



THE FROG

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



Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had an opportunity to rest, reflect, and re-energize over the break as we prepare for another extraordinary year serving Rural America. During this time, I spent meaningful moments reflecting on the work we have accomplished together as a community; expanding access points to care, strengthening local services, and delivering measurable, positive impact for the people we serve. As we begin charting our strategic plan for the year ahead, our focus remains clear: continued growth, a strengthened clinical presence, and ensuring that the economic impact of healthcare remains local, where it belongs. When communities invest in their hospitals, those investments fuel jobs, stability, and generational opportunity. Recently, CMS and the Trump Administration made their intentions for rural healthcare unmistakably clear through the deployment of the Rural Health Transformation Plan. This direction aligns squarely with Newman's longstanding principles of keeping care local. The Plan identifies specialty care and preventive services as the core levers of meaningful rural health transformation, and we could not agree more.

It is both inappropriate and financially destabilizing for rural hospitals to be forced to export surgical and specialty care to urban markets. Recognizing this, the Administration has issued clear guidance: urban systems are to partner with, not control, independent rural hospitals, strengthening the local delivery of specialty and surgical services. This approach ensures that care remains rooted in hometowns, while simultaneously stimulating local economies, expanding hospital capabilities, creating jobs, and reinforcing long-term community resilience. Newman has already begun executing on this vision through strategic partnerships with leading Academic Medical Centers and nationally respected institutions known for advancing evidence-based care. These collaborations represent thoughtful, logical, and professionally aligned synergies, and I am genuinely excited to see them come to life in 2026. Today, Newman is no longer viewed simply as a small rural hospital. We are increasingly recognized by legislators and healthcare leaders as a model steward of rural healthcare systems; demonstrating what is possible when independence, innovation, and community commitment intersect. While we should pause to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary efforts of our communities, we are clear-eyed about the work ahead. 2026 presents both complexity and opportunity and we are ready. We are prepared. And we are laser-focused on advancing solutions that better serve our neighbors close to home.

In the coming year, we will also begin equipping our community members with the tools and knowledge to more effectively navigate healthcare decisions. Patients today have a choice where they receive care, how that care is delivered, and what they are willing to pay. Empowering our communities with transparency and options will be central to our mission moving forward.

More to come.
Tom Vasko, CEO

Jason Crotts Named Radiology Director at NMH

Newman Memorial Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of Jason Crotts as its new Radiology Director, a role that reflects both his extensive experience and deep commitment to patient-centered imaging services. Jason began his radiology career in 2004 and has spent more than two decades serving patients throughout Northwest Oklahoma, building a reputation for excellence, precision, and compassionate care. His passion for radiology and dedication to continuous improvement make him a strong leader for the department and a valuable addition to the Newman Memorial Hospital leadership team.

"In Radiology, every image tells a story regarding each patient; it is our job to ensure an accurate and clear story while providing exceptional patient care," said Crotts. "I am honored to take on this role and to continue serving our communities through high-quality imaging and compassionate service."

Jason's appointment reflects Newman Memorial Hospital's commitment to leadership grounded in mission, values, and community impact.

"When selecting leaders for our organization, we begin by discerning a strong alignment of values, character, and purpose," said Tom Vasko, CEO of Newman Memorial Hospital. "At Newman, Faith, Family, and Community are not merely guiding principles; they are lived commitments that shape our daily work and long-term vision. Central to this is an unwavering devotion to access, quality, and compassion in rural healthcare. Jason exemplifies these ideals and has proven himself a thoughtful steward of our mission, making his selection both deliberate and natural. We are excited to see him advance innovative imaging capabilities and expand access points that will meaningfully serve the communities of Northwest Oklahoma, East Texas, and Southern Kansas."

As Radiology Director, Jason will focus on advancing imaging services, strengthening access to care, and continuing Newman Memorial Hospital's tradition of excellence in rural healthcare. His leadership is expected to play a key role in supporting both patients and providers across the region.



Advanced Wound Care by Newman Coming January 29th, 2026!

Newman Memorial Hospital is excited to announce the opening of Advanced Wound Care by Newman, launching January 29 and now scheduling patients.

This specialized outpatient wound care center is dedicated to the treatment of acute and chronic wounds that are slow or difficult to heal. Care is led by Jessica Jones, APRN, and provided by a team with advanced training in comprehensive wound management.

Advanced Wound Care by Newman treats a wide range of conditions, including diabetic foot ulcers, pressure injuries, venous and arterial ulcers, non-healing post-surgical wounds, traumatic wounds, burns, and more. Using a coordinated approach that blends traditional and advanced therapies, the goal is to promote faster healing, reduce the risk of complications and amputations, and improve patient mobility and quality of life.

Referrals are now being accepted.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 580-938-5645 or 888-835-6946.



Understanding Your Medicare Options, and Help with Enrollment at Newman Memorial Hospital

As Medicare open enrollment approaches, it's important to review your healthcare coverage options for 2026. Beneficiaries can choose between Original Medicare, which offers broad provider access and optional supplemental coverage, or a Medicare Advantage plan, which may include lower premiums and added benefits but often has network restrictions and prior authorization requirements. Medicare open enrollment runs October 15 through December 7, with coverage starting January 1. To help local residents navigate their choices, Newman Memorial Hospital will host Anahi Espinoza every second Thursday of the month beginning January 8, 2026, to answer questions and assist with enrollment.

Congratulations Shane Clem!

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2025

SHANE CLEM

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Shane Clem for being named this year's Employee of the Year. Thank you for all that you do for our hospital and clinics; you are truly a valuable asset!

Newman Memorial Hospital
Newman Healthcare Associates

"Thank you all for the kind words. To say this has been a stressful year would be an understatement. For those of you who haven't known me long, I had a full head of hair in April. When Tom told us earlier this year that we were going to launch two new clinics, on a very short timeline, I thought, are you out of your mind? (I didn't actually say that, because I need my job... but I wanted to.) I truly believed this might not be achievable and worried that I would fail. Not only did we accomplish it, but we also launched a third clinic, completed a State survey, and successfully went through a Joint Commission survey. None of this was accomplished by me alone—it was accomplished by our team. From my fellow admin team, to a CEO who is driven and has a vision like no other, to our incredible staff—you all amaze me.

To our community, thank you for trusting us to care for you. Newman has been my home for nearly 11 years, and seeing how much we've accomplished together truly makes my heart happy." - **Shane Clem, Facility Director**



January Birthdays

Jason Crotts
Kari Cox
Josh Oats
Jeannie Rumley
Jennifer Pilger
Trey Collins
Nyki Long
Heather Longhofer
Wendy Crotts
Tiffany Elliott
Lynsay Leatherbury
Rhonda Lee Jackson
Adam Carter
Matthew Harrington
Lisa Calvillo
Amber Bates
Ashley Fanning
Roxanna Gonzalez
Tom Vasko

Community Thoughts:

"I've just met him in the last few months but I can tell you he just loves Newman Memorial Hospital and Newman Healthcare Associates and what it stands for. He has a passion for everything he does and it is a pleasure to work with him! Congratulations!"

- **Jessica Jones, APRN**

"So deserving! Could not have went to someone more dedicated to Newman!" - **Gina Huenergardt**

"So very much deserved for his continuous dedication and attention to detail needed to keep Operations going as smooth as possible for many years now!! He has shown exemplary leadership qualities in what he does." - **Jean Bartow**

"I could not think of anyone more deserving of Employee of the Year. Getting not one, but three clinics up and running in one year required countless hours and a level of dedication that truly sets him apart. Congratulations, Shane!" - **Carli Word**

"Shane is an invaluable asset to NMH and the community. He cares deeply about our patients and his fellow coworkers. I couldn't be more proud to work alongside him everyday." - **Manda Wheeler**

Shane's capabilities extend well beyond those of his industry peers, but it is his profound commitment to community and service that truly sets him apart. There are moments when it is genuinely awe-inspiring, almost breathtaking, to watch his creativity and ingenuity come alive, fueled not by personal ambition, but by a selfless and relentless determination to care for those most in need. His work is a powerful reminder of what leadership looks like when purpose comes first. - **Tom Vasko, CEO**