

# SNEAK PEEK SHOWS OFF NEW YMCA

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Clint Wolf/Beloit Daily News Doug Britt, CEO of the Stateline Family YMCA, cuts the ribbon at the new YMCA Ironworks facility. The facility still is under construction, but guests got a sneak peek in the facility Thursday.

BELOIT - Though it was clear work still needs to be done at the new YMCA Ironworks facility, it also was clear to guests at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday that construction at the downtown facility is almost done.

Guests got a sneak peek at the new 78,000-square-foot YMCA located on Third Street. The facility is still under construction, but visitors could see treadmills and other exercise equipment was in place. The gymnasium needed a final finish on the floor, but the basketball hoops were all in place. The youth education rooms looked finished but for only a few details. Work is coming to its final stages.

The facility initially was to have an open house today, but some delays caused a change of plans. The YMCA Ironworks facility will have an open house in the near future, CEO Doug Britt said.

Stateline Family YMCA Board President Tom Ptacin welcomed guests to the event Thursday, saying it is hard to believe the process to establish a new YMCA site began nearly five years ago.

"Our current facility was crumbling and the cost for renovation was going to be enormous," he said.

But thanks to the partners the YMCA has worked with through the years as well as the hundreds of individual donors, the Ironworks Y is nearly a reality.

Britt said the Stateline Family YMCA serves over 16,000 children and families and they deserve the space, equipment and programs the Ironworks Y will offer.

He said as the opening day comes closer and the excitement continues to build, he wanted to thank the partners the YMCA has worked with including the Stateline Boys and Girls Club, the United Way Badger Council, CareerTek and the Beloit Health System.

He wanted to give special thanks to Diane Hendricks, who provided the space in the former Beloit Corporation complex for the new YMCA. He also thanked Rob Gerbitz of Hendricks Development Group, whom he credited for getting the ball rolling on the project.

"Our journey began four years ago when I was asked to a meeting with Rob Gerbitz to talk about an idea," Britt recalled.

When complete the new \$11 million YMCA will have two swimming pools, a gymnasium, an 8,000-square-foot fitness center, the Kerry Ingredients Room where cooking classes will be held, the Packard Family Day Care rooms, a walking-running track, a Beloit Health System sports medicine and physical therapy facility and more.