

# Pleshar retiring from LHC

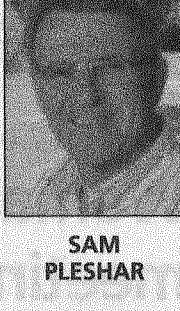
By Camden Easterling

*Enterprise Staff Writer*

Livingston HealthCare's leader is stepping down.

The health care organization announced Friday that CEO Sam Pleshar plans to retire this spring.

Pleshar started with LHC in 1981 as the pharmacy manager before moving on to administrative roles beginning in 1989, according to a Friday



SAM  
PLESHAR

news release from LHC. He took on the role of CEO in April 2002.

Pleshar, 65, said Friday he's proud of what he's helped the organization accomplish and is honored to have been part of LHC. But he's reached the point where he's ready to wind down his work and focus on other interests and priorities.

"It's just time for me, clearly, to spend more time with my family and enjoy the area," he said.

He and his wife, Patti, who worked as a nurse at Livingston Memorial Hospital and Park Clinic before retiring, have family in the area and will stay in Livingston.

"This is home," he said.

Retirement will give them the time to recreate outdoors as well as pursue other interests, such as history and visiting Civil War battlefields, he said.

Billings Clinic will manage the process of recruiting a new CEO, the LHC release states. LHC's Board of Directors will work with Billings Clinic to select the new leader.

Since 2002, LHC and Billings Clinic have had a management agreement under which Billings Clinic provides management consulting services for LHC, said LHC spokeswoman Sandi Marlowe. The two groups in recent years have been working toward building a new health care campus on land located east of the bridge over the Yellowstone River that is near the old KPRK radio station and is south of U.S. Highway 89/10.

During his tenure, Pleshar was instrumental in helping the organization move forward after managing financial troubles LHC experienced some years ago, according to the release.

"We are so fortunate to have had Sam's leadership for so many years," board President Michelle Becker said in the release. "He pulled the organization through a very difficult financial period, expanded services, and stabilized physicians and staff. Thanks to his efforts, we are poised now to really serve our community at a new level when we get our new facility."

Pleshar plans to retire in March, but he's told the board he can be flexible on timing.

"Depending on how the recruitment goes and what the needs are here," he said of adjusting his timeline. "I'm happy to help out."

LHC provides services to 14,000 people each year and employs 330 people.