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News Release

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Orthopedic Spine Surgeons Join Community Hospital

Mesa County, Colo. -- Community Hospital is pleased to announce that board certified orthopedic surgeons Kirk D. Clifford, MD and James S. Gebhard, MD, currently with Rocky Mountain Orthopaedic Associates will be joining Community Hospital in May of this year. Together, they will form Western Colorado Spine.

Dr. Clifford brings over 17 years of experience in orthopedic spine surgery. He graduated from Yale University School of Medicine in 2001. Dr. Clifford has unique training in a combined orthopedic-neurosurgical spine fellowship and provides orthopedic surgery with a specialized focus on the diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of spine injuries in both adults and children.

Dr. Gebhard graduated from the UCLA School of Medicine in Los Angeles, California in 1986. Dr. Gebhard specializes in adult and pediatric spine surgery and has been practicing orthopedic surgery since 1993 and has been in Grand Junction since 2001. He works to treat patients with a variety of conditions such as scoliosis, stenosis, osteoporosis, spinal tumors, ruptured disks, pulled muscles, and neck or back pain.

“We are thrilled to join Community Hospital and look forward to building a strong spine surgery program,” said Kirk Clifford, MD. “We have been highly impressed with the strategic, forward-thinking approach Community Hospital has taken over the past several years to move the organization forward in a competitive health care environment,” added Dr. Clifford.

“Adding orthopedic spine surgery to our growing list of service lines and surgical specialties has been a priority for some time now,” said Chris Thomas, President and CEO for Community Hospital. “In recent years, more and more physicians have chosen Community Hospital, due in large part, to our commitment to developing progressive partnerships with physicians, employers, and our community. Dr. Clifford and Dr. Gebhard are exactly the caliber of physicians that you can only hope to have associated with your organization,” added Thomas.

“I have had the privilege to partner with orthopedic spine patients in the Grand Valley for the past 17 years and I am very excited to join Community Hospital and help them grow their new orthopedic spine surgery program,” said James, Gebhard, MD. “Community Hospital’s commitment to providing high quality health care options and increased access to specialty care are what drew me to want to join their organization,” added Dr. Gebhard.

The ability to provide adult and pediatric spine surgery will support Community Hospital’s goal to better meet the health care needs of the community by providing accessible, high-quality, coordinated and cost-effective care to patients in the Grand Valley and surrounding communities. Community Hospital and the orthopedic spine surgeons are committed to providing the best health care possible for each patient.

For more information on the services provided by Community Hospital, please call 970-242-0920 or visit www.YourCommunityHospital.com.

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