



WMD Class

All Dressed Up & Ready To Go

Lab Tech Sue Wilkes (left) and Insurance Billing Clerk Marsha McBride donned personal protective equipment during the final part of a July 6 class on weapons of mass destruction. All SCH employees are encouraged to take the class; clinical personnel are required to do so. While Sweeny Community Hospital may never have to deal with a terrorist attack, the class also covers dangers from chemical spills as from train derailments or wrecks. The class is taught by Sweeny/West Brazos EMS Director David Filipp. Materials were provided by grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Brazoria County civil defense, and the East Texas Gulf Coast Regional Trauma Advisory Council. A disaster drill coming up at SCH in August will reinforce what we've been learning in WMD class.

Birthdays



July

- 3 Sue Wilkes
- 7 Bonnie Jones
- 9 Eleanor Adkins*
- 11 Dr. Gonzalo Uribe-Botero
- 12 Don Guthrie
- 20 James Walger
- 24 Kenya Jammer
Lori Rohan
H. A. Turk
- 26 David Filipp
Karen Tilley
- 30 Cindy Martin
Dr. Lonny Montgomery
- 31 Bryan Jones
Ryan Jones

August

- 2 Mary O'Donnell*
- 4 Jason McCarey
Harold E. Wuthrich
- 5 Rusty McAlvain
- 9 Harold W. Wuthrich
Laurie Knight
- 10 Dr. Salim Dabaghi
- 11 Lucy Miller*
- 15 Charles Bailey
- 21 Stacey Davis
- 22 Cammie Christie
- 24 Cindy Grandjean
- 26 Jackie Tolbert
Ron Woolsey
- 28 Melanie Schaefer
- 30 Laura Massey
- 31 Daisy Horn*

* Auxiliary

New Employees

- Rebecca Sanders,
Environmental Services
- Vickie Taylor,
Environmental Services
- Robert Brown, PTA
Home Health

CALENDAR



Tuesday, July 25

Board of Directors

Regular meeting of the hospital district's elected leaders.

Always open to the public.

6:30 p.m.

Main Conference Room

Friday, July 28

CPR for Non-Healthcare Providers

\$30 fee includes workbook.

8:30 to 5 p.m.

Main Conference Room

Thursday, Aug. 10

Diabetes Workshop

Free monthly meeting with guest speakers on topics of interest to diabetics and their families.

Call 548-1590 for information.

7 p.m.

Main Conference Room



Gifts and goodies filled the cafeteria for Marcy's party. From left are Pat Anderson, Rossana Tirado, Kathy Smedley, Sue Wilkes and Lori Rohan.



Marcy Murrell, RN, with a bear that's singing "I Hope You Dance," a gift from Lorraine Dunceroux, RN.

SCH Turns Out To Celebrate With Marcy

Special Care Manager & Trauma Coordinator Marcy Murrell, RN, has resigned her full-time position at SCH, but will still work with us on a PRN basis while she completes a bachelor's degree in nursing.

So that made it a happy occasion and a reason for a party on July 6 with (what else?) a potluck dinner, a selection of gifts and a philosophic card signed by her many friends and well-wishers.

Karankawa Readyman Experience



Sweeny/West Brazos EMS crew members Brent Bayliss, Mike Mader and Bryan Jones took an ambulance to Camp Karankawa for the Bay Area Council Annual Cub Scout Day Camp in June as part of a presentation that included first aid and emergency preparedness training to help the Webelos Scouts earn their Readyman badges. An Angleton EMS paramedic organized the course and invited our guys to speak about what it's like to work in emergency service. SCH Occupational Therapist Peggy Boineau's son Matthew is among the Scouts in the photo.

From The Administrator

New Policy Will Combine Sick Leave, PTO Beginning Oct. 1

Did you ever think, “I sure wish I could use some of the many sick leave hours I have to get some time off, but I’m not sick”? Or maybe “I’d really like to sell some of these PTO hours I have and get a little extra cash.” Well, read on because we have a deal for you.

Beginning Oct. 1, we will combine the two types of leave we have now -- sick and PTO (paid time off) -- into a single benefit called PTO. And after that, each of us will accrue more PTO at a new rate based on a combination of the old rates for both PTO and sick leave.

Another change is that we will accrue PTO based on *each hour* we’re paid for working, not per pay period. If an hourly employee works overtime, that person earns more PTO.

What will *not* change is the current policy that the longer you work for Sweeny Community Hospital, the more PTO time you’ll earn per year.

The target date for making this happen is the start of the new fiscal year, Oct. 1, 2006. Here’s what will happen then:

1. Our PTO and sick leave balances will be added together.
2. Our accrual rates will be changed to reflect this combination of the two types of leaves. Also, when this happens, each of our individual accrual rates will take into consideration our accruing three fewer days (or 24 fewer hours) annually than we are currently doing.

Sounds like a rip off, huh?

Well, consider this: Each of us now earns 12 sick leave days a year. If we’re lucky and maintain excellent health, we can accumulate sick leave until we have a maximum of four years’ worth or 48 days (or 384 hours). Then, because our policies don’t permit us to carry over more than 288 sick leave hours from year to year, the hos-



H.A. Turk
Administrator

pital buys back the hours over 288. That “overage” could be as many as 12 days (or 96 hours).

When the hospital pays us for those extra hours, it’s called “Well Pay.” Currently, though, there’s a catch: The hospital buys the hours back for only 50 percent of our regular hourly pay rate. Even if a person resigns and leaves the hospital, he or she is paid for accrued sick leave at the 50 percent rate.

100 Percent Better

Under the new plan, “50 percent rule” is gone. If you cash in PTO hours, you’ll be paid at 100 percent of your hourly rate. Of course, there will be some policies in place governing the program -- including limits on the number of hours an individual can sell each year. Some, but perhaps not all, of the policies are mentioned in the remainder of this article.

One rule will be that sometime in the 12 months immediately preceding the selling of PTO hours (another way to say that is “taking cash in lieu of PTO”) you must have taken at least 40 PTO hours in succession. You need to have used some hours to take a vacation or break from work. Why? Because it’s good for your health, etc.

Another rule: After getting cash in lieu of PTO, you must still have a remaining PTO balance of at least 240 hours. Why? Because you need some kind of a cushion for contingencies such as illness.

The Thing About January

None of us will be allowed to exercise this “cash-pay” option more than once a year, and payment will always be in January. Traditionally, that’s a time of year when the hospital district has received its tax income, assuring sufficient cash to cover every employee who chooses to exercise the “pay in lieu of PTO” option.

How many hours can one sell? Subject to all the policies just mentioned, a person with 10 or fewer years of tenure at SCH can sell up to five days (40 hours). Staff members with longer terms of service can sell an additional day (8 hours) for each year of service over 10, up to MAXIMUM of 80 hours.

In summary, the new PTO policy offers several advantages for employees while also saving money for the hospital district. We hope it’s a win-win situation all around.

— HAT

Current and past issues of ‘Positive Findings’ are now posted on the hospital’s Web site. Visit www.sweenyhospital.org.

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Manuel Trevino, EMT-B from the Valero Houston Refinery, and Todd Johse, EMT-I of Sweeny EMS practice Basic Trauma Life Support on a manikin in a recent class at Sweeny Community Hospital. For information on other classes, visit the hospital's Web site.

Snoop Scoop

Congratulations to long-time Sweeny Hospital District Board Member **Ernelle Orr** on her recent wedding to **John Rayburn**. They were married at 4 p.m. June 9 by the Rev. **Jerl Watkins** in an outdoor ceremony at the home of **Evie and Billy Hugh Wallace**.

Radiology Manager **Jim McGuire** won third place and a \$200 prize in the Trout Fishing Category at the annual Freeport Jaycees Fishing Fiesta. Jim's 7 pound, 4 ounce speckled trout was the biggest fish caught that day.

Congratulations to **Lori Rohan, RN**, on being named Trauma Coordinator following the resignation of **Marcy Murrell, RN**, who has moved to PRN status while she works on a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Kevin Michael Grandjean, son of Nursing Day Shift Supervisor **Cindy Grandjean, RN**, will graduate Aug. 12 from the University of Texas at Arlington with a degree in mechanical engineering. Kevin is a member of Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the National Scholars Honor Society and Pi Tau Sigma, an honor society for mechanical engineers.

Sweeny Hospital Home Health is expanding their physical therapy capabilities now that licensed physical therapy assistant **Robert Brown** has joined their staff. He'll be working with Physical Therapist **Tracy Hollifield** helping people heal at home.

Peggy Boineau, registered occupational therapist and manager of Brazoria Hand & Upper Extremity Rehabilitation, will be featured in the September edition of an occupational therapy professional journal, *News-Line for OT*. The article is about Peggy's work in Brazoria, and will include **Rhonda Moran's** photos of Peggy working on a patient with a wrist fracture.

The memorial bricks have arrived and were carefully checked for accuracy and found to be 100 percent correct. According to SCH Support Services Director **Charles Coleman**, they will be installed soon. A dedication ceremony will be scheduled for the public, with newspaper announcements as well as special invitations for everyone who purchased bricks. The SCH Auxiliary sold the bricks last year to raise money to help pay for the decorative fountains at the new assisted-living facility.

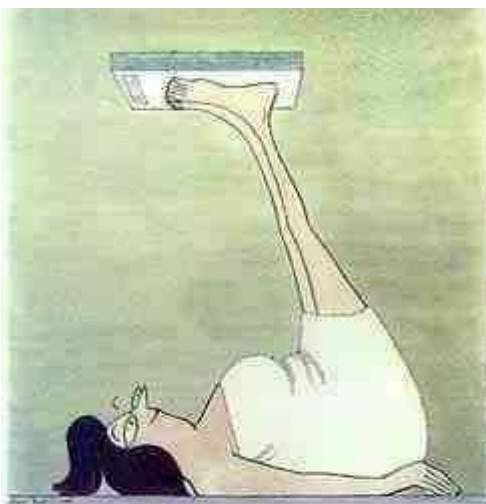


John Rayburn and Ernelle Orr were married June 9 in Sweeny.

CLASSIFIED ADS

BRASS HEADBOARD: Full-size. \$50. Contact Delores Merchant, Ext. 1591.

BEDROOM SET: Queen-size headboard with built-in shelves and light, with matching 6-drawer dresser and tri-fold mirror. Pecan finish. \$300. Call Sherri Pierce, 548-3388.



How to weigh yourself correctly.