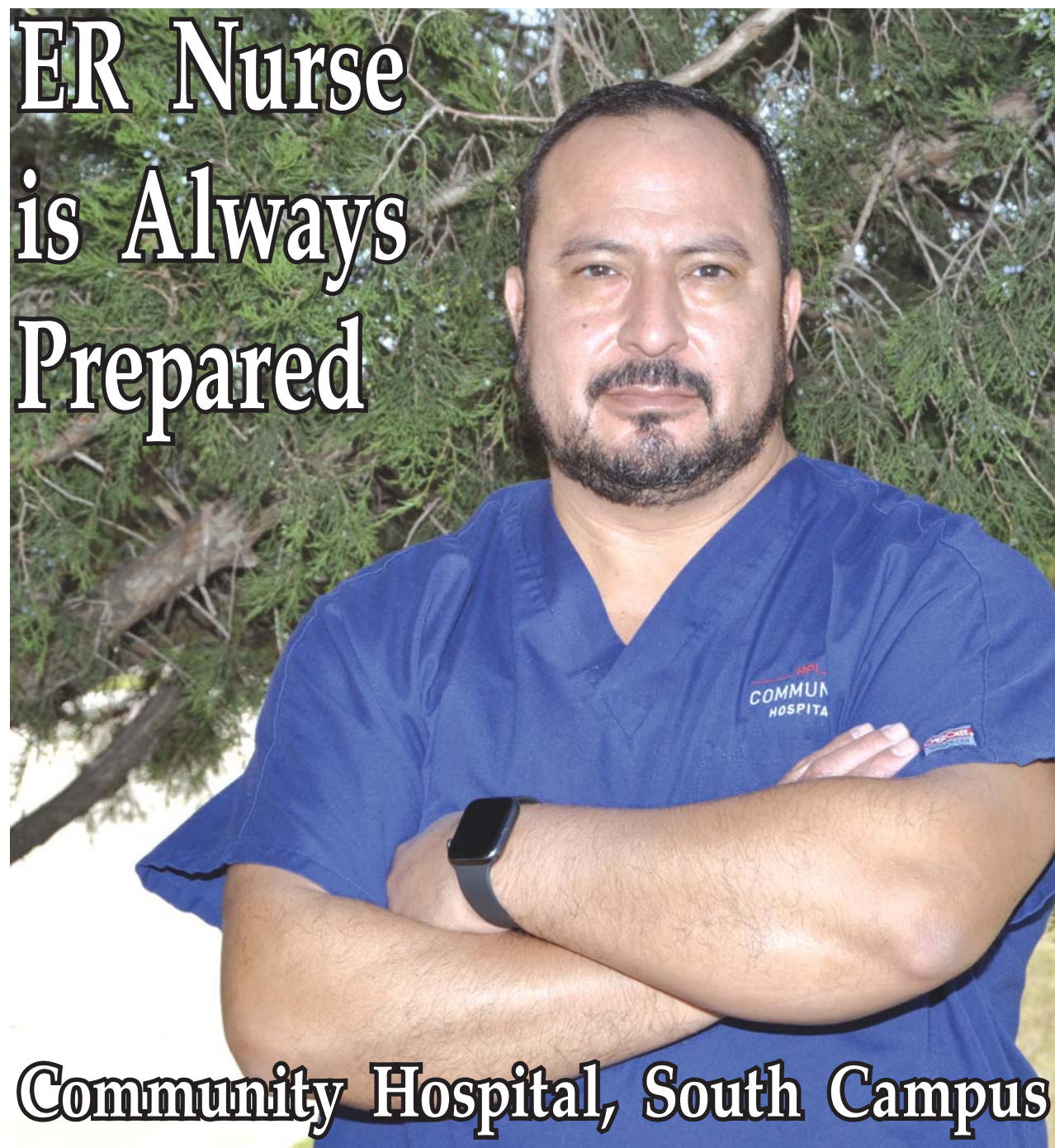


ER Nurse is Always Prepared



Community Hospital, South Campus

Juan Martinez, RN is an outstanding individual that can be found in the ER, taking care of the many patients and the emergencies that arise.

by Vickie Jenkins, Staff Writer

Community Hospital has two campuses featuring a comprehensive range of medical services and high quality care.

Community Hospital's south campus is a full-service hospital serving Southwest Oklahoma City and the surrounding communities including Blanchard, Moore, Newcastle, Norman, Mustang and Tuttle.

Community Hospital's north campus offers

inpatient and outpatient services, including diagnostic imaging and direct access to physician offices.

ER Nurses are the first line of defense when responding to patient injuries, trauma or allergic reactions. They are always prepared to respond to emergencies, assist doctors in emergency medical care and ensure a high quality of nursing standards are maintained, among

See MARTINEZ Page 2

Experts urge caution as Covid-19 haunts Halloween



Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation physician-scientist Hal Scofield, M.D.

In a year that's had its share of scary, Halloween 2020 offers a familiar fright: the risk of spreading the coronavirus.

New CDC guidance on fall festivities lists door-to-door trick-or-treating, parking lot "trunk-or-treat" events and indoor costume parties as high-risk for coronavirus transmission. According to experts at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, parents should take these recommendations to heart.

"The CDC guidelines are rooted in the viral spread potential from children coming into

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MARTINEZ

Continued from Page 1

other duties.

It takes a special person to be a nurse. It also takes a special person to be a nurse in the ER. One outstanding nurse, Juan Martinez, can be found working in the ER at Community Hospital, South Campus.

Growing up in Duncan, OK, Juan knew that he wanted to be a nurse. "I was very involved in my parents' healthcare and I saw an opportunity to help others. I have always been one to care for others and it just seemed like the perfect career for me," Juan said.

"I attended nursing school at OSU-OKC and have been a nurse for ten years. My first job was here at Community Hospital, working as a tech. I knew that I wanted to become a nurse and care for patients. That was when I decided that this was the place for me and I have been here ever since. I enjoy working here because the staff and my co-workers are amazing. It is

nice to want to go to work and feel like I am working with family. Everyone is so close," Juan commented.

"I think that every nurse needs have good listening skills and good communication skills. When a patient comes into the ER, we all have to be able to see what is going on, along with keeping the patient and their family calm. That is one of the biggest challenges; meeting patients' expectations and getting them to understand we are there to help them in every way that we can," Juan said. "On the other hand, the biggest reward that I get from being a nurse is when people put their trust in me to take care of the situation. They need medical attention immediately, and sometimes, it's hard for the patient to realize that we are doing the best we can in the best way we know how," he added.

"Am I more of a leader or a follower? I think I am a little of both. I take directions well and am very task oriented. In

the ER, we have to be ready to help each other in any way that we can," Juan said.

"A typical day of work for me consists of treating a diverse population of patients that come through the ER with a wide variety of ailments. With COVID-19, it has been a real struggle for doctors, nurses, and all of the other frontline workers."

What advice would you give to someone going into the medical field? Juan replied, "Make sure your heart is into your job and make sure you are prepared to care for others."

Juan is married to Jackie and they have one daughter, Julia. Juan likes spending time with his family and is a big sports fan. "When I was asked to describe myself, I have to say that I am very laid back and easy going. I am very easy to get along with,"

he said with a smile.

"I can tell you about COVID-19 from experience. It was about two months ago, I tested positive for COVID-19. I experienced respiratory symptoms that landed me in the hospital for six days. I was fortunate that I received excellent care that included convalescent plasma and antiviral treatment. I am fortunate that I responded well and have made a full recovery. I cannot recall a time in my life when I was as sick as I was. Being in the hospital and on oxygen and separated from my family was very difficult. It really put in perspective what the families and patients go through when I see them daily," Juan explained. "Of course, PPE and masks are worn by all here at the hospital. Also, we try to be diligent about wearing masks and hand hygiene outside of work as well."

Free Medicare Counseling and Information Available for Oklahomans

With the Medicare Open Enrollment Period fast approaching, the Oklahoma Insurance Department (OID) offers free counseling to assist Oklahomans eligible for Medicare. In past years, OID's Medicare Assistance Program (MAP) hosted annual Medicare Open Enrollment events across the state, educating Medicare beneficiaries on their options, enrollment eligibility and changes for the upcoming year. Despite the inability to host in-person events due to COVID-19, MAP has found new ways to continue consumer education and services.

"The Medicare Assistance Program is an important and valuable service we provide Oklahomans. We're making their services more accessible by offering free, one-on-one Medicare counseling remotely and hosting free educational webinars," said Insurance Commissioner Glen Mulready.

Medicare Open Enrollment Period runs from October 15 through December 7. During this time, beneficiaries can make changes to their health insurance coverage and review current coverage options.

OID also kicked off the first two sessions of its six-week Medicare Open Enrollment webinar series on October 6 and October 13. Participants can still sign up for the remaining four webinars and watch the webinar recording at www.youtube.com/okinsurance411. Each webinar is free, but registration is required. To register, visit www.oid.ok.gov/MOEP.

"We are committed to making Medicare Open Enrollment less confusing and frustrating," said MAP Director, Ray Walker. "We are more accessible than ever through our virtual programs, and we're working diligently to provide the same, high-quality customer service while keeping everyone safe. A group educational session is also available through our virtual programs."

MAP provides one-on-one counseling and information for people eligible for Medicare. All services are free, unbiased and confidential. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-763-2828. To schedule a group session, visit <https://www.map.oid.ok.gov>.



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COVID

Continued from Page 1

repeated contact with high-touch surfaces — like bowls of candy or doorbells — as well as the lack of physical distancing that naturally occurs when trick-or-treating or attending parties,” said OMRF physician-scientist Eliza Chakravarty, M.D.

The American Academy of Pediatrics reported total U.S. pediatric Covid-19 cases surpassed 620,000 in September. And in one study, pediatric patients were shown to have much higher levels of virus in their airways than adults hospitalized in ICUs for Covid-19 treatment. While serious illness related to the virus is rare in infected children, contact tracing studies show they play a role in community spread.

“The risk of community transmission is bigger with a high viral load. Traditional Halloween activities could lead to a spike that sweeps through families and schools, affecting large numbers of at-risk individuals unknowingly,” Chakravarty said.

With cold and flu season upon

us, we should all work diligently to stay healthy, added OMRF immunologist Hal Scofield, M.D., even if that means a change of plans.

“Cold and flu season, allergies and Covid create a perfect storm,” said Scofield, who also serves as associate chief of staff for research at the Oklahoma City VA. “So many early symptoms of these seasonal conditions are the same, and the only thing that rules out Covid-19 is a test. Rather than setting ourselves up for a fall of nasal swabs, we should do everything we can to avoid the sniffles.”

Still, the coronavirus needn't turn Halloween into a pumpkin. Like so many other celebrations adapted for 2020, it just requires innovation.

“Let kids decorate Halloween-themed cloth masks,” said Chakravarty. She also suggested alternatives like social media costume contests, family pumpkin-carving contests or spooky movie marathons.

“Just because the holiday needs to be a little different doesn't mean it still can't be fun,” she said. “And scary!”



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CAREERS IN NURSING

GUARDIAN ANGELS ARE EVERYWHERE: MERCY OPENS NEW HOSPITAL

Vickie Jenkins, Staff Writer

As Oklahoma City's population grows, so does the need for convenient medical care. After nearly three years of construction and anticipation. On July 7, 2020 Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City South recently opened. The six-story, 228,000-square-foot facility includes 36 hospital beds with build-out options as patient volume grows.

Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City South is located at I-240 and Sooner Road, on the campus of Oklahoma Heart Hospital (OHH) South. The new hospital is licensed under Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City and offers ambulatory care, low trauma, inpatient care and advanced surgical capability. -Mercy South-

With a staff of professionals, one particular nurse at Mercy South is Chelsey Vail, RN; her friendliness and outline of a smile was showing underneath her mask. Growing up in Tulsa, Chelsey moved to Oklahoma City, attending Southern Nazarene University. "I am thankful that

I was able to attend SNU. During that time, one of the mentors that encouraged me along the way was Dean Laura O'Neal. I feel like I learned so much from her." Chelsey said.

Chelsey has been a nurse for a total of five years, spending the last three years at Mercy, now working at Mercy South. Chelsey is the charge nurse and house supervisor at Mercy South. "Even though at times, the days can be challenging, I love my job and wouldn't trade it for anything," she said. "Being the charge nurse has put me into the leadership position. I always try to be an example; seeing the best in everyone and help as much as I can. My typical day consists of making sure all of the nurses have their special assignments, checking on all of the appointments, procedures and labs to be done that day and making sure each nurse knows what to do. Of course, I make my rounds to see all of the patients

too. Teamwork is very important and everyone here is amazing! It is not unusual to get a thank-you from a patient, long after they have gone home. I know we do our best in caring for the patients. We treat all of our patients with the utmost respect and we try to relate to the patients as much as possible. That is the biggest reward of all," Chelsey commented. "I like the fact that when a patient comes in, I know I am making a difference in someone's life. The nurses are there to care for and serve others and that's what we do."

Chelsey became a nurse because of her dad and the guardian angel that took care of him while he was at the hospital in ICU.

Asking Chelsey how she came about being a nurse, she replied. "It's kind of strange the way things happened in my life. In 2011, my dad was very sick and septic. His blood pressure and oxygen level was low. He spent quite a bit of time in

ICU and my family and I thought we were going to lose him. There was one particular nurse, John, that had been with him most of the time and my dad asked him, 'Am I going to die?' John replied, 'Not on my watch!' My dad got better and to this day, my dad is still with us. My family and I considered John as my dad's guardian angel. It was after that, I KNEW I wanted to be a nurse and be a guardian angel for someone; I believe guardian angels are everywhere!"

What qualities make a good nurse? "I think the most important three qualities a nurse should have: integrity, trustworthy, and respect. Each nurse should have each one of these and practice them each day."

On a personal note, Chelsey is married to her wonderful husband, Kyle. They are excited to welcome a new baby boy in January 2021. "We are so excited and can't wait until

See MERCY Page 5

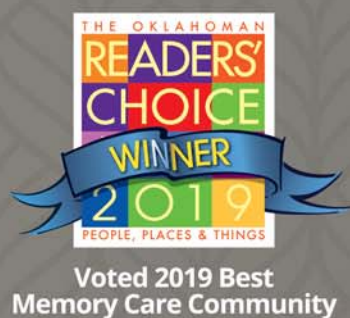


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Chelsey Vail, RN, charge nurse and house supervisor is one the outstanding nurses at the newly opened Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City South.



Mercy celebrated a major milestone in the construction of a hospital in southern Oklahoma City.

MERCY
Continued from Page 4

the day of his arrival,” Chelsey said. How has the Coronavirus affected you? “Working in a hospital, I have to be careful, especially since I am pregnant. I uses every precaution I can. I make sure to wash my

hands constantly and sanitize any and everything. I know it’s rough sometimes but it’s something all of us have to do. Of course, I practice the social distancing at the hospital and everywhere I go.”
Summing up Chelsey’s life in three words? “That would be, “friendly, outgoing and kind,” Chelsey replied.

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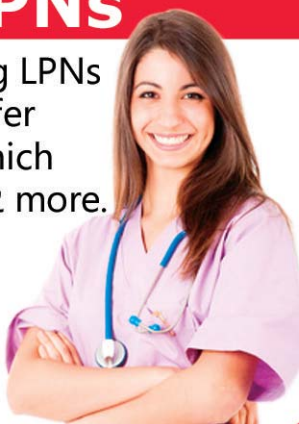
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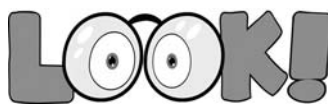
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OU MEDICINE AND OU HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER ANNOUNCE NEW, UNIFIED BRAND

Oklahoma's comprehensive academic health system is now known as OU Health. The new brand identity represents the combined efforts of OU Medicine and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and reflects a focus and commitment to improving the health of all Oklahomans.

The brand identity OU Health, which launches today, comes after months of gathering extensive feedback and insight from existing patients and Oklahomans across the state, whose needs encompass medicine and many other healthcare services that lead to good health.

"This unified brand identity for our state's only flagship comprehensive academic health system is emblematic of the University of Oklahoma's core purpose — to change lives," said

OU President Joseph Harroz Jr. "It's here at OU Health — an idea decades in the making — where we bring life-changing, unparalleled care to all Oklahomans. Today marks a major milestone in our ongoing work to transform healthcare in Oklahoma through education, research and clinical care."

OU Health will continue expanding the full breadth of services across the enterprise statewide, from primary care to specialty care. Hospital names, clinic names, centers and faculty practices within OU Health Sciences Center and OU Medicine will now be a part of the OU Health brand family. The transition of the brand will take place over many months, and it will simplify the public's ability to interact with the academic health system and find necessary healthcare services.

"Our combined effort under the brand of OU Health speaks to our momentum as a comprehensive academic healthcare enterprise," said Chuck Spicer, FACHE, President and CEO of OU Medicine. "Our patients come to us because of the future they want for themselves and their families. Our mission is to provide the healthcare that gives them that fullness of life."

The new brand of OU Health is accompanied by a newly designed, patient-centric website — www.OUHealth.com — to carry the enterprise into a future of innovative healthcare delivery. The website is designed for easy access, usability and quick navigation. OU Health's doctors, health services, and clinic and hospital locations are available on the site along with



healthcare news and information.

With the master brand of OU Health, a new logo symbolizes the broad range of services that are important for health. Patients can expect the same high-quality care under the brand refresh:

- Oklahoma Children's Hospital at OU Health is the new name for the state's only freestanding children's hospital and 24/7 pediatric emergency department. The name was designed after extensive research of freestanding children's hospitals nationally, along with contributions from Oklahomans and patients' families.

- OU Health Stephenson Cancer

See OU page 13

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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2020 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

SWOSU is One of Oklahoma's Best Universities

By any measure, Southwestern Oklahoma State University with campus locations in Weatherford and Sayre is considered by many to be the home of one of Oklahoma's best universities. SWOSU is known for its quality programs having 14 nationally accredited academic programs—most among the senior regional universities in Oklahoma.

The SWOSU School of Nursing offers five programs: the traditional BSN program taught on campus and three online degrees for students who are already RNs: RN to BSN, MSN in Nursing Education (graduate) and MSN Nursing Administration (graduate).

SWOSU also offers online professional programs in Health Information Management, Healthcare Informatics and Information Management (graduate).

The university also has two contractual agreement programs between SWOSU and Caddo Kiowa Technology Center for the Occupational Therapy Assistant and the Physical Therapist Assistant Programs.

Six of SWOSU's nationally accredited programs are in Health Information Management, Nursing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiologic Technology and Medical Laboratory Technician.

The university boasts professionally and academically qualified faculty who mentor students towards accomplishment of their goals.

SWOSU boasts one of the most diverse selections of academic college course options and the university is top rated in affordability. As always, SWOSU is dedicated to providing its students with a quality education while preparing them for the career of their dreams.

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University

SWOSU
Southwestern Oklahoma State University

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AIDAN
was a great big brother.

AIDAN had a way about him. He had a way of creating adventure out of everything he did. He wanted to do EVERYTHING and was fully intent on achieving that goal. He had a huge loving heart and was quick to share that love. He was conscious of the feelings of others and always made an effort not to hurt others feelings. He was messy. He was smart. He was a great big brother. It was his interest in church that brought our entire family back to the church. He loved God and he liked to share what he learned. For eight short years his light shone so brightly.

to do EVERYTHING and to become a donor and save lives.

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.

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NURSE TALK



I like the cooler weather and seeing the leaves change colors.



Makayla Shay, OSU-OKC nursing student

I like the chilly weather and knowing that Halloween is coming up and Christmas will be next.



Maria Sanchez, OSU-OKC nursing student

What is your favorite thing about fall?

— HPI —
COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL

INTEGRIS Network

Community Hospital
South Campus,
Med SurgeWest

I like fall scented candles and the changing leaves. I also love the cold weather so I can snuggle my husband.



McKay Perrin, OSU-OKC nursing student

I like almost everything pumpkin spice and cooler weather to enjoy the different colors of the leaves.



Dorian Densler, OSU-OKC nursing student

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OCU pledges to recruit, select and promote diversity by providing equality of opportunity for all persons

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OU
Continued from Page 8

Center, the state's only National Cancer Institute-Designed Cancer Center, and the OU Health Harold Hamm Diabetes Center, will retain their legacy names derived from generous philanthropic support.

- The adult hospital will officially be known as OU Health University of Oklahoma Medical Center to reflect its status as the flagship academic medical center for Oklahoma, and a Top 100 hospital nationally. OU Health Edmond Medical Center is the name of the Edmond hospital to reflect its over 70-year commitment to the Edmond community.

- The faculty practices of the OU Health Sciences Center will reflect the depth of healthcare expertise and services, including OU Health Dentistry, OU Health Pharmacy and OU Health Physicians in both Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

The brand identity of OU Health signifies a closer partnership with the OU Health Sciences Center – one of only three academic health centers in the nation with seven health profession colleges – and its campuses in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The OU Health Sciences Center is training Oklahoma's future health professionals –3,200 students and 850 residents across the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Allied Health, Dentistry, Public Health and the research disciplines of the Graduate College. Colleges will maintain their University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center academic brands with a co-branding tie-in to signify their collaboration with OU Health.

“We are extremely proud to unify our brand to be reflective of who we are,” said Jason Sanders, M.D., MBA, Senior Vice President and Provost of OU Health Sciences Center. “Our faculty members are national leaders and comprise the largest group of health specialists in Oklahoma, and our researchers work closely with them to bring their discoveries to the patient's bedside and to the community. Students and residents are training within the vision and values of our enterprise – providing expertise, advanced technology and compassionate care to ensure each patient is the focus of every decision we make.”

OU Health strives to offer high-value, accessible care, and invests in strategies to serve people across the state and region. OU Health is not just about treating patients' illnesses and injuries, but it is a commitment to achieving the health that allows them to live their best lives.

“We spent time asking Oklahomans about healthcare and about their understanding of us,” said Jennifer Schultz, Senior Vice President of Marketing and Communications. “We quickly learned that we needed to streamline our brand and simplify the ways in which you can find information about us. At OU Health, we believe that healthcare is about the needs of our patients and how our interactions with them can lead to the health and well-being they seek. The OU Health brand and website is reflective of who we are and who we serve and is aimed at providing the entry point to fulfill the healthcare needs of Oklahomans.

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SITUATION UPDATE:

COVID-19 Oklahoma Test Results

Cases	105,308
*Total Cumulative Negative Specimens to Date	1,312,840
*Total Cumulative Number of Specimens to Date	1,432,231
**Currently Hospitalized	793
Total Cumulative Hospitalizations	7,679
Identified Deaths in the Past 24 hours	2
Total Cumulative Deaths	1,154

- This week, five counties moved from the “orange” risk phase to “yellow” and four counties moved from “yellow” to “orange”. OSDH continues to monitor closely the statewide hospitalization trends for COVID-19.
- The COVID-19 Alert map will be updated every Friday in the Situation Update at 11:00 a.m. This week's map can be seen in this update below the test results chart.
- As OSDH continues to meet with stakeholders across the state, the COVID-19 Alert Map is subject to further revisions as science and public health guidance advances with the ongoing pandemic.
- As of this advisory, there are 105,308 cases of COVID-19 in Oklahoma.
- There are 11 additional deaths identified to report. Two deaths were identified in the past 24 hours.
 - * One in Beckham County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
 - * One in Comanche County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
 - * One in Custer County, one male in the 65 or older age group.
 - * One in Grady County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
 - * One in McClain County, one male in the 50 - 64 age group.
 - * One in Muskogee County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
 - * Four in Oklahoma County, one female and three males in the 65 or older age group.
 - * One in Tulsa County, one female in the 65 or older age group.
- There are 1,154 total deaths in the state.
- For more information, visit coronavirus.health.ok.gov.

***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 2020-10-16 at 7:00 a.m.



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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