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ONE DOLLAR

PULLMAN HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION



Tribune/Barry Kough

The new addition at Pullman High School is on the right, with the old structure on the left.

New gym is ready for game day

First milestone in a three-phase renovation complete

By MARY STONE OF THE TRIBUNE

PULLMAN — With the completion of their new gymnasium, Pullman High School students are celebrating a milestone in a project that has them attending classes in a construction zone.

The school is being demolished and rebuilt in stages. Three new wings will eventually comprise much of the classroom space on one side with the auditorium, old gym and new gym on the other.

Voters approved a \$53.5 million bond in February 2013 to renovate the high school and add six classrooms at Franklin Elementary. School construction bonds in Washington state require a 60 percent majority to pass.

The elementary school project was finished last year for \$2 million. The high school project, which began in spring 2014, works out to about \$65.4 million, including a \$13.9 million grant from the state of Washington.

The new school's modern design, with increased capacity for technology and built to accommodate a growing student population, includes a much smaller number of one important feature: entry points.

To improve safety, the project will take the campus from more than 70 entrances to just two.

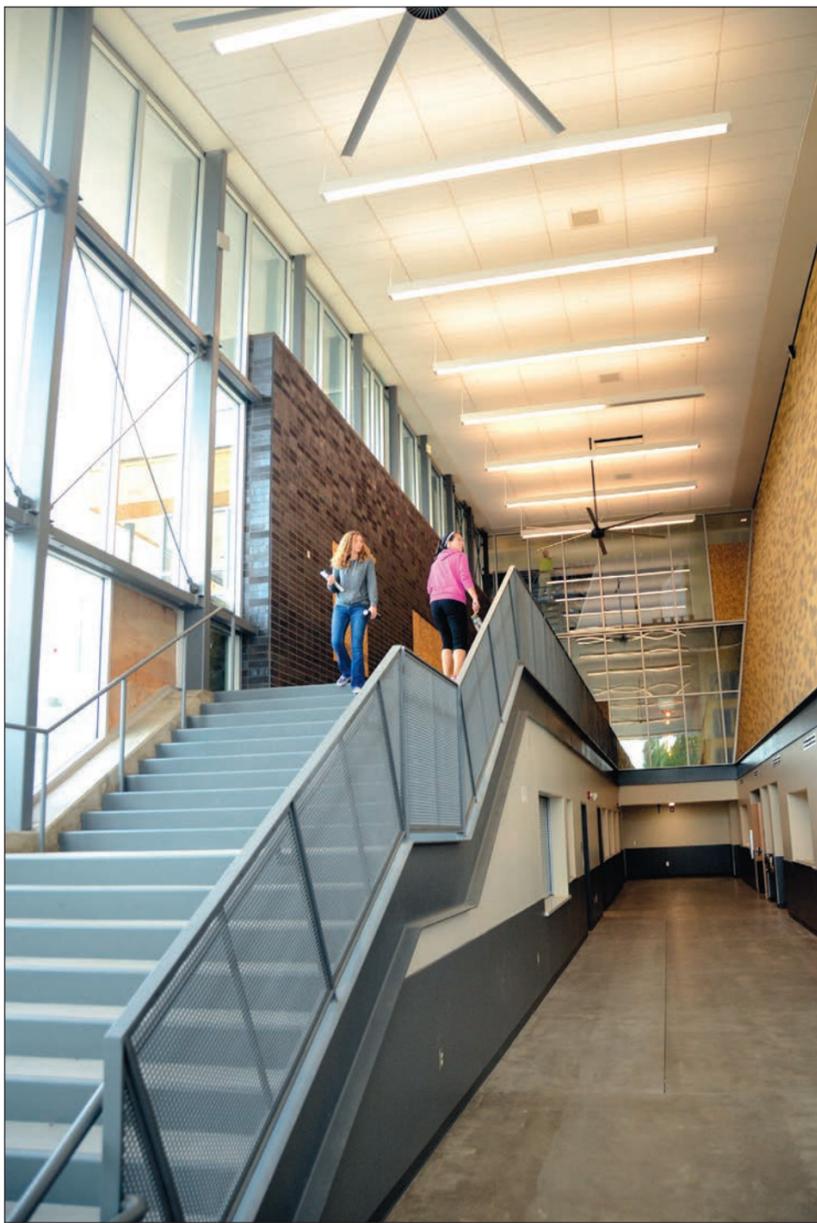
"There will only be one entry, through the front door, after school starts," Assistant Principal Desiree Gould said.

Having a more secure school was high on the list of priorities when the new building was conceived, Gould said, but it's not what she expects people to notice first.

"You walk in that new front entrance, and it's like 'Oh, this is going to be awesome,'" she said.

Tuesday morning, as school officials prepared for an evening ribbon-cutting ceremony between volleyball games in the recently completed gym, Assistant Principal Chris Franklin pointed out some of the details he thinks students and community members will appreciate.

Some, like a retail window for concessions, will



Tribune/Barry Kough

The new and bright entry to Pullman High School is part of a multimillion-dollar remodel of the building that remains ongoing.



Tribune/Barry Kough

Part of the old basketball court is framed and hanging on the wall of the new gym at Pullman High School.

be obvious to anyone who attends an event at the gym, Franklin said. Others, like the fact that each sport has a dedicated storage room, will be appreciated by the students, teachers and coaches who use those spaces each day.

Another new behind-the-scenes feature is a separate locker room for sports officials. The officials' room and athletes' locker rooms are equipped with clocks tied to the game clock, Franklin said, so everyone will know when it's time for

the game to resume.

The school's old gym, currently being repurposed for classroom space, will become an auxiliary gym when the project is complete. The gym and the welding shop will be the only original parts of the early 1970s-era school that remain.

"Everything else is being rebuilt," Franklin said.

The updated school is designed to house 1,000 students, Gould said. Current enrollment is about 800, up from the estimated 720 students school officials anticipated this fall. She credits growth at Washington State University, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories and Pullman Regional Hospital for the bump in numbers.

Gould said the project,

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Equipment, training are concerns for fire officials

Idaho County has plenty of volunteers, but lack of training can put county at risk

By KATHY HEDBERG OF THE TRIBUNE

GRANGEVILLE — When fire breaks out in Idaho County, there's no lack of people willing to help put it out.

The problem is making sure the responders are trained well enough and have the right equipment to do the job.

Idaho County Commissioner Skip Brandt told a roomful of area fire chiefs and agency fire managers Tuesday that whenever there's a fire at night in his hometown of Kooskia, "it clears the bars out."

Another man in the audience remembered a time when the mills would shut down and release their employees if a fire erupted to help with the firefighting effort.

But it's a different story now, and "we do get down to the reality that there's a lot of lawyers around us," Brandt said. "I hate to sink anybody's ship, but I think it's a reality that we need to look at."

Relying on volunteer firefighters who may be going beyond the scope of their training puts the county and local jurisdictions at risk.

"I think it would be ideal if each department had a wildlands crew and a structure crew," Brandt said. "I know that puts three people on each. ... When there is a fire you have a lot of people that show up, but how do you get them trained?"

There are four fire districts in Idaho County and 10 independent fire departments, some of which are attached to towns.

Some are supported by tax dollars; others are funded by donations. All are staffed by volunteers. The average age of the volunteer firefighters in Idaho County is 50 and older, because retired people are often the only ones with the time to devote to the departments.

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Pope Francis arrives in America, faces a polarized country

By NICOLE WINFIELD and RACHEL ZOLL OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Pope Francis arrived Tuesday on the first visit of his life to the United States, bringing his humble manner and his "church of the poor" to a rich and powerful nation polarized over economic inequality, immigration and equal justice. According a rare honor to the pontiff, President Barack Obama and his wife and daughters met Francis at the bottom of the stairs on the red-carpeted tarmac at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland after the pope's chartered plane touched down from Cuba. Presidents usually make important visitors come to them at the White House.

Emerging from the plane to boisterous cheers from a crowd of hundreds, the smiling 78-year-old pontiff removed his skullcap in the windy weather and made his way down the steps in his white robes. He was welcomed by

a military honor guard, chanting schoolchildren, politicians and Roman Catholic clerics in black robes and vivid sashes of scarlet and purple. Joe Biden, the nation's first Catholic vice president, and his wife were among those who greeted him.

Eschewing a limousine, the pope climbed into the back of a small charcoal-gray Fiat and promptly rolled down the windows, enabling the cheering, whooping crowds to see him as his motorcade took him to the Vatican diplomatic mission in Washington, where he will stay while in the nation's capital. The choice of car was in keeping with his simple habits and his anti-consumerism message.

During his six-day, three-city visit to the U.S., the pope will meet with the president today, address Congress Thursday, speak at the United Nations in New York Friday and take part in a Vatican-sponsored conference on the family in

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Coming in Thursday's Tribune

When conductor Jeremy Briggs Roberts cues the start of the Washington-Idaho Symphony's 44th season, the music of Beethoven, Bruch and Mendelssohn won't be the only thing on his mind. In 360.

