

# GREAT NEWS



JULY 2021



## Names Change to Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center

Great River Medical Center in West Burlington and Fort Madison Community Hospital on July 1 became Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, one hospital with two campuses and more than 400 acute, skilled and long-term care beds.

The December 2020 announcement of the approaching name change marked the beginning of a rapid timeline. With one hospital instead of two, parent company Great River Health is eligible to apply for Sole Community Hospital (SCH) classification from the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services. The SCH program was created to maintain access to needed health services for Medicare beneficiaries in rural communities by providing greater reimbursement.

“When we learned about the Sole Community Hospital designation last fall, we knew applying for it is the right thing to do,” said Matt Wenzel, president and CEO, Great River Health. “We also knew it would require a lot of work in a short time period. I’m grateful for our employees’ dedication to their jobs and the health of southeast Iowa.”

### Old name

Fort Madison Community Hospital  
Fort Madison Community Hospital Home Health  
Fort Madison Community Hospital Hospice  
Great River Medical Center  
Great River Klein Center  
Great River Home Health  
Great River Hospice  
Great River Hospice House

### New name

Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center  
Southeast Iowa Regional Home Health  
Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice  
Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center  
Klein Center  
Southeast Iowa Regional Home Health  
Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice  
Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House

## New Providers



### **Ruchie Bhattra, MD** **Hospitalist Program**

Southeast Iowa Regional Medical  
Center, West Burlington

Medical degree:

Nepalgunj Medical College, Nepal

Residency:

Amita Health Saint Joseph  
Hospital, Chicago



### **Marcus Haustein, MD** **Emergency Department**

Southeast Iowa Regional Medical  
Center, West Burlington

Medical degree:

University of Iowa

Residency:

Ascension St. John Hospital,  
Detroit

# Geriatric Behavioral Health Unit Opens in Fort Madison

A new Geriatric Behavioral Unit is open at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, Fort Madison. The 12-bed unit provides a safe and supportive atmosphere for inpatient treatment of acute psychiatric symptoms in patients who are 65 and older.

“Our new service helps patients and their families navigate the challenges that come with aging and mental illness,” said Shelby Dickens, chief executive, Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, Fort Madison. “The vision of the Geriatric Behavioral Health Unit is to provide individualized, compassionate, patient-centered care to promote the mental health and well-being of seniors in our region.”

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**The team’s main goal is to effectively treat new or deteriorating cognitive, behavioral, emotional or physical symptoms.**

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The unit, which was designed for patient safety, comfort and privacy, has private patient rooms, a day room, activities room and dining area. It is staffed by a dedicated team of mental health professionals including:

- Medical providers
- Nurses
- A social worker
- An activities therapist

The team’s main goal is to effectively treat new or deteriorating cognitive, behavioral, emotional or physical symptoms. Treatment, which includes counseling, group therapy and coordinated activities, will help renew social, physical and mental skills.

The Geriatric Behavioral Health Unit is the first specialized inpatient psychiatry unit for older adults in southeast Iowa. It was inspired by the Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan for 2020-2023, conducted in partnership with the Lee County Health Department. Two goals determined through the assessment were improving the population’s mental health and well-being, and improving the health, function and quality of life for older adults.

The Geriatric Behavioral Health Unit was set to open in July 2020, but it was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information about the unit, call 319-376-2428.



From left are Matt Wenzel, Great River Health president and CEO; Michael McCoy, MD, chief medical officer; Melissa Jones, system executive, Marketing & Communications; Tomi Hagan, chief compliance officer; Jeremy Alexander, chief financial officer; and Christin Pritchard, director, clinic nursing operations.

## Great River Health receives Community Impact Award

In late May, Great River Health received Greater Burlington Partnership's Community Impact Award for its outstanding contribution to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Two criteria for the award are the number of people and size of the region affected by an organization's efforts.

## Great River Friends Donates \$142,397 to Hospital

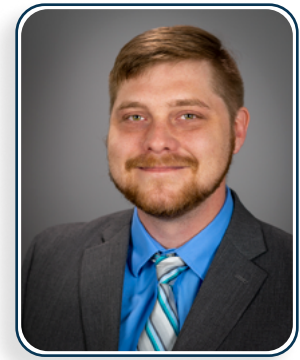
In June, the former Great River Friends donated \$142,397.40 to Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, West Burlington. The money will fund projects that enhance patient and family experiences.

The largest portions of the donation will be used to purchase waiting room chairs for the main hospital, Eastman Plaza and Mercy Plaza lobbies, and to renovate the hospital's interior courtyard, which is surrounded by patient rooms on two sides.

Other projects funded are:

- Ultrasound scanning table
- MRI audio table
- Prostate biopsy system
- Interactive electronic kiosks for wayfinding
- Plants and flowers for indoor and outdoor planters
- Supplies for making comfort pillows for patients
- Swaddling sleep sacks for newborns
- Donor breast milk for newborns who need it
- Life-enhancement materials for the Behavioral Health Unit, critical care areas, Hospice, Klein Center and Pediatrics Unit

## New Providers



### Josh Hucklenbrick, ARNP Geriatric Behavioral Health Unit

Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, Fort Madison

Master's degree:  
University of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois



### Charles Laham, MD Cardiology

Eastman Plaza, Suite 109  
1223 S. Gear Ave., West Burlington  
319-768-1820

Medical degree:  
University of Manitoba, Canada  
Residency:  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota  
Fellowships:  
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (cardiology); Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Alberta, Canada (interventional cardiology)  
Certifications:  
American Board of Internal Medicine (internal medicine, cardiology and interventional cardiology)

## New Providers



**Craig Knudtson, ARNP  
Anesthesia**

Southeast Iowa Regional Medical  
Center, West Burlington

Master's degree:  
Minneapolis School of Anesthesia,  
St. Louis Park, Minnesota



**Gara Sibley, DNAP  
Anesthesia**

Southeast Iowa Regional Medical  
Center, West Burlington

Doctorate:  
Gonzaga University, Spokane,  
Washington

## Expanded partnership begins

# Health System Leases Operation of Henry County Health Center

Henry County Health Center's expanded partnership with Great River Health System began July 1, but the work to ensure a smooth transition began four months ago. In a March 2 special election, Henry County residents voted to authorize the Henry County Health Center Board of Trustees to pursue the operational lease agreement with the ballot measure passing 59% to 41%.

The trustees and health system's board of directors each approved the final resolution of the operating lease at their June board meetings. Under this new agreement, the board of trustees:

- Delegates operational responsibility of Henry County Health Center to the health system. This includes leasing the hospital's facilities and assets.
- Maintains responsibility for the maintenance, and any improvements, of leased hospital assets
- Maintains employment of associates (employees) and provision of benefits
- Will receive periodic updates on the performance of the health center
- Continues to own and operate Emergency Medical Services for Henry County

Henry County Health Center remains the name of the hospital, property taxes will remain in Henry County and HCHC Foundation funds will stay in the community.

Under the agreement, Great River Health System created a new corporation within its health system called Henry County Health Center, Inc. The board of directors for this organization will serve as the governing board for the operational responsibility of the health center.

Ultimately, the expanded partnership will provide financial stability to Henry County Health Center and will ensure management of the health center remains in southeast Iowa, with critical decisions made locally. The health center has partnered with Great River Health System for more than 10 years.





## Fort Madison Uses New Electronic Health Record

The Fort Madison campus of Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center converted its electronic health record system July 1 to align with the Cerner system used at the West Burlington campus.

"By integrating our electronic health record systems, we can provide better continuity of care, leading to improved safety," said Shane Tapper, system executive, Informatics Systems. "It facilitates communication between the two campuses and the care teams. Patients will have one record that includes all of their health information from care received at both hospital campuses."

Patients in Fort Madison are asked to allow for extra time when registering as employees become familiar with the new system.

Electronic health record systems provide patient portals that allow patients to view and monitor their health information and test results, schedule appointments and contact their care team. Patients who have portal accounts on Fort Madison's previous system must sign up for a new Cerner patient portal account. You may sign up at the hospital or use this QR code:



Patients who already have a portal account through the West Burlington campus or Great River Health will continue using their existing login information.

## New Providers



**Amanda Veenstra, PA**  
**Pulmonology-Southeast Iowa**  
**Regional Medical Center**

Eastman Plaza, Suite 304  
1223 S. Gear Ave., West Burlington  
319-768-3240

Master's degree:  
St. Ambrose University, Davenport,  
Iowa



**Meghan Wooster, DO**  
**Surgical Specialists-Southeast**  
**Iowa Regional Medical Center**

Eastman Plaza, Suite 202  
1223 S. Gear Ave., West Burlington  
319-768-4350

Medical degree:  
Des Moines University  
Residency:  
OhioHealth Doctors Hospital,  
Columbus  
Fellowship:  
Indiana University (surgical critical  
care), Indianapolis

## Patient Grateful for Treatment by Many Departments

*Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, Fort Madison, received this letter from a patient who wishes to remain anonymous.*

The evening of May 31, I came to the Fort Madison ER with pain/cramping and a lump in my lower abdomen. The ER was busy. I checked in, took a seat, and waited to be called back. ... As I sat there, starting to feel less pain, I thought to myself, I could possibly wait this out until my June 9th doctor appointment. Just as I was about to leave, my name was called. Even though the nurse was swamped and I did not look like I needed as much attention as the others, she didn't treat me any less important. She took my vitals, asked some questions, and then I saw the ER doctor. He ordered labs then did an exam. I assume based on the labs and exam, he ordered an X-ray. Based on the X-ray, he ordered a CT. The CT results came back as multiple pelvic masses with ovarian neoplasm/malignancy that should be considered. At 2:30 a.m., I had discharge orders to follow up with my primary physician when her office opened.

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**'Every one of you made me feel like I was more than just a number and more than just another patient. You made me feel seen, heard and important.'**

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The following morning, I didn't have a chance to call as I received a phone call from my primary, Dr. Huber, stating that she ran into the ER doctor that morning and he had informed her that he had seen her patient in the ER earlier that morning. Dr. Huber stated that she had given Dr. Staudte a call, they went over my results, he told her that he would take it from there, but she was behind the scenes all the way. Within 5 minutes, I received a call from Dr. Staudte's office asking when I could come in. Long story short, I ended up having a complete hysterectomy on Wednesday morning ...

The day after surgery, a nurse called to make sure I was doing OK. Shortly after that, the anesthesiologist called as I woke up from surgery with three fingers that were numb. He wanted to ensure that the feeling had returned, which it had. Then Dr. Staudte called Friday to check in, discuss the surgery, and the pathology report.

I just wanted to thank everyone for making one of my scariest moments a little easier. Every one of you made me feel like I was more than just a number and more than just another patient. You made me feel seen, heard and important. Every one of you introduced yourselves when you walked in the room, you explained what you were doing and why you were doing it and took the time to see if I had any questions along the way.

Each of you has an incredibly special calling and are doing exactly what you are meant to do at this very moment in your lives. The experience I had at Fort Madison was one of the best that I have ever had at any hospital.

## Employee of Month CNA Makes Planters for Klein Center Elders

Certified nurse assistant Mark Scott was the June Employee of the Month at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, West Burlington. Using his own time and money, Mark built five large planters for the courtyard outside the Apple Tree Lane and Mississippi Boulevard neighborhood, where he works. The elders enjoy tending the flowers and vegetables that are growing in the planters.



# 24 Students Receive Health Careers Scholarships

Before the hospital name change, the volunteer organizations at Fort Madison Community Hospital and Great River Medical Center awarded more than \$20,000 in scholarships to students who are pursuing health careers. The students represent seven high schools in the hospitals' service area. Friends of Henry County Health Center awarded one scholarship.

## **FMCH Auxiliary Scholarship**

### **\$1,000 to high school seniors:**

- Ava Peitz, Holy Trinity Catholic School, Nursing, University of Iowa
- Claire Wills, Central Lee High School, nursing, Southeastern Community College
- Karley Harvey, Central Lee High School, nursing, University of Iowa

## **Kathleen Canella Family Scholarship**

This scholarship was established in memory of Kathleen Canella, a longtime volunteer and member of the FMCH Auxiliary.

### **\$250 to \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors and continuing college students:**

- Kendall Beebe, Fort Madison High School, radiologic technology, Southeastern Community College
- Nadia Boeding, Fort Madison High School, biology/physical therapy, University of Iowa
- Ava Peitz, Holy Trinity Catholic School, nursing, University of Iowa
- Maria Rauenbuehler, Holy Trinity Catholic School, nursing, St. Ambrose University
- Maille Sheerin, St. Ambrose University, social work
- Hannah Torgler, University of Northern Iowa, social work
- Carla Yoder, Indian Hills Community College, occupational therapist assistant

## **Tracey Howe Scholarship**

This scholarship was established in memory of Tracey Howe, a registered nurse at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

### **\$1,000 scholarships for new or continuing nursing students:**

- Annabelle Scheetz, Holy Trinity Catholic School, Southeastern Community College
- Claire Wills, Central Lee High School, Southeastern Community College, Nursing

## **Friends of Henry County Health Center scholarship**

### **\$2,000 continuing-education scholarship:**

- Jessica Casey, Western Governors University, health care management

## **Great River Friends scholarships**

### **\$1,000 scholarships for high school seniors:**

- Lydia Fisher, Wapello Community High School, pre-medicine/biology, University of Iowa
- Karley Harvey, Central Lee High School, nursing, University of Iowa
- Hannah Hentzel, Burlington Community High School, pre-medicine/biology, University of Iowa
- Anthony Hoffman, Notre Dame High School, pre-medicine/biology, Cornell College
- Jessica Kendell – Burlington Community High School, biochemistry, Truman State University or Augustana College
- Reagan Spence, West Central High School, pre-medicine, Loras College

### **\$1,000 continuing-education scholarships:**

- Elena AbouAssaly, pre-medicine, University of Iowa
- Rachel Crooks, anesthesia, Missouri State University
- Abigail Crouner, pharmacy, University of Iowa
- Isabel Hase, pre-medicine/biology, Southeastern Community College
- Vidya Mullangi, neurobiology, Georgetown University
- Cassidy Rashid, pre-dentistry, Creighton University

### **\$500 continuing-education scholarship for one semester:**

- Lauren Galvin, speech/language pathology, University of Northern Iowa

## Test Iowa Program to End July 16

Test Iowa, the state's large-scale, free COVID-19 testing program which launched in April 2020, will end operations Friday, July 16. This includes Great River Health's Test Iowa Clinic Site on at the Des Moines County Fairgrounds. Demand for testing is at its lowest levels in more than a year because vaccines are now widely available and virus activity has decreased significantly.

### Who should receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

The Iowa Department of Public Health encourages Iowans age 12 and up to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Information about vaccine providers and events statewide is available at [vaccinateiowa.gov](https://vaccinateiowa.gov).

## Hospice Mystery Ride July 17

A mystery ride for motorcycles and automobiles will raise money for Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice and the Lee County Health Department Hospice. The ride will begin at noon Saturday, July 17, at Doris' Tavern, 733 S. Roosevelt Ave., Burlington. Participants will search for hidden objects along a route distributed on ride day.

Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice is a combination of the former Great River Hospice in West Burlington and Fort Madison Community Hospital Hospice. Services are provided from both locations.

The ride is sponsored by ABATE (A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education), a not-for-profit organization of motorcyclists. The money raised will help provide end-of-life services for patients. Registration will be from 10 a.m. to noon immediately before the ride. The fee is \$10 for ABATE members and \$12 for nonmembers.

Ride T-shirts are available now at Hot Toddies, 1500 Agency St., Burlington, or by calling 319-768-3392 or 319-372-5225. The cost is \$20. Limited quantities will be available July 17.

For more information about the mystery ride, call ABATE member Randy "Dog" Hiland, 319- 572-5733.





## Casual days

Employees make donations for the opportunity to wear jeans to work on designated Fridays. The July casual days and organizations they benefit are:

### West Burlington campus

July 9 Parkinson's Foundation (Cubs/Cards casual day. Employees are encouraged to wear shirts supporting their favorite team.

July 23 Eating Disorder Coalition of Iowa

### Fort Madison campus

July 16 Young House Family Services

## Letter

On behalf of the Iowa Donor Network, thank you for your recent gift of \$419 in support of casual day, and organ and tissue donation in Iowa. Your generous contribution is already at work across the state helping us provide the best quality services and care for families we serve by supporting our donor family aftercare programs, growing the Iowa Donor Registration through education and advocacy, and furthering our clinical innovation and excellence standards.

In 2020, Iowa had the highest number of organ donors in the state's history, resulting in more lives saved than every before. Your support provides a direct and lasting impact by helping us save and heal more lives each day.

— Kaylie Hoyle  
Director of Philanthropy

## Relay For Life Returns

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Des Moines County will be Friday, Aug. 6, on Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center's West Burlington campus. Cancer survivors are invited to the survivor ceremony and dinner. Details are below. Invitations will not be mailed this year.

To make a reservation for the dinner, please call LuJuan Hartman, 319-759-5799, or Duane Worthy, 319-759-4709.

Relay For Life of Des Moines County schedule:

Opening ceremony, 4 p.m.

Survivor ceremony, 4:30 p.m.

Survivor dinner 5 to 6 p.m.

## Shirt Sales to Benefit Breastfeeding

In recognition of National Breastfeeding Month in August, Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, West Burlington, is raising money to support the purchase of donor breast milk. Donor milk is used at the hospital by newborns with special needs and those who need supplemental milk while their mothers are breastfeeding.

Some benefits of breastfeeding are:

- Breastfed babies are less likely to develop asthma.
- Breastfeeding reduces the risk of sudden infant death syndrome.
- Children who are breastfed for six months are less likely to become obese.
- Breastfeeding protects babies from illnesses including diarrhea, ear infections and pneumonia.
- Mothers who breastfeed have a decreased risk of breast and ovarian cancers.



**T-Shirt Sale, \$15 to \$20**

# TAKE 5 WITH GREAT RIVER HEALTH



**JILL DANIEL**

Lead, Centralized Scheduling  
Henry County Health Center  
24 years



**KATIE SCIUMBATO**

Nurse Manager, Clinics  
Southeast Iowa Regional Medical  
Center, Fort Madison  
19 years



**ALLYSSA WHALEN**

EKG Technician  
Respiratory Therapy  
Southeast Iowa Regional Medical  
Center, West Burlington  
3.5 years

## What was your first job?

I rode my moped to Dairy Queen.

Hy-Vee

Hostess at Shokai Sushi

## What's your favorite type of music?

Christian rock

Country

Rock/pop-punk

## What is one thing you cannot resist?

Sweets

A good cup of coffee

Buying just one new houseplant

## What would be your ideal vacation?

Anyplace on a beach!

Traveling to the mountains with  
my kids and husband

Camping and hiking

## What are three words that describe you:

Dedicated, fun, positive

Committed, kind, personable

Empathetic, determined,  
open-minded