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**Ruby Valley Community Celebrates the Grand Opening of the
Ruby Valley Medical Center**

Speaker presentations, ribbon cutting, dramatic Lifeflight landing and staff-facilitated self-guided tours were the highlights of the event

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sheridan, Montana (August 20, 2018) – The Ruby Valley Medical Center held its Grand Opening celebration on Saturday, August 18th. The highlights of the event were the speaker presentations, ribbon cutting, the dramatic landing of the Lifeflight helicopter and self-guided tours with information provided throughout by Medical Center staff.

The opening ceremony commenced with a welcome from the Ruby Valley Medical Center's CEO, John Semingson. The Board of Trustees President, Ken Walsh, and Ruby Valley Healthcare Foundation President, Les Gilman, provided background on the history, challenges and importance to the community of designing, financing and building the Medical Center. Through their personal experiences and professional efforts, Steve Troendle, Community Projects Director with the USDA's Rural Development Community Facilities Program and Bob Olsen, Senior Vice President with the Montana Hospital Association, expressed the importance of developing our rural healthcare systems. Jenna Rhoads presented a letter from Senator Tester conveying his congratulations to the community and support for improvements in rural healthcare.

Steve Troendle's presentation was briefly interrupted by the arrival of the Lifeflight helicopter which dramatically landed to the cheers of over 300 attendees. Although the Medical Center's EMT personnel had attempted to water down the as-yet unlandscaped area surrounding the helipad, the helicopter was completely enveloped in dust during the final moments of the landing. The helicopter crew emerged from the aircraft amid unanimous applause and the settling dust cloud.

The presentation ceremony was closed with the raising of the American flag by the VFW/AFL Post 89, accompanied by the national anthem sung by Miss Katie Hall, and the invocation by The Reverend Janis Hansen of Christ Episcopal Church.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was supported by the speakers, the Ruby Valley Medical Center's Board of Trustees, and representatives from the project's architectural and general contracting firms. Participants in the ribbon cutting line-up were Les Gilman, Tiger Munson and Steve T. Langlas of Langlas & Associates (general contractor), Jason Davis of SMA Architects, Katie Hall, Dr. Warren Swager, John Benedict, Steve Troendle, Carol Braach, RN, Ken Walsh, Tony Simonsen, The Reverend Janis Hansen, Jenna Rhoads, Bob Olsen, and John Semingson. Trustees John Benedict and Carol Braach performed the ribbon cutting. Following the ribbon cutting, John Semingson joked that the Ruby Valley Healthcare Foundation would be auctioning off the ribbon pieces to the highest bidder!

Following the ribbon cutting, few of the attendees were deterred from touring the Medical Center by the temptation of cake and refreshments. The lobby of the Medical Center was quickly filled with visitors eager to explore. The focal point of the lobby is a large metal sculpture designed and constructed by Del Bieroth, a member of the Ruby Valley Emergency Medical Services team, which represents the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the Ruby Valley. The sculpture surrounds interactive screens that provide information about the Medical Center's generous donors, services and photographs of the community and countryside.

Visitors wandered freely through the Laboratory, Radiology, Emergency, In-Patient, Clinic and Business Office areas, as well as the facility's infrastructure areas which will rarely be seen by patients or visitors in the coming years. Central Supply, Technology, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Mechanical, Laundry and the Employee Break Room were thoroughly explored by the attendees. "Everyone was impressed with the modern, professional appearance, but just

as impressed by the lack of rock work, fountains, and crystal chandeliers – in a good way. Just what we needed and nothing more,” said Dr. Roman Hendrickson, Chief Medical Officer.

Throughout the tour, department heads and staff were available to explain the benefits of their new work environments and plans for improvements. “The comment heard most in my department, Imaging, was ‘WOW!’ The attendees were very impressed with the services we are providing and plan to provide which include MRI, ultrasound, DEXA and more. They were also impressed that all these images are completely digital. We also heard comments of ‘high tech’, ‘beautiful’ and ‘so well thought out’. The imaging department speaks for itself!” said Imaging Manager, Mary Ann Birdsill.

For some of the Medical Center’s employees, the tours provided an opportunity to become better acquainted with community members that they don’t often get to see. Our newly hired Director of Human Resources, Christine Partelow commented, “It was a great time for me to meet all of the people from the community, as well as the donors, and introduce myself.”

In addition to touring the Medical Center, attendees visited with the Lifeflight helicopter pilots at the helipad and investigated the MRI trailer. The Monida Shared Imaging will be providing MRI scanning services every other Wednesday. Appointments can be made through the Radiology Department.

The Ruby Valley Medical Center was built with a \$9,950,000 loan from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Community Facilities Program (USDARDCF) and \$2,500,000 raised by the Ruby Valley Healthcare Foundation and the Ruby Valley Hospital Auxiliary. The USDARDCF loan will be financed at 2.375% over 37 years. New equipment for the Ruby Valley Medical Center cost \$1,500,000. The equipment purchases were funded by a \$1,100,000 loan from the USDARDCF financed at 2.375% over 15 years and a \$400,000 donation from the Ruby Valley Healthcare Foundation.

The Ruby Valley Medical Center is a critical access hospital with five in-patient beds, two observation beds, in-house CT and radiology diagnostic imaging, and laboratory. The Medical Center's emergency department has expanded to three trauma rooms and has a decontamination area. The new helistop pad provides much more efficient access to helicopter medical transport for patients needing emergency surgical or specialized care. The new clinic includes seven examination rooms plus areas for visiting specialists and telemedicine. The physical therapy department has four dedicated private treatment rooms and a much larger gym facility.

Please visit the Ruby Valley Medical Center's website at www.RVMC.org for additional information. The floorplan for the Ruby Valley Medical Center can be found at www.RubyValleyHospital.com/medical-center-floor-plans. An aerial video of the Ruby Valley Medical Center is also available on the home page of the website.

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About the Ruby Valley Medical Center

The Ruby Valley Medical Center is a critical access hospital and Montana designated trauma receiving facility serving Sheridan, Twin Bridges, Alder, Laurin, Silver Star, Virginia City, Nevada City and Waterloo. The Medical Center offers 5 in-patient beds, 2 observation beds, diagnostic imaging, laboratory, physical therapy, speech language pathology, swing bed, 24 hour emergency care and a highly qualified nursing staff. Our healthcare providers support patients through the Ruby Valley Medical Center and the clinic in Twin Bridges. The Ruby Valley Medical Center also provides mobile emergency medical services through Ruby Valley Emergency Medical Services. The Ruby Valley Medical Center receives financial support from the Ruby Valley Healthcare Foundation and the Ruby Valley Medical Center Auxiliary.

Photos to supplement this press release are available for download at <http://www.RVMC.org/press-release-photos>.