

Surgeon, family arrives

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Harrington begins at GMH next week.

Gothenburg's newest surgeon has looked forward to a new practice in a rural community for a year.

Dr. John Harrington begins work as a general surgeon at Gothenburg Memorial and Cozad Community hospitals next week.

Harrington drove away from the family's Pueblo, CO, home for the last time Saturday.

"It was sad leaving the house, land and close friends," Harrington said Monday.

His wife Stacie (Bosch) Harrington and the couple's four boys arrived in the area Friday.

The family is staying with her parents near Farnam until the moving van arrives with furniture and belongings.

They will then move into a home they are renting in Gothenburg.

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About a year ago, Harrington contacted GMH officials about working in the area.

“Stacie had family ties here and I decided that the best thing for me was to practice in a small town,” he explained.

The surgeon had been employed at Sangre de Cristo Surgical Associates and affiliated with Parkview Medical Center in Pueblo, CO, since 2005.

But he grew up on the prairie near Boise, ID, and was ready to leave Pueblo for a slower-paced life for himself and his family.

General surgery is Harrington’s specialty.

In an urban area like Pueblo, such surgery involved mostly abdominal, breast, laparoscopy and skin operations, he said.

“That’s what I’ll do at GMH but intend to pick up additional procedures,” Harrington said.

Over the last 10 years, he said there hasn’t been much change in general surgery.

“The biggest changes were in laparoscopy surgery in the early 1990s,” he explained about the surgical technique in which operations in the abdomen are performed with a scope through small incisions.

With successful surgeries, Harrington said there’s always satisfaction.

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“Failure hurts,” he said. “We try to have that happen as rarely as possible.”

Harrington is a believer in quality medical care.

“That should be the goal of any small community hospital,” he said. “To do the best it can for the community with the resources it has.”

He said he’s impressed with GMH.

A graduate of the University of Idaho, Harrington received a doctor of medicine degree from Loma Linda University and completed an integrated surgical residency at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ.

He received his license to practice medicine in Nebraska on March 30.

Harrington said his connection with Nebraska happened when he met Stacie in Lincoln while visiting his parents who lived there.

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