Oconee Medical Center revenues ahead of plan

By BRETT McLAUGHLIN
brett@dailyjm.com

SENECA — Oconee Medical Center is on a roll.

Fresh off a series of preview events that attracted thousands of people to the new patient tower, OMC Board members were told Tuesday that the hospital is bucking state and national trends when it comes to making money.

Chief Finance Officer Greg Scarbrough reported that, in April, OMC patient numbers were better than projected and that revenues were slightly ahead of plan while expenses were below budget. For the month the hospital showed operating income of $347,701, compared to a budget of $296,362.

The improvement against budget brought year-to-date numbers more in line as well, leaving OMC with operating income of $2 million through April, compared to a budget of $2.25 million.

"Our overall margin is 3.74 percent," Scarbrough said, factoring in other income streams. "It's a bit of an anomaly in this day and age with what we are seeing (in health care)."

The finance report was among a series of reports that brought smiles to the faces of board members. Vice President of Operations Hunter Kome reported on the tower preview events that were held earlier this month. The highlight of those three days came on Saturday when an estimated 7,000 people toured the new facility and enjoyed games, rides, refreshments and a parade. Earlier in the week, the hospital hosted 800 employees for dinner and tours and also held an invitation-only event on Friday that attracted some 450 major donors, dignitaries and hospital associates.

Kome mentioned by name many community groups, public agencies and individuals who helped organize the preview events. He singled out for special recognition OMC Marketing Director Heather Goss.

The week after the preview, the facility also observed Hospital Week with a series of events, including recognition of 164 employees for a combined 1,785 years of service. Among the group were 12 employees with 35 or more years of service.

OMC President and Chief Operating Officer Jeanne Ward, for whom the new critical care unit in the tower was named during the public events, jokingly said that Kome didn't feel the hospital had partied enough. Kome proceeded to outline plans for a ribbon-cutting event to be held at noon, June 19. That is the day before patients are scheduled to be moved into the new tower. Kome said the event will not be elaborate but will include the unveiling of a plaque recognizing the opening of the tower.