

Geologist donates \$10,000 to finish new Carney High School

By Paul W. Newlin
Stillwater NewsPress

David Chernicky helped breathe new life into Carney when the oil industry had gone sour.

That was 14 years ago when Chernicky, a geologist, found a way to recover oil from wells thought to be past production.

Like most small towns, Carney has struggled to develop its economy but residents have fought to keep what they have. Over the years, have slowly managed to improve their school system.

A big achievement was a new gymnasium in 1997.

In the last couple years, the elementary school was improved with lighting and windows.

Grants upgraded physical education equipment and an elementary/community safe room.

Two years ago, voters approved \$200,000 in bonds to construct a new high school; the amount covered the floor and building shell.

This past February, the community voted a \$225,000 bond issue to complete the interior.

Still, funds were lacking — and that's where Chernicky came in.

Wednesday, the Tulsa resident donated \$10,000 to the school administration to help pay final costs of the high school building.

Chernicky is owner of New Dominion Oil Co., LLC. Altex Resources, located in Carney, is an alliance company of New Dominion.

Carney Superintendent Chuck Hood and School Board President Debi Thompson expressed gratitude to Chernicky.

"We are grateful for him and his donation to the school," Hood said. "We're just about complete and this will help."

"He has helped us in the past and has come to our aid again," Thompson said. "He has been good to the community and school, and that is really appreciated."

The new school building contains 16,000 square feet and is just north of the gymnasium. It will contain six classrooms, a distance learning center, a science lab, library, three administrative offices and a safe room.

The Carney Board of Education served as general contractor to save money.

Thompson said the move to the new building is expected to take place during the Christmas holiday.

She said students may want to become involved in the move to make the transition more memorable.