

COMMUNITY

SPACE:

continued from page A1

struction. Many of the people were surprised to see the number of improvements being made to the facility.

When finished, the expansion will feature the addition of two new 750-square-foot surgical suites and the partial construction of two additional suites, which will be completed and outfitted in the coming years. The new suites will connect to a hallway that includes 15 additional day-surgery patient rooms.

Kricket Nicholson, executive director of the Umatilla-Morrow United Way, said she was thrilled to see that, by adding those two extra surgical suites, the hospital was preparing for its future.

"It's smart to plan ahead so when you expand in the future, you will already have all of this in place," she said.

The expansion also includes the construction of a central utility plant behind the hospital, which will house state-of-the-art vacuum pumps, central air, water softeners and more. The building will be connected to the main hospital via an underground tunnel, which has pipelines for electricity, medical gases, steam for sterilization and data lines for the hospital computer system.

"This is really neat," Karen Hutchinson-Talaski, executive director of the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, said.

Giles said the vacuum system is just one of



Pipes that allow flow of steam, electricity, oxygen and other surgical gases will run through a tunnel under ground that will flow from the hospital's new surgical supply building to the surgical wing and the rest of the hospital.

many advanced features the hospital will have once the expansion is complete. He said, additionally, the hospital will have a sterilization center, where hospital carts and gurneys will be automatically sanitized. He said those tasks are currently done by hand.

The expansion also includes a fan wall system, which now sits atop the surgical wing of the hospital and provides all of the heating and air conditioning for the facility, which can be controlled digitally.

"It is a pretty cool unit," Giles said. "It features 64 fan units, and it monitors the fresh air intake to the hospital."

In the operating rooms, doctors and hospital staff will also have more than 350 extra square feet per operating room in which to work, as well as a place to store advanced robotics operating equipment.

"This has been a long time coming," Sanders said. "It is going to be really nice."

Giles said the project

should be complete and move-in ready by mid-June.

"The hospital is making some great improvements and is updating to some fantastic equipment," he said.



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTOS

The new surgical suite is expected to be completed in June. Pictured, new patient rooms sit nearly finished.



The surgical expansion at Good Shepherd Medical Center features high-tech equipment, including this vacuum control unit that senses when a person comes near the device.



Chris Giles, right, project superintendent from McCormack Construction Company, tasked with completing the surgical expansion at Good Shepherd Medical Center, talks with community members and Kelly Sanders, GSMC vice president of human resources, second from left, about the improvements GSMC's surgical wing will have.

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