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482-4418

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

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Shortfall concerns Care Clinic

Administrative fees start Jan. 1

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Tyner's Community Care Clinic that so often rescues those without health insurance finds itself in dire financial straits.

With the number of patients served at the clinic nearly double those assisted last year, the clinic finds itself a victim of the same sour economy that attributes to its growing need. A joint venture between Chowan and Albemarle hospitals, the foundations are experiencing a \$200,000 shortfall. Consequent-

ly, the hospital clinics in Tyner and Elizabeth City will require users to pay administrative fees effective Jan. 1. Primary care visits will cost \$10 and prescriptions will require \$3.

"I resisted a fee for years, but we're in a situation that we have to," said Phil Donahue, vice president of fund development at Albemarle Hospital.

"Giving is down 30 percent," he added. "With the demand going up, we're going in opposite directions."

Grants that previously accounted for significant funding sources have evaporated among competing non-profit agencies also in need.

"Grant funds are drying up," said Jeff Sackrison, Chowan

Hospital president. "You can't sustain a clinic like this on grant funds forever."

The hospital and its employees have combined to help offset rising clinic costs. While the hospital absorbs the clinic's lab fees, employees are earmarking payroll deductions for the clinic. Employee donations represent 10 percent of the clinic's budget, Donahue said. "Our employees have health insurance and they know the value of insurance," said Ginny Waff, executive director Chowan Hospital Foundation.

Grants, county appropriations along with special events account for 40 percent of the

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PHOTO BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

Tim Madigan, a hospitalist at Chowan Hospital, exams a patient's ear at the Community Care Clinic of Tyner last Wednesday. Madigan is one of two doctors that volunteer their time on alternating weeks at the clinic.

Shalom Parades Edenton



PHOTO BY KIP SHAW

Members of the Shalom International Church practicing their performance before taking their float into Saturday's Christmas parade in Edenton.

Area helps with heat

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Edenton's Neighbor Keeping Neighbor Warm program will help some local residents heat their homes this winter, thanks to donations from their fellow citizens.

Since 2006, the town — in partnership with the

See HEATING, 3A

Students could get option of school

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Edenton-Chowan is among a district proposed to participate in a first agriscience and biotechnology regional high school that could be housed in the Vernon James Center in Plymouth.

Last week the Chowan County Board of

See STUDENTS, 4A

Holiday Ball eases guardsmen's transition

STAFF PHOTO
BY REBECCA BUNCH

National guardsmen and their wives listen during a program Saturday night.



By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Monday's snow flurries were a welcome sight for 1st Lt. Robbie Jolley of South Mills.

He said that seeing the flakes fall triggered a flood of memories of last Christmas when he and others in his unit were stationed in Iraq. Not because the weather was similar, but because it was so different.

"The weather there was much different than what we are seeing," Jolley said. "One year ago today (the unit)

was dealing with 100 degree heat and sand."

Jolley, one of 22 members of Company A, 690th Battalion, North Carolina National Guard recognized Saturday night during the unit's first Holiday Ball. The ball took place at the American Legion building in Edenton.

Jolley said he missed his wife, Rebecca, while he was away and felt particularly sad for those who had left children behind. "Some of them would cry when they talked about their kids,"

See GUARD, 4A

Tax, water departments become the latest to move

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

As of today the Chowan County office building will be closer to being empty, at least the first floor, and the Public Safety Center nearly full.

Today the tax department with its collections and assessor's offices along with the water department will be open for business while occupying the first floor of the Public Safety Center. It's the latest move for county departments to be housed together in one and a newer facility.

"We do want to make this a government complex," said County Manager Paul Parker, referring to the Public Safety Center. "We don't want county

residents having to go anywhere else for government business."

The county manager's office and finance director were the first departments to relocate to the 305 W. Freemason Street facility where the Sheriff's Office, 911 Communications and Edenton Police Department were already housed. Following those departments to the building's second floor was planning and inspections.

Also housed at the Pub-

lic Safety Center are the information technology director and the emergency management coordinator, who falls under the direction of Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin. While the IT department maintains a server at the new site, the county still has a server at its former location for the remaining departments.

The Board of Elections is the only office remaining on the county building's first floor. Its anticipated move will not occur

until later after officials hammer out more details. Plans call for elections to move to the agriculture building, located on the corner of Granville Street and Virginia Road.

Plans call for the Department of Social Services to move from the county building's second floor to the building that currently houses the Health Department. Efforts are underway to move the Health Department to the county-owned and now vacant building

that previously housed the defunct Albemarle Mental Health Center.

Edenton-Chowan Public Schools remains on the fourth floor; however, the Board of Education has formed a committee to identify a new site.

Efforts are also underway to find a new location for the county's Veteran's Office.

County maintenance has moved from the King Street county building to a Coke Avenue site.



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Drive thru Christmas Panorama
December 17th, 18th & 19th
6 PM - 8 PM
Presented by
Center Hill Baptist Church
936 Sandy Ridge Road
Tyner, NC 27980