



FIRE BURNS ACRES OF GRASSLAND — On Oct. 18, a fire started north of St. Francis. Strong winds soon had it carried down a valley. Fortunately, no people or livestock lost their lives in the fire and it was stopped at U.S. 36 between Wheeler and St. Francis. In all 1,300 acres were burned. Note, the article in last week's paper had between 200 and 300 acres burned... that was incorrect.

Herald photo by Robert Grace

Hospital offers obstetric services to patients in area

By Karen Krien
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With arrival of a new doctor, the Cheyenne County Hospital is now able to offer obstetric services.

Dr. Rebecca Allard began work at the hospital on Aug. 6 and, in only nine weeks, has 10 obstetric cases. Dr. Allard is also a family practice physician and joined Dr. Mary Beth Miller and Patrick Delano, physician assistant. In October, two new physician assistants, Kristle Neuhalfen and Tyler Raile joined the team.

Dr. Allard said she knew that she wanted to go into medicine when she was very young. At the age of 12, she watched her grandfather being treated for cancer and that made her decision.

She was born and raised in Smith Center, graduating from the Smith Center High School. She went on to attend Yale where she earned a bachelor's degree in molecular, cellular and developmental biology.

At the KU Medical School, she applied for and was one of two accepted into the rural track program. Working out of the Smoky Hill Family Practice residency in Salina, Dr. Allard worked mostly in rural areas.

While family practice is important to her, Dr. Allard's passion is for obstetrics.

"I want to take care of the baby before it is born, bring it into the world and then watch them grow," she said.

"I love the thrill and joy of delivery."

The doctor came to the hospital having delivered over 300 babies, taking an extra internship to work with expectant mothers.

She said the modern, well-equipped hospital is one of the main reasons she chose to come to Cheyenne County. The hospital has a birthing room and good equipment

including an ultrasound machine. She was very impressed that the residents are so supportive of the hospital and, when the hospital's Swing Fore Life golf tournament was held a month ago, the money raised went toward the purchase of the baby warming crib.

Dr. Allard feels that giving birth to an infant should be an experience of a lifetime for the mother and family. She plans to make each birth special to those involved.

"We have so much to offer at the hospital and I want these new parents to tell others," she said, adding that she is flexible and will work with the patient.

The hospital will soon have a delivery room and Ms. Neuhalfen, who is also very interested in obstetrics, will be assisting. There are also trained nurses and Kim Zwegardt, anesthetist, who is on standby if needed.

"My goal is to increase the population by drawing in younger families and adding to the great medical community we already have here at the hospital," Dr. Allard said.

Dr. Allard grew up on a farm. She and her husband Kent have a daughter, Sidney. She said she enjoys spending time with Sidney and Kent, reading a book and hopes, in the future, to take up an old hobby of shooting skeet.

The hospital will be holding an open house for people to come meet the new doctor and physician assistants. Watch for more information in The Herald and Times.



Beware of current telemarket scam

Telephone rates appear to be higher before the break up of Ma Bell, but at least people know who their long distance carrier was.

Today, fierce competition among long distance carriers such as AT&T, MCI, Sprint and a couple hundred smaller companies has led to beyond shady practices to attract new customers.

It has become so outrageous that some customers have been surprised when opening their monthly phone bills to find that they have been switched to another long distance carrier. This bizarre phenomenon is known as "slamming."

Slamming is against the law. Federal law prohibits a company from

switching the long distance carrier without consent, in written or oral form, so many companies have stooped to a new, obscure method to get customers to sign up.

Customers should watch for the following:

- The check in the mail. If the customer gets a check from a long distance telephone carrier, it may

look as though no strings are attached. But, the customer should not cash it unless they want to be switched.

- The fine print. Some offers for magazine subscriptions or free samples now contain a fine-print statement obligating you to switch to a different phone company if the customer returns the offer.

Public Notices — Petition is filed in court for estate

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays, October 25, November 1 and November 8, 2007. (43-45)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS

In The Matter of The Estate of Case No. 07-PR-12 Eugene S. Laumann, Deceased.

PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 59

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by James D. Owens, personal representative, praying that: the foreign will of Eugene S. Laumann, deceased, dated December 4, 2001, be admitted to probate and record in this Court; no administration of the Estate is necessary; the will be construed, and the following Kansas real estate owned by the decedent, situated in Cheyenne

County, Kansas:

The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section Twelve (12), Township One (1) South, Range Thirty-seven (37) West of the 6th P.M., Cheyenne County, Kansas

be assigned in accordance with the terms of the Will.

You are required to file your written defenses therein on or before the 16th day of November, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. in the District Court, in the city of St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

James D. Owens, Petitioner
JAMES M. MILLIKEN, CHARACTERED
James M. Milliken, #07001
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Attorneys for Petitioner

Two physician assistants join medical community

By Karen Krien
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In October, the Cheyenne County Hospital gained two physician assistants.

Tyler Raile, former St. Francis resident, and Kristle Neuhalfen, Arlington, Neb., began work on Oct. 1. With the addition of the two assistants and Dr. Rebecca Allard, the clinics in both St. Francis and Bird City will be open longer to better accommodate patients.

Tyler and Kristle met while attending Wichita State University where they earned their master's of physician assistant degrees. They plan to marry on May 10.

Ms. Neuhalfen grew up in Arlington, Neb. She said she was always interested in the medical field but it was her family physician assistant who introduced and encouraged her to pursue a career in medicine. She attended the University of Nebraska, Omaha, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology.

Many will remember Ms. Neuhalfen as she was in Cheyenne County this summer completing a preceptorship. She worked with Dr. Mary

Beth Miller and was very impressed with the doctor and felt fortunate to be able to work with her.

Ms. Neuhalfen will be working with Dr. Allard in the obstetrics department as well as seeing patients in the clinics and hospital.

The son of Cliff and Judy Raile, rural St. Francis, Tyler was born and raised in St. Francis, graduating from St. Francis Community High School. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in biology at Bethany College in Lindsborg.

He said Patrick Delano had played an important role in leading him to a career in medicine. While spending some time with his sister, Lisa, he took the emergency medical technician course and worked with paramedics. This also encouraged him to further his medical career.

While Kristle was in St. Francis this summer, Tyler was working with an orthopedic group in Colorado Springs. Along with his other duties, he will be working with orthopedic patients and in men's health.

Both physician assistants have worked in a number of rural hospitals and say the Cheyenne County Hospital is one of the most modern and well equipped hospitals.

"This was one of the reasons we decided to come to St. Francis,"

they said.

The couple said none of the rural hospitals they had worked in had the new electronic medical record equipment which is a small flat computer used by the staff. They said this equipment is much more efficient than using paper records and felt that the staff's transition to the electronic equipment went very smoothly, noting that it has only been a year since it was introduced at the hospital.

Ms. Neuhalfen's mother is a deputy county clerk in Dodge County; her father is a project manager for a construction company in Omaha. She has a sister who is a chemical engineer in Wisconsin and a brother who is a sophomore at Doane College in Crete, Neb. She also has an aunt who is a physician in Seattle.

Mr. Raile's siblings are working in the medical field. His brother Reed lives in St. Francis and is an emergency medical technician; his sister Lisa is a physical therapist. He also has a cousin who is in med school.

The couple enjoys traveling, hunting and fishing. Kristle also likes to run.

They will be part of the open house at the hospital in November. Everyone is urged to stop by and meet them.

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Historical meeting to be held in Oakley

The 2007 Hi-Plains Historical Association meeting will be held at Colonial Steakhouse in Oakley at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Following a Dutch treat lunch, Lewis Evins, Oakley, will talk about highlights from the life and times of his paternal grandfather Samuel Reed Grout.

Born on Jan. 9, 1857, in Illinois, Mr. Grout came west in 1874. He routed 11 years on horseback from Oregon to New Mexico, trapped beaver, hunted wild horses, worked

for cattle ranches and broke sod on the Orlando Jones claim in Thomas County, beginning in December 1880. Because Mr. Grout recorded many of his pioneer experiences in articles and letters, glimpses into the days of settlement in northwest Kansas are preserved.

The meeting on Sunday is open to the public. Historically-minded individuals of the northwest Kansas area, young and old, are encouraged to attend.

