

Maverick Center gets more than new name

\$41 million project boasts state-of-the-art athletic facility

By [Emily Anderson](#)

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Saunders Fieldhouse has a new name, the Maverick Center, and plenty of new amenities.

The remodeling and construction project at Mesa State College's athletic and academic facility cost \$41 million and added 200,000 square feet to the building. Another 125,000 square feet were renovated.

The facility has 14 classrooms, a state-of-the-art natatorium swimming pool, a running loop, a recreation center packed with gym equipment, a human performance lab to test fitness, and other amenities.

With the new name of the fitness center came more new names, which were announced at the Maverick Center dedication ceremony Friday night. Room and area names include:

The Copeland Family Athletic Training Room, named after Dr. Larry Copeland, who served as an athletic doctor for Mesa State.

The El Pomar Foundation Natatorium, named after charitable group El Pomar Foundation for its support of Mesa State.

The Geno and Virginia Saccomanno Nursing Laboratory, named after the Saccomannos for support of the college and the family's connection to the health profession.

The Hamilton Recreation Center, named after Jamie Hamilton, president and CEO of Home Loan, who works for \$1 a year as the college's athletic director.

Helen Krey Nursing Laboratory, named after nurse Helen Krey, who donated to the college.

The Monfort Family Human Performance Laboratory, named after Charlie Monfort, the Colorado Rockies chairman and chief executive officer and the Mesa State Board of Trustees chairman, who donated \$500,000 to build the laboratory.

The St. Mary's Nursing Laboratory, named for the local hospital of the same name for its generosity and partnership with Mesa State in educating and training nurses.

The Walter and Pres Walker Tribute Wall, named for the father and son who both served as publishers of The Daily Sentinel. The wall's name correlates with the naming of the soccer field outside the Maverick Center, Walker Field, by request of former Daily Sentinel Publisher Ken Johnson, who donated \$1 million to the college.