#### **Recruiter Showcase**

# Oklahoma's Nursing Times



JOB FAIR Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023

Check them out on page 3



August 7, 2023

**Information for the Oklahoma Nursing & Health Care Professional** 

www.oknursingtimes.com

Vol. 24 Issue 31

Kristina Tell, RN serves as the executive director of home health and hospice services for Excell.

story and photo by Bobby Anderson, Staff Writer

Kristina Tell, RN, knows how important leaving a legacy can be, both in life and in business.

That's why the executive director for Excell Home Health and Hospice believes her staff is making a difference every day.

"We provide life-changing services and for every one of our employees that is their goal," Tell said. "We have always been an agency where we have scored well on our surveys that come back. That's because we really take the time to take care of our patients. You can have the best marketing team in the world and they can go out and sell your product but if you're not fulfilling that product it's not going to continue.

"Our legacy is a legacy of excellence and that's what we continue to strive for."

Excell is able to offer a continuum of care with both home health and hospice services. If the time comes, patients can seamlessly transfer services without having to give up those important relationships.

"I think going to hospice is one of the scariest words for patients and so for them to be able to have that same nurse transition with them and still go through that time we've seen a really amazing product from that," Tell said.

Patients suffering from disease progression, frequent emergency room visits, multiple hospitalizations, and/or aggressive medical interventions may also be eligible for hospice care. Hospice care can be discontinued at any time and

#### **EXCELL Continued from Page 1**

is a covered Medicare benefit.

Home Health and Hospice offer an affordable way to receive medical care at home. Many who access these benefits are over the age of 65 and are entitled to Medicare benefits which cover 100 percent of the cost of services and associated medication and supply costs. Medicaid and most commercial insurances also provide home health and hospice coverage.

Often, when patients elect home health or hospice, it is their primary physician who authorizes, coordinates and follows their care from start to finish.

Excell Home Care & Hospice works closely with the physician of your choice to provide care. If the patient does not have a primary care physician and needs to be seen by a doctor, the Home Health and Hospice agency has Medical Directors who can visit the patient.

Tell started her nursing legacy in the intensive care unit at OU Medical. Looking for a change, she found Excell in 2010 and accepted a position as a field case manager.

A clinical supervisor role quickly followed before she accepted the position as director of nursing.

A transition in ownership in 2017 placed her in the director of clinical services role leading both home health and hospice.

"I just love our agency. We're very family oriented," she said. "I think it really reflects that when our employees are happy so are our patients. We really care about each other and want the best for each other. I think it would be really difficult to leave my family because I see them all as my family."

In a very mobile industry, Tell and Excell have enjoyed a loyalty from staff that is uncommon.

"I think that's one of the things that really sets Excell apart, we have a lot of tenure," Tell said. "Our director of rehab has been there since our doors opened in 1995. We have a lot of nurses that are 20-plus years, LPNs that are 15-plus years. We have a home health aide who has been here for 17 years. We have a lot of longevity and I think that speaks to who we are."

Each Excell employee knows they are helping patients leave a legacy, and in turn, creating one of their very own.

"I really think it is because we show our employees that we do value them and care for them. That makes a huge difference," Tell said



of her staff longevity. "If they're just an employee, just another number they're going to go someplace else, chase that extra dollar. When you really put the time into your employees, getting to know them

and their families we spend a lot of time together."

For more information about Excell Home Health and Hospice or to join the team, visit https://excellcares.com/careers/.

# 2023 ONA ANNUAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCED

The Oklahoma Nurses Association will be hosting the 2023 annual convention in Oklahoma City September 27th through the 28th.

The goal of the convention is to focus on supporting nurses and building supportive structures for



nurses' new normal as the work environment evolves and highlight the difference nurses make every day in the life of patients.

This year, the convention will take place at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Oklahoma City Northwest, 3233 Northwest Expy in Oklahoma City. Register for the convention here: https://www.oklahomanurses.org/event-5288406

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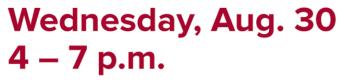
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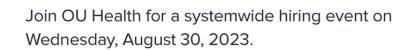
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# CAREERS IN NURSING:

# CLOSE TO HOME - SSM BRINGS ENDOSCOPY CLINIC TO MIDWEST CITY

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

SSM Health St. Anthony Midwest is near completion of a new endoscopy clinic and outpatient unit, said Laura Easley, RN, who works in the ambulatory surgery unit.

The clinic is still under development as more staff is being hired. Easley will be floating back and forth to the unit that is expected to open in August, according to plans. Patients have been coming to the ambulatory surgery unit for pre/op and post/op procedures.

The new endoscopy clinic will expand the number of colonoscopies and EGEs at the hospital, she said. An upper GI Endoscopy allows the endoscopist to directly observe the lining of the esophagus, stomach, and first part of the small intestine.

"We can get more people covered in a day, and we'll be able to cover a larger portion of our community here," Easley explained. "It's better than patients having to go out of this area."

Easley is well acquainted with patients needing an endoscopy procedure. She checks their vital signs,

including blood sugar for persons living with diabetes. Patients answer questions about their health and get dressed and ready for the procedure.

The doctors speak to the patient to answer any questions and explain anesthesia before they are taken into the unit. Following the procedure, the patients receive post-anesthesia care.

Her nursing journey began in 2011 after graduating from OSU/OKC. She joined the nursing staff at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital, located in midtown Oklahoma City

"I had a really laid-back preceptor. She was calm and cool all the time. When I was stressing out as a new nurse, she was like, 'It's okay. This is what we're going to do.""

Easley did some brief clinic work but came back to St. Anthony Hospital to focus on med/surg psychiatric behavioral nursing. She was a charge nurse on the floor for eight years.

Her advice for students before they decide on nursing is to work in health care in some capacity. Get exposed to it a little bit, she said. Make sure it is for you.

"I had an aunt who was a nurse, and she was always the person the family would turn to when they had health problems going on," she said. "Inevitably that happens to everybody, and everybody is scared. She was always our rock and I just thought I wanted to do that, too. She did home health. So, she had all kinds of tips and tricks up her sleeve. I decided not to follow her path that closely, but still kind of the same."

Today, Easley is fascinated with her current role.

She gets to see a lot of different types of patient procedures. Easley had never worked in surgery before this job. So, her understanding from the perspective of ambulatory surgical nursing now makes more sense, she said.

"I get where they're coming from on their end. So, I get to see all the different patients and get to send them home," she said of seeing the full spectrum of care.

The endoscopy clinic will be a streamlined process. Two procedure rooms are located nearby the patients'

rooms within the unit. Some patients coming for an endoscopy have never had a surgery before, Easley said.

"They're really scared. They've heard about Michael Jackson using Propofol and we use that drug sometimes," Easley said. "They're just scared that they're not going to be okay."

Easley explains that administering the sedative is a very routine process with constant professional monitoring.

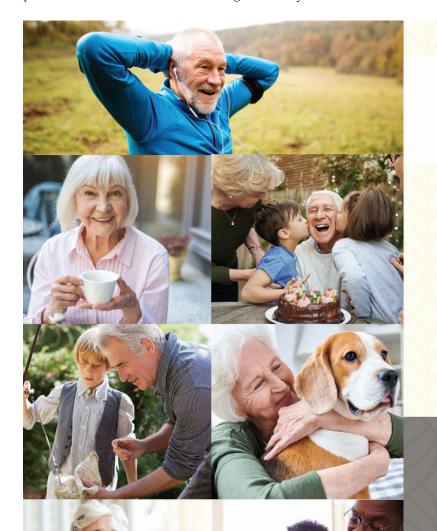
She thought about the impact that nursing has had on her own life.

"I think that health care is complicated and messy and painful and wonderful," Easley said. "Having a support system is really important. I get to see the big difference in people when they have one versus when they don't. As a young person as a nurse, you don't really get that until you've seen it"

Easley said the nursing profession has galvanized her strength.

"Sometimes you have to use your poker face and maybe want to go cry. But you must keep your professional

continued next page



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Laura Easley, RN, looks forward to the opening of a new endoscopy clinic at a new endoscopy clinic at SSM Health St. Anthony Midwest.

# CLINIC Continued from Page 4

face on because it's not about how you feel. It's about how they feel," she said

Easley said her time with Saints has been well spent. Once you work at Saints, even if you leave for a little while, you'll come back, she said.

Easley's caring nature extends to her great sense of comfort — her

family

"I have a 3-year-old daughter and she is the most hilarious human I have ever met in my life," she said. "She is completely distracting and joyful. Her favorite thing right now is swimming. So, we've got a little pool in the

For more information about SSM Health St. Anthony Midwest or to join the team, visit

https://jobs.ssmhealth.com/.

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- · RN Pain Circulator FT Sign on Bonus \$3,000

#### **North Campus:**

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- RN Pre Admission Testing (PRN)
- RN Pre OP/Phase II Recovery FT -

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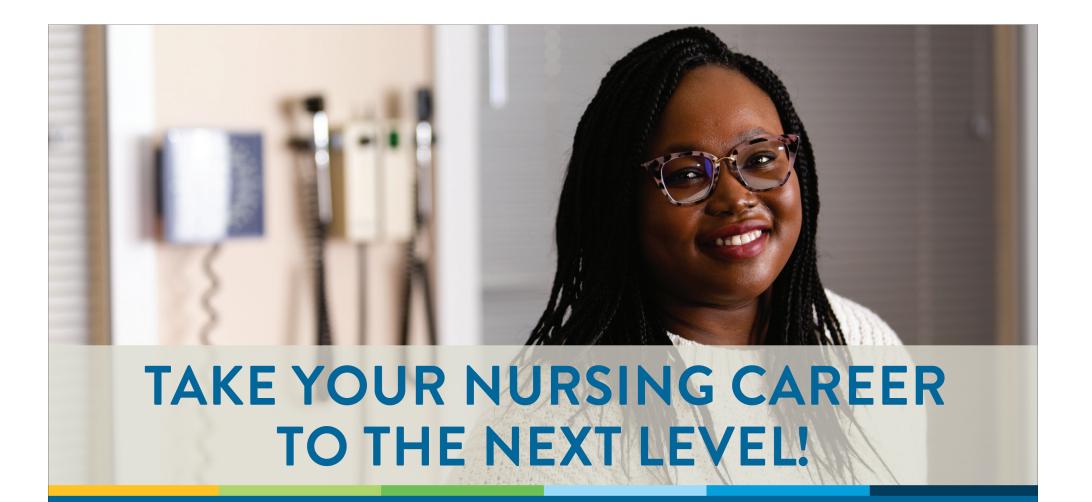
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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2023 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

# Kramer School of Nursing

# Offering Wide Variety of Career Opportunities



Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing continues to implement opportunities that enhance the future of its students, staff and faculty.

One such venture is the Saints and to a good start. Stars Partnership.

Saints and Stars is a five-year agreement between SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital and Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing. The partnership allows OCU students to work part-time with SSM Health while they complete their nursing degree, while also receiving a \$3,500 annual scholarship from SSM Health and a \$5,000 annual discount from OCU.

In addition to employment and financial benefits, the partnership will allow OCU nursing students the opportunity to take part in clinical rotations at SSM Health; to engage in paid leadership clinical hours; to participate in a summer nurse extern program; to complete service-learning hours at SSM Health; and to be assigned a nurse mentor.

In addition, up to two SSM Health employees may enroll in OCU's Master of Science in Nursing Education program. OCU will reciprocate by emphasizing the hiring of the program's SSM Health graduates to serve as clinical adjuncts to supervise Stars and Saints students completing their rotations at SSM Health.

"As one of the nation's leading nursing education programs, we are invested in helping address the nursing shortage," OCU President Kenneth Evans said.

Casey Cassidy, PhD, RN, CMSRN, CHSE, Associate Dean & Associate Professor School of Nursing said the Saints and Stars program has gotten off

"So far, really well, our students are just very appreciative of the financial assistance, but also the opportunity to, you know, gain more experience while they're in," Cassidy said.

The Kramer School of Nursing also focuses on Community Based Public Health which positions KSN to meet the future health care delivery needs of individuals within the context of population focused care.

Nurses interested in a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with a Community Based Public Health (CBPH) focus are typically employed in non-acute care settings such as public health departments, school health settings, faith-based health programs, occupational health clinics, volunteer health organizations, community health centers, and out-

These degrees are designed to provide advanced nursing education through the synthesis of nursing and public health theory applied to promoting and preserving the health of populations.

"We have a well-established Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program and a Doctor of Nursing Practice program," said Toni Frioux, DNP, APRN-CNP, FNP-BC, CNE.

#### **Associate Professor School of Nursing.**

Nurses with a CBPH focus are ideally positioned to help achieve prevention-oriented care by addressing: • The social determinants of health • Increasing access to care across the care continuum • Engaging systems facilitators and identifying barriers • Bridge delivery of health care needs in the community • Strengthen diversity among the nursing workforce

Frioux said the advanced CBPH leader will be provided the tools to improve the populations health to prevent problems from happening or recurring, limit health disparities, promote healthcare equity, quality, and accessibility by exploring the application of public health actions through nursing practice.

"There's increasing awareness that we need to do something about the extensive amount of dollars that are spent in acute care, disease treatment at the end of life and, so we really need to change that paradigm where we are doing more health promotion and disease prevention services so that we are helping people maintain their health longer and keeping them out of those expensive hospital-based services

to capitalize on saving dollars," she said.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice, community based public health track is designed for advanced nurses with careers in non-acute care settings who already hold a master's degree in nursing, master's in public health, or similar master's degree. The program is 32-credit

Frioux said the Master of Science in Nursing degree with a CBPH focus is a good fit for nurses with a minimum of a bachelor's degree who are interested in applying and integrating public health science into their nursing skill set to improve the health of the community and the population through out-patient practice settings.

Kramer School of Nursing's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Doctor of Nursing Practice Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (DNP-AGACNP) students collaborated with Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students to care for a client in the acutecare setting while focusing on patient safety, teamwork, and communication.

In January 2023, the Kramer School of Nursing joined the Physician Assistant Program and Physical Therapy Program in viewing the OCU's theater department performance.

After the performance, breakout sessions with students from all three departments were led in an interprofessional discussion.

'We had a great response, and we had over 100 students that participated," Frioux said. "We had the theater students. In addition to that, who actually read the play. It just gave us an opportunity to introduce in a very different way some of the concepts that we have to deal with in healthcare."

> For more information visit: https://www.okcu.edu/nursing

# **INTEGRIS** Health to Acquire **AllianceHealth Ponca City and AllianceHealth Woodward**

INTEGRIS Health has signed a definitive agreement to acquire AllianceHealth Ponca City and the operational assets of AllianceHealth Woodward and their related businesses, including physician clinic operations and outpatient services from subsidiaries of Community Health Systems, Inc. (NYSE: CYH).

INTEGRIS Health has a signed agreement with the city of Woodward for the long-term lease of the Woodward hospital beginning later this fall.

INTEGRIS Health's mission is partnering with people to live healthier lives. The organization is known for innovation and quality, offering advanced treatment options and specialties found nowhere else in the region.

"We are thrilled to have Woodward Hospital and Ponca City Hospital join INTEGRIS Health later this year to further advance our mission by serving more lives in the western part of our state," said Timothy Pehrson, president and of INTEGRIS Health to support

chief executive officer of INTEGRIS Health. "We remain committed to Oklahomans who rely upon INTEGRIS Health to care for them in their greatest time of need."

Once the transaction is complete, INTEGRIS Health will work with the medical staff and leadership to develop plans for clinical synergies to integrate the hospitals with their organization and establish Ponca City and Woodward as regional sources for health care services.

Serving Kay and Woodward counties, the hospitals, outpatient clinics and physician offices of AllianceHealth Ponca City and AllianceHealth Woodward had more than 200,000 patient encounters last

"We have a dedicated and skilled team of providers who have and will continue to provide safe, quality care for our patients," said Chris Mendoza, chief executive officer of AllianceHealth Ponca City. "We'll work closely with the leadership





a smooth integration with their organization."

AllianceHealth Ponca City is 140-bed acute care hospital offering services including emergency medicine. cardiac rehab. echocardiography and heart failure treatment, including implantable pacemakers, as well as orthopedic, women's health, neurologic and urologic surgeries. Quality of care is recognized with 3-Stars on CMS Care Compare and with an A on the most recent Leapfrog hospital safety grade. Outpatient offerings include an urgent care, rehabilitation and diagnostic imaging.

"The city of Woodward gave careful consideration in selecting INTEGRIS Health as the new leaseholder," said Landon Hise, chief executive officer of AllianceHealth Woodward. "We have great respect for our community's leaders and look forward to engaging with the INTEGRIS Health team to build upon the quality care we provide to our patients."

AllianceHealth Woodward is an 87-bed acute care hospital recognized twice in five years for exceptional performance and innovation by the Chartis Center for Rural Health as a Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital in the United States. The hospital offers emergency medicine, a range of surgical services including orthopedic, and roboticassisted technology is used for some general and gastroenterologic surgeries. Outpatient services include diagnostic imaging, wound care, sleep studies and rehabilitation.

The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to close later this year.

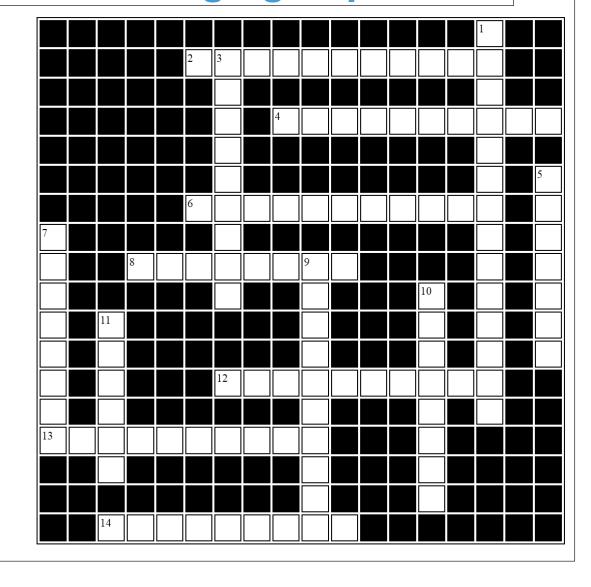
# **CROSSWORD SEARCH: Aging Population**

#### **Across**

- 2. people born between 1946-1964
- 4. over the counter and or prescription pills
- 6. The same amount of money coming in every month
- 8. federal health for people 65 and older
- 12. feeling of hopelessness
- 13. self-worth
- 14. group of people living together/society

#### **Down**

- 1. alternative place to call home
- 3. wearing away of the cartilage layers of joints
- 5. persistent illness that last over a long period of time
- 7. people born between 1960-5
- 9. leaving or giving up work
- 10. the ability to move around
- 11. feeling of isolation



Oklahoma's Nursing Times August 7, 2023 Page 9

# Rest of life Breath of Life With love Your Heavy And Life Control of Children's Hospital Children's H

If you could invite an historical figure for dinner, who would you choose?



SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital Midwest "I would talk to Buddha about mindfulness and finding your peace within a storm."



Zonna Franklin, RN

"I think Genghis Khan about what prompted him to conquer the known world."



Bruce Guyer, RN

"Ruth Bader Ginsburg. I just want to hear a lot of behind the scenes stories between the lines."



Laura Easley, RN





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# SPECIAL TO OKNT

## MENTAL HEALTH VS GUN

#### Fact vs Fiction

by Vicki L Mayfield, M.Ed., R.N., LMFT Marriage and Family Therapy

Jim arrived for his therapy appointment with noticeable agitation and somewhat pressured speech. (All names have been changed to protect the individual's privacy). Jim was very fixated on a recent mass shooting. Jim had many guns, which he said were in his locked gun cabinet in his home

Jim had a mental health diagnosis, he had been in therapy for several years and hospitalized twice. He was seen regularly by his psychiatrist and took his daily psychiatric medications.

Jim described how he had no trouble buying guns. He easily purchased them from the sporting goods store & carried them out on the same day or buying them from someone's trunk in a busy parking lot

He continued to discuss his thoughts & feelings about the recent shooting. When asked the following



Vicki L Mayfield, M.Ed., R.N., LMFT Marriage and Family Therapy Oklahoma City.

questions:

- •Do you have any plans to get one of your guns out of the safe?
- •Do you have a gun on your person or in your car?
- •Do you have a plan to shoot

someone?

• Have you ever made a plan to shoot someone?

Jim answered NO to every question. He never verbalized any plan to shoot a person, people or himself so no contact could be made to the police.

Contact was made to his psychiatrist to request Joe be seen by another mental health professional (MHP) for an additional assessment.

A MHP can only work with the information that a client presents. There is an absolute duty to warn if a threat is made to harm a person or people.

When a person is discharged from an inpatient mental health treatment program related to suicide staff will strongly encourage family & friends to remove all firearms from the home.

According to the CDC firearms are the most common method used in suicides in the U.S., more than 50%.

It is impossible to get exact numbers of total guns in the nation & each state. However, the Pew Research Center has compiled data that is about as accurate as it gets. The following states have the strictest gun ownership in the U.S.(fewest gun deaths):

- •Rhode Island
- •New York

- Hawaii
- Massachusetts
- •New Jersey

The following states have banned assault rifles:

- •New York
- California
- •New Jersey

Obtaining a permit or license required to even purchase a gun in these states can take weeks and is relatively rigorous.

Oklahoma has very relaxed gun laws & as a result ranks #5 in the nation for highest gun deaths. Here are the states requirements (or lack of):

- •No permit required
- •No owner license required
- •No assault weapon law
- •No red flags law
- •No magazine capacity restriction
- •No background check for private sales

The following compares the U.S., Canada & Japan related to gun laws: UNITED STATES

- -Everyone has the constitutional right to bear arms
- -Strong gun culture
- -Powerful firearm lobbies
- -NRA exerts a strong influence over players in American government
- -Yes allows modified guns **CANADA**

SEE SPECIAL on page 12

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\*\*Early Bird Registration ends August 31, 2023! Sign up Today!

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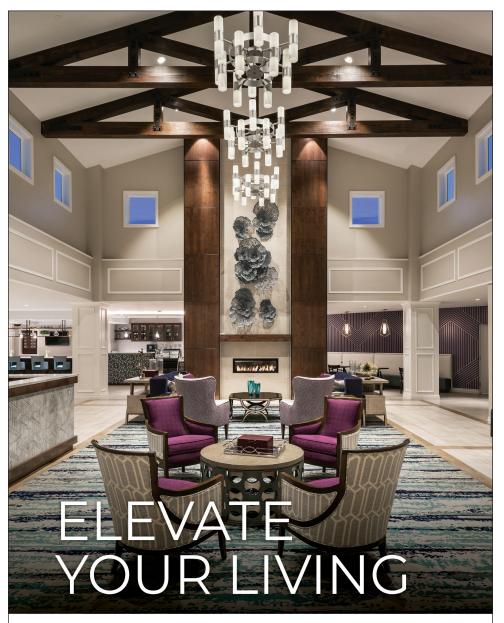
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# AANP Applauds Senate Introduction of ICAN Act

**Practitioners®** (AANP) commends Sens. Merkley (D-OR) and Lummis (R-WY) for introducing the Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act in the U.S. Senate. This legislation would improve health care access for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries by removing federal barriers to practice for nurse practitioners (NPs) and other advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs).

"Every day, nurse practitioners are striving to meet our country's growing need for high-quality health care in all practice settings yet outdated federal barriers limit patient access to NP-provided care," said AANP President Stephen Ferrara, DNP. "This important legislation will move our nation's health care system toward one that more accurately reflects the modern health care workforce. It is vital that the millions of Medicare

and Medicaid patients who choose NPs receive timely access to highquality health care. AANP applauds the introduction of the ICAN Act by Senators Merkley and Lummis in the U.S. Senate, and we urge its swift passage by Congress."

NPs are the fastest-growing Medicare provider group, and approximately 40% of Medicare beneficiaries receive NP-delivered care. The ICAN Act would improve timely access to care by authorizing NPs to order cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, certify when patients with diabetes need therapeutic shoes, have their patients fully included in the beneficiary attribution process for the Medicare Shared Savings Program, refer patients for medical nutrition therapy, certify

recertify a patient's terminal illness for hospice eligibility, perform all mandatory examinations in skilled nursing facilities, and more.

AANP strongly supports the ICAN Act and efforts to modernize policies that will ensure every American has timely access to high-quality health care from their chosen health care provider. Earlier this year, the House Representatives introduced companion legislation that has garnered the support of more than 235 national, state and local organizations.

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners® (AANP) is the largest professional membership organization for nurse practitioners (NPs) of all specialties.

American Association of NURSE PRACTITIONERS®

#### **SPECIAL Continued from Page 8**

- -Long & complex process
- -Not a strong gun culture
- -Gun lobbies much weaker
- -Less influence on the gov.
- -Definite limit on magazines
- -No modified guns

#### **JAPAN**

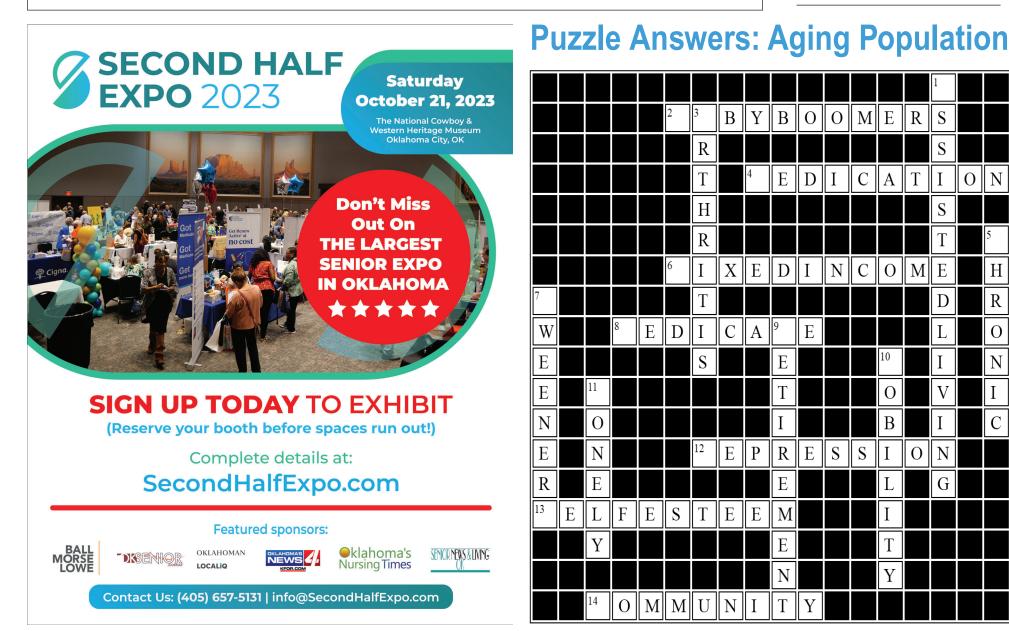
- -Only police can carry guns
- Lowest rate of gun violence in the world
- -No gun lobbies
- Mandatory training
- -Pass written exam

Japan's suicide rate is two times higher for males & three times higher for females but the methods are different than the U.S. Hanging, followed fy jumping from high places are most common methods. In the U.S. firearms (for both genders) is the most common followed by hanging & drugs.

Canada - 80% of firearm related deaths are from suicide.

Oklahoma has a population of over four million & currently has one psychiatrist for every 8,628 people. The state ranks 38th in mental health care. (That means 37 states are doing better).

Guns appear to be much more abundant & more valued than mental health care.



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# 46TH ANNUAL SENIOR DAY Wednesday, September 20

Free admission for Seniors 55+ (proof of age required)





p.m.

# SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

EXHIBITORS, PHOTO BOOTH & FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS	.10 a.m 7 p.m.
DOOR PRIZES	.Session 1: 10 a.m 1 p.r Session 2: 1 - 3:30 p.m. Session 3: 3:30 - 6 p.m.
OUT & ABOUT: SPACE WALK	.10 a.m 2 p.m.
SENIORS IN MOTION VIDEO VOTING	.10 a.m 5 p.m.
OKIE STOMPERS	.10:05 a.m. & 11 a.m.
BLACK HOLE TOSS	.10:35 a.m.
THE MILKY WAY - EXPANSIVE UNIVERSE OR DELICIOUS CANDY	.11:30 a.m.
YMCA COMMUNITY TEAM	.12 p.m.
LOVE YOU TO THE MOON AND BACK COUPLES CHALLENGE	.12:50 p.m.
OUT OF THIS WORLD KARAOKE CONTEST	.1:20 p.m.
IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE	.2:20 p.m.
THE BIG BANG GAME SHOW	.3:05 p.m.
SAVE THE FROZEN PLANET	
JIM GARLING	.5 p.m.
OKLAHOMA CITY SWING DANCE CLUB	
ALIEN INVASION	.5:55 p.m.
VOCAL SOUNDS OF OKLAHOMA	.6:10 p.m.
ELVIS VISITS THE SPACE STATION	.6:30 p.m.
SHAWN KLUSH - TRIBUTE TO ELVIS Chickasaw Country Entertainment Stage	.7:30 p.m.

For more detailed information visit the Senior Day page on the Oklahoma State Fair website.

# Norman Regional Names 2023 Healer of the Year

Eugene Brown, a dedicated and longtime healer, has been named Norman Regional Health System's 2023 Healer of the Year.

Norman Regional's Healer of the Year ceremony took place in the Norman Regional Education Center on Tuesday, July 25. The ceremony began with Norman Regional President and CEO, Richie Splitt, reiterating to those in attendance what it means to be a healer and why Norman Regional refers to all of their employees as healers.

"Titling our employees as healers separates us from other health systems. It calls on each of us to care for our patients and makes our patient-first approach meaningful and distinct," said Splitt. "We are

more than employees, we are called to serve the person inside each and every patient along with their loved ones and their families and I want to thank each of you for the difference that you make each and every day,"

Norman Regional Chaplain, Nick Napoli, echoed a similar message as he took the podium to deliver words of encouragement.

"A healer is not just an employee, it's not someone who shows up for a paycheck, we are called to something a little different," said Napoli. "What makes you a healer is not your skillset, it's not your experience, it's not how you do something well versus someone else. It's that something inside you that keeps getting you



Eugene Brown pictured with his wife and fellow healer, Debbie Brown, RN.

up every morning to come towards the things that most people move away from."

Norman Regional leadership then recognized all 12 healers who earned the Healer of the Month honor over the past year. They were able to share their stories and what they enjoy about working at Norman Regional. Included among the 12 recognized was Eugene Brown, who at the conclusion of the ceremony was named Norman Regional's Healer of the Year for 2023.

Brown, an integral member of the Engineering team, was previously recognized as the Healer of the Month in April 2023, securing his nomination for the annual award alongside 11 other employees.

Brown has been devoted to his role at Norman Regional for over two decades, having started in the Distribution/Transportation department before transferring to Engineering. Before joining Norman Regional, Brown honed his skills at Parker Electric as an Apprentice Electrician.

Originally from Cavite City in the Philippines, Brown moved to Hawaii before settling in Oklahoma in 1995. After moving to Oklahoma, he attended Moore Norman Technology Center, graduating in electric trades. Brown's responsibilities at Norman Regional are vital. He not only oversees key Engineering functions but also works hand-in-hand with other departments to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the health system. Brown also serves on the blood drive committee and has made it a priority to apply his skills beyond his role within Engineering.

Outside of work, Brown enjoys spending time with his family, especially attending the sporting events of his 10 grandchildren. A quiet man by nature, his favorite pastime is savoring the tranquility of a cabin in the woods with his wife and dog.

After accepting his title as Healer of the Year, Brown was eager to extend his gratitude and thanks to his fellow healers, but kept it simple and to the point.

"I just want to say thank you again and that we need to be positive all the time," said Brown.

What he cherishes most about working at NRHS, Brown shares, are the relationships he has developed. "The people here have become more than just colleagues, they're my friends," he said.

Once again, congratulations to Eugene Brown on being named the Healer of the Year for 2023. Your dedication and service are greatly appreciated by the entire Norman Regional Health System community.

For more information about Norman Regional Health System or to join, visit: https://careers.normanregional.com/careers-home/

## **OKNT** - Classifieds

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Prep for lecture exams \* Help with care plans

For more information contact Hope Schreur, RN, BSN at:

918-706-9574 or email hope.schreur@gmail.com

Hello! I am a RN in Oklahoma who is offering tutoring services to nursing students needing exam/NCLEX prep, and RNs taking specialty certifications such as the CCRN, PCCN, CMC, CSC, etc. I have nearly 6 years nursing experience in cardiac ICU and electrophysiology, and I have personally received the CCRN, CMC, CSC certifications. I look forward to helping others achieve their personal goals.

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07/24/23

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