



Glenn County employees Dennis Pool, left, and Ricardo Valdez, view the county seal they helped create in wood. It is mounted behind the dais at the new Board of Supervisors' chambers at Memorial Hall. Valley Mirror photo by Doug Ross

By Doug Ross of the Valley Mirror Willows — Attached to the wall behind Glenn County's five Board of Supervisors' chairs in brand new chambers at Memorial Hall, proudly hangs a 46-inch diameter wooden seal depicting life in these parts in a more rustic time.

It is a new creation, in place when the lawmakers held their first meeting in their fresh digs Nov. 17. "We didn't think we should pay for what we can do in-house," said Ricardo Valdez, fulltime employee of the county's Facilities Division.

Quipped County electrician Larry Olsen, "We call him our Rembrandt or Van Gogh, he goes by either one." He added, "But credit the whole crew, this was a combination of everybody, along with some subcontractors and furniture by a Chico firm.

"The whole facilities unit was in on it, from Chief Administrative Officer David Shoemaker, Planning and Public Works

Director John Linhart, facilities manager Bobbe' Lewis, to employees Thomas Woolley, Roy Medina, and Dave Pritchett."

Said Mr. Valdez, "We were originally going to paint it on the wall, to match today's white, gold, and black, but it evolved to a removable. Once we put stain on it, it looked too good to paint over it."

The circumference, lettering, and old-time illustration are all recessed by router on a piece of oak plywood. "We did it as a side thing to our normal duties, an hour here and there. We bolted a metal plate to the router so we could pivot it to make it go in a circle. The old jail is our wood shop."

Other examples of their in-house creations are the new sign for Jane Hahn Juvenile Hall on N. Villa Street, and at the entrance to Ord Bend Park. "When signs at county buildings, facilities, and parks go south, we repaint them or make new ones." Added Mr. Pool, "A lot of Dremel bits went into this."

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