

# New School A Popular Commodity

By **JEFF MELLOTT**  
*Daily News-Record*

The new Harrisonburg High School is a hot attraction.

The school will not officially open until Aug. 22.

But groups are lining up to host events in the Garbers Church Road building.

## Growing List

The Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce is on the list of groups that want to use the building. The Harrisonburg Educational Foundation also wants to host an event in April.

The high school math celebration is also set for that month and the prom will take place there on May 14.

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society is planning a concert there in July.

And the high school production of "Godspell" is set for early August.

## First Tourists

Nielsen Builders Inc. anticipates having the \$37 million construction project completed by the end of the month except for some items, including some paving, delayed until warmer weather.

Scheduling for the new school is largely the responsibility of Principal Irene Reynolds. "It's

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## School

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their school," said School Board Vice Chairwoman Cathy Slusher. "I don't think that will detract in any way with the event on [April] 21," she said.

The Harrisonburg Educational Foundation anticipates using the building for its fund-raising event. The foundation wants to use the "first look" at the new school as an added incentive for donors to participate.

But school board members insisted on Tuesday that students be the first to tour the completed building.

## 'Fair Game'

The school board has delayed its own use of the building.

It had planned to use the high school as the site of its March 15 meeting. But members delayed that until April 5.

School board member Tom Mendez said the later date would help assure that the building was ready, including some furnishings.

The division is already moving some of its property to the new school as Nielsen moves to complete the work.

Harrisonburg Schools Superintendent Donald Ford said he wants the building available to the public. "As soon as we have the building available for occupancy, then it should be fair game," he said.

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Daily News-Record  
Wednesday, February 16, 2005