

JUNE 20, 2015

# OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

Saturday Edition

Serving Kissimmee, St. Cloud, Celebration, Poinciana, Harmony, Narcoossee, BVL

## Osceola Regional Medical Center surgeon tests skills on reality show



Submitted Photo

Dr. Buck Parker, a surgeon at the Osceola Regional Medical Center, is surrounded by hospital staff. He is featured on NBC's reality show, "The Island."

### By Jennifer DiDomenico For the News-Gazette

An Osceola Regional Medical Center trauma surgeon is putting his medical skills to the test on national television as one of the stars of NBC's "The Island"—a new reality series hosted by British Adventurer Bear Grylls.

Dr. Buck Parker, also known as Dr. Buck, is one of 14 men on the deserted Pacific island where the show takes place. Though the men are ultimately testing their survival skills, this is not your typical survival show. There is no weekly elimination. There is no winner. There is no prize. "There were no camera

crews or anything like that. They were out on this island completely on their own," said Mary Tindall, of Costa Communications Group.

The men filmed their experience with outdoor survival, capturing their mental and physical challenges.

According to NBC.com, "all of the men have something to prove to themselves and to each other."

The cast consists of a stay-at-home dad, a firefighter, a criminal defense attorney and more. As the only doctor on the cast, Parker serves as the lead medical specialist. He uses his medical training to help

test endurance.

"I come from a family of hunters, but I chose medical school over the outdoors," said Parker. "'The Island' was a chance for me to try to prove to myself and my family that I could do it. Being a part of this show was an exciting opportunity that I couldn't pass up."

Parker spent six weeks away from his home in Orlando to participate in the show. He first joined Osceola Regional in February 2015 and serves on staff as part of the hospital's new Level II Trauma Center, which received provisional status May 1. The hospital, located

in Kissimmee, offers around the clock in-house coverage by trauma surgeons and other trauma-trained medical staff and health care professionals.

"Dr. Parker's drive, warmth and dedication to caring for our patients are just a few reasons why all of us at Osceola Regional are proud to have him on board," said Dr. Joanne Lee, interim trauma medical director for Osceola Regional Medical Center. "We know this national audience will love him just as much as our patients do."

The series that premiered May 25 airs Monday nights at 10 p.m. on NBC. Previously aired episodes are available on NBC.com.