By Russ Pankonin
The Imperial Republican

Dr. Jose Garcia, a family practice doctor from Mission, Texas will join the medical staff at the Chase County Community Hospital and Chase County Clinic.

Dr. Garcia has already arrived in Imperial and is undergoing orientation and training on the facility's electronic medical records system.

His first official day will be Monday, March 2, when he will begin seeing patients on a Monday through Thursday schedule.

Recruiting efforts on Garcia have been underway for more than a year. Ongoing efforts by Hospital Administrator Lola Jones and other staff to bring Garcia finally proved successful.

Garcia completed his medical school at the University of Iowa and completed his residency at the Texas Tech Science Center in Odessa.

He was licensed to practice in Hawaii but faced bureaucratic procedures in obtaining his Nebraska license.

Jones and Dr. Doug Nicholson worked with Garcia and the state to resolve the licensing matter.

Hospital Board Chair Bill Bauerle said these efforts have cemented a relationship with Dr. Garcia that will be beneficial for a long time to come.

Jones said Dr. Garcia not only increases the number of medical providers available to area residents but brings an additional benefit as he is bi-lingual in English and Spanish.

This will enhance the hospital's ability to provide service for both English and Spanish speaking residents, Jones noted.

Garcia and his wife, Julia, have three sons—Jose, Jesus and Jacob.

Julia and son Jacob, who is a seventh grader, will join Dr. Garcia in Imperial when Jacob is out of school later this spring. Jose and Jesus will be attending college at Baylor University in Texas.

With the addition of Garcia, the hospital/clinic now has four family practice physicians and four mid-level practitioners.

The physicians include Dr. Jonathan Richman, Dr. Steve Boyer, Dr. Nicholson and Dr. Garcia.

The mid-levels include Physicians Assistants Jodi Spady and Carol Cornelius, and Nurse Practioners Rita Nicholson and Brandy Hanes.

Dr. Meyer coming twice monthly

Jones said the hospital and its patrons will benefit from a decision by Dr. Mark Meyer of Kearney to add another day per month to his schedule here.

Beginning in April, Dr. Meyer will bring his specialty clinic here on the first and third Thursdays every month. Physicians Assistant Joel McReynolds will also continue to accompany him.

Dr. Meyer specializes in orthopedic surgery and has been certified in sports medicine.

He has been bringing his surgical skills to Chase County Community Hospital for more than

20 years.