

# Starkville DAILY NEWS

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## OCH faces 1 percent Medicare cut

By ALAN WELLS  
awells@starkvilledailynews.com

OCH Regional Medical Center is one of 12 Mississippi hospitals that will have to reduce a 1 percent Medicare reimbursement rate due to a program for Medicare and Medicaid services in 2015.

OCH announced the Hospital Inpatient Condition Reduction Program for fiscal year 2015, which begins on October 1, 2014. The program is a result of a CMS description, together with the terms of the Department of Health and Human Services' "advance payments to applicable hospitals that will be the most performing hospitals" in regard to risk-adjusted reimbursement categories. The program is aimed at reducing hospital inpatient conditions, which are conditions patients receive while in a hospital for a repeat condition.

OCH covers hospitals in a 10-county area, with 10 being the most in the category — AgCenter, the Healthcare Research and Quality Patient Safety Institute, which lists 41 conditions such as ac-

quired pneumonia in hospitals, pneumonia hip fracture and pressure ulcers. Central Life Insurance, Blue Cross of Mississippi and United Healthcare Group have also been affected.

The program will have a total of 10 "top 100" conditions, and any hospital coming in at the 10th percentile — or higher than a 7 — will avoid the 1 percent reimbursement penalty.

OCH covers a 7.5 percent rate, which is lower than the 1.5 percent in the California Hospital Inpatient Condition Reduction Program. The hospital had a 1.5 percent rate in the Patient Safety Institute, which is a 1.5 percent rate. The hospital had a 1.5 percent rate in the Patient Safety Institute, which is a 1.5 percent rate, putting it in the 10th percentile.

OCH will have a 1 percent rate in the middle of the year of the 12 greatest Mississippi hospitals, together with Newberry Community Hospital in Oklawaha and Florida Park Health



OCH Regional Medical Center is facing a 1 percent, or roughly \$20,000 Medicare reimbursement cut for the fiscal year ending in September. The hospital is one of 12 in Mississippi and more than 100 across the country involved under the CMS Hospital Inpatient Condition Reduction Program. (OCH file photo)

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## BRIDGE REPAIR



Oktibbeha County road workers Mark Young (middle) and Tom Hensley (right) are working on the main concrete structure of a bridge on New Creek Road in north Oktibbeha County near the Clay County line. Road work, including repair of the bridge, began in August and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. (Photo by Alan Wells)

## SA rethinks funds, equips upperclassmen

By STEVEN WELLS  
swells@starkvilledailynews.com

Starkville Academy has announced a reduction in funds to its Building Tomorrow capital campaign that will give the school a 1 percent cut in the funds of all its classes, grades and activities. The school board, which is a volunteer board, announced the news last week and provided for other adjustments to the budget.

Launched in September 2012, the Building Tomorrow Campaign's goal is to raise \$1,250,000 in three years. Steve Tuckman, head of school at Starkville Academy, said the campaign exceeded its goal in stages, although some of the money was still coming in. The school is a private school with an enrollment of 1,200 students.

"Basically, it was going to be an open space for students and the various groups and activities, like a meeting room and other school uses," Tuckman said. "Various groups like the band, and there could be a place for them, and the building was to have classrooms. The school estimates that it will cost a total of \$1,250,000, but when the first year came in, the school received more than that and now they have more than that in the bank.

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## Barns exhibit on display at Partnership

By CONNOR GUYTON  
cguyton@starkvilledailynews.com

Starkville Area Arts Council's latest show is hanging in the lobby of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership.

There will be a reception for the show, which has a theme of "Barns," at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Joe MacGown, co-chair of the Art in Public Places committee, said the theme of barns came organically from what the local artists enjoy creating.

"I think a lot of the artists that contribute to local shows seem to be really

interested in rural themes," MacGown said. "The older generation of artists are depicting images of places that are quickly disappearing. I guess that makes it a history of the area in a way."

In addition to images of barns, the show also has depictions of things like farm implements, horses and old houses.

Additionally, the show features a 4-foot-by-4-foot panel from the Mississippi Barn Quilt Trail project, as well as smaller painted preliminary designs for other quilt squares.

Most of the art pieces on display during the show will be on sale for the duration of the exhibit, which will run until

March 9.

This show, for the first time, will also have prints in sleeves available for purchase during the reception, MacGown said. The prints are not necessarily the same as images hanging during the show.

MacGown said having prints available will offer a less expensive alternative for people looking to buy art.

During Thursday's reception, local musician Sophia Seltzer-Hill will be present playing bluegrass tunes on her mandolin and fiddle.

Seltzer-Hill, a 14-year-old Starkville

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"Barn with Silo," a watercolor by Betty Jane Chatham hangs in the lobby of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership as part of the "Barns" show. (Submitted image)













### EXHIBIT

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 High School student, has been playing for about seven years, MacGown said.  
 "I hope to tie some music into lots of our future shows," MacGown said. "I'm also hoping that by asking people like her, it will open up a new and younger audience for our shows."  
 The Starkville Area Arts Council is also holding a quilt raffle, and the quilt will be on display during the reception.  
 SAAC Administrative Assistant Erin Davies said the quilt was donated by Sharon Bauman, the mother of one of SAAC's board members, before Bauman passed away in December.  
 The 84-inch-by-84-inch quilt has been on display for several weeks at the Book Mart and Cafe in downtown Starkville. Following the art show's reception, the quilt will

be moved to Cadence Bank where it will be on display.  
 Debra Wolf, Bauman's daughter, said the quilt was hand cross-stitched, embroidered and quilted.  
 "My mother did all of the embroidery," Wolf said. "In this case, most of it is cross-stitched using embroidery thread. The quilt is more appropriate for springtime as it features blues, purples and pinks."  
 Raffle tickets will be on sale during the reception and at the art's council office until the Cotton District Art's Festival on April 18. Tickets cost \$3 each or four tickets can be purchased for \$10. The quilt will be raffled at 3 p.m. during the festival.  
 Artists with pieces in the "Barns" show are Mike Box, Charles Bryson, Laurie Burton, Betty Jane Chathan, Walter Diehl, Fay H. Fisher, Briar Jones, Kat Lawrence, Joe MacGown and Kathy Holland Westbrook.



Fourteen-year-old musician Sophia Seltzer-Hill will play her fiddle and mandolin during Thursday's gallery reception for the Starkville Area Arts Council show "Barns." (Submitted photo)



"Prissy Old Horse," a color print by Kathy Westbrook is hanging in the lobby of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership as part of the "Barns" show. (Submitted image)

### OCH

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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
 NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PARK AND RECREATION ORDINANCE 2007, CHAPTER 03 OF STARKVILLE  
 The City of Starkville will hold a public hearing on the proposed changes to the Park and Recreation Ordinance 2007 on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 5:00 PM at the Municipal Court Room of City Hall at 200 East Temple Street.  
 Any citizen of the City of Starkville is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed changes to the Park and Recreation Ordinance originally adopted April 15, 2008 and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable period of time and offer suggestions before the City Council.

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