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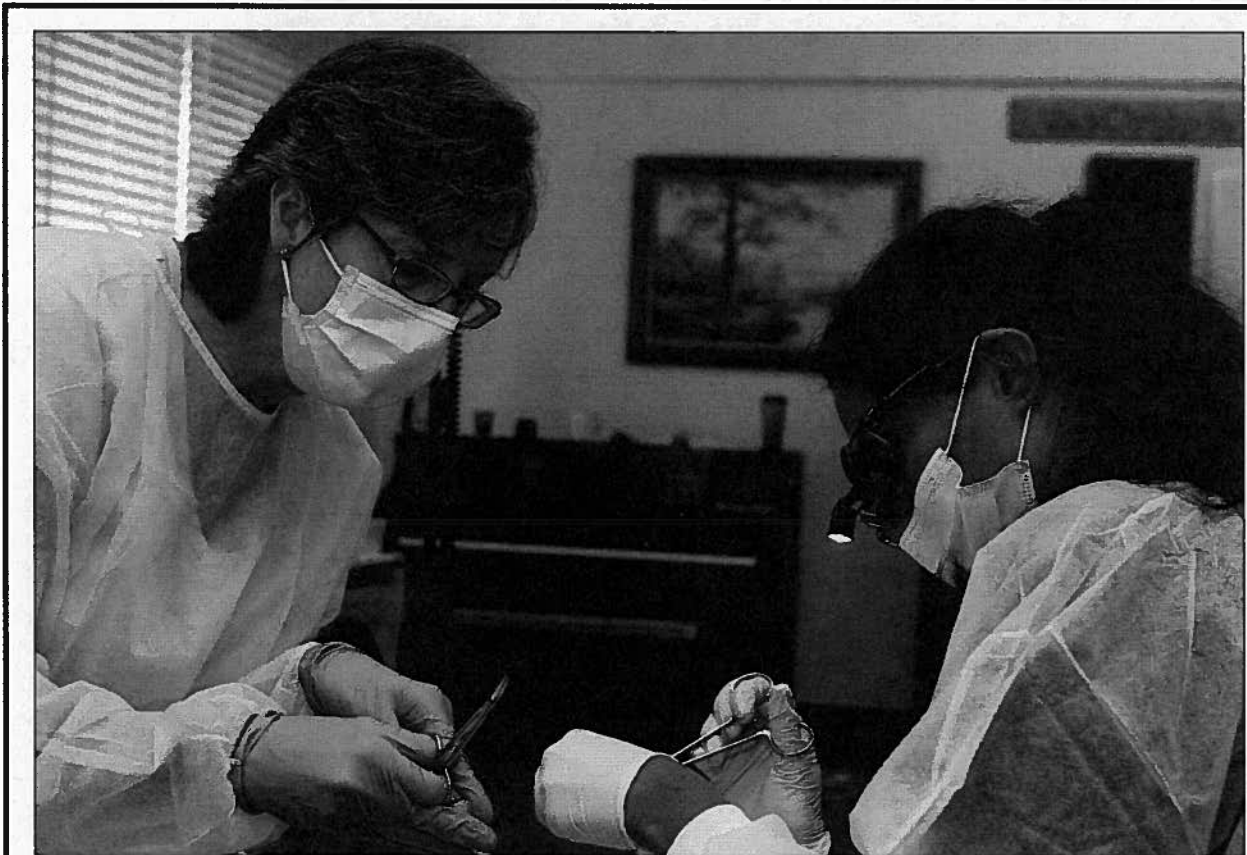
Gettysburg

TIMES

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Commissioners hope to discuss ambulance cuts

BY JARRAD HEDES
Times Staff Writer

Adams County Commissioners said Wednesday they hope to have active discussions with WellSpan Health officials to learn more about the organization's plan to cut ambulance services in Adams and York counties.

"This whole WellSpan announcement has caught many in our community by surprise and is causing significant concern, as it should," County Commissioner Chairman Randy Phiel said. "County government provides or facilitates services. That is the role of county government. There is no more fundamental or basic service to our Adams County residents

side, which generally involves more highly trained paramedics, WellSpan provides the Medic 28 unit at Gettysburg.

WellSpan has given no firm cutoff date for ambulance service in Adams County, only that the transition would proceed quicker in York County.

"It seemed sudden and abrupt," Phiel said. "I don't think anyone has figured it out yet. I know WellSpan conveys that they are a good community partner and we are certainly going to make sure our county emergency services department is heavily involved in this transition process. It is a situation of grave concern for our county."

As a 30-year emergency responder, Phiel said he has been

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CLOSER LOOK – Cheryl Resop, left, and Dr. Nahri Patel perform a dental procedure during the Mission of Mercy clinic held Wednesday in Gettysburg.

Mission of Mercy clinic offers care where needed

BY BETH KANAGY

Times Staff Writer

For nearly 20 years Mission of Mercy has been offering free medical care for the poor in the Gettysburg area with a goal of helping to restore health and dignity to those most in need. Mission of Mercy is in the midst of their Campaign for Care, an effort to raise funds for the Gettysburg clinic which operates out of the Four Square Church one Wednesday a month.

“Right here in Gettysburg is where it all started,” said David Liddle, Chief Financial Officer of Mission of Mercy. “In 1994 we held our first clinic here.”

On Wednesday, Mission of Mercy opened their doors not only to their patients but to members of the Gettysburg Ministrium and interested groups and individuals allowing them to see, first hand, the work that takes place during their clinics.

Liddle lead small group tours through the clinic. “We are providing a necessary service but we are a well kept secret. We are here today for the people who need it and for the people who want to support it,” said Liddle.

“We work with the working poor,” said Liddle. “For them to come to us, it is the last thing they want to do. We want to serve them and help restore their dignity.”

Liddle unobtrusively took the group through a Sunday school room in which dentist Nahri Patel performed oral surgery.

“Today we did 20 procedures on two patients,” said Mission of Mercy Executive Director Jennifer Charlton. “We normally see seven dental patients a visit, but today, she (Patel) is going above and beyond to help.”

Charlton said that often times, dental work is ignored by people who don't have the money to see a dentist, which results in patients needing multiple procedures to correct serious dental problems.

In another Sunday school room, volunteer nurses do preliminary exams prior to visiting Dr. Michael T. Sullivan, founder of Mission of Mercy and the organization's Chief Medical Officer.

Sullivan operates out of a converted RV. Inside there are three exam rooms and a dispensary.

“This mission was founded on prayer,” Sullivan told the



DARRYL WHEELER/GETTYSBURG TIMES

ORGANIZATION – Maureen Liddle, R.N., prepared medications for patients to take home during the Mission of Mercy clinic in Gettysburg Wednesday.

tour group. “And we thrive on prayer.”

Charlton stated that Mission of Mercy is faith-based but they do not prosthetize.

“We create an atmosphere where we just do our work and God is free to do what He wants,” Sullivan said.

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to our Adams County residents than making sure that they are provided with effective and efficient life and safety services.”

When news of WellSpan's intentions broke last month, spokesperson Barry Sparks said “Gettysburg Hospital will work to transition BLS service to the multiple providers in place over the coming year, and as the only provider of ALS will partner over the next 18-24 months to evaluate the options for strong ALS services through the community.”

A number of area volunteer fire companies contract with WellSpan to staff their ambulances, which are generally at the Basic Life Support level. On the Advanced Life Support

the first on the scene of hundreds of serious incidents.

“I know first-hand how critical response time is and that the medic units with advanced life support normally arrive far in advance of our ambulances under the current system,” he added. “I have had several serious incidents at my own family residence where Medic 28 was there long before the ambulance.”

Current County Controller Steve Renner is a former Gettysburg Hospital president, having left the position in 2003.

While he no longer has ties to WellSpan, or the decision to eliminate its EMS services,

(See **CUTS** on Page A8)

Proposed age-restricted community targets 2014 for construction start

BY JARRAD HEDES

Times Staff Writer

Representatives of a proposed age-restricted housing community in Straban Township told Adams County Commissioners on Wednesday that their latest target date for the start of construction is the spring of 2014.

“Discovery Gettysburg,” according to local attorney Bernie Yannetti, would be a 2,000-unit community for residents 55 years of age and older located in the southeast quadrant of the routes 15 and 394 intersection.

The first phase of the project, which Yannetti said has received final approval from Straban Township supervisors, would include the construction of 437 homes.

region is perfect to potentially attract people from the Montgomery, Howard and Carroll County areas in Maryland and also other areas in Pennsylvania.”

The energy efficient homes, Karen said, would range from 1,250 square feet to 3,500 square feet with nine and ten-foot high ceilings and open floor plans.

Water and sewer service would come from community systems.

“The wells have been pumped and tested and we have received the permits,” Karen said.

The GGDC's goal is to sell around 200 homes per year over a roughly 15-year project rollout.

Clinic

(Continued from Page A1)

"People fall through the cracks," he said. "We are here to help them."

He spoke of a young man of 42, who has a history of high blood pressure. The man was admitted to the hospital several years ago and his blood pressure was controlled. Sullivan went on to say that the man went to jail where his blood pressure was treated, but when he was released he had medicine to last a week.

"Since 2010, this man went without blood pressure medication. By the time we saw him we were able to bring his blood pressure down, but his kidneys were fried. He will end up on dialysis. Just think if we could have seen him three years ago," Sullivan said.

With that he went back to the RV and continued to see his patients.

Staffed with volunteer medical personnel, Mission of Mercy sees up to 75 people each month.

"We have volunteers who have been here since we opened the clinic in 1994," said Liddle. Among those volunteers were two registered nurses, Maureen Liddle and Karen Majors. Both women worked through paperwork and filled paper bags with medications, instructions and return visit information.

Mission of Mercy sees many patients with chronic conditions, such as emphysema and diabetes. The medical staff works to stabilize the patient



CLINIC TOUR – David Liddle, far left, talks to a group of people who took a tour of the Mission of Mercy on Wednesday.

DARRYL WHEELER/GETTYSBURG TIMES

first then monitor their care.

"We will see some patients four or five times a year," Liddle said.

Of course, Mission of Mercy takes walk in patients as well, in either case, Mission of Mercy takes no federal funds so people who come in are not asked to prove their poverty.

"Our desire is to restore dignity," said Liddle. "People

shouldn't have to prove they are poor."

In an effort to keep the Gettysburg clinic open, Mission of Mercy launched the Campaign for Care, a fundraising event that will provide the necessary funds.

The Campaign encompasses a long running golf tournament that provides funds for the Mission of Mercy. This is the 17th

year for the golf tournament that will take place on Saturday, Sept. 28 at Meadow Brook Golf Course.

On Sunday, Sept. 29, is a day of giving at many local churches.

For more information on Mission of Mercy visit their website amissionofmercy.org.

Cuts

(Continued from Page A1)

Renner said he feels confident the company won't "cut and run."

"I was struck when I first read it," Renner said. "I don't know the basis of the decision, but I never read where Well-Span would let the service go without someone filling the void. I can tell you from my experience it was certainly never a service that paid for itself, but it is a service that is very important to the community."

Phiel called the move "a business decision" and said it is ironic it comes at the same time the Adams County Council of Governments is knee deep in discussions over a proposed .25 mill fire tax at the municipal level to help fund local fire departments.

"I am confident there will be discussions and options placed on the table," Phiel said. "The bottom line is that within our community, this is a critical decision and important discussion."

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ONE DIRECTION:
THIS IS US 3D (PG) 7:00, 9:20
NO PASSES, EXCHANGE, DISCOUNT TICKETS OR BARGAIN TUESDAY

YOU'RE NEXT (R)
NO PASSES (1:15) (4:15) 7:30, 9:55

LEE DANIELS' THE BUTLER (PG-13)
(1:20) (4:20) 7:00, 9:45

KICK ASS 2 (R)
(1:30) (4:30) 7:35, 10:05

PLANES (G)
(1:25) (4:25) 7:25, 9:35

ELYSIUM (R)
(1:35) (4:35) 7:40, 10:05

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS (PG)
(1:45) (4:45) 7:10, 9:35

WE'RE THE MILLERS (R)
(1:10) (4:10) 7:20, 9:50

JOBS (PG-13)

Homes

(Continued from Page A1)

Phiel said. "With our demo-

Pa. charter founder,

