

‘Main Street’ renovation begins

On April 1, Maury Regional Medical Center will begin renovation to the primary corridor from the main lobby to the patient tower elevators. Utilizing the organization’s new design standards, updates will include flooring, paint, ceiling tile and lighting. The project will be completed in phases:

Phase 1 - Corridor between the main hall and restrooms.

Renovation is expected to take two weeks or less. During this time, the public may utilize the restrooms down the hallway past Human Resources.

Phase 2 - Main corridor from the elevator lobby to the Java Junction back entrance.

During this three- to four-week period, the main access for Payroll, Heart Center, and Admitting will be relocated

and temporary directional signs will be installed. The Chapel will remain closed until Phase 2 renovations are completed.

Phase 3 - Main corridor from Java Junction to the patient tower elevators on first floor.

Staff should utilize the hall near Human Resources to access the Pharmacy and the Gift Shop will have a temporary entrance between the Cardiac Cath Lab and staff elevators during this three- to four-week renovation.

Phase 4 - Vestibule for staff elevators and hall by Cardiac Cath Lab holding area.

During this two- to three-week renovation, staff needing to access the first floor should utilize the public elevators. All other floors will be accessible from staff elevators.

In addition, the eight elevators in the medical center will be remodeled along with the patient tower stairwell. To minimize disruption, only one elevator at a time will be closed, beginning June 1.

Beginning June 3, renovation to Java Junction will begin and is expected to take two to three weeks. Staff and visitors are encouraged to dine in the updated cafeteria on the ground floor, which will be completed in May. Dining renovations are funded by Morrison Healthcare.

“These are exciting steps toward modernizing the medical center,” said Administrative Director of Facility Services Mike Short. “Additional volunteers will be working to help guide our patients and visitors; however, please aid anyone you may encounter who needs assistance finding their destination.”



Gastroenterologist joins MRMG

Michael Blanco, MD, a specialist in gastroenterology, has joined Maury Regional Medical Group (MRMG) Mid-South Gastroenterology.



Dr. Blanco will initially see patients at the Columbia location before transitioning full-time to the practice's new Spring Hill location in May. He will perform procedures at Spring Hill Surgery Center, Maury Regional Medical Center and Maury Regional Mid-South Endoscopy Center.

Dr. Blanco He obtained a medical degree from Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Science in Buffalo, New York. Dr. Blanco completed a residency at McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, and a fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. He is board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology.

Dr. Blanco joins Amit A. Choksi, MD; Dayaker R. Mallipeddi, MD; Robert W. McClure, MD; Srikar S. Reddy, MD; and Timothy Dickey, FNP, at MRMG Mid-South Gastroenterology. Office hours are Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.

To learn more about MRMG Mid-South Gastroenterology, visit MauryRegional.com/Gastroenterology.

MRMG adds behavioral health specialists

Schelby Blair, PMHNP, and **Theresa Norris, PMHNP-BC, BSW**, specialists in behavioral health, have joined Maury Regional Medical Group (MRMG) and see patients at PrimeCare Clinic in Columbia.

Blair obtained a master's degree in nursing with a concentration as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner from Middle Tennessee State University



Blair

in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and a bachelor's degree in nursing from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Norris obtained a master's degree in nursing from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and a bachelor's degree in nursing from University of North Alabama in Florence, Alabama.



Norris

Blair and Norris see patients ages 15 and older with a physician's referral. PrimeCare Clinic offers primary care and behavioral health services, and practice hours are Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Additional PrimeCare providers include Loretta Davidson, FNP-BC; Amanda Ferrara, LCSW; Josefine Luna, PA-C; and Miranda Wood, PA-C.

For more information, call 931.540.4140 or visit MauryRegional.com/PrimeCare.

Culture of Safety Survey now open

Maury Regional Health (MRH) CEO Martin Chaney, MD, and Chief Medical Officer Christina Lannom, DO, announced in March the Striving for Zero patient safety initiative across the health system.

As part of the initiative, which renews the organization's commitment to providing safe, harm-free care for every patient, every day, MRH has launched its annual Culture of Safety Survey.

All MRH team members are encouraged to view the Striving for Zero video on the main page of the employee Intranet and take the survey, available until April 16.. Thank you for your commitment to providing a safe environment for our patients, visitors and colleagues.



MAURY REGIONAL HEALTH

Maury Regional Health is a not-for-profit regional health system serving southern Middle Tennessee through our hospitals, clinics, surgery centers, outpatient facilities and physician practice group. We are the largest health system between Nashville, Tennessee, and Huntsville, Alabama, with a medical staff of more than 210 physicians encompassing 35 medical specialties.

The VitaLink

The VitaLink is published monthly for Maury Regional Health through the Marketing Department and features news relevant to employees, retirees, volunteers and medical staff members. New editions are published on the last business day of the month at MauryRegional.com/VitaLink.

Share Your Good News

Employees and physicians are invited to share their professional accomplishments for possible inclusion in The VitaLink by emailing story suggestions to TheVitaLink@MauryRegional.com. Possible article topics include, but are not limited to, an individual earning advanced certification, presenting at a conference, publishing research in a peer-reviewed journal, implementing new projects that support the health system and more.

Brown named CEO of Maury Regional Health rural hospitals

Phyllis Brown has been promoted to chief executive officer of Maury Regional Health (MRH) rural hospitals, assuming leadership for Wayne Medical Center (WMC) in addition to Marshall Medical Center (MMC).



Brown

Brown has been in a leadership role at MMC since 1996, serving as chief financial officer prior to being promoted to CEO in 2007. She has more than 35 years of experience in hospital finance and administration. During her time at the organization, she has also served as CFO at WMC. Prior to joining Maury Regional Health, she worked at Humana,

Columbia HCA and Healthtrust. Brown holds a degree in business and finance from the College of Virginia.

“Phyllis has been an integral part of our team, consistently demonstrating exceptional skills in the rural health landscape,” said Charlie Brinkley, MRH chief administrative officer. “With a proven record of success, she has shown a deep commitment to advancing the mission of Maury Regional Health. We are confident she will excel in this new role.”

Schefke named associate chief financial officer

Rich Schefke has joined Maury Regional Health (MRH) as associate chief financial officer.

Schefke has more than 16 years of experience in health care financial planning, analysis, accounting, decision support and reimbursement. He is an active member of the Healthcare Financial Management Association, having served on its executive committee, including as president for the First Illinois chapter.

“I am confident that Rich will seamlessly become part of our Maury Regional family and will play a crucial role in furthering the exceptional work that takes place daily,” said Charlie Brinkley, MRH chief administrative officer. “We are excited to welcome him aboard and look forward to his contributions to the continued success of MRH.”



Schefke

Jackson named chief certified registered nurse anesthetist

Marie Jackson, CRNA, MSA, BSN, has been named chief certified registered nurse anesthetist for Maury Regional Health (MRH).



Jackson

Jackson has been with MRH since 2017 as a certified registered nurse anesthetist, and she was also with the organization in 2001 as a licensed practical nurse.

“Marie exemplifies a profound dedication to healing and care,” said Christina Lannom, DO, chief medical officer for Maury Regional Health. “She is a reminder to me that with passion, perseverance and dedication, we can reach the pinnacle of our professions, all the while serving the hearts of our community.”

Herrick earns Professional Development Champion Award

The Maury Regional Medical Center Nursing Professional Development Council recently presented **Charleen Herrick, BSN, RN**, with the Professional Development Champion Award.

The quarterly award honors a nurse who shows continued professional growth and dedication to serving in their profession.

Herrick was awarded for consistently demonstrating exceptional commitment to professional growth and advancement of her colleagues. She serves as a preceptor and mentor and developed the Basics of Neonatal course at Maury Regional Medical Center. Her other contributions include serving as a NRP instructor, and she’s currently pursuing STABLE instructor status.



MRH thanks volunteers

Maury Regional Health (MRH) extends its appreciation to the hundreds of volunteers who share their time and talents to serve and support others through the Volunteer Services program.

At Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC), volunteers collectively gave **20,354** hours in 2023, providing the equivalent of **\$647,257** in services.

“Maury Regional Health’s volunteers truly give from the heart to make a difference in the lives of others every day,” said Director of Volunteer Services Cindy Short. “These kind and caring individuals provide an extra dimension of care for our patients and their families.”

MRH will recognize its volunteers at the annual Volunteer Service Awards on Tuesday, April 16, at 11:30 a.m. at the Ridley 4-H Center. The event will feature food, a butterbean auction and more.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities with MRH, visit MauryRegional.com/Volunteer.

Barnett earns Employee of the Quarter award

Renee Barnett, senior physician compliance officer at Maury Regional Medical Center, was named the winner of Maury Regional Health's Employee of the Quarter award for the last quarter.

"Renee exhibits a daily commitment that positively impacts all and contributes to the overall health of the team and community," one nominator said.

With this recognition, Barnett is eligible for the Employee of the Year award, which will be announced in February.

The purpose of the Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year programs is to recognize Maury Regional Health team members from all disciplines and departments who go above and beyond demonstrating the attributes that help to make our organization "Maury Strong."



From left: Maury Regional Health CEO Martin Chaney, MD; Renee Barnett, senior physician compliance officer; Sheila Grossman, employee experience specialist; and Aubrey Clark, compliance specialist.

Congratulations!

Jordan Warren, charge nurse in the Labor and Delivery Department at Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC), and **Joseph Warren**, cardiovascular technician in the cardiac catheterization lab at MRMC, welcomed Carter Jo Warren on March 11. She weighed 7 pounds and 3 ounces.

Charlee Horton, RN, in the Maury Regional Women's Center, and family welcomed Stratton Mae Horton on March 22. She weighed 5 pounds and 12 ounces.

Ingram earns Sunflower Award

Congratulations to **Brittney Ingram**, a certified nurse assistant on 3W, on receiving Maury Regional Medical Center's (MRMC) Sunflower Award for Exceptional Service for February!

In her nomination for the Sunflower Award, the nominator described Ingram's dedication to patients and Maury Regional Health.

"Brittney does such an amazing job caring for our patients," the nominator said. "I'm so impressed by the way she advocates for our patients. Brittney is so kind and reassuring. The care Brittney gives our patients changes their entire outlook and makes such a difference."

The Sunflower Award is an opportunity to recognize MRMC employees from all disciplines and departments who go above and beyond in their roles. Nominations are accepted year-round from patients, family members and colleagues. Learn more about the Sunflower Award or nominate an employee at MauryRegional.com/Sunflower.



Brittney Ingram

Wayne Medical Center to offer free health fair April 20

Wayne Medical Center will host its 14th annual community health fair Saturday, April 20, at Frank Hughes School at 444 Main St. in Clifton. The health fair will take place from 8 a.m. until noon.

Wayne Medical Center will join a number of community organizations to offer free health screenings, health and wellness information, refreshments and door prizes. Free screenings will include testing for:

- Blood oxygen level
- Blood pressure
- BMI
- Cholesterol
- Glucose
- Grip strength and fitness
- Heart rate

For community residents needing to safely dispose of unneeded prescription medications, the health fair will serve as a free drug takeback location in partnership with local law enforcement agencies. Medications that are no longer needed or are expired can be brought to the health fair for safe disposal.

Learn more at MauryRegional.com/WMC.

▼ **Marshall Medical Center hosted a fun-filled Easter egg hunt March 23 for employees' children and grandchildren. A total of 14 children hunted eggs with prizes for the most eggs found, and winners were also drawn from three age categories and presented a Sonic gift card. There was even a special visit from the Easter bunny!**



Drug take-back event set for April 27

Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC) will host a free drug take-back event on Saturday, April 27, giving the community an opportunity to safely dispose of expired, unused or unneeded prescription drugs.

The free drive-through event will be held in front of the MRMC Medical Office Building at 1222 Trotwood Ave. in Columbia from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Staff members will be on hand to safely receive items from drivers in their vehicles. The service is anonymous, with no information required.

Only medications in pill or patch form should be brought to the upcoming event. The site cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps. Items should be in their original container, if possible.

The last springtime drug take-back event at MRMC resulted in the collection of a record-breaking 169 pounds of expired, unused and unwanted prescriptions. Another drug take-back event will be held in October.

Java Junction renaming contest kicks off June 3

Once renovations to the cafeteria at Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC) are complete, updates will be made to the Java Junction café on the first floor of the hospital, including a new name.

Maury Regional Health is looking for suggestions from its creative team members.

A naming contest will take place April 15-30. All current health system employees, providers and volunteers will be eligible to participate, and the team member with the winning submission will receive one free meal per shift for one year (an estimated value of \$200) from the Java Junction.

Submissions must be made electronically via a convenient website form available on the Intranet from April 15-30. Participants may submit no more than two suggestions for consideration, and top selections will be identified by members of a naming committee and screened for trademark violations. The Maury Regional Health executive team will then vote on the winner. Should the winning name be submitted by more than one individual, the individual who first submitted the name will be the winner.

In addition to a new name, changes to Java Junction will include new interior design elements, removing the half wall to improve traffic flow and new seating. Renovations are scheduled to take place from June 3-14, with a reopening date set for June 17.

Foundation, Mobile Health Unit partner with Giving Smiles

The Maury Regional Health Care Foundation and Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC) Mobile Health Unit recently joined forces with local nonprofit Giving Smiles to provide free dental exams, cleanings, extractions and fillings for more than 50 uninsured children in Columbia, some of which had never had dental services before.

Giving Smiles is a nonprofit, volunteer-supported charity headed by Eileen Seitz, DDS, with an office located in Spring Hill. It also operates a mobile dental clinic to take affordable dental care to communities around



southern Middle Tennessee. The van is equipped with two dental chairs and a full range of X-ray capabilities to provide services such as fillings, extractions, impressions and even advanced procedures such as root canals, all at a reduced cost for the patient.

The Foundation and MRMC Mobile Health Unit have partnered seven times so far with Giving Smiles, including donating funds to help offset the expense when the mobile dental clinic comes to Columbia. There are 11 more visits approved in 2024.

In addition to the children's dental day, the mobile dental clinic has also visited the Maury Regional Cancer Center to provide immediate dental

extractions and care to head and neck cancer patients who are uninsured. The service is performed on a sliding fee scale so patients can complete the dental care necessary to begin their cancer treatment quickly, supporting a better treatment outcome.

"Dr. Seitz's care and willingness to serve our six-county community is unparalleled," Foundation Executive Director Joe Kilgore said. "We look forward to more partnerships with Giving Smiles so we can bring this state-of-the-art dental care to our community members in need."

More information about Giving Smiles can be found at GivingSmilesTN.org.

To learn more about the Maury Regional Health Care Foundation or to make a direct gift to support the Mobile Medical Unit Fund, visit MauryRegional.com/Foundation.



Reminder: Mule Kick 5K & 1-Mile Trot is April 6

There's still time to sign up for the Mule Kick 5K & 1-Mile Trot, which will take place Saturday, April 6, at Riverwalk Park in Columbia.

Participants may register for both the 5K and 1-Mile Trot online at runsignup.com/MuleKick5K.

The Mule Kick is hosted by the Maury Regional

Health Care Foundation and presented by First Farmers and Merchants Bank, with proceeds going to Maury Regional Health's mobile medical unit as well as the Foundation's Wellness and Aquatics Center Healthy Living Endowment and the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department.

MAURY strong

MAURY FORWARD >>>

Maury Regional gets crafty

Maury Regional Medical Center hosted its annual spring craft fair and farmers market March 19, featuring an array of handcrafted goods and delicious treats.

The fair featured booths where Maury Regional staff perused and purchased goods. Vendors included Maury Regional Health employees Christy Wells, Stacy Smith, Amanda Hopkins, Crystal Staggs and Alexandria Novem,

as well as Deborah Kinchen with Mitteden Paw and Hazel Washenfelder with Java Hen.

Those interested in participating in the next craft fair should email Sheila Grossman, employee experience specialist, at sgrossman@mauryregional.com or call extension 1095.



VitaLink to salute 2024 graduates

The VitaLink will recognize 2024 graduates in the upcoming May issue.

All Maury Regional Health employees and physicians who have earned a new degree themselves or who are the parents or grandparents of a high school or college graduate from the 2023-2024 academic year are invited to submit a headshot photo of the graduate for inclusion in The VitaLink's Graduation Salute edition.

Photos may be sent via email to TheVitaLink@MauryRegional.com or delivered to the Marketing & Communications Department, which is located in suite 202 of the Medical Office Building. Photos may be casual or formal in nature but should be high resolution (i.e., not

blurry). **The deadline for photos is April 26.**

Along with the graduate's photo, please include the following details:

- Graduate's name (preferred first and last names only; no middle names)
- School
- Degree or program completed
- Your name, department and extension
- Your relationship to the graduate

Please contact the Marketing & Communications Department at 931.490.7223 with any questions.

Maury Regional athletic trainers invite area coaches to clinic

Maury Regional Health athletic trainers will host a coaches clinic for all sports coaches in the area to learn more about preparing athletes for their season.

The clinic will be held April 13 at 9 a.m. at the Maury Regional Annex, which is across the street from Maury Regional Medical Center at 1223 Trotwood Ave. in Columbia. It is meant for coaches of any age group (youth, middle school, high school, college or volunteer) or for anyone else who wants to learn about coaching, leadership and more.

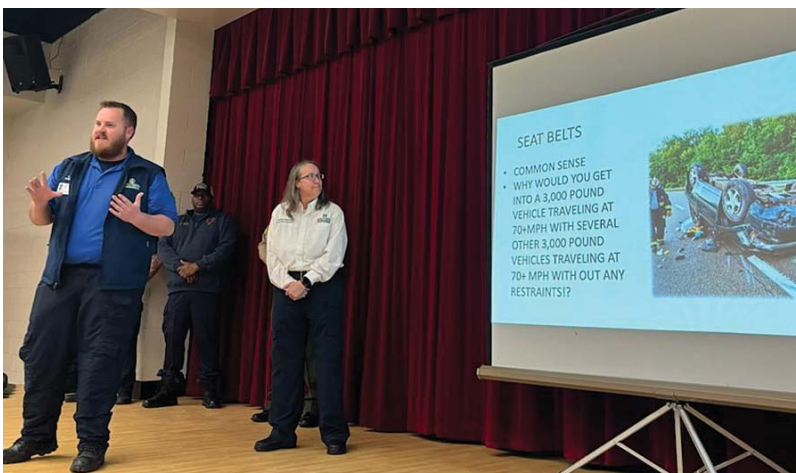
A group of speakers are slated to present, including:

- Brigadier General Steven Turner, assistant adjutant general with the Tennessee Army National Guard, will present on leadership, ownership and mentorship.
- Andrew K. Nielsen, MD, a specialist in internal medicine and pediatrics with Lewisburg Pediatrics, will present on nutrition and hydration.
- Andrea Bain, a physical trainer with Maury Regional Medical Center, will present on proper warmup and injury prevention.
- Amanda Cothran, MSN, RN, CEN, the stroke, trauma and chest pain center coordinator for Maury Regional Medical Center, will present on pre-hospital management of athletic injuries.

After the speaker session, CPR training will be provided for anyone interested. It will not serve as a certification course.

Registration is not required, but anyone attending is asked to RSVP by emailing dhightower@mauryregional.com.

▼ Baker Elementary School's student advisory council, guided by school counselor Rachel Fernandez, hosted a toy drive the week of Feb. 12-16 to kick off Random Acts of Kindness Week at Maury County Public Schools. The members of the advisory council chose the Maury Regional Medical Center Emergency Department's toy box as the recipient of their toy donations. Thank you to the students at Baker Elementary!



◀ Chrissi Dees, operations coordinator for Maury Regional Medical Center (MRMC) EMS, and Cody Hill, CC-P, a paramedic with MRMC EMS, recently gave presentations about seatbelt safety at Mt. Pleasant High School and Columbia Central High School as part of the Survive to Arrive Safe Driving Program. General Motors and the Maury Regional Health Care Foundation partner with Columbia Fire & Rescue to host the program for local juniors and seniors. The campaign, now in its third year, focuses on the dangers of distracted and impaired driving, the importance of seatbelt usage and the consequences of failing to obey the rules of the road.