

# BONNERS FERRY HERALD

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## Local hospital least costly in nation

By GWEN ALBERS  
Managing Editor

A recent study has ranked Community Hospital in Bonners Ferry as the least costly rural health care facility of its kind in the nation.

Boundary Hospital in Dartmouth Medical School cited the confusion after reviewing Medicare costs at 2,990 rural hospitals, accord-

"I was very surprised and very pleased," said Craig Johnson, the hospital's chief executive and financial officer. Dartmouth Medical School cited the confusion after reviewing Medicare costs at 2,990 rural hospitals, accord-

ing to study results. The average per capita Medicare cost at Boundary Community Hospital was \$3,616,

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which was the lowest. Hospital was \$3,616, In comparison, the most costly rural hospital was in Graceville, Fla., where the average

helped to keep the cost of our rural health care, the lowest in the nation."

Elden Koon, chairman for the hospital's board of trustees, claims they are "pretty cost conscious."

"We do our utmost to keep our costs down, See HOSPITAL, A-3

## Hospital

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but proficiency up, and I think we've done a good job at it," Koon said.

Dr. Mike Melendez, the hospital's consulting radiologist for nine

years, also was surprised, yet pleased.

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