



07/15/2009

Buffalo Co. unveils new seal at courthouse grand opening

By BETSY FRIEDRICH , Hub Staff Writer

KEARNEY — The new Buffalo County seal was unveiled at a ceremony Tuesday at the county courthouse.

The Buffalo County Board of Supervisors had a grand opening for an addition to the west side of the courthouse that was finished in November and opened in January.

“Today this is just a thank you to everybody for all the community support,” said board Chairman Dick Pierce of Miller.

“We are pleased to open the doors of this. People have been going through it already for quite some time, but with this grand opening we wanted to unveil our seal.”

The addition houses courtrooms, offices for the Buffalo County Court and chambers for Judges Graten Beavers and Gerry Jorgenson.

Pierce also thanked the community for support of a \$24.5 million bond issue to build a new jail and justice center to the south of the current courthouse.

When construction of the center is completed, the courtrooms in the west addition will be moved and the space will then house the county surveyor, the driver’s license office, the election commissioner and the mailroom.

The 10,000-square-foot addition cost \$1.8 million to build. The money came from the county’s general fund.

The west entryway showcases a large fiberglass buffalo and the county’s new seal.

Construction Manager Buster Beckenhauer said construction of the new jail is on schedule, and prisoners may be moved into the new facility in December.

In other business Tuesday, the board set the limit for “celebration expenditures” at \$300.

Supervisor Bill McMullen of Kearney said the money would be used primarily to recognize retiring employees with a watch and plaque.

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The county’s new seal was designed by Joyce Linn of Riverdale and manufactured by Icon Poly of Gibbon.

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