

# SMMC to showcase digital mammography

## Herald Staff Report

Scenic Mountain Medical Center will hold an open house from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to display its newest technology — digital mammography.

“We are excited to be able to offer this technology,” said Vivian Gordon, radiology director at SMMC. “It allows us to offer our patients advanced mammograms with the least possible hassle and disruption to their lives.”

While digital imaging feels almost identical to conventional screening from the patient’s perspective, digital mammography has several benefits, including



Silva



Castillo

shorter exam times and a significant reduction in call-backs to obtain more images, according to Gordon.

To supplement the technology, SMMC added a digital computer-aided detection (CAD) system, which highlights common characteristics of breast cancer, including masses, clusters of micro calcifications and changes in breast tissue, also called architectural distur-

tion. CAD flags these abnormalities to help the radiologist detect breast cancer early.

“Digital CAD is like a second set of eyes to support and enhance the radiologist’s judgment,” explained Gordon.

The purchase of digital mammography technology and CAD represents an investment of more than \$350,000.

With the recent re-accreditation by the Texas Department of State Health Services and the FDA/MQSA inspection in January, the mammography unit at SMMC is accredited through January of 2014 and staffed by Ginger Silva. Silva has seven years of mammography experience and is regis-

tered in mammography and radiography by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

Mammograms are interpreted by SMMC radiologist, Mario J. Castillo, M.D., PhD. Dr. Castillo is certified by the American Board of Radiology and completed his residency and initial mammography training at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Miami, Fla. He has interpreted more than 17,000 mammograms.

The Digital Mammography Center at SMMC does not have a large backlog of patients so appointments can be scheduled quickly. Call 264-0602 for an appointment.