



THE FROG

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



July, 2026

The Legacy Lives On

Honoring Those Who Carry Dr. Newman's Vision Forward
A Message from Tom Vasko, Chief Executive Officer

More than one hundred years ago, Dr. O.C. Newman founded this hospital upon a simple but profound belief: **where a person lives should never determine the quality of healthcare they receive.** That conviction shaped this organization long before any of us arrived, and it continues to define who we are today.

When I reflect on the past four years, I often find myself wondering what Dr. Newman would think if he walked the halls today. I believe he would recognize something very familiar. He would see physicians and advanced practice providers who have chosen service over convenience, communities over comfort, and patients over personal recognition. He would see clinicians who believe, just as he did, that exceptional healthcare belongs in rural America.

What many people never see is the commitment that makes this possible. Long before the first patient arrives, many of our physicians and clinical providers have already begun their day. They leave their homes before sunrise, travel hundreds of miles across Oklahoma, spend evenings away from their spouses and children, and willingly accept the personal sacrifices that come with serving rural communities. They could build successful careers much closer to home. Instead, they have chosen to invest their lives, their talents, and their time in the people of Northwest Oklahoma.

That commitment has transformed our organization. Together, our physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants and certified nurse midwife have expanded access to primary care, cardiology, orthopedic surgery, otolaryngology, urology, general surgery, pain management, behavioral health, women's health, infusion therapy, rehabilitation services, and numerous other specialties that were once unavailable locally. More importantly, they have restored something that is often difficult to measure but impossible to overstate: **Hope.** Hope for families who no longer face hours of travel to receive care. Hope for patients who can remain close to those they love during life's most difficult moments. Hope for communities that once feared losing access to healthcare altogether.

What inspires me most, is not simply what they have built, but how they have built it. They practice medicine with humility. They lead with compassion. They believe that clinical excellence and meaningful relationships are not competing priorities but inseparable responsibilities. They remind us that healthcare is at its very best when exceptional clinicians are trusted to lead, encouraged to innovate, and supported in doing what they entered medicine to do: care for people.

In many respects, these remarkable professionals have become the modern stewards of Dr. Newman's vision. His legacy is no longer found only in the history of this hospital. It lives on in every mile traveled, every clinic held, every surgery performed, every life restored, and every patient who leaves our doors knowing they were cared for with dignity, compassion, and excellence.

To every physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, and our certified nurse midwife, thank you. Thank you for believing in our patients, believing in our communities, and believing that exceptional healthcare belongs wherever people call home.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, our leadership team, our employees, our patients, and the communities we are privileged to serve, thank you for carrying forward a legacy that began more than one hundred years ago.

Because of you, Dr. Newman's vision is no longer just our history. It is our future.

With profound gratitude,

Tom Vasko
Chief Executive Officer

Power in Partnerships: Newman Memorial & Oklahoma Heart Hospital

Two Trusted Names.
One Commitment to Heart Health.



Newman Memorial Hospital is proud to partner with Oklahoma Heart Hospital to bring advanced cardiovascular care closer to home. This collaboration expands access to expert heart care while ensuring patients can receive high-quality services without traveling far.

"This partnership reflects our commitment to ensuring the people of Northwest Oklahoma have access to exceptional cardiovascular care close to home," said Tom Vasko, Chief Executive Officer of Newman Memorial Hospital.

Jeff Robertson, Chief Operating Officer of Oklahoma Heart Hospital Physicians, said the partnership combines Newman's commitment to rural healthcare with Oklahoma Heart Hospital's nationally recognized cardiovascular expertise to expand access to advanced heart care and improve patient outcomes across Northwest Oklahoma. Together, the two organizations are committed to ensuring exceptional cardiovascular care is available close to home. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 580-938-5400.

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

Newman Memorial Hospital is proud to welcome board-certified urologist Dr. Roy W. Bankhead to our team this July, expanding access to advanced urologic care for patients across Northwest Oklahoma. His arrival represents more than the addition of a new provider. It is another important step toward ensuring our communities have access to specialized care without the burden of traveling far from home.

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 training in urologic cancers at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the patients he serves.

Dr. Bankhead specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of complex kidney stone disease, benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), and minimally invasive urologic surgery. He provides comprehensive care for a wide range of urologic conditions affecting both men and women, always with a focus on delivering compassionate, patient-centered care.

For many patients in rural Oklahoma, receiving specialized urologic treatment has often meant traveling hours away from family and support systems. With Dr. Bankhead joining Newman Memorial Hospital, many of those advanced procedures, including kidney stone treatment, ureteral stent placement, bladder procedures, and other urologic surgeries, can now be performed much closer to home. That means less time on the road, quicker access to care, and greater peace of mind during treatment and recovery.



Expanding specialty care is central to Newman Memorial Hospital's mission of strengthening healthcare across rural Oklahoma. By offering advanced urologic services in both Shattuck and Woodward, we are helping ensure that patients have access to high-quality care where they live, work, and raise their families. Providing this level of care locally not only improves convenience but also strengthens continuity of care and helps patients remain connected to the people and communities that support them.

Sharing Joy, Building Connections.



Newman Memorial Hospital staff recently had the pleasure of spending time with the wonderful residents and staff at Providence Place, sharing an afternoon filled with bingo, ice cream, laughter, and meaningful conversation. It was a simple afternoon, but one that reminded us how special it is to connect with the people who make our communities so strong.

At Newman Memorial Hospital, caring for our community goes beyond the walls of our hospital. We are honored to serve the people of Northwest Oklahoma, not only through quality healthcare but also by building lasting relationships and finding opportunities to give back. Moments like these reflect our commitment to supporting our neighbors, celebrating community, and making a positive difference wherever we can.



Proud Sponsor of the Woodward Elks Rodeo



For more than 90 years, the Woodward Elks Rodeo has been more than just a celebrated western tradition. It has been a time when families, friends, neighbors, and visitors come together to honor the values that define northwest Oklahoma: hard work, resilience, community, and hometown pride. From the excitement of professional rodeo events and family activities to the annual parade that fills the streets with smiling faces, the rodeo continues to bring generations together in a meaningful way.

Newman Memorial Hospital was honored to be part of this year's celebration. Whether helping with parking, participating in the parade, or watching our CEO, Tom Vasko, proudly accept a sponsorship buckle on behalf of our team, every moment was a reminder of why we are so grateful to serve this community. We are proud to support the traditions that strengthen western Oklahoma and even prouder to care for the people who make this region such a special place to call home. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your lives, both at community events like the Woodward Elks Rodeo and every day through the care we are privileged to provide.