

# IMPulse

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**Post Register**

Idaho Falls, Idaho

**Friday Oct. 20, 2017**

**Staff Report**

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## EIRMC's longtime CEO announces retirement

For nearly 20 years, Doug Crabtree has overseen the growth of the medical community in eastern Idaho.

As Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center CEO since 1999, Crabtree has been at the forefront of change and expansion for the facility, helping boost its footprint across three states and making it one of the premier medical facilities in the region.

But all good things must come to an end, and for Crabtree that end is set in his calendar for Dec. 31. After 18 years as CEO and more than 24 years of total work with the hospital, Crabtree will be calling it a day at year's end, retiring from his post in the front office.

It is a bittersweet feeling for Crabtree and the community. Now, he is taking a step back and looking through all that EIRMC has accomplished during his tenure in Idaho Falls.

"The main thing I'm really proud of is that when I came here in 1991 we were a small community hospital serving Idaho Falls," Crabtree said. "Now, in 2017, we are a large, complex, sophisticated regional medical center serving Idaho Falls, southeastern Idaho, western Wyoming, and southern Montana. We have really transformed this community hospital into a regional medical center with state-of-the-art medical services."

Prior to becoming CEO, Crabtree served as EIRMC chief operating officer from 1993-1997 and was its assistant administrator from 1991-1993, according to a hospital news release. With this amount of tenure and time within the region, Crabtree has carved out his own home within eastern Idaho that he can return to during his retirement.

"We want to spend more time with our family and kids," Crabtree said. "And with the arrival of our second grandchild, we're excited to do more of the 'family stuff.'"

"I'm anxious to be a good granddad, and we feel the stars are aligning at the right time."

Crabtree's great deeds, however, will not go unnoticed. With word of his retirement leaking through the local grapevines, numerous people came forward to express their gratitude for the hard work and effort he put forth to build up the region's medical community. Among them was Idaho Falls Mayor Rebecca Casper.

"Mr. Crabtree's leadership served to place Idaho Falls on the medical services map," Casper said. "Under his leadership, EIRMC became, among other things, the regional leader for emergency and trauma care. The result is that Idaho Falls is now a stronger medical hub with many more specialties. That is a powerful and meaningful legacy."

Even a few of Crabtree's colleagues came forward to express their thanks for the hard work and perseverance he has provided to the medical center for the past two decades.

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“What Doug has meant to me and many others in this institution is that he is extremely generous of spirit and a benevolent leader,” said Coleen Niemann, EIRMC’s director of marketing and community relations. “That leadership by example has really penetrated our organization.”

And colleagues are even expressing their gratitude toward Crabtree’s impact on the region’s health care community.

“Doug has made a tremendous contribution to health care in Idaho Falls because of his work in the community and with the hospital,” said Jeff Daniels, former CEO of Bingham Memorial Hospital. “EIRMC has grown from a large hospital to a huge regional trauma center under his time here.”

Today, EIRMC is the largest hospital in eastern Idaho, western Wyoming, and southern Montana and functions as a regional referral center for multiple hospitals within this service area, the release said.

That’s a distinction Crabtree holds to a high regard in terms of his legacy as CEO, and ultimately what he hopes his legacy to be, on a personal and community level.

“We really have wanted to increase the level, depth, and breath of services that we provide, but at the same time maintain an environment that is conducive to how we treat each other as a family,” Crabtree said.

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