

Coffey Health

June 2026

# Insider



**GAME  
SHOW  
WEEK**

**Hospital Week  
Supermarket Sweep**

IN THIS  
ISSUE

- Dr. Shell receives Lifetime Achievement Award
- DAISY Award presented to Raysha Ratzlaff
- General Surgeon Matthew Turner joins med staff
- Hospital receives two national accolades



Over the past few weeks, there have been a lot of reasons to celebrate at CHS, and every one of them points back to the incredible people who work here each day – You!

Recently, CHS was recognized by Becker’s as one of the “100 Critical Access Hospitals to Know” in the nation. We were one of only five hospitals in Kansas to receive that recognition. We also received an updated CMS star rating of 4-stars. This is an exciting milestone as previously we did not have enough data to have a rating calculated. Both accomplishments reflect the continued commitment to quality care happening across our organization every single day.

Another exciting accomplishment was recent recognition received for the War Dog Project. CHS volunteers and the marketing department were honored with two Emerald Award certificates recognizing the work and impact of this special project. This recognition reflects the creativity, dedication, and teamwork that continue to make CHS such a unique organization both inside and outside of patient care.

We also had several opportunities to celebrate individuals who represent the heart of CHS. Congratulations to Vic Blaufuss, our 2026 Heart of Health Care Award winner, who will now represent CHS at the KHA Convention this fall. Congratulations as well to DAISY Award recipient Raysha Ratzlaff, along with all of the deserving nominees who were recognized for the compassion and care they provide to patients and families.

Our recent EMS community picnic was another reminder of the impact our teams have beyond the walls of our facilities. It was especially meaningful to see patients and family members attend to personally thank EMS crew members for the care they received. Those moments serve as a powerful reminder of why this work matters. Congratulations to all of the EMS award recipients recognized during the event.

We also had the opportunity to celebrate hospital week together with a fun game show-themed week full of activities, friendly competition, and time spent connecting with one another. It was all a great reminder that while healthcare is serious work, it is important to take time to celebrate the people behind it all.

And finally, we have another very big reason to “Shell-ebtrate!” Dr. Shell was recently presented the 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient by the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians. This is an extraordinary honor and one that is incredibly well deserved. Dr. Shell’s impact on CHS, our patients, and our community over the years is impossible to fully measure. His dedication to rural healthcare, commitment to patients, leadership, mentorship, and genuine care for this organization have helped shape CHS into what it is today. Simply put, CHS would not be what it is without Dr. Shell. This recognition is not only a reflection of his career and accomplishments, but also the countless lives he has impacted along the way. We are incredibly proud to “Shell-ebtrate” you, Dr. Shell!

While these recognitions may highlight specific departments or individuals, they truly belong to everyone at CHS. None of these accomplishments happen without the hard work, teamwork, compassion, and commitment shown by our employees every day. Thank you for everything you do to care for our patients, support one another, and make CHS such a special place for our community.

*Stacy Augustyn*  
 Stacy Augustyn  
 Chief Executive Officer

## Second general surgeon joins CHS team



**Matthew Turner, M.D.**

General Surgeon Matthew Turner, M.D., recently joined our medical staff at Coffey County Hospital. He performs procedures here on the first and third Thursdays each month.

Turner received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University and his medical degree from the University of Utah School of Medicine. Following his surgical residency in Buffalo, NY, Dr. Turner established his practice in Emporia in 2012.

He and his wife, Alaska, have five children and reside in Emporia.

Along with Dyllan Landry, M.D., Dr. Turner’s services are shared with Newman Regional Hospital in Emporia. CHS pays the physicians’ salaries and expenses for the days they are in Burlington.

## On the Cover

Kodi Audiss, Rachel Adams, DeeDee Myers, and Belinda Link, nursing, joined in the fun of “Supermarket Sweep” during National Hospital Week. Staff enjoyed a variety of game-show themed activities and departmental competitions throughout the week.

The Insider is a bi-monthly publication for the employees, volunteers, and friends of Coffey Health System, Burlington, Kansas.

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Stacy Augustyn                      Tracy Jones  
 Chief Executive Officer              Director of Marketing

Submit ideas or items for consideration in The Insider by contacting the marketing office at (620) 364-4507 or [tjones@coffeyhealth.org](mailto:tjones@coffeyhealth.org).

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# Board hears draft of 2025 audit report; finances continue to improve

The primary topic at the May meeting of the Coffey Health System Board of Trustees was the 2025 audit review, presented by Matt Morris of Forvis Mazars (previously BKD).

Morris presented a preliminary draft of the 2025 financial audit. The Board was informed that the 2025 cost report has been submitted, and the final audit will be completed and given to the board in the coming weeks, following the standard review process. This allows the audit team time to incorporate projections in their complete review and issue a final opinion letter along with the final audited financials.

Overall, Morris reported the audit process was positive, noting the audit went smoothly and that Coffey Health System staff were well prepared throughout the process. The preliminary audit results indicate continued improvement in the hospital's financial position, reflecting ongoing efforts toward strong financial stewardship.

In the executive finance committee report, Chief Financial Officer Ray Leadbetter reported that revenue for April was \$344,000 under budget, largely due to the gradual build-up of surgical procedures and accompanying services. Revenue is expected to rebound as the number of surgical procedures continues to rise and a second surgeon has begun performing surgeries on two Thursdays per month.

April revenue stood at just over \$2 million, with expenses at \$2.3 million.

Significant year-to-year improvements were also highlighted. Since April 2025, the organization's cash position has increased by \$1.5 million, and gross accounts receivable has decreased by \$1.9 million.

Within the consent agenda, the board unanimously approved the April minutes, the executive finance committee's recommendations, medical staff credentialing, and cash expenditures totaling \$886,652.08.

The board also unanimously approved the resubmission of the county budget request. There were no changes to the budget request, but because the county had not taken action within 10 days, policy requires that the request be formally

resubmitted.

Leadbetter also walked the board through a series of improvements to the patient portal's online bill payment. He explained in detail the difference between patient account processing—which includes reaching out to patients to set up payment plans—and pursuing collection on unpaid accounts.

Chief Nursing Officer Suzanne Garcia reviewed preparations for potential patients visiting the area for the FIFA World Cup. Plans are two-fold: 1) prepare for a possible traffic increase with World Cup fans traveling through or staying in Coffey County and 2) screen visitors at all CHS facilities for potential exposure to infectious diseases. She also reported that General Surgeon Dyllan Landry's schedule is already full and a second surgeon, Matthew Turner, M.D., is performing procedures at Coffey County Hospital two Thursdays a month.

Chief Executive Officer Stacy Augustyn stated that Becker's Hospital Review included Coffey County Hospital in its list of "100 Critical Access Hospitals To Know." Only four other Kansas hospitals made the list. The hospital also received a four-star rating from the Centers for Medicare Services.

"For several years, Coffey Health System has actually not had a star rating—and if you go out to Hospital Compare you see that most small facilities don't have star ratings—because our volume is not high enough, or we're not able to report on enough of the quality measures," Augustyn explained. "This past year, we were in a spot where we were able to get our star rating back, and we had four stars out of five. We're very proud of that four-star rating. The average in the state is three, so we are above average."

In his medical staff report, Chief Medical Officer John Shell, M.D. reported that the providers are carefully monitoring the average length of stay for hospital patients. This is the first full year without obstetrics services, which primarily involved short hospital stays. Without those one- or



Save the Date

## CHS Blood Drive

July 10

1-5 p.m.

Allen Woods 2 Conf. Room

## Parades

Join us as we walk with the ambulance & hand out goodies. Earn wellness points!!!

Coffey County Fair/Burlington  
July 24, 6 p.m.

Gridley 4th of July, 7 p.m.

Lebo 4th of July, 4 p.m.

Waverly Ohio Days

July 13, 7 p.m.

## Lunch & Learn

### Alpha-gal Syndrome

July 31

Noon-1 p.m.

Allen Woods 2 Conf. Room

## Heart of Healthcare Award Celebration for Vic

August 28

2-3 p.m.

Allen Woods 2 Conf. Room

## Lunch & Learn

### Swingbed: What to Know Before You Need It

September 25

Noon-1 p.m.

Allen Woods 2 Conf. Room

## Women's Health Conference

October 14

Burlington High School

Continued on page 4

# Mind Matters: Understanding Anxiety

**Amy Osner**  
Director of  
Social Services &  
Mental Health Therapist



Welcome to the first installment of *Mind Matters*, a series where we'll take a closer look at common mental health topics, break down myths, and hopefully make these conversations feel a little less intimidating.

Let's start with anxiety.

Most of us have experienced anxiety at some point. Maybe it's before a job interview, a big presentation, a test that our career rides on, or when your child casually announces they have a project due tomorrow that was assigned three weeks ago. In small doses, anxiety is shockingly helpful. It's our brain's way of keeping us alert and prepared.

The problem is that anxiety doesn't always have the best judgment.

Anxiety is our body's built-in alarm system. When it senses danger, it activates the "fight, flight, or freeze" response. That's

great if you're being chased by a bear. It's less helpful when you're lying in bed at 2 a.m. replaying a conversation from 2017 and wondering if you sounded weird.

Anxiety can show up in many ways. Some people feel restless, irritable, or overwhelmed. Others may avoid situations,

*Many people become experts at appearing perfectly fine while internally feeling like a browser with 47 tabs open.*

struggle to concentrate, or find themselves constantly worrying about what might happen next. Because anxiety is often an invisible struggle, many people become experts at appearing perfectly fine while internally feeling like a browser with 47 tabs open.

Physical symptoms can include racing heart, muscle tension, sweating, headaches, stomach issues, dizziness, or difficulty sleeping. Emotionally, anxiety may feel like excessive worry, nervousness, fear, or the nagging sense that something bad is right around the corner.

The good news? Anxiety is highly

treatable. Healthy sleep, regular exercise, stress-management strategies, mindfulness, and supportive relationships can all help. Counseling and medication can also be valuable tools for many people.

Most importantly, experiencing anxiety doesn't mean you're weak, dramatic, or "just overthinking." It means you're human. Anxiety is one of the most common mental health concerns, and help is available.

Until next month, remember not every thought deserves equal attention. Anxiety can be loud but loud doesn't always mean true. When that happens, it's okay to ask for support.

## Board meeting

*Continued from 3*

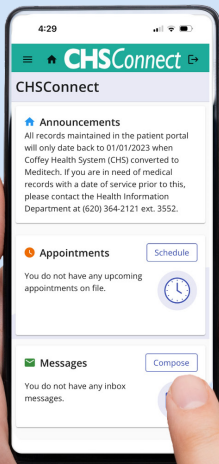
two-night OB stays, the average length is expected to increase but stay within allowable parameters.

Shell also requested board approval of medical staff credentialing as approved by the medical staff. Tele-radiologist Nikhil Madhuripan, M.D. was approved for initial appointment. Seven providers received re-appointment: Tele-neurologist Baxter Allen, M.D.; Consulting Cardiologist Sindhu Avula, M.D.; Consulting Pathologists Spencer Kerley, M.D. and James McCullough, M.D.; Family Practice Nurse Practitioner Laurel Louderbaugh, A.P.R.N.; and temporary Emergency Department Providers Ronald Williams, A.P.R.N. and Scot Yarnell, A.P.R.N.

All eight trustees were present: Eric Ervin, Dan Redding, Bill Conroy, Peter Allegre, Perry Chapman, Gailyn Ledom, Marlene Cook, and Robert Fleming. One board position remains open. Also present were Augustyn, Shell, Leadbetter, Garcia, and Director of Marketing Tracy Jones. Chief Human Resource Officer Theresa Thoele and Executive Assistant Rhonda Beets were absent. Four visitors were present: Morris, County Commissioners Todd Barker and Steve McCurry, and Roger Cook.

# Learning Something New

**Michelle McVey**  
Nursing Education  
& Informatics



CHS Connect, the patient medical record portal, will be receiving an updated look this summer. The functionality of the portal will remain the same. Patients will continue to be able to access their health information, including lab results, radiology reports, and visit history; schedule appointments; and send messages to their provider's office.

If you have a patient who needs assistance setting up or accessing their portal, please contact Michelle at [patientportalsupport@coffeyhealth.org](mailto:patientportalsupport@coffeyhealth.org) or extension 4151.

Please note that the **billing** portal is separate from the patient medical record portal. Patients can access the billing portal through the External Links section within the medical record portal or via the [coffeyhealth.org](http://coffeyhealth.org) website.



# Scholarship Recipients Announced



Hattie Burgio  
Burlington



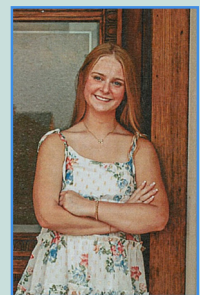
Grace DeMaranville  
Waverly



Kynli Hoch  
Burlington



Allison Konrade  
Lebo



Hailey Honn  
Southern  
Coffey County



Kinley Morrison  
Yates Center

Founded in 2000, the Coffey Health Foundation's Roy G. DeLong Scholarship program has awarded over \$503,000 to 160 high school graduates and seven adults from Coffey and Woodson Counties.



## Raysha Ratzlaff earns DAISY Award

Raysha Ratzlaff was honored with Coffey Health System's DAISY Award® For Extraordinary Nurses during a ceremony on May 13. Her patients have nominated her twice for the award, which is part of the DAISY Foundation's programs to recognize the lifesaving work nurses perform every day.

One patient wrote: "I couldn't have asked for better care than I had with Raysha. She was calming and reassuring while also being so professional and advocating for me while I couldn't. She should set the standard of care when it comes to nursing and standing up for your patients in their time of need. She worked well under pressure and made sure every move she made was the right one with the patient in mind first. I was impressed by her knowledge and her willingness to take charge. I'm thankful to have had her as part of my medical team. Nurses like her remind you of the passion that should be required when caring for others."

Ratzlaff has been with Coffey Health for twelve years. She worked in obstetrics and transitioned to a med/surg resource nurse last year.

"Raysha brings passion and heart into every part of her life," said Chief Nursing Officer Suzanne Garcia. "She is recognized as a compassionate, strong, and dedicated nurse whose commitment to exceptional patient care and teamwork consistently makes a lasting impact on those around her. Raysha's ability to balance adventure with service truly reflects her inspiring spirit both inside and outside the workplace."

CHS patients, family members, and colleagues nominated three other nurses for their exceptional compassion and skill: Rachel Adams, Shelbi Sigg, and Emily Smith. All nominees receive a bouquet of daisies and a unique pin to adorn their badges.

All CHS associates are eligible for the DAISY or BEE Awards, and the nomination process is quick and easy! Use the QR code or visit [www.coffeyhealth.org/patientexperience](http://www.coffeyhealth.org/patientexperience) and answer a few questions about how your nominee goes above and beyond for our patients, residents, and teammates!

If you have questions, please visit with Shelly Moss or Suzanne Garcia.



# Dr. Shell Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

John Shell, M.D., has cared for generations of local families, been a trusted colleague, and put his heart and soul into Coffey Health System for nearly 33 years. On June 5, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians.

Academy President Beth Oller, M.D., presented the award at a dinner in Wichita.

“Dr. Shell is a family physician serving Coffey County since 1993,” Oller said. “During this time, he has served as a chief medical officer, county deputy coroner, volunteer faculty preceptor, and substance abuse expert, and interim CEO of a county hospital for a time. That’s pretty much everything. That is all the things.”

Dr. Shell delivered a heartfelt acceptance speech.

“Mark Twain said that the two most important days of your life are the day you’re born, and the day you realize why. This has helped me to realize why,” he said. “But I don’t really feel worthy of this honor, because I don’t think I’ve done anything extraordinary except go to work every day with a smile and with compassion for my peers and my patients.”

Shell thanked his nurse of 30 years, Tammra Schillig; a contingent of friends and colleagues who were present; and each current and former CHS family physician with whom he has worked. His most heartfelt words were saved for his family. He was surrounded that evening by his wife, children, and grandchildren.

“I’m a really lucky person. I get to do what I enjoy every day with the people I love every day. Family medicine is great, but rural family medicine—because you get to work, live, and play with your patients—is extraordinarily rewarding,” he said. “Maya Angelou said, ‘They won’t remember what you said. They won’t remember what you did. But they will remember how you made them feel.’ I hope I made some people feel good.”

Shell has spent more than 30 years serving Burlington and east-central Kansas as a family physician, mentor, medical leader, and advocate for rural health care. After completing his medical training at the University of Kansas and residency at the University of Kansas Medical Center, he joined Coffey Health System in 1993. In addition to maintaining a family medicine practice, covering emergency and inpatient care, and providing obstetrics care for more than 30 years, he has served as Chief Medical Officer at Coffey Health System since 2003 and has twice stepped in as interim CEO.

*Mark Twain said that the two most important days of your life are the day you’re born, and the day you realize why. This has helped me to realize why.*





The entire Shell family was on hand for the award presentation in Wichita: daughter Taylor, daughter-in-law Olivia with granddaughter Frankie, wife Patti, son Grant with grandson Graham, and Dr. Shell.



A familiar face returned to Coffey County Hospital to surprise Dr. Shell at his reception on June 18. Mike Kennedy, M.D. was Dr. Shell's friend in medical school and they came to Burlington together in 1993.

His leadership supported Coffey Health System during administrative challenges and the COVID-19 pandemic, and strengthened the hospital's role as a cornerstone of rural healthcare.

Dr. Shell was also noted for being an integral member of the community, serving as a coach, supporting school events, and as a volunteer doctor for military veterans through the "Honor Flight" program. He has mentored medical students for decades, helping them experience the value and impact of rural

family medicine. One student wrote in his reflection essay that doing his rural health rotation with Dr. Shell was the most extraordinary experience that he had in medical school.

"We could not be more thrilled for Dr. Shell," said CHS Chief Executive Officer Stacy Augustyn. "We welcome Dr. Shell's patients, colleagues, friends, and community members to join the celebration of this remarkable achievement and the impact he has had on healthcare in eastern Kansas."



## Celebrating the man who keeps the place running!

Congratulations to our 2026 CHS Heart of Health Care Award recipient: Director of Facilities Vic Blaufuss!

Elected by his colleagues, Vic will represent Coffey Health in the Kansas Hospital Association Heart of Health Care Award program this summer.

His nomination highlights the tremendous impact Vic has on our ability to provide safe, high-quality care: "With nearly 39 years of service, Vic's impact is felt every single day. Much of what he does happens behind the scenes, but simply put, we couldn't do what we do without him! Vic works tirelessly to keep our campuses safe, functional, and welcoming for staff, patients, and visitors."

Vic will be honored with a celebration here at the hospital on Friday, August 28, from 2-3 p.m. in AW2.

The statewide program culminates at the KHA Awards Luncheon on September 11.

*Watch for more details about Vic's career in the August issue!*



# Coffey County is in great hands!



During the annual EMS Week picnic, we honor the entire team and give special recognition to the EMTs, paramedics, and local first responders for exemplary responses and clinical saves.

(Top) We were honored to have Matt Thomsen and his wife, Mandy, join us for the presentation of certificates to the first responders who recently saved Matt's life. Pictured are: Mike Roney and Dustin Shepard of the Burlington Police Department, Jesse Presley, Robb Huyett, Richard Plue, Matt and Mandy Thomsen, and TJ Staggs. Not pictured: Max Laskey and Richard Messerly.

(Above) A second clinical save award was presented to (l-r) Jesse Presley, Raquel Geddry, Cole Manrose, Burlington Police Officer Dustin Shepard, and Police Chief Mike Roney. Not pictured: Jason Schone.



Recognition awards were presented for two separate responses. The following were honored for their exemplary response to an event in July 2025: Joseph Tuthill, Richard Plue, and Lucas Zeller. Not pictured: Amber Vales and representatives from LifeSave 21.

Robb Huyett, Richard Plue, Lucas Zeller, and Jesse Presley were recognized for their response to a call in October. Not pictured: Max Laskey.

# Hospital earns national recognition, “100 Critical Access Hospitals to Know”

Becker’s Hospital Review names 100 noteworthy hospitals in the nation to its annual “Critical Access Hospitals to Know” list. The newly announced 2026 list includes Coffey County Hospital in Burlington.

In the most remote parts of the country, critical access hospitals stand as essential pillars of care. Though they are small by definition, their reach is profound. Offering round-the-clock emergency services with no more than 25 inpatient beds, these institutions are purpose-built to bring quality healthcare directly to communities that need it most.

These hospitals are expanding service lines and embracing technological innovation to meaningfully reduce how far patients must travel to receive both general and specialty care, continually redefining what’s possible within the critical access model.

The list states “Coffey County Hospital (Burlington, Kan.) boasts 25 beds and was established in 1954. The rural hospital is focused on expanding care access for patients and forging partnerships with educational institutions to train future providers. In recent years, the hospital has designed and implemented a new MRI suite, bringing additional prostate and breast services to patients. As a result, the hospital has seen an increase in referrals from urban providers. The hospital is also training its clinicians in dementia diagnosis and treatment, with a program in partnership with the Kansas City-based University of Kansas Health System that kicked off in October 2023. In addition to its traditional responsibilities as a critical access hospital, Coffey County is the designated emergency medical partner for the state’s only nuclear generating station.”

Out of approximately 1,350 Critical Access Hospitals across the United States, only 100 organizations received this recognition, and Coffey Health is one of just five hospitals in Kansas to make the list.

“While awards and national recognition are exciting, what makes this most meaningful is what it represents: the incredible work our staff does every single day,” said Coffey Health System Chief Executive Officer Stacy Augustyn. “Our people are the reason Coffey Health continues to stand out – from our doctors, nurses, and clinicians caring for patients, to those who are greeting visitors, preparing meals, cleaning rooms, scheduling appointments, running tests, fixing equipment, or supporting operations behind the scenes. Everything we do is for our patients and community. We have served Coffey County for 72 years, and we renew that commitment every time we walk through the doors.”

Four other Kansas hospitals are recognized: Community HealthCare System (Onaga), Hanover Hospital & Warren Clinic, Kingman Healthcare Center, and Newman Regional Health (Emporia).

Becker’s Healthcare developed this list based on nominations and editorial research. Organizations do not pay and cannot pay for inclusion on this list. This list is not exhaustive, nor is it an endorsement of the organizations mentioned.



## News from Our Volunteers



(Left) Burlington High School graduate (and CNA at The Meadows) Jaycee Belcher is the recipient of the Friends of Coffey Health System scholarship this year. She is shown (left) with scholarship chair Pam Stice.

(Above) Linda Booth and Judy Rhodes were recognized for their years of hard work on the “Christmas for Canines” project. The marketing portion of the annual fundraiser earned two Certificates of Merit in the Emerald Awards, sponsored by the Kansas Association of Health Care Communicators. They are pictured with Director of Marketing Tracy Jones.



**P**  
**r**  
**o**  
**m**



The Burlington Middle School civics class recently attained a grant to host a “senior prom” at The Meadows. Approximately 40 residents from The Meadows and LifeCare Center of Burlington had a wonderful time listening to live music and dancing with a great group of students, sponsors, and staff. Thank you to everyone who made it a special evening for the residents—and staff!



**ALL FOR ONE**

*“All for one” is a regular feature in The Insider to share information about news in the lives of the CHS family. We share life’s happiest moments and feature ways that we are pulling together to help colleagues in times of need. Please call Tracy at Ext. 4195 or send information to [tjones@coffeyhealth.org](mailto:tjones@coffeyhealth.org).*

Congratulations, Blake Schulte, nutritional services, who had the honor of carrying the torch during the Special Olympics Torch Walk. Blake was greeted by his CHS family who came out to cheer him on as he passed the hospital. We’re all proud of you, Blake!

There are many deserved thank-yous to share with everyone who helped navigate our recent EMR downtime. This was an unexpected and challenging event but because of our team across the organization, patient care continued without interruption. A special thank you to **Michelle McVey, Paul Broyles, and Samantha Kuhlmann** for your work to restore the system and for your continued efforts throughout the recovery process. I hesitate to name all individuals involved because I know I would unintentionally leave someone out. Please know that every person who stepped in, adjusted workflows, supported one another, troubleshooted issues, assisted with data accuracy, or helped keep things moving made a difference. Your efforts were seen and truly appreciated! — Stacy

A big thank you to **Vic Blaufuss and Michael DuBuke** for all of your work during the unexpected and extended power outage. Once again, you stepped up with your knowledge, expertise, and dedication to help keep our facilities operational and ensure we were prepared to continue caring for our patients. Your efforts made all the difference and are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to **all staff** who were working and to everyone involved in the operational planning and response during the power outage. Your teamwork, flexibility, and positive attitudes were incredible to see. Thank you to everyone for stepping in where needed and helping to ensure continued care for our patients and residents.

The **dietary team** stepped up in the absence of the dietary manager and the dietician to prepare a very nice meal for the Lunch & Learn in May.

Paramedic **Lucas Zeller** did an incredible job advocating for a patient and helping them access the resources they needed. He definitely went above and beyond - he's a rockstar!

Thank you to **Holly Peters, Heather Noonan, Julie Schneider, Lisa Davis, Kelly Petit, and the lab team** for ALL your help in making this year another successful year of Community Blood Tests. Without you, all this wouldn't be possible!!! Additional thanks to **Tracy Jones** for sharing the information for our communities.

During his orientation, Lab Tech **Spencer Crump** saw that a patient had fallen in the parking lot. Before any other help arrived, Spencer immediately stepped in to assist.

Quick action by **Jesse Presley** helped save his neighbor's life even before the ambulance arrived. The receiving facility later noted that Coffey County EMS (**Robb Huyett, Richard Plue, Max Laskey, Tj Staggs**) performed exceptionally well, and their efforts were key in saving the patient. This is a shining example of our mission, and we are incredibly proud of the work you do every day.

**Stacy Augustyn** always finds creative ways to include everyone in celebrating hospital week. She goes above and beyond, thinking of every employee and creating fun celebrations.

Residents and staff at The Meadows also appreciate **Suzanne Garcia, Stacy Augustyn, and the board** for taking steps to assure improvements to the facility.

**Lynn Bolen, Kathryn Carlson, and Melinda Chiroy** passed their recent mammography inspection with flying colors!

**Michelle McVey** stepped up to help in the OR as a circulator when the team was short-staffed. She did a fantastic job, and her assistance was greatly appreciated. Michelle also recently helped the clinic by serving as Dr. Clark's nurse. Thank you, Michelle, for your willingness to jump in wherever needed.

Heartfelt thank you to **Myra Johnson and Shelly Moss** for the care they provided an employee's family member in the ER. They treated them with kindness, compassion, and understanding. Their willingness to listen, their sincere concern, and the support they offered made a stressful situation for the family a little more manageable.

When severe weather recently struck, **Belinda Sidebottom and Hailey Honn** carefully and calmly ensured that the residents at The Meadows reached safety in a timely manner.

Improvements at The Meadows are sincerely appreciated. **Vic Blaufuss, LeRoy Fisher, and Michael DuBuke** installed a new automatic door to the patio, brought in new planters, and removed the old gazebo. They do great work!

The Kansas Association of Health Care Communicators recently recognized **Tracy Jones**, marketing, with three awards. Tracy earned an Emerald Award certificate of merit for the hospital's Lunch & Learn events and two certificates for the auxiliary's Christmas for Canines program shared with CHS volunteers **Linda Booth and Judy Rhodes**.

**The Meadows nursing staff** has been very helpful in covering open shifts.

**Holly Peters** earned the Employee Wellness All-Start parking spot for the month of June.

Speech Language Pathologist **Jessica Jones** and Director of Social Services **Amy Osner** represented CHS well at the recent community baby shower. Thank you, Jessica and Amy!

**Jesse Presley**, EMS, demonstrated how to stop bleeding and shared important information at the Rooted in Rural Spring Festival on April 25.

# Welcome



**Dustin Houston**  
EMT  
EMS



**Nathan Nelson**  
LPN  
Hospital



**Kemper Straley**  
Pharmacist (PRN)  
Hospital



**Theresa Mischke**  
Radiology Tech  
Hospital



**Hannah Sides**  
Rehab Tech  
Rehab & Wellness



**Jessica Williams**  
Occupational Therapist  
(PRN)  
Rehab & Wellness

## Anniversaries

Our employees are our greatest resource. Each month, we include a list of employees who will celebrate their anniversary with Coffey Health System. Here's to each of you, and thank you for your service to our patients!

### June

**Vernon Peters, Margaret Trammell**

32 years

**Lynn Bolen** 23 years

**Kandi Alvarado** 17 years

**Theresa Thoele** 16 years

**Heather Noonan** 14 years

**Cindy Levieux** 13 years

**Monica Rolf** 12 years

**Kelly Shepard** 9 years

**Erika Steffens** 7 years

**Mackenzie Jeffers, Kelle McAllister,**

**Holly Peters** 6 years

**Lethuy Meyer** 4 years

**Kathryn Carlson, Robb Huyett,**

**Pamela Ratzlaff, Michelle Rickel,**

**Roger Teal** 3 years

**Zalie Allen, Kyndal Gaas, Rayna Kidd,**

**Kiara Martin, Alex Mautz, Kennedy**

**Noonan, Jamie Fouser** 2 years

**Allison Lehmann, Kiera Schoenfeld,**

**Joyce Shively** 1 year

### July

**Ladonna True** 23 years

**David Douglass, Raysha Ratzlaff,**

**Orio Rodriguez, Nick Worthen**

13 years

**Stephanie Lasswell** 12 years

**Shelley Denney** 9 years

**Vicki Ward** 8 years

**Denise Hamilton, Amy Osner** 7 years

**Jessica Collins, Blake Schulte** 5 years

**Jaycee Belcher, Yvonne Carter** 1 year

## Staff Observances

### June

CNA Week June 11-17

# When I knew...

OUR STORIES.TOLD BY US.



I knew I wanted to work in some type of medical field since I lived with my grandmother for time as her live-in caregiver. Taking care of her daily needs highlighted a career path for me: becoming a Case Manager/Advocate for the frail/elder population. I found a passion for helping elders and their families navigate all aspects of their care that could improve their quality of life—both in their own homes and in nursing facilities.

My main role model was my supervisor at an Area Agency on Aging. She encouraged me to develop my advocacy skills, improve my knowledge of community services and insurance (including Medicaid and Medicare), and also to develop my customer service skills. She constantly gave me new challenges that would increase my effectiveness for the elders and their family members.

I have been working with senior/disabled populations for over 20 years. This is my second stint working for CHS. I first worked at Sunset Manor for 7 years, then spent a year in the HIM department working on insurance enrollment for CHS providers. After leaving for a bit, I returned last year as financial counselor/registration lead.

I knew CHS was the right place for me when I started working at Sunset Manor and witnessed the way the organization gave such dedicated care to both the people they serve and employ.

Vicki Seems  
Finance Counselor & Registration Lead