

Cornerstone Pediatrics open for business

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

A former Good Shepherd Health Care System pediatrician is striking out on her own with a new private practice.

Cornerstone Pediatrics, at 955 S.E. Fourth Street Suite B next to the Hermiston DMV, is now taking new patients. The clinic's sole employee is Dr. Rachel Brennan.

Brennan has been practicing medicine for seven years and did her residency at Children's Medical Center in Dallas, Texas.

"I love taking care of children," she said.

Brennan said she is a firm believer in preventive care, and that pediatricians should take the time to build a relationship with families.

As a result, payment models for the clinic revolve around "wellness packages" in which parents sign a year-long contract and then pay a monthly fee that encompasses a certain number of visits per year, urgent care and email and phone consultations.

The cheapest of those packages is \$35 a month and includes up to five 30-minute appointments per year and 12 email/phone consults, while a contract for the first year of an infant's life is \$150 per month. Families with multiple children can receive discounts. The clinic also provides a fee-for-service model for services such as urgent care, home visits and sports physicals. All patients must first go through an establishment appoint-

ment with Brennan before being seen for other types of appointments.

"My specialty is working with children over a long period of time, and getting to know them," she said.

Cornerstone Pediatrics doesn't currently take insurance, and Brennan said there is still a question mark about whether the clinic will in the future. For now, her model is targeted more toward people with high deductibles who would have to cover the cost of their child's check-up themselves anyway.

For more information visit cornerstonepedsgon.org or call 541-371-2340.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

Dr. Rachel Brennan is now taking patients at Cornerstone Pediatrics in Hermiston.

Power outage places TRCI on partial lockdown

Two Rivers Correctional Institution was placed on partial lockdown Saturday during a lengthy power outage that affected approximately 590 Umatilla Electric Cooperative customers northeast of Hermiston.

UEC spokesman Steve Meyers said the outage was due to a transformer failure at the utility's Power City substation, knocking out power north of Diagonal Road and east of Highway 395. Officials are not sure what caused the transformer to fail, Meyers said.

Kaycie Thompson, public information officer for TRCI, said the prison went into a "modified lockdown," as opposed to a full

lockdown, beginning at 11:43 a.m., though laundry facilities continued to run through the afternoon.

"We do have backup generators, so we're not in the dark at the institution when the power goes out," she said.

TRCI contracts to provide laundry services for a number of medical facilities around the area, Thompson explained. About 68 inmates were working on the laundry crew Saturday.

"We were able to manage everything pretty well," she said.

Power was restored to the prison at 4:42 p.m., according to UEC, and to all customers by 5:46 p.m.

Unknown cause in shed fire at mobile homes



STAFF PHOTO BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

Umatilla County Fire District firefighters work to put out a shed fire Friday in the Vista Park Mobile Home Park on Northeast 10th Street in Hermiston.

EAST OREGONIAN

A shed in a Hermiston mobile home park caught fire Friday morning, sending a column of smoke into the sky and sending residents of the park out of their homes. No one was reported to be injured, and the cause of the fire is still unknown.

The back shed at a home in Vista Park Mobile Home Park, on Northeast 10th Street, caught fire, spreading to the awning of the home. According to park manager Pat Hughes, the home itself was not burned.

"Hopefully there's no smoke damage," he said.

Hughes said he and a few other residents were trying to fight the flames

before firefighters got there, in efforts to save the house. Several water tenders and ambulances from Umatilla County Fire District arrived on the scene shortly after the fire started.

Hughes said he was not sure if anyone was in the home at the time of the fire, but that three or four people live there.

Cole Willenberg, who lives in the home where the shed caught fire, said he was at a friend's house when he came outside and saw smoke coming from his home.

"There could have been a light on that caught fire," he said.

Another resident said there were several family heirlooms in the shed.



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