

## SEEING GREEN

### February Financials Show Solid Gains

**F**ebruary was a short month, but even so, the hospital is seeing positive effects from having an internal medicine specialist join the active medical staff.

Charles Bailey, director of Cardiopulmonary Services,

said his department surpassed its budgeted revenue in February and had done the same for March before the month is even over.

"Since Dr. Ram got here, he has ordered echo and vascular studies, and our inpatients have also been up," Bailey said.

SCH Chief Financial Officer Delores Merchant said the hospital earned revenue of \$975,788 in February, which was nearly \$60,000 more than the hospital expected to bring in.

"And considering it was a short month, that's great," she said.

Most of the additional income is from

*"If we can do what we have just done, what happens if we press on and try even harder?"*

— H.A. Turk  
Administrator



The bluebonnets in front of the hospital make a splash of blue as SCH is seeing more green.

increased inpatient business, but Merchant noted that "the therapies" (physical and occupational) are "holding steady" on revenue. Many departments are exceeding projected

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## Birthdays

### March

- 3 Delta Barnett\*
- 6 Brittany Dilleshaw
- Judy Davis\*
- 7 Robert Smith
- 9 Rebecca Sanders
- 10 Lisa Fields
- 20 Cheryl Trafton
- Tina Bernshausen
- 23 Heather Maurer
- 24 Lois Wells\*
- 26 Shirley Ems\*
- 29 Martha Webb
- 31 April Nichols



### April

- 2 Lanny Henderson
- 3 Lola Paige
- 4 Cathy Sisson
- 6 Eutabelle Albritton\*
- 7 Olga Schulte\*
- 9 Susan Gibbs
- 10 Tellie Williams
- 11 Cathy Rodgers\*
- 12 Meeghan Dietz
- 17 Ashley Howell
- 23 Susan Moore
- 27 Mary Christian\*
- 28 Lisa Allen
- 30 Kathrine Dorris

\*Auxiliary

### New Employees

- Heather Maurer, The Fountains
- Lisa Fields, The Fountains
- Garrett Fishbeck, LVN
- Tammy Sanderson, LVN
- Patti Eversole, Kittie Nash Groce Rehabilitation
- Chris Herrera, EMT-I



## 'Other Duties As Assigned ...'

EMS Director David Filipp poses with the bathing beauties of yesteryear at the Sweeny Hospital Auxiliary's Annual Luncheon and Style Show March 15 at the Sweeny Community Center. Also pictured (from left) are Mary Christian, Lois Wells, Olga Schulte and Edna Earle Pettigrew.

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## CALENDAR

### March 30 CPR for Healthcare Providers

\$10 for SCH employees \$40 for others. Pre-registration required. Call Ext. 1597.

8:30 a.m.

Conference Room



### April 1

#### Easter Egg Hunt

For all SCH employees' children and grandchildren. Refreshments will be served. Bring 1 dozen filled eggs by March 27 to The Fountains.

For info, call Ext. 1524.

2 p.m.

Fountains courtyard

### April 5-6

#### PALS

Pediatric Advanced Life Support full course. \$75 for SCH employees, \$125 for others. Pre-registration required. *Class may cancel if not enough register by March 30.*

Call Ext. 1597.

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Wellness Center

### April 10

#### Incident Command Systems (ICS)

Mandatory inservice for SCH employees.

10 a.m. to noon

ED Conference Room

### April 12

#### Diabetes Workshop

Monthly meeting for anyone interested in diabetes.

For information,

call Ext. 1590.

7 p.m.

Main Conference Room



## New Faces in Heritage

The Heritage Program for Senior Adults at SCH has welcomed several new employees over the last few months. Pictured from left are staff therapist Don Cawley, LSCW; mental health technician Veronica Vargas, and Lauren Richter, LPC-Intern. The Heritage program is an outpatient mental health program for seniors, providing transportation, lunch, and individual and group therapy. For more information about the program, call 548-1571.

## Financials

*(Continued from page 1)*

income, however. Among them:

- Laboratory, earning \$26,000 more than expected
- Radiology, up \$2,000 on basic X-rays alone
- CT scans, up \$20,000 for February
- West Brazos EMS: Revenue was \$19,000 higher than expected in February
- Sweeney EMS: \$14,000 higher than expected in February
- Ultrasound "doubled their budget," in terms of earnings for the month.

EMS Director David Filipp said one way his department has been able to stay on top of costs is to ask for weekly, rather than monthly, expense reports.

"We're watching expenses very closely, and I have to give credit to my supervisors, Ryan and Bryan Jones, Stuart Butler and the assistant director,

Mike Nixon," Filipp said.

All this extra activity means more work for Nursing, Medical Records, Pharmacy, Dietary and other departments, and that means costs are higher, too. And it's worth remembering that revenue billed is not the same as revenue collected.

Even so, it's good to see hospital business continue to grow, said Administrator H.A. Turk.

"It's a little like finding one of the last pieces of a puzzle and putting it in place – the picture starts to look beautiful when the pieces are all there," he said. "We have hoped for a long time that our situation would finally come together like this and now that it has, it's refreshing.

"And it's inspirational – if we can do what we have just done, what happens if we press on and try even harder? It boggles the mind."

## SCH Auxiliary Makes A Splash With Spring Luncheon, Style Show

The Sweeny Hospital Auxiliary's annual Style Show and Luncheon March 19 was a great success again this year, with 268 tickets sold at \$10 each for the show, plus another \$484 raised by raffling off a combination DVD/VCR.

Proceeds from the event will be used to buy equipment for the hospital, such as new wheelchairs.

With the help of numerous "rank and file" members of the Auxiliary, Edna Earle Pettigrew and Olga Schulte were in charge of decorations; Louise Fenoglio oversaw collection of door prizes; Eldine Oglesby was in charge of food preparation, and Elvie Lee Matejek was in charge of setting up the style show. Mary Lou Schooler was in charge of decorating the entry hall. Lois Wells and Jerri Morris were in charge of ticket sales.

The event was held this year at the Sweeny Community Center. The Auxiliary prepared the food themselves ahead of time, working together in the kitchen at Old Ocean Baptist Church.

Rita McMillan played the piano, while Tammy Ennis served as emcee. The style show featured fashions from Dillard's in Lake Jackson, with Lettie Warren, area manager for ladies' wear at Dillard's, doing the commentary.

Christine Williams, an employee of The Fountains Assisted Living, won the drawing for the combo DVD/VHS player.

Models were Delta and Johnny Barnett, Bob and Melba Coburn, Richard and Charity Wetta, Judy and Keith Davis and Bob and Eldine Oglesby.

As a special surprise, Charles Drake appeared "in costume," along with Mary Christian, Lois Wells, Edna Earle Pettigrew, Olga Schulte and Lois Wells, dressed up in "bathing suits" and bonnets of yesteryear.

The Pink Ladies expressed special thanks to Sweeny/West Brazos EMS for setting up and taking down 250 chairs, arranging the "heavy stuff" and otherwise helping out.



Johnny and Delta Barnett model fashions from Dillard's.



Edna Earle Pettigrew, Shirley Ems and Tammy Ennis read the winning raffle ticket. Christine Williams won the DVD player.



Pauline Turner and Olga Schulte watch over the door prizes.



The Sweeny Community Center was full for the annual spring luncheon and style show. Nearly 270 tickets were sold. Proceeds will benefit the hospital.

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*We're on the Web!*  
[www.sweenyhospital.org](http://www.sweenyhospital.org)

**THANK YOU**

**T**he Pink Ladies have asked that *Positive Findings* include a special thank you to Marc Bailey of Maintenance, for replacing the floor in the Gift Shop.

The old floor was uneven in places and posed a tripping hazard.

**“In three words I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life: It goes on.”**

— **Robert Frost**  
U.S. poet (1874-1963)

## Snoop Scoop

**S**pecialty Clinic Manager Audrey Bess reports that **Dr. Ron Slate**, the Angleton podiatrist who visits our Specialty Clinic, is engaged to be married to **Melissa Carter**, a lawyer who practices family law in the Galleria area. They got engaged Feb. 9, one year to the day from their first date. They will be married in February 2008.

The SCH New Direction Weight Management Program welcomes two new RNs, **Gail Faust** of Wharton and **Jackie Rhodes** of West Columbia, who will be working with the program on a contract basis. The program currently meets only on Thursday evenings, but plans are in the works to expand to two nights a week later this year.

Radiology Manager **Jim McGuire** reports that his department passed a state inspection this month with no deficiencies noted.

At the Sweeny Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet March 19, Fountains Administrator **Crystal Johnson** was recognized as a chamber board member and given an official name tag. Also at the banquet, **Eran Jones** of ConocoPhillips was the winning bidder on the hospital’s donation to the silent auction. The hospital donated four sessions with certified personal trainer **Michelle Wadley** of Lake Jackson. Among hospital employees who attended the banquet were Administrator **H.A. Turk**, **Delores Merchant**, **Rhonda Moran**, **David Filipp** and **Crystal Johnson**.

The May 12 election for the Sweeny Hospital District Board of Directors now has three incumbents seeking reelection, and one challenger. The candidates are **Drew Jolly**, **Ernelle Orr**, **Lanny Henderson** and former SCH employee **Connie Mosier**.

**Melissa Karst** of Nursing was still recovering from a recent illness when her daughter, **Mekaela**, wanted to have a big slumber party during Spring Break. Melissa had to say no ... but then **Melanie Merchant** stepped in to help and the result was a daytime “Coaster Party” enjoyed by Mekaela and her friends. Using simple materials such as ceramic tile, construction paper, Elmer’s Glue and photographs, the girls spent several happy hours making coasters that will be lasting keepsakes. Melanie is the daughter of SCH Chief Financial Officer **Delores Merchant**.

**Dr. Ramanathan** will be the program speaker at the April 5 meeting of the Sweeny Rotary Club, as a guest of Rotarian **Lisa Brunner**.



Marc Bailey and Keith Yaws of Maintenance carry Sweeny Home Health furnishings into the hospital. The Home Health service has vacated the building at 411 N. Main in Sweeny to save money.



Crystal and her chamber director name tag.



A ceramic tile coaster features a photo of the girls at the party.