

Newsletter

ISSUE | 12 | DECEMBER 2025



Calendar of Events

Awareness Month

New Employees

Quality Corner

Employee Awards

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.



Health News

The latest in news for healthcare



Employment Opportunities

Make sure to see all the great job opportunities

The Pulse

Mission, Vision, Values

VISION

It starts with approach.

Our vision is to act with unity in serving one common purpose: To make a difference. We show we care with every action in each interaction.

VALUE STATEMENT

The values guiding Gove County Medical Center's mission and vision express our commitment to all those who live in the communities we serve.

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.

MISSION

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

VALUES

- + Collaboration
- + Unity
- + Respect
- + Community
- + Excellence

Committed to Others. Always.

SIX STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- + Providing a person-centered experience
- + Care you can trust
- + Be the difference in our communities
- + Be a great place to work
- + Today's success for tomorrow's future
- + Invest in our leaders



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



December

Calendar of Events

2nd	<i>Operations Team Mtg. 1pm</i>
4th	<i>Coffee & Convo. 8:30am</i>
9th	<i>DM Mtg. 1pm</i>
11th	<i>Policy Mtg. 10am</i>
16th	<i>Operations Team Mtg. 1pm</i>
	<i>Nurse Staffing Mtg. 4pm</i>
17th	<i>Orientation 8am</i>
	<i>Body Mechanics 11am</i>
	<i>Active Threat 12:15pm</i>
18th	<i>Med Staff Mtg. 7:30am</i>
	<i>Marketing Com. Mtg. 12pm</i>
19th	<i>BOT Mtg 8am</i>
22nd	<i>Blood Drive Con. Rm 8am</i>
23rd	<i>CPR Rm 130 8am</i>
30th	<i>QAPI Day 8am</i>

The Pulse

Our Providers



Michael E. Machen, MD



Douglas J. Gruenbacher, MD



Shelly L. Gruenbacher, MD



Anna Rempel, MD



Scott Rempel, MD



Jamie Mense, APRN



**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**



**Pain Management
Brad Wertz, CRNA**



**Pain Management
Regina Taylor, PA-C**



December 2025

Specialty Clinics & Services



Gove County Medical Center

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MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

1	2 MRI Mammograms	3 HPM Brad Wertz Diabetic Clinic	4 Dr. Schultz	5
8	9 MRI	10 HPM Regina Taylor	11	12
15 NucMed/Cardiolite Dr. Gabel Dr. Hagley	16 MRI Dr. Wagley	17 HPM Brad Wertz	18 Dr. Hinze	19
22 HPM Regina Taylor	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		



Janette Burbach
MS, RD, CED



Regina Taylor
PA-C



Brad Wertz
CRNA



Kelly Gabel
D.O.



Charles Schultz
M.D.



Robert C. Hinze
D.P.M.



Kalyan Wagley
M.D.



Michael Hagley
M.D.

Dietitian

Janette Burbach

Holistic Pain Management (HPM)

Regina Taylor

Brad Wertz

Surgery

Kelly Gabel

Charles Schultz

Podiatry

Robert C. Hinze

Cardiology

Kalyan Wagley

Michael Hagley

Duke Health Researchers Announce Breakthrough in Breast Cancer Vaccine Trial

A small group of women with advanced breast cancer received a vaccine via a clinical trial more than 20 years ago. Today, they're all still alive. Scientists say that kind of long-term survival is almost unheard of for patients with metastatic breast cancer, and it's what caught the attention of researchers now.

Scientists at Duke Health studied the immune systems of the women in that trial, which was led by Herbert Kim Lyerly, M.D., George Barth Geller Distinguished Professor of Immunology at Duke University School of Medicine. They found something remarkable: The women still had strong, long-lasting immune cells that recognized their cancer.

These cells carried a special marker, called CD27, which helps the immune system remember and fight off threats like cancer. The findings, published in *Science Immunology* Oct. 28, suggest that targeting CD27 could dramatically improve the effectiveness of cancer vaccines.

"We were stunned to see such durable immune responses so many years later," said Zachary Hartman, Ph.D., senior author of the study and associate professor in the Departments of Surgery, Integrative Immunology and Pathology at Duke University School of Medicine. "It made us ask: What if we could boost this response even more?"

To find out, the team tested a CD27-targeting stimulatory antibody in combination with a vaccine targeting HER2 (a protein on the surface of some cells, including breast cancer) across different mouse models. They found nearly 40% of mice treated with the combination therapy experienced complete tumor regression, compared to just 6% with the vaccine alone.

The researchers found that the antibody worked

by supercharging a type of immune cell called CD4+ T cells.

Hartman said these "helper" CD4+ cells are

often overlooked in cancer research, which tends to focus on CD8+ "killer" T cells. Hartman said the study indicates the CD4+ cells are playing a starring role in this application, driving long-term immune memory and helping other immune cells do their job better.

Moreover, the subsequent addition of a different antibody that helps CD8+ T cells further improved tumor rejection rates in mice to nearly 90%.

"This study really shifts our thinking," Hartman said. "It shows that CD4+ T cells aren't just supporting actors; they can be powerful cancer fighters in their own right and are possibly essential for truly effective anti-tumor responses."

The team also found the CD27 antibody only needed to be given once, at the same time as the vaccine, to have a lasting effect. This could make it easier to combine with existing cancer treatments, including immune checkpoint inhibitors and antibody-drug conjugates already used in patients.

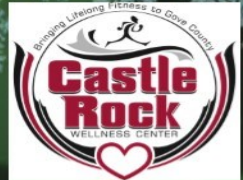
Hartman believes this approach could help unlock the full potential of cancer vaccines.

"We've known for a long time that vaccines can work against cancer, but they haven't lived up to the hype," he said. "This could be a missing piece of the puzzle."





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



Jingle Jog/Walk



A Festive, Family-Friendly Holiday Event!

Sponsored by Gove County Medical Center and Castle Rock Wellness Center



December 21 • 3:00 PM

Starting at the Bluestem Clinic Parking Lot



**Wear your brightest, funniest,
or wildest holiday gear!**



Registration:

A nonperishable food item:

(All donations support the local food pantry)



★ Along the 1.5 Mile Route:



Festive activity stations



Photo ops



Holiday surprises



At the Finish Line:



Hot chocolate



Cookies



Holiday music & fun

The Pulse

Health Awareness Month



NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK - DECEMBER 6-12, 2025

AWARENESS

DISEASES

HISTORICAL

National Influenza Vaccination Week (N.I.V.W.) is observed between December 6 and 12 as a gentle reminder for you to stay protected in the upcoming winter months. If you haven't already taken your vaccination shot, it's not too late. We encourage you to get your dose as early as possible. The season for flu is quite unpredictable; it can begin as early as fall and last up to spring. Conventionally, flu activity is at its peak during winter, and so public healthcare professionals, advocates, and communities join hands to promote flu vaccination. Many people tend to show a cavalier attitude toward flu, dismissing it as a bad cold. But it's more than that. It can cause serious health complications, such as bacterial infections or pneumonia, and can get you admitted to a hospital. If not treated at the right time, the flu can even lead to death. To prevent such mishaps and to raise awareness, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (C.D.C.) created N.I.V.W. in 2005.

The Spanish Flu also known as the 1918 Influenza pandemic, was one of the deadliest flu outbreaks in human history. Caused by the H1 N1 influenza virus, the disease spread across the globe, toward the end of World War I. The earliest case of the flu was detected in military personnel in Kansas, March 1918.

The Spanish flu infected almost one-third of the world's population, in four successive waves. It recorded a high death toll, ranging from 25-50 million worldwide, killing 675,000 people in the U.S. alone. The high mortality rate among young adults, between the ages of 20 and 40, was a remarkable feature of the influenza pandemic.

Although vaccination against influenza began in

the 1930s, it was only until 1945 that it saw widespread availability among civilians in America. One of the lead researchers of this vaccine was Dr. Jonas Salk, who is best known for developing the polio vaccine in the 1950s.

The U.S. still witnesses tens of thousands of deaths caused by influenza each year. Flu can affect anyone, but those at a higher risk are the aged (65+), little children, pregnant women, and people with chronic illnesses. An infected person can pass it to someone at a high risk of severe illness, including babies younger than 6 months, who are too young to get a flu vaccine. To prevent this spread, the Advisory Committee of C.D.C. urges every individual to get vaccinated, including people in good health. Let's celebrate National Influenza Vaccination Week as responsible citizens and continue the flu vaccination season, in order to protect as many people as possible.

Source www.nationaltoday.com



STOP THE SPREAD

Take everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of flu viruses!

#FIGHT FLU



The Pulse

Coffee and Conversation



Announcing: Monthly Staff Event: Coffee and Conversation with Conner ☕👤

We are excited to share a new opportunity just for our staff!

These events will happen **every 1st Thursday of Every Month**, from **8:30 AM to 9:00 AM** in the **Conference Room**, where Conner will be hosting an informal “**Coffee and Conversation**” session. This is a relaxed time for any staff members who’d like to drop in, ask questions, or simply chat about GCMC and what’s going on around here.



Coffee and CONVERSATION

With Conner Fiscarelli, CEO

1st Thursday Every Month - 8:30am-9:00am



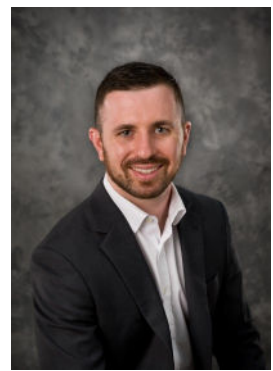
GCMC Conference Room
EMPLOYEES ONLY

Oh—and **did we mention there will be free donuts?** 🍩

This event is **for staff only** (not open to the public), and it’s all about giving you the chance to connect directly with Conner in a casual setting—something our busy schedules don’t always allow.

Coffee and Conversation will be only be promoted internally.

We look forward to seeing you there—**coffee and donuts are on us!**





IN SYMPATHY

We would like to extend our condolences to our employee Danielle Flinn on the loss of her grandmother, Rosemary (Rosie) Pfeifer. We pray her family finds peace during this difficult time.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ACUTE CARE

RN - FT Nights /PRN Days/Nights
Charge Nurse – FT Nights
Patient Care Technician – FT or PRN

LAB

Medical Lab Technician– PRN

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Respiratory Therapist - FT or PT

OPERATING ROOM

Operating Room Nurse Circulator - FT or PT
OR RN - PRN

Congratulations to our employee Sydney Jacques and her husband on the birth of their child October 25, 2025!

December Birthdays

Lynette Gusinger	12-5
Hailey Mossman	12-5
Amber Hatch	12-8
Amanda Bernbeck	12-15
Renee Wolf	12-15
Karina Lara	12-16
Heather Zerr	12-22
Vincent Stephenson	12-25
Laura Kahle	12-29
Serenity Thomas	12-29
Callie Kuntz	12-31

December Anniversaries

26 YEARS Shirley Haffner
17 YEARS Katie Waldman
10 YEARS Tammy Marshall
4 YEARS Selena Gorsky
2 YEARS Amanda Bernbeck Shery Bird Kim Broeckelman Doug Gruenbacher Shelly Gruenbacher Andrea Hargitt Gina Hargitt Brandi Klein Michael Machen Brianna Miller Emily Ochs Anna Rempel Scott Rempel Wanda Russell
1 YEAR Jenna Harvey Shelby Mattke

Rylan James Jacques



**October 25, 2025
@ 8:23 pm**

**6 lbs 11.02 oz
17 1/2 inches**

Proud Parents: Brady & Sydney



The Pulse New Employees



Please Welcome Your New Co-Worker!



WELCOME TO
**THE
TEAM**

Welcome!



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

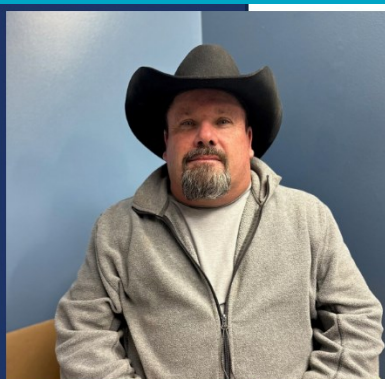
Blake Broeckelman

Lead Teacher 1

Please join us in welcoming Blake Broeckelman to the GCMC team! Blake joins us after spending the last two years at Edgewater Insurance. Living just north of Quinter, Blake was specifically seeking an opportunity that would place her closer to home. When asked about her new role, Blake expressed admiration for the Early Learning Center, stating she "loves the way the ELC is run as an educational facility rather than a standard daycare." Having worked with children in the past, she looks forward to working in that environment again.



WELCOME TO
**THE
TEAM**



WELCOME TO
**THE
TEAM**

Kristi Grate

Respiratory Therapist

Please join us in welcoming Kristi Grate, who joins the GCMC team as a PRN Respiratory Therapist (RT)! Kristi currently works full-time as an RT at HaysMed, where she has been for the last year and a half. Her journey into RT began right here at GCMC where she discovered her interest for the field while working as a CNA and decided to make it her career path. Kristi shared that she looks forward to working at GCMC because she appreciates how rural healthcare allows caregivers to dabble in all areas instead of being confined to just one.

Ken Hatch

Maintenance Specialist

Please join us in welcoming Ken Hatch, our new Maintenance Specialist, to the GCMC team! Ken brings an extensive background in maintenance to GCMC, most recently serving as the head of maintenance at an RV park in Colorado. A resident of Quinter, Ken is looking forward to the new opportunities this role presents and is eager to connect with new people within the GCMC family. We are excited to have Ken's skills and experience here in the Maintenance department!

The Pulse Employee Awards



Celebrating Our 2025 Sunflower and Maple Employee Recognition Honorees



**Gove County
Medical Center**

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Sunflower Honoree



Denise Wittman

Maple Honoree



Gina Hargitt

After months of voting, we are thrilled to announce the winners of the Sunflower and Maple Awards:



Sunflower Award Honoree: Denise Wittman, Patient Care Technician
Recognizing non-nursing clinical staff who go above and beyond!



Maple Award Honoree: Gina Hargitt, Clinic Medical Records Clerk
Recognizing outstanding individuals working behind the scenes in support services!

Congratulations to Denise and Gina, and to all the incredible nominees who fulfill the GCMC Mission, Vision, and Values every day!

Quality Corner: Progress You Can See

Brief Department Updates From This Month's QAPI Meeting

At Gove County Medical Center, quality is built into our daily work. This month's QAPI highlights show measurable improvement across departments, each supporting our Mission and Values

► Discharge Planning / CSB

Improved discharge documentation and consistent review of readmissions to strengthen transitions of care.

► Supply Chain

Enhanced rotation and monitoring continue to reduce outdated supplies. Quarterly waste tracking remains in place.

► Early Learning Center (ELC)

Sanitation/cleaning protocol in final edits. A new staff communication app will support better coordination.

► Clinic

Project centers on accurate vaccine stock selection (state/VFC vs. private). Monthly audits verify correctness.

► Emergency Preparedness

Recruiting additional DECON team members closer to the facility to meet the 15-minute response goal. HERT and PPE training continue.

► Environmental Services (EVS)

Staffing and schedule adjustments are improving consistency in deep cleans, with progress logged in WorxHub.

► Infection Prevention

Skills Day education improved urine-specimen technique. Contamination rates remain below the 15% benchmark.

► Health Information Management (HIM)

A full inventory of paper forms is underway. Standardized and approved versions will be maintained centrally.



*You Can't
Fake Quality*



Quality in Action

Departments continue to strengthen communication, safety, and reliability across GCMC.
Quality isn't an initiative — it's our culture.

The Pulse

Board of Trustees

Quote of the Month

*“You were born with wings,
why prefer to crawl through
life?”*

Rumi

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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It starts with approach. Our vision is to act with unity in serving one common purpose: To make a difference. We show we care with every action in each interaction.

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VALUES

Collaboration

Unity

Respect

Community

Excellence



Terry Ostmeyer
Chairperson



Dave Polifka
Vice-Chairperson



Greg Beougher
Treasurer



Deana Zerr
Secretary



Larry Manhart
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.