



Staff file photo

Dr. Kamal Thapar, a Marshfield Clinic neurosurgeon and director of the Brain & Spine Institute at Sacred Heart Hospital, in October 2008 explained the benefits of the hospital's "Smart OR" and its approach to brain and spine surgery. Thapar uses different components of the hospital's Center for Imaging in his work.

# Sacred Heart celebrates imaging center renovation

By Christena T. O'Brien  
Leader-Telegram staff

Sacred Heart Hospital is about to unveil a four-year, four-phase \$40 million project that renovated its Center for Imaging.

The hospital is hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday to mark the completion and grand opening of the 29,000-square-foot center, which offers the latest in clinical imaging capabilities for patients for the early detection and treatment of diseases and precise imaging for trauma and other injuries.

The hospital also is hosting a free community open house, on Friday, to give the public a chance to see the end result of a project that has been in the works for more than two decades.

The center and the equipment were designed and acquired with the patient in mind, said Dr. M. Thomas Edwards of Medical X-Ray Consultants, who is medical director of radiology at Sacred Heart Hospital. "That what's driven us from the start."

For example, the dual source computerized tomography, or CT, scanner, added in 2009, enables

## If You Go

**What:** Community open house for Sacred Heart Hospital's fully renovated Center for Imaging. Tours of the 29,000-square-foot center will be given; lunch will be provided, including something special for children; and gifts will be awarded to the first 50 attendees.

**When:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday.

**Where:** Sacred Heart Hospital, 900 W. Clairemont Ave. Attendees are asked to use the hospital's main lobby entrance.

**Information:** 715-717-4121.

physicians to conduct a noninvasive study of the coronary arteries and do it at less than a quarter of the usual dose of radiation, hospital officials said. This technology also has applications for the detection of cancer and for trauma, orthopedics and neurosciences.

Steve Ronstrom, CEO of Sacred Heart Hospital and CEO and president of Hospital Sisters Health System for western Wisconsin, said the center "combines the best medical technologies available

today with safety, privacy and comfort, to help alleviate the fears often associated with needing tests and procedures performed at the hospital."

Many of the technologies at the center are found only at academic research facilities, he said.

"... We want patients in the western Wisconsin region to have access to high quality health care and every available medical advantage without having to travel far from home," Ronstrom said.

Dr. Kamal Thapar, a Marshfield Clinic neurosurgeon and director of the Brain & Spine Institute at Sacred Heart, has been using different components of the new technology to treat his patients, including the intraoperative magnetic resonance imaging, or iMRI, surgical suite for diagnostics and the detection and surgical removal of brain tumors.

"The benefits are enormous, and they all have to do with precision," Thapar said. When it comes to removing a brain tumor, precision is key, he explained.

"The intuitive goal is complete removal," Thapar said. In other sur-

geries, tissue surrounding a tumor can be removed, but that's not the case when the tumor is in the brain.

"You need to remove the disease, but the margin of error (in the brain) is very, very small," he said.

The hospital's "Smart OR" — one of only a handful in the world — enables neurosurgeons to confirm the proper removal of brain tumors while the patient still is in the operating room. "It allows us to know ... we have achieved our objective," Thapar said.

In 2009, an intraoperative CT, or iCT, surgical suite, which confirms the proper placement of screws and implants while the patient is in the operating room, was added. The technology also is being used for cranial surgeries, stroke, trauma, orthopedics, and ear, nose and throat procedures.

"Overall, (the renovation) has been a big project," Edwards said. But "we can do things the very best institutions in the country can do and can't do."

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# Klaus/Board leader pleased by the decision

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Klaus' contract gained notoriety when it was revealed that during the summer of 2007 former school board President Carol Olson signed and backdated a memo with Klaus' knowledge that authorized Klaus to begin receiving his early retirement stipend. Olson no longer was a board member when she signed the document, having left the board several months earlier.

The stipend wasn't paid to Klaus, after district officials questioned the arrangement.

Klaus contends the board approved his receiving his stipend at age 53 instead of age 55 and upon retirement when it approved his contract on Feb. 5, 2007. Several board members at the time said the board never approved that arrangement, while others, including Olson, said the board intended for Klaus to receive his stipend before he retired.

School board meeting minutes list changes to Klaus' contract at that time, including a provision to allow Klaus to leave his superintendent position and become Northstar Middle School principal. But there is no record of the board approving the retirement stipend provision.

The school board subsequently met to review Klaus' contract and ruled

he couldn't receive his stipend until age 55 or upon retiring from the district. Klaus turns 56 early next month.

The issue prompted police and school board investigations, and the board suspended Klaus in August 2008 for 10 months without pay. In June 2009 the board appointed Klaus to oversee the district's federal stimulus fund expenditures.

Klaus contends his contract guaranteed him district employment through June 30, 2012. But Conley ruled Klaus' contract, which included consecutive two-year terms with a one-year extension, violated state statute regulating the length of school administrator contracts.

That decision was good news to district officials, school board President Carol Craig said, although she acknowledged Klaus may appeal Conley's ruling.

"We are very pleased with that decision," she said.

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## Center for Imaging

Some of Sacred Heart Hospital's Center for Imaging's new amenities and technologies:

### New in 2007, 2008

- A separate, covered entrance with available parking on the east side of the hospital campus.
- A private lobby and reception area.
- A new diagnostic room featuring the 3.0 Tesla magnetic resonance imaging machine, which is faster and two times stronger than traditional MRIs. The

hospital also has two 1.5 Tesla MRIs.

- An EXCITE HD scanner, which enables physicians to improve the diagnosis of a wide range of conditions including cardiac and vascular disease, stroke, abdominal and brain disorders, and musculoskeletal conditions in the knee, shoulder and other joints.

- An expanded special procedures laboratory.
- A digital archive of radiological images, known as Picture Archiving and

Communication System, or PACS.

- An intraoperative MRI, or iMRI, surgical suite for diagnostics and the detection and surgical removal of brain tumors.

### New in 2009

- A dual source computerized tomography, or CT, scanner.
- A full-field digital mammography system to detect breast cancer, even at its earliest stages.
- An intraoperative CT, or iCT, surgical suite,

which confirms proper placement of screws and implants while the patient still is in the operating room.

### New in 2010

- Center for Women's Health, which includes ultrasound, mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy, 3-D ultrasound breast probe and bone densitometry technologies.

— Christena T. O'Brien

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<b>FRIDAY, JUNE 25</b>	<b>Madison Mallards • 6:35pm</b> "Luther Midelfort Express Care Night"	ExpressCare
<b>SATURDAY, JUNE 26</b>	<b>Madison Mallards • 6:35pm</b> "Junior Achievement Night" sponsored by Sonic	SONIC America's Drive-In.
<b>SUNDAY, JUNE 27</b>	<b>Madison Mallards • 6:05pm</b> "Free Hot Dog Night" Sponsored by ServiceMaster of Chippewa Valley	ServiceMASTER Clean
<b>TUESDAY, JUNE 29</b>	<b>La Crosse Loggers • 6:35pm</b> "Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce Night" sponsored by Gibson's Water Care; Rhom Construction; The Clairemont and Weld, Riley, Prens and Ricci	The Chamber Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce

GAMES PLAYED AT CARSON PARK.