

Northside medical clinic two years away

• OU says \$20 million has been collected and designs drawn.

BY KIM ARCHER
World Staff Writer

The University of Oklahoma's plan to bring specialty medicine to north Tulsa is progressing, but it could be two years before doors open to medically underserved Tulsans, said OU-Tulsa President Dr. Gerard Clancy.

"This is an acute need right now for this community," he said.

The \$20 million in public and private funds needed to build the 43,000-square-foot facility has been collected and designs have been drawn up, Clancy said.

The clinic will be nestled beside Neighbor for Neighbor at 36th Street North and North Hartford Avenue, squarely inside the 74106 ZIP code and next to the 74126 ZIP code, he said.

Those ZIP codes were



This artist's rendering shows the planned \$20 million University of Oklahoma specialty medical clinic at 36th Street North and North Hartford Avenue. COURTESY

identified in a 2006 report by the Lewin Group as having the lowest life expectancy rates in the city. The area is home to people who have little access to critical medical services.

"We put it on the bus line by intent," Clancy said.

The clinic will be home to an urgent care center, which will take care of 75 percent of medical emergencies typically seen at a hospital emergency department, he said. The center will start out with extended hours, and Clancy said he hoped it would offer

24-hour service later.

The urgent care center will not treat acute chest pain, stroke or trauma, he said. Those patients will continue to be transported by ambulance to the area's hospital emergency rooms, Clancy said.

The clinic also will provide cancer diagnostic care, cancer treatment, and cardiac testing and treatment, he said.

Morton Comprehensive Health Services, 1334 N. Lansing Ave., one of Tulsa's two federally qualified health centers, will provide case management and general care at the new clinic, Clancy said.

"Morton will have a small clinic within the clinic," he said.

Morton provides primary medical care on a sliding fee scale at its clinics in north Tulsa, east Tulsa, midtown and Nowata.

Morton's chief executive officer, Robert Sanders, said OU's specialty care clinic would complement what Morton is doing in north Tulsa.

"There's a tremendous need for specialty care for the uninsured and underinsured in this area," he said. "We're all aware of the large disparity gap between north and south Tulsa. We want to help close that gap."

Sanders said he is excited about the new clinic, even

though it's two years away from opening.

"It could not come any sooner. The biggest problem has been finding enough specialists who can take care of the uninsured," he said.

"This way, we will all work together to close that gap and get more of our citizens in these higher-level services."

Oklahoma State University's Center for Health Sciences had planned to build a 125,000-square-foot primary and specialty care clinic near OSU Medical Center, 744 W. Ninth St.

"We temporarily put those plans on hold so we could resolve the residency program issue," OSU's spokeswoman Ellen Averill said.

Uncertainty about the future of OSU Medical Center forced the medical school to announce it will move its residency program to St. Francis Health System next year.

"We will be re-evaluating the (clinic) situation early next year," Averill said.

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FATAL BEATING

Eduardo Ledesma: He died Sunday from his injuries.

TEEN:

Ledesma played soccer for several teams.

FROM A1

"He was cooperative and detained until TPD arrived and was taken into custody without any incident," Martin said.

Tulsa County prosecutors filed the second-degree murder charge against Saucedo on Monday.

Ledesma, a junior at Bixby High School, was playing soccer this fall for both the church-league team and for the West Side Alliance Soccer Club 92 boys team. Both teams had matches Saturday.

Ryan Bush, his club coach, said Ledesma seemed fine that morning. He described him as a nice, humble teen.

"Eddie was a kid that was very well-liked by his teammates and classmates," he Bush said. "He was a very solid kid."

Bush said he vaguely knew Saucedo, who was not a member of either the church team or club team.

Police have not identified a motive for the fight, but Bush said he had heard from Ledesma's teammates that it was about a girl.

Marco Hernandez, 16, of Verdigris was a teammate of Ledesma's on both the church and club teams, as well as a close friend.

"He was someone you could trust with anything," Hernandez said. "He was always cracking jokes, making people laugh."

Ledesma also played soccer at Bixby High School, said Principal Bryan Frazier.

"Eddie was a good kid," Frazier said. "He was not a troublemaker at all. He was not violent — just a very quiet young man."

A crisis intervention team provided counseling for students at a church Sunday.

"We had a vigil for Eddie with approximately 200 students," Frazier said.

Counseling was available for students at Bixby High School on Monday and will also be available Tuesday.

"We tried to give them as many facts as possible because we didn't want rumors to start," Frazier said.

A fund to help with Ledesma's funeral expenses has been established at Citizens Security Bank.

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Bombings in Iraq kill at least 10

BAGHDAD (AP) — A series of bombings struck Baghdad and a neighboring province Monday, killing at least 10 people and wounding 40, including a deputy oil minister who was injured when a bomb went off in front of his house as he was leaving for work.

Most of the six blasts occurred in Baghdad.

Six people died when a pair

of bombs — one of them hidden in a trash can — exploded in Tahariyat square in the Karradah district of central Baghdad during the morning rush hour.

Police said 21 people were wounded, including 10 police officers and two women. The blasts blew out store fronts lining the square in a mostly Shiite area of eastern Baghdad.

Soon afterward, a bomb went off in front of the north Baghdad home of Abdul-Sahib Salman Qutub, a deputy oil minister in charge of crude oil production. Ministry spokesman Assem Jihad said the bomb was attached to Qutub's car and went off as he was walking to the vehicle.

Qutub was treated and released from a hospital, Jihad

DAILY U.S. CASUALTIES

Iraq: As of Monday, at least 4,189 members of the U.S. military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

No new U.S. deaths or identifications were reported by the military.

From The Associated Press and www.defenselink.mil/news

said.

One police officer was killed and six were injured in a roadside bombing in east Baghdad, police said. Another

police officer and a civilian were wounded when a bomb exploded near a police patrol in the western part of the capital.

GUARD:

The 138th provided reconnaissance and hunted for roadside bombs in Iraq.

FROM A1

been in Iraq before, but each welcome-home is almost like the first for many of their families.

In particular was this mission, which started off on a somber note — a rainy Thursday on Sept. 11, the seventh anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States.

That anniversary brought home to those families why their husbands, wives, daughters and sons were leaving home to fight a war so many miles away.

Monday's return brought thoughts of welcome-home parties, steak and Mexican dinners and a quiet time at home, far away from the war-torn strife of Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Jason Joslin of Claremore had one thing on his mind upon his return, and that was to once again sit on his recliner, according to his wife, Amy.

It was his first tour of duty in Iraq. His wife said his mission was difficult for her at first, but it soon improved through daily e-mail communication with her husband.

As with many families, parties were planned, and Amy Joslin said a big soiree was on tap for Saturday.

Other spouses wanted to pick up where they left off.

That was certainly the case for Sara Oren of Sapulpa, who planned to resume her honeymoon with her husband, Spc. Travis Oren, who just ended his second tour in Iraq.

The couple were married Aug. 23, so after a steak dinner Monday night they planned to be together.

Bill Freeman of Sand Springs was at the air base, too, eagerly awaiting the arrival of his grandson, Richie Von Schuler, an electrical technician.

Freeman said a big party awaited his grandson in Sand Springs, probably with a good, healthy measure of barbecue.

Still, Freeman's thoughts were never far away from his son-in-law, Army Warrant Officer Richie Schuler Sr., who remains in Iraq.



Staff Sgt. Lawrence Murray holds his 1-year-old daughter, Blythe, and hugs his wife, Lawren, as members of the 138th Air Wing of the Oklahoma Air National Guard return to Tulsa on Monday from deployment in Iraq. Photos by MICHAEL WYKIE/Tulsa World



Friends and family cheer as the door is opened on the jet returning home about 300 members of the 138th Air Wing of the Oklahoma Air National Guard in Tulsa on Monday from deployment in Iraq.

Other Oklahoma-based troops in Iraq

The troops with the 138th Fighter Wing arrived home just as the Enid-based 45th Fires Brigade of the Oklahoma Army National Guard left over the weekend for a nine-month tour of duty in Iraq.

Normally an artillery outfit, the 45th Fires Brigade will provide base and convoy security in and around the Baghdad area, according to military officials.

Other Oklahoma National Guard troops are in Iraq, but they are expected to return home soon.

Among them are 90 members of the Tulsa-based 834th Aviation Support Battalion.

Also, 200 troops in the Lexington-based Detachment 1, Company B, 2nd Battalion of the 149th Aviation unit remain in Iraq.

Three Oklahoma soldiers with that unit were killed in September when their helicopter crashed 40 miles west of Basra, in the southeast corner of Iraq.

That crash apparently was caused by a malfunction, the military said.

Freeman said his son-in-law is doing medic evac operations.

Staff Sgt. Raymond Webb of Collinsville just returned from his third mission from Iraq, but, for his wife, it was her first time to welcome home her husband.

That's because Erin Webb, a staff sergeant in the Air National Guard, had gone with her husband to Iraq on the previous two missions.

"It was hard this time not going with him," she said.

The couple looked forward to a simple dinner Monday night and just staying home.

When the 138th Fighter Wing was last deployed to Iraq in the summer of 2007, Tulsa-based pilots in their F-16 jet fighters quickly made a name for themselves by taking out an al-Qaida training base southwest of Baghdad.

This latest mission was just as intense, as the 138th's pilots provided round-the-clock armed reconnaissance and armed overwatch for advancing Army troops.

One of those returning pilots, Maj. Rustan Schwichtenberg, said the 138th's F-16s flew reconnaissance missions, hunting for signs of roadside bombs, enemy encampments and possible ambushes.

They also provided protection for U.S. military convoys on the ground, he said.

But back in Tulsa, Schwichtenberg said he had just one thought for him and his wife, Kim, and their toddler son, Harrison, on Monday night.

A steak dinner, he said, and hopefully a few years without having to make another mission overseas.

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corrections, clarifications

• A headline in Sunday's Tulsa World misspelled the first name of Dan Carter, a smokeshop owner whose name appears in an indictment involving diversion of tobacco taxes.

• A story in Sunday's Scene section about Theatre Tulsa's production "Master Class" incorrectly identified Don Armstrong. Armstrong is an artistic administrator for Tulsa Opera.

• A Saturday Tulsa World story about flu shots contained incorrect addresses and phone numbers for some locations where the shots are available. OU Family Medicine is at 1111 S. St. Louis Ave. OU Pediatrics and Internal Medicine is at the OU Schusterman Center, 4502 E. 41st St. The phone number for all OU clinics is 619-4400. Morton Comprehensive Health Services is at 1334 N. Lansing Ave.