

Community was key in birth of Three Rivers

By Jim Moore
of the Daily Courier

June 2, 2001, was a major milestone in Josephine County's medical history, as a gleaming new \$52 million hospital opened its doors to the public in southwest Grants Pass.

The 179,000-square-foot structure rose from the ashes of two others that had long competed against each other in Grants Pass, Josephine Memorial Hospital on Dimmick Street and Southern Oregon Medical Center on Washington Boulevard. Those two were merged into Three Rivers Community Hospital and Health Center in 1994, and planning began for a new facility to improve efficiency and the medical technology available in this area.

That facility, which marks its 10th anniversary this month, is simply called Three Rivers Community Hospital.

It's impossible to imagine how that hospital would operate, or if it would even be in business, without the drive and grit of the community.

Brady Adams, the former president of Evergreen Federal Bank who is noted for



ADAMS



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Dawn Welch, development director for the Asante Foundation, relaxes in the hospital's Healing Garden, which features "The Healing" sculpture by local artist Peter Sedlow.

his many contributions to Grants Pass, recalls the era of two hospitals in town and the effort to improve local health care.

"My involvement was opening up a dialogue between the two hospitals at that time to form a single hospital," said Adams, who now focuses his energies on the community development side of the bank. Those discussions date to the early 1990s.

"What I liked about that was everybody had different points of view and the community came together," he added.

Indeed. The community came together in a big way, including opening its check-books.

Dawn Welch, development director for the Asante Foundation, said the community was given the task of raising \$4 million to help build the hospital.

Topping the list of donors were Grants Pass residents Alvin and Fay Spears, who gave a \$2 million challenge grant from the Kerns A. Spears Family Trust to the hospital foundation's building fund. And Helen Spears, Alvin's mother, gave a separate endowment to fund programs at the new cancer treatment center, named in her honor.

Regional foundations such as the Paul G. Allen Charitable Foundation of Bellevue, Wash. and the Collins Foundation of Portland contributed.

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When you are faced with the task of placing a loved one in a skilled nursing care setting, remember you have the right to choose where you go, it is the law.

It is difficult to make this kind of decision, but there are resources to help sort things out. The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has established a **5 star rating system** to provide our nation's

consumers a way to compare nursing facilities. (www.medicare.gov/nhcompare/) The 5 star system evaluates nursing facilities according to facility inspections, staffing, and specific quality measures. The poorest performing facilities receive a 1 star rating. The best facilities receive 5 stars. Medicare supports the idea that a healthcare decision should be about quality of care.

There are four skilled nursing facilities providing care to the residents of Grants Pass. On Friday, 5/06/2011 the Grants Pass facilities were rated on the nursing home compare website (www.medicare.gov/nhcompare/) as follows:

Laurel Hill Nursing & Rehabilitation Center	5 Stars	Much above average
Fair View Transitional Health Center	4 Stars	Above Average
Highland House	2 Stars	Below Average
Royal Gardens Health & Rehabilitation Center	2 Stars	Below Average

All four facilities provide basically the same services. Each facility has its own unique qualities and may or may not be what you are looking for. When trying to decide how to make a decision about which facility to go to or place a loved one, you owe it to yourself and your loved ones to visit each of them before deciding which best meets your nursing and rehabilitation needs. **Make an informed choice regarding the medical care you or your loved ones receive, it is your right.**

Physical Therapy:

The skills of a physical therapist are required for the ongoing assessment of a patient's rehabilitation needs and potential. Therapeutic exercises, gate training, range of motion, ultrasound and hot pads are some of the treatment options.

Occupational Therapy Services:

Occupational therapy is a medically prescribed treatment concerned with improving or restoring functions, which have been impaired, by illness or injury and to improve the individual's ability to perform those tasks required for independent functioning.

Speech Pathology Services:

Speech-language pathology services are those services necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of speech and language disorders, which result in communication disabilities and also for the diagnosis, and treatment of swallowing disorders (dysphasia), regardless of the presence of a communication disability.



Therapeutic Services:

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