

# WISHEK HOSPITAL & CLINICS NEWSLETTER

Wishek Hospital & Clinics Newsletter

Spring 2017



left to right: Courtney Feil, FNP; Polly Benson, PA-C/FNP; Kay Rau, PA-C; Margaret Williams, FNP; Dr. Donald Kosiak, (Medical Director)

*Our providers are committed to bringing you quality care with concern and compassion.*

Our patients are our families, friends and neighbors, and our slogan "*Quality Care with Concern and Compassion*" has always been driven by the notion that they will be treated with the utmost respect and privacy.

***Our Mission*** is to provide the highest possible standard of health care in a compassionate and professional manner for the people in our region.

***Our Vision*** is to be the area's leader in providing access to high quality health care in the communities we serve.



Welcome

Dr. Rhonda Schafer-McLean

OB/GYN

Dr. Schafer-McLean is a board certified Obstetrician-Gynecologist. She received her medical degree from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Dr. Schafer-McLean started seeing patients at WHCA in January, and will be visiting monthly from the UND Center for Family Medicine.

For an appointment with Dr. Schafer-McLean, please call the Wishek Hospital and Clinics at 452-2326



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# Radiology News and Updates



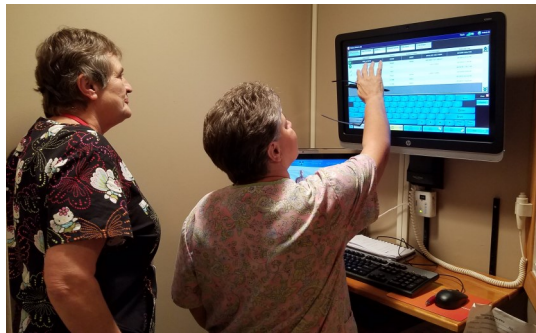
## New Mobile X-ray System

An upgrade in the radiology department at WHCA is complete. A new Carestream Motion Mobile X-ray system has been acquired, and the staff has been trained in the transition from computed radiography (CR) to digital radiography (DR).

The new portable imaging system is compact and easy to maneuver into tight spaces. The tubehead and column are designed to fold down for excellent visibility.

True Digital Radiography is a form of x-ray imaging, where digital x-ray sensors are used instead of traditional photographic film or computed radiography cassette. Advantages include time efficiency through bypassing chemical processing and the ability to digitally transfer and enhance images. DR has better performance in resolution and image quality than CR. Less radiation is used to produce an image of similar contrast to conventional radiography or CR. The Digital Radiography system image quality is proved to be far superior to CR in particular for low contrast details. This means better diagnostic accuracy.

Jo Vilhauer, Sheila Brosy and Stephanie Holt were trained on-site for the new system.



## WHCA Welcomes

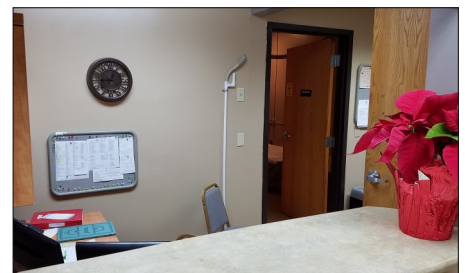


### Lauren Peterson

Wishek Hospital and Clinic Association welcomes radiology technician, Lauren Peterson. She started at WHCA on January 9, 2017.

Peterson previously was employed as a RT in Bismarck at Mid Dakota Clinic. She and her husband Trey, have a daughter, Kynlee, and a son, Blake.

Lauren enjoys sports, hunting fishing, sewing and crafting. Lauren says so far she likes the "friendly faces, small community, and helping hands everywhere."



## New Look in X-ray

A small move has taken place in the X-Ray area at WHCA. The office has been moved to the next room and the waiting area for patients is now where the office use to be.

# From the CEO

Where does the time go? I have had the privilege of leading this organization for the past 1 ½ years, and I must confess that it has not been boring. We have made huge investments in our facility structure by updating the heating system, replacing our dryers in the laundry, relocating and renovating our physical therapy department along with updating equipment in the x-ray, emergency room and information technology departments. Our facility has been extremely fortunate to be able to afford these investments through loans, tax mill levies and other programs that generate funds to ensure access to healthcare for the communities that we serve. We recently applied for grant funds to assist us in purchasing our own CT scanner which we feel will greatly enhance our ability to continue providing quality healthcare.

Staffing shortages for physicians, advance practice providers, medical technicians, radiology technicians and emergency medical providers are a nationwide problem, and here in Wishek, ND, we are also feeling the shortages. For the past three years, we had been very fortunate to have Dr. Joe and Dr. Raju as part of our medical staff and they have chosen to relocate to larger cities. We have had advance practice providers retire and relocate and have been fortunate to fill the vacancies, but we have had to use temporary providers until we hired replacements.

We have been very fortunate to add podiatry to the list of outreach services that we bring to our customers. This year, we have added OB/GYN and are working to add orthopedic specialties as well. By bringing these specialty services to our community, we are saving you, the consumer, from having to travel 100+ miles to reach these services offered in the larger cities.

Financially, over the last two years, we have recognized a break even bottom line which is not a bad place to be when you talk about healthcare. The State of North Dakota was proactive in implementing the Medicaid expansion plan by tapping into Federal Funds for some of our healthcare needs. There are some hospitals in the states that did not implement this program, who are struggling and some who have had to close their doors. In my opinion, our facility was able to capture approximately \$25,000 of revenue with this program which otherwise would have been written off to uncompensated care or charity.

In closing, I invite all community members to get involved in their healthcare organizations. We will be hosting a community needs assessment program to evaluate our current program and research the feasibility of adding additional programs that we really need. Our annual meeting for Wishek Hospital-Clinic Association is scheduled for May 9, and if you want to be able to vote, you will need to become a member of our association. Please contact Shar Bauer at 701-452-2326 for more information. We are always looking for help in the ambulance department, and you can contact Jo Vilhauer at 701-452-2326 for more information.



## **Annual Meeting** **7:00 p.m. May 9, 2017** **Wishek Civic Center**

**Open to the general public. Refreshments will also be served.**

Yearly reports will be read and business conducted before the election of new board members. Election will take place for three open positions on the Board of Directors.

Three-year terms are expiring for Marla Berntson, Nathan Pinke and Gregory Salwei. Only members of the WHCA are eligible to vote.

*"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."*



## Extended Stay at WHCA for One Tough Marine

On December 29, 2016, it was a typical ride home from an evening at the senior center in Wishek, when Harold Krueger slipped on the ice after getting off the bus. The Wishek Ambulance responded and transported Harold to the Wishek Hospital, just a few blocks away.



Dana Baasch, Ashley Rath, Harold Krueger, Kaitlyn Meidinger, and Carly Jonas

X-Rays at the hospital showed that his ankle was broken in three places. Harold was then transferred to Bismarck by the Wishek Ambulance and surgery was performed that night.

Harold Krueger is a retired 93 year old who moved to Wishek in 1986 after many years of service in the Marine Corps and working for the US Postal Service. Harold's daughter, Debra Turner, said after a successful surgery in Bismarck, "the doctor said he has the bones of a 75 year old," and was optimistic about his recovery. Turner said after the accident, "it's hard to keep an old Marine down, especially one as tough as my dad."

After a few days in the hospital at St. Alexius in Bismarck, Harold returned to the Wishek Hospital as a swing bed patient. The Wishek Ambulance transported Harold from Bismarck to Wishek where he could receive quality care and be close to visitors.

Harold remained in the Wishek Hospital for two months and was discharged February 24, 2017. A few days before being able to go home, on February 21, Harold celebrated his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday at the hospital as the staff sang happy birthday to him. He was joined by his daughters Denise and Debra, and son-in-law Perry Turner for an evening of playing cards.

Harold's daughter Debra says "Words can't begin to express how deeply grateful we all are to the Wishek Community Hospital for the loving, expert care they gave my dad for the two months he was there. Everyone from maintenance, housekeeping, dietary, administration, physical therapy, physicians, x-ray, and of course, those angels who walk on earth, the nurses and CNAs, went out of their way to insure my dad was taken care of and could get him back into his own home."

## EMS News

### Operation Lifesaver

Approximately 90% of people who experience cardiac arrest die before they can be reached by emergency services. The American Heart Association reports that CPR combined with the early use of an AED more than doubles the chance of survival in out of hospital cardiac arrests, compared to CPR alone. Based on national statistics researchers estimate that CPR, combined with the early use of an AED saves 522 lives a year, or more than one a day.

The Wishek Ambulance has 5 certified CPR instructors who teach many classes annually which includes the use of an AED. AEDs are found in most large public places and are user friendly and easy for anyone to follow even without training.

The local EMS service has placed AEDs in several public places in Wishek, however, we would like to see many more. The cost of a unit is \$1500 and we are asking if your business, church or you as a citizen would like to donate to the worthwhile campaign.

You may do so by indicating Operation Lifesaver and make checks payable to Wishek Hospital and Clinics AED project.

Thank you, working together we can save lives.

Please contact Jo Vilhauer at 452-2326 for more information.

Harold is doing well and continues to recover at his home. He will be continuing his recovery with physical therapy at the Wishek Hospital. As Turner said in January, We have a long road to recovery up ahead, but you can't keep a Marine down for long.



Harold Krueger celebrating his 93 birthday at WHCA.

# Wishek Hospital Foundation

## Lovik honored for 16 Years of service

Tom Lovik, longtime Wishek Hospital Foundation board member has stepped down as board director after 16 years of service. Tom has been very dedicated to the Hospital Foundation, and has been instrumental in fund-raising efforts by the board including the successful annual fundraiser.

Thank you Tom for your many years of service.



## Thank You

To everyone who supported the annual Foundation Fundraiser. Foundation board members extend a sincere appreciation for everyone's support contributing to a very successful event. The event raised more than \$10,000 for funding future hospital needs.



Current Foundation Board L-R: Tammy Rohweder, Harry Hagel, Felicia Sampson, Polly Benson, Kay Rau and Trina Schilling

The Foundation's base endowment fund holds in excess of \$100,000, that only the principal can be accessed to award grants submitted by the various departments of the Hospital. In the past seven years, the Foundation has raised approximately \$50,000 through its various fundraising events. Grants from the hospital departments are reviewed and approved or denied based on need, availability of funds at the time and an adherence to the Foundation's mission that the request provides direct benefit to our patients.

Over the past seven years, the Foundation has hosted an annual event each fall as its primary fundraising effort. With generous support from the City of Wishek, the local business community, and, of course, our guests, this event has become very popular and is well-attended by an estimated 200 people each year.

The dedicated Foundation board works for months each year to plan and host what is historically an "upscale" evening of dining and entertainment in the historic Wishek Civic Center. Each year, the Foundation attempts to raise the bar by booking quality entertainment and providing a unique dining experience for those in attendance.

This years event will be a Winter Wonderland theme and is scheduled for November 4, 2017

**Did you Know?** The Mobile MRI unit is available at the Wishek Hospital and Clinic twice a month. MRI is provided by MonDak Imaging Service, LLC.

MRI is useful in the imaging of the brain, spine, soft tissue and interior structures of bones. A registered Radiologic Technologist will be doing your exam.



# Auxiliary News

The Auxiliary will be having a Tour of Homes on April 23, 2017. If you are interested in showing your home, please contact Carly Jonas at 452-3110.

Members are needed in the Auxiliary. Money raised by our local auxiliary goes directly back to the hospital and clinics for patient care improvement! Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Dues are \$10 per year.

The Wishek Community Hospital Auxiliary would like to thank everyone who supported the annual enchilada fundraiser in February.

For more information please contact Cary Jonas at 452-3110.



## Contact Us

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Kulm Clinic  
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Gackle Clinic  
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Visit us on the web at  
[www.wishekhospital.com](http://www.wishekhospital.com)



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