

Hospital eyes new rehab, outpatient space in '14

By REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Vidant Chowan Hospital plans to have its new rehab services and outpatient specialty clinic facilities completed by the end of 2014.

The project will cost about \$4.9 million.

The hospital announced last April that it was discontinuing its skilled nursing facility services. The closure at that time was associated with plans to expand outpatient health care in areas such as rehabilitation services, outpatient specialty clinic and behavioral health services.

Vidant announced last spring that the outpatient expansion plans will provide expanded space for several service lines. The outpatient specialty clinic offers nine clinics such as oncology and chemotherapy, pulmonology, and nephrology. The expansion will increase the number of exam and treatment rooms, and allow for dedicated registration and waiting space for the department.

Rehabilitation services will also be able to increase the number of treatment rooms, expand the size of the gymnasium and add new therapeutic services. Also, behavioral health is currently located in several rooms on the second floor of the hospital. Behavioral health will move into the community services building, creating easier physical access to the service, increasing the service capacity to accommodate larger groups, and providing a more private and pleasant environment for patients.

There has been some concern expressed by the public concerning the timetable for the renovations and even whether they will take place at all.

An example of that concern is conveyed in a letter by local resident Jim Carr, which is found on the editorial page of this week's Chowan Herald.

Megan Booth-Mills, the hospital's director of planning and marketing, said the hospital has heard the

question from the public concerning when the renovations will take place. Because the planning for the project has taken place behind the scenes, it's understandable that there has been uncertainty about what was going on at the hospital, she said.

But now that the certificate of need is in place the project is moving forward, according to Booth-Mills.

Matt Gitzinger, director of support services at Vidant Chowan Hospital, said the first phase of the project involves renovating the former skilled nursing facility as the new rehab services area and outpatient

services area and outpatient

services area and outpatient

services area and outpatient



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

This climbing wall is part of the pediatric rehab gym at Vidant Chowan Hospital.

Steinburg seeks funds for hydrilla

By REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Rep. Bob Steinburg last week said he will seek funding in the state budget for hydrilla treatment and indicated recreational boaters and other waterway users likely will have to pitch in to help pay for it.



Steinburg

Steinburg, R-Chowan, met last week with Brad Ives, assistant secretary of the state's Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to discuss the aggressive water weed, which Steinburg has dubbed "the marine version of kudzu."

Hydrilla has gotten the attention of state water quality officials, Steinburg said.

"They recognize that this is becoming a problem elsewhere, not just where we are," Steinburg said.

While DENR is the lead agency in dealing with hydrilla — which has been observed in the Chowan River and some of its tributaries, as well as in various lakes and streams around the state — the weed has not gone unnoticed by transportation officials.

State Transportation Secretary Anthony Tata said during a visit to Edenton May 18 for the Governors' Day event that he would talk to the State Ports Board about hydrilla.

Tata said keeping waterways navigable is an important part of his job. He acknowledged that DENR takes the lead role on hydrilla but said that because there is a potential transportation impact to the aquatic weed, his department also will pay attention to the problem.

See HYDRILLA, 3A

MEMORIAL DAY

Nixon notes high cost of freedom

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Vietnam veteran Billy Nixon spoke eloquently Monday morning about the cost of war and the need for a renewed sense of patriotism in America.

Nixon, who served in the U.S. Air Force for four years, noted that since the Revolutionary War a total of 1,196,793 of America's finest young men and women have given their lives to preserve freedom.

"America over the years has given up its young men and women so that we may have the freedom that we have today," Nixon said. "Those Americans who died in these wars did not die in vain — they did their duty for their country."

Nixon said that the sense of patriotism that pervaded American life during World War I and World War II diminished drastically when the war in Vietnam ramped up during the 1960s.

See MEMORIAL, 3A



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

(From left) Veterans Billy Nixon, Rev. Roscoe Poole, Gerry DiNunzio and E.C. Toppin link hands during the singing of "God Bless the U.S.:" on Monday during the annual Memorial Day ceremony in Edenton.

Area drug sweep nets eight arrests

From staff reports

The Edenton Police Department began making arrests May 3 as the result of an eight-month undercover operation called "Operation Street Sweeper," which so far

has yielded eight arrests on drug-related charges.

In addition, police are looking for two people who are wanted on drug-related charges. Anyone with information about the two wanted persons should contact the Edenton

Police Department at 482-5144 or 482-4444.

The two wanted men, according to police, are Eric Terrell Valentine, 28, of 516 N. Oakum St., Edenton, who is wanted on charges of possession of cocaine with intent to sell

and deliver, and selling

and delivering cocaine; and Robert Christopher Sharpe, 28, of 307 Sandy Ridge Road, Edenton, who is wanted on charges of possession of cocaine with intent to sell and deliver, and selling and delivering

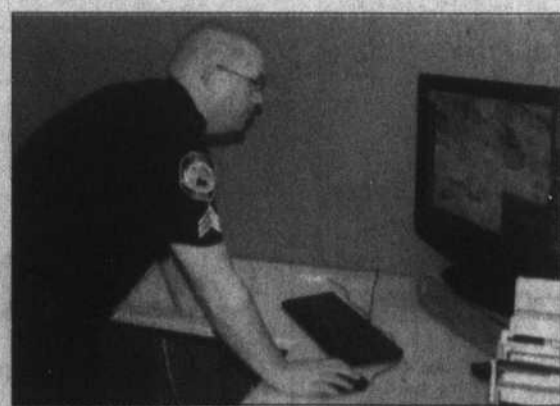
cocaine.

Those arrested as a result of the undercover operation:

• William Javon Dowell, 27, of 906 Macedonia Road, Edenton, was

See ARRESTS, 4A

Electronic eyes are watching the streets



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Sgt. Gerald Lassiter III of the Edenton Police Department monitors the department's surveillance cameras from a computer at the police headquarters.

By REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The eyes of the Edenton Police Department are watching the town's streets — and they're getting help from a growing network of surveillance cameras.

Police Chief Jay Fortenberry explained that the town started working on the camera project during the summer of 2012. The first five cameras were installed in the fall and the system was up and running in December.

Each camera cost \$2,500,

including installation and one year's maintenance.

The cameras are wireless. The police can monitor the footage live and the system also stores images for future reference.

"They're set up to patrol, so they can watch more than one area," Fortenberry said, referring to the way the cameras pan from one spot to another within a larger area.

Of course, if an officer wants to hone in on a particular location, the cameras can be set manually to stay focused on a fixed spot.

The cameras will zoom

in close enough to allow the police to get a license plate number from the back of a vehicle, Fortenberry said.

"It really helps us with the downtown area," Fortenberry said.

College of The Albemarle has bought two cameras for its Edenton-Chowan campus.

The town bought a camera, Albemarle Bank bought one, Destination Downtown bought one, and the Housing Authority bought two, Fortenberry said.

See CAMERA, 3A



©2009 The Chowan Herald
All Rights Reserved



SATURDAY JUNE 1 • 10AM - 4PM
Edenton MUSIC AND WATER FESTIVAL
COLONIAL PARK - EDENTON BAY • FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SCOTCH HALL PRESERVE

Scotch Hall PRESERVE