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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW PHYSICAL THERAPIST JOINS REHAB SERVICES OF NEVADA

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Rehab Services of Nevada recently welcomed a new physical therapist to its staff of rehabilitation providers.

Matt Bugnet graduated in May from the University of Las Vegas as a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), a three-year post-baccalaureate program that followed an athletic training bachelor's degree from Weber State University.

With just about a month on the job, Bugnet said he was pleased to return to Winnemucca permanently after spending a summer interning with Rehab Services of Nevada in 2009.

"I really liked the small town atmosphere, the mountains, the weather, everything," said Bugnet of his experience two years ago, "so I started talking to [Rehab Services] about the job."

Bugnet's primary area of interest within the field of physical therapy is the treatment of orthopedic cases and those with back problems.

"Those kinds of issues are challenging and interesting," he said. But mostly, the new physical therapist said he chose a rural practice location so he could experience a variety of patients.

"That's one of the main reasons I came here," he said, "to use all the skills I have."

Bugnet will provide outpatient physical therapy services at the clinic located at 325 Hanson Street, as well as services to Humboldt General Hospital in both the acute and skilled nursing facilities. Bugnet also is a certified athletic trainer with plans to secure his license soon.

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The past years have taken Bugnet on a different path than he originally planned. When he began college, his focus was to become a ceramics teacher. “I was really big into that,” he said.

Then fate played its hand. Bugnet, an avid runner and member of his university’s track team, got hurt.

“I went to physical therapy and it started from there. I decided that physical therapy was a good field—something I wanted to learn more about.”

While Bugnet said ceramics has taken a back seat for the past several years, he’s ready to get back to his favorite hobby. He’s also ready to tackle running again.

His wife, Cassie, a pediatric nurse, stays at home with their four-year-old daughter and two-year-old son. “She likes it so far,” said Bugnet, “she looking forward to being here.”

Bugnet feels a sense of relief now that he’s done with school and ready to begin a lifelong career in physical therapy.

His final hurdle was passing the State of Nevada’s board exam. Just a few weeks ago he received a call from the board’s secretary who personally let him know that he had passed.

“During that conversation, she told me that my score was so high that she had to look it up in their records,” related Bugnet. “I guess I had one of the top 10 scores in Nevada.”

Bugnet is a bit uncomfortable speaking about his high test score. But he’s not shy about expressing his excitement about jumping into his work.

“I enjoy seeing patients get better,” he said. “From their starting point back to activities that they want to do—not just need to do—it’s great being able to see that change.”

Rehab Services of Nevada provides physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology services to Nevada residents in Winnemucca, Elko, Eureka, Fallon, Las Vegas, Lovelock, and Idaho residents in Rexburg.

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