

## Disaster Drill Simulates Contamination Event



The Sweeny and Old Ocean Volunteer Fire Departments set up decontamination tanks outside the ER.

### Firefighters, EMS, Police & SCH Staff Join Forces

In a Sept. 5 disaster drill, 10 students from Sweeny High School's Health Occupations Class served as "victims" of a simulated exposure to Vikane, a pesticide used to treat termites. The scenario was that a tank of Vikane ruptured near a group of students, and they were exposed to the pesticide.

In real disasters, 76 per cent of patients come to the ER by private vehicle -- not by ambulance -- so that's how the Sept. 5 disaster drill victims arrived. The drill reinforced one of the most difficult things for health care personnel to accept: That you don't immediately bring sick people inside. If you do and they're contaminated with a hazardous material, you can lose use of your entire facility.

The Sweeny and Old Ocean Fire Departments worked together to set up a decontamination site outside the ER, where victims could be washed down and the water contained for proper disposal. The hospital has special storage

*Continued on Page 3*

SCH employee Cathy Lopez puts a wrist band on Chelsea Dugan under the watchful eye of Sherri Pierce, RN. The ICU was designated as the place to take "yellow" patients — those who were judged to have injuries that were serious but not life-threatening.



### Birthdays



#### September

- 1 Kathy Smedley
- 2 Julia Ryan
- 5 Marc Bailey  
Stephanie Smith
- 6 Annette Mouton
- 9 Gwen Norton
- 10 Jeanetta Simple  
Linda Fishbeck
- 17 Stuart Butler  
Rhonda Moran  
Crystal Lewis  
Dr. Larry Lipscomb
- 20 Bruce King
- 21 Crystal Johnson
- 22 Sherri Pierce
- 23 Keith Marshall
- 28 Grace Baty
- 29 Carm Cosentino
- 30 Joy Williamson

#### October

- 3 Eldine Oglesby\*
- 4 Elvie Lee Matejek\*  
LaQuita Yancy\*
- 5 Charla Hultman
- 7 Pat Anderson
- 9 Crystal Richburg  
DeDe Rodrigues
- 10 Katie Fine
- 11 Ponnie Bailey\*
- 12 James Rebeator
- 13 Charlotte Phillips\*
- 15 Christine Williams
- 16 Betty Hubbard
- 21 Belinda Wilkinson
- 22 Brenda Rodrigues  
Mary Lou Schooler\*
- 24 Dr. Richard Erickson
- 27 Delores Merchant  
Marc Way

\* Auxiliary

#### New Employees

- Richard Wetta, EMT-B

## CALENDAR



### Wednesday Sept. 27 12-Lead EKG

\$45 for SCH employees, and \$60 for others. Pre-registration required. Call 548-1597.

8:30 a.m.

The Wellness Center

### Wednesday Sept. 27 \$5 Frenzy Jewelry Sale

Costume jewelry and accessories of all kinds, everything priced at only \$5. Sponsored by the SCH Auxiliary.

7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Main Conference Room

### Tuesday, Oct. 10 Ways To Afford Assisted Living

Pensions are great, but if you don't have one, can you afford assisted living? Learn about long-term care insurance policies and VA benefits. Public invited.

6:30 p.m.

The Fountains



### Tuesday, Oct. 10 United Way Rally

Cake, punch and a chance to win fabulous prizes! Fill out and return your pledge card to enter a drawing for free T-shirts, cups of candy or the grand prize TBA.

2 p.m.

Main Conference Room

### Thursday, Oct. 12 Diabetes Workshop

Monthly meeting

7 p.m.

Main Conference Room

## From The Administrator 'Healthy' July Means Sickly Bottom Line In September

There are probably numerous rumors circulating about the financial health of our organization. Just so you can separate the fact from the fiction, I thought I would offer this contribution to *Positive Findings*.

It's true; we are in challenging times. The primary reason we are getting squeezed financially right now is because business was so slow back in July. Now, six to eight weeks later, collections are down because business was down in July.

There is some good news, however.

First, many departments -- including EMS, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Home Health and The Fountains -- are staying quite busy.

Second, ER visits have increased (maybe because summer and vacations are over?). This past weekend, the inpatient census grew dramatically — to the point that we had to open additional rooms we haven't used in a while. In four to six weeks, we should receive payments for caring for some of these patients, and that should make it a little easier to meet our financial obligations.

Finally, as we ease into November and then December, we will be receiving significant distributions of property taxes.

An end to our toughest challenges is in sight.

In the meantime, we are examining every revenue enhancement and expense reduction idea we come across. We ARE NOT planning on reducing staff. It's having a high quality staff that gives us the chance of success, so we want to hang on to you. We might need to adjust hours sometime, and maybe some people will take low census or low workload days voluntarily. People who earn raises during the last months of Fiscal Year 2006 (which ends on Sept 30<sup>th</sup>) will receive those extra funds in December.

And finally, we will examine ways to increase patient numbers — customer relations actions will be terrifically important. We need to be sure to live our motto, "You'll Know We Care."



H.A. Turk  
Administrator



### ER Nurses Rap

You don't have to be a fan of rap music to get a kick out of this online posting by ER nurses at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The ER nurse rap video can be seen by visiting [www.gruntdoc.com](http://www.gruntdoc.com), a Web log by an ER physician in Texas. Type in: [http://www.gruntdoc.com/2005/10/uab\\_nurses\\_rap.html](http://www.gruntdoc.com/2005/10/uab_nurses_rap.html)



Sweeny ISD Police Officer John Ideus (left) joined Sweeny/West Brazos EMS crews in sealing off the parking lot during the drill. Pictured with Ideus are (from left) Mike Nixon, James Torres, Mark Rademacher and Mark Mrnustik.



Shirley Ems wraps a clean sheet around a freshly washed “victim.”



SHS students line up to give information to nurse Audrey Bess. EMS personnel wheeled victims to their assigned areas in the hospital.

## Disaster Drill

*Continued from Page 1*

tanks under the ER (part of the new construction project), but they drain from a special decontamination room – not large enough to handle mass casualties.

The hospital is required by the Texas Department of State Health Services to have two disaster drills per year.

**AT RIGHT:** In the command center, Administrator H.A. Turk confers with Cindy Grandjean, Delores Merchant and Cindy Burge about emergency staff assignments.



**Sweeny Community Hospital**  
305 N. McKinney St.  
Sweeny, TX 77480  
Phone: (979) 548-1500  
Fax: (979) 548-3105

Administrator: H.A. Turk  
hturk@sweenyhospital.org

Editor: Rhonda Moran  
rmoran@sweenyhospital.org



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



## Suicide Prevention

Linda Butcher, a clinical therapist with Youth and Family Counseling Services of Brazoria County, spoke at The Wellness Center Sept. 19 on Suicide Prevention, discussing common myths and truths about suicide. Most people who are thinking about suicide don't want to die; they want their pain to stop. Help by taking their concerns seriously and encouraging them to talk about other options. For more information call Youth and Family Counseling Services at 864-1577.



SCH Community Relations Director Rhonda Moran recently spent a weekend in the Texas Hill Country, including a visit to the Devil's Sinkhole in Rocksprings. The sinkhole is home to millions of bats that fly out at sunset like a black tornado.

## Snoop Scoop

**L**ola Paige's son **Lloyd** has been promoted to the rank of sergeant in the U.S. Army. Lloyd is currently stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga.

**Peggy Boineau** of the Brazoria Hand & Upper Extremity Rehabilitation Clinic just returned from the American Society of Hand Therapists' annual meeting in Atlanta, where she was surprised to win an award as "Outstanding Committee Member" for her work on the ASHT's Education Committee.

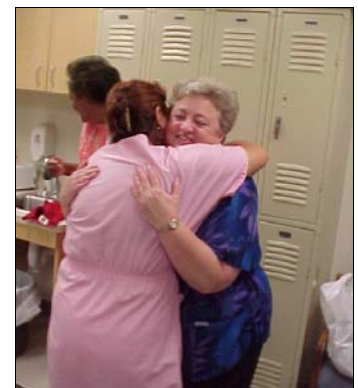
Sweeny Home Health has increased its census since adding a licensed physical therapy assistant to the staff to work with physical therapist **Traci Hollifield**. The new employee is **Robert Brown** of Angleton. In addition to being an LPTA, Robert has been a licensed paramedic since 1979. He earned an associate of applied science degree in physical therapy assistance from San Jacinto College in 1998, and joined the SCH staff this summer.



Robert Brown, PTA

Residents of The Fountains Assisted Living Community recently were treated to a live performance of excerpts from the play "Little Women," presented by the West Brazos Actors Guild of the Old School and the Brazoria Historical Society.

**Elaine Montier**, director of patient care services, would like to thank the SCH employees (**Charles Coleman, James Rebec-tor** and **Keith Yaws**) who came out Saturday night to help her get additional rooms ready to handle the sudden influx of inpatients admitted from the ER. We're also extremely proud of our Nursing staff for taking the extra work in stride. The week-end crews included RNs **Linda Fishbeck, Cindy Grandjean, Marie Breakiron, Lori Rohan** and **Lorraine Dunceroux**, and LVNs **Celia Garza, Wanda Lemon, Sandy Maurer, Rachel Powell** and **Betty Hubbard**.



Nurse Cindy Grandjean gets a birthday hug from Celia Garza at a surprise party for Cindy on her Aug. 24 birthday. Several employees dropped by to enjoy pizza and other snacks in the employee breakroom.