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WITHAM'S ANSON EMERGENCY ROOM

ER opening draws crowd

BY SARAH LANG
The Lebanon Reporter

ANSON — Crowds turned out to celebrate the opening of the new Witham Health Services freestanding emergency room and medical facility at Anson — set to officially open today at 7 a.m. — despite the frigid weather Saturday.

"This has gone wonderfully," said Tammy Rabe, director of marketing and public relations for Witham. "We have our approval, and we're very excited to open on Monday."

Diane Feder, chief operating officer for Witham, said she saw great interest in the facility from the attendees Saturday.

"I'm very pleased about all these people coming out and asking questions," Feder said. "What I'm getting the most is, 'Wow, I didn't know I could get my mammogram here. That's great! And that's encouraging.'"

Attendees were able to tour the new facility that includes the state-of-the-art 15-bed ER; an imaging and radiology department, which introduces an open MRI machine to Boone County; a 24/7 lab; pediatrics; family medicine; convenient care; Ob/Gyn; a physician specialty center; and audiology. Kids donned lab coats and stethoscopes to pretend they were doctor in the new ER.

"That's been a popular attraction today," Rabe said, "because once it opens, that (touring the facility) won't be possible."

Natalia Wagner, a Walker Farms resident, watched as her two boys Tommy and Lucas pretended to be doctors in an ER patient room Saturday afternoon, saying she was "definitely" pleased to have this facility close to home.

"He's very accident prone," she said about one of her boys, "so it's great to know we have something nearby now."

Nikki Baldwin, mother of two boys who were attempting to climb the rock wall, said it will be very nice to have the ER closer, as she lives near Whitestown.

Feder said people were very impressed with the technology they saw Saturday, with a high-tech imaging center and the new open MRI machine that even allows a patient to watch a tranquil scene on the wall.

"We're basically a full-service hospital minus the in-patient beds," she said.

Urgent care will move out of the Witham building on Oak Street in



REPORTER PHOTOS BY SARAH LANG

Above, Tommy Wagner pretends he's a doctor, asking Lucas Wagner to say "Ahhhh" while Witham nurse Tracy Hatfield watches Saturday afternoon at the celebration for the new Witham ER and medical facility at Anson. At right, Zackary Baldwin of Whitestown climbs up the rock wall Saturday afternoon at the celebration at the new Witham ER and medical facility at Anson.

Zionsville to become the convenient care area at the Anson facility. Hours will be 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. No appointment is needed to be seen at convenient care. The Oak Street building will keep a family physician and the surgical associates group and expand its internal medicine department.

"Basically we're just here to serve people," Feder said. "We're people serving people."

