



SHS Health Occupations students Mitchell Tillman and Stephanie Aguilera have been getting clinical experience with Sweeny EMS.

Riding With Sweeny EMS

SHS Students Find Out Where The Action Is

Mitchell Tillman and Stephanie Aguilera, both 17, are Sweeny High School Health Occupations students who have been getting clinical experience shadowing Sweeny EMS. And what a ride it's been!

The two have seen the life-saving work of emergency medicine up close – Stephanie using an Ambubag on a patient to help with breathing, and watching a cardiac arrest victim come back to life; and Mitchell crawling inside a wrecked car to stabilize a patient's neck until the Jaws of Life could free them both.

Mitchell started the year thinking that in a small town EMS experience would probably be slow and therefore dull. Then came the EMS call to a motorcycle wreck were two

people lost limbs. And another call to a wreck where Mitchell — the thinnest, strongest person available — was asked to crawl inside the car and hold the pinned-in victim's neck steady until the car was cut open and a neck brace could be applied.

Mitchell plans to be an oral surgeon, and Stephanie had been thinking of becoming a plastic surgeon, but is now considering emergency care.

Sweeny EMS Director David Filipp said the agency has enjoyed having the students around, both as "an extra pair of hands" and because his staff enjoys teaching.

Other SHS health occupations students have been doing clinical time at Sweeny House and with school nurses.

Birthdays

April

- 2 Lanny Henderson, Hospital Board
- 3 Lola Paige
- 4 Cathy Sisson
- 6 Eutabelle Albritton*
- 7 Olga Schulte*
- 9 Susan Gibbs
- 11 Cathy Rodgers*
- 12 Meeghan Dietz
- 23 Susan Moore
- 27 Mary Christian*
- 28 Lisa Allen
- 30 Kathrine Dorris

May

- 5 Keith Yaws
- 7 Ernelle Orr, Hospital Board
- 9 Garrett Fishbeck
Mike Nixon
- 20 Nema Higdon
- 21 Patricia Karl
- 23 Phyllis Regian
- 24 Anita Barnett
- 28 Susan Lopez



* Auxiliary

New Employees

- Javier Valdez, MT, Lab
- Michael Boullion Jr. EMT-P
- Patricia Karl, Nursing
- Ron Woolsey, RN
- Marcy Murrell, RN
- Amanda Gallagher, GN
- Teanna Kasarda, RN

SCH Administrator Gives Notice Of Resignation

Sweeny Community Hospital Administrator H.A. "Tony" Turk submitted his resignation May 1 to the hospital district board of directors. He will stay until a replacement is selected or until the end of the current fiscal year on Sept. 30. He and his wife, Loula, plan to move to the Texas Hill Country.

The board appointed a search committee of Drew Jolly, Doug Dunham and Lanny Henderson to find a new administrator.



H.A. Turk

CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 15
ICS 100, 200
Incident Command
Systems

Mandatory inservice
 for SCH employees.
 10 a.m. to noon
 ED Conference Room

Tuesday, May 22
National Incident
Management Systems

Mandatory inservice
 for SCH employees.
 10 a.m. to noon
 ED Conference Room

Friday, May 25
CPR For
Healthcare Providers

Fee is \$10 for SCH employees,
 \$40 for others. Pre-registration re-
 quired. Call 548-1597.
 8:30 a.m.
 Main Conference Room

Tuesday, June 12
Workplace Violence
 Mandatory inservice for SCH
 employees. Reserve your spot by
 calling Ext. 1597.
 10 a.m. to noon
 ED Conference Room

Thursday, June 14
Diabetes Workshop

Open to anyone interested in
 diabetes. For information, call
 Audrey Bess, Ext. 1590.
 7 p.m.
 Main Conference Room



An Out-Of-Hospital Experience

For National Nurses Week, the hospital hosted lunch at Café Annice in Lake Jackson May 10. Additional dinners are planned May 15 and 17 to allow more nursing staff members to attend. Pictured from left are nurses Larry Fernandez, Sandy Maurer, Rhonda Moran, Celia Garza and Elaine Montier.

Orthopedic Surgeon Coming To SCH Specialty Clinic

Beginning June 1, patients will have the option of seeing Steven Eggleston, M.D., on Friday mornings in the Sweeny Community Hospital Specialty Clinic at 303 N. McKinney, inside the new medical office building.

Dr. Eggleston, 38, specializes in general orthopedics and is certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons. He treats adult and pediatric patients.

A native of Sweeny, Dr. Eggleston is a 1987 graduate of Sweeny High School and earned a bachelor of science degree in physical therapy from the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas in 1991, working as a physical therapist for a few years before going to medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He graduated in 1998 with high honors, then served a residency in orthopedic surgery at UTMB.

While in medical school and residency, Dr. Eggleston was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and was the recipient of multi-



Dr. Eggleston

ple honors and awards.

He has been in practice in Angleton since 2003, with an office at 146 Hospital Drive. He and his wife,

Julie, live in Lake Jackson and

have a 9-year-old son.

Dr. Eggleston accepts most major insurance plans, Medicare, most Medicaid, and worker's compensation. He will be in the Specialty Clinic in Sweeny from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Fridays. For appointments, call Specialty Clinic Coordinator Audrey Bess at (979) 548-1590 or Dr. Eggleston's Angleton office at (979) 849-9557.

"We have several patients from the Sweeny area who come to Angleton, and we hope this will be more convenient for them," Julie Eggleston said.

New Open-Door Policy For Unoccupied Rooms

Swenny Community Hospital has had a policy on hospital security for years, but it has recently been revised.

The biggest change is that doors to all unoccupied patient rooms should be open at all times. This includes rooms that are no longer used for patients on a regular basis.

Other policy changes state that EMS staff, if available, will escort visitors and staff to vehicles parked in dimly lighted areas when it is dark if there is a perceived danger.

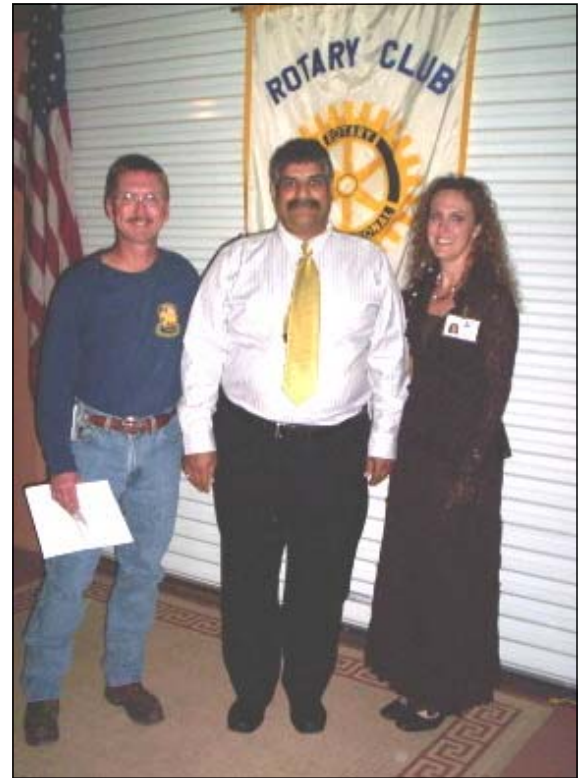
All employees and patients should be wearing identification bands.

Employees are responsible for knowing who should be in their work areas (and who should not be), and for securing offices when not in use. Lockers and locking desks should be used when possible. Suspicious activities should be reported.

And finally, when visitors ask for directions, SCH employees should, when possible, escort the visitor to their destinations.



Just an ordinary day, with Dietary Manager Nannette Baugh minding her own business before a chance encounter with a camera.



Speaking To The Rotary

Dr. Ram (Subramaniam Ramanathan) was the guest speaker in April at a regular meeting of the Sweeny Rotary Club. He is pictured with Rotary President Jim Alford and Lisa Brunner, SCH Physical Therapy Director and Rotary member.

New Web Site Compares Hospitals' Charges

Ever wonder how our hospital's charges for specific services compare to those of other facilities? Now you can look online for that information, at least as regards inpatient services.

The Texas Hospital Association has launched a new Web site, www.txpricepoint.org, as a free tool for comparing information on all Texas hospitals.

Texas Price Point was developed in response to the public's and news media's demands for greater accountability for hospital performance and information regarding charges for services.

The site is less valuable for comparing Sweeny Community Hospital with others because the majority of our business is for emergency and outpatient care, and those services aren't measured.

Even so, for inpatient services we have the most affordable rates of any hospital in Brazoria County.

Sweeny Community Hospital

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We're on the Web!
www.sweenyhospital.org



New Direction Weight Management Program Marks Anniversary

It's been a year since Sweeny Community Hospital signed up 10 people to participate in a pilot project: The New Direction Medical Weight Management Program.

Since then the program has gained steady momentum, with word-of-mouth advertising keeping the membership roster full, although maximum participation is still limited to 19 at any given time.

New Direction Program Manager Rhonda Moran, RN, said the program has treated 62 clients over the year.

On the New Direction diet, patients stop eating regular food and instead consume 800 calories per day in the form of four high-protein, low-carbohydrate nutritional beverages that are packed with vitamins and minerals.

The average weight loss is 2-5 pounds per week, and all participants

get regular medical monitoring, weekly group support and education about nutrition, exercise and behavior modification. To participate in the program, women must be at least 40 pounds overweight and men at least 50 pounds. Patients must also pass a medical and behavioral screening.

The program has three phases: Reducing, Adapting and Sustaining. The Reducing Phase lasts up to 12 weeks, then patients move into the Adapting Phase, which can continue indefinitely as long as the patient is healthy and losing weight. At some point in the Adapting Phase, everyone will transition back

*SCH employees
and volunteers get
a 25 percent
discount on the
New Direction
program and food.*

onto regular food with guidance from the dietitian and exercise specialist.

The Maintenance Phase is optional, but highly recommended. It lasts six months and allows patients to come to group meetings, use exercise facilities at The Wellness Center in Sweeny, and buy a limited amount of the New Direction food.

SCH employees and volunteers get a 25 percent discount off the fees, and payroll deduction is available. Before the discount, the program (including all fees and food) costs about \$1,950 for 12 weeks. Clinical fees not covered by insurance may be tax deductible.

For more information, including a detailed list of fees, visit www.sweenyhospital.org, Classes & Events or call Moran at Ext. 1555 or Marsha McBride at Ext. 1586, or e-mail rmoran@sweenyhospital.org.



Dr. Brough (left) was on duty in the ER and Dr. Ram was in his office on Doctor's Day, when they were presented with embroidered blankets and framed plaques from the SCH staff. Pictured with Dr. Brough are Audrey Bess of Social Services and RN Supervisor Cathy Sisson. Blankets were also presented to Dr. Richard Erickson, Dr. David Barr and Dr. Ron Slate.

Snoop Scoop

Congratulations are in order for **Debbie Marcum** of Patient Financial Services, who recently became engaged to **Kerry Gola**. They are planning an Aug. 18 wedding.

Sweeny Home Health Administrator **Sherri Pierce** is on maternity leave after giving birth to a son, **Michael Hugh**, born April 12 weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces at a "height" of 19 ½ inches.

The staff of Heritage presented a cake to Sweeny/West Brazos EMS this week in gratitude for EMS staff driving the Heritage vans to pick up patients and deliver meals. **James Walger** and **James Torres** have been driving, filling in for Heritage employee **Carolyn McGuire**.

Congratulations to **Michael Boullion**, a new employee of Sweeny/West Brazos EMS, for passing the exam to become a full paramedic.

Virginia Tripson of the Kittie Nash Groce Memorial Rehabilitation Center was the guest speaker at the Diabetes Workshop May 10, discussing "Exercise to Fitness."