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Dentist promotes teeth protection for Grand Opening

Andrew Kirk OF THE RECORD STAFF

Dr. Jon Coleman loves football. He's from Texas after all, but his father was actually the orthopedic surgeon for Texas A&M. As a boy, he occasionally stood with his father on the sidelines at games, traveled with the team and even taped a few ankles. The younger Coleman chose dentistry over sports medicine, but he still loves to help athletes. For a limited time, Coleman is fitting custom-made mouth guards for youth athletes in Summit and Wasatch counties between the ages of 8 and 15 for cost-about \$75.

Coleman has the resources to fit about 200 children as part of the Grand Opening for his new office, **Newpark** Dentistry, in Kimball Junction.

"It's a smoking deal and a heck of a benefit. (Mouth guards) not only protect your teeth but the big thing is preventing concussions," he said.

Coleman fit mouth guards for the Utah Warriors, the indoor football team preceding the Blaze. When his son, Nicholas Tsipelzon, started playing peewee football in Park City, Coleman made him a specialized mouth guard. A friend then asked for one and loved his. That's when Coleman decided to open it up to all young athletes to promote his new office.

Store-bought mouth guards run about \$10 and are fitted by dropping them in boiling water and then biting down on the softened plastic. Custom-made guards require an exact mold of the teeth.

Better fitting custom-made guards are not only more comfortable and offer better protection, but they also make breathing easier for the athlete, explained 10-year-old twins Grayson and Cameron Maddux, friends of Tsipelzon, and fellow athletes in the Park City peewee league.

Store-bought guards often have rough edges, mold wrong to the mouth and will easily bend and rip, they said.

The Maddux's parents took advantage of the offer on Aug. 13 in preparation for the new season.

Coleman moved to Park City over a decade ago and began practicing in Salt Lake City near 3300 East and 3300 South. In addition to gaining Salt Lake patients, he also had several of his Summit County neighbors drive down the canyon to see him.

When office spaces became available on Ute Boulevard in Kimball Junction, Coleman took advantage of the opportunity to move closer to home without being too far away from his patients near the mouth of Parley's Canyon.

"I decided to make the move now and treat more of my friends and people I know (in Park City)," he said.

Some dentists try to see as many people as possible in a day, but Coleman said he likes to take his time and visit with patients.

"I like talking to people and coming to work means coming to see my friends," he said.

This approach has allowed Coleman to keep many of his Salt Lake patients who are willing to drive the extra distance to see him-five alone on Aug. 12.

Park City resident Flora Taylor has known Coleman since 1998 and used to drive down the canyon to see him. Now she's glad to make a shorter trip.

"You bet your life I'm happy," Taylor said. "I love the new office. My husband and I have been happy, now we're much happier."

Coleman likes to keep his work digital. His cabinets are empty of the paper folders that clog most offices. He shows patients X-rays, pictures, diagrams and images on flat screens next to the chairs. His office has four operatories and also offers Zoom teeth whitening.

One of Coleman's favorite parts of his job is reconstructive dentistry. One of the factors that led him to choose dentistry is his love of working with his hands and putting things together.

As a child he loved Tinker Toys and taking apart and reassembling gadgets. Dentistry allows him to put a smile back together that has been damaged by injury, broken or missing teeth. Reconstructive dentistry gives people their confidence back, he said.

The **Newpark** Dentistry is located at 1441 W. Ute Blvd. Suite 200 in Kimball Junction.

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