

Former doctor back in the news

By Karen Krien
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It has been 13 years since a former Cheyenne County doctor was convicted of second-degree murder and attempted murder. Now, Dr. L. Stan Naramore is back in the news again, this time for prescribing large quantities of powerful painkillers to patients.



Naramore

The 62-year-old doctor had a small practice in Mount Healthy, Ohio. The Cincinnati *Enquirer* carried a story on Friday which told that the Ohio Board of Pharmacy began investigating the doctor after reports from suspicious pharmacists. Dr. Naramore's office was raided and records of 204 patients were seized. *The Enquirer* obtained a patient list which showed seven of the patients living in the same trailer park near Auxier, Ky., a small town four hours away; 16 patients drove more than four hours round trip; eight patients had a nine-hour drive, and 29 other patients, a seven-hour drive. Other patients came from as far as Tennessee, West Virginia and North Carolina.

In the article, Dr. Naramore was said to be prescribing large doses of methadone, Oxycontin and other powerful painkillers. He said he was "simply trying to relieve the pain of hundreds of patients."

He said his office is now closed, probably permanently, after he had open-heart surgery last week. However, he told *The Enquirer* that he was cooperating with the investigation and considers it "unethical" for a doctor to allow a patient to remain in pain.

He went on to say that the

undertreatment of pain is a serious problem in America. Physicians are afraid of persecution and prosecution for adequately treating pain. No American should suffer pain, he said.

1994 trial

Many people still remember Dr. Naramore and his trial in 1994. He was prosecuted for trying to kill Ruth Leach, a 78-year-old cancer patient. In this case, he was charged with giving her an overdose of painkillers while her family watched. Her son, Jim Leach, along with the family, had her moved to the hospital in Goodland where she died a few days later.

Ironically, in a written statement, the doctor said he did not believe in euthanasia. Concerning Mrs. Leach, he wrote, I believe if a patient is in pain — you try to relieve it. I did try to relieve my female patient's pain. I thought that was my duty, my obligation as her physician.

Chris Willt was a diabetic. When he came into the hospital, Dr. Naramore treated him for low blood sugar and a massive stroke, then gave the 81-year-old the drug Norcuron, a paralyzing drug, that made it impossible for him to breathe.

The trial was held in St. Francis and after two weeks of trial and nine hours of deliberation by the jury, he was convicted of murder and attempted murder. He was sentenced five to 20 years on both counts.

However, after only two years, a Kansas appeals court overturned the conviction, saying no reasonable jury could have found criminal intent. In 2000, the Kansas Legislature voted to pay Dr. Naramore \$250,000 to settle a wrongful prosecution claim.

He moved a couple of times, setting up a practice in Harper for a time, then moved on to Arizona. Little had been heard about him until now.



LEIGH BROWN gets a hit and heads for first base during T-ball on Wednesday night.

Times staff photo by Melinda Basnett

Saintly girl wins title of Cheyenne County Young Miss

By Karen Krien
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St. Francis girl, Holly Keller, took home the title of 2008 Cheyenne County Young Miss at Saturday's program. She was one of nine girls performing.

Held in the school auditorium in St. Francis, the first runner up was Dara Loyd, St. Francis; second runner up was Colleen Shrader and third was Aryn Sturgeon, both of Bird City. Kattie Ford, St. Francis, was voted as the contestant's Choice Award.

Each contestant was judged in the categories: Academics, Individual Interview, Performing Arts which was the talent they performed on Saturday evening, Endurance in the special presentation; and Grace and Elegance, as, in evening gowns, they were presented to the judges. The Academics category is worth 30 percent of the scoring.

Holly earned the Academics award. Dara Loyd was presented the Individual Interview award, Grace and Elegance award and the Endurance Award. Montana Rhymes, singing "Two Marionettes," won the Performing Arts award.

Others competing were Daniele Schmid, Cassie Dankenbring and Jenice Hartman.

The 2007 Cheyenne County Young Miss, Lauren Ross, was introduced during the program and gave a several special number. Mistress of ceremony was former Junior Miss, Heather Sowers,

who, with humor, helped keep the show moving. Gavin Smull sang the closing song.

There was a dance presentation by Aubrey Mills, Tiffany Hamilton and Allyson Northrup. During the intermission, a slide show presentation of the week's activities was shown.

There was a change in escorts during the Grace and Elegance part of the program. Formerly, young men have escorted the contestants but this year, 5- and 6-year-old girls, Lauren and Lindsey Johnson, Layne Pettijohn and Cassidy Busse were as lovely as the girls they escorted.

Judges for the Young Miss program were Sally Parker, Idalia; Tracy Hillmer, Goodland; L. Kay Noonan, Wahoo, Neb.; Lindsay Stamm, Benkleman; and Nancy Helling, Idalia. The scholastic judges included a panel with education backgrounds.

Mrs. Cress said the goal of the Cheyenne County Young Miss is to boost self-esteem, build character, encourage educational value, motivate creativity and stimulate competitiveness in college-bound senior girls. The contestants are also awarded numerous scholarships.

The 2009 Cheyenne County Young Miss program has been set for the third weekend in June, 2008. This year's juniors will be the participants.



MONTANA RHYMES sings during the Cheyenne County Young Miss talent division held in St. Francis Saturday evening. Montana won the Performing Arts Award.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

It is time to plan for the fair parade

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Fair is just a little over a month away and it is time for people to start planning their fair parade entry.

This year's theme is "The Winds of Change," which is a little different from themes of year's past. However, there are many interpretations and there should be a variety of floats fashioned within the theme.

Carla Lampe, president of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, said people have been asking about the theme and seeing if there are any changes.

"We will be keeping the same parade route, starting at the high school and traveling west down Main Street," she said.



There will be no entry registrations but, closer to the day of the parade, a map of where the different entries are to meet before the parade will be printed.

The parade is coordinated by the Chamber.

"We are urging everyone to start planning now," she said.

Years Ago

30 years ago - 1977

Dora Seymour left Wednesday to make preparations for Girls State. Bird City delegates are; Robyn Carmichael, Malinda Bunjes, and Kay Elliott. Counselors and staff attending are; Mary Shahan, Diane Jordan, Shelley Burton, Kathy Hickert, and Kathleen Sweazy.

C.J. Riemann, son of the late Clem Wahrman, Jr. Bird City, and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Riemann, Hill City was elected state secretary of the Association of Future Farmers of America at the Future Farmers of America Convention

in Manhattan.

Troy Burr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Burr has been named to the dean's honor list for the 1977 spring semester at Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas.

Bird City Girl Scouts went to a camporee at Scott County Lake. Those attending were Dawn Ambroiser, Melissa Bunjes, Diane Burns, Jennifer Dorsch, Sherrie Elijah, Ruth Fisher, Sharon Jewett, Shelly Johnson, Angela Leach, and Tarina Seymour. The leaders were Arlene Ambroiser, Delores Dorsch, and Karol Seymour.

