Irvin Named 2003 Employee of the Year; Wood Given Service Recognition Award

Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital employee Leatha Irvin was honored as Employee of the Year 2003 and R. Gerald Wood was given recognition for his service to the Hospital at a recent dinner.

Two hundred thirty individuals were present for the 19th annual Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital Awards Dinner held on Sat., Feb. 7, at WVU Jackson’s Mill.

The program began at 6 p.m. with a welcome from SJMH Administrator David D. Shaffer. Board member Gerald Wood presented the invocation with a special remembrance of deceased employees Priscilla Gaines and Nancy Marshall.

The guests enjoyed entrees of baked chicken and cheese ravioli with vegetables. After dinner, the awards presentation began.

Associate Administrator Avah Stalnaker presented the award to Irvin. In her remarks, Stalnaker noted that it was always a difficult decision for SJMH employees to pick the Employee of the Year from the 12 Employees of the Month.

She also said that this employee was given high marks by her co-workers.

When asked about the Employee of the Year, SJMH employees said that this person was loyal, willing to help, wonderful to patients and co-workers, never complained, thorough, efficient, compassionate, and does more than her share of work.

“This employee is interested in home schooling, Sunday school teaching and crocheting. “She graduated from Buckhannon-Upshur High School in 1981 and attended Fairmont State College from 1981 to 1985. She received her LPN degree from Fred Eberle School of Practical Nursing in 1991. She worked at Holbrook Nursing Home until 1992. She came to Stonewall Jackson in June 1992.

“She and her husband, Rodney, have

New Surgeon Will Be Here April 19

Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. John J. Thomas to the Hospital staff as a general surgeon. He will begin his practice here on April 19, next to Dr. LaNasa’s office in Physician Building No. Two.

Dr. Thomas attained his undergraduate degree from Denison College, Granville, Ohio, in 1986. He graduated from the Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1994. He performed his residency at Mount Carmel Health, Columbus, Ohio. He has been staff surgeon, assistant director of surgical clinics, and more recently medical director of surgical clinics at St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown, Ohio.

Since 2002, he has been assistant professor of clinical surgery at NorthMethodist Hospital, Youngstown, Ohio.
Hospital Saddened By Passing of Della Gray

Our SJMH family has lost one of our members. Special Delivery Unit Nurse Della Gray passed away Saturday, Feb. 21, 2004 at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown. Della was 55 years old, having been born on June 10, 1948, in Ashtabula, Ohio, a daughter of the late Ruth Cowger Cool and Ottawa Cool of Webster Springs, WV. She was married to Alvin R. Gray. Surviving are a daughter, Tanya Bolyard and husband, Rodney, of Elkins; two brothers, Walter Cool of Clarksville, KY, and Leo Cool of Littleton, CO; four sisters, Pam Dalzell, Beckley; Sandra Henline and Cathy Cowger, both of Webster Springs, and Ruth Morris of Summersville; two grandsons, Kevin and Daniel Gray of Elkins.

preceding her in death was a son, Kevin Gray.

Mrs. Gray was employed as a registered nurse at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital and Nella’s Nursing Home.

A funeral service was held on Wed., Feb. 25, at the Tomblyn Funeral Home in Elkins, with Pastor Dave Collins officiating.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center Development Office, PO Box 9300, Morgantown, WV 26506, in memory of Mrs. Gray.

Della is remembered as a very giving individual. As one OB employee said, “She was a real sweetheart.”

**Awards Dinner**

three children - Betty, a student at Fairmont State College; Bobbie Jo, a senior in high school; and Rodney Jr., a freshman in high school. She is the daughter of Gerald and Jean Childress of Buckhannon.

“Let’s have a round of applause for Leatha Irvin, the 2003 Employee of the Year,” said Stanaker.

Administrator David Shaffer spoke of the recipient of SJMH’s Service Award for 2003. He noted that Gerald Wood had lived in the community for over 40 years.

Wood was born in Lillibrook, WV, in 1930, the youngest of seven children. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1948. He joined the United States Navy and served as a corpsman on medical cruises in the Mediterranean. His last year of service was spent in Hawaii.

After returning to West Virginia, he spent some time as a pharmaceutical salesman and then decided to attend WVU’s pharmacy school. He married Mary Jo Elliott in 1955. The couple had two children, Jerry and Jill.

He came to Weston in 1959 to intern at Hardman’s Pharmacy. The following year, he became a business partner in the store.

Throughout his residency in Weston, Gerald has been involved in numerous activities. He was involved in the raising of funds for Stonewall Jackson Hospital in 1966. He has been involved with St. Matthew Methodist Church, the Lions Club, the Shrine Club, Lewis County Board of Education, and the Hospital Board of Directors. In 1982 he was named Lewis County Chamber Member of the Year.

After his wife’s death in 1996, Gerald was fortunate to find a lady of charm, the former Lana Blackburn, to whom he is now married.

He has three grandchildren, Doug, Sara, and Josh, whom he and Lana enjoy very much.

Employees of the Month for 2003 were:

Earnie Greenlief - January; Rick Simpson - February; Lisa Beall - March; Carol McCray - April; Carl Furbee - May; Vonda Straley - June; Leatha Irvin - July; Donna Snyder - August; John Weber - September; Donna Brooks - October; Brenda Ratliff - November; Marcie Stump - December

The following employees were honored with years of service pins: 40 years - Billie Harris, Susie Stasel; 35 years - Lucille Hicks, Jack Scarff; 30 years - Harriet Williams, Martha Tierney; 25 years - Diane Ocheltree, Chuck Simpson, Linda Thompson; 20 years - Kay Butcher; 15 years - Sarah Brown, Pam Thompson; 10 years - Wanda Bender, Pat Carder, Cheryl Huff, Brenda King, Elizabeth Laughlin, Nancy Moody, Edith Withers; 5 years - Lenni Bleigh, Brandy Burkhammer, Amy Coffman, Sandra Coffman, Robin Drake, Roberta Ellyson, Leatha Irvin, Kathy James, Ellen Ketron, Michelle Parsons, Karen Rinker, Heather Sessions, Alisa Sisley, Brenda Smarr, Julia Spelsberg, Marcie Stump, Aimee Vankirk.

After the awarding of prizes, celebrants moved to the West Virginia Building for a dance with music by Dover Crossing.

**Surgeon**

Continued from page one eastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine.

Associate Administrator Avah Stalnaker is delighted with the recruitment of Dr. Thomas and another specialist to our staff.

“Dr. John Thomas will be starting April 19. With his experience as a general surgeon as well as a trauma surgeon he will bring a wealth of surgical knowledge to the area and our Hospital. He will also be able to offer vascular surgery,” noted Avah. “We also have signed an ENT, who is finishing his fellowship at Harvard in pediatric otorhinolaryngology. Dr. Kamil will be here in July.”
NURSE OVERTIME BILL TOO EXCLUSIVE!

West Virginia Governor Bob Wise has signed a bill that beginning May 17 will prohibit some hospitals from requiring nurses to work overtime except in emergency situations such as natural disasters, terrorism or disease outbreaks.

The Nurse Overtime and Patient Safety Act, signed into law February 25, applies to hospital registered nurses, except nurse managers, and to certified or licensed practical nurses. There was an attempt to include anesthetists but they objected so strongly they were omitted from the bill.

The bill, which creates a new state bureaucracy, is being promoted as a recruitment and retention tool, in addition to enhancing patient safety. The theory is, that if a nurse is required to work too many hours, he or she may be too tired to provide adequate patient care and ultimately, the patient will suffer.

With further scrutiny, the bill falters. First of all, we do not need another bureaucracy when the state is already 130 million dollars in debt. Secondly, state hospitals are not included in the bill. One should ask, why are state hospitals excluded from the perceived safety benefits advanced by the act? Also, why are some nurses (anesthetists) allowed to simply opt out? Are we to conclude that nurses opting out are not subject to overtime safety concerns? Lastly, the bill does not apply if nurses volunteer to work overtime, hence, no safety issues. If nurses are required to work overtime, all of a sudden, there are safety issues. At best, this is a convoluted rationale for regulation and unworthy of the legislature’s time.

In a nutshell, this bill is so full of holes it’s a real stretch to suggest it addresses patient safety. If patient safety is truly the concern, how can you justify omitting huge numbers of nurses from the bill? This bill is more conspicuous because of those excluded than for those covered.

In the final analysis it is much-to-do about nothing!

Lewis County’s Energy Express is a reading/nutrition program provided to county children during the summer. Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital is a contributor to the program. Pictured above, left to right, are Dr. Charles Wagoner and SJMH Associate Administrator Avah Stalnaker, who presented Dr. Wagoner with the hospital’s annual contribution. Dr. Wagoner, who has served on the local and state boards of education, has been an advocate for the program since its inception.

WONDERFUL HONOR

The Upshur County Chamber of Commerce recently awarded Nina Scattaregia the Athena Award. This award honors outstanding professional and business women in the community, and especially those who mentor others and provide a role model to encourage women to achieve their full leadership potential. Nina is the founder of the Dance Factory and Augusta Youth Ballet Company. She is the wife of Dr. Frank Scattaregia of SJMH.
Service Award Winners Pictured

Billie Harris
40-Year Service Pin Awardee

Jack Scarff
30-Year Service Pin Awardee

Chuck Simpson and Diane Ocheltree
25-Year Service Pin Awardees

Sarah Brown and Pam Thompson
15-Year Service Pin Awardees

Pat Carder, Brenda King, and Nancy Moody
10-Year Service Pin Awardees

At Left...
5-Year Service Pin Awardees
Julia Speelsberg, Ellen Ketron,
Leatha Irvin, Lenni Bleigh, Aimee Vankirk, Brenda Smarr, Heather Sessions, Karen Rinker, and Alisa Sisley

NOTICE
The CWV TEL Federal Credit Union is having the annual meeting on Sat., March 20. The meeting will be held at the Village Square Conference Center in Clarksburg. Tickets are still available. Call 623-6800 to buy one.
KUDOS TO:

Dr. Naim, Dr. Shreves, Midwife Vicki Smith, Dr. Naim’s staff, R.H.E.P., the medical students, nursing students, and pharmacy students, Kathy Helmick, and news media who made the Free Women’s Health Screening such a wonderful success.

Stacie Cooley for going out of her way to help patients.

The emergency department for their high census...75 patients were seen on Nov. 23. The department had record high censuses in Nov. and Dec.

All the ancillary departments that work with the ED and made these record breakers possible.

Avah Stalnaker and other staff members for their recruitment of a new surgeon and ENT.

SJ Home Care for the luncheon provided to the Theresa Snaith Auxiliary.

All the kind people who celebrated the PR Director’s birthday. You all made her feel very, very good.

the Auxiliary for buying the cafeteria an on-the-counter enclosed cooler.

Chuck Simpson and his loss of at least 100 pounds ... AND Chuck was able to do it all on his own.

the Auxiliary board for their delicious treats during the annual Valentine’s Day “Floating Punchbowl.”

Coach Rick Thomason for his work with young wrestlers. If you have the time, Rick will be happy to tell you a few stories about his six-year-old charges.

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is regarding the nomination of Ms. Mindy Randall, NA, in the Telemetry Unit for Employee of the Month. Recently my mother was hospitalized after an extensive surgery, which involved several unexpected complications during her recovery process. Certainly her need for critical care was far greater than usual after a patient returns from surgery.

Ms. Randall was my mother’s attendant for four days. During those four days she attended to the needs of both my mother and family in a quick, sensitive and cheerful manner. She was always “on the ball”, and responded well to family members regarding mother’s problems.

Ms. Randall was special because she seemed to understand the anxiety we were experiencing, and she truly did care, not only for my family, but most importantly mother’s well-being.

After mother’s surgery, I asked her how she would describe Ms. Randall and she responded, “attentive, conscientious, and she always seemed to know what you needed before you needed it.”

I believe the desired qualities a supervisor looks for in any employee - dedication, enthusiasm, a caring heart, and knowledge - were definitely exemplified in Ms. Randall; and thus, I believe she is more than worthy of the honorary status of employee of the month.

Thank you for your consideration of Ms. Randall

Sincerely,
Leigh Ellen Eades
After the Awards Dinner, more than a hundred brave souls walked through the snow to the West Virginia Building for some good old-fashioned Rock ‘N Roll music, provided by Dover Crossing. Pictured above, left to right, are Sharon Campbell, Diane Ocheltree, and retiree Marjorie Hyatt. In the next picture, X-ray’s Traci McGill laughs it up with her hubby, Buddy; Rick and Tammy Thomason are pictured in the background. Pictured at right, Rhonda Mcle and Susan Paletti ham it up for the camera.

Proud Mother!

The Business Office’s Tedra Linger is very proud of her children. Both of them placed first in the Character Education Essay Contest held in Lewis County Schools. Her daughter, Sara, is in the sixth grade at Robert Bland Middle School and wrote about Susan B. Anthony.

Her son, Jacob, is in the fourth grade at Roanoke Elementary and wrote about Johnny Appleseed.

Each county-level winner received a $100 savings bond. The contest was sponsored by the Office of Student Assessment Services, West Virginia Department of Education.

Wedding Bells

ICU’s monitor tech, Kim Ables, was engaged on Valentine’s Day to Eberrett Clayton. The couple plan to have their wedding on October 9, 2004.

***********

ICU Nurse Manager Rochelle White will marry Troy Stephenson on June 19, 2004. Rochelle is a Bridgeport High School graduate and received her nursing degree from Fairmont State College.

The couple will be married at Simpson Creek Baptist Church.

Her fiancee has a landscaping business in Bridgeport.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to everyone who sent cards; for the phone calls, visits, prayers; and for adding me to your church’s prayer list during my recent illness. I am home and in remission and doing good. It has been a difficult six months but made so much more bearable knowing good friends were keeping me in their thoughts and prayers daily, and making sure I knew it. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To everyone who donates lifegiving blood, grateful thanks - you are super heroes!

Sandra Carpenter

Auxiliary News

The Theresa Snaith Auxiliary board was treated to a lovely luncheon at Stonewall Jackson Home Care/Stonewall Home Oxygen Therapy in February. The luncheon provided Home Care Director, Jane Eisenbeis, an opportunity to thank the Auxiliary for all they do.

At that meeting, plans were discussed for several activities in the coming months.

The Auxiliary’s Uniform Sale will be held on March 11-12. Due to the requests of Hospital personnel, the Auxiliary will also be having a uniform sale on Aug. 5-6.

On March 17, a representative of the West Virginia Alzheimer’s Association will be appearing in the Hospital’s second-floor board conference room to talk about Alzheimer’s. She will present a half-hour program at 3 p.m. A question and answer session will follow.
Linda Rhoades, of Radiology, has been selected as Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital’s employee of the month for January 2004. Linda began at SJMH in the dietary department in May 2001. In May 2002, she transferred to the Radiology Department.

Linda is married to Stewart Rhoades. The couple lives at Freemansburg. She is a graduate of Lewis County High School and is the daughter of John and Betty Rowan of Weston.

Linda’s nominators were very complimentary of her work ethic.

“She is the hardest working individual in the radiology department. Linda is very punctual, professional and proficient. She has proven to be a great asset to the Department. We wonder how we ever got along without her,” wrote the nominators.

Linda enjoys her work at SJMH, also.

“I like working with all of the people here at the Hospital,” she said. “I really enjoy interacting with the patients, too.”

Linda has four children - Anna Turner and Steven Hawkins of Weston; Chad Rhoades of Parkersburg; and Ryan Rhoades of Fairmont. She and her husband also have six grandchildren.

Cheryl Huff, of the Lab, has been selected as Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital’s employee of the month for February 2004. Cheryl has been employed at SJMH since 1993.

Cheryl is a Fairmont resident. She is married to Steve Huff. She has one son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Valerie Tonkery of Shinnston; a daughter, Lee Ann Tonkery of Fairmont; and a granddaughter, Rayanna, 4.

She is a graduate of West Fairmont High School. Cheryl received her Associate Degree as a Medical Laboratory Technician from Fairmont State College in 1993. In 2001, she became a Certified Medical Technologist.

Cheryl’s nominator was very complimentary of her work.

“Cheryl is one of the most considerate people we know. There is always a kind word or smile from her even during the most hectic times. She’s a hard worker and puts in 110% effort, always going above and beyond the call of duty. She doesn’t hesitate to help others. It’s a joy to work with her. She’s not just another co-worker. She is a good friend,” wrote the nominator.

Cheryl was equally complimentary of her fellow employees.

“I love my job. I am lucky to work with such a great bunch of people,” she said.

Cheryl is the daughter of Marguerite and the late Ray Bradley of Fairmont.

Relay For Life Planning Under Way

Organizers of the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life have begun planning for the June 11-12 event at the Lewis County Athletic Field. The Kickoff will be held Fri., March 12, at the Lewis County Emergency Squad on W. Second Street in Weston.

Co-chairwomen for this year’s event will be Jackie Fealy and Beth Gregory (Dr. Mike Gregory’s wife.)

If you are interested in organizing a team or getting involved in any other way, give PR a call at 8167.

SJMH and Stonewall Jackson Home Care are corporate sponsors for the event.
**Staff Development**

- General Orientation for new employees will be held on the following days - Mon., April 5, and Mon. April 19 @ 8:30; Mon., May 3, and Mon., May 17 @ 8:30.
- Orientation is from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the second-floor classroom. Those needing lab work or physicals should report at 8 a.m. to Registration. If at all possible, please schedule all new employees on these days.
- CPR recertification will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13 @ 1 p.m., and Tues., May 11 @ 1 p.m. You must be signed up in advance. Call 8119. All clinical staff are required to have a current card. The class may be changed to begin at noon depending on class size.
- Chaplain’s meeting will be held Wed., March 17, Wed., April 21, Wed., May 19 @ 10 a.m. in the board conference room.
- Childbirth class will be held Wed., March 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the classroom.
- PALS will be held on Sat. and Sun., May 1 and 2. Call Staff Development to reserve your spot.
- BTLS will be held June 18, 19, and 20. Call Staff Development to enroll.

**CareLearning Highlights**

- Your carelearning must be completed by the end of your birthday month;
- Courses will be position-specific this year. This means that you may have more modules or less modules than other SJMH employees.

**Talent Show Winners**

*After a four-year absence, the Soc/Rec Committee resurrected the annual talent show at this year’s Awards Dinner.*

- **Stacie Cooley**: was working in X-Ray that evening, but came out to the dinner with her beeper with her so that she could sing her song. She took first place.
- Dr. Salvatore LaNasa and his wife, Andrea, showed the audience how to dance a lovely waltz. The audience learned a step or two and awarded the couple second place.
- Nursing’s Genifer Robinson brought her sister for accompaniment on guitar. The duo wrote their own song for the competition. They took third.
- Karaoke Master Bill Czako provided karaoke and sound equipment for the talent show.

**Births**

Aimee and Clint Green announce the birth of their second child, Delaney Isabel, on Feb. 19, 2004, at SJMH. She weighed eight pounds, two and one-half ounces. She has an older sister, Madison Reese. Aimee is the human resources director at SJMH and her husband is claims manager at State Farm Insurance.

**Women’s Health Screening Serves More Than 80 Women**

More than 80 women took advantage of the Free Women’s Health Screening held on Jan. 23 and Jan. 30 in Weston. Participants could receive free PAP test, breast exam, and a variety of screenings during the screening. Dr. Tony Naim, Dr. Jennifer Shreves, and Midwife Vicki Smith provided the clinical examinations with help from medical, nursing, and pharmacy students of the WV Rural Health and Education Partnership. The Screening was done as a cooperative effort by Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital, Lewis County Health Department, WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, and WVRHEP.

**Relay for Life Teams**

The Relay for Life teams at SJMH are up and running. Housekeeping and Laundry’s Wind Walker team had a hot dog sale on Feb. 27. They made more than $200 for their effort. Plans are to have an evening-shift sale in April.

- Mary Ellen Bragg’s team - The Fast Fannies - held a raffle. The prize was a coveted parking spot in the upper lot. The big winner was Sherry Peters from Medical Records.
- Mary Ellen says that SJMH employees who park on the “Back 40” can look forward to winning parking spots belonging to directors from lab, business office, radiology AND last but not least hospital administrator.
- The Relay will be held June 11-12. SJMH and Stonewall Jackson Home Care are, again, corporate sponsors for the event.

**Tosys ‘R Us Shopping!**

The Bridgeport Toys ‘R Us has offered SJMH a wonderful opportunity. The store has a program called Corporate Shop. They have invited us to shop there on a Sunday evening from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Our goal is to have 50 employees at the store on March 28 for our Corporate Shop. PLUS there will be giveaways of 10% to 20%. There are also prizes given away during our evening and games for the children.

SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF FUN FOR US AND THE KIDS!

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SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF FUN FOR US AND THE KIDS!
To David Shaffer,

Dear Sir:

This is one of the most difficult letters that I have ever written in my life but I feel so very strongly that I must relay this information to you. My father was admitted to the Emergency Room of your hospital on Sat., Dec. 27 of this past year complaining of shortness of breath. While he was there, the Emergency Room staff did an excellent job caring for his needs. After conducting several tests, they determined that he had a heart attack and was still in the stages of having another heart attack. Once they completed their tests, he was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit where he was monitored and continued to receive quality care. The nurses and doctor that cared for my father did an excellent job and cared for Dad’s every need. While Dad was in the ICU, we could not have expected or wanted any better care and service than what we received. Our entire family was treated with the utmost care and respect. During the shift change that evening, one nurse, Lorrie Wingfield, was the primary RN that we dealt with and were involved with. My family wants you to know that we have never in all the years that my immediate and extended family has used your hospital been exposed to the care and compassion that we received from Ms. Wingfield. When things got to the point that we knew Dad was not going to be able to survive the damage done to his heart, Ms. Wingfield came to us and explained what would be happening, how it would happen and answered every question that we could possibly ask of her.

Because of the situation, she allowed my family to spend as much time with Dad as we wanted. From the point that we knew that Dad was going to die, we never left his bedside. I don’t know how many times through the night we would look over our shoulder and see Ms. Wingfield standing behind us and watching to see that Dad was made as comfortable as possible. The medicine that was administered, the cool baths that he was given, the powder rubbed on his back and the compassion that was given so freely made his final hours so much more comfortable. Not only did she care for our father, but she also watched over our Mother and the rest of the family just as if she was a member of our family. You will never know how much that meant to us and how much easier that things were for us because of her care. The quality of care, the kindness, compassion and thoughtfulness that she demonstrated will never, ever be forgotten. She was, and still is, I am sure, a credit to your hospital and to the profession she represents so well. Even though Dad died and we will always look back on that Sunday morning with almost unbearable sadness and loss, we will always know that because of one certain nurse, he died without suffering and with the greatest dignity that could have been experienced. Ms. Wingfield went above and beyond her duty and for that we as a family will be forever in her debt.

I know that as a hospital, you have a program that honors workers who excel at their job and I would respectfully ask that you honor Ms. Wingfield as one of your outstanding employees. She is kind, caring, compassionate, and an exceptional person who will forever be in our hearts.

Sincerely,

Ed Radcliff
PICTURED AT RIGHT...
Lee Walker, of the Theresa Snaith Hospital Auxiliary, organizes the hundreds of cookies for the annual Floating Punchbowl at Stone-wall Jackson Memorial Hospital. The Auxiliary treats SJMH employees to sweets and punch every year to mark Valentine’s Day. This year the event was held on Friday, Feb. 13 in the Hospital’s boardroom.

First Heart Telethon
A Great Success!!!

Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital was corporate sponsor for the first Lewis County Heart Telethon held on Feb. 7 at Lewis County High School.

Goal for the event was $10,000. Organizers were ecstatic to reach a total of $23,000 for the day. Thanks to Julia Spelsberg and Kristi Gannon for being “on air talent.”
Employee of the Year Leatha Irvin didn’t get a crown when she received the honor at the Awards Dinner. However, she was crowned when one of the SJMH patients found out about her honor and created a balloon crown for Leatha.

The Hospital Olympics are planned for April Fool’s Day. Get your teams together!!!

Deep-Vein Thrombosis

Continued from page 9

Deep-vein thrombosis is a medical condition that occurs when a thrombus (blood clot) forms in one of the large veins, usually in the lower limbs, leading to either partially or completely blocked circulation. It may be caused by a variety of risk factors and triggering events, including increasing age, obesity, or restricted mobility due to acute medical illness, stroke, major surgery, or respiratory failure. The condition may result in health complications, such as PE and even death if not diagnosed and treated effectively.

Pulmonary embolism can occur when a fragment of a blood clot breaks loose from the wall of the vein and migrates to the lungs, where it blocks a pulmonary artery or one of its branches. Of those who develop PE, up to 200,000 will die, which is more than from breast cancer and AIDS combined. Risk reduction measures for DVT include early mobilization, sequential compression devices to prevent blood clotting and anticoagulants, and/or blood-thinning drugs, such as low-molecular-weight heparin, unfractioned heparin, and warfarin sodium. For more information visit DVT.NET.

Additionally, the hospital is committed to the following practices in order to help reduce the incidence of DVT among their patients:

- Assessing each patient for his/her risk of developing DVT/PE upon admission into a hospital, long-term care facility, or nursing home, and periodically from then on.
- Assessing all primary risk factors, such as: advanced age, obesity, acute medical illness, patients undergoing major orthopedic surgery (such as joint replacement) who remain immobile in bed after an operation, pregnancy, restricted mobility caused by long-distance travel, and paralysis.
- Documenting the DVT/PE risk assessment and risk reduction plan in the patient’s records.
- Instituting explicit policy and procedures for reducing the risk of DVT/PE. According to the National Quality Forum (NQF) safety guidelines, effective clinical interventions for risk reduction of DVT/PE include intermittent calf compression devices, graduated compression stockings, subcutaneous administration of low-molecular-weight heparin, and oral administration of aspirin or warfarin.
Nancy Marshall Passes Away Feb 7, 2004

The staff of Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital was saddened to learn of the death of Nancy J. Marshall. Nancy was respected by her peers and loved by her patients.

Nancy was born on Feb. 23, 1935, in Randall, daughter of the late Elizabeth Lee Mance Gardner.

Her husband, Charles Marshall, whom she married July 2, 1955, survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Kevin Marshall of Mechanicsville, Va., and Keith Marshall of Columbus, Ohio; three grandchildren, Isaiah, Noah, and Patrice Marshall; one sister, Rahlene Elder of Columbus, Ohio.

She was also preceded in death by one brother David Gardner.

Mrs. Marshall was an LPN at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital with several years of service. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Weston.

A memorial service was held on Feb. 10 at Boyle Funeral Home in Weston. Memorial donations may be made in her name to the First Baptist Church Building Fund.

The following is from a story written about Nancy in 1999 and published in The General:

“My teacher at LPN school told us that you needed to hold a newborn close to you because it might be the only hug that baby would ever get,” said former employee Nancy Marshall. “I always remembered that and I made sure that I did hug each one of those babies that I took care of.”

It is wonderful advice from a remarkable person.

Most SJMH employees and friends know Nancy as an Employee of the Year (1989) and as an LPN who called the Special Delivery Birthing Center her home.

Though she retired from SJMH in 1997, Nancy will be returning for a short time to the OB Unit while her friend, Ruth Ann Hefner, is on medical leave.

Mary Ellen Bragg, RN, commented on Nancy’s kindness on behalf of Hefner:

“It is the nicest thing to do for someone,” Bragg said. “I don’t know of anyone else who would do this.”

But perhaps Nancy has an ulterior motive.

She just loves those babies.

It only takes a few minutes of talking to Nancy to realize how much she enjoys being with the newborns. In discussing child rearing, she was clear on her philosophy.

“Hold them while you can and read to those newborns. I would make faces at the babies and play with them and they knew,” she explained. “They listen while you read to them. All of the OB nurses read to the babies.”...

Nancy has worked at SJMH on and off for years. She started as an aide at the old Weston City Hospital around 1956-57. Her latest stint was from 1985 to 1997 after she became an LPN.

Nancy explained that hospital employees used to do things a little different years ago, too.

“I would go home with the patient,” Nancy said.

What did that mean? “Sometimes when I would take care of a patient, I would end up going home with them when they left the Hospital. I took care of Tom Whelan at his home. He ended up leaving me his dogs,” she concluded.

SJMH To Be School Partner; Participate in Obesity Run

Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital will soon be a Partner in Education with Jane Lew School. As part of our partnership, the Hospital will be having a health fair for the third-and fourth-grade students on Thurs., April 22.

This health fair is scheduled to coincide with a West Virginia initiative - “Run Obesity Out Of West Virginia.” This will be a six-day relay event across West Virginia that will begin in Bluefield on April 19 and end in Morgantown on April 24.

Though Jane Lew and Weston are not stopovers for the runners, the organizers of the event are encouraging communities throughout the state to participate with health fairs during that week. “Our plans for Jane Lew are done,” said PR Director Julia Spelsberg. “I am trying to decide now whether to have a health fair for the adults in the Lewis County community.”

The initiative is an effort to educate West Virginians about the problems associated with obesity. Interested runners can find more information on the group’s website at www.wvda.org/run/.