

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: *Southwestern Illinois Commercial Contractors*

Holland in works to fix Swansea school closed by mine subsidence

By DENNIS GRUBAUGH
The unusual problem of mine subsidence led to a crises for Wolf Branch School District 113, and Holland Construction Services Inc. is responding to the challenge.

Last fall, Holland signed on as construction manager for the \$16 million replacement for the portion of Wolf Branch Middle School (410 Huntwood Road in Swansea) that was razed last year because of damage from subsidence. The cost will include a new, 44,000-square-foot addition as well as renovations to 18,000 square feet of the original part of the structure that will remain.

Holland’s construction team on the job is led by Ryan Savage, project executive; Brian Dayton, project manager; and Don Marti, project superintendent.

The one-story replacement addition to the building is the same size as the original and will be built on the same basic footprint as what was razed.

The last few months, Swansea-based Holland has been working with the design team and school district through preconstruction services, assembling bid packages that will be awarded following the board’s approval on March 18.

Subsidence monitoring will continue on the site, but the mine remediation has been finished by others and certified successful by the IDNR.

The project is to be completed by the time school resumes in August 2021, Savage said.

The Middle School students moved in to the nearby elementary school during the interim.

Some 25 trades are expected to be used,



A rendering of the planned project at Wolf Branch Middle School (shown).

and daily manpower will average up to 40 people throughout the project.

As a partially Illinois Capital Development Board funded project, minority participation requirements are part of the project — a minimum of 8 percent of the work will be by Minority Business Enterprise, or MBE, companies and 4 percent by Female Business Enterprise, or FBE, firms.

The project combines a variety of construction materials. The Holland project team said the two gymnasiums will feature poured, tilt-up concrete walls that will feature a textured surface. There will also be brick veneer under the lower section roof lines. The locker rooms and the kitchen area will be load-bearing masonry construction.

The building addition will be square in shape. It will sit on the east side of the remaining building where renovation will involve new administration offices and band/chorus rooms. Three wings of classrooms for sixth through eighth grades are located in the existing building.

The new portion will house a competitive gym and its locker rooms, a multipurpose room that will house the cafeteria and kitchen, a stage and a media center/library.

Savage and Dayton said the project will be LEED-certified, which reflects the latest in energy efficiency and environmental design.

Looking at the school from the front (north), the remaining building is on the right, or west. The main entrance will stay-in the same central location. A new

glazed storefront entry will take visitors into the existing building where the new administration offices will be located. To the left of the reconfigured front door (east) will be the new addition.

Holland has built a large part of its reputation on education construction, and a number of recent school projects reflect that — the new Lebanon Elementary School, the new Wesclin High School in Trenton, the new Wayne City K-12 School, Flora’s new Elementary School, and additions, renovations, and sports fields at North Mac High School in Virden, in Macoupin County.

This year the firm will also be building the new cafeteria addition at Carlyle High School and performing HVAC upgrades at Lebanon High School.



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