



The future Penner Athletic Courts (PAC) facility went vertical in a hurry last week, as 44 massive cement panels were hoisted into place to give the structure a sudden Highway 34 presence.

Using a tilt-up concrete process and a 275-ton crane, Ayars & Ayars work crews out of Lincoln carefully positioned the 68,000-pound panels over a four-day span.

“It went really well,” said Ayars & Ayars project manager Darin Mensik. “The weather was very favorable for us this week, for a change, so we were able to stay right on schedule.”

The foundation for the 22,000-sq.-ft. facility was poured earlier in the month, and concrete panels measuring 11 to 13 inches thick were then poured on top of that. Heavy rains delayed the tilt-up process a few days, but once it started on Wednesday the eight-man crew kept at it until the last panel was in place Saturday morning.

Once the work began, panels were lifted relatively quickly into place. It took considerable time, however, to relocate the giant crane between lifts because of the weight involved.