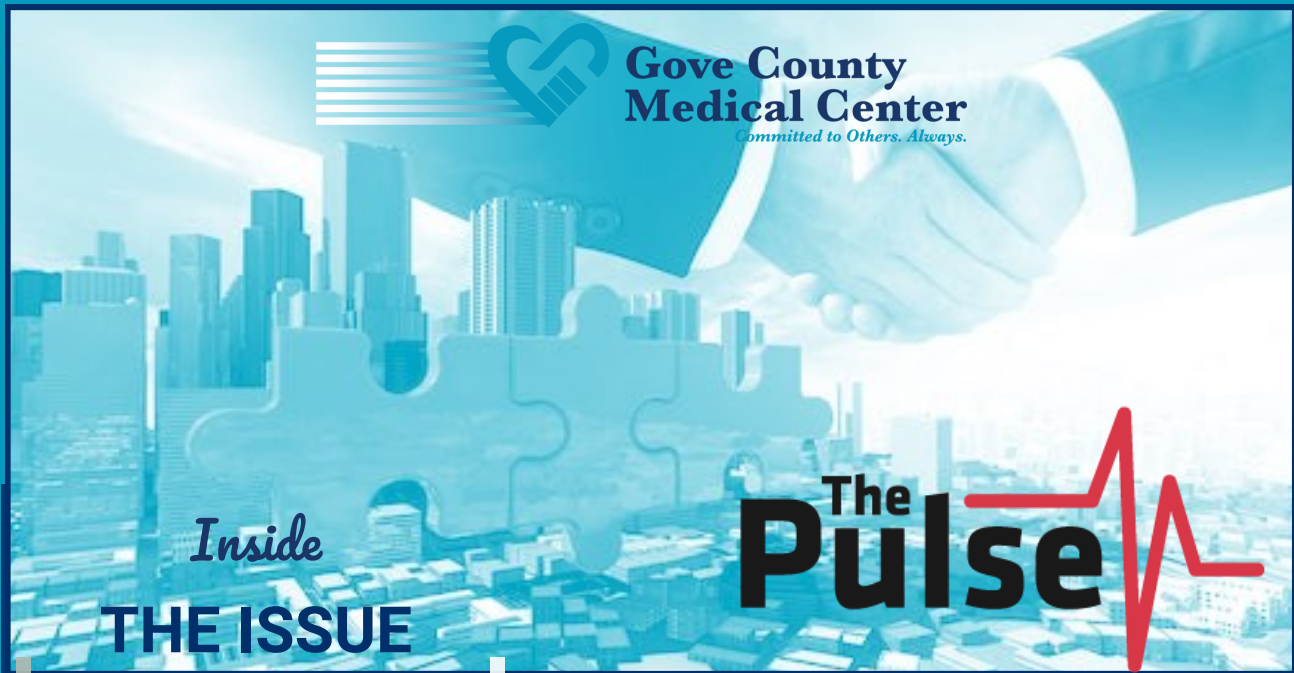


Newsletter

ISSUE | 12 | December 2023



Calendar of Events

Specialty Clinics Schedule

Awareness Month

Bluestem Joins GCMC

New Service Spotlight

Gove County Medical Center

Welcome to the Pulse Newsletter. Here you will find the latest news from the hospital including opportunities and trends.

Gove County Medical Center's dedication to individual attention and superb care drive every interaction we have with our patients, our neighbors, and our fellow caregivers.

We are here to make a difference.



Technology Trends

The latest in technology trends for healthcare



Employment Opportunities

The perfect job match could be waiting just inside

The Pulse

Events



**Gove County
Medical Center**
Committed to Others. Always.



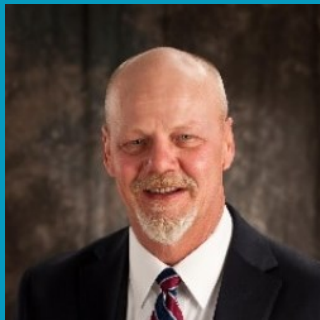
DECEMBER

Calendar of Events

4TH	<i>PFAC 4:30pm</i>
12TH	<i>DM Meeting 1pm</i>
	<i>Charge Nurse Mtg. 3pm</i>
	<i>Nursing All Staff Mtg. 4pm</i>
14TH	<i>Policy Meeting 10am</i>
19TH	<i>Recruit/Retent. Mtg. 12pm</i>
20TH	<i>Orientation 8am</i>
	<i>Body Mechanics 11am</i>
	<i>Active Threat 12:15pm</i>
21ST	<i>Auxiliary Bake Sale 9:30am</i>
22ND	<i>Board of Trustees Mtg. 8am</i>
25TH	<i>Christmas</i>
26TH	<i>QEC Day 8am</i>
28TH	<i>CPR 8am & 1pm</i>

The Pulse

Our Providers



Michael E. Machen, MD



Douglas J. Gruenbacher, MD



Shelly L. Gruenbacher, MD



Anna Rempel, MD



Scott Rempel, MD



Glenda Wheeler, APRN-BC



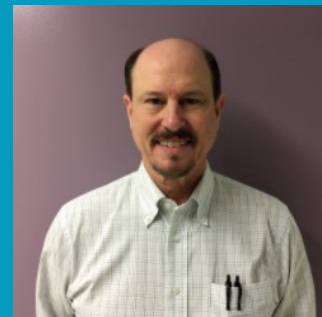
**Cardiology
Dr. Wagle**



**Podiatry
Dr. Hinze**



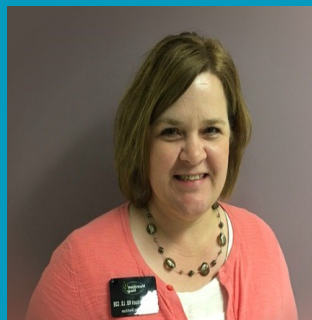
**Cardiology
Dr. Hagley**



**General Surgery
Dr. Schultz**



**General Surgery
Dr. Gabel**



**Diabetic/Dietitian/Nutrition
Janette Burbach, MS RD CDE**



**Orthopedics
Dr. Harbin**



**Anesthesiology
Melissa Albers, CRNA**

The Pulse

Board of Trustees

Quote of the Month

"If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride - and never quit, you'll be a winner. The price of victory is high but so are the rewards."

Bear Bryant



Dave Polifka
Chairperson



Terry Ostmeyer
Vice-Chairperson

MISSION STATEMENT

Gove County Medical Center is committed to providing exceptional healthcare services delivered in a spirit of compassionate care.

VISION STATEMENT

Gove County Medical Center will be a prominent healthcare provider in Northwest Kansas offering services which encompass the complete life cycle of our patients, residents and their loved ones.

THE 4 AGREEMENTS

- ~ Be impeccable with your words.
- ~ Don't take anything personally.
- ~ Don't make assumptions.
- ~ Always do your best.

CORE VALUES

Respect
Compassion
Quality Healthcare
Innovation
Accountability
Community



Cheryl Remington
Treasurer



Deana Zerr
Member



Greg Beougher
Member

GCMC's Board of Trustees is a leadership team that is comprised of a diverse group of individuals passionate about providing access to healthcare regardless of the challenges that come with rural hospitals.

The Pulse

Auxiliary Bake Sale



Mark Your
Calendar

Auxiliary

BAKE SALE

The GCMC Auxiliary will be having their annual bake sale December 21st in the hospital conference room. The proceeds will be used for improvements throughout the hospital. The sale's success depends on hospital and community donated baked goods.

If you would like to donate, please bring your baked goods to the GCMC conference room on the morning of December 21st.

December 21st 9:30a.m. Until Gone GCMC Conference Room

The Pulse

Coming Together



Frequently Asked Questions

Effective 12-4-23, Bluestem Clinic is a hospital-provider-based clinic within

WHY IS GCMC ACQUIRING BLUESTEM MEDICAL LLP?

Access to rural healthcare is a valuable asset that also presents many challenges, especially financially. We continue to see many facilities struggling to survive so joining and becoming one facility gives the best chance at continuing to provide exceptional healthcare in our rural community. In addition, there is increased federal funding with becoming one entity versus separate entities. Providing healthcare to our rural community is at the heart and soul of why the providers chose to practice here, raise their families here, and invest in this community. They want to make sure that legacy continues for many generations to come and joining GCMC strengthens the chances for stability.

WHAT DOES THE TERM "PROVIDER-BASED" MEAN?

This is a Medicare status for hospitals and clinics that meet specific Medicare regulations and requires that we bill Medicare in two parts (Part A and Part B).

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE BILLING PROCESS?

Since services will now be provided in a department of the hospital, Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and Medicaid patients will see separate charges, one for the provider and one for the facility. Patients with commercial insurance will not see separate charges.

Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and Medicaid beneficiaries are responsible for the co-insurance amount on the services they receive. These amounts are determined by Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and Medicaid and are based on the services performed. Medicare patients who have supplemental insurance may have coverage that will reimburse their co-pays and deductibles. Please check with your insurance plan.

The total cost of charges for Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and Medicaid patients will not exceed charges incurred by non-Medicare/Medicare Advantage/Medicaid patients receiving the same service.

WILL THERE BE A CHANGE IN HOW PATIENTS RECEIVE CARE?

No. Patients will continue to receive excellent quality care from their providers, and scheduling appointments and tests will be handled as they always have been in the past. However, there is a change in how GCMC will bill your insurance carrier for these services.



GCMC & Bluestem Medical, LLP Become One

To Our Valued Community:

We are pleased to announce that as of December 4, 2023, we welcome Bluestem Medical to the Gove County Medical Center (GCMC) family. With the joining of these two valuable healthcare facilities, comes excitement as well as changes that are outlined here.

Bluestem Medical, LLP is officially Bluestem Clinic, at Gove County Medical Center. You can expect the same great care that you have always received with the collaboration of clinic services and hospital services all under one organization.

You can expect a smooth transition with streamlined registration and billing as well as improved coordination of services. We have always been honored to care for you and your family and are confident that as we move through this transition, you will continue to receive exceptional healthcare. As a facility, you can be assured that we are *committed to others. Always.*

Sincerely,

Gove County Medical Center

WHERE WILL I CHECK IN FOR MY CLINIC VISIT?

You will check in at the Bluestem Clinic for all clinic visits and you will check in at the hospital patient registration for all hospital services.

WILL I STILL RECEIVE A BILL FROM BLUESTEM MEDICAL?

Yes, any service provided prior to December 4, 2023, will be billed from Bluestem Medical, LLP. Any services provided on December 4, 2023 and after will be billed from GCMC.

WILL THERE STILL BE A CLINIC IN GRAINFIELD?

Yes, we are excited to be able to provide additional services and a more consistent schedule in Grainfield.



Coming Together



**Gove County
Medical Center**
Committed to Others. Always.

December 4, 2023

We are pleased to announce that Gove County Medical Center and Bluestem Medical, LLP in Quinter, Kansas have finalized the agreement to consolidate for the provision of higher-quality healthcare in Northwest Kansas. Starting December 4th, 2023, Bluestem Medical is officially Bluestem Clinic at Gove County Medical Center. You can expect the same great service from our trusted providers and staff of Bluestem. We are excited for this partnership to ensure our hospital and clinic's continued strong presence as a center for quality healthcare and to provide a sustainable medical model for generations to come.

Nearly all of rural Kansas hospitals are struggling to keep their doors open. Our hope is that this organizational change in our medical community will put our merged model in a strong, long-term financial position to continue to serve the residents of Northwest Kansas.

"I would like to welcome all the new employees from the former Bluestem Medical to the Gove County Medical Center family. I would also like to thank all the employees from both facilities who put in the hard work to make this happen," said Conner Fiscarelli, CEO of Gove County Medical Center.

Information about clinical change has been mailed out to Gove County and surrounding county households to answer frequently asked questions about billing, what a provider-based clinic is, your care, and the check-in process for your appointments. If you have any questions, we invite you to visit our website at www.gcmc.org under the Bluestem Clinics tab at the top of the page or call the business office at 785-754-3341

Gove County Medical Center has worked in partnership with Bluestem Medical to ensure a seamless transition for all patients and employees. You can expect streamlined registration and billing as well as improved coordination of services. We have always been honored to care for you and your family and are confident that as we move through this transition, you will continue to receive exceptional healthcare. As a facility, you can be assured that we are ***committed to others. Always.***

Sincerely,

Gove County Medical Center

4 Reasons to Document Medical Records Properly

Properly documenting patient's medical records has always been important, but never more than now, given today's healthcare landscape where the government ties reimbursement to the quality of the medical record.

1. Communicates with other health care personnel

Documentation communicates the what, why, and how of clinical care delivered to patients. These records allow other clinicians to understand the patient's history so they can continue to provide the best possible treatment for each individual.

2. Reduces risk management exposure

Thorough and accurate documentation mitigates risks and reduces the chance of a successful malpractice claim. A well-documented record serves as evidence of treatment and care, helping to alleviate liability concerns in the event of a claim. It is unlikely you will remember details of a particular case several years later when you are in the middle of a professional liability claim. Your documentation will be the tool you rely on in this situation.

3. Records CMS Hospital Quality Indicators

Documentation captures value-based care metrics that, increasingly, the government is asking hospitals to provide. These include Hospital Quality Indicators and Merit-Based Incentive Payment System measures.

4. Ensures appropriate reimbursement

A well-documented medical record can facilitate effective revenue cycle processes, expedite payment, reduce any "hassles" associated with claims processing, and ensure appropriate reimbursement.

Other reasons why proper medical record documentation is important include:

- Tells the patient's "story," the presenting problem and the treatment received
- Helps to plan and evaluate a patient's treatment
- Creates a permanent record for the patient's future care

A little documenting humor....found in actual medical records (sources unknown):

Patient refused autopsy.

Patient was referred to hospital by private physician with green stools.

Discharge status: Alive but without permission.

Large brown BM. Walking down the hall.

Prescription for suppositories: Insert 1 daily until exhausted



The
nurse
Specialty Clinics



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Specialty Clinics

YOUR HEALTH IS OUR PRIORITY

This Month's Clinics

- ✓ Orthopedic Clinic Dr. Harbin Dec. 1st
- ✓ Diabetic Clinic/Mammograms Dec. 6th
- ✓ Surgical Clinic Dr. Schultz Dec. 7th
- ✓ Holistic Pain Mgmt. Dec. 8th
- ✓ Diabetic Clinic Dec. 11th
- ✓ Holistic Pain Mgmt. Dec. 12th
- ✓ Surgical Clinic Dr. Gabel Dec. 13th
- ✓ Surgical Clinic Dr. Gabel Dec. 14th
- ✓ Holistic Pain Mgmt./Cardiology Clinic Dec. 18th
- ✓ Cardiology Clinic Dr. Wagle Dec. 19th
- ✓ Podiatry Clinic Dr. Hinze Dec. 21st
- ✓ Holistic Pain Mgmt. Dec. 22nd & 26th

**DOCTORS
AVAILABLE**



CALL US NOW!
785-754-5154
WWW.GCMC.ORG

COMMITTED TO OTHERS. ALWAYS.

Enhancing lives through person-centered care.
Providing the right care, at the right time, in the right setting -
Close to home

The Pulse

Awareness Month

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about the consequences of driving under the influence. The month of December was chosen to raise awareness because it's at this time of the year that our nation's roadways are at their busiest.

People travel all over to attend social events and holiday parties that involve alcohol. There is also an increase in traffic from the typical holiday traveling to visit friends and relatives. Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) shows that this increase results in more DUIs and fatal drunk-driving accidents.

Every day, nearly 30 people in the U.S. die in traffic accidents that involve an alcohol-impaired driver, according to the CDC. During the Christmas period, an average of 45 fatalities per day involves an alcohol-impaired driver. For New Year's, the numbers rise to 54 each day, according to the NHTSA. The U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) reports that 40% of traffic-related deaths during Christmas and New Year's involve drunk drivers.

As you look forward to celebrating the holiday season in the coming month, it's imperative that you make smart choices. Under no circumstances is driving under the influence responsible or acceptable. Here are a few tips to keep in mind throughout the holiday season.

- **Remember your limits.** If you're not comfortable attending a holiday function where alcohol will be present, stay true to yourself and kindly turn down the offer. You shouldn't feel forced to go anywhere just because it's the holidays.
- **Plan ahead.** Have an exit strategy in place if you do decide to attend an event. This way, if you start to feel uncomfortable, you'll know what to do.
- **Drive yourself.** The person you can count on right now is yourself. It's a good idea to drive so that you can leave when you want, and you don't have to rely on someone else to get you home. Other ideas include bringing money to use public transportation or having a friend on call to take you home.
- **Bring a trusted friend.** Bring along a trusted friend to ride with you. They may help you feel more comfortable at the social gathering and motivate you to make smart choices.
- **Have a drink (non-alcoholic).** When you walk in, accept an alcohol-free drink. This will make you feel more comfortable, and it stops people from asking you if they can get you something. Sometimes, having nothing in your hands can make you feel more awkward.



The Pulse

Technology Trends



W

hether or not there's any correlation between real-life creations and their fictional iterations may simply be up to the individual to decide.

But there are at least five modern-day medical technologies that seem to have been foreshadowed by science fiction writers.

THE TRICORDER (Inspired by Star Trek)

The Scanadu Scout is a small disk that you can hold between your thumb and forefinger. It begins registering physiological information once placed on the forehead. In Star Trek, a Tricorder was a hand-held scanner used by crew members to scan medical needs.

3D PRINTERS FOR ORGANS (Inspired by Star Trek)

In 2014, a biotech firm announced its intention of selling 3D-printed liver tissue to allow for medical research on non-human organs. Star Trek fans will recognize the inspiration from the Replicator, which took the technology of a transporter and utilized it to dematerialize and then rematerialize matter into another form.

EMBRYONIC GENIETIC MODIFICATIONS (Inspired by Gattaca)

Gattaca, released in 1997, foretold a future where children could be genetically manipulated to guarantee they receive the best hereditary traits of their parents. In June 2014, National Public Radio published a story on its website detailing a new medical procedure that could prevent mitochondrial disease by utilizing DNA from three people, two women and a man, to create a single healthy embryo.

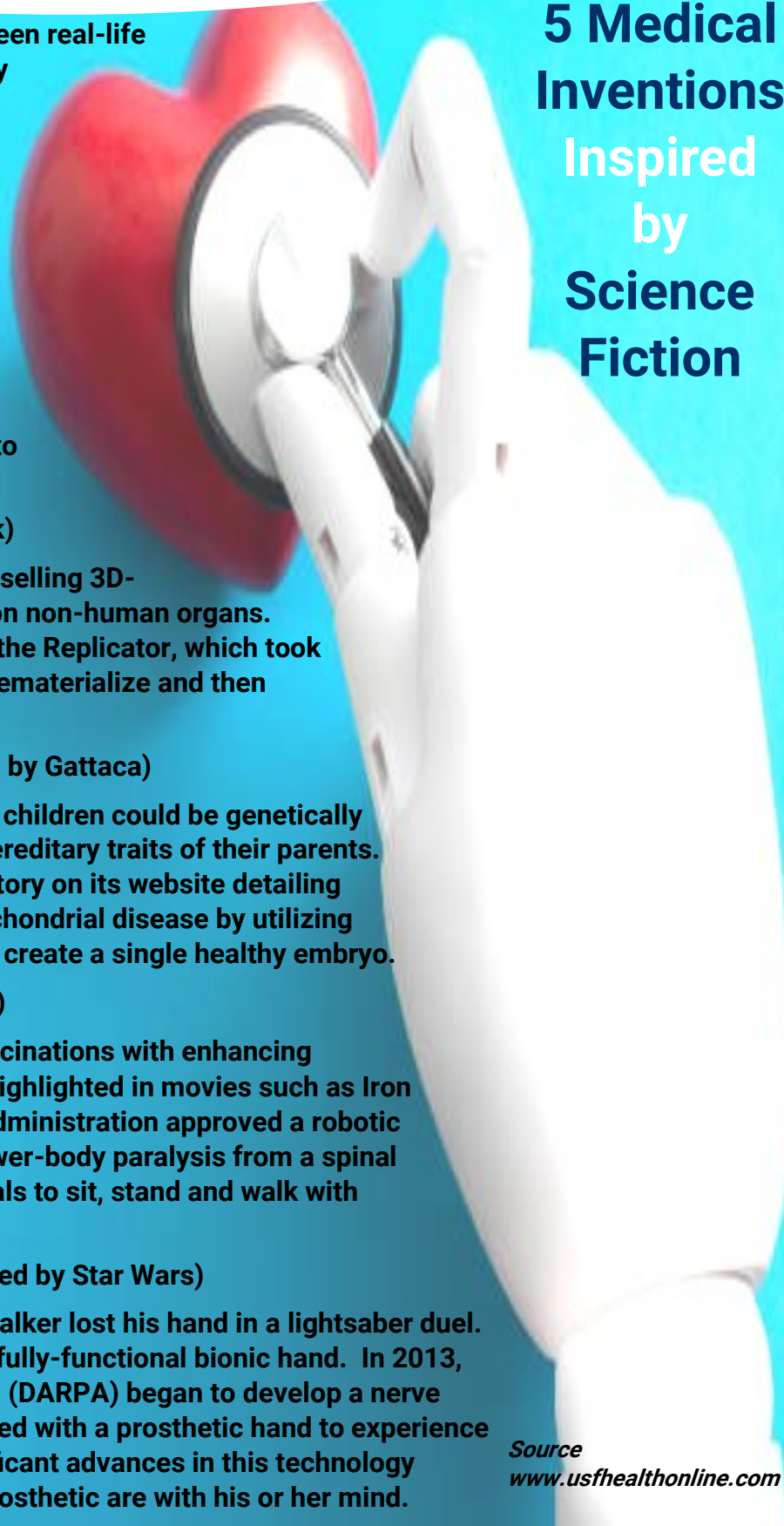
EXOSUITS (Inspired by Various Films and Comics)

Science fiction writers have maintained a long fascinations with enhancing humans with machine exoskeletons. There was highlighted in movies such as Iron Man and RoboCop. In 2014, the Food and Drug Administration approved a robotic device called ReWalk to assist individuals with lower-body paralysis from a spinal cord injury. The device allows paralyzed individuals to sit, stand and walk with assistance.

BRAIN-CONTROLLED PROSTHETIC LIMBS (Inspired by Star Wars)

In Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back, Luke Skywalker lost his hand in a lightsaber duel. He returns in Star Wars: Return of the Jedi with a fully-functional bionic hand. In 2013, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, (DARPA) began to develop a nerve electrode system that would allow amputees affixed with a prosthetic hand to experience sensitivity to touch. The company has mad significant advances in this technology including studies to allow a subject to control a prosthetic are with his or her mind.

5 Medical Inventions Inspired by Science Fiction



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



**Gove County
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ACUTE CARE

Patient Care Technician - FT *Nights*
RN - FT *Nights /PRN Days/Nights*

LAB

Lab Manager - *FT*
MT/MLT – *FT Days*

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Lead Teacher I - *PRN*

ADMINISTRATION

Chief Financial Officer - *FT*

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Van Driver - *PRN*

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Manager - *FT*

December Birthdays

Hailey Mossman	12-5
Lynette Guisinger	12-5
Sydney Winter	12-7
Amber Hatch	12-8
Amanda Bernbeck	12-15
Renee Horton	12-15
Karina Lara	12-16
Andrew Tom	12-21
Heather Zerr	12-22
Kelsey Nelson	12-28
Serenity Thomas	12-Ok

December Anniversaries

24 YEARS

Shirley Haffner

15 YEARS

Katie Waldman

8 YEARS

Tammy Marshall

7 YEARS

Emma Eilert

2 YEARS

Selena Gorsky

Lindsay Wolf

The Pulse

New Employees



Kendra Haffner

Position: Acute Care LPN

Start Date: 11-7-23

Kendra graduated from Salina Tech and worked at Citizens Health. She has a passion for OB and is excited about GCMC's growth in that area. Kendra is currently enrolled in the RN Program at Colby Community College.



Will Prinsloo

Position: Maintenance Specialist

Start Date: 11-14-23

Will formerly worked at the hospital in Hutchinson. He is originally from South Africa and is married with two daughters and is in the process of adopting a boy. Will and his family moved to Hill City to be closer to family.



Austin Cook

Position: Lab Aide

Start Date: 11-14-23

Austin previously worked at GCMC as a Lab Aide. He is currently in Med School at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He came back to GCMC because he missed working at the hospital and the lab department feels like family.



Renee Meiar

Position: CTPA

Start Date: 11-20-23

Renee formerly worked at Trego Lemke Hospital for 14 years. She lives in WaKeeney with her husband and son. She came to GCMC for a new start and is excited about the way the therapy pool will afford her an alternative treatment.

MEET YOUR NEW CO-WORKERS