

Idaho Mountain Express, Friday, Dec. 2, 2011 – Staff report

Hospital appoints new CEO

Montana executive to replace interim CEO John Kee

A new CEO has been appointed for St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center. Cody Langbehn, an executive with Billings Clinic in Billings, Mont., will assume the role on Jan. 23. Langbehn replaces interim CEO John Kee, who will continue in his role as vice president of physician services for St. Luke's Health System.

"Cody has extensive experience in the delivery of medical services throughout the Intermountain Region, which will be invaluable in the future development of St. Luke's Wood River," said David Pate, St. Luke's Health System president and CEO.

St. Luke's Wood River, based in Ketchum, is a 25-bed, critical-access hospital serving patients throughout central Idaho.

Prior to joining St. Luke's, Langbehn was executive director of regional operations at Billings Clinic. He joined Billings Clinic in 1997 as CEO of Pioneer Medical Center in Big Timber, Mont., which is one of seven critical access hospitals managed by Billings Clinic. Langbehn served as CEO for eight years, during which time he oversaw operations at the 25-bed hospital and clinic, as well as a 35-bed nursing home and 18-bed assisted living facility.

Langbehn has a bachelor's degree in health care administration from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., and a master's degree in health care administration from Montana State University-Billings. Langbehn will relocate to the Wood River Valley with his wife, Lisa, and their two young children.

Kee has been interim CEO of Wood River since April 2010, when then CEO Bruce Jensen assumed the role of vice president of operations for St. Luke's Health System.

Kee's tenure has been marked by changes aimed at streamlining operating costs and making hospital services more affordable.

"We are grateful that John Kee and his management team have positioned the hospital so well for the future and have developed a hospital for which the community is justifiably proud," Pate said.