

# Scenic Regional Library nears completion



Matt Richardson, a worker for Mike Zekoll Masonry in Jonesburg, mixes mortar Feb. 6 for the brick exterior walls of the Scenic Regional Library in Warrenton.

**By Mary Anne Bargen**  
Staff writer

The Warren County Library, a branch of the Scenic Regional Library located at 912 S. Highway 47, will open in April after wet weather delayed construction.

"We should have gotten the hint when it was snowing during our ceremonial groundbreaking last March," said Sallie Hancox, district director for the Scenic Regional Library.

Construction probably did not begin until late April of 2000, according to Hancox.

"We had problems setting the foundation when the ground was so wet from the summer rain," Hancox said.

Once construction passed that road block, the project was moving along well until December 2000.

"The snows hit and we were slowed again," Hancox said.

Despite the many delays, Hancox is hoping the weather cooperates for the library's opening day.

"I'm really looking forward to it," Hancox said. "The delay will just make us appreciate it more."

The new building is 9,000 square feet. Hancox estimated the total project, including the build-

ing, furnishings, architect fees and interest on the loan will cost about \$1 million.

The new library will have a public meeting room with a separate exterior entrance, and an alcove for quiet studying.

The new location will provide more parking spaces, as well as places where people can come in and sit down, Hancox said. The existing library, located on South Market Street, is 1,800 square feet,

and only has room for about 18 people to sit close together. The new library will accommodate 54 people.

The current library has three Internet stations, while the new library will have eight.

The new library will also have a shelving capacity of up to 41,000 books, compared to the 23,000 books

they can house at the current site.

A building tax levy of 4 cents per \$100 assessed valuation collected in Warren County will pay for the new building, according to information from the library district. The tax was assessed in 1999 and will continue to be assessed until 2009.

"The new building has been a long time coming, but each day we get a little closer," Hancox said.

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**Sallie Hancox**  
District director for the Scenic Regional Library.