

# LOWER UMPQUA HOSPITAL DISTRICT PARTNERS IN CARE NEWSLETTER

Photo Credit: Sheri Aasen

## WELCOME DR. GREGORY SAUNDERS, GENERAL SURGEON



LUHD warmly welcomes General Surgeon, Dr. Gregory Saunders, M.D., to our skilled surgery team. He and his wife Kathy arrived last week and began settling into our community.

Dr. Saunders has lived a life of service in the military and working abroad in underserved areas. After completing his medical training, he served three years at Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND, including a deployment to Germany during Desert Storm. With training completed, he and Kathy moved their family across the globe to Ile-Ife, Nigeria. For 10 years at a large mission hospital, he met the wide variety of community needs. In response to these he undertook and completed his master's degree in public health. In his practice he leverages these experiences to deliver the best possible outcome for his surgical patients, advising how nutrition and lifestyle can aid in prevention, mitigation, and recovery.

In 2003, family drew the Saunders back to the U.S. and to Kathy's home state of Oregon. Dr. Saunders worked mostly at another rural, coastal hospital where they loved the small-town atmosphere. After their four children were 'launched,' they felt called back to Africa and completed an eight-year stint in Lilongwe, Malawi. And now the circle continues, drawn back to Oregon, family, and small-town atmosphere, they have journeyed across the globe and landed here in our District in Reedsport. Please join us in welcoming them when you see them in town.

## FOND FAREWELL

### DR. KENNETH LAWSON, GENERAL SURGEON



Please join us in extending a fond farewell to Ken Lawson, MD as he retires from Lower Umpqua Hospital District and embarks on his next life adventure which includes spending time with family and friends in his home state.

His last scheduled day was March 20th. Dr. Lawson joined us as a general surgeon in 2007. As a part of our surgery team for over 15 years, he completed thousands of procedures. He has been a critical member of our District and has made a monumental difference in the lives of patients and colleagues. We extend our heartfelt thanks and wish him well!

### DR. AMY NICHOLS, LOCUM PROVIDER



Our Dunes Clinic Locums provider, Dr. Amy Nichols, served her last LUHD patient on Wednesday March 23rd. During her temporary tenure with the District, Dr. Nichols developed a strong rapport and effective relationships with her patients. She will be missed.

The Dunes Clinic team has worked hard to aid in this transition and have personally contacted each of her patients to assign them to a permanent Dunes provider. Our Clinic staff is available to assist with questions or concerns during this transition: 541-271-2163.





Local  
Postal Customer

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM Retail

## WELCOME RICHARD BOGGESS NEW CFO AT LOWER UMPQUA HOSPITAL DISTRICT



Richard Boggess, CFO

Joining us from another rural health hospital is Richard Boggess. He stepped into his CFO role on February 27th after serving for over 7 years as CFO at Arbor Health in southwest Washington. With over 25 years of health care finance experience, Richard is well equipped to serve our District having earned his BS in Accounting, an MBA, and his CPA. Richard is passionate about meeting the healthcare needs of rural communities and we welcome his skills and expertise to help drive our success.

### TREE REMOVAL

Dear LUHD Community Members and Staff,

Trees are a symbol of our region. We love them, but unfortunately the 14 trees at the southeast corner of our large parking lot along Ranch Road are putting our critical hospital infrastructure in jeopardy. These include the hospital's 60-year-old sewer line, a power line, and perhaps my biggest concern, our main oxygen supply tank. If a tree were to fall on the tank, the results could be catastrophic.

Over the years, our maintenance department has dealt with costly repairs to root damaged sewer lines, branches falling from trees jeopardizing cars and people, and tree roots damaging the parking lot, causing a worsening tripping hazard.

As a result, I have made the difficult decision to remove the trees. The cost of the tree removal is minuscule compared to the cost of remedying a system failure and facing potential liability. In 2020, we repaired a small section of sewer line, and the cost was well over \$100,000. If it fails, we could face a shut down and that monetary cost, even for a very short while is huge. This cannot compare to our inability to provide essential services to you, the patients that need us. There really is no other option.

Fortunately, the majority of the trees are suitable for the Chainsaw Festival and will be hauled to Rainbow Plaza after being felled.

Thank you for your understanding.

John Chivers, CEO

Lower Umpqua Hospital District

### LABORATORY CLIA SURVEY 2023: 100% DEFICIENCY FREE

#### What is CLIA?

The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) is a federal program governed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Its purpose is to establish quality standards for clinical laboratory testing to ensure that patient test results are accurate and reliable.

#### What is a CLIA Survey?

The survey's primary goal is to assess the laboratory's performance, determine compliance with regulations and ensure the quality of patient testing.

Thank you to the Laboratory team for taking such great care of our patients!



Pictured Lab team members: (left to right) Adam, Brenda, Airian, Jessica, and Courtney

