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New doctor arrives at Colby clinic

By Christina Beringer
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The doctor is in, and he's ready to see patients at the Family Center for Health Care in Colby.

Dr. John Dygert, from Divide, Colo., a town of about 1,200 on the north slope of Pikes Peak, says he's excited to be in Colby, where he can raise his young family in a close-knit town like he's used to.

After graduating as a biology major from Benedictine College in Atchison, Dygert attended the same osteopathic medical school as Dr. Darren Matchell, Citizens Medical Center's medical director.

In 2009, Dygert graduated from the Kansas City University

of Medicine and Biosciences, then did a three-year residency at Parkview, a nonprofit hospital with 600 beds in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Although he is fresh out of residency, Dygert says he isn't nervous, but excited. And, it seems, his colleagues don't mind at all.

"We'll probably be learning some new things from you," said nurse practitioner Luetta Flanagan, as the new doctor and a nurse began comparing how many memorized medical codes they have in common.

Dygert said he thinks his residency and the things he learned while working in such a large facility has built a strong foundation for his new job here.

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Train sparks fire, derails near Salina

SALINA (AP) – Union Pacific Railroad officials are investigating the cause of a train derailment near Salina.

Sparks from the train derailment west of Salina started a field fire Sunday afternoon. No injuries were reported.

Saline County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Appel says about 25 train cars

loaded with coal derailed near Bavaria.

The Saline County Rural Fire District was able to extinguish the fire in a wheat stubble field after about two acres burned.

KSAL reports (bit.ly/ssNwtF) the train had 109 cars powered by three engines.

Veterans can still sign up for fair parade tomorrow

Thomas County veterans still have a chance to act as Grand Marshals at the Thomas County Fair Parade tomorrow.

A story in the *Colby Free Press* said that veterans should contact the Colby Thomas County Chamber of Commerce to register by July 20. However, any Thomas County veterans can still ride in their own float at the front of the parade.

In order to ride in the parade, veterans need to arrive at the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park St., near Franklin and Sixth

Street, by 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday for check-in.

Veterans are acting as grand marshals for the parade this year, riding in their own float. They are encouraged to wear hats or uniforms to show what part of the service they were in.

Holly Whitaker, executive director for the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, said that about 30 veterans have registered so far. Contact the chamber at (785) 460-3401 for information or to sign up.



4-Hers set up for fair

Paul Bailey (above) took charge with a power screwdriver while helping his grandson Alex Zimmerman (far right) put a 4-H fair booth together last Sunday. Layton Werth (in back) also lent a helping hand. Olivia Wetter (left) and Samantha Lindberg got inside a fair booth case for a better look.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



Hospital conducts emergency drill

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To prepare staff for handling victims of a hazardous-material spill, Citizens Medical Center conducted a decontamination drill on July 10, involving about 25 members of the hospital's decontamination team.

Team members come from departments throughout the hospital, said James Carney, plant operations and safety manager, who coordinated the exercise along with Jeanene Brown, director of education services; Vickie Duffey, director of nursing; and Rod Williams, director of application services.

Team members were given a scenario where two patients had been brought to the hospital after being exposed to Malathion, a farm insecticide.

"Before patients are permitted inside the hospital, they must first be washed completely," said Carney. "We decontaminate the patient so we don't get hazardous chemicals throughout the hospital."

Team member Layla Schlageck, a physical therapy assistant, said it took the group about 22 minutes to complete the drill. She said members had to set up equipment, take the patients' vital signs, get "dressed out" and research the contaminant so the team would know how to handle the case.

Duffey explained the "decontamination suit" is a full body suit with boots and a hood. The hood, she said, is equipped with a respirator in it to filter out any chemicals or fumes.

"It took a lot longer than we thought it would take to get dressed out and get organized," Schlageck admitted, "but it went really well as far as getting the patients through the decontamination tent."

She explained that first, the patient is rinsed off, then scrubbed with soap and water to get rid of the chemical. Then the patient is moved to the "clean side" of the tent before being admitted to the emergency room.

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Citizens Medical Center decontamination team members James Carney, plant operations manager (in background) and (from left) Kim Weigel, radiology department; Doug Reinert, rehabilitation manager; and Layla Schlageck, physical therapy assistant, moved a volunteer "patient," Tate Carney, during a drill.

TAMA UNGER/Citizens Foundation

