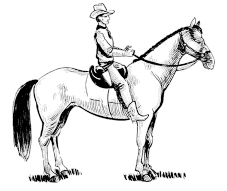




THE FROG



A dedication to O.C. Newman's sprightly bronco (so named for his wild leaps).

A Note From Your CEO

Happy March Everyone!

Last week I had the pleasure of attending our annual District Youth Livestock Show in Woodward, which is the strongest in the state. As a young boy growing up in rural Tennessee I spent most of my days barefoot wading Bigby Creek fishing, and occasionally yanking a water moccasin or two out of the low hanging willow trees with my hook. How I never got bit I'll never know. By the time June rolled around I had my "summer feet" on. Meaning they were orange from the mineral levels in the Tennessee red dirt and callused, which provided more protection than a shoe itself. Since then I have lived all over the World but nothing compared to my rural upbringing. When I interviewed at Newman, I knew as I drove to the airport flying back to Virginia in the early morning hours, as the Oklahoma sunrise broke the horizon this had to be home. I sent that picture to our Chairman and pretty much begged for the opportunity. He gave me that opportunity, and as I drove back through Woodward I passed the picture you see here. It's my favorite landmark outside of Antelope Hills. It doesn't say much in the way of words but a million in who we are, and where we come from as a rural family. I knew there was something special or someone behind it. I learned while attending my first District Livestock show who that person was. I finally worked up the nerve this year to introduce myself. Jimmy Harrel... Jimmy is the true definition of a humanitarian, that has not only touched and drove prosperity in Western Oklahoma but across all of Oklahoma his entire life. I studied Jimmy and still do. OYE did a really nice interview where Jimmy shares his entire life journey. Life wasn't easy for Jimmy, and as successful as Jimmy has become he has never forgotten his Western Oklahoma roots. From the early days in a family of three boys working the ranch, the value of education, and the sacrifices during his journey developed his foundation. I watched Jimmy, once again, ensure every kid gets more than "10 dollars and a Ribbon". Listen to that interview and you'll know what I mean. He ensures there is enough so the kids aren't sleeping in a truck where the snow is falling on them freezing half to death as it was for him. Jimmy describes his journey as he travels through each of our towns from his childhood ranch outside of Leedey, into Woodward, and as a student teacher in Shattuck running the streets with Fred Schultz and Bradley. There is value in it Jimmy. It's more than money. It teaches us the importance of volunteering and educates community leaders how to embrace one another and do good through unity. It builds the next generation of humanitarians. It fuels my spirit to expand healthcare across our western region regardless of difficulty, adversity or embracement. The most incredible part about it, is the amount of Bank of Western Oklahoma employees who volunteer their time to ensure it is indeed the best District Show year after year. Thank you Jimmy it is never expected nor undervalued. Yes sir, to answer your question, there is "value in it." A ton of it. - Tom Vasko, CEO




The life story of
Jimmy Harrel

Employee Anniversaries

Michelle Batman - Business Office - Laverne, OK - 3/20/2023

Matthew Budig - Radiology - Shattuck, OK - 3/24/2022

Joanna Burgtorf - Chief Operating Officer- Shattuck, OK - 3/28/2021

Danelle Devore- RHC - Laverne, OK - 3/15/2015

Niki Foster - Swing Bed - Woodward, OK - 3/13/2023

Adora Hall- Business Office - Shattuck, OK - 3/3/2022

Christel Hansen- Swing Bed - Buffalo, OK - 3/20/2022

Jennifer Hix - Swing Bed - Laverne, OK - 3/3/2022

Beatriz Moreno - RHC - Follett, TX - 3/28/2022

Anthony Salgado - Swing Bed - Laverne. OK - 3/3/2022

Gina Smith - Laboratory - Mutual, OK - 3/21/2022

Lois Starbuck - Swing Bed - Gage, OK - 3/16/2009

Brandon Wheelock - Surgery- Woodward. OK - 3/14/2023

Meet Our Newest Employees!

Courtney Bryant - Swing Bed - Rosston, OK

Kodi Crow - Swing Bed - Arnett, OK

Rylee Keith - Swing Bed - Arnett, OK

Rene Nix - Swing Bed - Vici, OK

Kennedy Wilson - Swing Bed - Sharon, OK

Employee Birthdays

Shandy Baggs - Laverne, OK - March 4th

Courtney Bryant - Rosston, OK - March 10th

Robert Bunch - Shattuck, OK - March 7th

Kari Cox - Shattuck, OK - March 22nd

Jennifer Hix - Laverne, OK - March 15th

Edgar Morales - Laverne, OK - March 14th

Jerson Penaflor - Shattuck, OK - March 15th

Gloria Sawyer - Shattuck, OK - March 6th

Shannon Thompson - Shattuck, OK - March 6th

Amy Vasko - RHC - Gage, OK - March 28th

Brandon Wheelock - Woodward, OK - March 13th

Kennedy Wilson - Sharon, OK - March 27th



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Dr. Richard Orgill, MD, ENT