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VA officials to tour Allen Bennett Friday

Published: Thursday, December 6, 2007 - 6:38 am

Updated: Thursday, December 6, 2007 - 6:40 am

By Lark Reynolds  
STAFF WRITER

A delegation of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs leaders, Greenville Hospital System representatives, local elected officials and members of U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis' staff will tour Greer's Allen Bennett Hospital Friday to discuss potential options for the hospital.

The tour was arranged by Inglis, but the congressman will not be able to attend because he plans to be in Illinois for the funeral of former U.S. Rep. Henry Hyde, who passed away last week, said Inglis spokesman Price Atkinson.

Community leaders have suggested that Allen Bennett be considered for a veterans' hospital. The hospital, which underwent a \$6 million expansion in 2003, will be vacated next year when Greenville Hospital System opens its new Greer Memorial Campus on South Buncombe Road.

Larry Biro, the VA Southeast Network director, and Brian Heckert, the director of William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center Director in Columbia, will be present for the tour.

**Advertisement**      The Greer Commission of Public Works, Greer's City Council, and the Greenville County Council have passed resolutions in support of locating a VA hospital in the facility, and state Sen. Lewis Vaughn said earlier that resolutions supporting the change would be introduced to both houses of the South Carolina General Assembly when it reconvenes in January.

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