

Rachel McClure MA, Sterling Med. Center

Medical assistant finds her purpose in life



By LOUANN COBB
When Rachel “Lackey” McClure, MA, a native of Sterling, graduated from high school, she had her hopes set on becoming an optometrist.
“My brother was born with congenital cataracts,” said McClure. “The idea to pursue this field sounded good to me at the time.”
She received a bachelor’s degree from Sterling College and worked a total of 11 years, on and off, for Dr. Larry Young, a Hutchinson optometrist, and in an ophthalmologist office as a scrub tech.
“I was too afraid to go the distance,” McClure said.
While she may have fallen short of her initial dream, McClure’s focus never wavered from choosing a career that involved helping others.
In May 2004, she left a position with Hutchinson Medical Center to return to her roots, taking a position at the Sterling Clinic as medical assistant for Dr. Tom Simpson.
“I knew Dr. Simpson and his assistant, Diane Wilson, who had been

with him forever,” McClure said. “I didn’t have any medical schooling, just on-the-job training working in the medical office environment.
“I was lucky Dr. Simpson took a chance with me,” she said.
She currently works as a medical assistant for James Decker, DO at Sterling Medical Center.
Every day is different and that’s one of the reasons she likes her job so much.
Working with babies to the elderly make her job challenging. “I might be taking a temperature one minute and removing a lesion the next,” McClure said.
“There will always be illnesses,” said McClure, who also assists when there is an injury or procedure to be done.
Her job also includes checking in patients, refilling prescriptions, assisting patients who need shots or immunizations and taking phone calls.
Because all patient medical records are now electronic, it takes more of the doctor’s time. A triage nurse was hired to help intercept calls, allowing more time for doctor/patient time. If triage can’t answer the request, the matter is referred to the doctor.
McClure is married and currently has no children. She works Monday through Friday and open to helping out at other times when needed. McClure said it isn’t uncommon to find her back at work on her day

off helping the doctors or filling in for other staff.
“People travel to the clinic from all over the area,” McClure said.
“Because we are a small office, we get to know our patients on a personal level. I know who my patients are, where they come from and what they are all about. Sometimes that can be a sad thing, especially when a patient I’ve become attached to dies.”
McClure said when she first started this job she was scared. Now she has a purpose in her life and that’s a good feeling.
“I love the people I work with,” McClure said. “I’m looking forward to being here for a long time.”



RCN Swing Bed Department
Left to right: Annette Hoover, Evelyn Sauer, Robert Behnke.



RCN Respiratory Therapy Department
Left to right: Diane Moor, Chris Higgins, Debbie Stegman; Not pictured: Ed Tobias, Sheri Howard.



RCN Laboratory Department
Left to right: Nancy Turner, Amanda Butts, Tiffany Williams; Not pictured: Melanie Bishop.

What is the best part of working at RCDH/LMC/SMC? It feels like a second family! – Cassie Look



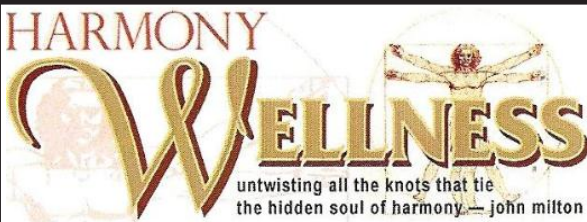
JULIE WEST PA-C
STERLING MEDICAL CENTER
Medical School/schools:
• Oklahoma University – BS in Medical Technology/Biology
Internship:
• Thirteen months of internship throughout Kansas and one internship with an emphasis on OB/GYN in Claremore, Okla.
Specialty:
• Family Medicine
Why did you choose to practice in a smaller rural community as opposed to a bigger urban hospital? What sets them apart?
“The authenticity of the people is what sets us apart from larger practices and hospitals. The patients, co-workers and community here ‘care-back’ as opposed to just receiving care from us.”
What do you like most about your job?
“People are what I enjoy the most. I enjoy getting to know the families and am often amazed at the connections I see along the way.”
Julie is married to Greg, a State Farm Insurance Agent in Hutchinson. They have three children, Kelsey, age 22, and twin boys, Travis and Taylor, age nineteen.

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