Stephanie Weston, Maggie Ele earn statewide recognition

“Everyone can rise above their circumstance and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do.” Nelson Mandela
Congratulations and thanks to all who helped with this year’s Women’s Health Conference. It is a wonderful community service project and is always a first-class event.

I also want to thank everyone involved with Coffey Health Foundation’s recent Night in the Country event and the NASCAR ticket drawing. It is great to see the Foundation’s efforts and commitment to supporting CHS! The proceeds will definitely help with the OB room renovations.

Thanks to Director of Marketing Tracy Campbell for implementing two new evening education series. These evening events afford working adults the opportunity to participate. In addition to the Alzheimer’s Learning Series, a general information program kicked off with “10 things you need to know about vaping,” led by Radiology Supervisor Scott Sutherland. I hear it was a phenomenal presentation. Thank you, Scott!

When you have been in administration for as long as I have, you get to meet some very interesting and special people. I would like to share with you a little about one very special lady. Mary Whisennand was a board member for Morton County Health System in Elkhart. Now, the fact that she was the only female board member for many, many years was pretty unique in itself. She was decisive and committed to making quality healthcare a priority for Morton County and its surrounding service areas. She was always a voice for employees on major decisions.

But that is only half her story. You see, at the age of 39 she became the first female in Kansas to receive a heart transplant. She carried that heart proudly for 32 years after the procedure and never wasted a day. If there was a local project going on and it required volunteers, Mary was usually the first to sign up. If Mary knew about it, she wanted to be a part of it. Mary passed away on October 20th and while she may have left us physically, her heart and acts of kindness will live on forever. If you want proof, visit Elkhart sometime and look in most every building of the health system and you will probably find Mary Whisennand’s name being recognized somewhere. Thanks, Mary, for your kindness and leadership!
Partnership with KU/St. Francis boosts surgery services at CCH

Coffey Health System is partnering with the University of Kansas Health System St. Francis to offer surgery services at Coffey County Hospital. During the CHS Board of Trustees meeting on September 23, Chief Executive Officer Leonard Hernandez announced that, while details remain to be finalized, St. Francis has agreed to provide coverage two days a month. General Surgeon Scott Coates discontinued his surgical practice in Burlington.

“Over the last eighteen months, if you take away scopes—which Dr. Challa and Dr. Sloyer can handle—what’s left from Dr. Coates is about 7 percent of our volume. It’s not a huge number, but it’s still enough to get our attention,” Hernandez said. “Our goal was to multiply that and, ultimately, we will still work toward that goal but in the interim we will have two days a month with the K.U. group… We don’t have all the details yet, but we’ll be OK in the interim.”

Chief Medical Officer John Shell, M.D. echoed approval of the K.U./St. Francis agreement.

“Of all the general surgery groups in Kansas, I would put this group first, from top to bottom,” Shell said. “I would let any of them operate on me.”

Executive Finance Committee Chair JoAnn Osburn reported net revenue for the month of August of $2.1 million with expenses at $2.2 million.

Dr. Shell also gave an update on various activities of Coffey Health Foundation. In addition to fundraisers for the obstetrics renovation, the foundation is also making it a point to recognize CHS staff and become more involved in recognizing achievements.

The next initiative will be a shoe collection through November 22. All types and sizes are welcome. Shoe drop locations are Burlington Recreation Center, TrustPoint, American Family Insurance, main entrance of hospital, and all CHS clinic locations. The foundation will receive 40 cents per pound for all shoes collected. Shoes are then distributed in third-world countries.

Resident rooms at The Meadows are being updated with new flooring, paint, high-rise toilets, etc. as rooms become available.

The State of Kansas recently conducted a satisfaction survey of the state’s nursing home residents. Sunset Manor residents consistently rated all aspects of care in the high 90 percents, with overall satisfaction and “recommend to friends and family” at 100 percent.

Within the consent agenda, the board approved medical staff appointments for Cardiologist Bashar Amr, M.D.; Emergency Physician Charles Joseph O’Donnell, D.O.; and Emergency Provider Michael Moore, A.P.R.N. Five providers were re-appointed: Gynecologist Douglas Gleason, M.D.; Cardiology Nurse Practitioner Joni Miller; Ophthalmologist Michael Reynolds, M.D.; Neurologist Byron Spencer, M.D.; and Gastroenterology Nurse Practitioner Laura Wellborn. Tele-radiologist Marc Clemente, M.D. was granted additional privileges.

At the conclusion, the board entered two executive sessions totaling 25 minutes to discuss matters of non-elected personnel.

All nine trustees were present: Peter Allegre, Jeff Clark, Jim Dale, Jodi Thomas; Steve Hopkins, JoAnn Osburn, Judy Reese; Rosemary Rich, and Dennis Young.
Job Openings

**Clinical Positions**
- LPN or RN (YCMC)
- Ortho Mid-level Practitioner
- Mid-level Practitioner (CCMC & ER)
- CMA/CNA (days)
- CNA (day & evenings LTCU)
- CMA/LPN (LTCU)
- CNA/Home Health Assistant
- Medical Technologist
- Physical Therapist
- Speech Therapist
- Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant
- Radiology/CT Tech
- Certified Dietary Manager

**Non-clinical Positions**
- Cook
- Cook/Dietary Aide
- Dietary Aide
- Dietary Aide/Dishwasher
- Environmental Service Aide
- Environmental Service Tech
- Maintenance Technician
- Patient Care Coordinator

Visit coffeyhealth.org/careers for detailed information and requirements. For more information, call Ext. 4254.

Workplace Health & Safety

It’s October, so it’s about time to dust off the Scrooge costume for Halloween. Every year, Director of Facilities Vic Blaufuss brings out what he calls his “Humbug Policy.” When the holiday spirit kicks in, please be mindful of our safety policies.

- If the decoration is fire retardant or resistant, it must say so on an attached label or on the packaging in which it came. Keep the box or labeling nearby—if a surveyor asks whether a decoration is flame retardant, you have to be able to prove it.
- Decorations must meet Life Safety Code® (LSC) requirements. The LSC allows for decorations but sets limits on how many, what kind, and where. For instance, never decorate doors or fire safety equipment.
- Keep decorations separate from possible ignition sources. Don’t mix combustibles with those holiday lights.
- Don't allow open flames of any kind.
- Prohibit flammable materials. That includes sprays such as artificial snow, or decorations like crepe paper in any quantity.
- Artificial trees must be labeled or otherwise documented to be flame retardant or flame resistant.
- Trees or large decorations can’t be placed in hallways or obstruct doors.
- Electricals must be for indoor use only, and they must be UL or FM approved.
- Don’t hang decorations from the ceiling. They can obstruct safety signs. Also note that decorations CANNOT be strung from fire sprinkler heads.
- Decorations cannot be stored in the department where they are used.

- 20% of space in an area not protected throughout by an approved sprinkler system, or
- 30% of space in an area protected by a supervised automatic sprinkler system, or
- 50% of space inside patient sleeping rooms with no more than four persons that is protected by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system.

Double-check the URLs you’re visiting!

Here’s a sneaky trick used by many hackers: they purchase and set up a fraudulent website that is a close misspelling of a legitimate one. For example: www.facebook.com (extra “o”) or www.dropbox.net (instead of .com). All you have to do is accidentally “fat-finger” ONE letter in the URL and up pops a very legitimate-looking fake copy of the site you were trying to get to – and the login and links are full of keylogger malware and virus landmines waiting for you to click on them. This is particularly important with social networks.
Coffey Health System is honored to partner with the Burlington school district’s Bridges program. The new grant-funded program benefits students 18 to 21 years old who’ve taken all of the high school classes that they can—most have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or some sort of a special need — allowing them to bridge from high school to the work force.

Participants work two hours a day, five days a week, and are accompanied by an individual career coach at all times. Participants and coaches are held to the same accountability as all CHS employees.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for everyone involved,” said Chief Operating Officer James Higgins. “Our first participants are special us because we have watched Blake and Adrian grow up. We couldn’t get off to a better start than watching them grow and thrive in their job duties and witnessing their coaches at work.”

Pictured from left to right: Kathy Hauff, Blake Schulte, Mercedes Landis, Adrian Schulte, James Higgins & Allison Nauertc. Leading the campaign is Stacy Augustyn, not pictured.

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**Get a jump on your Christmas gift shopping!**

Paco Designs will be in AW2 on Oct. 30 and the hospital gift shop has some great gifts for friends and family.

**Military care package project is underway**

You can brighten the day of a local soldier stationed overseas! For the tenth year, Friends of Coffey Health System is compiling care packages to send to local troops stationed overseas, including canine units.

Last year, the hospital auxiliary sent 200 care packages to Kansas troops. Please help them reach a goal to exceed 200 packages! If you would like to contribute items for the care packages or to suggest a local soldier, please visit www.coffeyhealth.org for additional information.

Collections are taken through Nov. 1 at the following locations:

- Coffey County Hospital Gift Shop
- Hoover’s Thriftway
- The Coffey County Register of Deeds Office

Military box packing will be on November 8. If you can spare time to help, the volunteers would be forever grateful.

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Volunteers Lila Zscheile and Linda Booth collected items and $263 in monetary donations at Hoover’s Thriftway on Oct. 5. Judy Rhodes was also at the Taste of Fall, where she sold quilt raffle tickets and collected $280. With shipping costs on the rise, funds collected will help tremendously.
Coffey County Hospital’s new 3D Mammography system was the keynote topic at the 27th Annual Women’s Health Conference at Burlington High School on October 9.

Approximately 250 ladies participated. The event maintained an overall evaluation rating of 9.3, which Campbell attributes to the high quality of information presented each year.

“This is the 27th year for the conference, and women wouldn’t keep coming if they didn’t feel that they come away having learned something,” Campbell said. “Our speakers did an exceptional job!”

Peggie Sanders introduced Coffey County Hospital’s new Hologic Genius™ 3D Mammography™. The new screening technology provides a three-dimensional image of the breast using several low-dose x-ray images from different angles. Providers are able to see a clearer, more detailed image of breast tissue allowing for earlier detection of breast cancer.

Sanders credits the hospital’s mammography team for doing their homework.

“I have to give a shout out to the Coffey County Hospital mammography ladies because they passed their American College of Radiology accreditation in the first try and I’m going to tell you, in the last year, that has not happened to a lot of sites,” she said. “They selected high quality equipment and they hold each other accountable in positioning—that’s why you passed your accreditation the first time and (Radiology Supervisor) Scott Sutherland supports them unbelievably from my perspective.”

She also credits the hospital’s leadership for taking mammography to the next level.

“Kudos to your administrator who last year said, ‘We’ll get 3D in a couple years’ and a month later was actively pursuing it and kudos to the administration team for supporting the effort.”

Speech therapy isn’t what you think it is

Participants learned about new services at Coffey Health System from Speech-Language Pathologist Jessica Jones.

“When I tell people I’m a speech pathologist, they say ‘Oh, you work with the five-year-old on his R’s.’ That’s one of the small things. I do work with speech but it’s so much more than that. I work with people from birth on.”

A Burlington native, Jones attended Emporia State University for her undergraduate degree and completed her Master of Arts in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Wichita State University. During this time, she was the lead graduate assistant of the Autism

Continued on page 8
(Clockwise from right) Donneta Karmann and Michele Marks volunteered to help with registration and got a hand from members of the BHS volleyball team. Tracy Campbell and “Earline,” played by Jim Stukey, discuss the meaning of 3D mammography and introduce a series of videos featuring the CCH mammography technologists. Scott Sutherland did a great job as the emcee for the evening. Attendees enjoyed games and prizes at information booths hosted by local businesses and organizations. The BHS volleyball team graciously jumped in to help with all aspects of the conference. Approximately 250 women enjoyed food, fun, and great information.
The Kansas Health Care Association recently recognized two members of the Sunset Manor team for excellence in their care of residents. Maggie Ele was awarded Food Service Employee of the Year and Stephanie Weston was named Nurse Aide of the Year.

“For two members of our Sunset Manor family to be honored at the same time speaks volumes about the level of care and commitment provided to our residents,” said Coffey Health System Chief Executive Officer Leonard Hernandez. “Maggie and Stephanie exemplify our mission of ‘Working together to relieve suffering, restore health, and promote the highest quality of life for our community.’”

Sunset Manor, located in Waverly, Kansas, is the long-term care division of Coffey Health System.

Ele has been taking care of Sunset Manor residents for 16 years. She arrives at 5 a.m. every workday and prepares breakfast and lunch. She believes in giving the resident exactly what they want, when they want it—and was doing this well before Person Centered Care became a focus in long-term care. She is able to whip up an omelet, pancake, or biscuits and gravy every day, and not get behind in serving. But her care goes farther than the dining table.

“Maggie is often seen in the dining area, conversing with residents, asking them how they are, taking note of what meals were eaten well and which ones weren’t,” said Director of Nursing Krista Cubit, R.N. “Not only does Maggie take great pride in her food and the way it tastes, but she also truly strives to ensure each resident is having a great day.”

During her five years at Sunset Manor, Stephanie Weston formed very special relationships with the residents, as Cubit explains.

“A special story that comes to mind that occurred last year during the facility holiday party and meal. Stephanie was scheduled to leave shortly before the party started, her shift was complete. As family members, community members, neighbors and additional staff started to arrive, one of our residents began to get a little apprehensive. The resident was not able to convey her feelings, but there was no need. Stephanie quickly noted a change and stepped in to help. She stayed over, missing her time with her own family, stayed with the resident, held her hand for most of the meal, and ensured that the resident and her family had a wonderful time. This resident still looks to Stephanie as a sense of security and safety. Stephanie knows our residents so well, that she can simply look at their faces and know how they’re feeling.”

Weston jumps in to help others and does her best to make the residents—and everyone around her—feel that they are living their best life.

“Stephanie is enrolled in school and stayed alongside her mother during breast cancer chemotherapy and radiation treatments,” Cubit said. “With all this going on, Stephanie still maintained a 40 plus hour work week and no errors in her work.”
**Alaska resident trains at CCH**

How does a student from Alaska end up with training at Coffey County Hospital? For a Kansas native Rhiannon Bruner, it was a trip back home. Born and raised in Wichita, she is completed part of her required professional practice experience through Neosho County Community College’s online program at Coffey County Hospital Health Information Department.

For the past four years she has been lived in Kotzebue, Alaska, where she works at a Maniilaq Association, a critical access hospital, as an HIM Tech II.

With her training complete, Rhiannon is back in Alaska and will graduate from the Registered Health Information Management program in December. She has already received a promotion and plans to stay there a few more years and work as the Medical Staff Executive Assistant.

“Neosho County Community College RHIT or coding certificate students who complete their Professional Practice Experience (PPE) at Coffey County Hospital are getting the benefit of two previous NCCC students sharing their real coding experiences,” explains HIM Director Angela Blaufuss. “Renee Fisher and Andrea Tuthill graduated from the NCCC RHIT program and are able to share experiences and advice they know they did not obtain or pick up on from scenario coding in coding classes, and are passionate about helping the student get the most they can out of their Professional Practice Experience.”

Bruners employer services 11 villages located in northwest Alaska and manages social and health services for about 8,000 people. She shared a couple of big differences between her home and Alaska and life in eastern Kansas.

“There is only one way in and out of Kotzebue and that is by plane, and groceries aren’t cheap! A gallon of milk costs $10, eggs $6 and meat runs $7 per pound.”

Women’s Conference

Interdisciplinary Diagnostic Team. She has implemented a number of new services throughout Coffey Health System to meet patient and resident needs.

“Some specialties I can work with are grammar; social communication; hearing; diseases such as Parkinson’s, MS, cerebral, and stroke; receptive language; expressive language; and swallowing,” she said.

Coffey County Hospital Radiology Supervisor Scott Sutherland served as emcee for the evening.

The room lit up with excitement at the re-appearance of “Earline,” a character played by local artist/actor Jim Stukey.

“Earline was not able to appear in person last year, so the ladies were excited to have her back—and up to her usual hijinks,” Campbell said. “Earline’s humor is always mixed with critical information about breast cancer and services available at Coffey County Hospital. Women remember Earline’s jokes and, thus, better remember the information she is sharing.”

Attendees generously supported Friends of Coffey Health System’s annual military care package project, purchasing $331 in quilt raffle tickets and filling a tub with items for female soldiers.

Community support is greatly appreciated.

“We were honored to have financial support this year from Kan-Seal and TrustPoint Services, along with nearly 30 area businesses, individuals, and organizations who hosted booths and provided door prizes and other gifts,” Campbell said. “We also give a very special ‘thank you’ to Burlington High School, the BHS volleyball team, and caterer Lindsay Bartlett. Without them, we would not be able to continue bringing together more women each year.”

It was truly an “all hands on deck” event, with help from many departments and individuals. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Coffey Health System Christmas Party & Service Awards

**Saturday, December 7**

Time to be announced.

You and an adult guest are invited to the CHS Christmas party at Rock Creek County Club. Must be present or on duty to win door prizes.
Atkinson creates handmade treasures for CCH newborns

Betty Lou Atkinson has been knitting caps for babies born at Coffey County Hospital since 2007. She isn’t quite sure how many hats she’s knitted over the years. She recalls making about sixty each year, but for 2019 she has only made around twenty-eight.

“It takes about ten hours to make one knitted hat,” stated Betty Lou. “I enjoy doing it because it keeps me busy.”

The late Margaret Towery showed her how to knit many years ago. Betty Lou worked at the Methodist Church for many years where she loved to make scarfs and hats for people in need. She also made stuffed bears for children in Africa.

In her free time, Betty Lou enjoys puzzles and other activities at The Meadows where she is a resident.

Congratulations, Hallie!

Physical Therapist Hallie Wilson was inducted into the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame at Ottawa University. Wilson played on the Lady Braves basketball team from fall 2003 until her graduation in May 2007. She is a top 10 record holder in 10 statistical categories, including second in career points scored (1,391), second in career assists (336) and second in career free throws made (336). She was a four-time All-Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) selection and a three-time first team selection. She was OU’s fourth National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) All American in women’s basketball history, earning NAIA Honorable Mention All-American twice.

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In her free time, Betty Lou enjoys puzzles and other activities at The Meadows where she is a resident.

Congratulations, Hallie!
Thank you to everyone who purchased NASCAR raffle tickets and attended the “Night in the Country” event. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Samantha Kuhlmann writes: “Thank you to everyone who helped cover for me while I was on FMLA! There are numerous folks who helped out, but I know Theresa Thoele and Amilia Marchant went well above the call of duty!”

Connie Weseloh’s continued efforts to keep expenses low are always appreciated.

Theresa Thoele is coordinating a series of leadership training webinars in conjunction with the Kansas Hospital Association. Thank you, Theresa.

Truck loads of appreciation to Donneta Karman, Stacy Augustyn, Michelle Marks, the radiology team, and our good friend Cindy Jones. Their dedication to helping at the Women’s Health Conference made the event a great success. You girls are amazing!

Kudos to Deedee Syring, Annah Newkirk, and Katie Metzger who stepped in and helped with housekeeping and bathing for senior care act patients and home health patients. Nice teamwork!

Amy Osner writes: “kudos to Stephanie Redding! She does an absolutely incredible job with her patients. She is insanely empathetic, kind, and personable. We really had a hard day recently and she just went above and beyond. I’m incredibly thankful for her.”

The volunteers would like to thank Samantha Cook for helping carry in soda pop from the hallway one morning.

An obstetrics patient writes: “Thank you to all the amazing ladies that have helped on this new journey with our little guy! I seriously can not thank you all enough. Hands down, the best OB department ever.”

Kudos to Scott Sutherland for presenting an amazing evening education program on the vaping topic! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to that event.

As always, thank you to the Environmental Services team for setting up AW2 for each event.
October 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!

Jo Neill 30 years
Angela Blaufuss 26 years
Michele Johnston 23 years
Marlene Wagner 21 years
Julie Scott, Michelle McVey, Tracy Campbell 12 years
Angela Lankton 11 years
Janet Edgecomb 9 years
Jessica Brannen, Mayetta Taylor 8 years
Keri Criqui 7 years
April Buckman 6 years
Kristen Roney, Terri Johnson, Amy Louderbaugh 5 years
Marilyn Brown, Rachelle Huber 4 years
Jessica Jones, Brenda Salazar, Darwin Doerr, Leanna Meats 3 years
Samantha Kuhlmann, Kristina Reeves 2 years
Carly Durham, Shelda Griffin 1 year

October Clinics

Cardiology Oct. 7, 11, 14, 21
Dermatology Oct. 11, 23
Ear, Nose & Throat Oct. 4
Endocrinology
Gastroenterology Oct. 3, 17
Gynecology Oct. 15
Oncology
Orthopedics Mon, Wed. & Fri.
Pain Oct. 2, 7, 14, 21, 28
Podiatry Oct. 1, 4
Urology Oct. 4, 9, 18

October Observances

Food Service Week October 6-12
Materials Mgmt. Week October 6-12
Quality Week October 20-26
Engineering Week October 20-26
Respiratory Week October 20-26
Pharmacy Month
Physical Therapy Month

Here is what our hospital patients are saying.

HCAHPS Scores

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Domains &amp; Questions</th>
<th>Previous QTR April-June</th>
<th>Current QTR July-Sept.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rate hospital 0-10</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Would recommend the hospital</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication with Nurses</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response of Hospital Staff</td>
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<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication with doctors</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>81%</td>
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<td>Hospital Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care Transitions</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Survey items in the top 10 priority index
*Based from 23 returned surveys.

I was playing baseball in college going for a major chemical engineering. Some of my teammates were trying to get into medical school and it seemed challenging. So I went for it.

My role model was one of my teammates. I was a freshman catcher and he was a senior that played short stop. He made it into medical school and is a doctor in Wichita, KS.

My family was also in the medical field and this seemed like it should be natural. During those four years of medical school, there were many rewarding cases and patients that solidified my decision to be a doctor. Here I am and I’m proud to say I have been a doctor for 18 years now.

Jeff Sloyer, M.D.