Kaiser Permanente opens its doors

New medical office arrives in Watsonville

Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

A large gathering was on hand in the main lobby for the Kaiser Permanente opening Thursday in the Crossroads Center.

By JOHANNA MILLER
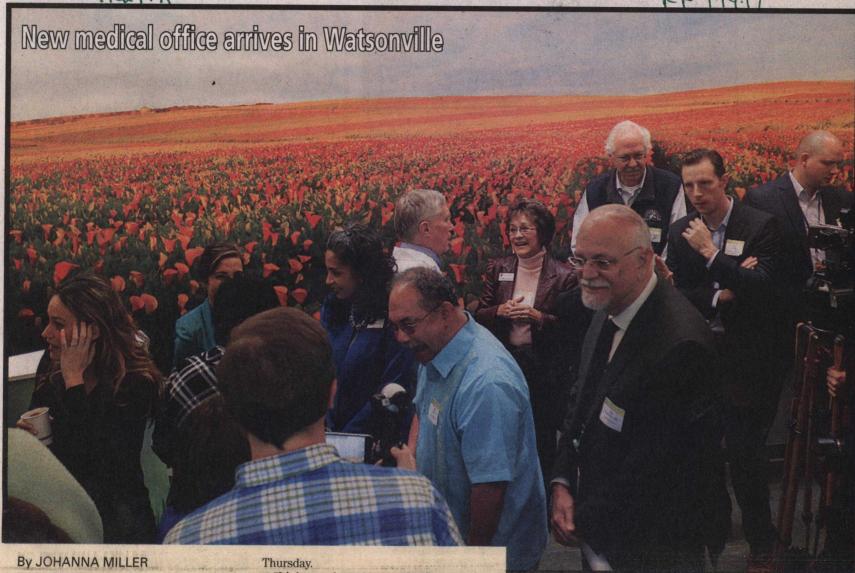
FOR THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

WATSONVILLE — Kaiser Permanente, one of the nation's largest nonprofit health care providers, celebrated the grand opening of its new medical center in Watsonville on Thursday.

"It's been a long time coming," said Senior Vice President and Area Manager Irene Chavez.

Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Kaiser Permanente officially opened its new clinic and offices in the Crossroads Center.

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From page A1

In March 2016, a large section of the Crossroads Shopping Center in Watsonville was leased by Kaiser. Eight businesses were evicted and the building was eventually repurposed into a large medical complex.

The center will provide various medical services, including Primary Care and Specialty Care clinics. It will also include a laboratory and pharmacy.

"We are delighted to be here in Watsonville to create access to the Kaiser Permanente style of medicine," Chavez said.

At present there are roughly 5,800 Kaiser members in Santa Cruz County. According to Chavez, the company learned there was a need of a clinic in Watsonville.

Currently, there are two other new Kaiser Permanente locations in the county, one in Scotts Valley and the other in Santa Cruz.

The company will also be

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Irene Chavez, senior vice president and area manager for Kaiser Permanente, welcomes Watsonville Mayor Oscar Rios (left) and others.

partnering with Watsonville Community Hospital, providing care at the hospital for Kaiser members.

A number of Watsonville's city officials attended the center's grand opening on Thursday, including City Manager Charles Montoya.

"After a long year, this is a great turnaround," he said.

"We are looking forward to a long-lasting relationship with Kaiser."

The new medical center is located at the Crossroads Shopping Center at 1931 Main St. in Watsonville. Care is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 786-6600 to make an appointment.