



# THE FROG

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



## June, 2026

### Keeping Care Close to Home: Why Local Services Matter

At Newman Memorial Hospital, our mission has always been clear to ensure that the communities we serve have access to high quality healthcare close to home. While specialty clinic visits are an important part of that commitment, providing procedures and surgical care locally is what truly transforms healthcare access for rural communities.

When care is delivered locally, patients benefit in meaningful ways. Travel time is reduced, allowing individuals and families to avoid long drives to larger cities during times of need. This is especially important for those managing ongoing conditions or recovering from procedures where frequent follow up visits are required. Receiving care close to home also strengthens continuity of care, ensuring that patients are supported by a consistent, coordinated care team including physicians, nurses, and clinical staff who understand their full medical history.

Beyond patient convenience, local care has a powerful impact on the community. When procedures and surgeries are performed at Newman Memorial, it keeps healthcare dollars within our region, supporting local job growth, strengthening our hospital, and contributing to the economic vitality of communities across Northwest Oklahoma. Because our Northwest communities continue to support this movement, Newman has grown from 62 employees in 2023 to over 198 in 2026. This is a statistical example of how our region is creating a healthcare ecosystem to ensure the stability of our communities and future generations. Rural hospitals play a critical role not only in healthcare, but in sustaining the communities they serve.

A strong example of this commitment is the recent expansion of our urology program with the addition of Dr. Roy Bankhead, MD. Dr. Bankhead is now providing urology clinic services in both Shattuck and Woodward, increasing access and reducing wait times for appointments. More importantly, he is also performing procedural and surgical urology care right here at Newman Memorial Hospital, allowing patients to receive complete care locally rather than traveling outside the region.

This integrated approach, combining clinic visits with local procedures and surgeries, represents the future of rural healthcare. It ensures patients receive timely, high quality care while strengthening the long term sustainability of our healthcare system.

At Newman Memorial, we are committed to continuing this work by expanding services, building partnerships, and investing in the health of our communities across Northwest Oklahoma. Because when care stays local, everyone benefits.

**Tom Vasko BSN, MBA**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Newman Memorial**

### Investing in the Future of Rural Healthcare



Newman Memorial Hospital is proud to award scholarships to 11 outstanding students from six area school districts who are pursuing careers in healthcare. This year's recipients include Adelyn Friend and Alexis Rodgers of Woodward; Elizabeth Eilers and Emilee Gulley of Mooreland; Hannah Brown and Gracie Green of Fargo/Gage; Mia Trenfield and Paige McIntosh of Shattuck; Trex Carnagey and Cooper Crissup of Laverne; and Hailey Gutierrez of Arnett.

These students have expressed interests in a variety of healthcare fields, including radiology, orthopedics, dental care, family practice, and healthcare administration. Their dedication and passion for serving others provide hope for the future of rural healthcare.

At Newman Memorial Hospital, we are committed to supporting the next generation of healthcare professionals and investing in the future of our communities. We congratulate these students on their achievements and wish them continued success as they pursue their educational and career goals.

Thank you to our community for your continued trust and support.

# Keeping Urologic Care Local: Advanced Treatment for Kidney Stones, Enlarged Prostate (BPH), and Urologic Surgeries Now Available at Newman Memorial.

Keeping Urologic Care Local: Advanced Treatment for Kidney Stones, Enlarged Prostate (BPH), and Urologic Surgeries Now Available at Newman Memorial.

Dr. Roy W. Bankhead will be joining the Newman team in July, bringing with him a strong background in urologic care and a commitment to patient-centered treatment. Originally born in Little Rock, Arkansas and raised in Muskogee, Oklahoma, Dr. Bankhead earned his bachelor's degree, medical degree, and completed his residency in Surgery and Urology at The University of Oklahoma. He further advanced his expertise with additional training in urological cancers at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

As a board-certified urologist, Dr. Bankhead specializes in complex stone disease, benign prostatic hyperplasia, and minimally invasive surgical techniques. He provides comprehensive diagnosis and treatment for a wide range of urologic conditions affecting both men and women, with a focus on delivering high-quality care that is both effective and accessible.

What sets this addition apart is the ability to provide advanced procedural and surgical urologic care locally, care that previously required patients to travel outside the area. With Dr. Bankhead on our team, patients can now receive treatment for conditions such as kidney stones, ureteral stent placement, bladder procedures, and other urologic surgeries closer to home. Patients who once had to travel hours for procedures can now receive that same level of care right here in Western Oklahoma. This means fewer long drives, faster access to care, and the ability to stay near family and support systems during treatment and recovery.

Dr. Bankhead's addition represents a meaningful step forward in our mission to expand specialty care across rural Oklahoma. By bringing these advanced services to Shattuck and Woodward, we are not only improving access but also offering a level of convenience and continuity of care that can make a significant difference in patient outcomes and overall experience.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Dr. Bankhead is dedicated to family life and resides in Oklahoma City with his wife, Amy, and their two sons. He enjoys golf, tennis, running, art history, and reading.

Dr. Bankhead will be welcoming new patients in July at both the Shattuck Clinic and Woodward Specialty Clinic. For more information, call 580-938-5400.

## Newman has a team like no other!



In April, Newman celebrated National Volunteer Week and National Laboratory Week. These teams have played a vital role in preserving Newman's history and building the future of rural healthcare in Northwest Oklahoma. We are grateful for their dedication and proud to have such an outstanding group. Thank you for the time and care you give to our patients and staff.



Hospital Week at Newman was a tremendous success! From May 11-15, employees came together to celebrate with a week full of fun, teamwork, and appreciation. Each day featured an exciting game, including Jeopardy, The Price Is Right, Family Feud, Shark Tank, and a final day dedicated to Newman Team Spirit.

Monday and Tuesday kicked off Hospital Week with the Golden Ticket Challenge, where lucky employees discovered hidden winning candy bars throughout the hospital, while snack carts stocked with sodas, gourmet popcorn, and candy made their rounds each afternoon. On Wednesday, Kinesis Therapeutic Massage provided a relaxing massage station for staff, and Thursday showcased creativity as teams presented innovative Shark Tank ideas to administration. We also extend a sincere thank-you to the Woodward Elks Rodeo Committee for generously providing hamburgers and hot dogs for our employees. The week concluded on Friday with staff proudly wearing their Hospital Week shirts in celebration of Newman pride and team spirit. Hospital Week was a wonderful reminder that the people of Newman are what make this organization so special, and we are grateful to everyone who participated and helped make the week such a memorable success.