



# Locking in jail cells

■ Monday's the goal for positioning them in latest phase of Reno Co. facility.

By **KELTON BROOKS**

The Hutchinson News  
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For a place that's primarily used to house individuals who break the law, project superintendent Andrew Jones wanted to make it clear that the new \$19 million Reno County jail is not a luxury hotel.

"It's not an extended stay. It's not cheaper if you stay longer," Jones jokingly said.

But the jail itself is here to stay as the extension continued with the placement of the 64 prefabricated cellblocks on Wednesday.

The 46,000-pound, 15-by-13-foot-wide prefab cellblocks were built and shipped from Topeka and arrived Monday on flatbed trucks that are lined along the closed Severance Street. Workers will place 16 single and double cells each day in hope of having all the pods in place by Monday.

The placement began on the west side of the east wing of the jail, where the single cells were positioned. Sheriff Randy Henderson said by national standards, a certain percentage of single cells have to be in place, and that's why 200 beds were ordered instead of 220.

In all, there are 64 cellblocks (200 beds, 120 cells), plus 50 more at the other end of the jail complex for minimum-security prisoners who could be released during the day to go to work.

The main-level cellblocks have what Jones described as a "hat brim" that extrudes 5



Above: A view of a two-person cell at the new Reno County jail. The site will contain 200 cells. Left: Workers place a cell at the construction site Wednesday. Below: An overall view of the jail construction and cell installation.



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Megan May/The Hutchinson News

**JE Dunn Construction employees work inside the new Reno County jail on Wednesday.**

## Jail

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feet horizontally from the top of the cell. The concrete brim will act as the walkway for the cell stacked above it.

Jones said the painting, plumbing and electricity are already connected to the individual cells. A maintenance corridor along the outer perimeter of the cellblock will allow maintenance workers to repair plumbing and other systems without entering the cells.

The interiors of the cells contain fixtures, two beds (for two-man cells), a table, sink, toilet and four break-away hooks for clothing and towels. This will also prevent prisoners from attempting to hang themselves, Henderson said.

Each bed inside the cells is 76 by 27 inches. On the northeast side of the jail, a spot is allocated for the addition of another 40-bed cellblock when or if it is needed in the future.

After the cells are placed,

the next business is to finish the roofing before snow begins to fall so workers can focus on the interior of the jail, Jones said.

"Everyday there is a new wall up," Henderson said. "The steel ceiling truss is up and I know they want to have the roof finished before the winter."

The administrative area located at the main entrance of the jail is rounding into form, with a large portion of the exterior walls standing. Two tall standing and wide doorways for buses to pass through to drop off prisoners are positioned, as well as medical and shower areas.

Jones said the construction of the jail is coming along "right on schedule" and plans to have it complete by this time next year.

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### **Construction site of the new Reno County Jail on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2014.**

By Kelton Brooks The Hutchinson News [kbrooks@hutchnews.com](mailto:kbrooks@hutchnews.com) | Posted 12 hours ago

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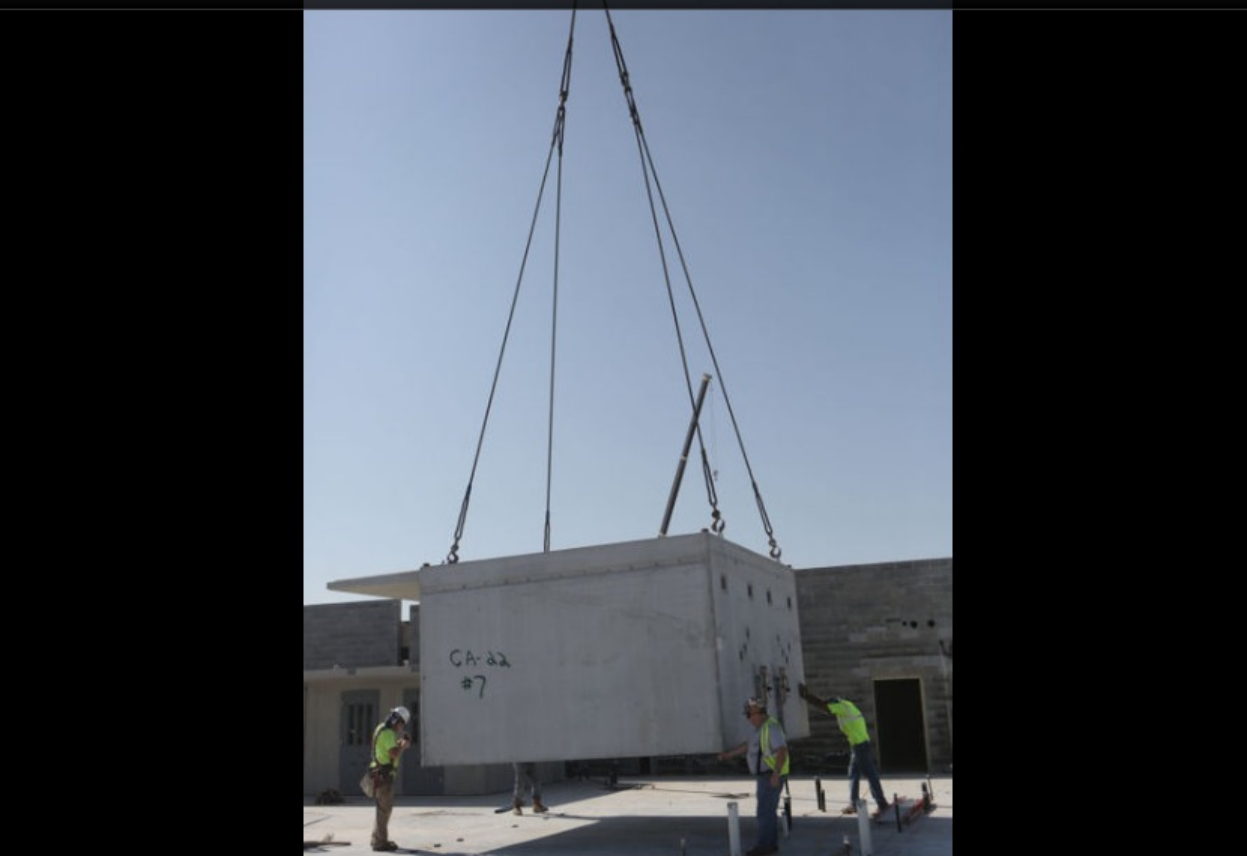
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New Jail: Construction of the new Reno County Jail, expected to be finished in June and will host inmates as of August 2015. - Megan May/The Hutchinson News



New Jail: Workers place a cell at the Reno County Jail construction site on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2014. - Megan May/The Hutchinson News



New Jail: View of a two-person cell for the Reno County Jail. The new jail will have 200 cells in total. - Megan May/The Hutchinson News



New Jail: Construction site of the Reno County Jail in Hutchinson on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2014. - Megan May/The Hutchinson News

