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Regional General Hospital continues serving patients; *ER to return in 30 to 45 days*

This is the inside of the operating room where kidney stones can be viewed live by the doctor and patients can be relieved by treatment there. This RGH operation room is active now, and it promises to see more action in the near future as a specialized treatment clinic is on the horizon.



Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © March 14, 2019 at 1:49 p.m.

WILLISTON -- Regional General Hospital continues serving patients through its clinic, and with other services such as physical therapy and providing doctors with results from laboratory tests, X-rays, CT scans and ultrasound.



This is an outside view of the operating room at RGH. This is Operating Room 1.

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There are separate areas in RGH for pre-operation and post-operation patients. This is the post-op area. There are also rooms for patients in the hospital.

A visit to the hospital in Williston on Wednesday afternoon (March 13) and a telephone interview with the hospital's owner George Perez at the same time reflects continued progress on every front.

There had been some difficulty with cash flow to pay utility bills with the City of Williston, however, as of tomorrow (March 15), that obstacle will have been overcome as RGH intends to keep its utility bill current henceforth.

A March 12 email from Williston City Manager Scott Lippmann mirrors the success by RGH in overcoming this issue.

“Our records indicate that your current outstanding utility balance (all accounts) is \$3,934.79,” Lippmann noted. “Congratulations on the incredible job you have done to get caught up!”

RGH Vice President of Operations Raj Ravi told *HardisonInk.com* on Wednesday afternoon, in an exclusive interview, that RGH is giving the city a check for \$3,934.79 on Friday (March 15) to make the hospital current with the city's utility department.

Both Perez and Ravi noted their appreciation for all of the consideration given to the hospital in the past few years as RGH keeps building. There was a point where the City Council had told Lippmann to shut off service to the hospital, but the city manager worked with Perez and the City Council to create a repayment schedule, which has worked.

Meanwhile on Wednesday afternoon, Ravi shared with *HardisonInk.com* that Dr. John T. Chacko, a urologist, is opening a specialized urology clinic at RGH, where kidney stone removals will be performed.

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“The operating room is active now,” Ravi said.

The hospital has all of the equipment for this procedure to happen now.

Beyond that, RGH has state-of-the-art laboratory equipment in its lab, which continues serving practitioners. The full X-ray, CT and ultrasound equipment is available as well.

Ravi said doctors may want to send more patients to RGH rather than Gainesville hospitals for a few reasons. Traffic is less congested in Williston than in Gainesville. Patients do not have to pay for parking. RGH has the equipment and staff to provide results to doctors, just as they would see from Gainesville-based locations.

As for the patients, Perez and Ravi said, they may prefer not to use their time driving back and forth to and from Gainesville, and they will find a shorter waiting time at RGH than elsewhere.



Board-Certified Nurse Practitioner J. Dea Browning pauses for a moment as a visiting journalist is given a photo opportunity during an unannounced visit. Browning was very polite in accommodating the request, given that she was very busy at the moment.

One corner of the clinic area in the hospital shows some equipment and a treatment area. There is also a complete room available for physical therapy, where a certified therapist can help patients.



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This is a view of part of the waiting area for the clinic. There are more chairs out of view.

The rural clinic remains open at RGH as well.

Board-Certified Nurse Practitioner J. Dea Browning, NP-BC. DCNP, who is board-certified in internal medicine as well as dermatology, and who is a certified Department of Transportation Medical Examiner, is ready to help new and returning patients.

The DOT medical exams are among the duties where patients will enjoy less travel, etc., to have them completed. **The phone line to the clinic is 352-330-6110. The phone line to RGH is 352-528-2801.**

In other positive news from RGH, Perez said he anticipates having the RGH Emergency Room activated again in 30 to 45 days.

“We will come back stronger and better,” Perez said.

The hospital owner said he prays every day for the continued growth and success of RGH.

As the suburbs growing from expansion in Gainesville and Ocala continue, Perez said, he sees Williston growing to help those residents. Those residents might ask themselves if they want to go toward the metropolitan area for goods and services, including medical option, or if they want to go toward the rural environment of Williston.

Perez said he is thankful to God for His gifts, and that he is thankful to every person who is helping the hospital to continue being able to serve the medical needs of the residents and visitors of the Greater Williston Area, and beyond.