

Re-opening of Deschutes County work center adds 90 jail beds

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

BEND, Ore. -- The long-awaited opening of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Work Center began Monday with the transfer of inmates to the newly remodeled facility, closed in 2003 due to a shortage of funds.

Voters approved permanent funding for the Sheriff's Office in 2006 to allow the center, which will add 90 jail beds and many expanded inmate programs such as drug and alcohol treatment, to be reopened.

The programs offered in the work center are designed to reduce recidivism by teaching inmates to become employable citizens upon release, the county stated.

"The re-opening of the Work Center is a win-win for our community. By adding 90 extra jail beds, we will reduce early release of prisoners and hold inmates accountable while providing them an opportunity for rehabilitation. In addition, work crews will be formed and inmates will be doing various projects throughout the community," said Sheriff Larry Blanton.

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