

## Idaho Press Tribune, Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2011 – Staff report

# St. Luke's, West Valley form partnership

CANYON COUNTY — St. Luke's Health System and West Valley Medical Center have formed a new partnership now known as Collaborative Cardiovascular Care.

The agreement bolsters support for quality and continuity of care for patients with heart conditions in the West Valley service area. As a result, officials said in a press release, patients can be assured local access to frequently needed outpatient services as well as timely intervention and treatment for emergent cardiac conditions.

Executives and physicians from the two hospitals will hold a press conference at 2 p.m. today in the main lobby at West Valley Medical Center.

“We are pleased to join forces with St. Luke's to elevate West Valley Medical Center's ability to treat heart and vascular related illnesses right in our community,” Julie Taylor, CEO of West Valley Medical Center, said. “This collaboration secures the provision of the highest quality of care and coordination of efforts for residents of Canyon County.”

The collaboration will lead to the future development of a certified Chest Pain Center located in the West Valley Medical Center Emergency Department that will ensure early detection and treatment for patients with cardiac symptoms. It will also create peripheral vascular diagnostic and interventional procedures. These procedures consist of angiograms to detect blockages in patient arteries. Once detected, the Interventional Cardiologist can intervene with balloons and stents to treat the blockages.

“St. Luke's is committed to supporting the care and treatment of Canyon County residents in their home communities,” Chris Roth, St. Luke's Treasure Valley CEO, said. “As a result of this collaboration, patients will have the convenience of community-based care and seamless access to higher levels of service when needed.”

The collaboration will also allow for the insertion of internal cardiac defibrillators at West Valley Medical Center. ICDs are used to treat patients with symptomatic or lethal arrhythmias by producing an electric shock that converts the patient's heart out of the condition.