

Baptist Health completes purchase of HMMH; name is changed to Baptist Health Hardin

Baptist Health, which has managed Hardin Memorial Hospital in Elizabethtown for more than 20 years, has completed a long-delayed purchase of the 300-bed facility and given it a new name: Baptist Health Hardin. It is the ninth hospital in the Baptist Health system.

"The transaction includes \$361.4 million in payments and future investments," a Baptist Health press release said. "The closing came about three years after the Hardin Memorial Hospital Board

of Trustees signed a letter of intent to pursue the sale," and five years after they started seeking a buyer. The release said they received "about three dozen proposals."

"This is a great day in the history of this community and our health system," said Hardin County Judge-Executive Harry Berry, who was the hospital board's chair. "The hospital board sought the best solution to continue providing the excellent healthcare that our community -- and 10-county service area

-- have come to expect. We found that solution in Baptist Health, which has helped guide us so successfully for more than 20 years."

Baptist Health CEO Gerard Colman said, "You can expect the same quality health-care you've come to know from familiar faces. You can also expect groundbreaking ceremonies, ribbon cuttings and announcements about new providers in the future as Baptist Health delivers on its promises to invest in the health of this community."

In the purchase agreement, Baptist Health promised \$235 million in investments over 10 years in operating and capital investments. The release said it would invest a minimum of \$150 million in the first five years for new facilities, recruit more physicians and upgrade equipment and information technology.

At closing, Baptist paid the county \$60 million, less the amount used in July to fully fund the Hardin Memorial defined benefit pension plan for



A new sign graces the grounds on Dixie Highway (US 31-W). (Photo by Mary Alford, News-Enterprise)

current employees and retirees, plus another \$66.4 million over 25 years. It will provide up to \$150,000 per year for 25 years for health-care services historically provided to inmates of

the county jail. "President Dennis Johnson and other senior leaders have been retained," the release said. "Employment was offered to all employees at their current pay."

'Prostate cancer is to men as breast cancer is to women'

By STEVE RANSON
KY HEALTH

Prostate cancer is to men as breast cancer is to women, a survivor writes for Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

The second-leading cause of cancer deaths in men comes from a small gland located between the bladder and the penis. If not monitored or treated, prostate can be a killer. Likewise, the No. 2 cause of cancer deaths in women is breast cancer. So what's the difference? Over the years, more awareness has been directed at breast cancer screening than with the prostate gland. Therefore, with September being Prostate Awareness Month, let's put the spotlight on this type of cancer.

I'm one of those statistical males where prostate cancer will affect one out of nine men in their 60s. I began screening about every 18 months to two years when I was in my 50s, and then about every year to 18 months after I entered my 60s.

An abnormal PSA or prostate-specific antigen found in the blood alerts physicians that prostate cancer may exist. During the past six years, my PSA slowly climbed from a 3.18 in 2014 to 6.36 in 2017. In 2019, the PSA more than doubled to 16.57, causing my general practitioner to refer me to an urologist. Other warning signs began to develop during the first seven months. I had frequent urges to urinate, but the stream was weak. Occasionally, blood would appear in my urine. Sometimes, I would stand over the toilet, straining to empty the bladder.

My urologist Dr.

Brian Montgomery saw me in late August 2019 and quickly re-ordered another PSA. It returned with a score shy of 17.

"The higher the PSA, the more likely prostate cancer," he said, reviewing the latest result with me.

A month later, Dr. Montgomery completed a core biopsy of the prostate by taking samples from 12 areas. When he presented the results to me two weeks later, I had the presence of cancer in two quadrants, the left base and left lateral apex. Dr. Montgomery's attention focused on the left later apex, which measured the adenocarcinoma — cancer forming in mucus-secreting glands — up to 16 mm in its greatest dimension and occupying 95% of the surface area.

Furthermore, Dr. Montgomery said the pathologist issued a Gleason grading score of 8, which means I have a high-grade lesion than can spread more quickly than scores half that.

The left base showed adenocarcinoma took up only 5%, but the Gleason score came in at 6. Based on my PSA, however, Dr. Montgomery said he expected to see the adenocarcinoma in more than two quadrants.

"It's all statistics with many different results," he said.

One test remained before Dr. Montgomery offered his final decision on treatment. A bone scan using criteria based on National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines determined if the cancer had spread beyond the prostate to another organ or the bones.

"If you're metastatic, that basically means high risk," he pointed out, "but your imagin-

ing shows it has not spread."

Dr. Montgomery said I was very fortunate not to have the cancer in more than two quadrants. Statistically, he said the prognosis shows I have a good chance to beat this disease and there's an 80% chance I will not have a recurrence of prostate cancer.

The treatment: Based on all the tests and the Gleason scores, I was deemed a good patient for receiving radiation treatments instead of having a radical prostatectomy where the prostate and surrounding tissues are removed.

The next step: Dr. Montgomery implanting three radioactive seeds into my prostate that would accurately guide radiation beams to not only the affected quadrants but also the entire prostate.

Dr. Gary E. Campbell, a radiation oncologist with more than 37 years experiences, oversaw the next step with me receiving 43 radiation treatments over three months. The last session on June 1 ended the numerous 128-mile round-trip journeys from my hometown to the center. Willing to answer any questions thrown at him, Dr. Campbell works with his team to develop a tailored plan for each patient.

"We want to take away the fear. It's scary. Anybody would be scared," Dr. Campbell said of patients facing radiation treatment.

As the treatments progress, patients begin to feel more relaxed and confident. Seeing and talking to the staff on each arrival seemed like the beginning of the popular television sitcom Cheers ... where everyone knows your name.

The 43 radiation treatments I received give a higher percentage of killing most cancer cells. Dr. Campbell said statistically, out of hundreds and hundreds of patients, he can tell how they will do with their treatment plans. Chemotherapy, however, is used for advanced prostate cancer and administered on the center's main floor.

Dr. Campbell also said radiation will work on both the prostate and the tissues associated with the prostatectomy, and since The Carson Tahoe Cancer Center is an affiliate of Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah, he can access their physicians and findings to assist him developing a treatment plan on answering questions.

Based on his 30-plus years as an oncologist, he said the technology has improved, and the treatments are better tolerated by the patients and more successful because of the center's multi-million dollar treatment machines.

With each 20- to 25-minute treatment, Dr. Campbell said his technicians shoot external radiation beams to the area that's being treated.

Radiology techni-

cian Ellen Plewacki said every patient is treated according to information downloaded from a chart to a computer.

Based on dose escalation studies, Dr. Campbell said a higher dose provides the best opportunity to eradicate the cancer.

With the end of radiation treatments almost three months ago, I have encountered side effects from swelling in the legs and ankles, urination and bowel-movement problems, restless nights and some tiredness — they should go away. In order to keep the prostate small and to fight any cancerous cells that may be lingering, I receive a Lupron shot every three months. My main complaint with the shot is how it causes hot and cold flashes and mood swings.

Both doctors, however, have repeatedly

said the best indicator of how treatments worked is with another PSA ... and with a score of 2 or below.

"I would anticipate your PSA will be extremely low," Dr. Campbell predicted after I finished the treatments.

My first three-month checkup with Dr. Montgomery occurred in late August, and I had the opportunity to see my first PSA result. Bingo! The result came back as a negative .02, meaning there is no traceable sign of cancer left in the prostate.

"Just what I hoped for," Dr. Montgomery said.

Steve Ranson is editor emeritus of the Lahontan Valley News in Fallon, Nev. He is a former president of the Nevada Press Association and the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors.

Vendors Sought

Fuel vendors are being sought for this year's heating season. Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency Inc., is soliciting vendors to provide fuel for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Supplies of home heating fuels include wood, heating oil, kerosene, propane, natural gas, coal and electricity may contact Lisa Allen at the Green County Community Action office at 270-932-7324 to obtain more information and a vendor agreement.

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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GREEN CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-CI-00075
DIVISION I

MIDFIRST BANK PLAINTIFF
VS. NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE
NANCY A. HENRY DEFENDANT

By virtue of orders of the Green Circuit Court in the above referenced civil action, entered on September 9, 2020, I shall proceed to offer for sale, at public auction, the real estate described herein to the highest and best bidder:

PLACE OF SALE: District Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Green County Judicial Center, 200 West Court Street, Greensburg, Kentucky.

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: Friday, September 25, 2020, at or about 10:00 a.m. central time, 11:00 a.m. eastern time.

AMOUNT OWED: \$156,004.16 with interest on the principal sum at the rate of 4.75% per annum from December 1, 2019, until the date of Judgment and thereafter at the rate of 4.75% per annum until paid in full, plus costs and fees of this action, plus reimbursement for attorney's fees in this action, plus sums advanced in payment of ad valorem taxes, insurance premiums, winterization, or in preservation of the real estate, plus late fees, costs, attorney's fees, and other advances made pursuant to the terms of the Note and Mortgage as Plaintiff is hereby permitted to demonstrate by Affidavit and Motion for Supplemental Judgment at any time prior to distribution of the proceeds from the sale, plus attorney fees and court costs incurred herein, and for any and all other fees and costs expended.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 506 Shreve Avenue, Greensburg, Kentucky 42743
Map ID: G3-06-05

TERMS: (a) The foregoing parcel of real estate shall be sold as a whole on terms of cash payment in full, or a bond with good and sufficient surety(s), bearing interest at the rate of 4.75% per annum from the date of sale and payable to the Master Commissioner within 30 days from the date of sale. If bond is given, the sum of ten percent (10%) shall be paid on date of sale by either cash, certified or cashier's check and said bond shall have the force and effect of a judgment and shall be and remain a lien on the property sold as an additional security for the payment of the purchase price. Surety on said bond must be acceptable to the Master Commissioner and pre-approved by the Master Commissioner at least by noon, two (2) business days before the sale date, to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond surety must be present at the sale and execute the Sale Bond and the Affidavit of Surety. (b) The purchaser of the subject property shall be responsible for satisfaction of any current year real estate taxes not yet delinquent affecting the real estate and any delinquent State, County and/or City real estate taxes sold pursuant to the provisions of KRS Chapter 134 to any private purchaser during the pendency of this action, and shall take said property subject to all easements, restrictions, stipulations of record, any matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the property, and any current assessments for public improvements levied against the property and any applicable zoning regulations. (c) The Master Commissioner does not warrant title nor the physical condition of the subject property and any prospective purchaser shall satisfy themselves of the title and physical condition before the sale. (d) Upon receipt of a written request form the Plaintiff prior to the sale, the Master Commissioner shall withdraw said sale.

For additional information, please go to www.jdhpsc.com and select Master Commissioner, Upcoming.

John D. Henderson, Green County Master Commissioner

Notice of Public Hearing

The Green County Board of Education will hold a public hearing in the Green County Board of Education Central Office, 402 East Hodgenville Avenue, Greensburg, KY 42743 on September 24, at 5:30pm to hear public comments regarding a proposed general fund tax levy of 53.7 cents on real property and 53.7 cents on personal property.

The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2020 was 53.7 cents on real property and 53.7 cents on personal property and produced revenue of \$2,219,371.46. The proposed General Fund tax rate of 53.7 cents on real property and 53.7 cents on personal property is expected to produce \$2,399,255.23. Of this amount \$352,006.01 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax for 2021 is 52.8 cents on real property and 52.8 cents on personal property and is expected to produce \$2,359,044.25.

The general areas to which revenue of \$179,884.23 above 2020 revenue is to be allocated are as follows: Cost of collections, \$6,296; building fund, \$69,435; instruction, \$52,076; transportation, \$41,662; and maintenance of plant, \$10,415.23. The General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.