



- **The Kittitas County Corrections Center provides jail services to all 11 law enforcement entities within Kittitas County. With the exception of the state agencies, all of the entities contribute to the operational costs of this facility. It has long since been established that the current facility does not adequately meet the needs of the user groups. Though great strides have been taken to minimize the affects of this problem, a long term solution is needed.**

**1983- Inmates moved into the current facility  
Designed for 45 inmates**



# 1990- Operating at full capacity

The Daily Record, Blountsburg, Wash., Fri., July 5, 1990, Page 2

## County jail operating at full capacity

By DAVID GRANT  
Staff Writer

The Kittitas County jail is not the Hilton Hotel, but it is close to needing a "no-vacancy" sign. That's because the facility has operated at or near its capacity for more than two years.

"It's not a pleasant place. It's a jail. It's not a pleasant experience and it's not intended to be. It's intended as punishment as the judge often intends it to be," said Sheriff Bob McBride.

Despite the tough talk, the county jail, or Kittitas County Public Safety Building as it's officially known, appeared clean and well-run during a recent tour of the facility by Jail Administrator Ed West.

In a just-released report on 1989 inmate populations at county jails throughout the state, it was determined that the Kittitas County facility, adjacent to the courthouse at Sixth Avenue and Main Street, contained an average daily population (ADP) of 95.8 percent of its capacity for the year.

In 1980 it was at 100 percent of capacity. The statistics were compiled based on a jail capacity of 48 beds, but West said the actual capacity is now 56 beds due to the addition of five beds, though no more space was added to the jail.

According to the report, compiled by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, the statewide ADP is 105.8 percent, meaning that for the state as a whole there is a 5.8 percent shortfall in jail capacity.

Because of fluctuations in the Kittitas County jail's population, cells that were installed to hold one inmate sometimes accommodate two by placing another sleeping mattress on the floor. On rare occasions there have been as many as 70 inmates in the jail.

"We're probably in better shape than most jails," Ed West said. "There's not much difference between sleeping on a mattress on the floor and sleeping on a mattress in a (small) frame, but the cells were designed for one person. When you double up, you increase the risk of fights and homosexual acts."

Prisoners are moved around often in an attempt to avoid personality conflicts and inmates are often grouped according to the seriousness of their crime. West believes that treating each person with respect and decency is the key

to a smooth operation.

Inmates who speak aggressively, out of control or corrections officers, had generally favorable things to say about jail conditions and their treatment by the staff. Those who had spent time in other county jails said the Kittitas County facility was good by comparison.

West does not see the demand for jail space decreasing because there has been no decrease in the number of people being convicted of crimes. He believes more space may be needed, Sheriff McBride disagrees.

"There's no problem with dou-

bling up. I think right now the facility is handling our loads here in Kittitas County," he said. McBride thinks the jail may be adequate for the county's needs for the next eight to ten years.

He points out that inspectors from the U.S. Marshall's Office and the county's insurance carrier have regularly inspected the facility and found it to be satisfactory.

It must be in compliance with federal guidelines before federal prisoners can be housed there, which happens only occasionally

when federal facilities are full. McBride is proud of the professional status of his staff.

The jail is staffed around-the-clock, usually by two officers. There are 18 officers in all, along with Administrator West. This year's budget is \$900,000. The jail receives \$40 a day for each inmate it holds as well as a \$13 booking fee.

The charges are paid by the governmental entity in which each suspect is arrested. McBride said the amounts have not changed since the jail was built in 1985.

During the day, prisoners who occupy the four single cells, or modules as the staff call them, are normally free to mingle in a common area — a larger room with a table and TV.

There are 38 single cells on the jail's second floor, each about 8 x 8 feet in size. One of the modules around is set aside for women prisoners.

Also on the second floor is a large, 18-bed area which is usually occupied by only five inmates.

Toilets are non-ventilated attached, chosen by the jailers, who work in the kitchen and laundry, or janitorial duties. There are perfect maintenance in the courthouse.

On the first floor, just inside the entrance to the jail is a 18-bed area originally designed for work-release inmates. Also on the first floor is the control room from which officers run many of the jail's functions.

When work-release prisoners are full at the jail, the space is used to house maximum security offenders — those who have committed misdemeanor crimes such as driving while intoxicated and traffic violations.

According to the sheriff's periodic survey of average daily population in 1989, the Kittitas County jail

found to average a day, 12 percent of inmates were male, 81 percent were between the ages of 18 and 30, and 84 percent were non-white.

The average length of stay for convicted felons at the jail was 30 days, with those sentenced to felony probation conditions staying the longest, an average of 33 days.

Those awaiting trial on felony charges made up 30 percent of the jail's average daily population while those convicted of felony crimes accounted for 30 percent of the total. The remainder of those housed in the facility were individuals awaiting trial or serving sentences for misdemeanors, DWI, traffic or other offenses.

The prisoners in the jail site in a number of routine and other. Meals are served on trays moved about by large rolling carts at 7 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. The site is institutional in nature but aimed to be adequate.

The jail's interior walls are made of similar blocks painted white and blue. The window cells do not have bars but steel doors with reinforced glass. The window glass let in outside light but have been fitted so inmates cannot see out.

There is an exercise room in the basement of the building along with a small library and courtyard where prisoners can buy candy, cigarettes and the like. They run an outside in a small area off the second floor that has a basketball hoop and high walls covered by steel mesh.

In the control room officers monitor cameras and a two-way intercom system. Cell doors may be opened and closed from the room as well. There are no weapons allowed in the jail.

Inmates use a hook system of a special telephone system that their calls must be monitored.



# Kittitas County Law & Justice Center

- Actions taken to increase capacity
  - 22 Beds in indoor recreation areas
  - Additional bunks added to small cells



# Kittitas County Law & Justice Center

- **Actions taken to reduce**
  - **Work release - An average of 12 on work release a year**
  - **Electronic home monitoring – as many as 21 people at a time, about 20,000 days since it started.**
  - **An average of 3 on school release a year.**
  - **Booking restrictions**
  - **Increased good time for release (up to 30%)**
  - **Working with judges**
  - **Drug Court**
  - **Court Probation**
  - **Inmate work crews**



- 1995 Citizens passed a 1/10 % sales tax for adult and juvenile detention
- 1997 Hired Consultant to design and do cost analysis
- 2000 Needs assessment
- 2002 Jail options presented to citizens through public meetings
- 2004 \$25 Million Dollar L&J Center failed on the ballot

**HELP BUILD A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL KITTITAS COUNTY CITIZENS**

**EXPANSION & IMPROVEMENT OF THE ADULT JUSTICE SYSTEM**

- ✓ Adequate jail puts the teeth in the County Justice System and holds Lawbreakers accountable
- ✓ Expand Alternative Sentencing Programs (saved over 20,000 days since inception)
  - Pre-trial & Early Release
  - Drug Court
- ✓ Puts inmates to work saving taxpayer dollars (saved taxpayers \$520,867 in 2006)
  - Expand Work & School Release Programs
  - Expand Work Crew, Inmate Labor & Trustee Work Programs
  - Litter Pick-up Crew
- ✓ Increase Jail Program Space
  - Inmate Classification
  - Anger Management & AA, NA, GED Programs
  - Law Library & Religious Services
- ✓ INCREASES PUBLIC SAFETY



**CONSOLIDATION & EXPANSION OF COUNTY SERVICES**

- ✓ Remodel existing Jail into much needed office space for other County departments
- ✓ Remodel existing second floor of Courthouse into much needed office space for other County departments

**EXPANSION & IMPROVEMENT OF THE COURT SYSTEM**

- ✓ Two New Superior Courtrooms
- ✓ Two New District Courtrooms
- ✓ Expanded Court Clerks Area
- ✓ New Jury Rooms and Jury Assembly Areas
- ✓ Provide a Public Defender's Office
- ✓ Provide Witness Rooms
- ✓ Secure Access and Prisoner Control



**EXPANSION & IMPROVEMENT OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

- ✓ Expand Juvenile Probation Offices
- ✓ Provide Juvenile Holding Area
- Reduces transportation and housing cost for Juvenile Offenders



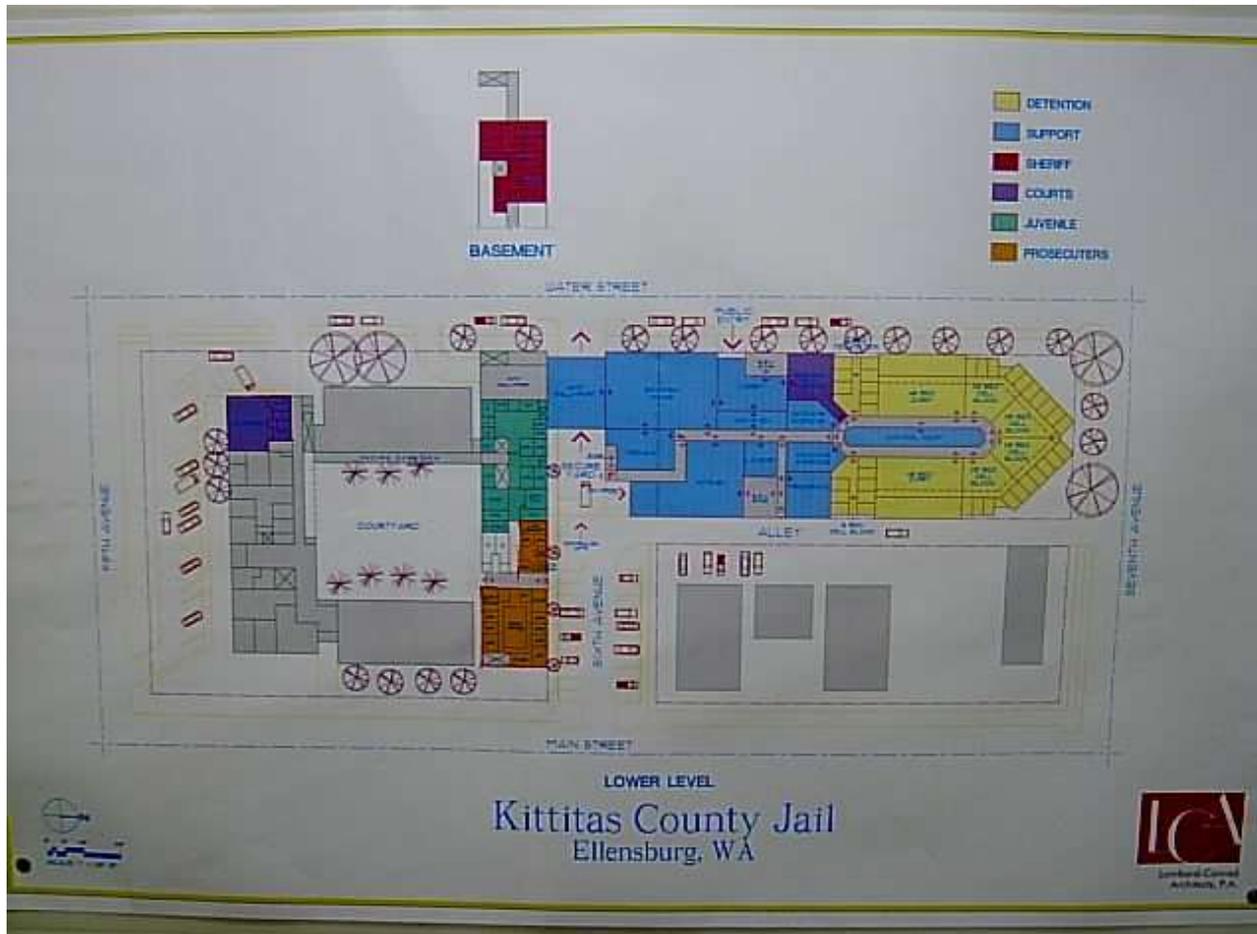
WATER STREET ELEVATION



**The State awarded Kittitas County a grant for \$500,000.00 to help add jail beds. Adjacent Motels purchased for demolition and future expansion**



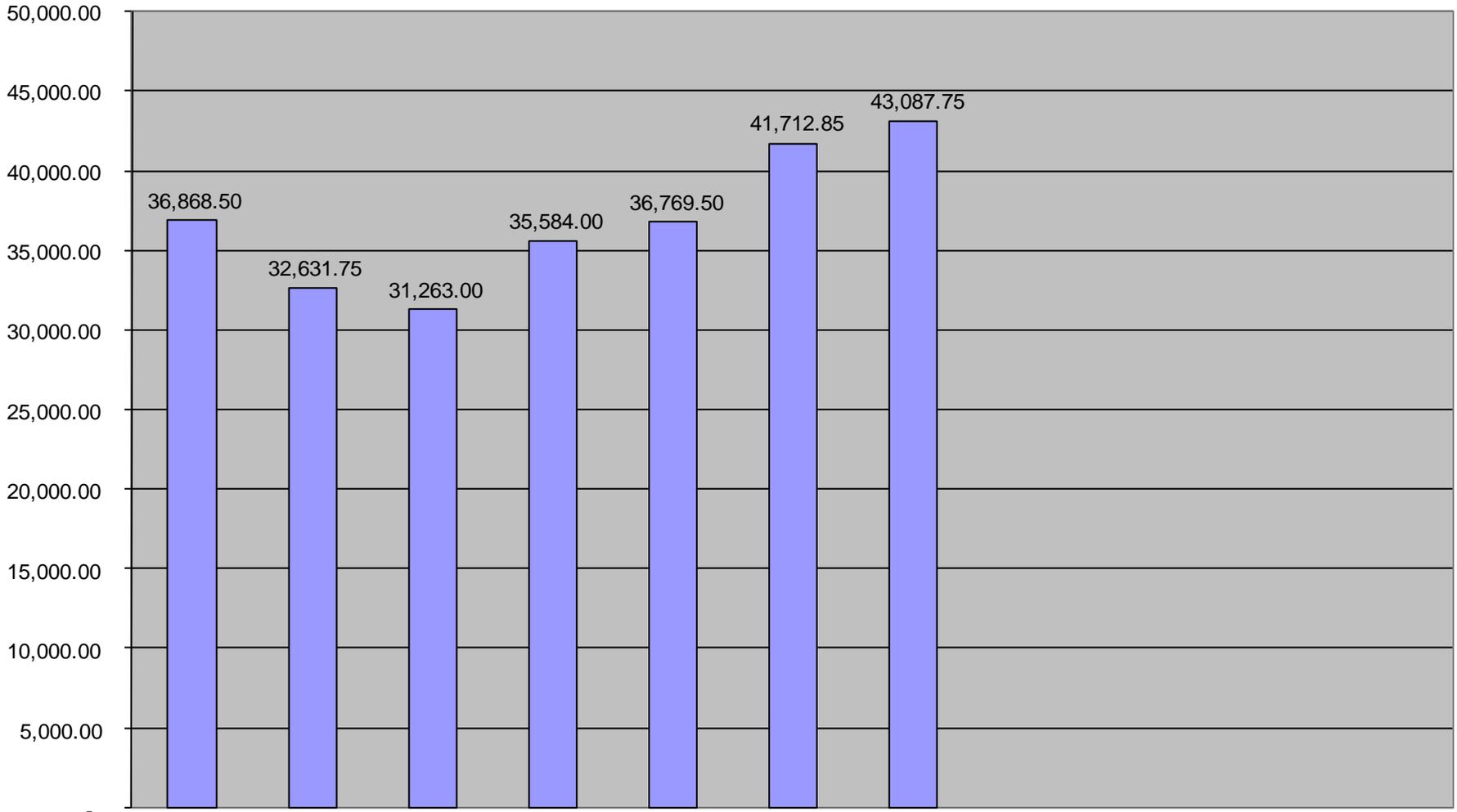
**2005- Option for less expensive (\$14 Million) jail expansion extending across 6<sup>th</sup> avenue. Failed on the ballot. The problem did not go away.**



# Recently major repairs done to Corrections facility to stop water related issues and improve operations/working conditions



### TOTAL HOUSING DAYS (ALL DEPTS)



2003 - 2009

Inmate population continues to grow

**COUNTIES**

Washington has 39 counties. There are 3071 counties in the United States. Counties are the primary legal divisions of most states and generally are functioning governmental units. They are known as "parishes" in Louisiana. In Alaska, Census Areas are used for statistical purposes, while the principal governmental units are boroughs. Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia also have independent cities, government units outside the jurisdiction of any county.

**2010**

**COSTS TO SEND INMATES TO OTHER  
JAILS IN OUR STATE**

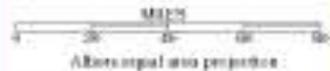
**TOTAL \$397,760.00**

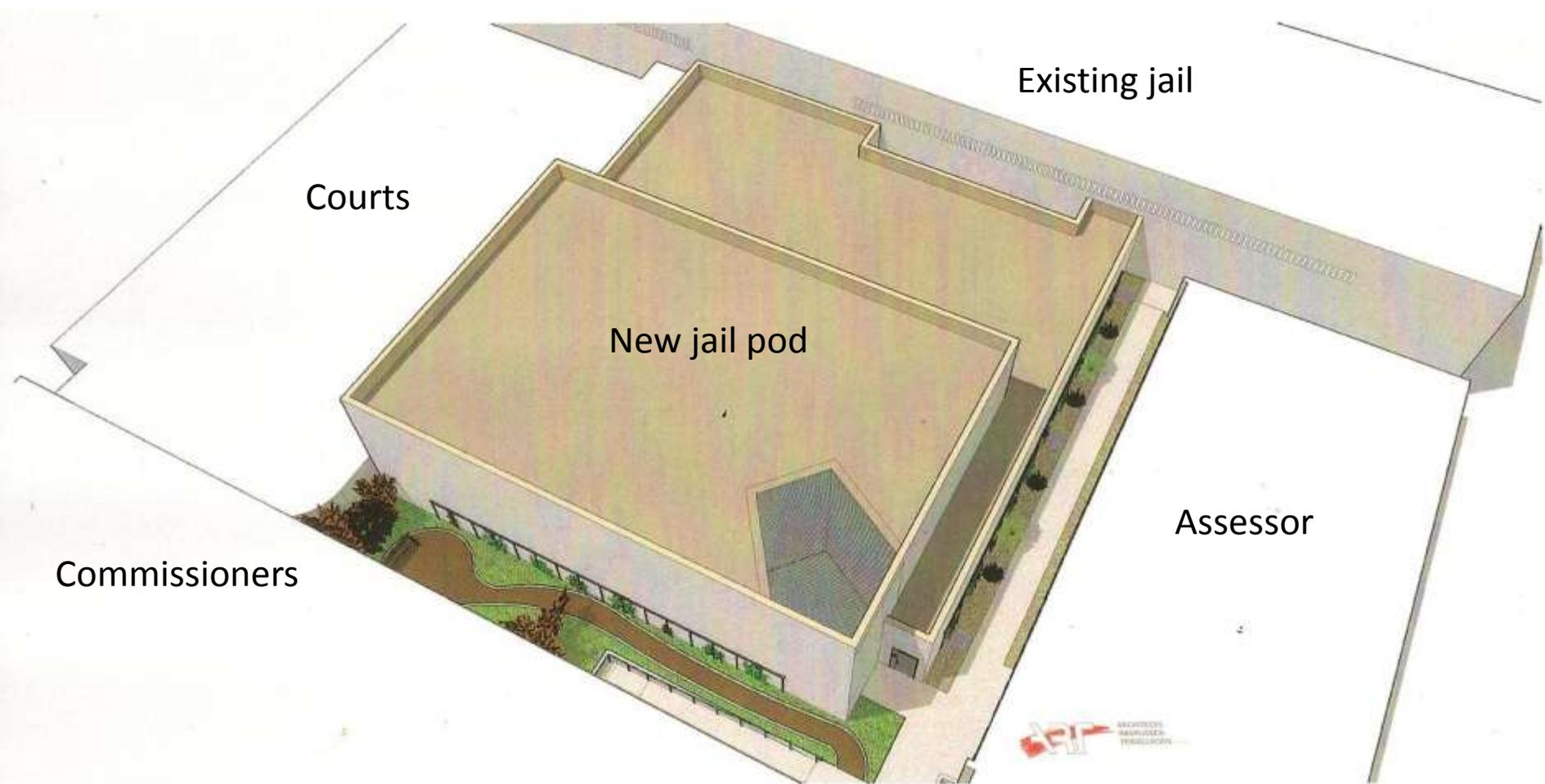
**Costs continue to go up each year**

**FERRY COUNTY  
\$106,110.00**

**Chelan County  
\$239,437.50**

**Sunnyside  
\$52,212.00**





**New jail pod to be built inside the courtyard and attached to the present facility. An additional 117 beds. Cost-\$6.1 Million**

# County approves construction bonds

## \$11.2 million will be put toward four key projects



an  
ankovich

By **MIKE JOHNSTON**  
senior writer

A nearly \$11.2 million bond sale is expected to officially close on Thursday that will fund four Kittitas County government construction projects.

County commissioners say not

only was the bond sale at a low interest rate, but the 20-year bond payoff will come from existing county revenue. The funding will pay for improvements and an addition to the county jail, remodeling the National Guard armory and an upgrade to the Upper County District Court facility.

On top of funding the four projects, a remaining \$750,000 debt from the 2001 restoration and renovation of fairground buildings was rolled into the bond sale, lowering the debt's interest rate and saving the county more than \$55,000.

"It was a great opportunity to accomplish some pretty important projects that the county has needed to focus on for a long time," said Commissioner Alan Crankovich. "And right now we have the revenue to cover the payments, without having to ask for new taxes."

The bonds are formally called limited tax general obligation and refunding bonds.

### Low interest rate

Judy Pless, the county's budget and finance manager, said commissioners took action on Sept. 22 in a special meeting to award the municipal bond sale to Robert W. Baird & Co.

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by **Jim Fossett**  
jmf@nxttribune.com

ELLENSBURG - Government officials say the county seat is rocking with excitement. On Wednesday, Sept. 22, Robert W. Baird & Company, a firm with a broad portfolio of clients in Wisconsin, New Jersey, and Washington, won the

only was the bond sale at a low interest rate, but the 20-year bond payoff will come from existing county revenue. The funding will pay for improvements and an addition to the county jail, remodeling the National Guard armory and an upgrade to the Upper County District Court facility.

"That means we are looking at no new taxes to accomplish these projects," said Commissioner Paul Jewell. "We are, obviously, pleased we can take advantage of the current market conditions. We're very fortunate."



Paul  
Jewell

See **Construction**, Page A8

## The four projects

- Repairs to the county jail — \$1.3 million (pay back the county's capital improvement fund made up of real estate excise tax revenue). Repairs are now under way.
- Design, engineering and construction of an addition to the county jail that will go in the courthouse courtyard — \$6.1 million.
- Remodeling the National Guard armory for county government/public use — \$1.5 million.
- Purchase of land and construction, or purchase of a building and remodeling of a new Upper County District Court facility — \$1.5 million. (Real estate negotiations are now under way on a possible Upper County location for the court building.)

## Cle Elum cooperation

Kittitas County commissioners and the Cle Elum City Council have entered into a memorandum of agreement calling on the two governments to work together on the Upper County District Court facility that also may be a new location for Cle Elum city services.

Past considerations for this cooperation has included the possibility of a combined facility for the court and the city's police department and/or city hall.

## Funding streams for bonds

- Savings from the county not renting Upper County Court space in Cle Elum at \$103,000 a year.
- Savings from not sending jail inmates to other, regional facilities, estimated at nearly \$500,000 a year.
- Lodging tax revenue to pay for the armory building upgrade.
- A portion of the one-tenth of 1 percent sales tax for jail and juvenile detention-related costs going to operational costs for the new jail pod.
- Real estate excise taxes

## County secures \$11M bond with interest rate lowest seen in decades

bid to underwrite Kittitas County for an \$11,000,000 bond, at a 3.1-percent interest rate, the lowest rate seen in five decades, according to an advisor at Seattle's Wedbush Morgan Securities.

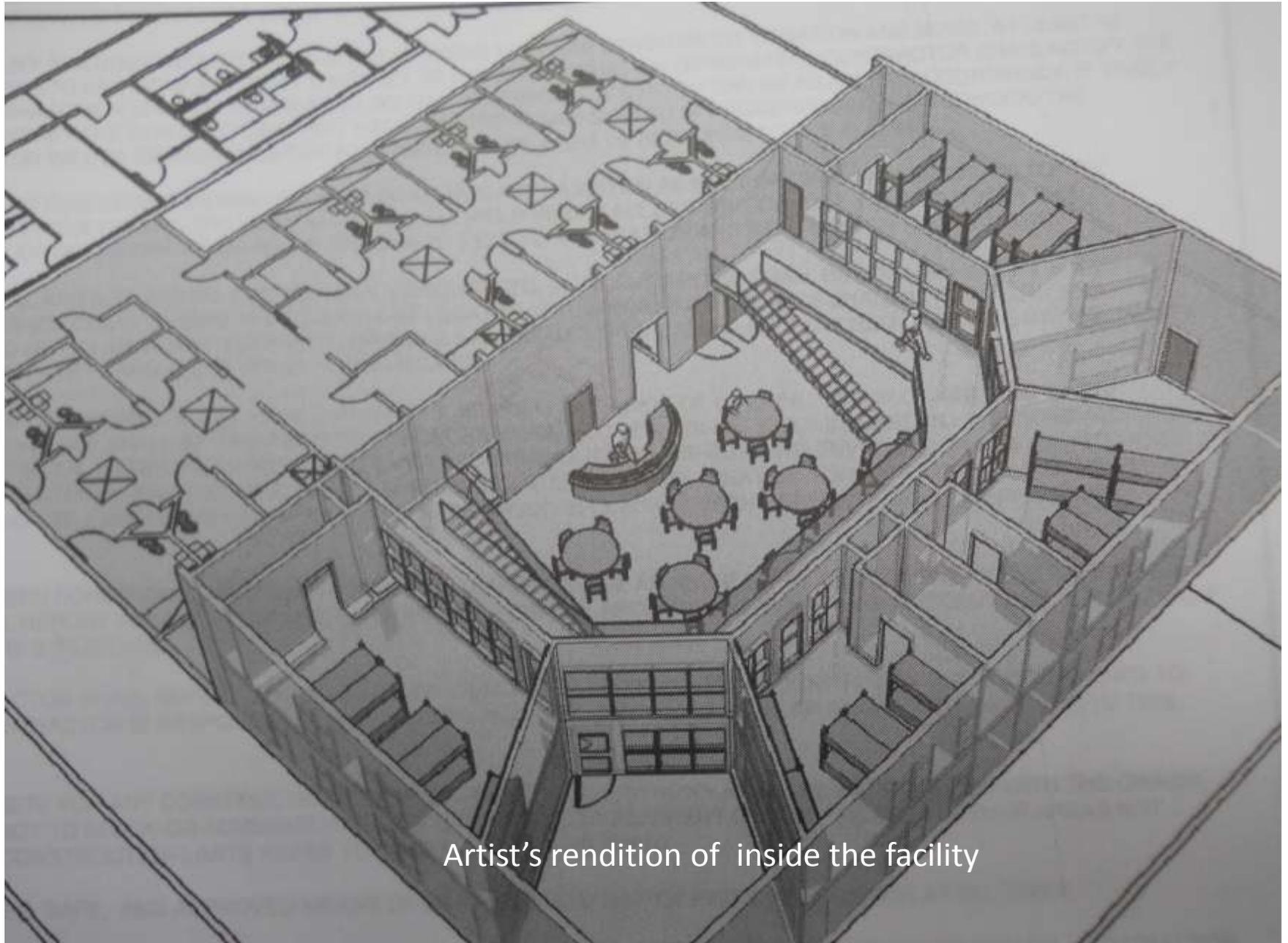
"We're very happy," said Kittitas County Commissioner Alan Crankovich. "With the

funds, we're going to relocate the Upper County District Court, finish repairs at the county jail and expand it into the courtyard. We're going to renovate the armory, near the fairgrounds in Ellensburg. The military recently vacated the armory and signed it over to us. We'll use the building to house the Noxious Weeds office, the

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Location proposed for expansion to existing facility.  
Inner courtyard of Courthouse complex





Artist's rendition of inside the facility



Walkway between  
Jail and Assessor's



View from Courthouse hallway

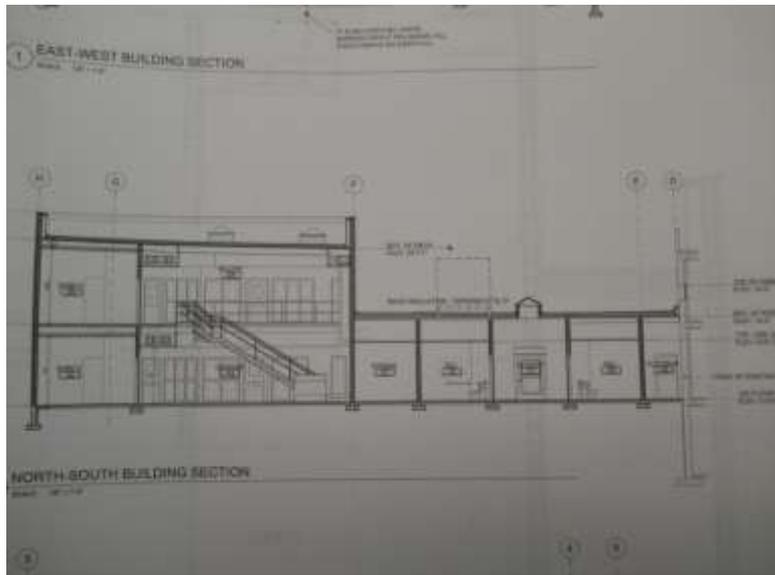
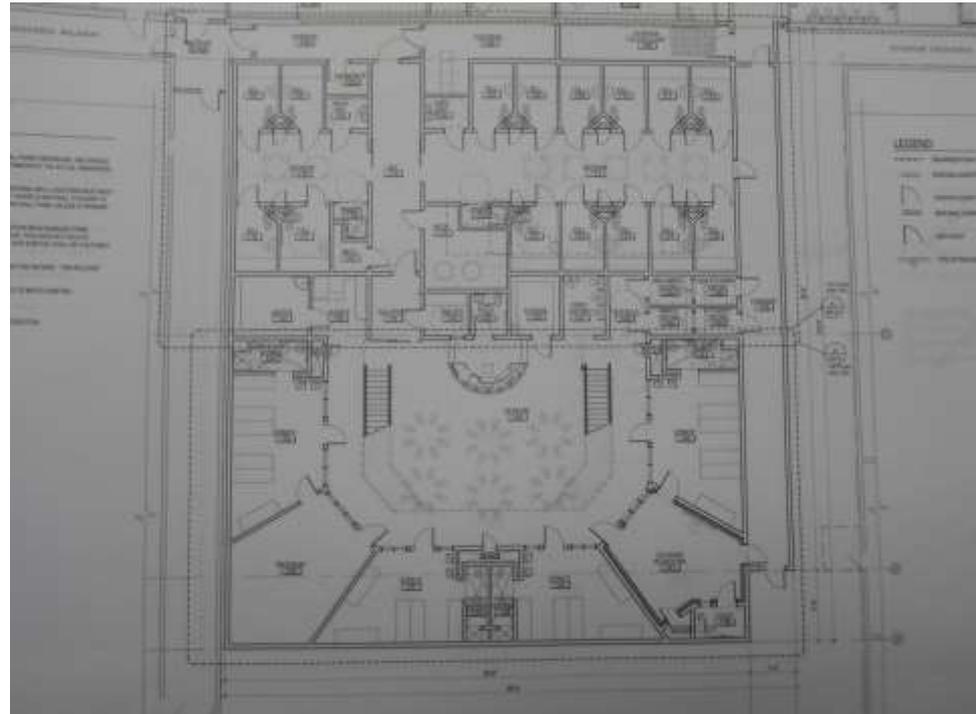
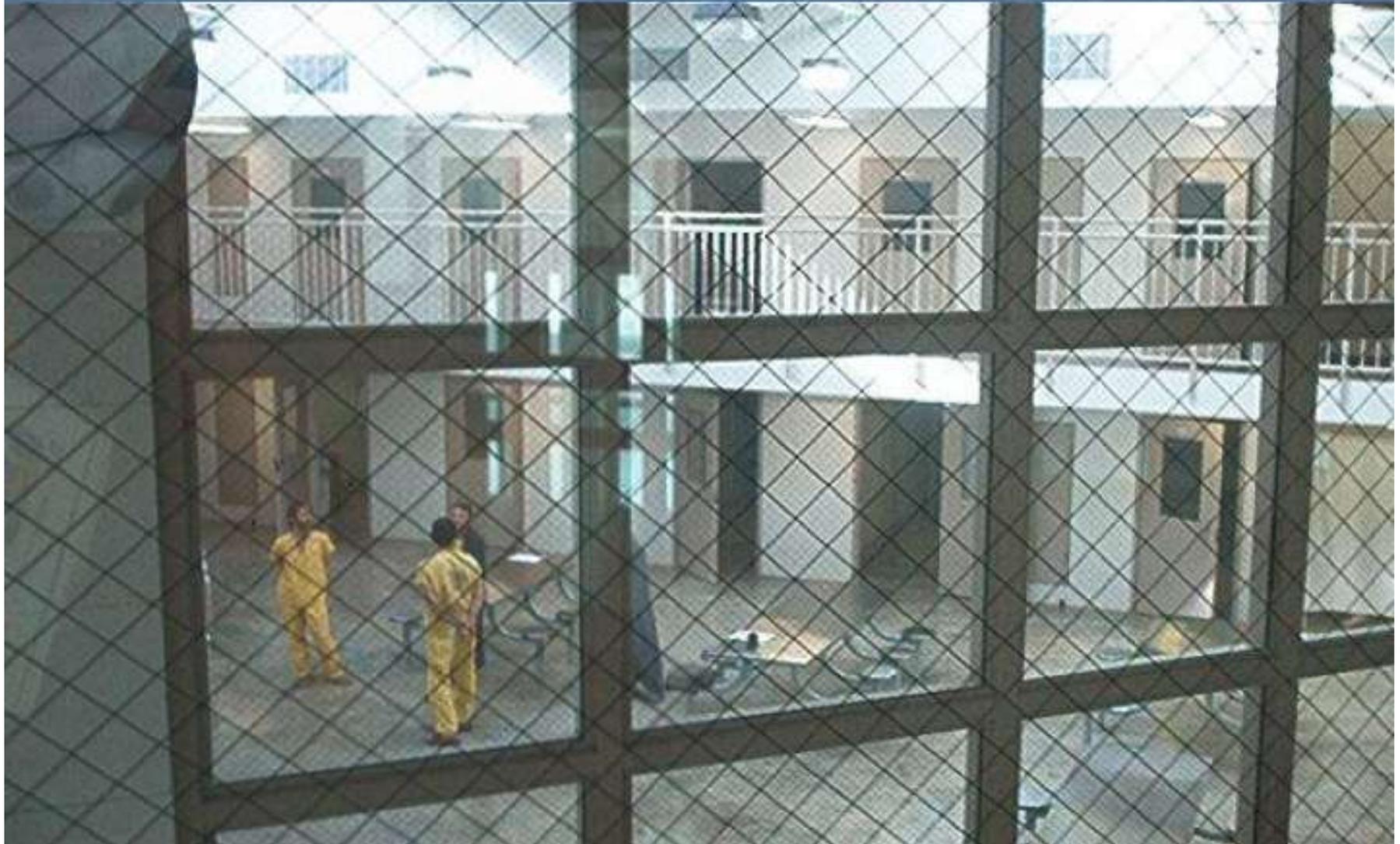


Diagram of side view and overhead of new facility inside the courtyard



# Inside is safe and efficient

(Typical two tier jail pod)





Typical jail cells



## Benefits of jail expansion

118 additional beds for our use

Eliminates the cost to send inmates away

Increased attorney visitation areas

Video visitation from inside and outside the facility

Increased inmate program space

Better classification/separation of inmates

More efficient to operate



## **How will it be funded?**

### **Financing**

**Jail Repairs- \$1,300,000.00**

**Jail Expansion- \$6,100,000.00**

**Armory Project- \$1,500,000.00**

**Upper District Court- \$1,500,000.00**

### **Bonds leveraged from**

**Savings from not renting a building for UKC**

**Savings from not sending inmates elsewhere**

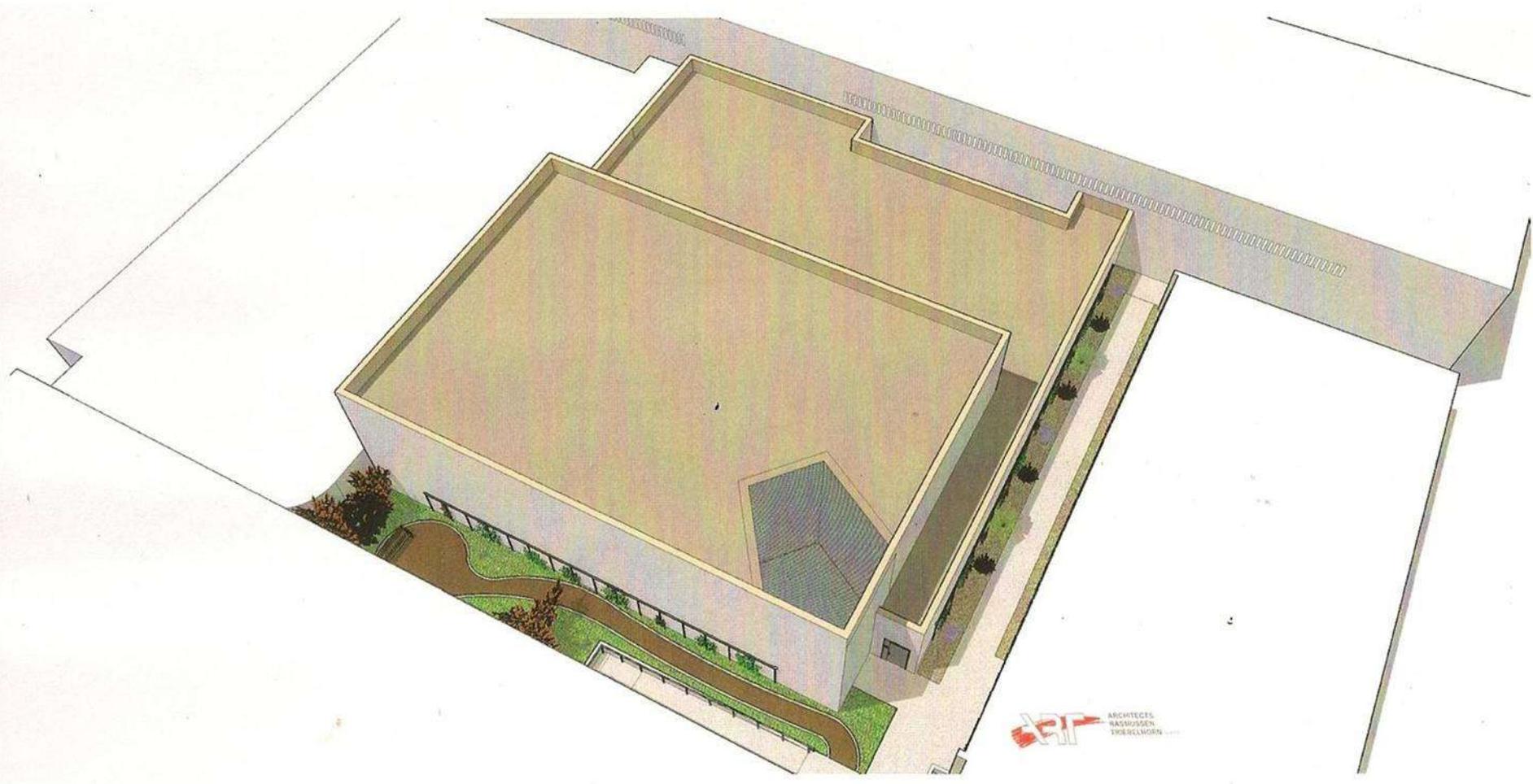
**Lodging tax for the Armory project**

**Existing 1/10 1% revenues**

**Existing Real Estate Excise tax**

**NO NEW TAXES**

**QUESTIONS? Contact the Sheriff's Office 962-7525**



**Space for Kittitas County inmates for many years to come**

# Thanks for supporting public safety in Kittitas County

