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About 30 PMC workers face being laid off

POCATELLO — Brenda Stanley, director of marketing and public affairs at Portneuf Medical Center, says the “waiting game” will be over within a matter of days for hospital employees who are bracing for a round of layoffs.

It had not been a secret among members of the staff that about 30 positions would be eliminated once the West Campus, at 651 Memorial Drive, officially closed.

“Less than 30 people will be laid off, but we don’t have an exact number at this time,” Stanley says. “Regardless of how many it ends up being, it is not an easy thing to have to do. This, by any means, is not (the employees’) fault. We certainly have appreciated their hard work and dedication.”

Employees whose names are on the list will be notified by the end of next week, according to Stanley.

She indicates that those who lose their job will be offered employment counseling as well as a severance package.

“We simply do not need as many people to staff the one location,” Stanley says. “We are consolidating so that we can be more efficient and effective. In making this decision, we were very careful in thinking about how it would effect our bedside patient care. Positions that will more than likely remain intact include nurses and others that work directly with the patients.”

Stanley adds that the reduction in force effort was aided by natural attrition.

“People who utilize the facility are the ones who are paying the bills,” Stanley points out. “Like any business that is run efficiently, you need an adequate amount of staff to get the job done in order to continue to offer fair pricing.”

The entire West Campus is closed with the exception of a small section of the hospital’s Cancer Center that remains open until the new facility is complete.

The grand opening for the new Cancer Center at 777 Hospital Way is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 26 from 1-5 p.m.