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# extra

news for Owensboro Medical Health System employees

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**“The Topping Out ceremony will celebrate the satisfaction we take in getting this phase of the construction project completed and thank the construction crew.”**

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

**Dr. Jeff Barber**  
on the Topping Out Ceremony

## OMHS Topping Out



*Steel work is almost complete and on Friday the highest piece of steel will be put in place as part of the Topping Out ceremony.*

### Event to celebrate completion of the highest point on the new hospital


Nearly 11 months after beginning excavation for its new 447-bed hospital, OMHS will celebrate Friday, February 25 with a Topping Out ceremony to recognize the construction crew for their dedication to the project. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the site between Pleasant Valley Road and Daniels Lane.

Topping Out ceremonies have become a tradition in the construction industry to mark the completion of the highest point on a structure. The custom began in 1898 with a group of Norwegian ironworkers who wanted to recognize nature’s contribution to the building process. During the ceremony, the highest beam of steel is hoisted into place and an evergreen tree is placed on it to symbolize that the project has proceeded well and without injury.

“The Topping Out ceremony will celebrate the satisfaction we take in getting this phase of the construction project completed and thank the construction crew,” said Jeff Barber, president and CEO. “In just a little over two years we’ll begin providing patient care in our new facility.”

“This event marks a significant milestone for the project, and serves to recognize the work of the men and women who have worked to safely bring us to this point—many of which will ultimately have the benefit of the service made possible by the new hospital,” said Merrill Bowers, senior project manager for Turner Construction.

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The Topping Out ceremony will be viewable **ONLY** by live video feed at [www.omhs.org](http://www.omhs.org). 

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**Owensboro  
Medical Health System**

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## Upcoming Events at OMHS

### February 23rd & 24th

#### Crucial Conversations

This two-day program will provide you with the opportunity to enhance your leadership skills by conducting crucial conversations. Register for this class by logging into Lawson and going to the courses section.

### Friday, February 25th

#### Topping Out Ceremony

Employees are invited to watch this special construction ceremony LIVE online at [www.omhs.org](http://www.omhs.org). The ceremony will mark the placement of the highest piece of steel on the new hospital. A public celebration commemorating the final pieces of steel will be held April 16th. Watch future editions of Extra for more information on that event.

### February 28th - March 4th

#### American Heart Online Auction

The auction starts Monday Feb 28th at 7:00 a.m. and ends Friday, March 4th at noon. Items include parking spaces, gift baskets and more!

### Friday, March 4th

#### Dress in Blue Day

Support awareness for colon cancer by wearing something blue on Friday March 4th. Colon cancer is the 2nd leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. Approximately 150,000 Americans will be diagnosed with colon cancer this year according to the Colon Cancer Alliance. Show your support wear blue.

Do you have an OMHS related event you'd like to share in Extra? Send it to [stuart.peck@omhs.org](mailto:stuart.peck@omhs.org) and we'll include it in the 'Upcoming Events' section!

## Inside: Internal Audit



*The Internal Audit team takes a look at the latest numbers. The team is responsible for auditing different departments and units at the hospital at the request of the hospital and patients.*

### How one of OMHS' smallest departments impacts the largest employer in the region

Everyday six employees at OMHS sift through hundreds of documents and patient bills looking for over-charges, under-charges and other documentation errors.

"We compare what's documented with what is actually charged," said Becky Galloway, a registered nurse and clinical nurse auditor at OMHS. "It can be tedious work but the end goal is to make the bill correct."

That's just another day in the life of OMHS' internal audit staff. Part of the department is charged with the task of making sure bills reflect the services that were actually performed for a patient. Justin Meers and Pam Barlow, two other members of the team, look at department's policies and procedures to ensure they're being followed. That ensures departments are operating in the most efficient way possible.

"We give feedback to improve the process," according to Oscar Brown, director of Internal Audit. "Everyone is usually very appreciative when we tell them how they can do things more efficiently and effectively."

The staff has to know a little bit about everything all over the hospital since they do all types of audits. Internal audit performs defense audits, hospital and patient requested audits, as well as concurrent and compliance audits. They also give out price quotes for procedures to be done at OMHS.

"There's not a big audit bible someplace that we can just open up to and say, 'oh here's the problem,'" said Becky Sparks.

When you think of auditors, I'm sure nightmares of the IRS sifting through taxes or a business audit come to mind. Brown says those are preconceived notions that are hard to break.

"This is not a 'gotcha' department," Brown said. "That's an issue we run into."

Sparks gave the example of a discovery made recently by the Internal Audit department about the circulation stockings used on patients.

"Those stockings were being used but not charged," she said. "Those stockings can cost \$200 and up, and if units forget to charge we lose money. Finding this charging error saved the hospital money."

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## Sono Cine' screenings now available for those on OMHS insurance



*Sono Cine' offers physicians a clearer image of the breast to help detect abnormalities.*

### The screening isn't carried by most major insurance providers.

Through an effort to give employees and their families the best possible healthcare, OMHS has started covering Sono Cine' screenings on its insurance plan. Dr. Terry Tyler, OMHS' chief outpatient diagnostics officer, says the Sono Cine' technology is some of the most advanced imaging available. He says there are only a handful of facilities in the United States using Sono Cine'.

The technology adds a more consistent exam. There is a computerized arm on the Sono Cine' which means every exam is the same. With ultrasound the tests can vary because a technologist is doing the imaging by hand. However because this technology is so new it is not yet covered by most insurance providers.

"I would rather make it available and let women choose," said Tyler. "Right now a lot of women are forced to pay for the screening out of pocket."

Women who are classified as having "dense" breast tissue by mammography are the ones who might benefit from adding Sono Cine' to mammography annually. Mammograms don't see all cancers in the "dense" breast group according to Tyler.



*Summer Evers works with the Sono Cine' imaging system. Sono Cine' screenings will now be covered through OMHS insurance.*

"This is a significant advantage for those covered by OMHS insurance," Tyler said. "We need to give credit to our administration at the hospital for making this happen. This is something we needed to do for our employees."

The screening needs to come with the recommendation of the woman's physician. Talk to your doctor to see if Sono Cine' is right for you.



## Health Improvement Plan

Sign up for a HIP screening now by going into Lawson.

**New Information!**  
Employees not covered by OMHS' insurance plan can now access the Health Risk Assessment questionnaire online.

This is a change from last year; if the Owensboro city schools are cancelled due to weather, HIP screenings will be cancelled as well. If the city schools are on a delayed start, HIP screenings will be held at the normal time.

In addition to the 1st quarter screening, HIP participants need to complete the online Health Risk Assessment questionnaire.

HIP screenings will be held at the Breckenridge Medical Office Building on the 2nd floor across from the Women's Pavilion in February. All screenings will be held in the Ford Medical Office Building suite 201 during March.

All HIP participants will need to fast 10 to 12 hours before their screening.

If you have questions you can contact Nancy Velotta at 688-4881.

## From front: Topping Out

New hospital construction has remained on or ahead of schedule since it began in April 2010. Turner Construction expects to complete work in 2013. The ceremony will also be available on the Intranet for anyone who did not have a chance to watch it live.

### Save the date:

Due to the time of year that OMHS' Topping Out is occurring – and the potential for inclement weather and safety concerns – we are celebrating with two separate events. February 25th is a closed event to recognize the construction crew for their dedication to the project. A public event will be held on Saturday, April 16 for employees, physicians and community member who want to visit the new hospital site as construction workers put the finishing touches on the steel work. There will also be an opportunity for employees to sign the final beams.

## From 2: Internal Audit

However to Internal Audit it's not about the money saved by the hospital, it's about the charges that were corrected, whether it is in the hospital's favor or the patient's favor. So far during this fiscal year, the department looked at 19.25 million dollars in disputed charges and corrected more than two million dollars.

Recently the department added its newest member to the team. Susan Shreve will serve as the Clinical Nurse Audit Supervisor. Shreve started earlier this month.

**Do you have a story for Extra?**  
Send an email to  
[stuart.peck@omhs.org](mailto:stuart.peck@omhs.org).

## Welcome new employees!



*Ashleigh Dumond- Radiation Therapy; Mallory Aud – Patient Transport; Susan Payne – HealthPark; Charles Black – Laundry; Megan VanWinkle – Surgery; Robin Crabtree – ICU; Charlene Higgs – Environmental Services; Michelle Sweeney – Education and Clinical Support; Tonya Barnett – Rehab; Linda Boostrom – Nursery; Kent Emmert – Bio Med; Joshua Fuqua – OCRP; Valerie Blackford – Green River Heart; Natali Hall – Medical 4-4*

## March is colorectal cancer awareness month

**Several events are scheduled in March to help remind people to get screened for colorectal cancer.**

In an effort to remind people to be screened for colorectal cancer, March 5th has been designated as 'Dress in Blue Day'. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States; however, according to Patsy Milam, oncology educator for OMHS, it can be caught early and even prevented.

"It can strike anyone, young or old," said Milam.

Men and women age 50 and older need to have a baseline colorectal colonoscopy screening. Milam says if the screening comes

back clear a person doesn't have to have another screening for 10 years. She says it's also important for people to know their background and family history particularly if there are hereditary colon polyps because those can progress into colon cancer.

Throughout the month of March a table with information about colorectal cancer and screenings will be set up in the lobby of the Mitchell Memorial Cancer Center. Anyone needing additional information can call Patsy Milam at 688-3619. On March 8th the 'Incredible Colon' will be set up at Towne Square Mall in Owensboro from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. That event is sponsored by the Kentucky Cancer Program. OMHS will have a booth at the event.