

## Navigating cancer care

### Stephenson Cancer Center leads the way



Patricia Powell, RN, helps cancer patients navigate their journey of care.

by James Coburn, Staff Writer

When Patricia Powell's mother died of metastatic breast cancer, she turned her experience into a way to give back to the cancer community.

"So many people touched my family in my mother's journey, and this is my way of giving back to others," said Powell, RN, a radiation department nurse navigator at OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center, located in Oklahoma City.

There may be a lot of confusion for families and their loved one when first diagnosed with cancer. Nurse navigators are there to help ease their journey.

"I have certainly learned from the other navigators in this facility in trying to build this role. I've certainly reached out to them, and they are a fantastic group that all work so well together," she said.

Navigators are behind the scenes a lot. They coordinate the patients' timeline of care, keep the patient up to date with what's happened. They make sure treatments are running on course and imaging is ordered.

"Making sure things don't fall through the

## Artists Create Largest Puzzle in State, Holiday Gift with Purpose

**Oklahoma**  
**Children's Hospital.**  
**OU Health**

Local professional artists Denise Duong and Gabriel Friedman and art therapist Brittany Dray have been working with Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health patients for the past several months, helping them develop skills to reduce and manage anxiety and fear and to develop self-expression through art.

Dray explained that art therapy offers tools to aid relaxation and pain management, boost self-esteem and resilience and grow a sense of community at the hospital.

Friedman designed and built a giant puzzle as a foundation and Dray helped more than 90 patients create large puzzle pieces representing their stories. The pieces were gathered by Duong and Friedman who connected the experiences together and created a wall-sized mural of the puzzle. Themes of connection, strength and comfort were noticed by the artists, which inspired the story of Duong's painted mural which scrolls atop the work of the children.

"I see the puzzle as a reminder that we are all connected," Friedman said. "If one piece is missing, the puzzle doesn't really function anymore. I wanted kids to hopefully absorb the idea that they might be doing just one little section of the puzzle, but without that section, you wouldn't want to do the puzzle. I hope it seeps in that they are all a piece of the puzzle."

The finished artwork is now a permanent feature in Oklahoma Children's Hospital, hopefully inspiring other pediatric patients. The project was funded by grants and gifts from Bob Moore, Kirkpatrick Family Fund, CrossFirst Bank, Oklahoma City Community Foundation, Dunkin'



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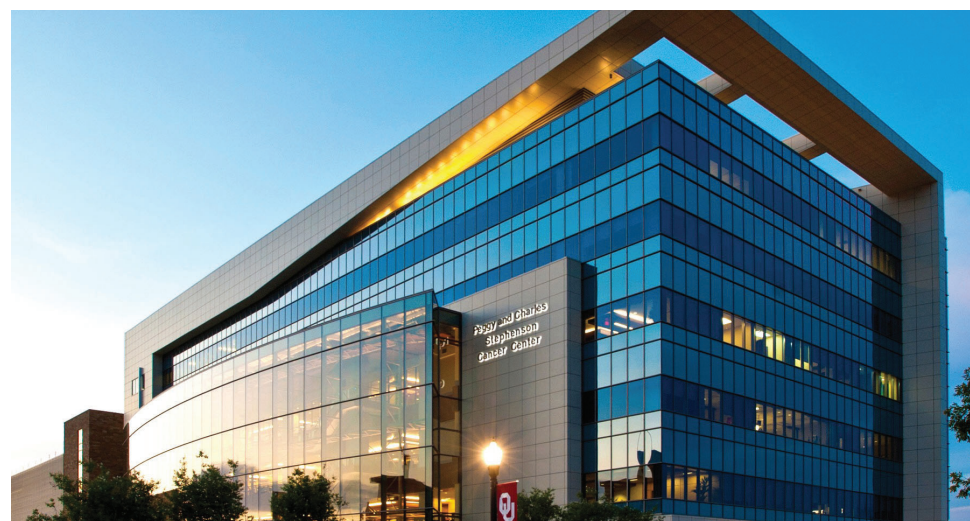
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Oklahoma's Stephenson Cancer Center.

## POWELL

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cracks, I think is a big part of navigation," she said.

Powell is currently working toward her Master of Science in Nursing Administration and Leadership degree at the University of Oklahoma. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at West Texas A&M University.

She has served 10 of her 30-year nursing career at Stephenson Cancer Center. She moved to Oklahoma City from Texas, and it has been a long lasting career move.

"I can't imagine leaving the Stephenson Cancer Center at OU Health," Powell said.

Her career includes hospice and postpartum nurse.

"This is my third stint in oncology nursing. I've always come back to it because I have a passion for it," Powell said. "It was my first real job out of school. There is something about oncology patients that just teaches you so much about resilience and so much about life."

She worked in radiation oncology before accepting the role of nurse navigator about a year ago. As nurse navigator she has advocated for patients. At times she has pushed to get people treatment at Stephenson Cancer Center when they couldn't get their treatment elsewhere, she said.

"There's so many things that people often don't realize goes into a person's journey that's not just their diagnosis," she continued.

Cancer impacts a person's life and finances. She found that many issues cause disparities in getting people the care they need. She has helped others find solutions for lodging and obtaining insurance to allow them to come to Stephenson Cancer Center.

"I've been able to do that for someone — a young girl that lived in Texas who couldn't get treatment where she was at," Powell said. "I've been able to do that for someone who couldn't get treatment in a smaller town around here because they just couldn't provide the treatment that

was needed."

It's important to understand that cancer is not necessarily a death sentence. She has seen tremendous advancements in care since serving in a bone marrow transplant unit many years ago. Conditions brought a shorter life expectancy than today's technology provides.

Nursing has enriched her life by getting to know patients, seeing them frequently and seeing their positive outcomes. The nurses have relied on each other to get through the difficult times, especially through COVID, she said.

"When you see the negative outcomes, it bonds you with your coworkers. You really get a camaraderie. They become almost like family to you," Powell explained.

The group of nurses she works with do a lot of things outside of work together. They help each other through personal struggles. There is something special about working at Stephenson Cancer Center, she said.

"Research is a big part of what we do," Powell said. The center has been a national leader in the number of people involved in research.

"Our physicians, our nurses, our research team — everybody is so dedicated to helping patients understand the research study, getting them the choice about it, answering questions and helping them through that study," she said.

Powell thinks about how much research has evolved since her mother's experience with breast cancer.

"We wouldn't have that without the research," she said. "It's a privilege to be part of a system that focuses on that, for the people of Oklahoma and nationally."

Powell has learned a lot about life from being a nurse, she said. She has engaged with people of different cultural backgrounds.

"It has given me a whole new perspective on things, and certainly working with the cancer patients and enjoying their humor and resilience and everything that they do for this journey is such an honor," she said.





Denise Duong and Gabriel Friedman and art therapist Brittany Dray have been working with Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health patients for the past several months, helping them develop skills to reduce and manage anxiety and fear and to develop self-expression through art.

ARTIST

Continued from Page 1  
and others.

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# CAREERS IN NURSING:

## FOUR GENERATIONS OF CARE - LOVE INSPIRES NURSING CAREER

by James Coburn - staff writer

Tabitha Campbell, LPN, tells how she loves the staff at Fairmont Skilled Nursing & Rehab in Oklahoma City because of their compassion for caring for people.

She has always been inspired by caretakers. She grew up being around family who took care of people. And they did it without a wrinkle in their face. They never raised their brow and never raised their voice when someone needed them.

"I love people and become very attached quickly, so I always beg to keep some of my long-term people over here on my hall," she said. "They have an ability to always go above and beyond for patients."

Currently, Campbell serves as a charge nurse. Her duties include hospice and anything involving long-term patients.

Her grandmother and mother were all caretakers, and her mother remains one. Campbell recalled

going to her great "granny's" home to find somebody had dropped their grandmother off to be cared for.

"My grandmother was the same way. She would take me in and out of homes with her," Campbell said. "My mom was also the same way. She worked in a nursing home, so I was always around elderly people. That's all I knew — people looking after people. I think that's where my true passion came from."

Three generations of caretakers in her family motivated her to instill the fourth generation.

Campbell is a 2014 graduate of the Southwest Technology Center, located in Altus. She has always done long-term skilled nursing and came to Fairmont Skilled Nursing & Rehab in 2018. She started there as an assistant director of nursing covering the men's hall.

"That was my first time of being an actual ADON, I had

always done desk nursing but not ADON responsibilities," Campbell continued.

She said sometimes nurses don't realize how good a nurse they are until someone compliments them for being one.

"All nurses are great. Hospital nurses are great. Long-term care and skilled nursing are just a little bit different. You really get to know people. They're not in and out. Sometimes they're on my floor for 90 days," Campbell said. "So, you really develop relationships with them. You become attached to them. You hate to see them leave but you're glad to see them leave. All of your hard work and dedication to them has gotten them able to go home."

Her experiences as an ADON and her current role as a charge nurse has touched her heart. She recalled one man whom she nicknamed PECO Train. They instantly developed a close-knit

friendship that proved to help her in life. Her son had graduated from high school and joined the United States Navy and she had sent her two daughters home to live with her mother. Campbell felt she was without a reason to smile.

"So, when I got here, PECO train was very caring. And every time he saw me, he said, 'What's up kiddo?' And I'd say, 'Ah nothing.' And he'd say, 'You need a smile. You need to laugh.' And of course, I was laughing at what he was saying," Campbell said. "I would smile at him, and with what I was going through in my life at the time, I needed a patient like him."

Every day began to give Campbell a reason to smile during the lowest point she had felt in her life. She needed PECO Train and she knew he needed her to

See CAMPBELL Page 5

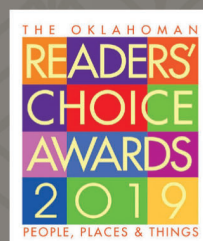


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Tabitha Campbell, LPN, spreads humanity in the lives she touches at Fairmont Skilled Nursing & Rehab, located in Oklahoma City.

## CAMPBELL

Continued from Page 4

help care for him.

Campbell said nurses are not supposed to have favorite patients and she loves them all the same. But he helped restore the twinkle in her eye and meant something special to her.

His death was hard for Campbell, but she knew that a lifetime is limited before going to a forever home in heaven, she said.

Campbell tells nursing students that compassion is something you cannot be taught in school.

"You have to love what you do but first of all you have to have love for human beings," she said.

People are not the same color, size or shape, she said.

"Have the love for people and all humanity and you'll be fine in nursing," she said. "That's what it takes because the dollar amount doesn't amount to the love you give."

Her coworkers sense when somebody feels down and out of sorts. They understand the challenges nurses face every day.

Doors are always open for nursing staff members to release tears when a resident passes away, Campbell said.

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# The Uniform Shoppe: Catering to nurses for 60 years



There's a special day every semester at Green Country Technology Center in Okmulgee.

It occurs right after LPN students finish their Introduction to Nursing course and just before their Anatomy and Physiology course.

It's the day Jody Weise from The Uniform Shoppe comes to visit and Green Country Director of Nursing Darlene Baker, RN, MSN, says no one ever misses.

"They are so excited. They feel like they're real nurses," Baker said. "They're trying things on, looking at the stethoscopes and picking out their colors."

For nearly 60 years now, The Uniform Shoppe has had nurses' back - and their front - literally bringing a professional look to their doorstep.

Baker has been at Green Country Technology Center for 22 years now. The school uses The Uniform Shoppe for all its LPN and CNA uniforms.

No one goes to clinicals until they've visited Weise.

"We're very strict with our dress code when they go into the clinical setting," Baker said. "Jody kind of knows what we like. She does the groundwork."

"Obviously, they are dependable. It helps us out because instead of us having to load students up or send students one at a time they actually come to our facility. If there are any changes they let me know well in advance."

Since 1962, The Uniform Shoppe has been a family affair.

Albert and Elaine Weise opened the Uniform Shoppe in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

They traversed the Oklahoma highways and backroads bringing comfortable, affordable quality uniforms to nurses at their facilities.

Riding in the back seat was daughter, Jody.

She learned the business from the best and now co-owns and manages the company.

While the styles on the rack may change, little else has changed about this Oklahoma gem.

The Tulsa location moved around the corner to 6044 S. Sheridan Road a while back and the Oklahoma City store is still located at 10503 N. May Avenue.

The Uniform Shoppe has hands-down always had the largest stock of scrubs for nurses, health care workers, daycare workers - every profession that requires durable-yet-professional attire while working with people.

Service has always been the focus.

"We work with many schools to get their students started on the right track - nursing, dental, cosmetology, culinary, veterinary, physician assistants, physical therapy, chemistry, health careers and information, paramedics, lab tech, nutrition, occupational therapy, pharmacy, radiography, respiratory and surgical," Weise said. "We've even had quite a few adolescent classes of 'future leaders' going into scrubs and lab coats."

"Most schools want their students to look professional which leads to acting professional."

Starting a new career is exciting. Looking like you belong is important, too, that's why Green Country students love it when Weise comes to campus.

The Uniform Shoppe also provides students with monogrammed lab coats, their first stethoscope, hemostat, and bandage scissors.

"It's a very convenient, one-stop-shop for us," Baker said.

Baker relies on Weise to keep Green Country students and faculty



**For 60 years now, The Uniform Shoppe has helped nurses and other professionals throughout their careers.**

in comfort and fashion.

"When you're online you don't know how it's going to fit, Baker said. "So when The Uniform Shoppe comes here our students have the opportunity to actually try them on so you know. Not everyone's body looks exactly the same so Jody makes sure we have different fits so that everyone is able to be satisfied."

The Uniform Shoppe helps students present a professional and polished look while working clinical rotations in the hospitals and offices, representing the student and the schools in the best light.

"Cheap uniforms tend to look that way, and when out in public, it reflects on the student as well as the school," Weise said. "There are many well-made, quality uniforms that are very budget-friendly, and working with a local uniform store supports the very community that supports the students and schools in the real world."

Baker said as graduation nears, students go up to The Uniform Shoppe as a group to select their first set of white scrubs as well as a new pair of white shoes.

The staff are very knowledgeable about fabrics, fit and size availability and make it their business to learn the positive features of various brands so they can work with school administration and students regarding fit, wear and care.

It's more than a product, it's a relationship.

"They're just like family," Baker said. "They seem to be as excited as the students are so it's pretty cool."

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# SSM Health joins Biden Administration pledge to decarbonize health care sector, make facilities resilient to climate change

SSM Health was celebrated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) on November 10, 2022, for pledging ongoing action to decarbonize the health care sector and make health care facilities more resilient to the effects of climate change. SSM Health has formally committed to pursuing the Biden administration's climate goal of reducing emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

A September 2021 consensus statement from more than 200 medical journals named climate change the number one threat to global public health. It exposes millions of people in the United States to harm every year — with disproportionate impacts on communities that are often already the victims of longstanding discrimination — through increases in extreme heat waves, wildfires, flooding, vector-borne diseases and other factors that worsen chronic health conditions. The healthcare sector also contributes to climate

change, accounting for approximately 8.5 percent of U.S. domestic emissions.

The HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity (OCCHE), part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, developed the White House/HHS Health Sector Climate Pledge to help focus industry response to climate challenges. In addition to reducing their carbon footprint, signatories also commit to producing detailed plans to prepare their facilities for both chronic and acute catastrophic climate impacts.

So far, 102 prominent health companies in the U.S. have signed the White House/HHS Health Sector Climate Pledge, including organizations representing 837 hospitals as well as leading health centers, suppliers, insurance companies, group purchasing organizations, pharmaceutical companies, and more. Federal systems like the Indian Health Service (IHS), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and Military Health System (MHS) are working together to meet similar goals to those these private sector organizations have

embraced. Combined, this means that over 1,080 federal and private sector hospitals have made such commitments, together representing over 15 percent of U.S. hospitals.

"HHS returns this year to COP27 to report great progress," said ADM Rachel Levine, the Assistant Secretary for Health. "Through the efforts of the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity and several other HHS agencies, we have made significant strides in introducing resources and support to help communities and care providers accelerate their work to reduce harmful emissions and increase climate resilience in the health sector."

SSM Health's focus on environmental sustainability is an integral part of its Mission and Vision. Following in the footsteps of its founding congregation, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, the health system has a long-standing commitment to caring for creation and nurturing healthy communities.

"As health care leaders, we know the health of individuals depends on the health of our communities, the

health of the nation and the health of the planet — so we are pleased to join this important initiative," said Laura S. Kaiser, FACHE, President and CEO of SSM Health. "Every person deserves the opportunity to live in a healthy environment with access to clean water, nutritious foods and green spaces to play and work. It is time for all of us to collaborate and invite others to join in this effort to ensure a healthy world for future generations."

SSM Health's environmental sustainability efforts are comprehensive with a multi-faceted focus on everything from reducing energy consumption and medical waste to impact investing, incorporating green building practices, and planting trees to reverse urban deforestation.



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# 11 in a Row: Mercy Hospital Oklahoma Receives Top Grade in Latest Reports from Leapfrog Group

*Independent organization recognizes Mercy for achievements in safety and billing ethics*

Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City has again received an A grade in the latest Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade report for keeping patients safe in the hospital. The hospital has received 11 A grades in a row in this semi-annual survey.

Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City was one of only 10 hospitals in Oklahoma to earn an A grade from Leapfrog in its list of fall 2022 grades.

In addition, all Mercy hospitals received an A grade for billing ethics from the Leapfrog Group and Money magazine. Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City was the only hospital in Oklahoma City to get the nod for fair billing, highlighting Mercy's value with low cost and high quality

care.

"Our quality and clinical teams are constantly looking at our processes in pursuit of the best possible ways to take care of patients with safety at the forefront of every decision," said Jim Gebhart, community president of Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City. "Mercy's foundress Catherine McAuley is famously quoted as saying that we should resolve to do good today and better tomorrow. We are never satisfied with good enough patient care. Receiving this award year after year acknowledges our team's dedication to getting health care right for our patients."

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings

program based exclusively on hospital prevention of medical errors and harm to patients. The grading system is peer reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public at [HospitalSafetyGrade.org](https://HospitalSafetyGrade.org). Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, assigns letter grades to hospitals across the country based on more than 30 performance measures, including errors, injuries, accidents, infections and the protocols hospitals have in place to prevent harm to patients.

"I applaud the hospital leadership and workforce for their strong commitment to safety and transparency," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The

Leapfrog Group. "An A safety grade is a sign that hospitals are continuously evaluating their performance, so that they can best protect patients. Your hospital team should be extremely proud of their dedication and achievement."

The A grade from The Leapfrog Group is in addition to other recent recognitions of safety and quality at Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City, such as Top 100 Hospital for Consumer Loyalty from NRC Health and Newsweek Best Maternity Hospital.

To see the full grade details and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit [HospitalSafetyGrade.org](https://HospitalSafetyGrade.org) and follow The Leapfrog Group on Twitter and Facebook.



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## ANSWERS ON PAGE 13

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# OU College of Medicine Researcher Serves as President of American Pancreatic Association

Min Li, Ph.D., George Lynn Cross Research Professor of Medicine, Surgery and Cell Biology in the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine at the OU Health Sciences Center, began his term as president of the American Pancreatic Association on Nov. 7.

The American Pancreatic Association (APA) is the largest professional organization for physicians and researchers specializing in pancreatic diseases. Recognizing that progress in understanding, diagnosing and treating pancreatic diseases requires multidisciplinary analysis, the APA encompasses multiple disciplines, including surgery, medical oncology, gastroenterology, radiation oncology, pathology, and basic science research. The APA also works closely with non-profit organizations to raise funding for pancreatic cancer research.

"Serving as president of the APA is a huge honor for me, and it is a recognition of our work on pancreatic cancer research," Li said. "I am thrilled about the opportunity to serve this amazing organization and to help people suffering from devastating diseases. I hope to carry

on the legacy from past presidents of APA, to work with other leaders in the field to raise more awareness for pancreatic cancer research and treatment nationwide and internationally, and to expand the APA family. Our mission is to foster clinical and basic science research needed to cure diseases of the pancreas and to train the next generation of pancreatologists."

At the OU College of Medicine, Li has been awarded a significant amount of federal funding for his research on pancreatic cancer and continues to advance the field with his investigations. He has published articles for several consecutive years in leading journals on gastrointestinal tract disease, including PNAS, EMBO Molecular Medicine, Gastroenterology, Cancer Research, and Clinical Cancer Research.

Several publications have focused on the protein ZIP4, which transports zinc throughout the body. Each study has focused on a different role for ZIP4, which serves as a "master switch" for several things to occur in pancreatic cancer.

Earlier this year, Li published two research articles in Gastroenterology. In the first paper, Li analyzed the behavior of two different types of RNA — circular RNAs and microRNAs. He found that a specific circular RNA can control the growth of pancreatic cancer cells by "sponging," or binding to, a specific type of microRNA. This process is the same for cachexia, a muscle-wasting condition that affects at least 80% of people with pancreatic cancer.

In the second paper, Li and his colleagues discovered that a particular metabolic enzyme could increase the intake of nutrients to tumor cells and promote muscle wasting. Li's research group is the first to discover the behavior of these two RNAs and the metabolic enzyme in pancreatic cancer. The findings are important because once the mechanism of a behavior is understood, it could



Min Li, Ph.D., George Lynn Cross Research Professor of Medicine.

serve as a target for treating the cancer.

Li also holds the Virginia Kerley Cade Endowed Chair in Cancer Treatment in the OU College of Medicine. In addition, he serves as Associate Director for Global Oncology for OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center at the University of Oklahoma.

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# States Weigh Laws for Nurse Practitioner Full Practice Authority

*As California finalizes its nurse practitioner full practice authority, Indiana and Pennsylvania lobby lawmakers to act on lapsing regulations allowing expanded scope of practice.*

By Sara Heath

At the height of the pandemic, states across the nation issued executive orders granting nurse practitioner full practice authority, a temporary move that leaders said would help expand patient access to care while the US faced unprecedented medical needs.

But those temporary stays are starting to expire. While some states, like California, codify expanded scope of practice laws, others, like Indiana and Pennsylvania, face the consequences of the lapsed regulations.

In California, the state's nurse

practitioner association has officially voted on regulations to expand nurse practitioner scope of practice, according to CalMatters. The vote helps bring to fruition a 2020 law granting nurse practitioners full practice authority, meaning NPs would not need to enter into a written agreement for a physician to oversee their work. The expanded scope of practice hinges on NPs passing a certification course, which the California Association of Nurse Practitioners said will go live soon.

"Hopefully we don't crash the website, but we are very excited,"

Cynthia Jovanov, president of the California Association of Nurse Practitioners, said in a statement via CalMatters. "This means that if I want to do a mobile clinic in Skid Row, I don't have to be held hostage by paperwork to get a partnering physician who may not have the same desire."

The law creates two designations of nurse practitioners in California. The first designation allows NPs to work without a written physician contract, but only in some facilities that also staff at least one physician or surgeon. That allows qualifying NPs, who must have completed 4,600 hours or three years of full-time practice in the state, to consult a physician as necessary.

The second designation allows NPs full practice authority. The state is taking a phased-in approach to this designation, CalMatters reported, so NPs likely won't attain this designation until 2026.

But as California finalizes its plans for expanded scope of practice and full practice authority, other states are seeing their pandemic-era temporary expansions expire, leaving some advocates to lobby lawmakers.

In Indiana, a group of community groups has launched Hoosiers for Health Care Access (HHCA), which is calling on the Indiana General Assembly and Governor Eric Holcomb to re-up a COVID-era rule allowing NPs expanded scope of practice.

Indiana is staring down a staffing shortage that imperils patient care access and outcomes, wrote HHCA, which included member groups The Indiana Chamber, AARP Indiana, Americans for Prosperity-Indiana, the Coalition of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Indiana, the Convenient Care Association, the Indiana Minority Health Coalition, Purdue University NW College of Nursing, INhouse Primary Care, Rounding Providers, and Sojourner Truth House.

A whopping 2 million Indiana residents live in federally designated primary care provider shortage areas, they wrote, and 4.7 million Indiana residents lack access to mental healthcare. Moreover, access to maternity care is lacking, with about a third of Indiana counties classified as obstetric deserts.

That's impacting local business, HHCA argued, because companies cannot attract talent to a state with limited patient access to care. Keeping the NP scope of practice rules that were enacted during the pandemic could help fill that gap, the organizations wrote.

"Over the last two years, the public health emergency temporarily empowered patients with greater health care choice through direct access to advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)," HHCA wrote in the open letter. "We cannot turn back now. With the suspension of the Governor's

executive order lapsing earlier this year, the General Assembly must act swiftly to pass legislation in the 2023 session to make this access permanent."

In Pennsylvania, policymakers are approaching the full practice authority argument empirically, with a new report from the Commonwealth Foundation showing that expanding scope of practice could eliminate half of the state's health professional shortage areas (HPSAs).

"Skilled professionals, like Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), can help fill the gap," the authors wrote in the report's executive summary. "However, current state laws often prevent skilled APRNs from providing primary care to patients. State Scope of Practice (SOP) laws govern APRNs, limiting what tasks they can perform. These laws define each provider's role and dictate the oversight they must have to practice."

Compared to neighboring Maryland, where APRNs experience expanded scope of practice, Pennsylvanians face poorer care access and health outcomes, the researchers said. Despite similar physician density, Marylanders are less likely to report fair or poor mental or physical health, the report showed.

If Pennsylvania went the way of Maryland, full practice authority would increase the number of certified nurse midwives (CNMs) by an estimated 26.7 percent and the number of NPs by 29.5 percent. Full practice authority would also mean more patients could access care, with the Commonwealth Foundation researchers reporting NPs could see 1,792 more patients each week.

"Laws and regulations matter," Elizabeth Stelle, Commonwealth Foundation director of policy analysis and the report's editor, said in a statement emailed to journalists.

"Maryland policies that give full practice authority to nurse practitioners and nurse midwives benefit health care consumers, providing greater access and better health care outcomes. Pennsylvania and other states can address primary care physician shortages by allowing highly trained advanced practice registered nurses to do the jobs they were trained to do."

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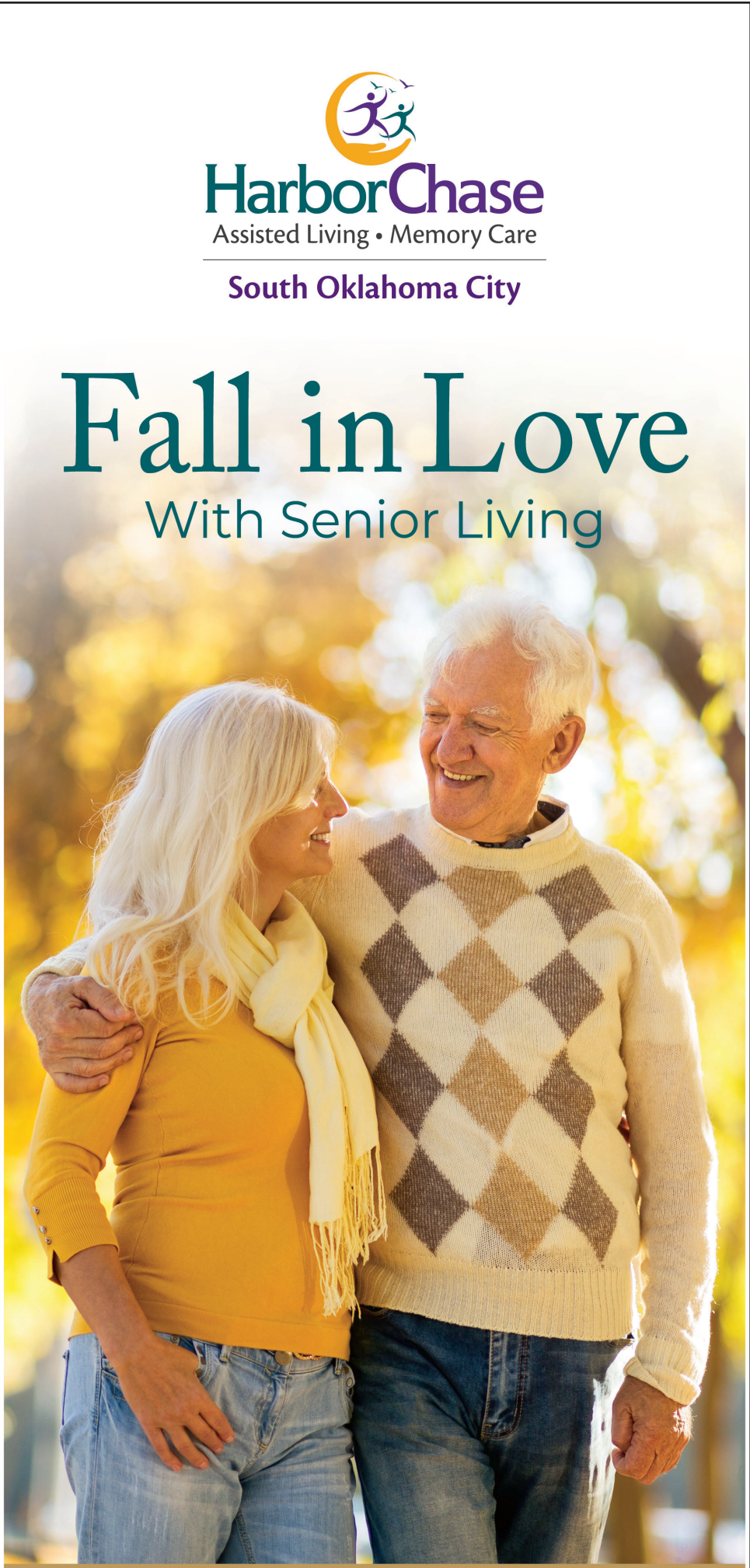
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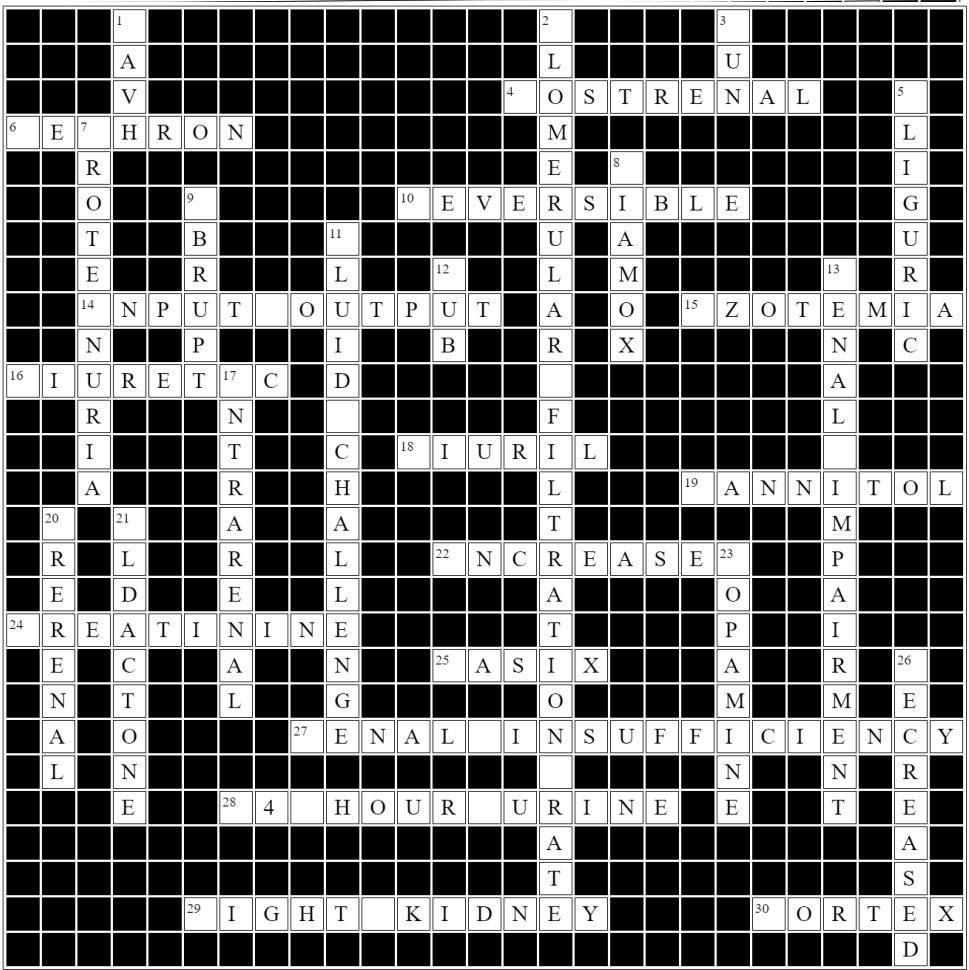
  
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