

Oh, Baby!

Boone Hospital Delivers A New Birthing Center

BY ANITA NEAL HARRISON • PHOTOS BY L.G. PATTERSON



Boone Hospital Center is bursting with pride over its latest addition: the new Boone Family Birthplace Labor and Delivery Unit.

“It’s really something,” says director of patient care Marlee Walz. “[The rooms don’t] look like your traditional hospital rooms. They look more like what you would expect at an upscale hotel. It’s that nice.”

The oohing and ahing isn’t just coming from the proud folks at Boone Hospital Center, either. Patients and their families are also exclaiming over



the new unit, which saw its first arrivals in June.

David and Gail Owens of Columbia welcomed their daughter Mackenzie into the world at the new Boone Family Birthplace on Aug. 10.

“It was spacious; we weren’t cramped at all,” Gail Owens says. “It was very nice, very upscale.”

“The room definitely had a warm aesthetic to it,” David Owens adds. “Gail was able to relax. It was a warm, inviting place.”

The new unit is part of ongoing renovation and expansion at Boone Hospital. The entire second floor, which previously housed general medicine, was transformed into the new labor and delivery unit.

“We were the first in a series of

INVEST IN YOURSELF...
YOU *Deserve* IT!



"Over time, I noticed how sallow I looked and I realized that it wasn't just my skin color but my teeth that were making me look older. It was time for some self-improvement! My teeth were far from perfect and stained due to tetracycline given to me as a child. My son was graduating from Law School and getting married and I really wanted to smile, without hesitation as I walked him down the aisle. As you can see by the smile on my face, the decision was definitely worth it! If you want something to really smile about, Dr Riley can make it happen! It is an investment that I enjoy every day AND my only regret is having waited so long to do it!"
- Diane Bruckerhof

Ceramics by Ben Riley, Quality Dental Art

Dr. Riley has taught cosmetic dentistry with The Hornbrook Group for 7 years to practicing dentists throughout the U.S.

Call Neil F. Riley for a consultation 573.449.2311
www.columbiabeautifulsmiles.com
Dr. Riley is a general dentist.

RILEY
Smile Design

Cosmetic Dentistry is not recognized as a specialty by the American Dental Association

dominoes," Walz says, explaining that some of what was moved will eventually end up in Boone's new patient care tower, scheduled to open next June.

The new labor and delivery unit has 18 patient rooms and two new operating rooms for Caesarean deliveries.

Planners talked to patients, physicians and staff when designing the new unit. There were focus groups for getting community input and "rapid improvement events," which brought hospital staff together to brainstorm. Ideas also came from the St. Louis design firm, The Lawrence Group, and from the local company, Septagon, in charge of the construction project.

Four priorities guided the overall design: patient safety; patient comfort; ease of physicians and staff members to work; and allowing family to be involved.

The resulting rooms feature rich hardwood floors, Corian tile around the sink and in the private bath, and a neutral color scheme of sage greens and subtle patterns.

"We worked with a company that has done a lot of research on color's effects on mood, and we chose colors that are soothing to create a calming atmosphere."

"Based on the focus groups, we decided to get rid of pink and blue," Walz says. "We worked with a company that has done a lot of research on color's effects on mood, and we chose colors that are soothing to create a calming atmosphere."

The side of the room closest to the door is dedicated to patient care to give hospital staff better access to the laboring mother. The "family area" on the far side of the room holds a table with chairs, a pull-out couch and a recliner. Directly across from the patient bed is a large, flat-screen TV; patients are encouraged to bring their own movies and CDs if they like. And, of course, there's wireless Internet service.

Dad David Owens liked the layout; he spent the night on the fold-out couch.

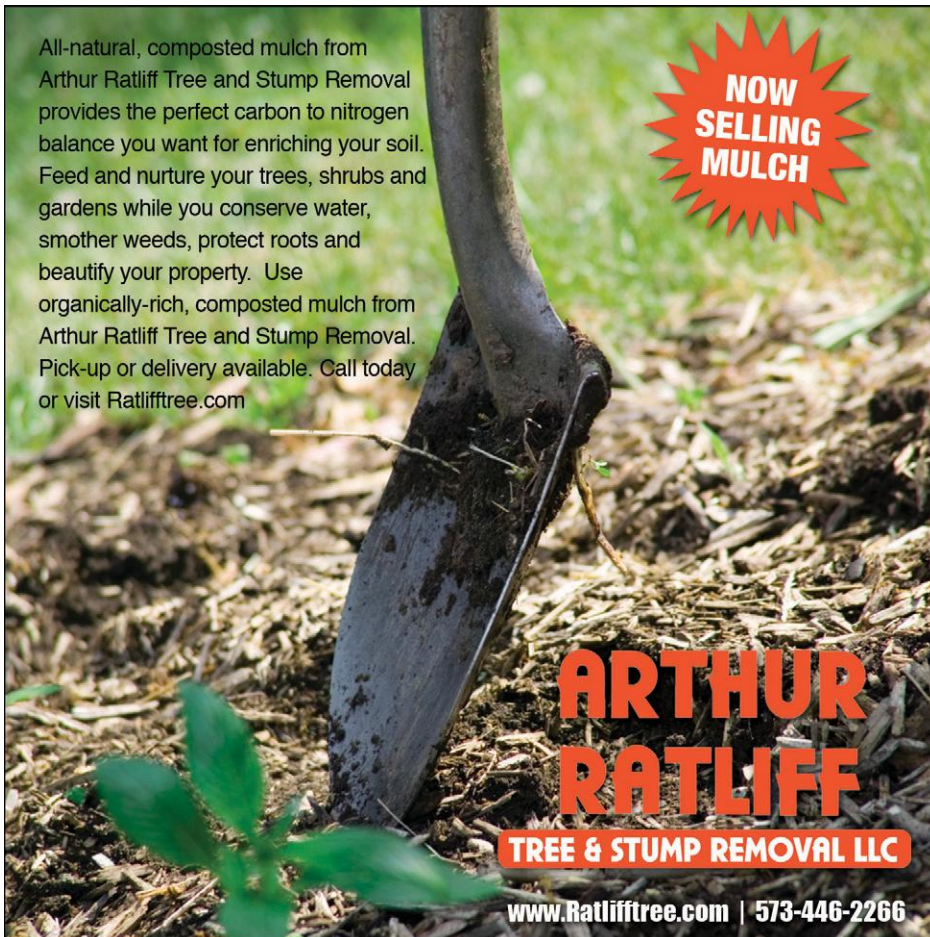
All-natural, composted mulch from Arthur Ratliff Tree and Stump Removal provides the perfect carbon to nitrogen balance you want for enriching your soil. Feed and nurture your trees, shrubs and gardens while you conserve water, smother weeds, protect roots and beautify your property. Use organically-rich, composted mulch from Arthur Ratliff Tree and Stump Removal. Pick-up or delivery available. Call today or visit Ratlifftree.com



**ARTHUR
RATLIFF**

TREE & STUMP REMOVAL LLC

www.Ratlifftree.com | 573-446-2266





“It worked well,” he says. “I was able to sleep right next to her [Gail] and access the baby.”

Hospital policy allows several guests to be in the labor room until the time of delivery, when all but two must leave. The new unit gives family and friends a much better place to wait outside the delivery room.

“That’s something we heard over and over again: ‘We want a nice expansive waiting room,’ ” Walz says. “It’s very comfortable and has a TV. It’s like an English pub with dark, rich colors.”

The renovations also allowed for some technological upgrades, though not as many as one might expect. Boone Hospital nurse Gail Miller, BSN-RNC, explains that even in the previous labor and delivery unit, the technology was very up-to-date. But she was impressed with the new Skytron remote-controlled lighting system, which allows users to point a laser at an area to direct the ceiling lights to focus on that spot.

“The new lights are nice,” Miller says.

There is also more pervasive monitoring, with centralized monitoring in each room, plus a large monitor at the nurse’s desk with all of the monitor data from the unit.

“Another thing we’ve developed that has been very popular is on-demand teaching,” Walz says, explaining that new moms and those with them can watch all the recommended instructional films whenever they want by dialing in the films’ numbers on the room phones. ■

WE BELIEVE that the **best solutions** come from the **strongest partnerships**. That’s why we see ourselves as an **extension of your workforce**, working with you to continually optimize **printing solutions** to **meet the needs** of your ever-changing business.

IT’S JUST ONE MORE WAY WE’RE GOING BEYOND.



1603 CHAPEL HILL RD - SUITE 201 :: COLUMBIA, MO 65203 :: 573.874.5600 www.gfidigital.com

RON SWEET

is your counselor as well as your attorney.



Over 15 years of law practice in Columbia has given me the knowledge, experience, judgment and compassion to get your problem solved.

Business/Corporate/Commercial

- Litigation/trial
- Transactions
- Operations

R | S

Ron Sweet, Attorney LLC
www.ronsweetattorney.com

573.441.1777 • 28 N Eighth Street, Suite 517 • Columbia Mo

The choice of lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements.