

Projects completed on VA Medical Center campus

Outpatient clinics planned for Caldwell, Mountain Home

IBR STAFF REPORT

Several construction and renovation projects have been completed recently on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center campus in north Boise.

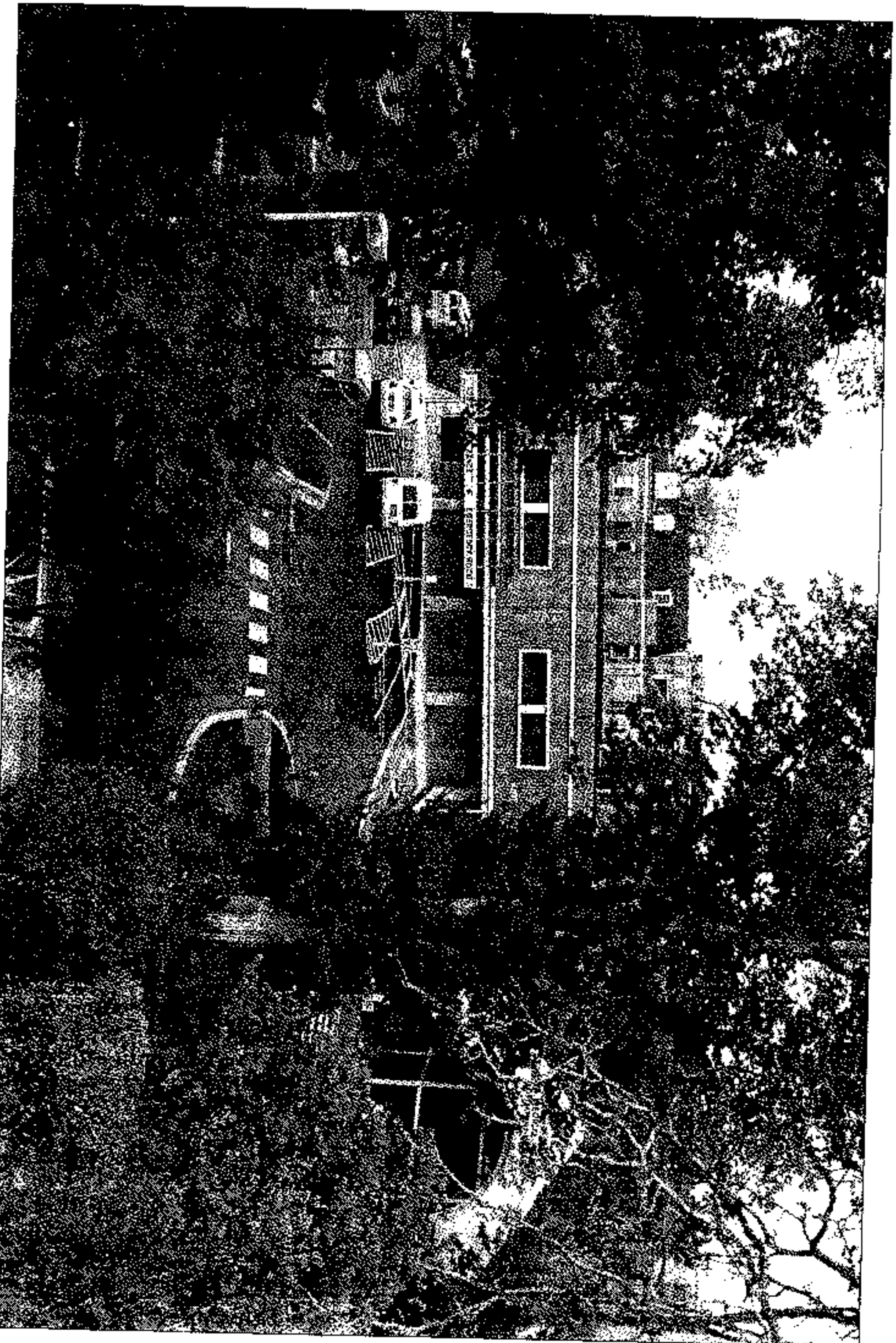
Spokeswoman Sharon Clark said a new structure atop the emergency room provides general lab and dental services space. The Veterans Benefits Administration in October moved onto the main campus, occupying a new, one-story building on a former parking lot.

"One of our primary goals is to make health care more accessible to the veteran."
— Sharon Clark, VA Medical Center

The Community Living Center, connected to the main complex, is undergoing renovation to create a family-friendly atmosphere that looks less institutional, she said. It was the extended-care unit previously.

A Wellness Recovery building was completed about a year ago next to the main complex. It has offices for social workers, psychiatry residents and medical students.

VA in October purchased the nearby



The Veterans Affairs Medical Center campus in north Boise has undergone a number of construction and renovation projects, including adding a general lab and dental services space atop the emergency room area of the facility.

former Mountain Cove High School, where planned uses include a director's suite. Clark said the suite moved off-campus after mold was found in Building 13, which medical center leaders propose to raze to make room for a patient-care building. Negotiations continue with the Idaho Historical Society. Restoring the

historic building would be very expensive given the mold, and the standing water underneath it, she said.

The VA Medical Center plans a much larger community-based outpatient clinic in Caldwell, and in the next year plans a clinic in Mountain Home, she said. VA is finishing construction of a medical

center clinic in Burns, Ore., and is considering adding services at its clinic in Salmon, Idaho.

"One of our primary goals is to make health care more accessible to the veteran," Clark said. About 1,000 people work in the VA Medical Center operations overseen from Boise.

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