

# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## IN BRIEF

### Commissioners choose Williams for RTD board

Kathi Williams of Brighton was named to the RTD board of directors Wednesday in a unanimous move by the Adams County commissioners.

Williams replaces Ken Riley, who resigned his District K seat in October.

Williams headed the state housing division from 2003 until her resignation in May 2009, which followed a federal audit that indicated the division had used Community Development Block Grant funds for ineligible and questionable projects. Williams was governmental-affairs and budget director for the state higher education commission from 2000-2003.

She served as a Republican state representative from 1984-1990. She was one of two Republican House candidates who contested their losses to Democrats in 1998, causing a delay in the opening of the 1999 Legislature. Her opponent, Lois Tochtrop, was confirmed as the winner in a recount.

Sixteen people applied for the position, and six were chosen to be interviewed by the commissioners.

### Community invited to new reading, history program

TASHCO and the Thornton Arts & Cultural Division is kicking off its new program: Historiography — Storytelling of 20th Century American History with the reading of "To Kill a Mockingbird" starting in January. To participate, all you have to do is read the story and then meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Thornton Arts & Cultural Center, 9209 Dorothy Blvd., to discuss topics from the book and the historical era. Call Linda Lowe at 720-977-5881 for more information.

### Basketball tourney this weekend

Northglenn is hosting the Adult 4-v-4 6-Foot and Under Basketball Tournament at the city rec center this Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The registration deadline is 7 p.m. today. Cost is \$100 per team.

Teams of four to eight players play in a cross-court round-robin tournament followed by a seeded, single-elimination bracket tournament. Players must be 72 inches in height or shorter without shoes. Baskets are lowered to 8.5 feet so dunking is allowed.

Contact Mike Mendez at 303-450-8928 or go to northglenn.org/sports for more information.

## Shiny new structure fits Mapleton goal

### Work at York funded by bond

BY TAMMY KRANZ  
tammyk@metronorthnews.com

Tuesday was a symbolic day for Mapleton Public Schools.

It now has a school building designed specifically to fit its small-by-design structure, which was implemented in 2006.

York International, 9200 York St. in Thornton, held a grand opening for its 18,000-square-foot high school addition on Tuesday. Students and the community got a peek at the new section of the school. The students will officially move into the rooms after winter break in January.

Renovations were completed at the end of August on the rest of the K-12 school. All that is left is for workers to complete the landscaping and install a basketball court where the temporary classrooms, known as modulares, used to sit.

The York renovation and addition cost \$7.8 million and is the first project funded with the bond that voters approved in November 2010.

"We have provided a great environment for the kids and the community with the playground and the fields and the soon to be com-

pleted basketball court," said Don Herman, Mapleton's chief operations officer.

The new addition consists of 10 high school classrooms — two rooms each for social studies, science, English and math and one room for Spanish and one for college resource.

Herman and Susan Gerhart, the school's director, said they believe the biggest enhancement for the students will be their science learning experience.

The new science rooms will be outfitted for lab experiments, Gerhart said.

"Whereas, before, they were in modulares and there was no running water, no sinks, nothing," she said. "Their science learning was impacted by not having the necessary equipment."

The middle school science classrooms got updated during the renovation to include lab space.

"They were working in outdated labs before," Herman said. "The water didn't work and the storage was horrible. This is much nicer."

Other renovations done at the school include new carpeting, fire sprinkler, asbestos abatement, landscaping, grading the field and laying down sod.

York, which originally was part of Adams County School District 14, was built in the early 1950s and has gone through many changes in

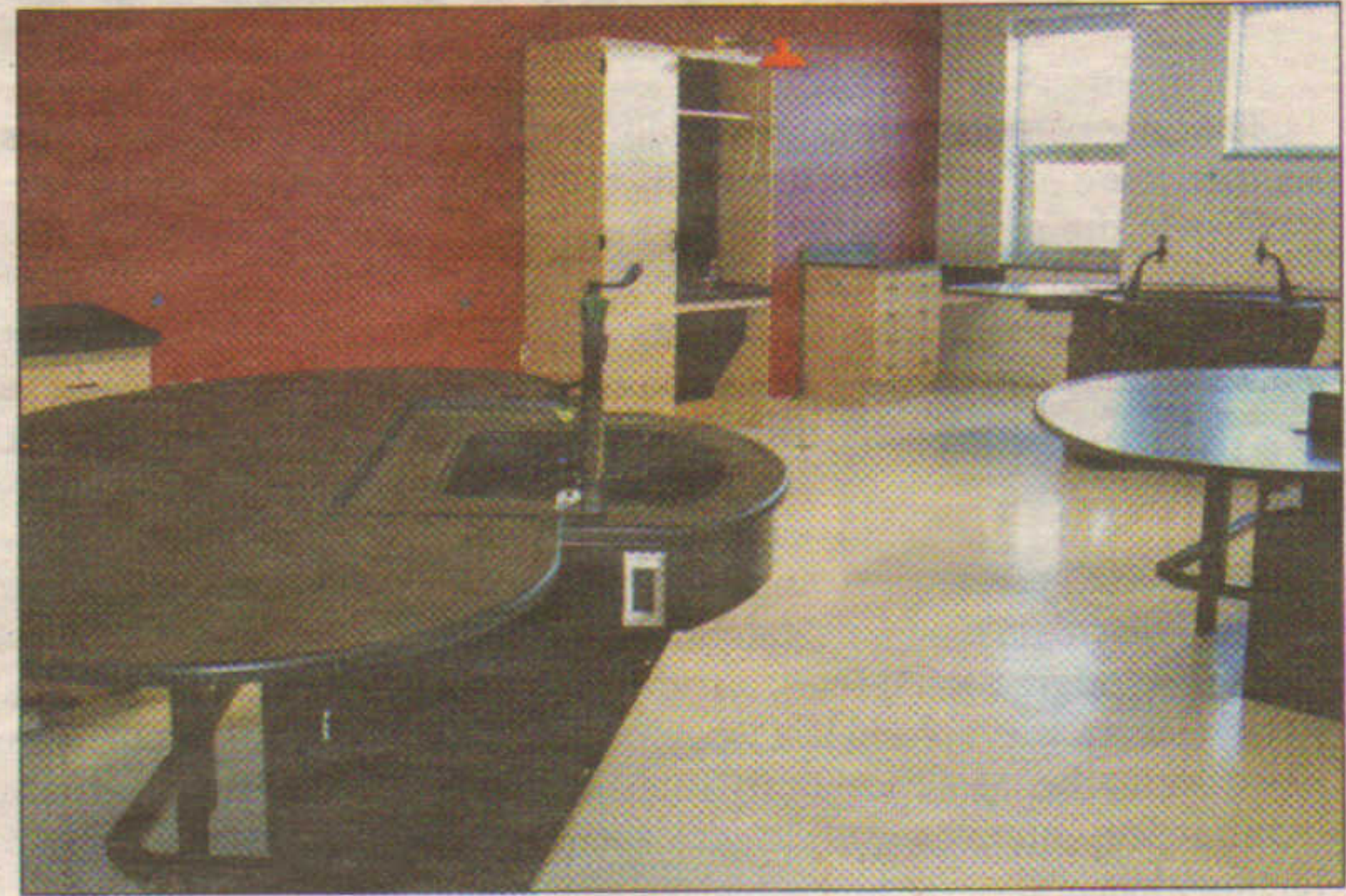


Photo provided by Mapleton Public Schools

York International's new 18,000-square-foot addition features two high school science rooms outfitted for experiments. Students will get to use the new section of the school when they come back from winter break in January.

the last few decades that it has been part of Mapleton. It has been an elementary, junior high and middle school. It was a K-8 in 2006 and a grade was added each year. The first class to graduate from York happened last year. This year total enrollment is at 757.

The growing population of students meant a growing number of modulares were used to house them. At one point, six modulares were parked on the property.

"It was an eyesore but they'll all be gone Dec. 23," Gerhart said.

The last time Mapleton did ren-

ovations to a school was in 2005 to what is now the Welby Montessori School, Herman said. He added he expects that positive outcome to play out again at York.

"We saw the behavior of the kids change when they feel provided an environment that's nice and better and more conducive to learning," he said.

York currently has authorization for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years program for its K-6 levels. The intention is to expand that authorization to include all grades.

## Inspection gives thumbs-up to school construction

BY TAMMY KRANZ  
tammyk@metronorthnews.com

Mapleton Public Schools officials got the news Monday that the new addition to York International is safe for occupancy.

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates Inc. (WJE) inspected the school building after concerns were raised by a Denver Post investigation into projects designed by Neenan Co. of Fort Collins. The investigation revealed that four schools built by Neenan were required to have structural repairs.

Neenan designed and built the York 18,000-square-foot addition and is in the process of building two projects that are part of the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program. Neenan paid for the Mapleton inspections.

While the verdict is still out on the BEST projects in Mapleton, Chief Operations Officer Don Herman said the district got the go-ahead to open York's new section.

"There's nothing that's stop-

ping us from putting kids in the building, so that's really good news," Herman said.

The firm fast-tracked the inspection of York because its open house was scheduled this week. The district didn't get the complete report so the firm may still recommend some minor adjustments.

Voters approved funding in November 2010 to match a \$32 million grant from the state to overhaul the Skyview Campus. The overhaul includes providing classroom space for five schools, a regional library and a community resource center. The work is underway for the Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts (grades 7-12) and Mapleton Early College (9-12) building and the Academy High School (9-12) and Clayton Partnership School (K-8) building.

Herman said that since foundation was the main problem for Neenan's other projects, he felt "confident" Mapleton wouldn't have similar issues. Thornton has poor soil, he ex-



Photo by Pam Wagner

Construction is shown earlier this fall at Mapleton Schools' Skyview Campus, where Neenan Co. of Fort Collins has performed the work. Some other schools built by the company have required structural repairs.

plained, so the district had the buildings built on structural piers.

According to the district, because of the soil at the Skyview Campus site, the foundations of both buildings were constructed using structural piers — concrete cylinders bored deep into the ground with about 30 tons of rebar and over 1,000 tons of concrete designed to keep the building safe from the natural shrinking and swelling in the existing soil found on site.

As far as any issues with walls or

interior steel, Herman pointed out that the projects are still in the early phases.

"We're at a really good spot that we can easily get in and make adjustments that need to be made," he said.

The district will give details on the inspection results on its website and monthly newsletter. Herman said he hopes the results will be available January, and for now the new buildings are still scheduled to be finished before the next school year.