

24-Hour Emergency Room Will Soon Be Available Again in Kilgore

KILGORE--Officials announced today that Kilgore residents will soon have a 24-hour emergency department to meet their medical needs. Good Shepherd Medical Center will expand the current urgent care center operation to provide the 24-hour service to be complete in 2011. In addition, four emergency service physicians will be recruited to staff the service.

In order to provide these service enhancements, additional equipment is needed. The Roy H. Laird Memorial Hospital Foundation has agreed to contribute \$675,000 toward the cost of the project in order to bring an emergency room back to Kilgore.

“Allegiance and Good Shepherd have worked together with a common goal of bringing the needed emergency services back to Kilgore,” said Sherry Bustin, CEO of Allegiance Specialty Hospital. “We shared this vision with the City of Kilgore and the Laird Foundation and without their financial support of this endeavor it would have not been possible.”

In addition, Allegiance Specialty Hospital is renovating a portion of their facility to expand their inpatient geriatric services which will add six more full time employees increasing their annual payroll to \$3.7 million.

The City of Kilgore, Roy H. Laird Memorial Hospital Foundation, Allegiance and Good Shepherd have all worked together to help bring needed healthcare services to Kilgore residents.

“With growing volumes in the Good Shepherd Kilgore location, the committee believed that Kilgore area residents needed quality healthcare services available where they can conveniently access services,” said Ed Banos, president and chief executive officer of Good Shepherd Medical Center. “This emergency center will be able to fulfill a need where otherwise area residents have had to travel to Longview or Tyler to receive emergency care.”

The Kilgore community has been without 24-hour emergency care services since the closing of Laird Memorial Hospital’s Emergency Room on December 1, 2007.

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