

# HORNETS CAN RETURN TO NEST

## Preble High School ready for students after fire

By Patti Zarling  
Press-Gazette Media



Murphy

Everything down to individual books in the Preble High School library has been cleaned and is ready to go for students after a major fire in the gym delayed the start of school by two weeks.

School staff are moving back into offices and teachers are reorganizing classrooms early this week. Students will register later in the week and head back to classrooms on Monday.

Crews have been working round the clock to clean up fire damage in the gym and smoke damage throughout the school. An early morning fire on Aug. 8 in the gym caused spontaneous combustion due to chemical-laden rags that were improperly disposed by district workers, causing smoke damage throughout the building.

Floors, walls, carpets, computers, lockers and other items have been cleaned and checked for smoke damage, according to J. Murphy of Paul Davis National, which is doing the cleanup work.

» See PREBLE, A8

The school has been cleared by health and building officials and by a hygienist monitoring air quality, Murphy said.

“One of the things we’re concerned about is not the soot and

damage you can see, but what you can’t see,” he said during a media tour of the school. “You don’t want smoke or other odors to resurface at a later time.”

Students had been scheduled to return to school on Sept. 2, but damage to the gym — as well as smoke damage through much of the school — was delayed until cleanup is done.

The school was divided into zones depending on damage. Zone A, which had the least damage, includes the library and some language arts and science classrooms. Zone B has some damage and includes the school commons, auditorium and some classrooms. Zone C is the the most damaged and includes the gym.

The field house where the fire started will not reopen until Nov. 22, Murphy said. The area will be closed off to students while work is completed.

Media was not allowed into that area, and Murphy said the floor, lighting, electrical work and other items are being demolished.

In coming weeks, the roof will be replaced, the area will be painted, and everything inside will be replaced, Murphy said.

Work is expected to be done in time for Nov. 25

school event, he said. Things in the gym will be new, but the configuration will be the same, Murphy said.

Students will use a smaller gym in the meantime, he said.

“I’d say this is right up there with one of our toughest jobs in terms of schools just because of the size of this building,” Murphy said. The building is about 400,000 square feet. The school serves about 2,200 students.

“There was more classrooms, with more stuff to get out of classrooms,” he said. “It is just a large project.”

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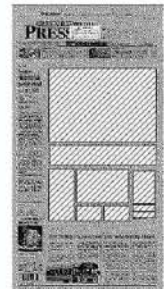
### VIDEO ONLINE

Visit this story at green-baypressgazette.com to see video of Preble High School cleanup.

### DONATIONS NEEDED

Green Bay School District officials ask those who want to make donations to the school to consider contributing new or used clothing to replenish the Preble Hive.

The Hive is a school donation center that helps students get supplies they need to be comfortable and successful at school, by providing items to students who need them. Donations of clothes and new or used shoes will be accepted from 4-8 p.m. Thursday and 7





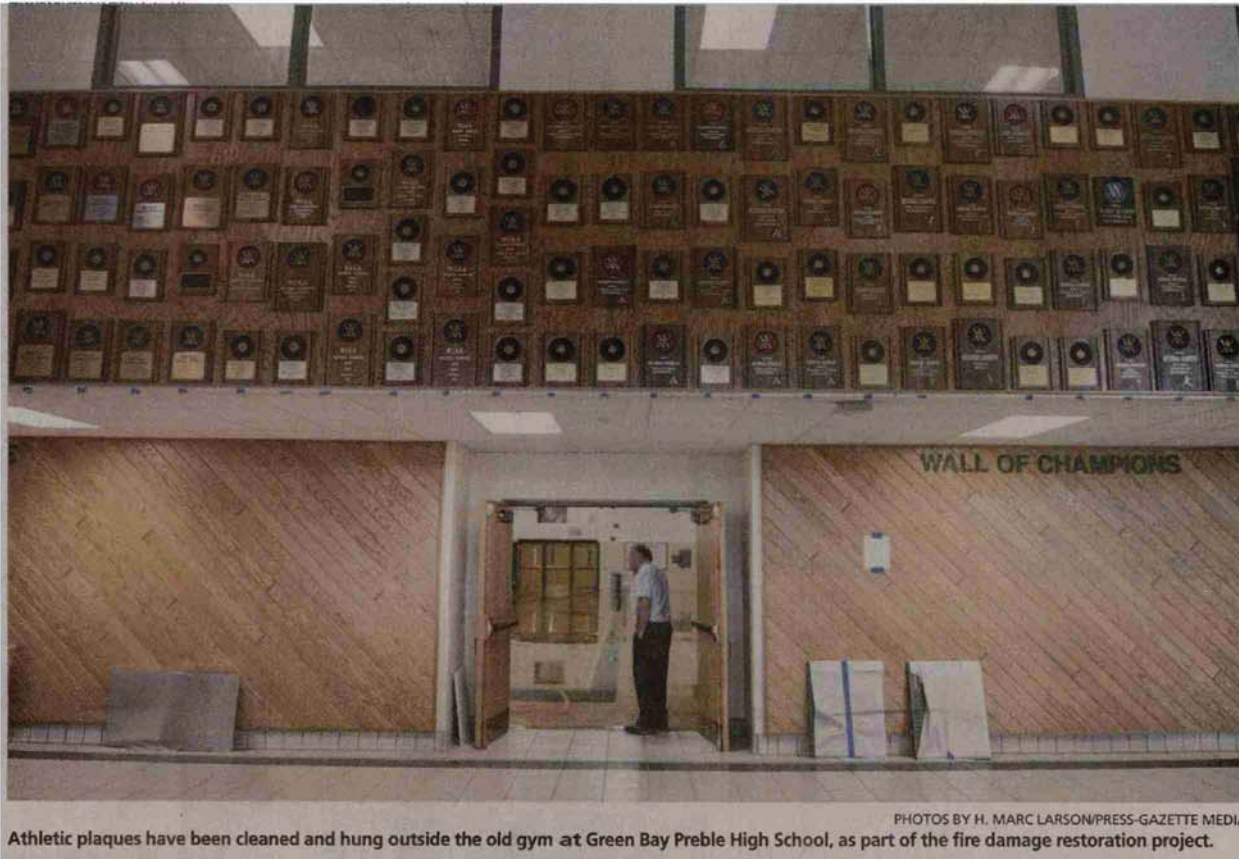
a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday during registration in the school commons. Donations of new socks and underwear are

especially needed, according to school officials. The high school is located at 2222 Deckner Ave.



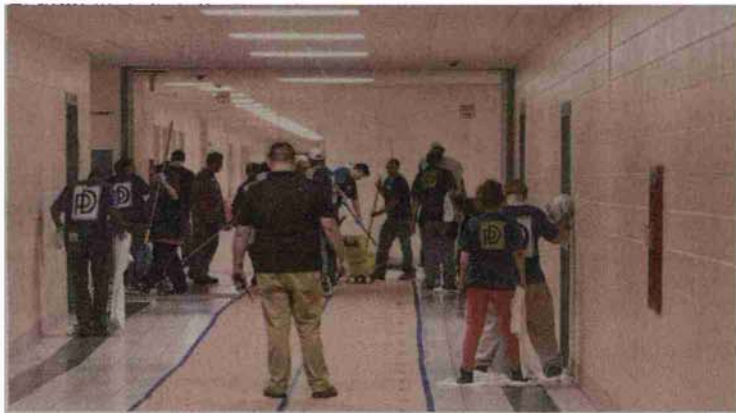
H. MARC LARSON/PRESS-GAZETTE MEDIA

**Classes will start Monday at Green Bay Preble High School following the blaze last month.**



PHOTOS BY H. MARC LARSON/PRESS-GAZETTE MEDIA

Athletic plaques have been cleaned and hung outside the old gym at Green Bay Preble High School, as part of the fire damage restoration project.



Workers from Paul Davis Restoration clean a hallway as part of the fire damage restoration project at Green Bay Preble High School.