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Welcome to SPARK Notes, your local BCH employee monthly newsletter. At SPARK notes, you can expect to find all of the latest happenings in your local community; both inside and outside of the hospital doors.

**"September tries its best to have us forget summer."
-Bernard Williams.**

If you would like your department events, news, family photos, pets, etc, to be featured in the employee newsletter, please email them to elizabeth.l@BCCH.org



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A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear BCH Family,

I want to thank you for supporting me through my first year as your CEO. It has been an amazing journey and I have learned so much from all of you.

I have also learned what it means to be a member of the Executive Team and everything that goes on behind the scenes. Ensuring that the organization runs smoothly on a daily basis takes a lot of planning, directing, and coordinating. In addition to myself, the Executive Team members are: Tari Yourzek CNO, Melinda Smithson CFO, Jenn Capodagli CHRO, Tami Corsi DON, Joe Laffoon, Director of Facilities. As administration we are responsible for setting and following standards of operational excellence so that as an organization, we can deliver the best quality patient care. We do this by working behind the scenes to make large-scale decisions for the organization. This includes the financial stability of the organization, dealing directly with policy and procedures to ensure that we are in compliance, hiring staff, and providing leadership that creates a positive and productive culture. Our goal is to create better employee and patient experiences as well as ensure the safety of our patients, their families and our staff.



Last week the Executive Team had a wonderful opportunity for all of our hospital leadership and our Board of Trustees to meet. It was so much fun to see how engaged all of our managers are and how invested we are in the future and the growth of our organization. Working and collaborating together we have some great ideas to achieve our Mission of “Caring for our Community Every Day”

It takes a village to run a hospital and you as our employees, are our most important resource. Without each and every one of you and the jobs that you do, we cannot effectively care for our patients and their families and grow as an organization. Whether you provide direct patient care or support the ones that do, your work is vital and meaningful to those we serve.

Thank you for all you do, you all make me so proud every day. I am so excited for the future of Boundary Community Hospital.

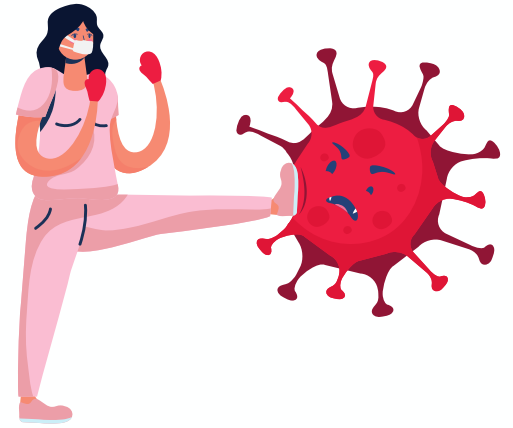
Together we are safer.

Together we are stronger.

Together we make a difference in the lives of each other, our patients and their families.

April Bennett, RN, MSN

A Letter From The Infection Preventionist...



Dear Staff,

Winter is coming fast and there has already been an uptick of Respiratory illness in our community. COVID is just one of the viruses circulating right now. If you are feeling ill in any way, I ask you to consider masking during your shift to protect those around you. By masking one shift you can prevent an outbreak where the entire floor is masking for 10 days. Patients will thank you. Your manager will thank you. Those you work with will thank you. It's the right thing to do and a day or two is so much better than all winter. Masking is not the only way to prevent spread but when combined with diligent hand washing and Standard Precautions it's pretty fool proof. Let's stay as healthy as we can this winter.

Thank you,
Chinna

STAY HEALTHY STAY SAFE STAY HEALTHY STAY SAFE STAY HEALTHY STAY SAFE STAY HEALTHY STAY SAFE

WE ARE **PROJECT FIRSTLINE**



During this respiratory virus season, we encourage all healthcare workers to practice infection control in their daily tasks.



When respiratory viruses are spreading in the community, the risk for spread in healthcare settings increases as well. CDC wants to remind all healthcare workers that regardless of where you work or which respiratory viruses are spreading in your community, there are existing infection control measures that effectively slow and prevent the spread to help protect patients and others.

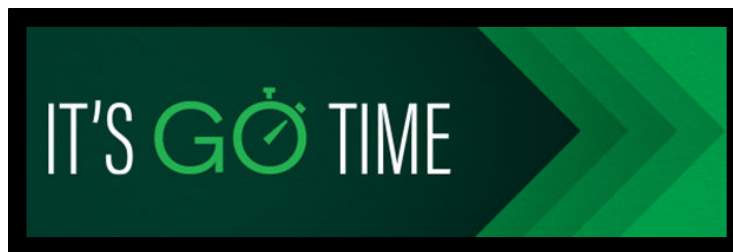
Read CDC's latest [Safe Healthcare Blog](#) from Dr. Mike Bell, which reviews important infection control measures and can help prepare you and your facility to navigate this respiratory virus season.

For more [infection control](#) resources from CDC's Project Firstline, visit the links below:

- [Cough and Congestion Micro-Learn \[PDF - 3 Pages\]](#), which includes a job aid and educational social media
- [Infection Control During Respiratory Virus Season Infographic \[PDF - 2 Pages\]](#)
- [Germs Can Live in the Respiratory System \[PDF - 1 Page\]](#) fact sheet
- [American Society for Healthcare Engineering \(ASHE\) videos on ventilation](#)
- [Masking signage](#) for healthcare facilities

Remember, prevention is the first line of defense against the spread of respiratory viruses. Let's each commit to promoting and practicing infection control measures in our daily routines. It's a team effort, and every action counts. We have the power to stop infections. Together.

WE HAVE THE POWER TO STOP INFECTIONS. **TOGETHER.** #WEAREFIRSTLINE



We are excited to announce that BCH is implementing a new payroll process. Starting October 15th, Boundary Community Hospital will transition its time and attendance (Novatime) as well as payroll processing to Paycom, a comprehensive HR and payroll solution. The switch to Paycom seamlessly aligns BCH's mission statement of Investing in our people and technology.

The decision to switch to Paycom was made with each employee in mind. This single solution provides:

- ease of use
- 24/7 access
- Beti® — Paycom's automated payroll experience
- increased functionality
- app availability
- Employee Self-Service®

You'll find Paycom offers you more functionality, plus it's easy to use, even on your smartphone. Paycom's Employee Self-Service® tool will be your go-to spot for:

- clocking in/out
- submitting time-off requests
- enrolling in benefits
- reviewing and approving your paycheck
- seeing your take-home pay before payday

Here is what you need to know about the transition:

ACTIVITY	DATE
PAYCOM LOGIN INFORMATION WILL BE EMAILED TO ALL EMPLOYEES AT THEIR BCCH EMAIL ADDRESS. After that, you will need to download the free Paycom Mobile app on either the App Store (for iPhone users) or the Google Play Store (for Android users). *Please note: for those who do not care to use their phone, Paycom will still be accessible via BCH computers.	MONDAY, 10/9
Employee Trainings – Fry Education House – Make sure to bring your phone/mobile device to the training; If you are unable to make one of the meetings please contact Jenn or Cassy in HR to schedule a one-on-one session	WEDNESDAY, 10/11 • 2PM PST THURSDAY, 10/12 • 9AM PST • 1PM PST
Manager Training – Large Conference Room	FRIDAY, 10/13 • 10AM PST
Last Date to Use Novatime	SATURDAY, 10/14
First Date to Use Paycom for clocking in/out	SUNDAY, 10/15
Employees will need to approve their first check (more information will be provided during training on this function)	TUESDAY, 10/31 BY 12PM PST
First payday using Paycom	FRIDAY, 11/3/23

Boundary Community Hospital's Infusion and Procedures Clinic



Bringing Essential Medical Services Closer to Home

By Danielle Larsson

Living with rheumatoid arthritis is like carrying an unpredictable weight that can alter its heaviness without warning. It's a chronic autoimmune disease that wreaks havoc on the body, causing inflammation in the joints and leading to painful swelling that can eventually result in bone erosion and joint deformity.

Imagine waking up every morning and struggling with the simplest of tasks. That's life with rheumatoid arthritis and many other autoimmune disorders. The Infusion and Procedures Clinic represents a significant stride forward in providing comprehensive health care services to treat illnesses like these right within our community.

Made possible through the fundraising by the Fry Healthcare Foundation and the dedicated support of our local community, the clinic offers a range of vital infusions for antibiotics, antivirals, corticosteroids, and immune therapy for autoimmune diseases such as iron deficiency anemia, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, osteoporosis and myasthenia gravis. For someone living with these conditions, these infusions are critical to improving quality of life, and having the option to receive them locally can be life changing.

Alongside blood administration, it provides medication administration, intravenous fluid administration, hydration therapy, vascular access care and phlebotomy. All these services are provided with utmost care and professionalism by a team of highly trained and empathetic health care professionals.

As an outpatient facility, the clinic also specializes in various procedures such as thoracentesis, paracentesis, nerve blocks, PICC line placement and lumbar punctures. This ensures that essential procedures can be accessed conveniently, without the need for long-distance travel.

In addition to these services, the Infusion and Procedures Clinic provides crucial support for patients, who require specialty medications. If a particular medication is ineffective in its standard pill form, the clinic offers a valuable alternative through infusion therapy. This is vital for people who need central line care/troubleshooting and IV-line insertion and maintenance.

If you're unsure about the specific medications offered or have a special request, the staff at the clinic is always ready to help. You can reach out to them at 208.267.3141 ext. 4249. They are committed to accommodating the diverse needs of our community.

However, to access the services at the Infusion and Procedures Clinic, it's necessary to have an order sent from your primary care physician. The clinic's team will then work with your insurance to attain pre-authorization.

The addition of the Infusion and Procedures Clinic at Boundary Community Hospital has made a significant difference. Bringing essential health care services within our community is a comfort and a relief. The convenience of receiving necessary treatments close to home is invaluable.

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GOOD CATCH

to Prevent Patient Harm



ONE PERSON DOING THE RIGHT THING AT THE RIGHT TIME CAN BE EXCEPTIONALLY POWERFUL.

Each and every employee in the hospital has the power to prevent harm to patients by making certain patient safety measures and best practices are consistently followed.

Join the Boundary Community Hospital “Good Catch” Challenge to identify and learn about these stories in our hospital where one person identified a non-compliance or found an error that protected the well-being of a patient or patients. Capture our staff increasing safety measures and preventing harm.

Submit your stories to Tari Yourzek- tari.y@bcch.org

“GOOD CATCH” CHALLENGE

THE POWER OF ONE

*Those who participate in the good catch challenge and go out of their way to ensure safety in the hospital are eligible for prizes and swag!



a division of Boundary Community Hospital



Open House

November 4, 2023

10 am- 12pm

Location: Boundary Community Clinic

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Our very own Boundary Community Clinic will be hosting a fun-filled Fall Open House on November 4, 2023.

BCC is eager to spread awareness about the clinic, services that are offered, and provide a unique opportunity for the community to meet our providers including our new physician.

Don't forget to add this event to your calendar for a fun morning full of warm drinks, snacks, giveaways and important information regarding our wonderful Boundary Community Clinic!

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It is with immense gratitude and pride that we express our heartfelt thanks for voting Boundary Community Hospital as the Best of Boundary County. We are both humbled and honored to receive this recognition from the very community we serve.

Our motto, "Caring for our Community Every Day," is not just a statement—it's a commitment. Every member of our team, from doctors and nurses to administrators and support staff, works diligently every day to ensure that we provide the highest quality care possible. Knowing that our efforts are recognized and appreciated by the community, amplifies our dedication and drive.

This recognition reaffirms our belief that community and healthcare are deeply intertwined. By listening to your feedback, understanding your needs, and valuing the bond we've built, we are inspired to do more.

Thank you for entrusting us with your health and the health of your loved ones. We pledge to uphold and exceed the standards we have set, ensuring that BCH remains a beacon of healthcare excellence in the region.

None of this would be possible without incredible staff like you! Every one of you ensures we provide the top-notch care our community deserves.

Here's to a healthier, stronger community—together!



BONNERS FERRY LIVING LOCAL'S FINEST 2023



Our community is home to an astounding number of hardworking, creative individuals who run spectacular businesses. Don't forget to vote so that they can get the recognition they deserve!

<https://www.bonnersferrylivinglocal.com/finest-voting>

"From October 6 - 20, people can nominate online for whom they believe to be "Bonners Ferry's Finest" top 3 in a multitude of categories including Bonners Ferry's finest burger, cup of coffee, person of the year, finest organization with a cause and much, much more."

"Once the top 3 in each category have been determined, voting for the winners will take place November 3 - 17."

"The 2023 winners will be announced in Bonners Ferry Living Local's January/February 2024 edition!"

2023 Leadership Retreat



On Tuesday, September 19, 2023, hospital leaders, the hospital Executive Team as well as the Board of Trustees had the opportunity to gather for this year's Leadership Retreat in Sandpoint, Idaho.

Guest speaker, Jeff Conroy, led the group with a fantastic discussion of what leadership looks like in successful organizations as well as facilitated team building exercises for all attendees. Members spent time collaborating and engaging in discussions of the current state and future state of our hospital.

Many large entities operate using a strategic plan, which is a document designed to communicate with the entire organization as well as the community, the goals of the organization itself.

Now is the time for our hospital to develop a new strategic plan that meets the growing needs of our community and our employees. We are excited to share the progress of our new strategic plan over the next few months and look forward to achieving our goals together.



Spark of the Month

ROBERT AGGEN

FACILITIES DEPARTMENT



Rob is an integral part of the Maintenance team. He is always eager to help with a great attitude. He takes on the hard projects with a smile and completes projects with pride and quality. We are lucky that he has chosen to be part of our team.

Rob demonstrates our BCH value of Knowledge. He readily filled in for his team during the new employee orientation and did a fantastic job presenting the ins and outs of the maintenance department.

Thank you, Rob!

A new employee asked to see the hospital oxygen tanks and Rob happily agreed to show him and explain anything he wanted to know.

Sparkle Moments

Sparkle moments happen frequently and often throughout each and every day. It is somebody picking up trash in the hallway or striking up a kind conversation, offering help or holding open the door. Our employee's sparkle every day and it doesn't go unnoticed!

-CJ Mcveigh-

CJ cleaned all the outside windows & made them sparkle! He also waxed the men's & women's restroom floors and made them shine! Thank you for your extra effort. You are awesome!

-Corey Johnson-

Was responsive and polite to help a fellow employee who got locked out of her building. Thank you for the help!

-Carla Ratzloff-

She walked people out to their cars with her umbrella when it was pouring rain

-Hanna Frank-

Hanna is kind, thoughtful and provides excellent care. She is also really good at taking the trash out and always follows up on tasks!

-Tami Turner-

Randy had a scheduling crisis and Tami came in and saved the day. She wears many hats and wears them so well. She is wonderful with patients and is talented at whatever task is given to her.

-Cheryl Meyers-

She brought a patient clothes after hers had to be cut off to access her leg in the ER.

-Norm Erickson-

Was quick to stop what he was doing to help an employee who got locked out of the building. Thank you!

STUDENTS OF BOUNDARY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

We are so fortunate to have to have an outstanding group of mentors inside of our hospital doors, who are well educated, highly trained and committed to teaching the future professionals working at our hospital.

BCH is lucky enough to oversee multiple students from different institutions who walk our halls, help our patients and add to the overall community and warm feeling of our hospital.

Let's get to know them a little!

Becky Blackmore- Laboratory

Becky Blackmore is one of our student professionals in training at Boundary Community Hospital. She grew up in Creston, BC and has lived in Bonners Ferry for around a year. Becky grew up in a large family who taught her many valuable skills and she is grateful for her upbringing, as it has gotten her to where she is today. Becky is a talented figure skater, and loves to ski, snowboard, ride dirt bikes, go fishing and shoots her compound bow often.

Becky began working at BCH in December 2022 in the housekeeping department and transferred to the lab in April 2023. She knew that she wanted to work in healthcare and knew how to get her foot in the door of the hospital. She has received on the job training here at Boundary Community hospital with our brilliant lab department. On top of that, Becky attends North Idaho College in Post Falls, Idaho where in December she will complete the Phlebotomy Tech program and come out state and NHA certified. Boundary Community Hospital has been incredibly supportive of training Becky and sending her through the NIC program to get her certified. Becky feels grateful and humbled that BCH is the hospital to teach and train her to be a healthcare worker.

Alexis Benner- Social Work



Alexis Benner is 23 years old and recently moved back to Bonners Ferry from Spirit Lake where she and her fiancé are raising their 4-month-old baby girl. Originally, Alexis wanted to be a nurse but switched to social work and received her associate degree from North Idaho College. She is currently enrolled in the social work program at Lewis-Clark State College where she will be graduating with her bachelor's degree in May 2024.

Alexis has been studying under Tari Yourzek and Kim Browne where she helps with admitting and discharging patients and attends utilization review meetings and interdisciplinary meetings. She is learning about case management and working with hospitals in the surrounding areas. Alexis has learned a lot by working with all different types of patients, some with abundant resources and some with very little as our county is home to many on both ends of the scale. Alexis has noticed that BCH staff members work hard to make sure patients are as comfortable and happy as they can be while inside the hospital. Alexis has enjoyed her internship, has learned a lot and could see herself working in the hospital setting after graduating from her program.



Fry Healthcare Foundation Golf Tournament



BCH RN & CEO April Bennett



Let's get rolling



Awaiting instruction



Putting competition



Fry Healthcare Foundation

Golf Tournament

The Fry Healthcare Foundation (FHF) is delighted to announce the tremendous success of its 15th annual Golf Tournament, made possible by the generous support of local sponsors and participants. This year's event, held on August 18th at Mirror Lake Golf Course, proved to be a remarkable demonstration of community spirit and dedication.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our valued sponsors who played a pivotal role in making this event a resounding success. We extend our sincere gratitude to Fousts Inc., Edward Jones, Beck's Furniture, Boundary Tractor, VFW 3622, Mountain West Bank, KG&T Septic and Excavation, Bonners Ferry Vet Clinic, and Yellowstone Insurance. Their unwavering support helped create an unforgettable day of golf and fundraising.

The 15th Annual FHF Golf Tournament raised an impressive total of \$8,350 through sponsorships, registrations, and the exciting Golf Ball Drop. These funds will be dedicated to a worthy cause: the purchase of a new EKG machine for Boundary Community Clinics. This critical medical equipment will enhance healthcare services in Boundary County, improving the well-being of our community members.

The two recliners donated by Beck's Furniture and Edward's Jones for the Great Golf Ball Drop were won by Kevin Callos. Unfortunately, we did not have a winner for the amazing ATV donated by Boundary Tractor for the Hole-In-One contest.

Boundary County residents have every reason to be proud of their active involvement and support for local initiatives. Events like the FHF Golf Tournament, along with fun wine walks, elegant dinner galas, and the generous sponsorship of Fry Healthcare Foundation events, may seem small individually, but their collective impact is truly astounding. Together, we are making a significant difference in the lives of our neighbors and friends.

The Fry Healthcare Foundation wishes to express its deepest appreciation to all the sponsors, participants, and volunteers who contributed to the success of the 15th annual Golf Tournament. Your commitment to our community's health and well-being is truly commendable.

For more information about the Fry Healthcare Foundation and its upcoming events, please visit www.boundarycommunityhospital.org/foundation or contact Danielle Larsson at (208)267-6912.

Danielle Larsson
Community Relations and Marketing Director
Boundary Community Hospital

≡Welcome≡

A HUGE, WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF THE NEWEST EMPLOYEES TO JOIN OUR BCH TEAM!!

KARINA LOPEZ-PEREZ – HOUSEKEEPING

BETHANY BORTZ – MLT IN THE LAB

SHANELL GOODELL – PHYSICAL THERAPIST IN REHAB

JON KERKMANN – RESPIRATORY THERAPIST IN

CARDIOPULMONARY

REBEKAH WATERS – ECF CNA





S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 NUTRITION SERVICES WEEK	2	3	4	5	6 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT DAY	7
8	9	10	11 Paycom Training	12	13	14 Last day for NovaTime
15 Start Using Paycom	16	17	18 CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANT DAY	19	20	21 RESPIRATORY CARE WEEK
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 ONE AMERICA ONSITE @ FRY HOUSE				