

Hospitals break ground on Arco surgical suite

Lost Rivers Medical Center (LRMC) in Arco and Bingham Memorial Hospital (BMH) in Blackfoot have announced a partnership aimed at increasing access to surgery for residents of rural Butte and Custer counties.

Through this collaboration, the southeast Idaho hospitals are building a state-of-the-art surgical suite at LRMC. The hospitals plan to have the new surgical facility operational by the summer of 2018.

A groundbreaking ceremony took place the afternoon of Wednesday, April 26, at LRMC with hospital representatives, state, county and local government officials and the general public attending. Cool, rainy weather forced activities inside after the traditional groundbreaking ceremony with golden shovels.

The surgical suite will include an operating room, pre-op and post-op rooms and a nurse's station, said Shelley Rupp, COO for LRMC.

"Today's announcement is an exciting step in the continuation of our journey to provide advanced healthcare services to the communities that we serve," said Brad Huerta, CEO of LRMC. "We greatly value our collaboration with BMH and look forward to expanding access to high quality, affordable care to the Lost Rivers Valley and beyond."

Working with BMH, LRMC will be able to provide the residents of rural Butte and south Custer counties and the surrounding area with access to world-class surgical services including general, orthopedic and gastrointestinal surgeries.

"Delivery of rural health care services comes with unique challenges," said Jeff Daniels, CEO of BMH. "Rural residents have greater transportation difficulties reaching health care providers, often traveling great distances to reach a doctor or hospital. At Bingham Memorial, we believe our delivery model for rural health has been uniquely successful, and we're delighted to have the opportunity to partner in this way with our sister Critical Access Hospital at LRMC."

Lost Rivers

Lost Rivers Medical Center officials say their hospital provides high quality, compassionate primary and preventative health care and emergency services to meet the needs of the Big Lost Rivers Valley and surrounding communities.

The hospital was originally established in 1958 as an association operated by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and continued until 1975 under the auspices of Butte County. Currently, Lost Rivers Medical Center operates as a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) as designated by the Medicare program.

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Bingham

Bingham Memorial Hospital is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Critical Access Hospital located in Blackfoot, Idaho. BMH is committed to the pursuit of excellence in providing a continuum of quality, compassionate, healthcare services for residents and visitors to east Idaho in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible. Bingham has healthcare facilities in Blackfoot, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Shelley and Soda Springs, Idaho.

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