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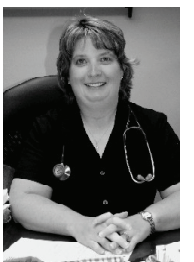
Dr. Matchell



Dr. Kellogg



Andy Rose, PA-C



Jenny Niblock
APRN



Luetta Flanagan
APRN



Dr. Bear



Tricia Carney
APRN



Julia Jennings
APRN



Kristina Jallow
APRN

Colby hospital looking

By Christina Beringer

Colby Free Press
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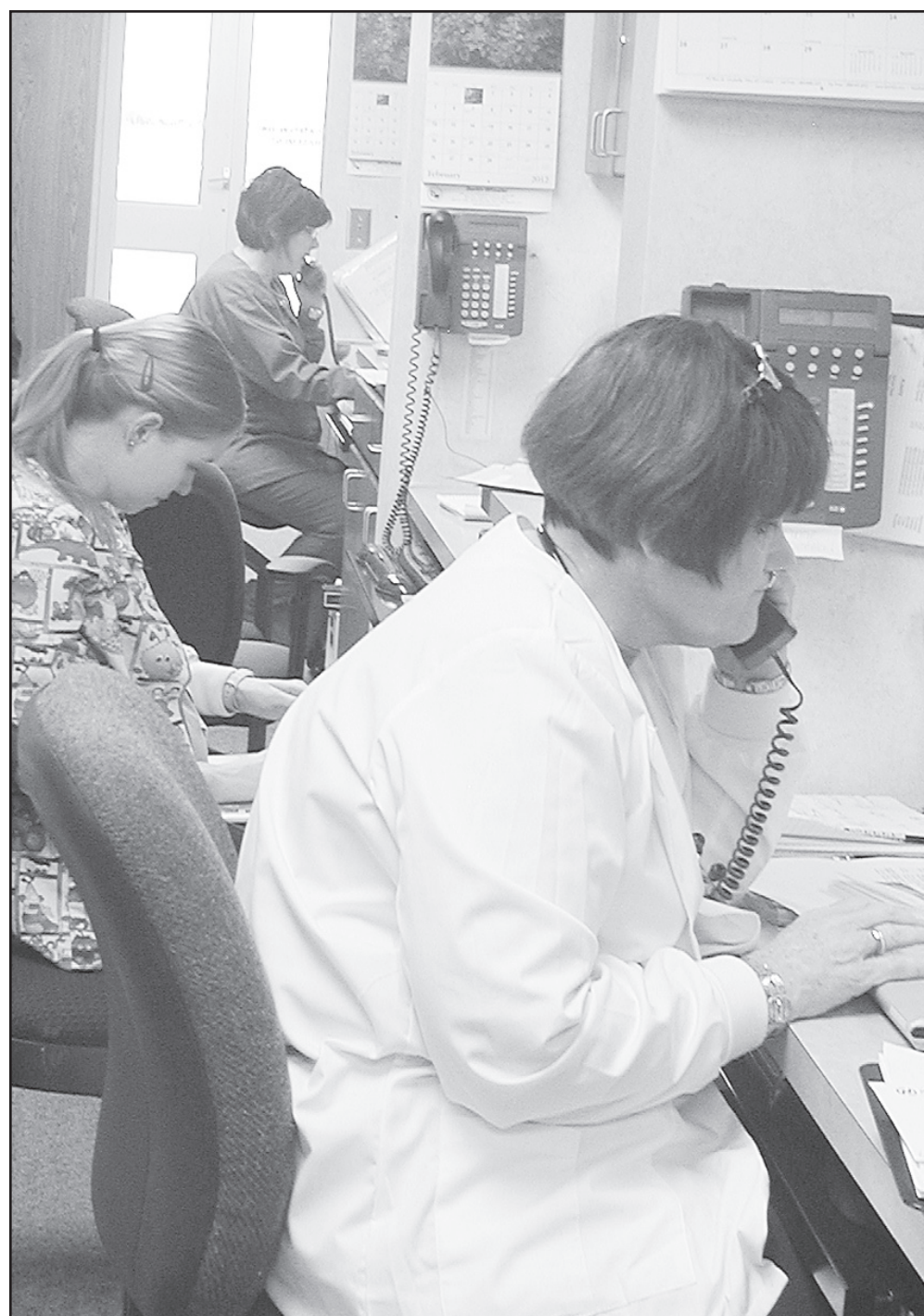
Citizens Medical Center Inc. isn't just building for tomorrow, its leaders say, it's building for the day after.

Tama Unger, director of fund development and community relations, and her colleagues, says Citizens is recognized as the premier health care facility of northwest Kansas – and for good reason. The hospital been aggressively recruiting physicians to meet increasing demands, planning for building expansion and improvements and staying abreast of technology advances.

As the owner and operator of the Citizens Medical Center hospital, the Family Center for Health Care clinic and the Prairie Senior Living Center nursing facility, the organization faces an urgent need to expand and grow by recruiting new health care professionals and expanding the facility to accommodate them.

All three units are supported by the Citizens Foundation, a nonprofit organized to raise money and support Citizens and its operations.

Unger said efforts to recruit a general surgeon started in 1997, and fifteen years later, a contract has been signed with Dr. Kelly Gabel. He and his wife, Dr. Sarah Gabel, will



The galley-style nurses' station at the Family Center for Health Care in Colby is a noisy, high-traffic area with not a lot of room for work. Nurses fill out all of their reports, look over charts and talk to patients over the phone in this overcrowded area of the clinic. – Cristina Beringer/Colby Free Press



The Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital in Burlington, a 19-bed critical access hospital, provides primary care, inpatient and outpatient services and a level 4 trauma service, as well as home health care and hospice services. Located nearby is the Parke Wellness Center with medical offices for three

South of the hospital, in the bottom level of the clinic building, is the Parke Wellness Center. The clinic offers physical, aquatic and speech therapy, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation and sports-injury rehabilitation. They have two physical therapist and two assistants. The first floor houses the clinic, with three doctors, Dr. James Perez, Dr. Elizabeth Maes and Dr. Zach Pimentel; two physician assistants, Kristen Janssen and Candy Campbell; and a nurse practitioner, Lane Looka.

Active allied medical staff include Dr. Wayne Hoppe and nurse practitioner Susan Dorman, and the doctors, physician assistants and nurse practitioner from the wellness center meet the needs of patients at the hospital.

Doctors from the Front Range who have regular specialty clinics in Burlington offer same-day surgeries for colon and rectal complications, gall bladder, hernia repair, ear tubes, tonsillectomy and breast biopsies.

The hospital offers same-day surgery and physical, speech, occupational and cardio/pulmonary rehabilitation therapy in the clinic and at the health center.

The Specialty Clinic offers a certified audiologist and the only in-house sound booth for hearing tests in eastern Colorado.

For over 25 years, said Jacobson, the county Health Services District has recruited doctors who recognize the need for quality medical care for patients out here. The staff at Burlington Specialty Services makes appointments with doctors who come to town every week

or two, helping patients avoid the long drive to Denver.

The hospital's imaging department offers magnetic resonance imaging, a 16-slice CT scanner and DEXA bone-density screenings with the bonus of speedy telemedicine reads from radiology consultants at Colorado Imaging Associates.

Specialty Surgical Services has a state-of-the-art Pentax high-definition colon scope. The Burlington gastrointestinal lab averages 220 colon-rectal scans a year, Jacobson said, and this helps the doctors to see lesions and cell changes that might have been overlooked before without the ability to isolate flat lesions.

The hospital has trained, experienced laboratory technicians and a modern lab which provides doctors the medical information they need to be able to diagnose and recommend treatment without the wait and hassle of travel.

"With our professional imaging, laboratory and surgical staff on hand, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.," Jacobson said, "our staff can make sure you have the opportunity to have your entire visit coordinated in one place."

Home health care and hospice offices are in the main hospital building, Jacobson said. The offices, adjacent to the inpatient area and specialty clinic, are home to a program which serves patients and their families in their homes.

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— Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

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