Walls going up at new Walhalla High

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Those driving by the site of the new Walhalla High School on S.C. Highway 11 will now see more visible signs that construction is moving forward.

On Thursday, some of the walls that will comprise classrooms and the athletic wing were erected. However, the week's worth of dry weather that enabled progress to be made hit a snag Friday as nearly three inches of rain fell in the Golden Corner.

"Up until this morning, we've had a really good week of weather and were able to pour some of the floors and put up walls," said Michael Thorsland, assistant superintendent for operational services for the School District of Oconee County. "The retaining wall was poured for the bleachers and baseball stadium and one of the dugouts was constructed. They've made good progress with

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Although sunny days have been few and far between during construction of the new Walhalla High, officials said the new school is still slated to open in August 2015.



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Trehel Corporation Project Engineer Brian Miller, left, and School District of Oconee County Assistant Superintendent of Operational Services Michael Thorsland are pictured at the site of the new Walhalla High School. A portion of the walls erected Thursday is pictured in the background.

WALHALLA: School's opening still scheduled for August 2015

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of school in August 2015.

"When it rains, it's not just the rain — you can't use the dirt because the ground is so saturated," Weber said.

Thorsland said the key to making headway in the project is getting the concrete floors poured, adding, "The project isn't as weather dependent once the concrete floor is down."

Weber said progress is being made on that end, although it would require several more weeks of dry weather.

"If we had another 30 days of dry weather, we would have been out of the ground completely and another couple of months would have seen a great deal of the second floor slab completed to enable work to begin underneath for piping and electrical work," Weber said.

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>
> **Jack Weber**
> Project Manager Trehel Corporation

Although there is a slight chance of rain Monday, Weber said the remainder of next week looks promising weatherwise. But he said the problem is that every time it rains, it takes significant time to dry out.

"It took a week to dry out from the last rains," he said. "We've got a road we've been trying to put in behind the school for three months and it rains and gets saturated. We had just started to work out there (Thursday)."

Weber said work is able to occur in areas that can dry quicker and is thankful asphalt was already in place.

"Had we not had asphalt down on the site, we would have been in far worse shape than we are," Weber said. "We've got a good layout area where we can keep steel clean once it's delivered in the next several weeks that will prevent it from getting muddy."

In spite of all the rain, the Trehel project manager said he is happy to be a part of the project.

"It's going to be a great school and there has been a ton of work involved in this school before we ever broke ground," he said. "But all we can do for the next couple of days is pump (rain) water."

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