

Public tours of new Buffalo County Detention Center start Wednesday



Photo by: Brad Norton

The cellblocks of the new jail are arranged around a central master control room where officers can monitor prisoners by looking into the cells and using video surveillance.

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By BETSY FRIEDRICH Hub Staff Writer | 0 comments

KEARNEY — The public will get its first look inside the new Buffalo County Detention Center Wednesday.

There will be a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony on the east side of the jail at 10:30 a.m. followed by tours from 1-4 p.m.

“We have reached a milestone in the construction project,” Buffalo County Board of Supervisors Chairman Dick Pierce said in a press release last week. “We are extremely appreciative of the citizens of Buffalo County, and we want to again thank everyone who has supported the Buffalo County Justice Center Project.”

Construction on the new jail at 1512 Central Ave., just south of the current Buffalo County Courthouse, began in August 2008. The project is funded by a \$24.5 million bond issue that voters approved in April 2008.

There will be additional public tours of the facility from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

The new jail has 205 beds, 40 of them in male and female dormitories for work-release inmates, a central master control area, a video arraignment room, more space for officers to fill out paperwork, locker rooms for corrections officers, a break room, and a large training room or conference room.

The basement also houses a new Emergency Operations Center.

The facility was designed by Goldberg, Sullivan & McCreery of St. Joseph, Mo., and built by Beckenhauer Construction Inc. of Norfolk.