

BEVILL STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# Morrison dissatisfied with pace of new math and science building

By ED HOWELL  
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Bevill State Community College Interim President Neal Morrison said he was dissatisfied with general contractor Stone Building Co. of Birmingham in the pace of building the new math and science building on the Jasper Campus.



Neal Morrison

"I had a 'come to Jesus meeting' with the architect and the contractor about six weeks ago on how displeased I was with the performance of this company that has this contract," Morrison told the Jasper Kiwanis Club Monday. "Hopefully, we're moving in the right direction. They have been more amenable and have been working a little closer with the gentleman hired to oversee this project for the college. It's sad. In life, there's nothing wrong with asking people for help."

Morrison said when college representatives went to the project manager to say he doesn't need to do a task a certain way, the manager took offense.

"It's costing us time and money, which we don't appreciate," he said.

Construction on the two-story, L-shaped building started on March 12 and has been slated to end Sept. 11. Morrison said now his best estimate is January 2009.

"It's supposed to be ready for us to

See BEVILL, A8 >



Daily Mountain Eagle - Ed Howell

According to Neal Morrison, interim president of Bevill State Community College, construction delays could prevent the new math and science facility on the Walker College Campus from opening to students by the start of the fall term.

have any form of living will document stating what should be done in the event of a healthcare emergency.

According to The Research Center, only 29 percent of the general public in 2005 said they have a living will and a study by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality reported that less than 50 percent of severely or terminally ill patients had an advance directive, such as a living will or healthcare power of attorney.

"It's such a gift to the family, so they don't have to make those terrible decisions without guidance and wonder 'should we have done more?' New Beacon Hospital Chaplain Stuart Collier said of the importance of having an advance directive. "There are no intentional bad guys in a situation like this, everybody is trying to do the right thing. It all comes down to what did this person view as the best thing."

The issue has influenced Gov. Bob Riley to sign a proclamation declaring April 16 as Healthcare Decisions Day in conjunction with the national day. Healthcare Decisions Day is to encourage healthcare facilities to provide "clear and consistent information to the public about the importance of their directives and hopefully, in turn, encourage families to talk about it among themselves.

The Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging (M4A), an advocacy group for senior citizens in Blount, Chilton, St. Clair, Shelby and Walker counties, decided to participate in the Decisions Day after seeing how not having an advance directive affected

See INDECISION, A8 >

the bill.

"I can't see where anyone would be against this bill. The pool for poll work-

moreover, by law, the poll workers must be picked between 15 and 20 days before an election, but because of last-minute

hours, \$55 if they were an inspector. Allison said an increase to \$100 a day might get more out to work.

## Bevill

move in the fall of the year, and it will never happen," Morrison said. "They put us in a heck of a bind. We wanted to move in the fall of the year, so it makes it hard for us to schedule classes.

"They know I'm not pleased with their performance. It's been trouble since day one," Morrison said. "When I got here and started watching it, we've basically explained to them that we are not happy campers."

The project manager for the math and science building, Tricia Taylor, said the project is on schedule and is expected to be completed on Sept. 11. She referred other questions to Bill Stone, who represented the company in the meeting with Morrison. Stone could not be reached for comment late Friday afternoon.

Morrison was also asked about the executive office suites in the building, which

turned out to be larger than expected. However, without spending a large amount of money, the project is too far along to change the rooms.

"I'm not being critical of anyone. We won't start throwing stones, but they are nice sized offices, but to go back and alter that, you're going to spend twice as much money because the stage that you are in the building," he said.

"Me, personally — and I guess I'll burn myself by doing it — had I been involved in the beginning, I would have never done it that way. I think potentially what you should have done is put as much out there for classroom space and labs as you should for offices, but that's just me personally."

Morrison said one has to understand that "I'm the guy that started in a broom closet" and didn't have a nice office for several years.

"To me office space should

be the least of your priorities," Morrison said.

One priority that is resulting from the construction is parking. He jokingly said that when he first arrived on the Jasper campus he thought someone should do something about the lack of parking on campus — and then he realized that would be him.

"Parking is a major, major issue, and it's only going to get worse," he said. "We've been working with the Walker College Foundation and others trying to find a way to resolve the issue. At the appropriate time I've got some suggestions but I'm keeping those to myself right now until we get more people involved and we get some more comments."

The new math and sciences building will include meeting space, classrooms and administrative suites on the Jasper campus. Renis O. Jones Jr., president of PH&J Architects

in Montgomery, showed designs of the new \$13 million facility at a meeting of the Jasper Rotary Club in December.

The building will be able to accommodate anticipated growth for years, he said, with 59,000 square feet of heated and cooled space.

On the first floor will be a 262-seat dining area with a full cafeteria and kitchen designed to accommodate civic clubs or other organizations. There will also be a tiered lecture hall, a student lounge, classrooms, science and computer labs, in addition to the administration area.

The move will allow Bevill Hall to be used primarily for the nursing program and the building now housing the cafeteria and civic club meetings will be used for continuing education, Jones said.

From A1

## Indecision

patients in healthcare facilities and the patients' families.

"As Long Term Ombudsmen we fre-

als on advance directives, said he feels anyone 19 or older should have a directive in case of an emergency situation.

cians were not aware of their patient's directive.

Collier said consulting an attorney is

From A1