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Whitney boosts Fulmer expansion funds

By **Sophie L. Swecker**
Staff reporter

Whitney Benefits announced a gift of \$133,000 to Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library on Monday for renovation and expansion of the library and reading room.

The gift was in response to a library request asking Whitney Benefits to support the capital campaign for the library's renovation and expansion, according to a Whitney news

release.

"Whitney is pleased to assist this vibrant and productive educational institution in our community and looks forward to seeing the educational benefits that the library provides to the county residents," said Whitney Benefits trustee Val Burgess in the release.

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From left: **Karen Nicolarsen**, secretary of the Sheridan County Library Foundation, **LouAnn Heward-Marks**, chairwoman of the Sheridan County Library board, **Bob Orrell**, vice chairman of the Sheridan County Library board, **Tessa Dalton**, Sheridan County Library Foundation board member, **Tom Kinnison**, president of Whitney Benefits, **Val Burgess**, Whitney Benefits trustee, and **John Patton**, **Karen Miller** and **Paul Wallop**, all Sheridan County Library Foundation board members, stand with a check for \$133,000 from Whitney Benefits for renovation of the library.

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In 2004, the Sheridan County Library Foundation successfully completed a capital campaign raising \$2.1 million in contributions and pledges to fund construction of a new parking lot, maintenance building, and interior renovation of Fulmer Library, according to the release.

The parking lot was completed in September 2004, the release states. It adds that architectural work on the second phase of the project — construction of a maintenance building and remodeling of Fulmer Library — began in April 2006.

The maintenance building was recently completed, and interior renovation is expected to continue through September 2007, the release says.

All areas of the library, with the exception of the Wyoming Room.

the mezzanine, the release states.

An administrative office area, located near the center of the library, and a refurbished Inner Circle will be ready in six to 10 weeks, the release says.

When the project is complete, the library will have a central circulation desk, a new reference/customer service center, a larger young adult area, refurbished restrooms compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a family restroom, and a portal into the Children's Library, according to the release.

LuAnn Heward-Marks, chairwoman of the Sheridan County Public Library Board, stated: "The entire project — from parking lot to the new circulation area — was designed with the needs of library patrons as the top priority.

"The Library Foundation Board worked hard for several years to raise the money needed to complete