



# HEALTH ALLIANCE UPDATE

A COMMUNITY NEWS BULLETIN ON ACCESSING ENHANCED CLINICAL QUALITY

Volume 2 Dec 2007



Radiologist Dr. Loreli Smith reviews digital CT and MRI diagnostic images at West Valley Medical Center using the hospital's new teleradiology system. The new technology replaces hard-copy films by providing electronic transmission of diagnostic images such as CTs, MRIs and ultrasounds through a computer network that stores, retrieves, distributes and presents digital patient image files. The high-tech upgrade, in addition to providing access to Gem State Radiology's 23 radiology specialists, continues the Saint Alphonus West Valley Health Alliance mission to provide patients of the western Treasure Valley with the most advanced health care possible without leaving their own communities.

## Teleradiology Solution Enhances Access to Images: West Valley Welcomes 21 Additional Radiologists

The Saint Alphonus West Valley Health Alliance has put West Valley Medical Center's medical imaging capabilities on the fast track for patients and physicians.

The technological launch of new teleradiology solutions - moving from hard-copy films to digital - and a new partnership with Gem State Radiology - garnering access to an additional 21 radiologist specialists - continues the Alliance's mission to provide patients of the western Treasure Valley with

the most advanced health care possible without leaving their own communities.

Teleradiology systems reduce the delay of communicating imaging results such as x-rays, CTs, ultrasounds and MRIs from the radiologist to physicians and back to patients, by providing an electronic transmission of radiological images through a computer network that stores, retrieves, distributes and presents digital patient image files. That

means no more hard-copy storage, no more physical transferring of images, and a significant reduction in lost film records.

"For the radiologist reading digital patient images, teleradiology provides instant online capabilities of off-site viewing and reporting," said one of West Valley's in-house radiologists Dr. Loreli Smith, "Additionally, it enables practitioners at various physical clinic locations to access the same

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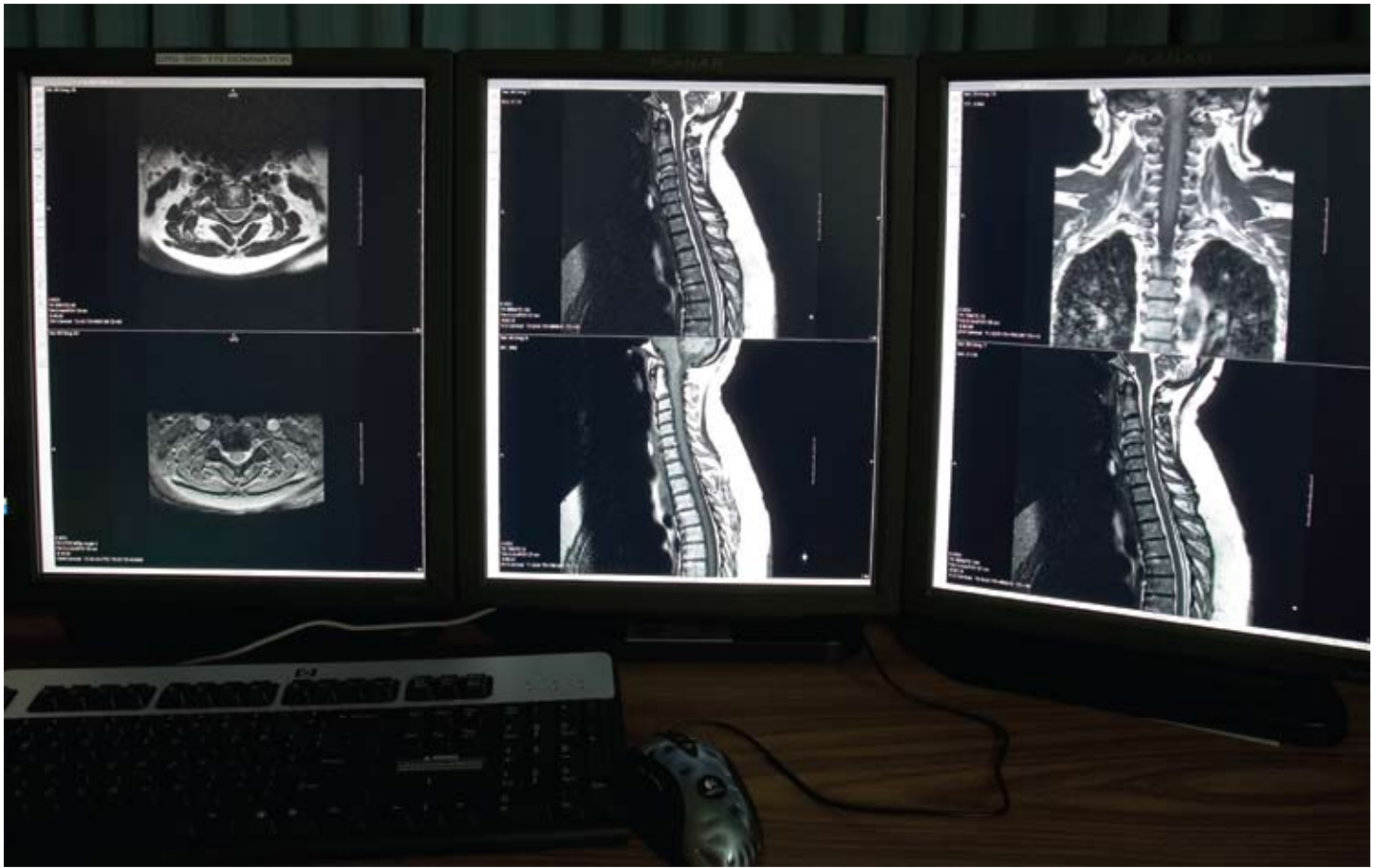


COMMUNITY OUTREACH

# Alliance Sponsors Caldwell Night Rodeo's "Tough Enough for Pink"

From dawn 'til dusk, pancakes, mobile mammography screening, and rodeo hoop-la were all part of the festivities during the annual Caldwell Night Rodeo events. Saint Alphonsus and West Valley teamed up to help fight breast cancer in Caldwell and the western Treasure Valley through jointly sponsoring both the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce's Buckaroo Breakfast and the Caldwell Night Rodeo's "Tough Enough For Pink" breast cancer awareness event. The Saint Alphonsus - West Valley Health Alliance wants to promote the importance of annual mammography screenings, and received over \$21,000 to support women who can not afford a mammogram. In a recent report from the Cancer Data Register of Idaho, Idaho women ranked last in the United States for mammography screening rates. For more information on free screening mammograms, call 455-3900.





## Teleradiology

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information simultaneously.”

Immediate online access to patients’ radiology images and reports primarily aims to improve medical imaging efficiencies and reduce the delay of results back to patients and their referring physicians.

“In addition, the new partnership with Gem State Radiology provides West Valley’s in-house radiologists, Dr. Smith and Dr. Randy James, with a 24-7 radiology support network of 21 additional radiologists,” said Radiology Director Bruce Munk of West Valley Medical Center.

In all, the 23 board certified radiologists of Gem State Radiology also include many radiology subspecialists with additional subspecialty fellowship training.

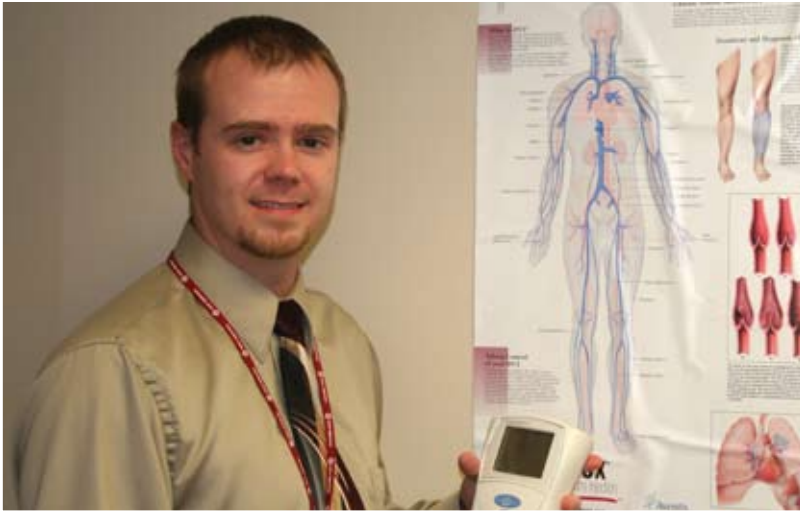
“Should a patient’s medical images obtained at West Valley

need additional consultation with a subspecialist located at Saint Alphonsus, these digital files can instantly be retrieved for review, enabling West Valley physicians and patients to refer and receive highly specialized radiological access and diagnosis in their own community,” said Gem State Radiologist Dr. Jeffrey Seabourn.

“It’s another way the Saint Alphonsus West Valley Health Alliance is working to provide our local and surrounding rural community members with a bridge to highly specialized healthcare services and technology from Caldwell’s community hospital,” said West Valley CEO Kathy Moore, “We can reassure our patients at West Valley that they have access to the most advanced team of radiology specialists delivering timely and comprehensive diagnostic imaging care.”

**Gem State Radiology’s board certified and subspecialized radiologists include the following MDs:**

Randy James  
 Loreli Smith  
 Carolyn Coffman  
 Dallas Peck  
 Curtis Coulam  
 Mike Ryan  
 Ian Davey  
 Jason Salber  
 Neil Davey  
 Lisa Scales  
 Vick Garabedian  
 Howard Schaff  
 Anthony Giauque  
 Jeffrey Seabourn  
 Joseph Gobel  
 Rodger Shaver  
 J.T. Hall  
 John Jackson  
 Caroline Sobota  
 Bertram Stemmler  
 John Knochel  
 William Taylor  
 William Murray



TOP: Whitey Jacobsen.  
LEFT: Donovan Victorine, lead Anticoagulation Clinic pharmacist, shows the device that instantly measures PT/INR results

## Health Alliance Brings Two New Services to West Valley

Anticoagulation Clinic saves patients time and travel; Wound Clinic offers specialized expertise

### Anticoagulation Clinic

For patients who have been diagnosed with chronic cardiovascular or other circulatory diseases, regular monitoring of their blood to measure the level of clotting is necessary to avoid serious complications - or even to save their life.

Patients with conditions such as atrial fibrillation, valvular diseases, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolus, cardioembolic stroke, and orthopaedic procedures used to have only one time consuming option to monitor their blood. They would go to the laboratory, have their blood drawn, go home, wait for the lab to call or fax the results to their physician, and then wait for their physician to call them back with instructions if the results were not where they should be. The process would often take a full day, or more.

In August, a new option became available to patients when the Saint Alphonsus-West Valley Health Alliance opened a new Anticoagulation Clinic at West Valley Medical Center. Patients can now receive safe and effective management of anticoagulant drug therapy in one 15-20 minute visit, through a collaborative effort between physicians and pharmacists.

Whitey Jacobsen, a Nampa resident, has suffered three heart attacks and has a combination pacemaker-defibrillator implanted. He used to travel to the Anticoagulation Clinic in Boise. Whitey, who now goes to the new Clinic at West Valley said, "I just love the time saved, the gas saved, and the immediate feedback that I get at the Clinic. I know right away if I'm ok, or not. My wife, Joyce, loves it, too, because she was the one who had to drive me to Boise."

Donovan Victorine, the lead Anticoagulation Clinic pharmacist at West Valley said, "It's a win-win for patients and physicians. It saves everyone time. But more importantly, if there is a problem we can immediately adjust doses of medication and assess if there are issues related to diet, activity level, or other medications. Ultimately, the immediate feedback saves most patients from getting into trouble and ending up in the emergency room or being admitted. We send the results to the patient's physician, and let them know if there are any problems."

Patients also love the less invasive monitoring: a finger stick

instead of having blood drawn from their arm. Whitey adds, "There is just no waiting anymore! They stick my finger and take the measurement reading on the spot."



### Wound Clinic

In August, patients at West Valley who were experiencing difficulties healing from pressure ulcer, diabetic, or vascular wounds had a new source of expertise to help them - nurses specially trained in wound management.

Nurses from West Valley went to Boise for a day to shadow Saint Alphonsus wound care nurses. Now, West Valley nurses with patients who need additional help with wound dressing recommendations, ointments, or other therapies can request an on-site consult.

Susan Runyan, an enterostomal (wound) therapy nurse at Saint Alphonsus, said, "We've seen about a dozen West Valley patients since the West Valley inpatient Wound / Ostomy consulting has begun. It's been a very positive care experience for patients and staff. Our goal is to further the education and training of nurses at West Valley so they can become wound care champions, as well."



**Alliance Wins Idaho Business Review's "Advancements in Health Care Hero" Award**

## Alliance Moves to Provide Health Services for Local Businesses

Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center and West Valley Medical Center have launched an employer-directed healthcare initiative that identifies the specific health-related needs of employees of local businesses and effectively links the hospitals system's services and programs with the appropriate individuals.

Aegis is the nation's leading healthcare business development company whose programs can currently be found in more than 4,000 employer sites across the country. The program is designed to help improve employee health while reducing employer health-related costs, including absenteeism, healthcare premiums and workers' compensations.

The Alliance will provide employers with a specialist to oversee the day-to-day interactions along with a variety of road-tested tools, including personal health profiles to determine individual health risks, personal health reports, and

health information centers within each participant workplace.

Using data gathered from the personal health profiles, at-risk employees will be matched with appropriate early detection, prevention and education initiatives offered by the hospital system and its collective 1,100-member medical staff.

"We realize that employee wellness is a key concern of our local employers," said William Cafferty, manager of the Saint Alphonsus-based program. "Through Saint Alphonsus and West Valley's exceptional staff and affiliated physicians, we are able to offer comprehensive early intervention and health-enhancing programs to the communities we serve."

The program will help provide services to employees of many local companies including cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure checks. A personal health report will also be mailed directly to participants' homes.

In September, Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center and West Valley Medical Center received the "Advancements in Health Care Hero" award from the Idaho Business Review in their annual event honoring "heroes" in the health care industry.

The award, by definition, "honors a company or individual primarily responsible for a scientific discovery or development of a new process, device or service than can save lives or improves the quality of life for a large number of people."

The Saint Alphonsus-West Valley Health Alliance was selected for its goal to improve the quality of life for western Treasure Valley residents by giving them access to a higher level of comprehensive healthcare services in their local community by:

- Improving access to primary care, specialty, and sub-specialty physicians
- Providing access to state-of-the-art technologies and expanded telemedicine applications
- Enhancing the scope of healthcare services available in Caldwell, so patients don't have to travel to Boise.
- Coordinating care through shared clinical protocols to improve patient outcomes and reduce healthcare costs.