

Eagle View dentist succeeded by close friend, fellow Utah native

Eagle View will honor both dentists with public picnic

Stronghurst – Dr. Benjamin Cope, DDS, is leaving Eagle View Community Health System’s Stronghurst clinic to start his own practice in Enterprise, Utah. His last day at Eagle View will be Thursday, June 26.

Patients might not notice much difference when he’s gone, however. His successor is his close friend, fellow Marquette graduate and fellow Utahan Dr. Andrew Olson, DDS.

Eagle View will host a picnic in honor of the two dentists on Thursday, June 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Stronghurst Park Shelter House in Stronghurst. Lunch will be provided, and the public is invited to attend.

“This picnic will be bittersweet,” said Eagle View Board Chair Coral Seitz. “We’re sorry to lose Dr. Cope, but we are happy to have secured the services of his friend, Dr. Olson.”

Cope, a University of Utah graduate, and Olson, a Utah State graduate, met at Marquette University’s School of Dentistry in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The two have similar interests and backgrounds, and they soon became friends.

“Both Dr. Olson and I are avid outdoorsmen, our kids are the same age, and our wives became good friends,” Cope said. “We hung out together quite a bit in college.”

Cope graduated from Marquette in 2006 and joined the staff at Eagle View. Two years later, he has decided to open a private practice in Enterprise, 243 miles from his hometown of Salem, Utah.

The move came just in time for Olson, a Logan, Utah native and May 2008 Marquette graduate, to take Cope’s place. Olson’s first day at Eagle View was June 2, so he had a few weeks to job shadow his friend.

“It has been exciting to show Dr. Olson around town and introduce him to all the wonderful people I’ve met here,” Cope said. “I will miss Stronghurst and my patients.”

There is no dental school in Utah, Cope said, so prospective dentists must go elsewhere for their education. Marquette, a private Catholic university with a respected School of Dentistry, reserves half its dental school spots for out of state applicants.