

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Thursday, Aug. 20, marked the final day of work for Dr. Steve Boyer at the Chase County Community Hospital and Clinic.

Boyer, who lives in Mullen, will join the States Family Practice in North Platte.

Boyer originally served the hospital and clinic on a part-time basis, Monday evening through Thursday morning, since December, 2007.

Later, his schedule changed primarily to Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the clinic.

Boyer said several factors played out in his decision to take the new position.

He said when he first came here, the hospital and clinic were in great need of additional doctors.

Now, the hospital and clinic are well covered with three doctors and three mid-level professionals.

He felt the situation was such that his services could better benefit the practice he's joining.

Presently, the North Platte practice includes just one doctor and one physician's assistant. As a result, they needed some more help, Boyer said.

Joining the North Platte practice will also get him closer to his home in Mullen.

His wife, Margaret, is also a family practice doctor and they operate the Sandhills Family Medicine Clinic together in Mullen.

They also serve as the consulting doctors to the nursing home there.

When he came to Imperial, Boyer noted there was not enough need for two full-time doctors at the Mullen clinic, which is why he sought part-time work elsewhere.

Boyer enjoyed his time here

Dr. Boyer said he really enjoyed working in Imperial. "I really hated to go. I've made some really good friends."

Boyer said that made leaving tougher so leaving with short notice helped stem tearful good-byes, he added.

He noted the people in Chase County are much like the people he sees in the Mullen area, which made him feel at home here.

He said the hospital, clinic and the people were great to work with.

While his reduction in hours resulted in reduced pay, he said that did not factor into his decision and added that he's leaving on really good terms.

Hospital Administrator Lola Jones said the hospital "truly appreciates the time he spent here, especially when the hospital was short on doctors."

Boyer noted he will continue to help out at the hospital if needed and will also help the hospital with future recruiting efforts.

He commended the efforts to build health care here in Chase County. "You're moving in the right direction," he said.

In addition to his family practice work in North Platte, Boyer said he also plans to assist the public health clinic in Ogallala.

He will also retain his hospital privileges here.