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NCA • P.O. Box 6407 • BOISE, ID 83707 • 208-342-5402 • Fax: 208-342-0844

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Madison's labor pains

Hospital layout changes as it serves more people

REXBURG – Although Madison Memorial Hospital is a facility in transition, the new section of the hospital is already running near capacity.

"Just in the first month we've had over 4,000 patients," said Jennifer Steinmetz, a spokeswoman for the hospital.

"I think it's a representation of the community's accomplishments that a community hospital that receives no funding from taxes draws this kind of volume."

The first day

On June 30, the first day the new section of the hospital was open for operation, there were:

- 25 surgeries performed
- 148 babies delivered
- 107 patients served through radiology testing
- 27 medical and surgical patients treated
- 5 patients treated in the Intensive Care Unit
- 53 patients treated in the Emergency Room
- 23 patients treated in Short Stay Therapy
- 4 patients treated in the Cardiopulmonary Department for Cardiac Exercise Stress
- 9 Echocardiograms performed
- 24 Electrocardiograms performed

The expanded hospital reopened on June 30. As the hospital grows, the staff hopes to keep the personal touch that has been a tradition there.

"The people that we serve are not just numbers, but they're people who have lives, and families who love them," Steinmetz said.

With medical advances and improvements in the aesthetics at the hospital leading to a speedier healing process, health care providers at the hospital believe it is poised to keep pace with the growth of the community.

According to hospital officials, there is room for expansion within the existing space in the building and it has been constructed to be used for the next 40 years. But the steel and brick and mortar have only been part of the plan.

"We want people to be comfortable – the more comfortable they are, the quicker they heal," Steinmetz said. "Healing is not just a physical process, it's an emotional process."

Now that most of the departments for patient care have moved into the new facility, the older portion of the building is the focus.

"We want to renovate the older portion of the hospital to a point where it is capable of offering the same level of care," Steinmetz said.

As the remodeling of the older section of the hospital proceeds, there will be ongoing changes. These changes include adding four more rooms to the Medical and Surgical Care Unit, a new Neonatal Care Unit, an improved cafeteria and an expanded area to serve physical therapy patients.

Because the size of the hospital has nearly doubled and because of changes where the old and new

sections meet, the hospital staff has realized that many people won't know their way around.

People who work there want to make sure that everyone has a good experience as they learn to navigate the layout of the hospital. "Because the change is happening so quickly, it can feel a little confusing, but we want people to understand the good things that are happening because of these changes," Steinmetz said.

"We've mobilized all of our volunteers and staff to help people find their way around to make the transition as smooth as possible," she said.

She said there would also be temporary signs placed to guide people as things change.

When the process is completed over this fall and into next spring, hospital planners believe the community will be satisfied with the result.

"We already have a hospital that we can be proud of, but when it's complete we'll have a regional healthcare facility that will stand out among other hospitals as a premiere healthcare provider," Steinmetz said.