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Today's forecast, 12A

66° High
 53° Low

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SPORTS, 8A

Soledad in District 9 final four



SPORTS, 8A

PRCA stars soon to ride in Salinas

DIVERSIONS, 1B

Lots to do in Salinas this weekend

July 3, 2014

Thursday

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WorkWell Medical Group's new mobile medical clinic at their headquarters in Salinas. PHOTOS BY JAY DUNN/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

New mobile clinic set to roll out

By Dennis L. Taylor
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In a move that could affect the way health care is delivered in Monterey County, Salinas-based WorkWell Medical Group is about to roll out a mobile clinic to employers' sites.

Founder Vikram Mittal said Wednesday that the \$200,000 mobile medical unit is designed to benefit both workers and employers by cutting the time away from work to have an injury or other medical problem checked out.

He uses the agricultural analogy of 20 years ago when produce was sent to packing sheds. Today, in effect, the packing shed has moved into the field where produce is boxed and sent to the coolers. And now, a mobile clinic is going to them.

"Employees lose time off



From left, Practice Manager Diane Tovey and Medical Director Sheila Mittal in the doorway of WorkWell Medical Group's new mobile medical clinic at their headquarters.

work to drive to Salinas to care," Mittal said. "Now they can plan their life on the day the clinic comes to their work site."

WorkWell has secured one verbal agreement from a large ag concern, and is in talks with other growers. The company already serves

worker groups such as federal and county agencies, large agriculture processors, retailers like Wal-Mart and Costco, and schools.

Mittal and his wife, Dr. Sheila Mittal, paid for the mobile clinic, which looks like

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Bus

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a large bus, out of their own pocket. The couple are in the process of forming a nonprofit that will enable them to deliver health care to the most vulnerable members of the community at no cost to them.

“Dr. Mittal and I have always wanted to give back to the community, so we just bought the bus,” Vikram Mittal said.

Aboard the mobile clinic, the same level of medicine can be delivered as WellWorks’ brick-and-mortar clinic on South Main Street. It is equipped with a heart monitor, lung evaluation equipment, two exam rooms and the ability to suture cuts in the field.

It also has a state-of-the-art telemedicine system that can transmit patient data to doctors at the South Main clinic in real time so they can listen to heart beats and see pupils remotely.

The unit will be staffed by either a doctor, a physician’s assistant or a nurse, depending on the need, Vikram Mittal said.

Once the nonprofit WorkWell Foundation is certified, the mobile unit can go out and set up in, say, the parking lot of a church and deliver care to the poor for free, he said.

“Again, we want to be able to reach out to the community,” Vikram Mittal said.

Dennis L. Taylor covers medical issues for The Californian. Follow him on Twitter @taylor_salnews.