New Walhalla High School remains behind schedule

Officials still confident of 2015 opening

BY GREG OLIVER
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WALHALLA — Constant and often heavy rains that occurred throughout last summer have caused construction of the new Walhalla High School to remain behind schedule.

"Trehel (Corporation) is still 40-45 days behind schedule, but they are making it up and still hoping to be done with the school in 2015 (in time for classes to start in August)," said acting Superintendent Michael Thorsland.

Thorsland, meeting with members of the local media during the first of two sessions per year, said the recent dry weather has enabled Trehel to make strides in construction.

"There's already a roof deck on the first floor and they are planning to pour some of the second story floors," Thorsland said. "The gym walls are already going up."

In addition, Thorsland told the media that 75 percent of the flooring on the first floor has been paved with concrete. That, he pointed out, will provide less of a deterrent when it rains.

"They will still have to take days off when it rains, but can resume work the next day instead of when it was clay and the rains would knock them out for three to four days," he said.

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WALHALLA: New school located on S.C. Highway 11 north of town

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Thorsland said Hutch-N-Son Construction, which is grading the site, is making progress on the roads leading to the school — including the driveway.

The new Walhalla High, located on S.C. Highway 11, is one mile north of the S.C. Highway 183 intersection and a little more than three miles from the existing high school site on Razorback Lane.

Officials say the new facility will house some 1,300 students with room for growth. Total square footage for the new school, including mezzanine space, is 268,000.

The guaranteed maximum price for the project is $55 million. That figure includes $40,300,000 for all remaining construction and $14,700,000 for all other associated project costs that includes site costs, grading costs, road improvements for traffic lights and third-party inspections as well as a new football stadium.

"We're still anticipating a great site and a great opening," Thorsland said.

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FILE PHOTO

Construction at the new Walhalla High School site has been making progress since this photo was taken in late August. School District of Oconee County officials said Tuesday that Trehel Corporation remains 40-45 days behind schedule due to the summer rains but remain confident it should be ready to open by August 2015.