

NOVEMBER  
2020



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# Vision

A Publication of Excelsior Springs Hospital | Excelsior Springs, MO

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## Hospital welcomes new Chief Medical Officer

There have been many new developments to the Excelsior Springs Hospital campus as the Primary Care Practices move to the hospital's location. With a new wing dedicated entirely to the practice and the addition of a new pharmacy, things are a little different. With that change also comes new staff, as the hospital welcomes Family Medicine Doctor AJ Strickland to the practice, to serve as the hospital's Chief Medical Officer.



Dr. A.J. Strickland, ESH Chief Medical Officer

“As a Board Certified Family Medicine Doctor, I look forward to bringing stable, innovative care to the community here,” Dr. Strickland expressed. “Since I arrived I have noticed how proud of the community others are here and how excited they are about what the future holds.” Accessibility to specialty services and primary care when you need them is an important goal that Dr. Strickland has set for his new role at the hospital. Making health systems available, especially for those who feel disenfranchised or who haven't had access to quality healthcare before, is what Dr. Strickland is keeping in mind.

“It's no secret that our healthcare system is broken. From insurance, to cost of medicine, it can be a frustrating experience for all,” Dr. Strickland explained. “To fix healthcare, you have to start somewhere. We look forward to helping peo-

ple navigate those waters to make it easier for them.”

Incorporating the community's input into what the needs are is important to the physician. Having hospital leaders who reach out to the community and get them involved in finding solutions is key to the success of the hospital. Conducting community needs assessments will help drive the decisions

that health leaders make when planning for a long term, quality healthcare program. Continuing to expand on innovative telehealth technologies that are making things more convenient with both time and place, and allowing citizens to get quality health services close to home, is another goal the hospital is working toward.

“We are creating something special here. I'm excited about the cutting edge projects that are taking place here in the community. There are a lot of passionate people with innovative ideas that they're eager to implement,” Dr. Strickland said.

Some of the treatments Dr. Strickland will offer include addiction medicine.

“Our community struggles with addiction disorders, like every other community,” Dr. Strickland shared. “There aren't many services out there that are readily available to those who need them. We

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# Excelsior Springs Health Care Foundation raises nearly \$52,000



Foundation emcees Kent Powell, Foundation President, and Kristen DeHart, ESH CEO, with Christy Marker, ESH Ancillary Director, Rehabilitation Services, drawing for prize winners during the 2020 Virtual Event.

The Excelsior Springs Health Care Foundation has exceeded its goal of \$40,000, raising nearly \$52,000 for its 2020 event. The annual fundraiser looked a little different this year when the coronavirus restricted its ability to gather. Instead of entirely cancelling, like some organizations have had to do, the Health Care Foundation opted to go virtual and take their fundraiser online. Partnering with Morgansites, the foundation hosted “A Night at the Hospital” bringing attendees into the hospital with physician interviews and a look at the new Physician Clinics and Pharmacy that has been recently added to the hospital campus.

“We knew this year’s event was facing a challenge going into it, but the generosity that has been outpoured from the public has made this year’s event a huge success!” said Dr. Kent Powell, Excelsior Springs Health Care Foundation Chair.

The online event raised \$5,875 in ticket registration and raffle proceeds alone. When attendees logged in to a private link, they were greeted with emcees for the evening, Dr. Powell and Kristen DeHart, Chief Executive Officer for the Excelsior Springs Hospital. Between interviews and tours throughout the hospital, they drew 10 winners of \$50, 10 winners of \$100, three Price Chopper gift

cards, and one \$1,000 winner, Misty Lawson!

In addition to the raffles, the foundation also held an online Silent Auction that opened a week before the event began, with bids totaling \$7,603 by the time the auction closed. Over 30 donations from local citizens and organizations were included, with the showcase item of the night being a signed Patrick Mahomes jersey, which was won by Clint Hylton.

“Having the auction online allowed for more people to participate, while also extending the time of the auction. It was really exciting to see bids coming in from all over the United States,” said Health Care Foundation Director Chris Riegel. “We want to thank all of those who donated to make this possible.”

Each year the foundation recognizes members of its hospital staff by presenting Commitment to Caring Awards, which is dedicated to recognizing employees and community members for their commitment to providing the highest quality of care for our community. To announce winners, the foundation interrupted meetings, surprising the employees while presenting them with their award while being filmed.

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## Thank You to our Sponsors!

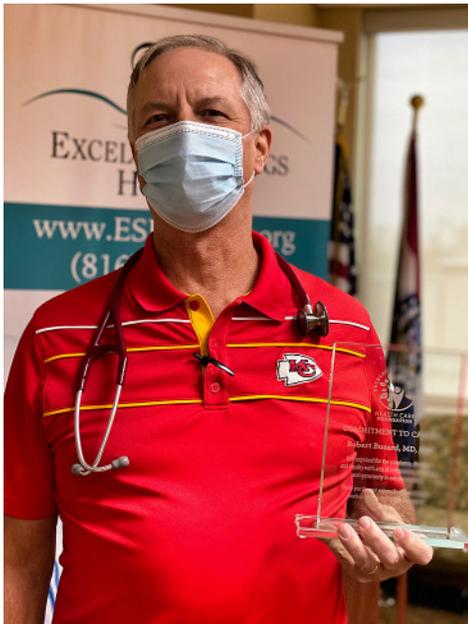
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Northland Healthcare Access | Jeanine & Stephen Stubbs | Southwest Solutions Group

This year's Commitment to Care award winners included: Dr. Robert Buzard, ES Primary Care; Amanda Romazon, Accounting; Nicole Shields, Nursing; and Misty Lawson, Utilization. Also nominated was Reynold Rose, Surgery.

Up and Coming Nominees are recognized as a newer face to the organization, but are already proving their commitment to the cause. This year's awardees included: Lori Brookshier, HIM; DeVonna Ishmael, Lawson Primary Care. Also nominated for the category were Kelly Helou, Nursing, Keith VanBebber, Outpatient Clinic and Logan Pettz, Rehabilitation.

"We want to thank everyone for their generosity and support as we go through this trying time in healthcare. We are grateful for the nearly \$52,000 raised that we will be able to dedicate to the hospital's Outpatient Clinics," said Kristen DeHart. "We continue on our path to provide quality health offerings, close to home and encourage everyone to take a look at the services that are offered through our hospital. We also extend a warm invitation to visit our new community pharmacy!"

To view the virtual event, the hospital has made the video public and can be found by going to the hospital's website at <https://eshospital.org>.



**Dr. Robert Buzard**  
Commitment to Caring Award



**Amanda Romazon**  
Commitment to Caring Award



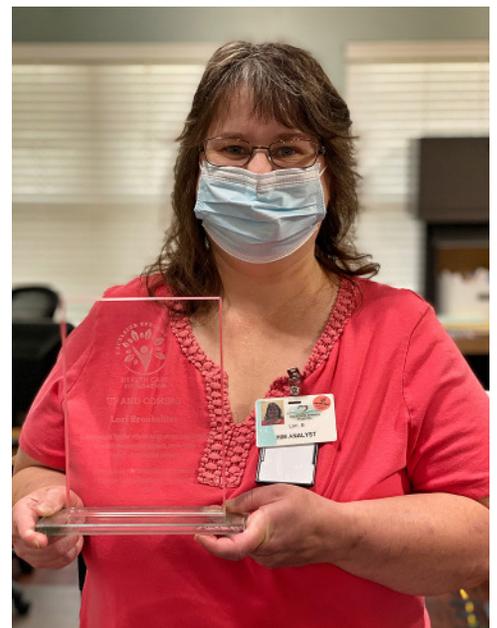
**Misty Lawson**  
Commitment to Caring Award



**Nicole Shields**  
Commitment to Caring Award



**DeVonna Ishmael**  
Up and Coming Award



**Lori Brookshire**  
Up and Coming Award

## Chief Medical Officer *continued from page 1*

will be bringing new, effective tools to help those struggling with addictions have their needs met.”

This includes treatment for opioid, methamphetamine, alcohol, and other common use disorders. Dr. Strickland recognizes that these problems occur in our own families, workplaces, and to those who we love the most. For the last five and a half years, he has been serving as a Chief Medical Officer of a community health center and has also been serving as a medical director for a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in Lawrence, Kans.

“Substances hijack a person’s thought process. It’s nice for someone to find someone who gets it and offers care without judgement. We want people to walk in with withdrawal and walk out with a solution,” said Dr. Strickland. “One of the most rewarding things for me in my practice is to introduce people to new tools and strategies that inspire hope and stay with them on the entire road to recovery.”

In addition to persons with an addiction, Dr.

Strickland also plans to provide care for those who are transgender and in the LGBTQ communities.

“Many people don’t think they can find transgender services in a primary care setting, but that’s exactly where it should be,” said Dr. Strickland. “This isn’t just a job for me. Bringing quality care to the community is important and keeping those services here is important to me.”

Dr. Strickland is not new to the area, having grown up on a small farm in southern Nebraska, he went to college at KU in Lawrence and went to medical school at the KU School of Medicine. He did a residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

“Having a small town feel like my wife and I grew up with is what we want for our family,” Dr. Strickland said. “We just had our first child, Henry Michael Strickland, who is only four months old. We are excited to be here and become members of this community.”

## COVID-19 pop-up testing offered in Excelsior Springs

The Clay County Public Health Center, in partnership with Heart to Heart International, are offering free at pop-up testing sites in Excelsior Springs during November and December.

If you have symptoms, have an at-risk loved one, have been exposed to someone with the virus or have been in a large crowd, consider getting test-

ing.

The drive-thru testing events are performed on people 6 years old and older. All positive results will receive a phone call, and negative results will get an email within 48-72 hours. On-site registration is accepted, but pre-registration is preferred at <https://www.hearttoheart.org/covid19testing/>.

### TESTING DATES AND SITES:

Friday, November 6, 9 a.m. - noon  
Crescent Lake Church, 1250 St. Louis Ave.

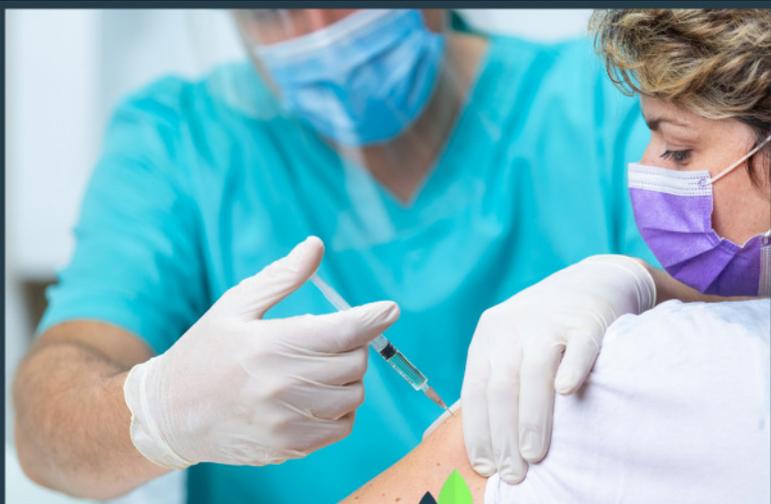
Friday, November 13, 9 a.m. - noon  
Hitch Lot off South Street

Friday, November 20, 9 a.m. - noon  
Crescent Lake Church, 1250 St. Louis Ave.

Friday, December 4, 9 a.m. - noon  
Hitch Lot off South Street

Friday, December 11, 9 a.m. - noon  
Crescent Lake Church, 1250 St. Louis Ave.

Friday, December 18, 9 a.m. - noon  
Hitch Lot off South Street



**Administering Flu  
Vaccinations Now!**

**EXCELSIOR SPRINGS  
HOSPITAL**

**Monday-Friday • 816-630-6722**

# Veteran provides service to others -- here at home

According to Jerad Blocker, he knew just what he was getting into when he enrolled in the U.S. Army fresh out of high school. Having a father that served in the Air Force, Blocker spent the first twelve years of his life traveling around the world and living in many different countries, including Germany and the Philippines. Jerad now serves as Plant Operations Director at the Excelsior Springs Hospital.

"I grew up in it. It was everyday life for me. My father was in radio operations, which turned me toward wanting to serve," said Jerad. "When I was 21, I was stationed in Germany, but I had already spent four years living there as a kid."

Blocker joined the Army National Guard in 2003, which has taken him on tours in the Middle East, including Iraq and Afghanistan along with Color Guard mission to St. Lo, France and a UAV( unmanned aerial vehicle) conference in the Czech Republic. His year in Iraq during 2006 and 2007 was spent conducting convoy security into northern Baghdad. He also worked on base providing security when semis were moving goods and helped conduct patrols to keep the area safe.

"We also did some meet and greets in the communities nearby," Jerad recollected. "Once we brought school supplies to children and there were some elders that we worked with, along with a Sports Store back home, to help get soccer nets set up and balls for the children in the communities to play with. That was a good experience."

While in Afghanistan in 2010 and 2011, Blocker provided personal security details for ISAF (International Security Assistance Force), which was headquartered there. This included Navy personnel and generals and dignitaries from multiple nations. Jerad still stays in touch with a Captain in the Singapore Army.

Jerad continues with scheduled drills taking place once a month and two weeks during the summer.



**Jerad Blocker, ESH Plant Operations Director**

He said that much of the training that the Guard has been known for doing in the past centered around storm preparation. Now he says training is more focused on going to war. Coordinating with military police, much of the work that Jerad does, includes work needed on phones and computers involving data.

For his position at the hospital, Jerad's service to the military and our nation has been good experience for the unexpected circumstances that can sometimes come with a plant facilities position. Whatever challenge that may be thrown his way, Jerad is prepared and ready to take action, because that's what his experience has given him the ability to do. Despite only having a year and a half left in the National Guard, Jerad still says he would do it all again. His mindset of helping others makes him a great asset to the hospital staff.

Jerad and his wife, Casey, moved from Nebraska with the three children that are still in the home, Chance, Skylar, and Zach Timothy, who are now all attending school in the Excelsior Springs School District. Casey works as a CNA at Shirkey's Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Richmond. They live in the country between Rayville and Wood Heights.

# SPECIALTY PHYSICIAN CLINICS - OCTOBER 2020

All clinics are subject to change due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

We encourage patients to call 816-629-2700 prior to your scheduled appointment.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>2</b> Cardiology Clinic - Dr. Madrigal Oncology Clinic - Dr. Beeki Surgery Clinic - Dr. Nesporý	<b>3</b> Rheumatology Clinic - Dr. Scott	<b>4</b> GI Clinic - Dr. Coleman	<b>5</b> Orthopedic Clinic - Dr. Cornett Podiatry Clinic - Dr. Shemwell	<b>6</b> Dermatology Clinic - Dr. Tonkovic
<b>9</b> Surgery Clinic - Dr. Nesporý	<b>10</b> ENT Clinic - Dr. Coffman Rheumatology Clinic - Dr. Scott	<b>11</b> GI Clinic - Dr. Coleman <b>Veterans Day</b>	<b>12</b> Orthopedic Clinic - Dr. Justice Podiatry Clinic - Dr. Shemwell	<b>13</b> Pain Management Clinic - Dr. Hamilton
<b>16</b> Oncology Clinic - Dr. Beeki Surgery Clinic - Dr. Nesporý	<b>17</b> Rheumatology Clinic - Dr. Scott	<b>18</b> GI Clinic - Dr. Coleman	<b>19</b> Orthopedic Clinic - Dr. Cornett Podiatry Clinic - Dr. Shemwell	<b>20</b> Dermatology Clinic - Dr. Tonkovic
<b>23</b> Surgery Clinic - Dr. Nesporý	<b>24</b> ENT Clinic - Dr. Coffman Rheumatology Clinic - Dr. Scott	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>	<b>27</b> Pain Management Clinic - Dr. Hamilton
<b>30</b> Oncology Clinic - Dr. Beeki Surgery Clinic - Dr. Nesporý				

*Thank you, veterans, for serving our country and protecting our freedoms!*

**- The Staff at ESH**

## Reserve your Hospice “Tree of Life” white roses



It is time to kick off our annual “Tree of Life” memorial celebration and fundraiser! This year Excelsior Springs Hospital Home Health and Hospice will again be displaying two rotating Christmas trees at the Hall of Waters in Excelsior Springs during the Hall of Trees Celebration from November through December 2020. These trees will display beautiful white silk roses in memory of a loved one that has gone before us.

We would like to invite you to reserve a rose in the memory of a family member or friend that you would like to honor on one of the trees during the holiday season. In year’s past, we have sold each rose for \$5, however this year we know that many of you have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore we are only asking for a donation in any amount, if you are able. The donations we receive will help hospice patients and their families who may be struggling to make ends meet.

To reserve your rose, contact Tiffany Cook, Administrator of Home Health & Hospice at 816-630-9228.

## Gift Shop

*Coming Soon!*

**ESH AUXILIARY  
GIFT SHOP ONLINE**

Select products from our fabulous Gift Shop will be available for purchase online at the Hospital’s website. Please shop with us for your Holiday decoration and gift giving needs. Your tax-free purchase helps fund needed items for hospital departments.

<https://eshospital.org>

