

McMillan Township News

Written by Gina Harman

NYBA Brings New Life to the Township Hall

For those of you lucky enough to have been a part of the younger days of the McMillan Township Hall, you can just imagine what stories those walls could tell. Well unfortunately, the auditorium that was once full of laughter, plays, and events had seen much better times. It had gotten so unused and forgotten, that it was shut down for over a decade.



During its last years, ceiling tiles were falling down, the stage was in a dangerous state, and its fate seemed very gloomy. But then some of our community leaders stepped in. Being very involved with the Newberry Youth Basketball Association, both Hondo Depew and Chris Beaulieu began a plan that would bring new life to this once thriving auditorium. Together with many of our community businesses, plans became reality and a new purpose was given to the Township Hall's auditorium.



Art Schultz commented, "This project was quite involved. Tiles were falling from the ceiling, Dale owner of Plott Construction was in charge of fixing that and a lot of the renovation. Tom Sanders from Sanders Painting did all the painting."

With the help of Hondo, Chris, the Tahquamenon Senior Citizens, Sander's Painting (Tom Sanders), Foster's Ace Hardware, Tahquamenon Area Credit Union, and Plott Construction (Dale Duffield), the auditorium began transforming into a new gymnasium for the NYBA. One of the additional gifts to this endeavor was the new score board seen to the left.

A company was brought in from NY to replace many of the rotten sections of the floor and apply the basketball finish. They did a beautiful job and they come back each year to refinish it – so as not to ever be forgotten about again.

The new gymnasium is rented monthly by the Newberry Youth Basketball Association. When the school is overbooked for their gym, they can utilize the Township's new gigs. There is a yearly championship game held year on an annual basis.

Although this is not "NEW" news, we felt that it was important positive news because some people don't know about it, or the story behind the gym and the great people who gave of their time to turn a large historical venue around and fill it with a youthful presence.