



Times-News

SERVING THE BLUE RIDGE SINCE 1881 • HENDERSON, TRANSYLVANIA AND POLK COUNTIES • 50 CENTS • VOL. 13

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NC hails health care at schools

From staff reports

There are 56 school-based health centers that operate in North Carolina, making a difference in the lives of 13,581 students, according to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

"School-based health centers positively impact the economy by reducing emergency room visits, by decreasing parental absences from work and by increasing early detection and treatment of disease, thus preventing more expensive treatment at a later date," stated Gov. Beverly Perdue's proclamation designating Feb. 14-20 as N.C. School Community Health Alliance Week.

"All youth in North Carolina deserve access to comprehensive health care," Perdue said. "School-based and school-linked health centers in North Carolina provide accessible, affordable, quality health care and health education that improves the lives of young people and their families."

Blue Ridge Community Health Services (BRCHS) operates health centers at Bruce Drysdale Elementary, Apple Valley Middle School and North Henderson High School to help ensure that children in Henderson County have a medical home and access to regular checkups, immunizations, diagnoses and management of chronic conditions. The center also provides a place to turn for sudden illness or injury or mental health counseling, nutrition services and health education.

A fourth health center will open at Hillandale Elementary later this year.

The first school-based health center in Henderson County opened in 1994.

Over the past five years, BRCHS School Health Program has provided more than 26,000 medical, mental health and nutrition encounters to the children of Henderson County.

BRCHS has been serving Hendersonville and the surrounding communities for more than 45 years in an effort to increase access to health care for all, with special emphasis on the underserved and the uninsured. Programs and services include high quality and affordable medical, dental, school-based and mental health care as well as the promotion of health awareness/education. BRCHS is accredited by the Joint Commission.

For more information, call 692-4289, ext. 2509; write to BRCHS at P.O. Box 5151, Hendersonville, N.C. 28793; or visit www.brchs.