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New Buffalo County Jail Relieves Headache of Old One

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With something new usually comes something old and the Buffalo County Jail is no different. Just a month ago, inmates were moved over to the new facility, but there's still much to be done with the disposing of the old one.

It was long past its prime.

"What they said was that it was maintained well, but it was just so out of date that it was unsafe," Jail Commander Duane Bond said. "Our biggest concerns were the lack of area for staff."

Cracked floors, leaky plumbing and inefficient equipment were all reasons that led to the construction of the new Buffalo County jail, but the most important factor was time.

"Well, for me, the most significant part just happened because we got out of that old jail, and we really needed to get out of there," Buffalo County Sheriff Neil Miller said. "As chairman Pierce said, right up to the last week until we moved (the inmates), we found we had a broken sewer pipe that was underneath the kitchen area of the jail, and were told by the plumbers that we were going to need to get out of there soon."

The jail became a mainstay in Buffalo County back in the late 1950's and needed many renovations throughout the years - renovations that staff members can finally not worry about anymore.

"It was not a very good place to work," Bond said. "It was of a linear design. A linear design is like a doctors office or a hotel type of situation, and you have to actually walk into those places to see what's going on."

The old jail has a future, but a very short one. Demolition on the new jail is expected later this summer and fall to help make room for more new facilities.




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