

Something Else to Feel Guilty About

As if working moms weren't stressed enough, now a new study tells us that kids need their parents at home more during the middle-school years than when the children are younger.

Psychologists say a nurturing person can be found to help a small child play with blocks, but helping a child through the transitions of middle school is best done by a parent.

Studies show that teen sex, crime, and drug use are most prevalent between 3:00 and 5:00 PM, so mom, or dad should be home during those hours.

Joint Commission Corner

The Joint Commission Education Days are now complete. If you were not able to attend, you will need to watch the video.

The video will be available from Gayle Gipson beginning Friday, April 29th. And just a reminder, our survey dates are June 27 and 28.



"You need more activity. Start with some light dusting of your exercise equipment."

Bug of the Month



Microbe of the Month
By Roger P. Freeman, DDS

I am sooo NOT like your other MOMs. First of all, I'm a patriotic sort and just can't resist a man in uniform. No, I'm not one of those bump and run, trashy serotypes, even though I did make my rep ... ahem ... in hotel rooms with the convention crowd. Bicentennial Philadelphia cradled my legend, although hindsight later shed light on my '47 and '57 floats of fancy.

I drove the contagion cowboys nuts -- a mysterious outbreak, six months of percolating before my formal naming. Like a lot of kids today, I didn't test well. Stayed well hidden (just going through a 'phage'), so none of the standard stuff revealed my innermost self. The only thread of evidence evaporated down to a building! But I sure impressed a lot of the cap-set with fever, chills and muscle aches. For the unfortunate, I did some delirium, progressing to pneumonia delecti and ultimately, the stat column. I had the media so frenzied, they pushed Ebola right off the rag sheets. After all, Ebola was "over there;" I was in Philadelphia, Martha!

Since that time, I've become a world traveler, mostly as a result of y'all's changing environment and behaviors. Along with my pals, Lyme and HIV, I put the "E" in emergent, a real original. And how about that "A" in aerobiological engineering? (What is that, anyway?). I do tend to float around in aerosol communicado, preferring A/C cooling towers, spas, whirlpools, humidifiers and the like. And I'm a genuine nosocomial nuisance, don'tcha know.

Kathy Ritter, RN, *infection control manager*

I'm also pretty fastidious, if I do say so myself. Like most of you, I have needs: good grub (amoebae), moist milieu (can you "Play Misty for Me"), and of course, my favorite triple S, 3-diamond amenities: scum, sludge and stagnation.

I'm not known as a "lung lover" for nothing. I do my real damage deep in the alveolar alleys, getting most serious with the immune-compromised, heavy smokers and the otherwise hungerly challenged. Diag is no slam dunk, either, 'cause I'm most often what you get, not what you see! My soulmate is a milder form of illness, ingeniously named after your old Grand Am.

For an aerobiological gift-pack of used shower nozzles, faucets and veggie misters, name my gram neg bacterial self, and my common usage stage name. And then, everyone into the hot tub!

Roger P. Freeman, DDS, is a dental infection control consultant and president of Infectious Awareableness.

Correct answers for last moth's bug of the month were William Milligan, Karen Killian, Carol Berry, Sue Ann Kinney and Annie Life. Thanks to all who play our game.

The Bug last month was Ebola. If you think you have the answer to this month's bug please call Kathy Ritter at ext. 242 and win a great prize.

TYLER *Times*

A publication for the employees of Tyler Memorial Hospital

May, 2005



Volunteer of the Year, June Wood, receives congratulations from Maria Thorne, volunteer director, at the annual awards luncheon. Mrs. Wood serves as Monday and Thursday courier, and was a lay chaplain for seven years. (See related photo on page 6)



Mary Robbins Named Employee of the Year!

Thrilled, surprised, amazed, described Mary Robbins, business office, as her name was announced as the Tyler 2004 Employee of the Year. Mary, a soon-to-be 40-year Tyler veteran, was nominated by co-worker, Barb Pompey.

A portion of Barb's nomination letter for Mary read: "Mary's wisdom and experience are compounded by the abundant loyalty she has for Tyler. She exhibits a positive attitude in everything she does. She reminds each of us of the importance of a positive attitude both on and off the job. Mary is a deeply spiritual person, and this spirituality spills over into everything she does. Her compassion to patients and their families is immeasurable," Barb wrote.

According to William Milligan, president/CEO, Mary's dedication to Tyler is so deep that years ago, before computers, Mary had a typewriter brought to her bedside while she was a patient at Tyler so she could continue to work. "Mary is unique in many ways, and we are blessed to have her as a valuable member of the Tyler family," Mr. Milligan added.

Mary was presented with a music box engraved with humming birds and a gift certificate for \$100 to a store of her choice. Congratulations Mary!



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Nurses' Notes

Denise Gieski
Director of Nursing

National Nurses Week

We celebrate National Nurses Week from May 6-12, 2005. This is an opportunity to recognize our nursing staff and the wonderful care that they provide our patients. I receive many wonderful cards and letters from patients and their families complimenting you and the great care that you give. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all that you give to the hospital on a daily basis.

It is an especially difficult time, as we are in the midst of a national nursing shortage, but daily I am reminded of what a great group you are - you pull together, pick up extra shifts, support each other, help to educate and mentor nursing students, student nurse externs and graduate nurses, and just keep on moving forward. Thank you all and Happy Nurses Week.

We will be having a reception on Wednesday, May 11, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. in the cafeteria to celebrate Nurses' Week and invite the nursing staff and all employees to come and enjoy some cake, punch, and Gerri's Z's beautiful flowers.

Celebrating Lab Week

By: Carol Hatton



Debbie White, Danielle Heid, Cathy LaRue and Tikki Lyons were presented with a proclamation honoring Lab Week by Wyoming County Commissioners, Judy Mead, Tony Litwin and Stark Bartron.

On a recent Friday evening, I was thrilled to be the laboratory staff technologist who discovered malarial parasites in a patient's red blood cells.

It was rewarding to help with the diagnosis, but also because I hadn't seen this parasite in a patient since I was in training at Temple University Hospital many years ago.

The discovery caused a little stir, resulting in my having a photo taken with Mr. Milligan for the April Tyler Times. He congratulated me on a job well done, and we had a brief discus-

sion about the wealth of knowledge and experience that Tyler has in its lab, as well as the problems that the medical technology profession is experiencing.

Mr. Milligan and Gladys Bernet asked me to write an article expressing those concerns in conjunction with the celebration of Lab Week.

Medical technologists and technicians are educated and rigorously trained professionals who have completed bachelor or associate degrees

(Cont'd on page 7)

Health in the News

You can die of a broken heart

The New England Journal of Medicine reports that a sudden emotional shock such as the death of a loved one can cause serious heart problems or death. In one case, the shock was caused by a surprise birthday party.

The cardiologists blame stress hormones that included adrenaline, which the patients were producing. In each case, they found stress hormone levels up to 34 times as great as normal levels and two to three times as great as those typically seen during severe heart attacks.

The doctors say "broken-heart syndrome" is reversible provided the initial shock isn't too great.



Jackie Davis was recently appointed Housekeeping Supervisor. Jackie takes over for Bonnie Jennings, who very graciously stepped in until a permanent supervisor could be named.

Jackie is excited about her new responsibilities and looks forward to working with the staff. Jackie previously was a painter in the Maintenance Department.

Please welcome the following new employees:

Marquerite Sock and
Diane Stenceck,
Business Office

Mary Louise Ciraula
Lab

Claire Bramlette,
Central Supply

Shawn Wright,
Med/Surg

Elizabeth Denlea
Imaging

Lab (cont'd from page 2)

that include clinical internships. Clinical courses in hematology, chemistry, microbiology, blood banking, parasitology, and in most cases virology and mycology, are included.

Graduates earn either a BS (MT), a BS (CLS), or for the associate degree, an AAS (MLT). Both are then able to take exams by our professional organizations like ASCP and CLS to become certified. Phlebotomists take specialized training which varies in length. They are taught phlebotomy technique, specimen integrity and phlebotomy exposure to infectious agents. Phlebotomist training also requires an internship.

Not a Glamorous Job

Handling body fluids and tissues, and running tests on them is not a glamorous job, but it is a rewarding and interesting profession that helps physicians diagnose and make decisions about patient treatment.

Recently, many medical technology programs have closed, as fewer people are entering the profession. In our region, we have only one hospital providing internships for med tech students, and that program graduates only about eight students a year.

A combination of fewer students entering the field and the high number of techs who are nearing retirement has created a shortage of lab techs that will only get worse in the next decade.

According to ASCP (American Association of Clinical Pathologists) 40% of techs are ages 46-66, and nearly half of the current work force will be ready to retire by 2010. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that 13,800 techs will be needed each year through 2012 to fill vacant positions. Only 4,000 techs nationwide are graduating every year and schools are graduating 30% fewer students than ten years ago and 56% fewer than twenty years ago.

Tyler Not Exempt

Tyler lab has already experienced this shortage as the last med tech job was posted about one year before we were able to hire a qualified applicant. Tyler has 73% of its tech staff in the 46-66 age bracket.

The reasons young people are not entering the medical technology field are varied with the most obvious one being inadequate salaries offered for new graduates who have completed a rigorous academic commitment and have student loans to repay.

The coordinator and instructor for the med tech program at Southwestern Illinois College says, "It's a very hard program to sell." O. Sturtevant of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, states "Competition for qualified staff is very stiff in Boston. Our competition is not just with hospitals. High tech companies are offering salaries that are hard to ignore." Also clinical jobs most often require holiday and weekend hours and sometimes shift work.

Concerned About the Future

Despite the problems that my profession is experiencing I love the work I do. But if solutions can not be found for some of the problems, my concerns are with the quality of healthcare that will be available in my retirement years.

Who will be staffing the hospital laboratories? And what quality of training and expertise will they have? Yes, lesser trained individuals can learn to run an analyzer that processes blood specimens. But will their knowledge base be sufficient to interpret the results?

How does lipemia affect those results, what is that red dot with a tiny blue halo in that rbc (malaria), could there be prozone effect in that test analysis, and what is the assay range of that test?? I would like my laboratory tests interpreted and reported by professionals with a knowledge and background of clinical laboratory medicine. Wouldn't you?



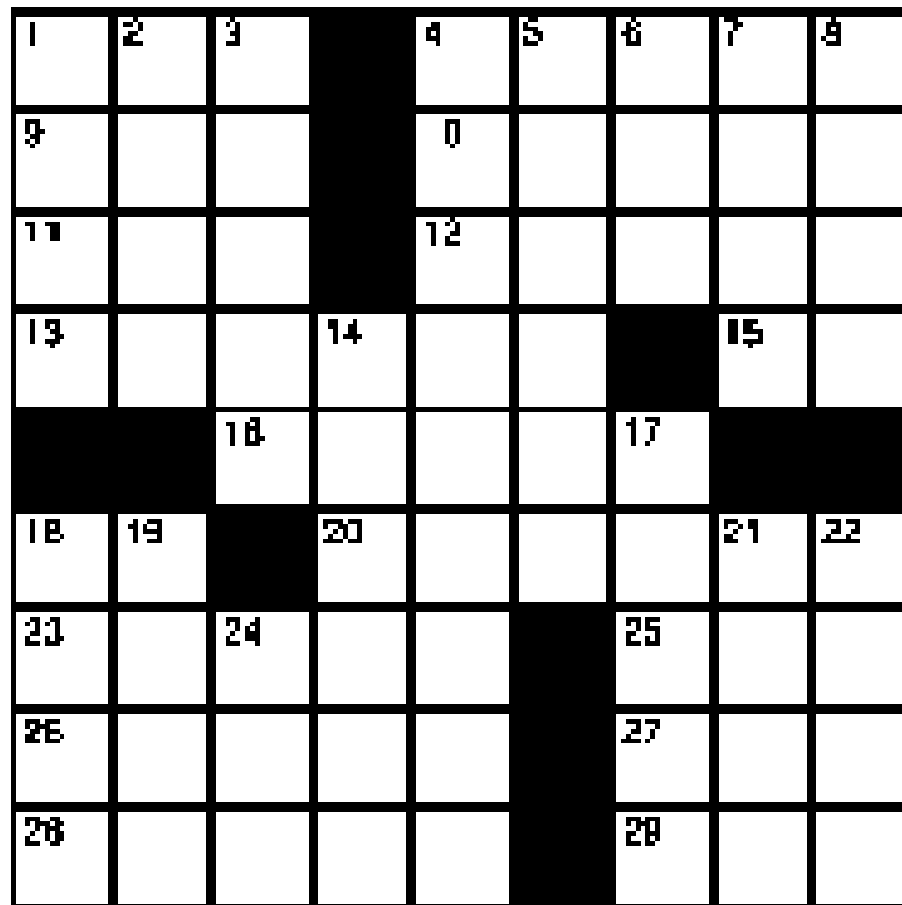
Tyler volunteers enjoyed a delicious dinner and received service awards at the annual volunteer luncheon. Jeff Ritter was honored as ROOKIE OF THE YEAR and June Wood was named VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR. William Milligan, president/CEO and Brenna Evans, director of quality were guest speakers.

Across

- 1. Former Pres.
- 4. Worship of Allah
- 9. Type of auxin, for short
- 10. Plunder, of yore
- 11. Ready, __, fire
- 12. The __ Incident, film
- 13. Make familiar or position
- 15. Island in the South Pacific, abbr.
- 16. Geese
- 18. Typographical space
- 20. Region of ancient Greece
- 23. Thingamabob
- 25. Pindaric lines
- 26. Golf pro, Hubie
- 27. __ for the Seesaw, film
- 28. Move unobtrusively or furtively
- 29. A male human offspring

Down

- 1. Chinese monetary unit
- 2. Impartial
- 3. Indian people of southeastern California
- 4. Type of sedimentary rock
- 5. Half a dozen
- 6. Scientist's domain
- 7. Admit
- 8. Sounds of a gull
- 14. Coating for wood or metal
- 17. Violent demonstrations
- 18. Omelet ingredients



- 19. Port in Borneo
- 21. Type of compact disk, for short
- 22. Geological time period
- 24. Letter of the alphabet

The following were honored through the *Caught in the Act* program for February:

- Patricia Wilmot
- Eva Herron
- Dale Bowman
- John Kelly
- Bev Shoemaker
- Pearl Giberson
- Melanie Killian *
- Lil Clapper
- Terry Clyde
- Ryan Canfield

* gift certificate winner

A Minute with Milligan

All of us experience life and its changes through our own eyes and experiences. This past month has brought insight and change in my views of the hospital and staff, as I recently had the privilege of being part of our annual recognition party, and in my wife's experience as a patient.

Last Friday night the hospital hosted the 13th annual employee recognition dinner, where we honor many wonderful employees. I cannot help but be proud that all of us are part of an organization working towards patient healing and human wellness.

I cannot think of a more worthwhile endeavor, and it is the dedication of so many of our family that make it possible.

I was impressed with the large number of employees who attended the affair, not only those that were recognized, but also family and friends who came to support the event. We also had a number of employees who were nominated as the Employee of the Year who were in attendance and were recognized for their efforts.

It is equally impressive to see a list of so many of our staff being acknowledged as being members of the family for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service.

But let me address one particular member of our staff, Mary Robbins, our Employee of the Year, who has been with the hospital almost 40 years.

This award recognizes and honors Mary for a lifetime of service, memories, hours worked, dedication and witness to the changes the organization has experienced over four decades.

Mary is a quiet person who sees to it that the birds are fed, always says



hello, is willing to talk about the animals that live near her, and of course fishing.

She has dedicated her life in many ways to Tyler and richly deserves the recognition and appreciation of us all. I offer Mary my personal thanks; she is a wonderful, individual who is a constant positive force for all of us each day.

I mentioned change earlier as personal events that occur to us all. Just within the last two weeks my wife had the opportunity to be a part of the patient population of the hospital.

I suspect that I may be in violation of a HIPPA regulation, but I would like to say that from my wife's observation and mine, the hospital staff could not have been more efficient, courteous, or caring.

Each of the departments, including lab, radiology, surgery, short stay, etc were just great, and I wish to thank all of the individuals involved for their service. It is these observations that our faith in the organization and in each other is renewed.

I cannot tell you how much we appreciate Tyler hospital, our staff and community. Abbie and I both thank you once again.

TIME TO CELEBRATE
NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK & NATIONAL NURSES WEEK ARE BOTH CELEBRATED THE WEEK OF MAY 8.

TYLER EVENTS INCLUDE:

**TUESDAY, MAY 10
 CHAPLAINS TREAT FOR DONUTS IN CAFETERIA
 9:00 - 10:00 AM**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11
 EMPLOYEE BREAKFAST
 7:00 - 9:00 AM**

**NURSES RECEPTION
 CAKE & PUNCH
 2:00 PM**

Tyler Honors Lifetimes of Service

Employees Enjoy Dinner, Dancing, Gifts and Prizes



Being congratulated by Mr. Milligan for an impressive 35 years of service, top right, is Maureen Newhart, nursing. Also marking 35 years of employment was Barbara Houck, emergency department, who was absent.

Honored for 30 years of service, middle right were: Susan Simmons and Shirley Jones. Absent was Claire Morgan.

Celebrating 25 years, top left were: Susan Brigham, Margaret Hill, Carol McGuire, Michael Castellano, Geraldine Zionkowski, Worthie Kiefer and Jane Murphy. Absent were: Edward Woodruff and Cecy Ball.

Honored for 20 years of Tyler service was Darlene Drake, who was unable to attend the dinner.

Celebrating 15 years, middle left were: Kathe Bartron, Carron Wood, Patronia Milne and Verna Goode. Absent was: Wendy Fetterman.

Marking a ten year anniversary, bottom right, were: Danielle Heid and Diana Noreika. Carol Hatton was absent.

Marking a five year anniversary, bottom left were: Lisa Townsend, Sam Williams, Iva Fassett and Paula Moeller. Absent were: Virginia Keast, Julie McGuigan, Terry Yanora, Diane Bunnell and Susan Huff.



Raffle winners were:

Carriage Inn Gift Certificate,
Betsy Blaine

\$50 Wal Mart Gift Card
Andy Kintner

\$75 Best Buy Gift Card
Tim Ware

\$100 Best Buy Gift Card
Lisa Townsend

