

Gritman, ISU reopen Kendrick pharmacy

Venture will support medical clinic and help keep the town vital, supporters say

KENDRICK - Not long ago, Paul Cady and a colleague were approached by a couple as they stood on the sidewalk in Kendrick.

"They looked at us and said, 'You are the folks who are going to help save our town?' " said Cady, dean of Idaho State University's College of Pharmacy.

The couple wasn't exaggerating, Cady said at an open house Thursday for Bengal Pharmacy at Kendrick. His school started the venture in cooperation with Gritman Medical Center in Moscow.

The pharmacy will keep a little more business in Kendrick, and patients from the nearby Gritman clinic won't have to drive 50 miles round trip to Lewiston for medicine, said Rex Force, ISU vice president for health sciences.

Cady and Force, along with other ISU and Gritman Medical Center officials, attended the event Thursday that marks the culmination of more than three years of work.

The Kendrick pharmacy follows a model ISU has perfected in three other Idaho communities - Arco, Council and Challis. The only merchandise it sells other than prescriptions are medical items such as rubbing alcohol, aspirin and bandages.

There are no greeting cards, jewelry or holiday decorations on the shelves, and the pharmacy's security is reminiscent of that of a bank.

Right now it accepts prescriptions from people covered by Medicaid and Humana, as well as those who pay for their medicine with their own money. Additional insurance providers are being added regularly.

It is staffed in Kendrick by one person, a pharmacy technician with more than 20 years of experience. She accepts prescriptions electronically, by facsimile, by telephone or on paper. After she enters the information, it is double-checked by a pharmacist or pharmacy intern on ISU's campus in Pocatello.

She then fills the prescription and it is checked again, this time by the pharmacist in Pocatello. The pharmacist observes the label, the pills and the container the pills came from. Optical and bar code technologies are used for even more accuracy.

If customers have questions, ISU pharmacy interns are available to answer them. The communication happens through a live video feed in a small room with a table, chairs and a door that can be shut for privacy.

Filling prescriptions in this new way required ISU to get a change in Idaho's Pharmacy Practice Act that required pharmacists to be on site anytime prescriptions were being filled. The school's first pharmacies operated on a waiver and were studied to see how often errors happened, Force said.

IMPulse

Intermountain Media Pulse

A TRUETONE INCORPORATED COMPANY

**news
CLIP**

11623 Lake Shore
Nampa, ID 83686
(208) 880-9814

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
The Lewiston Tribune
Lewiston, Idaho
Friday, April 06, 2018
Elaine Williams
Page 2 of 2

"We showed it was at least as safe as a regular pharmacy," he said.

How well the pharmacy does will depend on Kendrick-area residents. Though the pharmacy helps ISU train students, the school hopes it makes a profit to support students and faculty, Force said.

ISU leases the building from Gritman and a loan for the equipment came from contributions to ISU's foundation earmarked for the College of Pharmacy.

"The money is important, but it is secondary to the service to the community," said Dirk Driscoll, an Aberdeen potato farmer who serves on ISU's foundation board.

Driscoll and others from ISU became involved in efforts to save the Kendrick pharmacy after its owner and pharmacist, Douglas Clayton, died unexpectedly in 2014. His family tried to find a buyer and keep the business open, but they were not successful.

Gritman and ISU eventually collaborated, overcoming challenges such as completing renovations to bring the pharmacy up to code.

Driscoll said the effort was worth it.

"Everything has come together in a beautiful way."

Bengal Pharmacy is open from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 509 E. Main St. in Kendrick. The telephone number is (208) 289-3075.

###

Copyright 2018 The Lewiston Tribune