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2 Montrose healthcare locations merge

- 3 San Juan Family Medicine doctors open new office
- Doctor: Merger can help with wait times
- CPH CEO happy with new partnership

By Andrew Kiser

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The Marvel superhero team, The Avengers, aren't the only ones joining forces to help people in need.

Cedar Point Health, which has three healthcare locations in Montrose including the central office at 300 S. Nevada Ave., has combined with San Juan Family Medicine Drs. Abe Lee, Jonathan Osorio and Zach Barton and their nursing staff. The doctors have united with CPH as physician owners and have their own office, which opened April 9, at 816 S. Fifth St.

The merger will help residents with easier admittance to doctors, CPH Dr. Michael Brezinsky said.

"That has been one of our desires; it was to improve access. So that way if somebody needs to (be) seen, we can get them seen generally on the same day," Brezinsky said.

"Our new partnership with Drs. Lee, Osorio and Barton allows us to leverage resources to the benefit of our patients and providers," said CPH CEO Cory Phillips in a news release. "By harnessing the family-centric expertise of these three specialized physicians, we've moved into a new level of comprehensive health care devoted to handle the entire spectrum of family members' medical issues."

Brezinsky said during the last few years, doctors have been leaving Montrose to start a practice in a more populated city. But this new merger can help stem the tide of departing physicians, he indicated. There have been multiple primary care docs, who have moved away, away from the community in the last five or six years," Brezinsky said. "I think they did so to primarily because it was difficult to try to manage and run your own practice.

"This (merger) allowed us to come together and share some of our resources. I think it will benefit the community and it's good for the providers as well."

Although some physicians traveled elsewhere, other doctors have been willing to set up shop in Montrose, Brezinsky said.

"I think right now, in terms of primary care needs in Montrose, I think we are meeting them," he said. "There have been new providers who have come here. Montrose is a great place to live and to practice but it's not right for everybody.

"Some people want to be in the big city or want proximity to some of the other comforts of



Cedar Point Health and San Juan Family Medicine's merger has three physicians — Drs. Abe Lee, Jonathan Osorio and Zach Barton — in a new office at 816 S. Fifth St. A banner is on display at the building on May 8. (Andrew Kiser/ Montrose Daily Press)

every day living. It's just different living in a small town."

John Renfrow of Renfrow Realty, who helped with the merger, said he believes it will be good for the doctors and community.

Brezinsky added he thinks the union will stop the primary care shortage in the area, noting internal, family medicine and pediatric doctors will be readily available.

"I think there will be improved access to care for patients or people have an easier time finding a doc who they like and want to take care of them," he said.

CPH has grown over the past year as it added primary and urgent care locations in Cedaredge, Clifton and Fruita. The entity also merged with the Mountain Peaks Family Practice and Urgent Care, 836 S. Townsend Ave., back in October.

The recent merger took some work, Phillips indicated.

"The relocation needed to be carefully orchestrated between two offices, a remodel, six physicians and multiple nurses and

office staff," Phillips said in a news release.

"It was like moving chess pieces. Every decision had a strategy on a particular date to make the transition as easy on patients as possible. We're grateful for John Renfrow of Renfrow Realty to handle our real estate questions and make this transition seamless. We are also thankful for the work of Scott Stryker of Stryker & Company, Inc. with the office remodel."

The new union will also allow CPH to contribute more to residents no matter the age, Brezinsky said.

"We're just hitting our mission and values and what we are trying to accomplish," he said. "By joining forces with the family medicine docs and urgent care, I think that is important to understand that we striving to provide healthcare all the way from infants all the way to the geriatric population."

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