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Media Advisory

Arapahoe County celebrates grand opening of 3 new courtrooms *Commissioners, Chief Judge to “break the bank” as they call courts to order*

CENTENNIAL, CO --- On Thursday, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners will join 18th Judicial District Chief Judge William Sylvester to celebrate the grand opening of Phase One of the Arapahoe County Court Expansion project.

Commissioners Susan Beckman, Jim Dyer, Rod Bockenfeld, Pat Noonan and Frank Weddig, along with Sylvester, will take an oversize gavel to the bank, or piggy bank that is, as they call to order the grand opening of three new courtrooms.

This event will begin 1:30 p.m., Feb. 26 at the Arapahoe County Justice Center, 7305 S. Potomac St., Centennial.

Guests should be prepared to serve for an hour to learn about this innovative project and tour the new courtrooms, which will open to the public and a full court docket beginning March 2.

Arapahoe County, like most counties in Colorado and across the nation, is grappling with a shortage of court and jail space. Since 2005, Arapahoe County has been working to determine how best to meet the space needs of the courts and jails, and to accommodate an additional four new judges.

Thursday’s ceremony will celebrate the grand opening of phase one of a \$13.8 million expansion project that by March 2010 will provide 10 additional courtrooms, one expanded courtroom, a new jury room, and improved court efficiency by consolidating most court functions within the Arapahoe County Justice Center – all without increasing taxes.

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