# Sarah Bush Lincoln Health styles

**THE HEALING POWER OF WATER** Effingham massage therapist is happy to be aided by hydrotherapy.

A SCARY SHUTDOWN Peggy Reynolds is grateful for the dialysis provided during her hospital stay.

CHANGING HER LIFESTYLE

Candi Elmore fights diabetes with new diet, exercise and knowledge.





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Health Styles provides general information on health-related topics. It is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, which should always be obtained from your physician.

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**Community Connection** 











Net proceeds support SBL Behavioral Health Services. For more information, contact the SBL Health Foundation at 217 258-2511 or klockart@sblhs.org.

# Special

**BEST** HOSPITALS WOMEN'S CHOICE AWARD

**OBSTETRICS** 

2023

The SBL Women & Children's Center provides a safe and secure birthing experience.

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At Sarah Bush Lincoln, becoming parents is a special time. Whether you're first timers or fourth timers, every delivery in the Women & Children's Center is handled in the most caring manor, so parents feel they are the staff's only concern.

Sarah Bush Lincoln's Women & Children's Center is recognized in the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide by Women's Choice Awards and Health Grades, which includes C-section delivery, vaginal delivery, hysterectomy and gynecologic procedures. The recognition is based on nationally reported clinical outcomes and patient experience. The Center has been a high performer for many years, with patient experience in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile nationally as rated by Press Ganey, an independent rating group. The safety and security of our patients is a top priority. The Center is a secured unit with admittance to only the people new moms provide their personalized security code or have an ID badge. As employees enter the patient's room, their ID badge appears on a screen in the room so the patient knows who is in the room and their roles. All labor and delivery rooms are private.

Additionally, the Center uses an innovative Infant Safety System that allows SBL to capture high resolution newborn footprints which is sent to data bases and can be used for precise identification.

Sarah Bush Lincoln offers a variety of Oh, Baby! comprehensive prenatal and infant care educational classes to help expectant and new parents and their babies start off strong. Support is available to parents long after coming home.



For more information about The Women & Children's Center, please call 217 258-2297.

# Fast to Holion

## Jeff Collings believes the Sarah Bush Lincoln Heart to Heart program saved his life.

Jeff had never shown symptoms of cardiac issues, so he never suspected anything was wrong with his heart. Yet in April 2020, he made the most important decision of his life: attending the Heart to Heart screening. At the time, one of Jeff's friends had a cardiovascular issue that required a hospital stay. Jeff, now 59, decided he should also get a screening. "The staff called me the next day and said they didn't like my numbers," Jeff recalled.

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Jeff did a follow-up stress test and, once again, the results weren't favorable. SBL Cardiologist Michael LaMonto, DO, told Jeff that he would likely need a stent to help improve his heart health. Jeff and his family couldn't imagine what was coming next.

# "I like the quote on the pamphlet, 'Screening and peace of mind.' It's 45 minutes to an hour to save your life."

## -Jeff Collings

Jeff's procedure to have a stent placed happened during the initial wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, which prevented his wife, Tracy, from entering the hospital. Both Tracy and Jeff said that added to the stress of the situation.

As soon as the procedure started, it ended. "They started, and pretty quickly they told me, 'You need open heart surgery," Jeff said. Tracy said she was waiting for the call to pick up Jeff and when the call came early, she asked what the situation was. She was in disbelief. "They told me he needed the surgery," Tracy explained. "When people talk about an out-of-body experience, that was me."

Dr. LaMonto referred Jeff to St. John's Hospital in Springfield, where he underwent quadruple bypass surgery. The time span between Jeff's Heart to Heart screening and his discharge after the surgery was just two weeks. "It was so quick that I didn't really think about it too much, which was a good thing, I guess," he said.

Tracy added that they didn't realize how serious Jeff's situation was until they met with the surgeon the day before the surgery. Of course, that made the night prior to surgery and the morning of the procedure even more stressful. "The thing I remember most that morning was leaving the house thinking, 'Will you ever see this house again?'" Jeff said. "That was tough."

The surgery went well, and three days later, Jeff returned home. To aid his recovery, Jeff enrolled in the SBL Monitored Exercise Testing Services (METS) program, which helps people who have heart disease, lung disease or diabetes strengthen their hearts and lungs to improve their health. Jeff said the METS program was an important part of his recovery, and he is thankful that was available for him.

Heart to Heart so impacted Jeff that he was inspired to have his entire family screened: Tracy, the couple's three children and extended family members. The screening revealed that Tracy has Sarcoidosis, a condition in which the immune system overreacts and makes lumps in parts of the body.

Tracy's lungs are affected by Sarcoidosis, but luckily, she has not had any major side effects. While she does not need to take medication, she has a check-up every six months to assess disease progression.

For both Jeff and Tracy, the important— and scary— element of their stories is that neither showed any symptom of their disease processes. Jeff was told that had he not acted when he did, the only sign he would have had of his heart disease was a heart attack.

Now Jeff and his family spread the word about the Heart to Heart program. He even passes out pamphlets about it. "I like the quote on the pamphlet, 'Screening and peace of mind.' It's 45 minutes to an hour to save your life," Jeff said.

"My recommendation is everyone should have this done," Tracy added.



For more information about The Heart Center, please call **217 238-4960.** To schedule a Heart to Heart screening, call **217-258-2238.** 

# Letting the Wind

### Retiree makes the most of life, thanks to the SBL Pulmonary Rehabilitation program.

Ron Fleenor has worked with his hands his entire life. He tends to the two acres where he and his wife, Nancy, live. He toils away in his workshop, creating furniture for their home and child-sized tables for their grandkids. Prior to his retirement, Ron worked for 42 years as a pressman at R.R. Donnelley & Sons in Mattoon.

He was squeezing every ounce of enjoyment from his retirement years— until he wasn't. "I was getting short of breath, while doing the things I'd always done. I blamed it on being overweight, but it got worse in 2020," Ron said. In fact, it got so bad that he couldn't get out of his chair. Nancy called an ambulance, and in the Sarah Bush Lincoln Emergency Department, he was diagnosed with double pneumonia, emphysema and fibrosis.

The 76-year-old wasn't too surprised by the diagnoses. "I smoked for about 40 years, but I'd quit 20 years ago. I've also worked around chemicals and paper and wood dust most of my life, and I didn't take the precautions I should have taken, like wearing a protective mask," he explained.

While hospitalized, Ron was on oxygen 24 hours a day and couldn't leave the hospital until he was down to 6 milliliters of oxygen. Once discharged, SBL Home Care looked after him. Next, Ron began attending Pulmonary Rehabilitation classes through SBL METS (Monitored Exercise Testing Services) in 2021. The program combines exercise and education so participants can learn more about maintaining and improving their health and lung capacity.

Ron said, "It helped me immensely. Each day the staff took my vitals, and we all exercised at our own paces. I was fat. I was pushing 200 pounds. But while we exercised, we learned about breathing and diet and living with reduced lung capacity. I'm never going to regain my full lung capacity, but I have learned how to make the most of what I have. My goal is to not lose any more function." Nancy, who leads a holistic lifestyle, helped Ron make incremental changes in his diet.

While he has graduated from the Pulmonary Rehab program, Ron continues to attend a few days a week to help him stay on target, and he works out on the treadmill and uses the exercise equipment at the YMCA near his home in rural Toledo. He leaves an oxygen tank there, in case he needs it while exercising.

Ron received the best news possible. After two years, there was no change in his lung capacity, which was described as severely damaged. "I've made some friends in class, and even go to dinner together occasionally. We all have similar health issues and that helps form camaraderie. One of the men I work out with was stationed in the same place I was in Vietnam. I didn't know him then though."

Despite Ron's lung health, he maintains an active lifestyle, taking care of their acreage and continuing his woodworking. "When it's nice outside, I will move my woodworking out of the shop, so the wind blows the dust away," he said. Ron also enjoys the country lane that he and Nancy live on, and he walks it a couple of miles at a time. Ron is determined to keep moving and breathing for as long as he can.



"It helped me immensely. Each day the staff took my vitals, and we all exercised at our own paces."

-Ron Fleenor



Pulmonary Rehabilitation Therapy Coordinator Cathy Matheny, RRT



For more information about Pulmonary Rehabilitation classes offered through METS, call 217 238-4973.

### Peggy Reynolds is grateful for the dialysis provided during her hospital stay.

Gays resident Peggy Reynolds can't recall much of a two-week hospitalization at Sarah Bush Lincoln.

Reflecting on the day she got sick, Peggy said, "This is all I remember: I didn't know what I was talking about. I didn't know what was coming out of my mouth." Phone conversations she attempted were jumbled, and she felt queasy. When her husband, Gary, and daughter, Kyndall Fulk, got home from work, they knew right away that Peggy needed urgent medical attention.

A Scary Ihutdown "It was terrifying. She just wasn't herself," Kyndall recalled. "She couldn't even remember my dog's name, and I've had my dog for four years now."

The SBL Emergency Room staff discovered that Peggy's kidneys had shut down. Peggy, who had had four knee surgeries, was recovering from a knee replacement, so it is believed that the kidney failure resulted from an infection. Peggy also had an allergic reaction to the medications she was taking, and that added to her queasiness and deliriousness.

The SBL Nephrology team started dialysis treatments to save her. "The dialysis treatments immediately helped her, and that was such a relief to see," Gary said. SBL staff also prescribed different antibiotics to Peggy.

While the dialysis treatments helped, Peggy still was not thinking clearly. In fact, during the first few days Peggy was hospitalized, she didn't recognize her family.

"She couldn't sit up by herself, and she couldn't get out of bed," Kyndall explained. "They tried to get some physical therapy started because of her knee, but she wasn't responding to anyone. It was scary and sad."

During the days when Peggy couldn't respond for herself, Gary and Kyndall became Peggy's voice. "It was probably one of the scariest things I've ever been through," he added.

Peggy is eternally grateful that her husband and daughter were there to support her. "If they weren't there, I don't think I'd be here right now," she said.

In total, Peggy received five rounds of inpatient kidney dialysis. As her stay continued, she became more cognizant of where she was and what was happening. Gary and Kyndall are very grateful for the support of the SBL staff.

Procedural Services Director Alex Boyer, RN, coordinates dialysis treatments. She continually checked on Peggy while she was hospitalized, and she continues to do so. Kyndall said that everyone in Nephrology and all the nurses who cared for Peggy were amazing. Nurses Lindsay Winkleblack and Lana Keigley were stand-outs.

Five months post-event, Peggy still gets emotional thinking about the situation. "I was scared. I was embarrassed. And I felt like I had lost my family," she recalled. Kyndall and Gary were relieved when Peggy was discharged from Sarah Bush Lincoln, because they knew she had recovered fully. Not only were her kidneys better, but her knee had improved too.



RenalCare President and Medical Director Timothy Pflederer, MD, and Procedural Services Director Alex Boyer, RN with a dialysis machine.



# The healing power of

### Effingham massage therapist happy to be aided by hydrotherapy.

Massage therapist Debora Power knows the human body. Having also worked as a physical therapy assistant, she was sure she had a significant back injury after falling at work in mid-November. Her expertise and tenacity paid off when it came to the diagnosis and treatment of her injury.

While Debora's initial X-ray interpretation indicated there were no fractures, she sought a second opinion. After all, standing for just 15 minutes sent jolts of pain straight down her legs.

Three weeks after the initial diagnosis, Debora's hypothesis was confirmed; her T12 and L4 vertebrae were fractured.

The fall had exacerbated a previously diagnosed bulging disc. Combined, the injuries cause her tremendous pain. Debora was referred to Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Clinic Orthopedics, where she was fitted with a back brace. "Essentially, I did nothing due to a five-pound lifting restriction. All I could do was lie down and heal," she said.

"Depression starts to set in [when you're immobile]," Debora explained. "It was the dead of winter and during the holidays, which can be a hard time for people anyway." She wanted treatment options, so she sought more opinions. Two doctors recommended kyphoplasty, a procedure to treat spine fractures, and a third recommended against it. Debora wanted to do physical therapy because her body was stiff while she recovered at home. She knew SBL Bonutti Clinic Physical Therapy had a therapy pool, and she thought that might be a good option.

Once Debora was approved for therapy, she started treatment with Physical Therapy Assistant Grace Schuler. In February, Debora began hydrotherapy two times each week. Her workout consisted of walking on an underwater treadmill, along with doing strengthening exercises. Debora loved her therapy sessions not only because they helped her to heal, but because they allowed her to be active for longer periods of time than traditional therapy would have allowed. "When I'm in the water, I can walk for 20 minutes, and the pain doesn't bother me."

–Debora Power



Both her physical injury and her mental state improved in a matter of weeks. "When I'm in the water," she said, "I can walk for 20 minutes, and the pain doesn't bother me."

Though therapy provided a respite for Debora, she still wasn't able to return to work. She owns Power Therapeutic Massage in Effingham, and she couldn't practice while her fractures healed. "Not being able to work has probably been the hardest part of all this," she explained. "I've got a large clientele list, and I've had to refer them to my co-workers." As a person who provided physical therapy to others for more than 25 years, Debora relied on the SBL Bonutti Clinic physical therapy team to help her recover from spinal fractures. In the end, Debora's commitment to therapy paid off with a strong outcome.

Debora said she is grateful that the SBL Bonutti Clinic offers a local option for hydrotherapy, and she recommends hydrotherapy to others who could benefit from it. "I also want to thank Grace for all her expertise and care during my healing process."



For more information or to schedule an appointment with SBL Bonutti Clinic Physical Therapy in Effingham, call **217 342-3444.** SBL also has physical therapy offices in Altamont, Arthur, Casey, Mattoon and Sullivan, which can be contacted at **217 258-2530.** The Mattoon Clinic also has a therapy pool.

# Sarah Bush Lincoln Cardiology

# Katie O'Halloran, FNP-BC Cardiology

Family Nurse Practitioner Katie O'Halloran, FNP-BC, believes building trust is important when providing healthcare, and her background allows her to do so in an interesting way.

Before O'Halloran started nursing school, she was a psychology major. Since childhood, O'Halloran has wanted to help people, and nursing presented the right opportunity. As a provider with the Sarah Bush Lincoln Cardiology Clinic, O'Halloran calls on her nursing background to help people with cardiovascular illnesses. She also relies on her early psychology experience to provide excellent care. "I think somebody's psychological state and how it affects their health is intertwined in every disease process, in every medical specialty," O'Halloran explained. "My psychology studies helped me understand individuals and what they're going through."

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O'Halloran's transition to nursing was smooth because her aunt, a director of nursing and a big influence in O'Halloran's life, helped her through the process. O'Halloran became a registered nurse and worked with advanced heart failure and heart transplant patients. During that time, she knew she wanted to continue her education.

In 2020, O'Halloran graduated with her nurse practitioner degree, specializing as a family nurse practitioner and helping— at a higher level people with advanced heart and lung failure. "All of my experiences were learning moments for me," she said.

Until recently, O'Halloran had spent most of her professional career in an urban environment. She likes that SBL gives people in smaller communities greater access to quality healthcare, and she looks forward to connecting with residents and caring for them. "Sometimes medical personnel have an understanding [of an illness] that hasn't yet reached the patient, and I want to bridge that gap," she said.

At SBL, O'Halloran looks forward to helping people who are in their first stages of a health issue. Having treated patients at the end of heart and lung failure, she sees value in disease prevention, treating the causes that lead to heart failure, such as hypertension.

# Monica Scott, APRN Cardiology

Advanced Practice Nurse Monica Scott, APRN, has a passion for cardiology that dates back to high school. Recalling her grandparents' heart disease and bypass surgeries, she said, "We spent a couple Fourth of July holidays at the hospital while they were recovering from heart surgeries. I felt a need to learn more about it — for example, their health needs and what I could do to help."

After working as a registered nurse, Scott became a certified nurse practitioner to care for and provide education to people with cardiovascular issues. She recently joined the Sarah Bush Lincoln Cardiology Clinic at The Heart Center.

It was a health occupations class in high school that inspired Scott to pursue a nursing career, and it is was caring for her grandparents after their surgeries that led Scott to cardiology. A residency in a cardiology unit confirmed her choice. Scott reflected, "I told them I didn't want to go anywhere else, and they said, 'You have to, as part of your residency.' I did get to experience other specialties, but I always loved my time spent in cardiology."

The Effingham native has a diverse background that guides her in her care. After graduating from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, she's worked in both rural and urban healthcare environments. Most recently, she worked in a rural setting, and she believes that experience will be extremely helpful in her new role.

"I think it's really important to have a background in rural health, especially in cardiology," Scott said. "You often have to travel a long distance to see your specialist, so it's nice to offer cardiology services here, where people don't have to travel far for their care."



Scott's goal is to treat her patients like family. "When they come in the door and they have an issue, I want to approach the issue head-on and get to the root of it," she explained. "If I were the patient, I would want the provider to treat me like family."

Scott is pleased to be with Sarah Bush Lincoln and to be back in East Central Illinois. She is eager to form bonds with her patients and co-workers. "When I worked in other regions, I didn't really know my patients or a lot of the people I worked with," she said. "It will be nice treating people I know and working with people with whom I can be good friends."



To schedule an appointment with O'Halloran or Scott, call the SBL Cardiology Clinic at **217-238-4960.** They are both located in The Heart Center (Entrance H.)

# Sarah Bush Lincoln Regional Cancer Center

**Kim Sikorski, APRN** Oncology

Kim Sikorski's 22-year nursing career at Sarah Bush Lincoln has prepared her for her new role as a hospitalist for people undergoing cancer treatment. She is an advanced practice provider and liaison between hospitalized patients and medical oncologists.

"When people with cancer are hospitalized for other illnesses or surgeries, they often have more concerns. They're concerned about how the treatments will affect their cancer care and how medications may interact with ongoing chemotherapy or immunotherapy. It's my job to make sure their doctors know what's going on and reassure patients in their care," Sikorski explained.

Sikorski believes that her earlier nursing experiences have better prepared her for this new career path. She worked as a bedside nurse on the medical-surgical units, in critical care, in quality and risk management, and as an extra set of hands when needed in the Regional Cancer Center.

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"During my time in the Regional Cancer Center, I saw how amazing its team is and the care it provides. I knew I wanted to do that again someday," she explained.

Once she earned her advanced practice degree, she split her time caring for patients in the Emergency Department and as a hospitalist caring for inpatients.

"I've had some really good experiences. Throughout all my nursing years and the past three years, I've had the opportunity to take care of many oncology patients. I can see when they come into the hospital, there's a lot of anxiety that comes along with it, a lot of unknowns for them," she said. "They don't know what the illness or treatment will do to their treatment regimen, and they want to stay connected to their oncology team. They want their oncology team to know they are hospitalized and have them be involved in their care. I am excited to be in this role and help them stay connected and to contribute to things on this side of their care."

"I'm the one who will see them while they are hospitalized and work collaboratively with their oncologists to keep them abreast of what's going on and make sure it's a seamless transition," she explained. Her experience in the emergency department makes her an excellent resource when the team has oncology or hematology concerns.

"When people find out they may have cancer, they want some reassuring answers and want to know what to expect. I'm able to give that special touch of letting them know their oncologist knows what's going on and will be in touch with them," she said.

Shortly after becoming a nurse, her sister was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Former SBL Medical Oncologist Ned Hoppin, MD, took the time to answer her questions. When chemotherapy training became available at SBL, Sikorski pursued it. "I just enjoyed learning about oncology and working with the patients. They have so much strength and resiliency that you can gain from them. It's such rewarding work," she added. "I was made to do this."



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For more information, call the SBL Regional Cancer Center at 217-258-2250.

# Courses, Classes and Support Groups

## Wellness

#### **Center for Healthy Living**

A medical center through which participants receive a custom-designed exercise and lifestyle program to manage chronic illnesses. Provider referral is required.

#### 217 238-3488

This program is funded in part by WomenConnected, a women's giving circle within the SBL Health Foundation.

#### First Aid for Emergencies;

Adult and Pediatric CPR

Instructors certified by the American Heart Association. Scheduled periodically, \$50 fee for each class. Dillon Kircher, **217 258-2403** 

#### Hearing Aid Services

Offered at Sarah Bush Lincoln and SBL Effingham Clinic. **217 258-2568** 

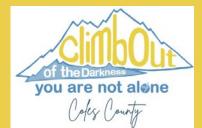
#### Living with Diabetes

This program is for people with diabetes and focuses on managing it through nutrition and exercise. Paula Enstrom, RN, **217 238-4808** 

#### **Pulmonary Rehabilitation**

This program is for people with COPD, Pulmonary Fibrosis and other respiratory conditions.

- 11 am, 12:30 pm, 2 pm every Tues. and Thurs. in the METS department.
- Cathy Matheny, RTT, **217 238-4973**



## Financial Assistance

#### Affordable Care Act

Certified Application Counselors are available to help with Marketplace enrollment in the following counties: Coles, Clark, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Jasper, Moultrie and Shelby.

#### 217 238-4994

#### **Financial Assistance**

If you have any questions about the SBL Financial Assistance Program, please call Patient Financial Services between 8 am and 4:30 pm, Mon. through Fri.

#### 1-800-381-0040

Forms may be downloaded from

#### www.sarahbush.org

## Prepared Childbirth

#### **Oh, Baby! Prenatal Education**

Oh, Baby! offers a variety of comprehensive prenatal and infant care educational classes to help expectant and new parents and their babies get off to a great start. Preregistration is required. Please check the website for the most current class schedule. Some classes have a fee.

- Financial assistance is available.
- Allison Masse, RN, IBCLC, ICCE, 217 258-2229
- sarahbush.org/ohbaby

#### Saturday, June 24 9 a.m. | Lake Charleston



Climb out of the Darkness is a free community walk, bringing support and awareness for Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD) within our community.

Visit our Facebook group "Climb Out of the Darkness Coles County," for more information.

## Support Groups

#### Bariatric Support Group

- 6 to 7 pm, third Tues. of the month
- SBL Center for Healthy Living Meeting Room
- Mindi O'Rourke, RN, 217 238-4961
- Zoom option available

#### **Diabetic Support Group**

- 7 pm, second Tues. of the month in March, June, Sept. and Dec. at SBL
- Cindy Foster, RD, certified diabetic educator, 217 258-2135

#### **Ostomy Support Group**

- Evening meetings four times a year in Mattoon and Effingham. Call for dates, times and locations.
- Jenna Vogel, APRN, CWOCN, **217 238-4804**

#### **Grief Support Group**

A support group open to anyone who has lost a loved one.

- 7 to 8:30 pm, first Wed. of each month
  - Prairie Pavilion 2
- SBL Hospice, 1-800-454-4055

#### **Understanding Grief**

A free eight-week support group, is available for people who have lost a loved one. When someone you love dies, it can be hard to understand the complex and painful thoughts and feelings you often have. During this eightweek support group, you will explore different ways to help yourself heal.

- 6:30 to 8 pm, Mondays, April 24 June 19
- Center for Healthy Living, 1004 Health Center Dr. (second floor conference room)
- Call SBL Hospice at 1-800-454-4055 all to reserve a seat or for more information.

# SBL Altamont Medical Center has moved to its former location

## 5 E Cumberland Rd 618 483-6151

This team of excellent providers care for people throughout their lifespan. They are welcoming new patients.



Left to right: Kathryn Koester, APRN, Kimberley Burgess, APRN, John Opilka, DO, Heather Forys, APRN, Randi Berg APRN

# Sarah Bush Lincoln

1000 Health Center Drive PO Box 372 Mattoon, Illinois 61938-0372







Register today: sarahbush.org/races

For more information call **217 345-6828.**