

Kaiser on rotation with Chase County hospital

Written by Wauneta Breeze
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By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

“I didn’t grow up thinking I would be a male nurse!” Former Imperial resident Ed Kaiser just spent a week under the direction of Dr. Doug Nicholson as part of his studies to become a Family Nurse Practitioner.

Kaiser, a 2003 Chase County High School graduate, plans to graduate from Clarkson College in Omaha in the spring of 2013. He received his Registered Nursing degree from the same college in December 2008.

Kaiser’s journey into nursing began when he attended Grace University in Omaha following high school graduation. His plan was to become a missionary.

While playing basketball for the school, he was taking classes toward that goal.

“About two and one-half years into school I began to question” whether he wanted to be a full-time missionary. His faith had always been very important to him.

However, Grace offered a “coop” program with Clarkson College, whereby a student could also study to become a nurse.

“I could still be involved in people’s lives” and help them by being a nurse, Kaiser said. And

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that's when he decided to go into medicine.

The 27-year-old worked in the University of Nebraska Medical Center's neuro-intensive care unit. Now he is employed in the Bellevue Medical Center's emergency room.

He has already completed a clinical rotation in internal medicine. Wife Lindsey is a Physician's Assistant in an internal medicine clinic in Omaha.

Kaiser also plans rotations in pediatrics, women's health and more areas.

He ended up in Imperial for two reasons. Dr. Nicholson said Kaiser needs a certain amount of contact hours, and "There are so many nursing students in the Omaha area trying to get rotations," that Kaiser called to see what he could find in Imperial.

The second reason is that the doctor plays basketball with Kaiser's father Max. Dr. Nicholson laughingly agreed to take Kaiser on if he would join the team.

Unfortunately, the star basketball player will only be in Imperial for one more week, later this month.

The clinical rotation is important, Kaiser said, as "You learn by seeing patients." Only so much learning comes from books.

The student sees the patient, listens to the symptoms, takes a history, makes a diagnosis, runs it by Dr. Nicholson, and prescribes treatment.

"You can see the normal, then know what abnormal is," Kaiser commented.

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Practicing in Imperial gives Kaiser a taste of small town medicine. It gives a broader spectrum than the ER provides, he noted.

In the near future, Kaiser plans to remain in an ER situation for a few years. "It's probably a selfish reason, but there's not as much paper work involved," Kaiser smiled.

He also likes the three 12-hour shifts per week as compared to an 8 a.m.-5 p.m., five day a week job.

After he obtains more experience in the ER, Kaiser said he and Lindsey may look at different situations. "There may be changes in our feelings when we start to have a family," he said.

For now, he's enjoying the hands-on experience of family practice in Chase County.