## Husband and wife doctors now at home in Colby

By Sam Dieter Colby Free Press sdieter@nwkansas.com

The Family Center for Healthcare has two new providers working there, a husband and wife who both come from northwest Kansas. They both started seeing patients Wednesday.

Sarah Gabel is from Hays and will work as a family practitioner. One of her areas of expertise is obstetrics. Kelly Gabel will work at the center as a general surgeon.

The son of Larry and Beth Gabel of Colby, Kelly Gabel grew up in St. Francis. His sister Brandi Jones, a teacher at the Colby Public Schools, recently moved here with her husband John Jones, a pharmacist at Dillons.

The couple was considering working in about 10 different places in Kansas, Kelly Gabel

"It was pretty evident to both of us that this was not only where we wanted to go, but it was where God was leading us," he said.

Sarah Gabel decided she wanted to be a doctor when she was a sophomore in high school. In college she shadowed Dr. Rich Rajewski, who works in family

"That's kind of where I saw what full scope family medicine was," she said.

She grew to like the idea of working in obstetrics, pediatrics and taking care of an entire family. She said her passion was to work in family medicine in a small town.

When Kelly Gabel worked as an emergency medical technician in high school, he was struck by the relative lack of medical resources in rural areas. He had to go to Denver to have knee surgery, for instance, and wanted to be able to improve the medical care available here.

"It was something that I wanted to do, that I wanted to help out," he said. "I just remember feeling I wanted to know more. I wanted to be able to help out."



**Doctor Kelly Gabel and Doctor Sarah Gabel** 

He met his wife at Fort Hays State University.

"She was my chemistry lab teacher's assistant," he said, said. apparently I needed help.

"He needed a lot of help," his

They graduated in 2004, got engaged before they started load had on their lives and how medical school in Kansas City, and married in the summer of 2005. The couple said they pushed each other during medical school. They were both thinking about going into family medicine and studied together for their first two trips: to the beach, to go camping, years, before Kelley Gabel started thinking about surgery.

where Kelly Gabel worked on worked at Beaumont Hospital, did a one-year fellowship at Oakwood Hospital, and worked was finishing the residency, which she pointed out was a lot harder than medical school. Kelley Gabel worked a lot of 100-hour weeks and sometimes put in 130 hours a 86 straight hours.

"I really was a resident at the hospital," he said.

"It wasn't uncommon for him to not come home at night, because it was no longer night," Sarah Gabel

Kelly Gabel said he was one of a few people who enjoyed working on the residency. But seeing the effect the heavy work it affected others, the Gabels decided to spend as much quality time as they could when they were together. They joined a church and went to the museum and zoo. On their free weekends, they took or to Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

"We did what we could when he They moved to the Detroit area, had the time," Sarah Gabel said.

Kelly Gabel said he had his five-year surgery residency always thought of coming back at Botsford Hospital. His wife to northwest Kansas. The Gabels said they had been talking about working here with Scott Focke, manager for the center, since 2008, at VanBuren Urgent Care while he and they signed a contract about two years ago. The couple took a vacation, and then moved here in early July, they said, adding that they are enjoying life in Colby.

"It feels like we're home, like week. At one point, he worked for were always going to coming back," Kelly Gabel said.

"And now we're finally home," his wife added.

**JOHN DEERE** 



SERITA BLANKENSHIP, Kansas Farm Bureau, talked about farm safety and demonstrated how quickly an accident can happen. She was the key speaker at the Farm Bureau meeting held Wednesday, Sept. 4. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

**W** Watch St. Francis Girls' Volleyball

**Gove County Classic Tournament** Friday, Sept. 14 at 8:30 a.m. Presented by

**Live Streaming Video online Broadcast** 

\_Presented by Open Spaces Sports Inc. Go online to openspacessports.com

Click on "Watch Live & Archived Games" **Gove County Classic - Pool B** 

A special thanks to our sponsors

**Sunshine Travel** Krien Pharmacy Jaqua Abstract **Cheyenne County Hospital** & Clinic **American Implement** 

**Brice's Auto Supply Owens True Value Hardware**  **Knodel Funeral Home United Methodist Thrift Store** Ross Mfg. & Well Service **Leach Insurance LLC** Wheeler Equity Co-op Frewen Insurance Agency **Tri-State Irrigation Saint Francis Herald** 





## Ready. Rugged. Reliable.

The John Deere 6R Series Utility Tractors (105-125 hp) deliver the rugged, reliable performance needed on most mid-sized operations. The PowerTech™ PVX engine delivers constant power over a wide range of rpm. Choose from five transmissions to fit the way you work. And the comfort view cab with automotive-style gauges and controls makes it comfortable and easy to operate.

Learn more. Call or come in today!

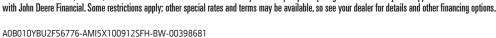
\$4000 Off or 0.0% for 60 Months<sup>d^118</sup>

JohnDeere.com/Aq



III AILL II SISTAILISTA II			
COLBY, KS • 405 W. HORTON AVE	(800) 532-6529	OAKLEY, KS • 3670 US HWY 40	(800) 209-4001
ELKHART, KS - 364 US HWY 56	_(800) 445-5917	SCOTT CITY, KS - NORTH HWY 83	(800) 779-7244
DODGE CITY, KS - 11311 E. WYATT EARP BLVD.	_(620) 227-2165	SUBLETTE, KS - 1008 WEST LA LANDE AVE	[620] 675-2691
GARDEN CITY, KS • 2611 WEST JONES AVE	(800) 475-4114	ULYSSES, KS • 2718 WEST OKLAHOMA AVE	(800) 356-3460
GOODLAND, KS - 1104 WEST HWY 24	(877) 320-4020	WALSH, CO - 42494 WEST HWY 160	(888) 324-5284
HUGOTON, KS · EAST HWY 51	(800) 544-9833	WHEELER, KS · 685 KANSAS AVE	(800) 832-2124
MACHITETURAS NO. HARVING CACT.	ACRES 647 333F		

'Offer ends October 25, 2013 "S4000 Off or 0.0% for 60 months on 6R Utility, Valid only at participating US Dealers, "Subject to approved installment credit





Come in to the office and renew your subscription on Friday the 13th and get 13% off!

The Saint Francis Herald Bird City Times

> 310 W. Washington Street, St. Francis 785-332-3162