

Idaho Press Tribune, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011 – by Holly Beech

## Hospital opens cancer center

*Nampa Saint Alphonsus patients can get treatment close to home*

NAMPA — Nampa patients can now be diagnosed and treated for cancer through Saint Alphonsus without having to leave town.

The regional medical center offers cancer treatment in Boise and Caldwell, but now Nampa residents can go to the Cancer Care Center in Nampa for the full range of cancer treatment services — from diagnosis, to

### Open house

The public is invited to tour the new Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Nampa Cancer Care Center and meet Dr. Andrew Scott Pierson during an open house on Sept. 14 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The center's entrance is off East Hawaii Avenue near the intersection with 12th Avenue Road.

A virtual tour will be online at [idahopress.com](http://idahopress.com) from Sept. 15 to 20.

surgery to chemotherapy. “Cancer is unfortunately a very common diagnosis,” Dr. Andrew Scott Pierson, the new center’s oncologist, said. “We want to be able to treat patients as close to home as possible.”

The center, located off 12th Avenue Road and East Hawaii Avenue, includes a medical staff of Dr. Pierson and two nurses, as well as three exam rooms and four chemotherapy chairs. Through clinical trials, the center is able to advance treatment options.

“A lot of times these new therapies are not available commercially, so the only way you can get it is through a clinical trial,” Pierson said. “Generally patients on clinical trials get access to better medicines or combinations of medicines.” The center allows patients to receive state of the art treatment close to home, he said. “We have the population here that we should be able to provide the same services that you would get in a bigger place,” he said. “... I think sometimes people who live in Caldwell or Nampa ... feel like (they) don’t have access to the best care, and that’s not true.”

Saint Alphonsus also opened the Comprehensive Breast Care Center off Garrity Boulevard in April, offering digital mammography.

Dr. Pierson started with Saint Alphonsus in July and previously worked at a medical center in Pocatello.