

Livingston Memorial nurse practitioner gets to 'do some good' every day

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a series of articles about Park County residents who love their work. If you can't wait to get to work every day or know someone who feels the same way, e-mail Enterprise reporter Amy Learn at alearn@livingstonenterprise.com.

By Amy Learn
Enterprise Staff Writer

A Livingston resident is passionate about her job and doing good on a daily basis.

Peggy Scanson, a nurse practitioner of women's health, said her role at the Park Clinic gives her the chance to help all types of women.

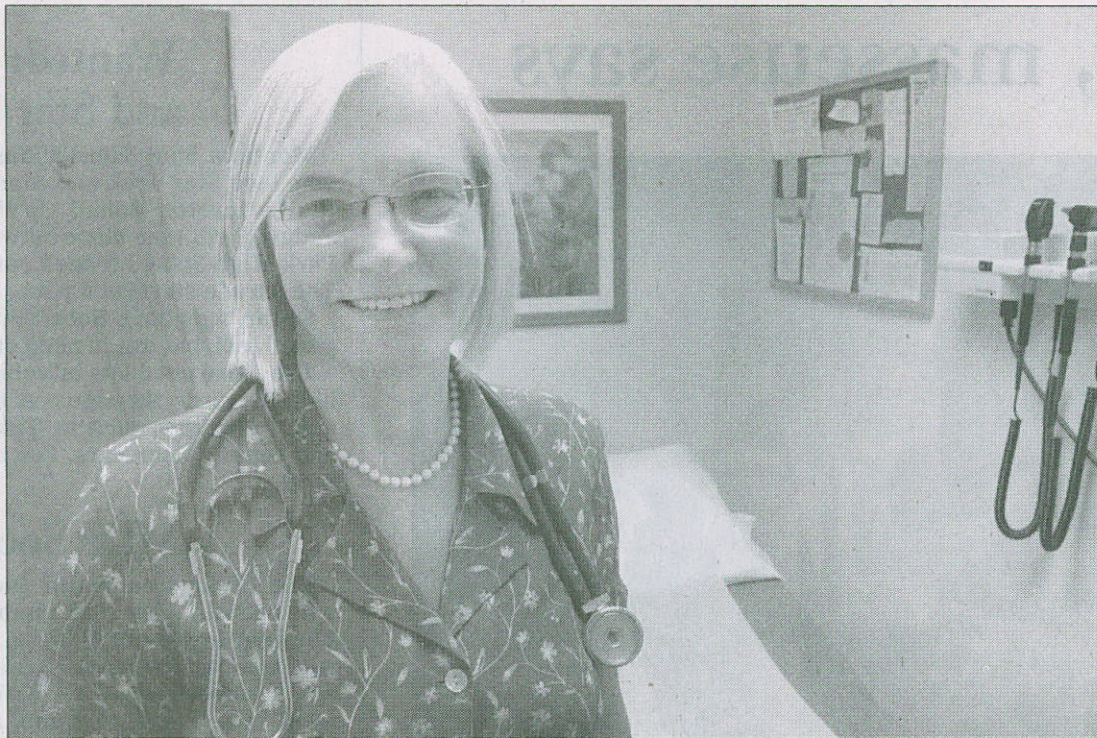
After receiving her registered nursing degree from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, Scanson worked at a hospital in Carrington, N.D., then later on the obstetrics floor at the Livingston Memorial Hospital.

It was during her time at LMH that Scanson realized she had a love for working with women.

In 1993, Scanson went back to school and received a nurse practitioner certification.

Before 1995, it was possible to become a nurse practitioner without having a master's degree, she said.

Every day, Scanson sees a



Enterprise photo by Angela Schneider

Peggy Scanson, nurse practitioner of women's health at Park Clinic, is pictured in an exam room at the clinic, Tuesday. Scanson said that what she loves about her job is the opportunities it gives her to help others.

handful of patients for a variety of things, such as issuing birth control, annual exams, initial prenatal exams and hormonal treatment.

I ♥ MY JOB

She said she keeps her daily number of patients low because it gives her a chance to build better one-

on-one relationships and lets her devote more time to each person.

As with every job, hers has a downside, too, Scanson said.

A major challenge she faces is having to tell a patient bad news.

"There is no way to sugar-coat it," she said. "You just have to be honest."

If she is having a bad day, talking to some of her patients or having to impart difficult news puts things into perspective, Scanson said.

"It really keeps you grounded," she said.

Scanson has found her love and made a career out of it.

"I know everyday that I do some good — it makes it worthwhile," she said.

Her advice for anyone struggling with their job is to not waste the years — find a vocation you are passionate about, and make a life of it.