

New Cancer Center will provide hope, care in Sheridan

By Carrie Haderlie

carrie@thesheridanpress.com

On what could be a very somber spot on Sheridan's northwest side, hope filled the air Thursday afternoon.

A small crowd of doctors, hospital staff, community members and cancer survivors gathered at the Welch Cancer Center to celebrate the groundbreaking for a new 14,000-square-foot cancer treatment facility.

"We have come a long way in cancer care in this community," Dr. John Stamato said.

When he started treating patients at the Welch Cancer Center at Sheridan Memorial Hospital 15 years ago, Stamato said he had a staff of one.

"This will be a beautiful facility," he said. "We will stay on the cutting edge of cancer treatment."

Hospital CEO Mike McCafferty said the board of trustees started planning the expansion 10 years ago, but the vision for a great hospital and cancer center in Sheridan goes back 50, 60 or 70 years.

"The support and the philanthropy in this community over the years has been tremendous," McCafferty said. "We've got great opportunities for expansion and growth, and we owe it all to the visionary folks that put us here."

Cancer center staff members today, Stamato said, are caring, compassionate and dedicated to what they do.



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Sheridan Memorial Hospital held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Welch Cancer Center on Thursday afternoon along West Fifth Street. Pictured from left are Griffith Foundation representative Roman Skatula, Sheridan County Commissioner Tom Ringley, Joe & Arlene Foundation Chairman Ky Dixon, SMH Board Chairman Ron Mischke, Griffith Foundation President Art Felker, SMH Campaign Chairman Shirl Yager, Welch Cancer Center Manager Jennifer Pfister, SMH Radiation Oncologist Dr. John Stamato, Welch Foundation representative Bill Ebzery, SMH CEO Mike McCafferty, and Welch Cancer Center patient Tim McNicholas.