



# Colby hospital hires doctor, begins Aug 8

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Citizens Medical Center today announced the addition of a family practitioner to its staff at the hospital and clinic.

Dr. Darren Matchell will cover the emergency room at the hospital and set up practice at Family Center for Health Care starting Monday, Aug. 8.



D. Matchell

“My practice style would be best described as merging evidence based medicine with empathy and understanding. I am aggressive with acute problems, with an eye toward preventing future health problems,” Matchell said.

Matchell attended medical school at the University of Health Sciences-College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City. He completed his residency at the University of Missouri Kansas City Family Medicine Program.

Having extensive obstetric experience during his residency which included C-sections, tubal ligations, and other procedures relating to women’s health care, Matchell said pediatrics and respiratory therapy also hold a special place in his heart.

“I worked on the ambulance and

helicopter transport team at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City for eight years before medical school. Pulmonary disease holds a special interest to me as well, since I am a registered respiratory therapist,” Matchell said.

“We are excited to have Dr. Matchell in Colby. I know that he and Dr. Kellogg, along with our nurse practitioners, Jenny, Luetta, and Juanita are going to make a great team,” said Scott Focke, the clinic’s manager.

“Dr. Matchell is a very well rounded family practitioner and enjoys obstetrics, which fits perfectly with Family Center for Health Care, as that is such a fast growing part of our clinic,” said Focke.

Matchell and his wife, Sherri, along with their three children Joshua, Benjamin and Hannah arrived in Colby on June 30. He said he chose Colby because of its “small town atmosphere and charm.”

“I chose northwest Kansas to practice medicine because of the challenge that comes with such a full scope of family practice and because of partners I know and trust,” he said.

Janice McCart, administrator of the hospital, said she believes the doctor will be an “asset to our community.” She said a public reception is being planned and the date of it is to be announced.

# Seven cities combine efforts for garage sales

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

For those who love garage sales but can’t seem to get enough, next weekend’s 130 mile “sale-a-bration” should satisfy even the most dedicated bargain hunter.

In addition to those shopping, anyone interested in having their own garage sale is also invited to take part in Colby’s event.

Sponsored by the Highway 25 Association and Colby High Plains Lions Club, there will be garage sales Saturday and Sunday, July 23-24 from Interstate 70 at Colby to Interstate 80 at Sutherland, Neb.

In conjunction with the association’s seven-city garage sale event, the Colby High Plains Lions Club and Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau are cooperating to host the first city-wide garage sale event as well, said Hazel Estes, co-organizer.

“Businesses, service organizations, church groups, and private individuals are welcome to participate in Colby’s part,” said Mary Hurtt, working with Estes and representing the Lions Club.

In preparation for this gigantic garage sale event, Estes said, there were 25 letters sent to various organizations and groups around town inviting them to participate.

Besides the Colby High Plains Lions Club, there are only two other groups committed to setting up a

booth on Saturday.

“There is no charge for a booth,” Hurtt said today. “Those participating need to bring their own tables and clean up the area when they leave.”

Garage sale participants can either set up booths at the Thomas County Office Complex Saturday morning or at their preferred location. Assisting garage sale enthusiasts in navigating around town and where to find all the bargains, a map will be available pinpointing locations on where to shop, Hurtt said.

Those planning to participate by having their own garage sale — either at the central location in the county complex or at another location — are asked to let Hurtt or Estes no later than Wednesday (July 20).

By making the deadline Wednesday, Estes said, we can ensure that all the sales can be identified on one map, which will then be published in the Thursday, July 21 edition of the *Colby Free Press*.

Additional copies of the garage sale maps will also be available on Saturday at the Colby Visitors Center on S. Range Avenue near Interstate 70.

The cities included in the *Go Garage ‘Sale’ing* event in Nebraska are Trenton, Hayes Center, Wallace and Sutherland and in Kansas are Atwood, Palisade and Colby.

See “SALE,” Page 7

# Lake searched



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

**ABOVE:** Colby Police Department officers Richard Barrett and Kevin Diercks probed the bottom of Villa High Lake this morning during, looking for a body. Before noon, two boats were in the water and Barrett was in diving gear, assisting with the search by looking underwater and feeling along the bottom of the lake. **RIGHT:** A police officer unloaded gear to help with the search. The department received help from other agencies, including city employees, the Colby Fire Department and Thomas County Sheriff’s Office. **BELOW:** Colby Police Department investigator Gary Shull got ready to make calls in his investigation at the Villa High Park. The police department had the cell phone belonging to the individual who disappeared last night. In addition to Shull communicating, other city officials were offering support with food, drinks and other help.



# Hunt for body

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

It was almost like a scene out of a movie.

But it was reality.

Reports of a possible body in the waters of Villa High Lake in Colby brought rescue people, investigators, police, sheriff and curious onlookers to the scene this morning.

Gary Shull, an investigator with the Colby Police Department, said at about 11 p.m. Thursday night police received a call of a man missing in the lake. They then called out the Colby Fire Department’s search and rescue squad to investigate.

He said the individual reported in the water was last seen with a couple of friends Thursday night at the lake site.

The man went into the water and after several minutes his friends saw his hat but couldn’t see him. Shull said they searched for about 20 minutes before calling the police.

The search and rescue squad searched the park until 2 a.m., Shull said. Someone did stay until daylight when search efforts resumed.

Officers were using a probe



“If there’s somebody in there (Villa High Lake) it should come up.”

Detective Gary Shull, Colby Police Department

from a boat to search the pond bottom but Shull said dragging equipment from Scott City would be pressed into service.

He said the search was taking so long because when someone drowns, their body drops to the bottom.

Depending on the stomach contents, Shull said it can take several hours for a body to surface. He said it could be late this afternoon or evening before the body rises to the

surface.

“If there’s somebody in there it should come up,” Shull said.

Benny Young, with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, said the lake is about two acres and runs 4-5 feet deep.

The department had two boats and both were in the water off and on all morning.

Officer Richard Barrett was diving the pond, looking along the bottom for the body.

They made their own drag while waiting for the Scott County equipment to arrive, which did shortly after noon. Colby authorities met the Scott City authorities mid-way between the two cities to exchange the equipment.

Both exits to the park were closed this morning while law enforcement searched the lake.

Shull said they have received assistance from city crews who have helped, the fire department, Thomas County Sheriff’s Office and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

At noon, City Manager Carolyn Armstrong and Sheriff Mike Baughn were monitoring the search.

The victim was not identified.



What's this all about?

see Page 6



