By Kelly Kiesel

Valentine’s Day isn’t the only day hearts get special treatment. Northeast Regional Medical Center, in Kirksville, opened its new cardiac catheterization lab, which opened Feb. 12.

The lab allows physicians to detect heart disease using special pictures. Scott Baker, chief of Cardiac Physiology, helped bring the service to Kirksville.

Baker said some of the conditions in which a catheterization lab would be used are Figure out if patients have had a heart attack, detect heart disease or reveal dye function. During a heart catheterization, physicians inject dye into the arteries of the heart, and then use x-rays to examine the arteries of the heart. This dye allows physicians to determine the severity of the disease by looking for a heartbeat that becomes weak. Baker said if doctors wanted to do this, they would go to the University of Missouri or Blue River Hospital, both in Columbia.

When the lab was new, Kirksville residents, hospital staff and patients have been having more-special pictures. Scott Baker, team leader for the hospital’s Cardiac Program, helped bring the new cardiac catheterization lab to Kirksville.

“Every patient is very fl exible so that the doctors can examine every angle of the heart,” Baker said. “It has allowed us to be a one-stop shop, because we can immediately refer patients back to the cath lab after their time in the catheterization lab. We have a better outcome, we keep our patients from being transferred out and how many referrals we were transferring out and how many referrals we were getting,” Carter said. “We were losing patients before, but we didn’t have the service, and we had to keep having them wait.”

Three physicians currently work in the catheterization lab. The facility opened on Thursdays and housed its first patients on Thursday, Feb. 12. As the hospital builds more space and more patients are coming in, the lab will expand to provide new wireless services, according to the TV Contract Free Program.

“When a station goes digital, they can transmit more than one channel,” John Wise, Chief Engineer at KTVO, said. “They can transmit more than one channel because they have only gotten less than half of the available capacity. KTVO’s Chief Engineer at KTVO, said. “They can transmit more than one channel because they have only gotten less than half of the available capacity.”

The technology allows for more stations to share the same frequency, which is at a bit of a disadvantage at Kirksville’s geography, it might have an impact on the digital signals. But we don’t have any issues.”

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