was awarded the first contract for the cabinets in those rooms, declared bankruptcy, so a new contract had to be negotiated, delaying completion until Sept. 16. There will also be new appliances in the Home Ec rooms.

Carpet will be installed in the Band Room and Room 10; vinyl tile will be laid in the Home Ec room.

Outside of the main building, the commons room will be used for satellite and computer instruction classes when school opens. Those classes will be moved to the main building when more classrooms are ready. The commons will also be carpet-

ed. The shop will be usable as a classroom when school opens, also, though students will not be able to use power tools for about a month.

Dark blue carpeting is planned for throughout the school, including the hallways, with the exception of the Home Ec and Science rooms. Three colors of vinyl tile - dark blue, off white and a light brown similar to the existing paneling - will complete those two rooms.

Exposed areas of the cabinets - doors, fronts, etc. - will be honey maple laminate, with off-white counter tops.

To complete the blue, off-white and light brown color scheme, a dark blue paint will be used on the lower walls, with off-white above.

Outside the school, the grandstand has been repaired and the field lights are working.

The greatest problem facing completion of flood repairs is the school electrical system, which has deteriorated far beyond expectations, according to project manager Dave McKay.

"We must rewire the whole building," McKay explained, "and, though we have verbal agreement from FEMA, we can't move forward until we receive a letter of determination."

Rewiring will have to include new electrical distribution panels because there are no longer replacement parts available for the existing 45-year-old panels. Breaker panels throughout the school must also be replaced because of corrosion due to the high humidity created by flood-soaked walls and other materials.

Electrical repairs will also have to include a new pole to

replace the rotting pole currently in use, plus new underground cable and a different, safer, location for the transformer, which is presently placed inside the building.

Another problem awaiting determination by FEMA is replacement or repair of the school's three-room modular

building. FEMA initially wanted the building repaired, but the only bid received is for \$157,000 and the replacement cost would be only \$110,000.

Most of the remaining work will be done in September, including the library and reconfiguration of administrative offices.

October 4th is the target date for substantial completion of the entire project and, at this time, everything is still on target McKay said.

"If there is a silver lining," he added, "it is that this will no longer be a '50s school, but will be updated with 1996 technology."

## VHS will use different type of registration for classes

Vernonia High School students will find a different procedure for scheduling classes when they return Sept. 3 for the 1996 fall semester. Students will handle their own scheduling, by working with the teachers offering the classes, instead of having it done by computer.

Called "arena scheduling", the system has each teacher seated at a table with a list of

classes that he or she conducts. Students will move from table to table, registering for the classes they need and setting their own schedules

within the class offerings.

Seniors will have the first opportunity to fill their schedules, followed by juniors, sophomores and freshmen.

## New teachers at Banks schools

Some new faces will be at Banks schools when the 1996 fall term starts.

Two new music instructors are Jennifer Brooks, who will be teaching band and choir at the high school, and Janos Nagy, who will be in the elementary schools.

Additional staff on the elementary level includes Larry Hull, who will teach grade three, and Mary Lau, a sixth grade teacher.

Amy Petti will also join the elementary staff, as assistant principal.

## Resignations, new teachers at Vernonia schools

There will be some new faces at Vernonia schools for the 1996-97 year and some familiar faces will be gone.

Two teachers, Ron Remsen and Sharon Williams, have retired. Others who will not return are Gene Spencer, Greg Buchan, Randy Dalzell, Jason Nice, Bryan Orton and Dan Foss.

New teachers at Vernonia High School will include Sheri Antley in Advanced Math, Jill Griffin, Career Ed, and Kristi Hickox, Alternative Ed.

Washington Grade School will add Joan Jones for grades 5/6 and Kathy Kuskie, 7-8 science.

Splitting time between VHS and WGS will be Spanish teacher Robert Bruce.

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