Physicians Begin Practices Here

Drs. Haritha Narla and Naveen Akkina have begun their medical practices at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital. Dr. Narla is a rheumatologist, specially trained to work with patients suffering from arthritis and other diseases of the joints, muscle, and bones. Dr. Akkina is board certified in internal medicine and pulmonary disease. He is also board eligible in critical care and will be working with sleep disorder patients.

The married couple is delighted to be here in West Virginia. “This is a very lovely place,” noted Dr. Akkina. “It reminds me very much of the rural areas when I was growing up in India.” “I find the people here to be very friendly. They are very nice,” added Dr. Narla.

Recently, Dr. Akkina completed his critical care fellowship at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Narla is a rheumatologist, specially trained to work with patients suffering from arthritis and other diseases of the joints, muscle, and bones.

Surgeon Ron Pearson Seeing Patients in Buckhannon

Ronald Pearson, Jr., M.D., recently accepted a position as a general surgeon at SJMH.

Dr. Pearson graduated from Fairmont State College. He received a pharmacy degree from West Virginia University’s School of Pharmacy and a medical degree from Marshall University’s School of Medicine. He completed a general surgery residency at Charleston Area Medical Center and at the University of Tennessee.

Dr. Pearson currently resides in Buckhannon with his wife, Amy, a family practice physician. They have three sons, Brad, Bryce and Breagan, and one daughter, Katie.

Dr. Pearson enjoys spending time with his children and coaching youth football and wrestling.

He is seeing patients every other Friday at Hartman Plaza in Buckhannon. Call 304-473-0670 for more information.
Dr. Narla and Dr. Akkina

Continued from Page One

of Medicine in New York, while Dr. Narla finished her rheumatology fellowship at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, KS.

This will be the first time in several years that the couple, along with their three-year-old son Vignesh Akkina, will be living together, which is very exciting for the family.

“While I was working in Kansas, my parents, who live in New Jersey, took care of our son,” explained Dr. Narla. “We are so happy that we will now be together again.”

Both physicians were born in India and attended Gandhi Medical College. They were acquaintances at that time. It wasn’t until they came to this country that they were reintroduced to each other. They have been married for five years. Dr. Akkina’s parents still live in India. His father is a businessman and his mother is a homemaker. Dr. Narla’s parents moved to this country for a better employment opportunity for her father, who is an accountant. Her mother is a homemaker.

Dr. Akkina performed his residency in internal medicine at Maryland General Hospital, University of Maryland, and NYU Downtown Hospital in New York. He completed a pulmonary fellowship at the Chicago Medical School, Chicago, IL. His practice is in the medical office of surgeon Dr. John Thomas.

Dr. Narla’s residency was at NY Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. Her practice is located in the office of surgeon Dr. Salvatore LaNasa.

Both physicians had a common goal in their choice of becoming doctors.

“We chose the medical career path because we both want to help people and make a difference in their lives. When I was very young, I saw how a stay in the hospital helped my grandfather’s health. I thought that doctors could perform miracles,” said Dr. Narla.

“I chose my specialty because with some arthritis, like rheumatoid, an early diagnosis and treatment can improve quality of life and slow the progression of the disease,” she concluded.

“Both of us want to help people and that is one of our goals,” added her husband.

Donna McCue is pictured above receiving the “Dip Stick Award” at the annual Awards Dinner.

Dr. Narla’s residency was at NY Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. Her practice is located in the office of surgeon Dr. Salvatore LaNasa.

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“We chose the medical career path because we both want to help people and make a difference in their lives. When I was very young, I saw how a stay in the hospital helped my grandfather’s health. I thought that doctors could perform miracles,” said Dr. Narla.

“I chose my specialty because with some arthritis, like rheumatoid, an early diagnosis and treatment can improve quality of life and slow the progression of the disease,” she concluded.

“Both of us want to help people and that is one of our goals,” added her husband.

Administrative Assistant Joyce Greenlief was pleased to learn that she won several awards recently for her art. Her painting (pictured at left) “Morning on I-79” won a first place at the Jubilee Fine Arts Show and also Best WV Landscape at the Mountain State Forest Festival. She won an honorable mention at the Jubilee for another painting.
Dawn Bledsoe is Audiologist Here

Audiologist Dawn Bledsoe has joined the office of Weston Ear, Nose and Throat and Weston Audiology.

Bledsoe is a native of Weston, having graduated from Lewis County High School in 1989. She graduated from West Virginia University in 1993. She obtained her Master in Audiology from Brigham Young University in 1997.

She completed her clinical fellowship in 1998 at Roswell, NM. She was employed for more than seven years at Huntington Ear, Nose and Throat in Huntington, WV, until October 2007. She was employed in a private practice at Waldorf, MD, until coming to Weston.

Bledsoe is a clinically certified audiologist who enjoys working with children and adults. She is very knowledgeable about hearing disorders and hearing aids for all ages. She assesses balance problems and will help a physician diagnose patient complaints and symptoms.

In her spare time, Dawn enjoys working in the garden with her family. She also loves spending time with her parents on their farm.

The offices of Weston Ear, Nose and Throat and Weston Audiology are located at the former office of the late Dr. Charles Lively, on Center Avenue in Weston.

Adler Scholarship Serving Many Students

Four Lewis County High School seniors and a student from both Webster County High School and Gilmer County High School were awarded scholarships through the M. William “Bill” Adler Scholarship at SJMH. The scholarship is designed to assist high school seniors pursuing a career in healthcare.

Bill Adler, one of the late M. William Adler’s sons, awarded four scholarships to students at LCHS during an awards ceremony.

LCHS senior Derek Garrett and Webster County’s Chance McCoy received four-year awards. Each will receive $1,000 per year for four years of college. Receiving $1,000 prizes were: Timothy “Orion” Wyatt, Lindsay Hamric, and Christopher Darlington from LCHS. Gilmer County senior Brittany McHenry also received a one-year award. The one-year awardees can reapply after their freshmen year.

Derek Garrett is the son of Mike and Brenda Garrett of Horner. He is currently in school at WVU in animal and nutritional science and plans on going on to medical school. He was very active in FFA and 4-H. He served as senior class president and had a number of community activities.

Christopher Darlington is the son of Jamey and Steven Darlington. He was very active in Boy Scouts of America and earned his Eagle Scout designation in 2006. He was also active in LCHS baseball, Young Democrats, and Book Club. He is attending WVU in a medical field.

Lindsay Hamric is the daughter of Richard and Carolyn Hamric of Jane Lew. She is studying nursing at WV Wesleyan College. Lindsay was active in National Honor Society and Student Council in high school. She was also involved in a number of community activities.

Timothy “Orion” Wyatt is the son of Timothy and Tawney Wyatt of McCann’s Run. He is attending WVU in nursing. He was involved in several activities in high school, including soccer, FFA, Channel 9, basketball, and tennis to name a few.

Pictured above are: left to right, Billy Adler, who presented the scholarships, Derek Garrett, Christopher Darlington, Timothy “Orion” Wyatt, and Lindsay Hamric.
Pics from SJMH’s Hospital Picnic

SJMH employees and family members are pictured clockwise beginning at the left: Rick Thomason with his son Austin; Kara Allman, Sarah Casey, Patty Casey, and Emily Casey; Melissa Heckert and Jodi Daniels; Jennifer Wilfong and Erin Boner; Chace Ruble and Tim John; Arnold Bender and Andy Bender; Richard Moneyepenny and son, Josh.
Rick and Tammy Thomason are very proud of their son, Austin Thomason, 6. Austin capped off his wrestling season with the state championship in the 5-6 year old, 40-pound weight class. His record was 34-8 in his third year of wrestling. His father wrestled in high school and is attempting to relive those glory days through his son. Rick is MRI supervisor here at SJMH. Rick has been coaching for five years. The tournament was in Clarksburg.

Melissa and Steve Rogers’ son, Kyle, was also a standout in the field of wrestling. The 10-year-old wrestler also won a state championship in the 100-pound weight class at a tournament in Beckley. This was Kyle’s second state championship. Steve was also a wrestler in high school with Rick. Kyle's record during the season was 40-5. Kyle is an excellent wrestler, as shown by his record.

“He is very coachable and understands the intricacies of wrestling,” said Rick Thomason. “The future of Lewis County wrestling looks very promising.”

Goodbye, Vince

Vincent “Vince” Lively passed away on July 1, 2008, in his sleep. The Cairn Terrier was the longtime companion of the late Dr. Charles Lively. After Dr. Lively passed away, Vince lived his remaining years with Tammy Taylor, of the Lab. Tammy said that Vince died peacefully in his sleep.
Laura Lightner is January Pick

Laura Lightner, of the Radiology Department, was selected as the Employee of the Month for January 2008. She began work at SJMH in October 1999.

Laura is originally from Taylor County but now lives at Lost Creek with her husband, Don, and two children, Nicholas, a student at WVU, and Abigail. Her parents, Roger and Lois Sandy, reside at Rosemont. She is a graduate of Flemington High School. She graduated from the UHC School of Radiology in 1992.

Laura noted that she enjoys working with the great people in radiology. The department is like a family and her co-workers are her very good friends.

Laura’s nominator was very complimentary of her as a co-worker and wrote, “Laura is an extraordinarily hard worker. She is very knowledgeable in many areas of our department. She does a wonderful job with our mammogram quality assurance system. She covers multiple shifts and is a true asset to our dept.”

Her department head, Brenda Moody, was also very complimentary of Laura’s skills.

“Laura is in charge of the mammogram quality assurance (QA). She is responsible for the mammogram QA requirements and also does x-rays and CTs. Laura puts 100% into her work, especially in her care of the patient,” said Brenda.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading and being with her children and husband.

Amanda Queen Chosen for February

Amanda Queen was chosen as the Employee of the Month for February 2008.

She began employment at the Hospital in June 2003 in the Radiology Department as a secretary.

Amanda is married to Thomas Queen. The couple has three children – Sara, Lucas, and Jackson. Her parents are Ernest and Linda James of Weston. Amanda received several nice compliments on her nomination.

The nominator wrote, “Amanda is an asset to our radiology department. She is always very helpful and kind to patients and co-workers. She is very knowledgeable in the use of the computer system; patient preparation; and scheduling. Along with Aimee Vankirk, she keeps the office running well.”

Her department head, Brenda Moody, wrote, “Amanda works well with her co-workers, physician offices and patients. She cares enough to make sure patient and family members are taken care of correctly.”

Amanda noted, “My department is made up of some very generous, caring and sweet people. We get along very well. I enjoy coming in to work every day and that is so important to be happy.”
Kathy Parks-McIe is Chosen for March

Kathy Parks-McIe was chosen as the Employee of the Month for March 2008 at SJMH. She is a night-shift nurse on the medical/surgical unit and began work at the Hospital in June 2005.

Kathy is a Buckhannon resident. She graduated from Buckhannon-Upshur High School and received her nursing degree from Davis and Elkins College. She also has a degree from a legal secretarial school.

She is the daughter of Donald Parks and the late Judy Parks of Buckhannon. She is married to Jimmie McIe, who is employed by A.F. Wendling. Kathy has three children – Judy, Rickie, and Jonathan. Judy is married to Jimmy Smith of Buckhannon and the couple has a girl, Alicia.

Kathy enjoys her work and was very positive about her co-workers at SJMH.

“I love my job and enjoy my co-workers. I learn something from each and every one of them every day,” she said.

Kathy’s nominator was very positive about the nurse and wrote, “Kathleen is always pleasant and willing to help with a patient, even when it is not one of her own. For example, she gladly helped the lab technician with a blood draw. She displays a very caring and compassionate attitude toward the patients. She is truly one of the ‘nice’ people in this hospital.”

Kathy really enjoys being with her children and grandchild, but she also has another interest.

“I have been breeding Yorkshire terriers and English mastiffs for the past eleven years. I really enjoy seeing the delight on a person’s face when they get their puppy,” she said.

Melody Butcher is April Employee

Registration clerk Melody Butcher was selected as Employee of the Month for April 2008. She has been employed by SJMH since 2000.

Melody’s nominator was very complimentary of her skills.

“Melody has a pleasant personality when dealing with the public as well as co-workers. She knows her job and is very efficient in doing it. She will help anywhere when needed. She will work all shifts. Melody is a very caring person, always willing to help whoever needs it,” the nominator wrote.

Melody is a Lewis County High School graduate but now lives in Sutton. Her parents, Nick and Betsy Butcher, live in Lewis County. She has three siblings, Nick, Matthew, and Elizabeth; and one sister-in-law, Lora. Her fiancé, Earl Ridgeway, is a correctional officer.

Melody was very pleased with the honor and noted, “I love my job because of the people I get to work with and also the patients. After working here for 8 years, you learn a lot about them and become friends.”

Melody enjoys the outdoors as well as being with her family.
Bea Brown is May Employee of Month

Bea Brown of the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital Surgery Department was chosen as the May 2008 Employee of the Month.

She began her employment at SJMH in December 1990 in the Dietary Department. She then moved to Housekeeping in 1995, and Surgery in 2000. She is a Lewis County High School graduate and attended WV Business College. She is a resident of Hacker’s Creek, in Lewis County.

Bea and her husband, Donald, have two children. Her son, Donald, Jr., is married to Crystal Webb. The couple lives at McWhorter. She also has a daughter, Ashley. Her parents are Ruby and Ray Higgins of Weston.

Her nominator was very complimentary of Bea’s work ethic in her job here.

Bea enjoys boating at Stonewall Jackson Lake with her family. She also loves to hunt for morel mushrooms when they are in season. She likes to camp and travel. Summertime is a good time to go to yard sales, Bea said.

Bea was equally complimentary of her co-workers. “I work with very good people in this department,” she said. “Surgery is very interesting and I have learned quite a bit. We just work very well together. I would also like to thank the nominator and the committee for awarding me this honor.”

Balser is Selected as EOM for June

Wanda Balser, of the Emergency Department, was selected as Employee of the Month for June 2008. She began work at SJMH in February 2007.

She and her husband, Roger, live at Crawford. The couple has two children - Josh, a journeyman for Penn Line, and Brianna, a student at LCHS. Her parents are Ruby and Jake Wilkinson of Charleston.

Wanda is a graduate of Dupont High School in Kanawha County. She worked at Buckhannon’s Holbrook Nursing Home as a CNA. At SJMH, she has worked in several departments and is now an Emergency Department secretary/technician.

Wanda’s nominators were very complimentary.

“Wanda is pleasant, hard-working and always goes the extra mile for all patients. She takes excellent care of her patients. She makes the unit look nice and decorates for the holidays. On the night shift, all her patients are bathed, and those that refuse she encourages to bathe. All of her rooms are presentable to anyone who visits.” wrote the nominators.

“She is a great asset to this hospital and we are very thankful she is in our unit. She has expressed interest in furthering her education as a nurse. She always encourages everyone - staff and patients. Wanda has a positive attitude,” they concluded.

Wanda was happy with the honor and said, “I love the people I work with. I would like to thank those who nominated me.”

In her spare time, she likes to go to NASCAR or the beach. She enjoys scrapbooking, too.
Nick Bakas, of the Maintenance Department, was selected as Employee of the Month for July 2008. Nick began work in the SJMH Maintenance Department in 1992. He is the son of Janet and Chick Lockard of Weston, and Stanley Bakas of Upshur County. Nick is married to Cathy Queen. He has a daughter, 20-year-old Ashley Bakas.

He is a graduate of Lewis County High School and attended Salem College.

Nick is happy here at SJMH. He noted that he enjoys his co-workers.

“We all work very well together in the Shop,” he said.

He has the respect of other SJMH employees and Nick’s nomination was signed by twelve members of the nursing staff.

The nominators wrote, “No matter what Nick is doing he will drop it to help anyone out. He is very helpful to the nurses at night when we need something out of the storeroom; he is always there to help. And it is good to have Nick around when we need to call ‘Doctor Strong!’ He is very kind to staff and patients.”

He enjoys playing golf and supporting the West Virginia University Mountaineers.

“I just enjoy anything outside,” he commented.

Steve Butcher, from SJMH’s Maintenance Department, was selected as the Employee of the Month for August 2008.

He is an Upshur County native and now lives in Jane Lew with his family. He attended Fairmont State College, as well as Fred Eberle Technical School and United Technical Center. He began employment at SJMH in 2006 as an electrician.

Steve and his wife, Anna (Frazier), have three children - Andrew, Anthony, and Savanna.

Steve’s nominators wrote, “Steve is such an asset to this hospital. He always has a smile. When asked to perform any task, he does so with a smile and without complaining. It is always a joy to work with him.”

His supervisor also wrote, “Steve is overdue as a nominee. He is conscientious and courteous. He is always looking for issues and problems to solve. Steve is an invaluable member of the department and deserves this honor.”

Steve was also complimentary of the SJMH staff.

“It is like a family here,” said Steve. “Everyone works together as a team.”

In his spare time, Steve is working on an addition to his home. He also enjoys hunting and fishing.
Former SJMH Pharmacist Passes Away

The staff members at SJMH were saddened by the passing of longtime pharmacy head, Nick Linger.

His obituary is as follows:

Nicholas Dolley Linger III passed away on April 2, 1962 until 1977, and then as a partner at Hardman’s Pharmacy in Weston until 1992. He was a consultant pharmacist at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital in Weston from 1980 until 1992, when he became the director of pharmacy for the hospital until his retirement in 2004. During his career, he also served as a consultant pharmacist at various other locations in Clarksburg and Minnie Hamilton Health Care Center in Grantsville.

Lois Lamb Succumbs to Cancer

Lois Lamb’s many friends and co-workers were very saddened by her passing in the spring. She was a long-time SJMH employee.

Her obituary follows:

Lois Lamb, 53, of Weston, passed away Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at her residence, after a long battle with cancer.

She was born March 1, 1955, in Lewis County, a daughter of Orval L. Lamb and Juanita Carder Lamb, of Jane Lew.

She is survived by three sisters, Patricia J. Cress of Weston, Kathy F. Smith and husband Russ of Weston, and Kimberly J Oxley and husband Allen of Thornville, Ohio.

Lois was also the proud aunt of five nephews, Chris Franklin, Sean Cress, Michael B. Franklin, Gary L. Lamb, and Robbie Smith; and two nieces, Taylor Oxley and Alexis Oxley.

She was preceded in death by one brother, Gary Lee Lamb; one nephew, Kyle Lee Cress; maternal grandparents, Doy and Ada Talbott; and paternal grandparents, Charles and Sara Lamb.

Lois was a graduate of Lewis County High School, Class of 1973. She retired from Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital with 32 years of service. She was a Mary Kay Beauty consultant for many years and a member of St. Matthew United Methodist Church.

Lois had many friends and family members who will miss her deeply. Friends were received at the Boyle Funeral Home. Funeral services were held on Sat., April 19, at St. Matthew United Methodist Church, with Rev. Jonathan Nettles officiating. Interment followed at Rock Grove Cemetery, Linn, WV.

THANKS

The family of Anna Marie Riffle Goldsmith would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our many friends and family for their support and compassion shown to us during the passing of our daughter, wife, mother, aunt, and niece. Those who sent cards, flowers, food or just said a kind word are greatly appreciated. Thank you all at EMS, WVFD, City Police, City of Weston, Street Dept., City Municipal Building, Buckhannon Wal-Mart, Weston Hardee’s, Weston Sheetz, Weston Dairy Mart, Weston Treatment Plant, Our Neighbor, Weston Mayor, neighbors, Boyle Funeral Home, Pastor Jimmy Joe Johnson and Father McSweeney. A special thank you to Chief of Police Robbie Clem.

Sincerely,

Former Board Member Robert Earle Passes Away

Robert Stanley Earle of Weston, and recently of Charleston, died May 25, 2008, at Hubbard Hospice House. He was 89. He was born Nov. 13, 1918, in Clarksburg, to the late Guy H. and Rosalie H. Earle.

He was a 1936 graduate of Washington Irving High School and a 1940 graduate of West Virginia University. He was in the first graduating class of the P.I. Reed School of Journalism and was elected editor of the Daily Athenaeum, the student newspaper.

He was working on the Grafton Sentinel when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Shortly afterwards, he enlisted in the U.S Army. He was a cryptographer in the Signal Corps, U.S. Intelligence, obtaining the rank of captain when the war ended.

In 1942, he married the late Nancy Thrasher of Clarksburg, who preceded him in death in 1985.

In 1946, he went to work as a reporter for The Weston Democrat, three years later, he and the late George I. Davison bought the weekly newspaper.

For more than 40 years, he was publisher and editor of The Weston Democrat. He covered news and sports events of Lewis County, sold advertising, laid out pages, and wrote all the editorials and a weekly column--Town Topics. For many years, The Democrat was the largest weekly newspaper in West Virginia.

He was active in the West Virginia Press Association and in the community. He was the recipient of the Alumni of the Year Award from the WVU School of Journalism and the lifetime achievement award from the WV Press Association.

In Weston, he was one of original organizers of the Stonewall Jackson Jubilee. He served on the regional library commission and, for nearly 30 years, on the board of directors of Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital.

He was a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, where he served several terms on the vestry.

He enjoyed golf, skiing, and traveling, especially his numerous trips to England. He was a loyal fan of the WVU Mountaineers.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his brothers, John and Lawrence Earle.

He is survived by his daughters, Nancy Westberg and her husband, Arnold Westberg, of Calgary, Canada, and Rosalie Earle of Charleston; brother Guy of Savannah, Georgia; grandchildren Elizabeth, and Eric Westberg; several nephews and a niece.
Births

Mindy Randal, of ICU, is the proud mother of a baby girl born on July 7, 2008. Little Kirsten Renee weighed six pounds, and was nineteen and one-half inches long. Kirsten's grandmother, Debbie, also works here at SJMH on the Med/Surg unit.

Tonya Stewart, of the SJMH Surgery Department, is the proud mother of a new baby boy. Zane Everet was born on July 6, 2008, to Tonya and her husband, Shawn. Zane weighed eight pounds, five ounces, and was twenty-two and one-half inches long. Tonya's husband works for Chapman Technical in Buckhannon.

Former Board Member Dr. Wagoner Passes Away

Dr. Charles H. Wagoner, 84, of Weston, passed away Sept. 24, 2008, in Parkersburg, following an extended illness.

He was born in Parkersburg, on Nov. 18, 1923, son of the late Charles H. and Alice (Woodruff) Wagoner.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Ellen; daughter, Janis McGinnis and husband, Tom, of Vienna; son, Clint Wagoner of Key West, Fla.; two grandsons, Eric McGinnis and wife, Erica, of Scott Depot, and Todd McGinnis and wife, Kim, of Vienna; great-granddaughters, Olivia and Anna McGinnis of Scott Depot; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Catherine Ann Linger; and one infant brother, David.

Dr. Wagoner graduated from Weston High School in 1941. While attending West Virginia University, he was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity. He graduated from Georgetown University School of Dentistry, specializing in oral surgery. Dr. Wagoner had a dental practice in Weston for over 40 years.

He was a member of the Lewis County Board of Education for 24 years and served two terms on the West Virginia School Board, including twice as its president. While on the State Board, he was a representative on the Secondary Schools Activities Commission, West Virginia Education Fund, and West Virginia School Building Authority. In 1995, he was named Distinguished West Virginian by Gov. Gaston Caperton. He was on the Board of Directors of Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital, chief of medical staff, and served on multiple medical and staff committees. He was a lifetime member of St. Matthew United Methodist Church of Weston and a member of American Legion Post 4 of Weston. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.

Family and friends were received from 4-8 p.m. Monday, September 29, at the Hardman-Paletti Funeral Home, Weston. Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 30, at the funeral home chapel, with the Rev. Jonathan Nettles officiating. Entombment followed services in the Sunset Memory Gardens, Parkersburg.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Charles H. Wagoner Children’s Dental Health Fund, c/o Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital, 230 Hospital Plaza, Weston, WV 26452.

Children’s Christmas Party

The Children’s Christmas Party will be held on Fri., Dec. 12, at the Lewis County Senior Center, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Pics from the SJMH Awards Dinner

35-Year Awardee
LaDonna Sprouse

30-Year Awardee
Ruth Ann Butcher

30-Year Awardee
Rusty Simpson

15-Year Awardees
Pictured below, left to right,
Roberta Gaines, Gavin “Nick” Bakas, Ronda Brown

30-Year Awardee
Denny Marple

20-Year Awardee
Lisa McClain

10-Year Awardees
Pictured above, left to right, Debra Gum, Brigetta Fisher, Tammy Moody, Debbie Sholes

5-Year Awardees
Pictured above, left to right, Sandy Smith, Stella Ocheltree, Keith Chapman
2008 National Patient Safety Goals

Note: Changes to the Goals and Requirements are indicated in bold. Gaps in the numbering indicate that the Goal is inapplicable to the program or has been “retired,” usually because the requirements were integrated into the standards.

This year’s new requirements (3E and 16A) have a one-year phase-in period that includes defined expectations for planning, development and testing (“milestones”) at 3, 6 and 9 months in 2008, with the expectation of full implementation by January 2009. See the Implementation Expectations for milestones.

Goal 1 Improve the accuracy of patient identification.

1A Use at least two patient identifiers when providing care, treatment or services.

Goal 2 Improve the effectiveness of communication among caregivers.

2A For verbal or telephone orders or for telephonic reporting of critical test results, verify the complete order or test result by having the person receiving the information record and “read-back” the complete order or test result.

2B Standardize a list of abbreviations, acronyms, symbols, and dose designations that are not to be used throughout the organization.

2C Measure and assess, and if appropriate, take action to improve the timeliness of reporting, and the timeliness of receipt by the responsible licensed caregiver, of critical test results and values.

2E Implement a standardized approach to “hand off” communications, including an opportunity to ask and respond to questions.

Goal 3 Improve the safety of using medications.

3C Identify and, at a minimum, annually review a list of look-alike/sound-alike drugs used by the organization, and take action to prevent errors involving the interchange of these drugs.

3D Label all medications, medication containers (for example, syringes, medicine cups, basins), or other solutions on and off the sterile field.

3E Reduce the likelihood of patient harm associated with the use of anticoagulation therapy.

Goal 7 Reduce the risk of health care-associated infections.

7A Comply with current World Health Organization (WHO) Hand Hygiene Guidelines or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hand hygiene guidelines.

7B Manage as sentinel events all identified cases of unanticipated death or major permanent loss of function associated with a health care-associated infection.

Goal 8 Accurately and completely reconcile medications across the continuum of care.

8A There is a process for comparing the patient’s current medications with those ordered for the patient while under the care of the organization.

8B A complete list of the patient’s medications is communicated to the next provider of service when a patient is referred or transferred to another setting, service, practitioner or level of care within or outside the organization. The complete list of medications is also provided to the patient on discharge from the facility.

Goal 9 Reduce the risk of patient harm resulting from falls.

9B Implement a fall reduction program including an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program.

Goal 13 Encourage patients’ active involvement in their own care as a patient safety strategy.

13A Define and communicate the means for patients and their families to report concerns about safety and encourage them to do so.

Goal 15 The organization identifies safety risks inherent in its patient population.

15A The organization identifies patients at risk for suicide. [Applicable to psychiatric hospitals and patients being treated for emotional or behavioral disorders in general hospitals.

Goal 16 Improve recognition and response to changes in a patient’s condition.

16A The organization selects a suitable method that enables health care staff members to directly request additional assistance from a specially trained individual(s) when the patient’s condition appears to be worsening.

Notes of Thanks

Thanks
Our family would like to express our thanks to the doctors, nurses, and staff members at SJMH. From the emergency room, to the first floor ICU, and then to the second floor, for the care given to our beloved father. Everyone’s display of kindness and compassion showed us you truly did care for our dad. May God’s blessings be with each of you.

A patient’s family.

I wanted to let you know you have the best bunch of nurses here. They have all been so good to me. I don’t have one complaint about anything. Anything I needed they helped me with. Dietary was really nice too. If I didn’t like something or if I wanted something different, they got it for me as long as it was in my diet.

The SJMH staff received a call from a patient who said, “I know that I can be a pain, but I was sick and you took care of me. It is hard to be sick and in the Hospital, but two of the nurses especially made it bearable – Gay Spaur and Kathy McIe. I want you to tell them that they are good nurses.”
**Quality of Care is a Mandate**

By Avah Stalnaker

Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital’s mission, in part, is to provide the best care to our patients. In order to do that, SJMH is committed to assessing the quality of care provided and to continue to seek methods of improving both our evaluation and our delivery of patient care. Quality of care is a mandate from the Board of Directors to administration, the medical staff, and each and every employee. Many tools and programs are in place to improve the process.

Many suggestions are received from patients and families. These are evaluated, responded to and many are implemented. The patient’s/family’s perception of care is permanent. There is one particular incident that I will never forget. The name of the hospital durable medical equipment company is Stonewall Home Oxygen Therapy and the initials are SHOT. This acronym is stamped on the side of oxygen tanks taken into patient homes. One patient complained that her oxygen tank was empty. The technician tried to explain that the tank had been checked and it was full. The patient responded that, “It says right on the side of the tank that it is SHOT.” A very legitimate comment from the patient’s perspective that staff had not considered.

During the past few years, the staff at SJMH has instituted several patient safety features. Medications are now bar coded. Before a patient receives most medications, the bar code on the outside is scanned by the nurse and this determines that this is a medication ordered by the physician in the right dosage and that it is the correct time for the patient to get this medication. The patient’s arm band is then scanned to make sure that the right patient is receiving the right medication. This system has prevented several medication errors from occurring.

The Joint Commission’s National Patient Safety Goals are now followed routinely by all staff at SJMH. The goals were established to protect patients and staff by making sure the right patient was the one going to surgery, for the correct surgery and that all needed equipment was ready for the patient.

Drugs with similar names and similar looks have been separated from each other so no one inadvertently picks up the wrong drug.

SJMH participates in several quality projects such as the West Virginia Medical Institute’s in the study of patient falls and surgical infections.

Medicare will soon be releasing information to the public about quality of care issues of both the hospitals and the physicians. It is a challenge to provide quality of care in an environment that is financially underfunded. Emergency department visits are increasing with more patients who have no insurance. Many visits are for non-emergent reasons because these patients have no means to pay a family doctor.

One focus of Joint Commission in 2009 is leadership. Leadership is expected to maintain the culture of patient safety by coordinating all aspects of care. There can be no weak links in the process.

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**Exciting Things Planned at SJMH**

By Deb Corder

Making health information clear is not always easy; staying on top of quality assurance is not always easy but a definite must for any hospital. Getting this information to the patients who need it can be even harder. Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital wants the public to know what they are doing in quality assurance for the progression of patient care and they want the public to ask!

The hospital has many exciting things planned for the next four years; change is in the air and we want to take our loyal community with us. New physicians will be coming, offering services that our community needs and has requested. It is with pleasure and excitement that we supply those physician services to our patients.

The hospital is surveyed once every three years by Joint Commission but our internal QA goes on every day with many different agencies. We are active participants with WVMI in CORE Measures (a system that tracks our best hospital practices); WVMI falls team where we report out our falls and trend with other like hospitals. CMS guidelines and the OHFLAC office (Office of Health Facility and Licensure) is a crosswalk with our Joint Commission standards; National Patient Safety Goals are not only enforced but used by the hospital for practice guidelines and policy reform.

Every day we use all our resources to ensure that we give the best possible care, changing as we go and where quality indicators say we should.

It is with honor we participate and anticipate the review of each of these quality organizations. It is our goal that the community we serve knows we are being watched over and freely participate plus show aggression in the pursuit of quality care for our patients.

We actively have a hospital-wide safety team, Integrated Quality Management Committee, Joint Commission leadership committee, complaint management resources and an active FMEA in the hospital’s present setting. We grow daily in what we learn and monitor our progress in the things that we change. In our review of quality assurance we keep our Board of Directors, Administration and the line staff tied as a team with these committees and many more each month as a standard hospital practice.

It is with great pleasure that we will be integrating WVMI one more time with us in an effort to compete and meet more of the best practices set forth in the CORE Measures guideline.

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**NOTICE**

The annual Soc/Rec Craft Show will be Fri., Nov. 14, in the SJMH Boardroom and Classroom.
I would like to thank Tammy in the ER for her hospitality. She went out of her way to make a pot of coffee for me and to refill it later on. It was after hours and no way to get to the machines or cafeteria. Her kindness was greatly appreciated. This occurred on Aug. 12, 2008.

If her hospitality is indicative of all the employees at SJMH, it shows this hospital has great qualities.

Thank You,
Patient Family

Dear Kristi and George,

Thank you so much for sharing new exercises with the residents of Crestview. The heart health fitness tips were great! They still continue to talk about it. We posted the pictures of them exercising. The families love it too.

Thanks Again,
Vinessia Skinner

Keep A Smile On Your Face