

Weather Delays Start Date For Smith Middle School

The Carrboro school will launch programs to build school spirit and improve teacher development.

BY ALDESHA GORE
Staff Writer

A severe winter storm and heavy summer rains have dampened construction of Carrboro's new Smith Middle School.

Officials have attributed delays in the newest school in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools to weather and other construction problems, pushing back the official date for opening from May 1, 2001 to June or July of 2001.

Steve Scroggs, assistant superintendent for support services, said the damp weather made construction almost impossible.

"The extremely wet July and last year's high accumulation of snow made the ground so wet that it made it hard for constructors to put together all the equipment to construct the building," he said.

Scroggs said the construction also was delayed because some materials were slow in reaching the site.

"There was some steel that came in extremely late," he said.

But the harsh weather conditions did

not cause any financial woes.

"The bad weather has not increased the cost of the project at all," said Board of Education member Nick Didow.

Despite weather setbacks, builders have been able to work continuously over the past two months due to dry weather. Scroggs said builders are working extra days to make up for an eight-week delay.

"Construction workers are now able to put more attention to the site," he said. "More of them are working on the weekends."

Scroggs said the steel and walls are up in the building and concrete has been added to most of the floors.

But builders still have a lot of work ahead of them.

"They need to do a lot more pretty quickly," Scroggs said.

The new middle school, located between Seawell Elementary and Chapel Hill High School, is expected to handle increased enrollment in the district.

But Scroggs said enrollment at Smith Middle School might change by the time the school is fully constructed.

"It is hard to say right now," Scroggs said. "We may start off with an enroll-

ment of 400 to 450 students and then possibly grow within the capacity."

But other plans for the school have already begun. Valerie Reinhardt, the selected principal for the new school, has already started planning for its grand opening.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools spokeswoman Kim Hoke said Reinhardt has extensive school experience.

"She is wonderful," Hoke said. "Ms. Reinhardt has already started develop-

ing programs and activities for the future students at Smith Middle School."

The programs have been designed to increase teacher development and communication with parents and will kick off with an effort to garner school spirit.

"There will be information sessions for parents and community members," Reinhardt said.

"Activities for students next year will include a voting contest for choosing the new school colors and mascot."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Microsoft Cries Foul, Contests Case

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Seeking to keep its business intact, Microsoft filed legal briefs Monday alleging the federal judge who ordered the company's breakup compromised the "appearance of impartiality."

In its first filing with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, which now has custody of the landmark case, Microsoft lambasted U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson as a biased judge who thrust himself into the dispute rather than resolve it impartially.

"By repeatedly commenting on the merits of the case in the press," the company's brief argued, "the district judge has cast himself in the public's eye as a participant in the controversy, thereby compromising the appearance of impartiality, if not demonstrating actual bias against Microsoft."

A spokeswoman for Jackson said the judge had no comment on Microsoft's statements.

"Believe me, I have no grudge against Microsoft," Jackson said in an interview with The Washington Post just days after his June ruling. But in the interview, rare for a federal judge, he said he had little choice but to accept the government's breakup proposal.

And in a speech to an antitrust conference in New York in late September, Jackson said his order was a last resort forced by the company's unwillingness to make changes voluntarily.

Microsoft on Monday asked the appellate court to overturn Jackson's order in June that the company be bro-

ken into two parts. If the higher court calls for a new trial, Microsoft wants someone other than Jackson to preside.

Monday's brief was the latest volley in a long-running battle that could result in the largest government ordered restructuring since the 1984 breakup of AT&T.

Microsoft's brief asked the federal appeals court to find that Jackson was wrong in concluding that the software giant was an unfair monopoly and reverse his breakup order.

"The case went awry from the outset," said company spokesman Vivek Varma, "and our appeal provides a comprehensive picture of why Microsoft should win this case."

Said Justice Department spokes-

woman Gina Talamona: "The judgment is well supported by the evidence offered during a 78-day trial, including thousands of pages of Microsoft's own documents. We are confident in our case and look forward to presenting it to the Court of Appeals."

Microsoft said its "competitive response" to the takeoff of widespread Internet use and Web browser rival Netscape, "produced enormous consumer benefits" and did not illegally conquer its market, as the government charged. It said, "The District Court branded Microsoft's conduct anticompetitive, even though it recognized that Microsoft did not foreclose Netscape from the marketplace."

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8:00 Arrive and sign-in
9:00 Welcome and housekeeping remarks
9:15 - 10:30 "Appropriate LD Documentation for College" by Dr. Loring Brinckerhoff
10:30 - 10:45 Break
10:45 - 12:00 Breakout sessions
▶ "Understanding Learning Through Audio Book Use", Manju Banerjee
▶ "Lessons Learned From the Experts", Student Panel
12:00 - 1:30 Lunch

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12:30 - 1:30 Arrive and sign-in
1:30 - 2:45 Keynote address by Dr. Loring Brinckerhoff "Making the Transition to Higher Education"
2:45 - 3:30 "Beam Me Up", Resource Fair
3:30 - 4:45 Break-out sessions
▶ "Tools for Success", Student Panel, for students only
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