

First Bank opens new building in Craig



By **ANDREW DAMSTEDT**
Daily News Staff Writer

First Bank has replaced a 30-year-old building in Craig with a new million-dollar facility.

"We outgrew the old branch," said John Clifton, First Bank vice president. "The people of Prince of Wales have supported First Bank for 35 years, and it's been a good branch for us. Even though the timber industry has had some problems, and last year was not good for tourist business and everyone says Prince of Wales (economy is declining); our business has done very well and we felt it was important to show the community we have a long range outlook for Prince of Wales and all the communities out

The new First Bank branch building in Craig has opened.

Photo courtesy John Clifton

there."

He said the new \$1.2 million building is next to where the former building was located. He said the newer facility is larger at 3,600 square feet, and has several new features.

One of those features is two drive-up lanes, which Clifton said hasn't been utilized much yet because people want to come inside to see the new branch.

He said he expected the drive-up lanes to be used more when the weather gets more windy and wet.

Other features include ATM, night drop and safety deposit boxes, and training facilities.

Dawson Construction did the work using subcontractors from Craig, Ketchikan and Sitka.

"The neat thing with a project like this is that we can employ people that live in Southeast Alaska," Clifton

said.

He said that construction crews salvaged a lot of the old building as well as the former cannery manager's house that was on the site of the new building.

The Craig branch employs eight people with Lynette Logan as manager.

The new building opened Dec. 15 and First Bank plans to have a grand opening ceremony in March after paving the parking lot.

andrew@ketchikandailynews.com



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