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interviews and offers will be made.*

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Tiffany Harris, BSN, RN, Family Medicine Clinical Lead at Variety Care is full of love and compassion as she leads her life by being a positive example to others.

by Vickie Jenkins, Staff Writer

Our mission: Making quality health care affordable and accessible. Variety Care is all about health and health care for all! As a non-profit community health center with 14 locations, our team is dedicated to making it more convenient and less expensive for you and your family to receive medical care. -Variety Care-

At Variety Care, you will be greeted with

a warm welcome. This is also where you will find Tiffany Webb-Harris, BSN, RN, Family Medicine Clinical Lead. Tiffany has a real desire to help people get well and stay healthy. "That love came from an early age when I used to go to work with my mom who is a retired phlebotomist. Just being in the hospital with her while she worked was so exciting for me. I instantly knew that I wanted to be in

See HARRIS Page 3

A Human Interest Perspective:

*The Meaning of
Animal Compassion
and in the Nursing
Education Environment*



Baby Snookum's (Snookie) assists students stay steady and on course during the journey through nursing school.

by Susan Barnes, PhD, RN, FCN

My formal journey with certified animal assistance has now spanned ten years. I have had some of the best companions along the way, both human and otherwise! The nursing education environment, as evidenced by both the research literature and by daily conversations overheard in the halls of academia, is stressful and pushes individuals further and farther than what is comfortable. In an assignment at Oklahoma City University, the Dean at that time (Marvel Williamson, PhD, RN, ANEF) and

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ANIMALS

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I had a conversation centered around the issue of modifying the stress in the educational environment for faculty, staff, and the 500+ students we were serving at that time. The Dean, usually so stoic and formal, immediately approved the idea of imbedding a dog into the educational environment. The great adventure soon began with a 6 week old Miniature Australian Shepherd puppy, Tillie Mae. Tillie set the stage for the additional recruits to the vocation in Bonnie Grace (2013-2018) and Baby Snookum's (Snookie). Hundreds of students have had contact with these dogs with incredible meaning and intensity. No negative incident has ever been recorded.

Snookie, the youngest soldier in this endeavor, is just writing her legacy. Just one case study will tell the story of the importance these dogs have in assisting students to stay steady and stay on course during the journey through nursing school.

January 2018: A transfer student originally from California arrived at Will Rogers Airport on a Saturday night prior to the beginning of the

spring 2019 semester. Miss Jennie (fictitious name) chose a regional university with a nursing school based on the report of a friend of a friend. She arrived with all her possessions in two suitcases. There was no one to meet her at the airport. To avoid sleeping at the airport, Miss Jennie called the first number listed on the nursing website and reached the department chair (me). Puzzled, I piled into the car with a couple of companions (one human and one Snookie). We picked up this student and after a quick assessment of the situation, determined that there were a couple of loose ends. Miss Jennie had arrived prior to the start of school with no personal contact identified on campus, no food service, no transportation, and no clue as to how to get checked in to the "guest room." So, a quick stop at the grocery store, a fast food drive through, and a campus wide hunt to find the loan security officer with keys ensued. Before my companions and I left, we saw the first contact made between Miss Jennie and Snookie. There was an obvious magic between this disenfranchised student and the dog. We left feeling like we were basically saying "have a nice life" –with one

important exception—"Yes, Snookie will be in the office the first day of school."

Daily and without apology, for three semesters, Miss Jennie stopped by to spend time with Snookie at least once and often more. She stopped before classes, after classes, and on break. Only after some time, did Miss Jennie begin to articulate what the relationship had meant during her time on campus. She had felt displaced and alone. She came in the middle of the semester, a time very difficult to fit into already formed friend groups. She questioned daily her decision to come to Oklahoma, site unseen, and why she was so optimistic to think that nursing school here was part of her life story.

Put this circumstance together with Miss Jennie's personal story and you have a recipe that could have been disastrous. Miss Jennie, by her report, was removed from her biological family at the age of 6 by Child Protective Services. Unfortunately, she faced abuse (physical, emotional, and other), neglect, and witnessed parental drug use. After 6 foster homes, she was adopted at age 11 by a one parent family with other adoptees. She again found herself again in challenging circumstances. Miss Jennie was emotionally abused and subject to strict behavior standards that were difficult to achieve. At the age of 20, she left this home to emancipate herself from the circumstances. Needless to say, her self esteem was shaky and her vision for the future a bit cloudy. Chance had it she found employment in long term care (LTC). There she met her "parents,"—the ones she chose to adopt-- who began to act as mentors and guides to this troubled young adult. Into higher education she went to work on a nursing degree with the hope in mind to make a difference for those in long term care. Seats for nursing students in California are limited, so a move to Oklahoma made this desire a true possibility! Now, just what did Snookie do for this young woman? The following are Jennie's reflections. Snookie gave her hope. She gave her purpose in getting up every morning. Snookie provided a social connection—a way to start a conversation. The dog offered unconditional acceptance and perceived empathy. She gave her love without any expectations. It is reported that individuals often bond with dogs or other animals because there is no



judgement. Dogs have no performance expectation of the humans with whom they interact—it's all good whether you have on jeans and a t-shirt or forget to shake hands or you have no makeup and your hair is a mess. Miss Jennie says that taking the little dog for walks was a way to break the ice between her and potential friends on campus. I quote "Everyone loves a pretty dog." The relationship was not one sided. Snookie gained confidence and grace in the execution of her new role as a HALO certified animal assisted therapy dog. She has many friends and contacts even outside of the campus. We know that in general, single nursing students, paying their way through college with part time employment, do not have time and resources to take good care of a pet. Long hours left alone are not good for the emotional health of dogs, so having a therapy dog to visit is the perfect answer to the longing for animal companionship.

If Miss Jennie was an only case, justification for AAT programs on campus would be slim. But Jennie is not an only case. In addition, because of this experience, she plans on beginning her own AAT program after the establishment of her nursing practice.

Susan J. Barnes, PhD, RN, FCN is a Curly Endowed professor at the School of Nursing for University of Central Oklahoma.

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HARRIS

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that type of environment, helping people and putting smiles on their faces," Tiffany said.

Tiffany was born and raised in Oklahoma City, OK. "When I was growing up, I wanted to be a marine biologist or a pediatrician but in high school, I decided on nursing. I'm sure I made the right choice," Tiffany added. "I've been a nurse for fourteen years now and I can't image doing anything else."

"I completed my bachelor's degree in nursing at Oklahoma's only historically black university, Langston University. Langston houses one of the best four-year nursing programs in the state," Tiffany commented.

"I just celebrated my three-year anniversary with Variety Care on July 24. My role as the Family Medicine Clinical Lead has allowed me to learn and grow in the nurse educator role and I have enjoyed every minute of it. Many of our patients are part

of a vulnerable population, one that is often overlooked in the health care industry. Variety Care's mission is to make quality health care affordable and accessible for all. We strive to achieve that with every patient."

A typical day for Tiffany starts with her checking her calendar to see what clinic she is scheduled for that day. "We have several clinics, including nine in the Oklahoma City Metro area, and I visit one of them at least once a week if not more. It usually consists of training or coaching for the staff, teaching a BLS CPR course, COVID testing or reviewing quality improvement metrics. I enjoy the fact that I am learning about different demographics in Oklahoma City and how being a Variety Care nurse can help improve the state of health for entire communities and empower community members with important public health information aimed at keeping them safe and healthy," Tiffany explained.

"I believe that the attributes that truly help capable nurses stand

out are; compassion, endurance, love of humanity, courage, generosity, sense of humor, flexibility, patients and teamwork," Tiffany said. "There are many more but these are just a few that myself and many of my fellow nurses portray every single day as we enter our health centers to help make a difference of the lives of our patients."

"My mom, Sandra had a lot to do with me choosing the medical field, along with my next door neighbor, who was the first African American Registered Nurse that I knew when I was a child," Tiffany stated. "Seeing her graduation pictures on her dresser and watching her come and go in her uniform inspired me to reach my goal. I think of her often and remember the image fondly. It continues to leave me with no regrets about my decision to become a nurse."

"I consider myself a leader and I hold myself to a high standard and constantly remind myself of the responsibility that comes with my position. As I looked up

to my neighbor, another child is watching my actions and is inspired by my career path. One must always live their life as if someone is watching because they are. I am also a follower of Christ, and as I follow Him, He leads me in the direction I should go and guides me in every decision I make."

When I asked Tiffany to describe herself, she said, "I am funny, loving, caring and sharing. I love to cook and don't take anything too seriously, except my patients of course." Tiffany was recently recognized on KFOR news as one of the frontline nurses for Variety Care.

"If I could sum up my life in one word, it would simply be blessed," Tiffany said, with a smile.



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CAREERS IN NURSING

DON - STAYING ON TOP OF THINGS: THE GRAND

Vickie Jenkins, Staff Writer

Grace Living Center, the Grand is located in Bethany, OK. Here, you will find a friendly staff and highly qualified nurses. Staying on top of things is Blake Quintero, LPN and Assistant Director of Nursing. "I manage over the Skilled unit here at the Grand. My first job as a nurse was working at a facility for Long-term care. I helped the patients live as independently and safely as possible when they could no longer perform everyday activities on their own. I've been a nurse for a total of seven years and here at the Grand for five years. I like caring for the patients. We really get to know each patient on a personal level," Blake said. "I like seeing the patients happy and knowing that we are all here to make them feel better, making their day a little brighter. Sometimes, we just need to listen to what they have to say. Sometimes, it's just a kind word or a smile and it makes both

of us feel better," he added.

Growing up in Burns Flat, a town located in Western Oklahoma, Blake attended Hobart High School, and Western Technology Center for his LPN. "I remember my grandmother had a big influence on me becoming a nurse and I always noticed how much she cared for other people. I think that is why I always wanted to be a nurse, wanting to be just like her, giving a little extra care to others. I feel like I owe a lot of it to my grandmother and that is why I have a deep desire to serve others," Blake commented.

Asking Blake what qualities makes a good nurse, he replied, "I think a nurse needs to have plenty of compassion, be very reliable, have medical knowledge and skills and have a warm heart. I think every nurse will find that they have all of those qualities if they know that is the right profession for them. A

nurse needs to continue to learn all they can in the medical field, moving forward with their education as much as they are able. Being in the medical field is such a respectable job. I also think that a nurse needs to be a team player. Team work is very important and everyone needs to do their part in working together."


"When I was in nursing school, my instructors were wonderful. They were my mentors and always had some encouraging words for me. I also have a cousin and an aunt that are nurses and they gave me encouraging words too," Blake said. "Going through school was rough but at the end, it was definitely worth it. It's hard work but when you become a nurse, it is the most rewarding job you will ever have. It is a beautiful profession and it has so many opportunities in different areas. There is always job security, no matter where you travel."

Blake has been recognized for his outstanding work by receiving the awards for mentoring others in a nursing program, receiving the Leadership award and the Champion of Change award. Blake is definitely a leader and continues to lead others by example, giving it all in caring for the patients.

Blake is currently single and doesn't have any children. Blake's hobbies include working out at the gym, traveling when he can, reading a good book and spending time with his dog. "I call my dog my baby. My baby is a pit-bull and goes by the name of Karma. I'm not sure everyone would agree on baby," he laughed.

How has the Coronavirus changed your life over the last months? "It really limits my ability to see my family and hang out with my friends. I want to travel the world someday

See QUINTERO Page 5



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Outstanding in his work, Blake Quintero, LPN, ADON makes sure everything is running smoothly at Grace Living Center, the Grand, located in Bethany, OK.

QUINTERO
Continued from Page 4

and right now, all of that is pretty much put on hold. I know that this pandemic is rough on all of us but we just have to adjust to the social distancing, washing our hands constantly throughout the day and

sanitizing everything. Of course, we take every precaution, making sure our patients are safe. We wear masks all the time here at work, and even though the masks are hot and we don't like wearing one, I have gotten used to it now," Blake said.
When I asked Blake to sum up his life in one word, he said, "that word would be blessed."

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SITUATION UPDATE:

- As of this advisory, there are 61,027 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Oklahoma.
- There are 14 additional deaths identified to report. Two deaths were identified in the past 24 hours.
 - *One in Carter County, one male in the 65 or older age group.
 - *One in Johnston County, one male in the 50 - 64 age group.
 - *Two in Le Flore County, one female and one male in the 65 or older age group.
 - *One in Lincoln County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
 - *One in Love County, one male in the 65 or older age group.
 - *One in Mayes County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
 - *Two in Oklahoma County, one female and one male in the 65 or older age group.
 - *One in Okmulgee County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
 - *Two in Pittsburg County, two males in the 65 or older age group.
 - *One in Rogers County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
 - *One in Tulsa County, one male in 65 or older age group.
- There are 835 total deaths in the state.
- For more information, visit coronavirus.health.ok.gov.

COVID-19 Oklahoma Test Results

Confirmed Positive Cases	61,027
*Total Cumulative Negative Specimens to Date	842,019
*Total Cumulative Number of Specimens to Date	914,602
**Currently Hospitalized	540
Total Cumulative Hospitalizations	5,013
Identified Deaths in the Past 24 hours	2
Total Cumulative Deaths	835

***The total includes laboratory information provided to OSDH at the time of the report. Total counts may not reflect unique individuals.**

****This number is a combination of hospitalized positive cases and hospitalized persons under investigation, as reported by hospitals at the time of the report. The data reflect a change in calculation and should not be compared to prior data.**

*****The purpose of publishing aggregated statistical COVID-19 data through the OSDH Dashboard, the Executive Order Report, and the Weekly Epidemiology and Surveillance Report is to support the needs of the general public in receiving important and necessary information regarding the state of the health and safety of the citizens of Oklahoma. These resources may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be used in any way that would determine the identity of any reported cases.**

*Data Source: Acute Disease Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health. *As of 2020-09-03 at 7:00 a.m.*



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AA/EOE



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102 E. Line Ave. Sapulpa, OK 74067

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To advertise with Oklahoma's Nursing Times, please call Amanda Miller at (405) 631-5100 extension 6!

140 GENERAL NURSING

We are Hiring a Medical Director/ Psychiatrist to provide inpatient and outpatient services.
St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, located at 305 S 5th St, Enid, OK 73701 is now hiring a Medical Director/ Psychiatrist to provide inpatient and outpatient services. Enjoy providing much-needed services in an attractive Midwestern location work while benefiting from the support of a progressive administrative team that values a strong work/life balance.

We Are Looking To Hire Exceptional People That Have A Passion For The Senior Living Industry Current Positions Available: Licensed Practical Nurse (Full-time) Certified Nursing Assistants/ Certified Medical Assistants, Dining Room, Cook, Servers.
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We are seeking PRN Home Health Aide/ Certified Nurse Aide
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We are seeking Aide to join our team.
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*New team members will have 6 months from date of hire to obtain an ACLS certification if they do not currently have one.

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LTACH/Acute/Med-Surg/ICU/HOU environments. Wound care and/or critical care experience. A higher comfort level working with vents/trachs/PICC lines, etc. Working knowledge of IV therapies including vasoactive drugs, antibiotics, heparin drips, insulin drips, and blood transfusions.

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OMRF brain tumor drug receives rare disease designations from the FDA

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has awarded Rare Pediatric Disease Designation (RPDD) for diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG) and Orphan Drug Designation for treatment of malignant glioma to OKN-007, an investigational drug discovered at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and being developed by Oblato, Inc.

DIPG is a fast-growing pediatric cancer that starts in the brain stem. It is one of several sub-categories of malignant gliomas, deadly cancers of the brain and spinal cord.

"We are very pleased to receive the successful designations from the FDA for our proprietary compound OKN-007," said Oblato President and Chief Executive Officer Won S. Yang. These designation programs provide for special status and priority review of regulatory applications for new therapies for rare pediatric or

"orphan" diseases, conditions that affect limited patient populations.

According to the National Brain Tumor Society, approximately 26,000 Americans will be diagnosed with primary malignant brain tumors this year. Of those, DIPG.org reports that up to 300 will be cases of DIPG.

OKN-007 was initially discovered by OMRF scientists Rheal Towner, Ph.D., and Robert Floyd, Ph.D. Oblato acquired all rights to OKN-007 from OMRF, and the company is currently testing the investigational drug in a Phase 2 clinical study of 56 patients suffering from recurrent glioblastoma, the most aggressive form of glioma. The patients are being treated with the drug in combination with another medication, temozolomide, at eight sites in the U.S.

In pre-clinical studies at OMRF, Towner has also shown that OKN-007



Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation scientist Robert Floyd, Ph.D.

inhibits growth of human DIPG tumors implanted in experimental models. Oblato is planning to begin clinical trials in DIPG patients in 2021. "Right now, there is no effective treatment for this deadly brain cancer," said Towner.

Going forward, Oblato and OMRF will continue collaborating, with a focus on improving treatment

for patients suffering from a variety of solid-tumor cancers.

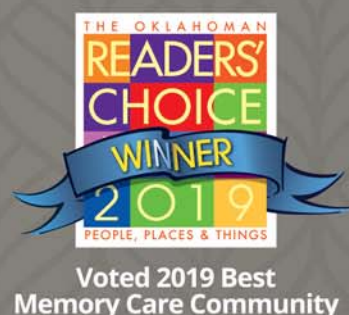
"OMRF and Oblato are committed to a single goal: helping patients overcome these life-threatening illnesses," said OMRF Director of Technology Ventures Andrew Westmuckett, Ph.D. "Our hope is that OKN-007 can transform the therapeutic landscape."

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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2020 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

Preparing For Nursing School

Graduating High School? Thinking about college? There's so much to consider when it comes to getting ready for college: where to go, what to study, how to apply, how to pay for it all and more. Use all resources available to explore your options including this guide.

Prepare before you walk through the classroom door. Visit websites for colleges included in this guide. Don't limit yourself to local colleges, visit state and regional colleges to get an idea about what is best for your specific needs. Here are a few effective tips to help you get ready to enter nursing school with confidence.

Talk With Nurses - Talk with nurses you know. Use social media to connect with new and experienced nurses. Have your questions ready and be brief and to the point about your interests.

Volunteer - Volunteering in a healthcare position with a nursing center, hospital

or other healthcare facility will help you decide if nursing is for you.

Read Up - Read about, and pay attention to nursing in the news. Subscribe to online publications like : Oklahoma's Nursing Times www.oknursingtimes.com and The Oklahoma Nurse - The Oklahoma Nurses Association newsletter www.ona.nursingnetwork.com.

Be Ready to Invest - Be ready to invest in your future. Know your financial position and avoid credit card and major expenses that can cause stress and distract from your studies.

Research

Search for and complete Scholarship opportunities/applications. Some colleges offer scholarships and financial aid for nursing. Review your colleges' acceptances and compare financial aid offers. Talks with your school counselors. School counselors are experienced in the college preparation

process and can give further advice on your next move.

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Complete and submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), at fafsa.gov, along with any other financial aid applications your

chosen school may require.

Testing

Register for all tests in advance and take time to prepare. Ask your school counselor to waive any fees that may apply.

Trade School vs College – What's the Difference?

College: Those who go to college obtain a general academic education that can prepare them for a variety of careers. This education typically takes four years. It also requires students to select a "major" or concentration. Your major or concentration is the field of study that you plan to focus on in your time at college. Aside from a few majors that are career-specific such as engineering or accounting, colleges don't specifically prepare you for a trade. Instead, they provide you with a solid base of academic knowledge that you can apply to a number of different career paths.

Technical School: Tech school, aka vocational school, is almost the complete opposite of college. Rather than receiving a broad education, you enroll in a course of study and take very specific classes to prepare you for a particular job. A few examples include nursing, culinary arts, massage therapy, office management, cosmetology, fashion design, information technology, etc. Although vocational classes are typically found in community colleges, there are also a large number of technical institutes that provide this kind of training.

For more information visit: PowerScore Test Preparations www.powerscore.com



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ELLIE
Liver Recipient



Our daughter, Ellie, was born in November 2008. When she was 3 months old, we found out she had a liver problem. We went to Children's Hospital in OKC, but were soon sent to a transplant center in Nebraska for evaluation. On March 18th, Ellie was put on the list for transplant. We came back home to wait. Ellie was treated at Children's twice a week, until she began to lose weight in May. We went back to Nebraska the day after Mother's Day, and she was admitted to the hospital. While there, I was evaluated as a living donor for Ellie, and we soon learned I could give her part of my liver. Ellie's transplant was on May 22, 2009. It was the hardest thing that I've ever done, but the

easiest decision of my life. We came home Father's Day weekend.

Organ, eye and tissue donation saves lives. Please make your decision to donate life and tell your family. Register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor on your Oklahoma driver's license or state ID card or register online at **www.LifeShareRegistry.org**. If you don't have a license or state ID card and do not have internet access, call **800-826-LIFE (5433)** and ask for a donor registration card.

LifeShare

Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care Chief Compliance Officer Adds Credentials

Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care Chief Compliance Officer DeAnna Looper, RN, CHPN, CHPCA, LNC has added CHC and CPCO to her name.

That's thanks to her completion of two additional certifications this summer, the Board Certification in Healthcare Compliance (CHC) and the Certified Professional Compliance Officer (CPCO.)

The CHC is designed to mitigate compliance-related risks. Being certified means the individual has "knowledge of relevant regulations and expertise in compliance processes sufficient to assist in understanding and addressing legal obligations."

The CPCO is granted through the AAPC, previously known as the American Academy of Professional Coders, an association for individuals working in healthcare business administration. Individuals with the CPCO credential have demonstrated understanding of how to "develop, implement and monitor a healthcare compliance program based on governmental regulatory guidelines including internal compliance reviews, audits, risk assessments and staff education and training."

Looper has more than 40 years' experience in healthcare, education and administration. As Crossroads' Chief Compliance Officer, she oversees all clinical, legal and regulatory compliance operations across 11 Crossroads sites in seven states.

Joining Crossroads as a nurse at its founding in 1995 and advancing through several operational roles, Looper has been instrumental in leading the organization to the forefront of the hospice care industry.

A graduate of Tulsa Junior College (now Tulsa Community College) with an AS in Nursing, Looper continued her education attending Kaplan University and University of Oklahoma. She earned certifications as a Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse, Hospice and Palliative Care Administrator, Legal Nurse Consultant, Grief Recovery



Crossroads Chief Compliance Officer DeAnna Looper RN CHPN CHPCA LNC CHC CPCO.

Specialist, Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) Approved Educator and ELNEC (end-of-life care) Trainer. Looper is a member of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association, Health Care Compliance Association and the Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics.

Crossroads Founder and CEO Perry Farmer said, "DeAnna is a force within our organization. Her never ending drive to increase her knowledge and credentials as we evolve in an increasingly complicated industry are an inspiration to us all. We congratulate and thank her for earning these two additional credentials."

Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care is committed to being at the forefront of the hospice care industry, continually shaping the way end-of-life care is viewed and administered. Crossroads' mission is to provide highly unique, comprehensive, and compassionate hospice services to persons experiencing a life-limiting illness and to their caregivers. Visit **www.crossroadshospice.com** for more information.

NURSE TALK



Italy for the food.



Thomas Brock, RN

Some combination of Lake Tahoe and Vegas.



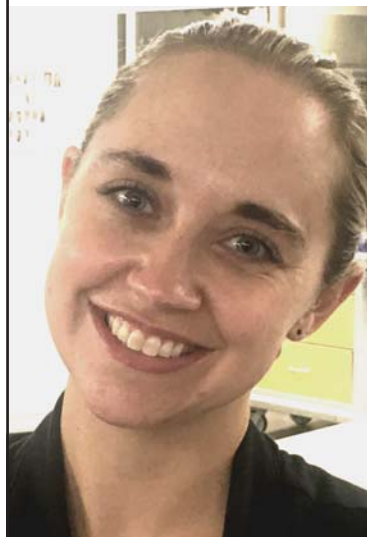
Mackenzie Offenburger, RN

If you could go on a vacation anywhere and not have to worry about Covid where would you go.



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New Zealand. That's where I'm going.



Becky Miller

Germany and the Black Forest wearing my dirndl and drinking a radler.



Ashley Wilkinson, RN



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Concordia Life Plan Community Welcomes New Nurse Practitioner, Telemedicine Technology to Community

Courtney Hammond, a nurse practitioner and expert in INVU Care telemedicine software, has joined the staff at Concordia Life Plan Community in northwest Oklahoma City. Hammond's role is new to the community—she will supervise the virtual platform INVU, which allows caregivers to improve the lives of patients and families through remote healthcare options. She will also oversee resident care across all areas including independent living, assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing.

"We are thrilled to have Courtney step into this new role," Concordia Executive Director Danny Eischen said. "An on-site nurse practitioner is unique in a senior living community, as is one that specializes in older adult care and telemedicine. We are always looking for ways to improve the lives of our residents and remain

ahead of the curve. We saw the importance of the role and knew Courtney was the perfect fit."

INVU Care blends in-person and remote care to ensure a more efficient, holistic, engaging patient care experience to benefit the lives of residents, families and the teams that support them.

"I have always been fond of working with older adults," said Hammond. "I decided to pursue this opportunity at Concordia because of its good reputation in the industry and because I'm impressed by Concordia's ability to implement a technology like INVU, which is more important now than ever."

Hammond was a nurse for four years and has been a nurse practitioner for 11 years. She attended undergrad at the University of Oklahoma and went on to Vanderbilt University for the nurse practitioner program.

Since then, she's worked with older adults through various roles and remains passionate about giving older adults the opportunity to live vibrant, healthy lives.

Concordia Life Plan Community is a senior living community located in NW Oklahoma City where residents can live independently with guaranteed access to assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing or long-term care should the need ever arise. At Concordia, residents embrace life, stay fit, grow intellectually and engage in meaningful activities. Concordia is a nonprofit organization committed to upholding Christian values by serving the community through programs including free Wellness on Wheels clinics, its DME/furniture donation program, Mobile Meals and outreach partnerships with the OKC Housing Authority. To learn more about Concordia, visit concordiaseniorliving.com.



Courtney Hammond, a nurse practitioner and expert in INVU Care telemedicine software, has joined the staff at Concordia Life Plan Community in northwest Oklahoma City.

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PREPARE TO BE SURPRISED.

Meet the Maddox family. Their thirteen-year-old daughter, SaNiyah, has cerebral palsy and is confined to a wheelchair. SaNiyah's entire life – her happiness, her health, her every need – all depends on her family and help from the team at Special Care. But they also have two adorable young sons, demanding jobs and – on top of everything else – they foster an infant who needed a home, too. It's more than most of us could handle.

But here's the big surprise. The Maddoxes not only receive help from United Way agencies, they find room in a budget stretched to its limit and they give to the United Way. **Can you?**

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