

GIVING THANKS

• SMH board recognizes donors to Cancer Center

By Kristen Salamon

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SHERIDAN — The Sheridan Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees took time to thank some of its major donors for their contributions to the Welch Cancer Center during their board meeting Wednesday.

Representatives from the The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust were in Sheridan and were recognized for their recent grant of more than \$3 million to the cancer center project.

“This has been such a blessing,” Sheridan Memorial Hospital Foundation Executive Director Ada Kirven said of the major donors.

The foundation has raised nearly \$6 million to date, surpassing its original \$4 million goal.

Major local donors include the Vernon S. and Rowena W. Griffith Foundation, Joe and Arlene Watt Foundation and William F. and Lorene W. Welch Foundation.

Representatives from the Helmsley Charitable Trust visited from South Dakota to participate in Wednesday’s recognition and reception of major donors.

“This has been one of the fastest, most furious grants we’ve done,” said Heidi Schultz, program officer for the rural health care program at Helmsley Charitable Trust.

She added that the speed with which the trust operated at to make the grant possible was quick, but for a good cause.

“It is exciting to be able to help and make an impact on so many lives,” Schultz said. “We know how questionable travel can be in rural areas and the more we can do to ensure people can get care closer to home the better.”

Schultz thanked the hospital board and the other major donors for allowing the Helmsley Charitable Trust to participate in the can-



Quotable

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*Foundation Exec. Director
Ada Kirven*

cer center project.

Hospital facilities manager Rob Forister gave the board an update on the cancer center’s progress, saying the project is about one week ahead of schedule.

Forister said ground compaction at the center’s site has been mostly completed and foundation and floor work should begin soon.

“Then pretty soon you’ll see walls going up,” Forister said.

The project is expected to be completed next fall.

In other business:

The trustees heard from CFO Ed Johlman that the hospital had its best July, with approximately \$8.6 million in revenues and expenses under budget by about \$200,000.

Thanks

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SMH Quality Services Manager Lajune Bacon also reported that the hospital's ratings for pediatric services improved greatly over the previous fiscal year.

The hospital also improved its patient identification error rate and decreased the number of cath-related urinary tract infections.

Bacon said the hospital will continue to work to improve across the board.