

Spencer Health and Wellness Celebrates Opening

The Spencer Health and Wellness (SHaW) School Based Health Center has been open for several months, seeing an average of six student patients per day. Everyone involved considers these first months a big success. On April 23, 2013 many of those involved gathered with other supporters at the Vernonia Schools for an Open House and to celebrate that success.

SHaW is the third school based health center to open in Columbia County and is operated by the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County. All three clinics just began using an electronic medical record keeping system, which will make all of them more efficient and also makes them eligible for sustainable funding.

Fifth grade students acted as tour guides for visitors during the Open House, explaining the flow of traffic and taking guests through the facility. Jessica Butcher and Whitley Tolonen, along with their classmates, did



Tera Roberts and Laura Meyer, staff at Spencer Health and Wellness (SHaW), along with Sherrie Ford at the SHaW Open House on April 23rd.

a nice job leading several tours, while showing off the registration area, the waiting room, the exam room and the lab area. Jessica and Whitley explained that the students can have their eyes checked, get weighed and measured, be helped if you were sick or hurt.

Visitors enjoyed a homemade cake shaped like an exam table, baked by the District's own Superintendent, Dr. Ken Cox. The group then moved to the Hall of Champions an official dedication ceremony. Student Kristina Fields, the student representative on the SHaW Board of Directors served the Master of Ceremonies. Superintendent Cox spoke and talked about the history and need for the health center. "We knew this was something we wanted, and we could see the value it would provide in the community," said Cox. "And it has certainly come to fruition.

This is great for the community and it is great for the kids. The fact that we get to keep the kids in school when they come to see the doctor is not just a convenience, it's a benefit." Cox thanked Sherrie Ford and everyone else at the Public Health Foundation of Columbia County for making the health center a reality.

County Commissioners Tony Hyde and Earl Fisher were also on hand for the celebration. "This is a very big deal," said Hyde. "This is really an important service and without

it a lot of these kids would not receive health care." Hyde also passed on greetings from State Senator Betsy Johnson, who could not attend after being hospitalized after an auto accident.

Fritz Graham from Senator Ron Wyden's office and Marc Siegel from Senator Jeff Merkley's office were both in attendance. Siegel read a letter from Senator Merkley, congratulating the community on the opening of the clinic.



Whitley Tolonen and Jessica Butcher led tours of the new Spencer Health and Wellness clinic.

Also on hand were several Vernonia School Board Members, Vernonia City Administrator Bill Haack and Vernonia Mayor Josette Mitchell, and several members of the SHaW Board.

Sherrie Ford closed the celebration by recognizing the commitment from the community to make the clinic happen. "It shows how important this is to the community," said Ford. "This is not something that Public Health can just come in and do, it is something that the community expresses a need and we come in and see where we can help."

Spencer Health And Wellness is open for appointments or to see walk-in patients on Tuesday's and Fridays from 7:30 AM-1:30 PM. To schedule and appointment call 503-429-1399.



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Kid's Bike Safety Fair at Vernonia Schools

On Saturday, May 4th at the Vernonia Schools parking area there will be a Kid's Bike Safety Fair, from 10 - 1. The NW Bicycle Safety Council is helping Vernonia Grade School, the Vernonia Police Department and the Lions Club put the fair on.

The NW Bicycle Safety Council is an all-volunteer charity who work to help educate youth and adults in local communities about general topics on cycling, with emphasis on bicycle safety. Every child who attends the Safety Fair and needs a new helmet will receive one FREE of charge.

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