

pulse



A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR PHYSICIANS, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS FOCUSING ON THE HOSPITAL'S MISSION OF PROVIDING QUALITY CARE AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE TO THOSE WE SERVE

Major South-Wing changes appear



Wednesday marks an exciting change for LMH as significant preparations begin to make way for the South-Wing addition. To accomplish this, the new, front parking lot on the Ham Lane side of the hospital will open for patients and visitors, as will a new, temporary hospital entrance in what was formerly Classroom B. Driveways on the Ham Lane side of the hospital will be newly accessible, and parking-lot entrances on Fairmont Avenue will be closed, with the exception of the most-southern entrance. Parking toward Fairmont Avenue will be lost to accommodate the South-Wing structure. Thanks very much for the patience and support as LMH moves forward with its biggest-ever expansion, *(Tak Saito, ext. 7680)*.

New director at ED's helm



Hafey
Kim Hafey, RN, has joined the LMH Emergency Department as its new director. She comes most recently from San Joaquin General where she served as the ED director. Kim has held a variety of leadership positions at SJ General before joining LMH. Kim also worked in the LMH ED from 1997-2001. Kim, a Stockton resident, received her nursing and psychology degrees from, San Diego State University. Welcome, Kim. Glad you are here, *(Judy Begley, ext. 7507)*.

Med/surg names manager



Flossmann
Please welcome Mary Flossmann, RN, who accepted the med/surg nurse-manager position. On Dec. 9, Mary, in collaboration with the director, becomes responsible for supervising, coordinating and evaluating the work of professional and nonprofessional nursing personnel on Two West. Temporarily, Mary's office will be located on the third floor. Mary received her BSN and MSN from the University of Phoenix. Prior to accepting this position, she served as a nurse manager for 10 years in acute care. She has staff-nurse experience in critical care, pediatrics, telemetry, medical surgical, and most recently, home-health nursing at Lodi Memorial. Mary will be an excellent match for this position and a strong asset to the med/surg team. Please thank Kathy Behr, RN, for temporarily taking on this role while the search was on for a permanent manager. Kathy has done a terrific job and has chosen to return to a charge-nurse position. Bob Turner also deserves thanks for taking a lead role during a time when the department was without a director and manager, *(Glenda Concepcion, ext. 7519)*.

2008 budget approved

The LMH Board of Directors approved the 2008 operating and capital budgets at their Nov. 28 meeting. As construction continues on the South Wing and Central Plant, meeting budgetary targets becomes critically important. The upcoming \$150 million bond issue, which LMH will have to repay over the next 30 years, will be a significant impact to future operational efforts. The 2008 LMH operating budget will be \$137.6 million in operating revenues and expenses of \$129.4 million, which includes \$78.7 million in salaries and benefits. That leaves an operating margin of \$8.2 million. The '08 capital budget, which includes South Wing and other related expenses, will be \$195 million, *(Richard Gilbert, ext. 7425)*.

Home health ranked HomeCare Elite

The California Association for Health Services at Home has announced that LMH's Home-Health Agency has been named among the HomeCare Elite. This is a designation of Medicare-certified agencies whose performance measures in quality outcomes, quality improvement and financial performance are among the top 25 percent of providers nationwide. Thank you to all the home-health staff who together have earned this fantastic recognition, *(Rose Mary Radotic, ext. 3116)*.

New docs join medical staff



Thrailkill



Soe

Robert Thrailkill, MD, was recently on staff working for Emcare in the hospitalist program. He now joins the emergency department. Dr. Thrailkill graduated in 1978 from the University of Miami School of Medicine. He completed postgraduate training 1980 in internal medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach and a residency program in internal medicine at Orlando Regional Medical Center. He is board certified in internal medicine and has worked in that field for many years. Dr. Soe, MD, will be working at the primary-care clinics. Dr. Soe graduated from the Institute of Medicine in Yangon, Myanmar, in 1985. He served an internship and residency program in internal medicine at Woodhull Medical Hospital in Brooklyn, *(Linda Brown, ext. 7669)*.

Year-end events bring holiday cheer

December will be busy for LMH staffers and physicians with a variety of festive activities on the calendar. On Tues., Dec. 11, a holiday breakfast is planned for all employees and volunteers in the dining rooms at both campuses. At the main campus, seatings will be offered from 6:30-7:15a, 7:30-8:15a, and 8:30-9:15a, and at west from 7-9a. The following day, Wed., Dec. 12, physicians and their office-staff members are invited to a breakfast in the dining room of the main campus, from 7-9a. Doctors and their staffs should RSVP to Becky Olvera, 339-7597. During breakfast on both days, all shoppers can enjoy a 20-percent discount in the hospital's gift shop. Additionally, a children's party is set for Wed., Dec. 12, from 6-7:30p, in the main-campus dining room. All employees are invited to bring their children to this joyous celebration. A happy, healthy and safe holiday season to all, *(Joe Harrington, ext. 7560)*.

LMH switches GPOs

After a long relationship with Amerinet, effective Dec. 1 LMH is using a new GPO (group purchasing organization) for supplies and services. Dallas-based Broadlane is one of the largest GPOs (serving over 1,000 hospitals) in the nation, so their purchasing power is considerable. LMH stands to save \$800,000 per year utilizing their contracts. They also offer a broad spectrum of educational, cost-savings and other value-added services, (*Gene Crokus, ext. 7558*).

Better breathers meet

Mark your calendars, and spread the word that on the first Tuesday of every month, 10a, the Better Breather's Club meets. This is a support group for individuals and families with breathing or respiratory problems. Many topics are covered during the informative, one-hour sessions. There are guest speakers, and the lectures are designed to help individuals learn about their ailments and to live a more productive life through understanding of their pulmonary situations. This club is supported by LMH's Respiratory-Therapy Department and the American Lung Association. It is open to all Lodi and surrounding-area residents. The group meets next on Dec. 4, (*Willis Marzolf, ext. 7421*).

Contracts and recovery moves

The LMH Contracts and Recovery Department has a new home beginning Dec. 3. It is now located in the Lodi Medical Plaza Building on the first floor where the LMH Foundation office used to be located, (suite 105). This new, first-floor location will make us more accessible to community members and staff when there are insurance questions. Please drop in to see the new office, (*Karel Cole, ext. 7650*).

UM personalizes pay it forward

LMH's Utilization-Management Department paid it forward in a personal way by adopting a unit of the 173rd Army Airborne, stationed at Fort Blessing, Afghanistan. What makes the effort personal is unit member Tony Fitzgerald is UM's Kathi Schroeder's nephew. Fort Blessing is in Kunar Province, deep in the mountains of north-east Afghanistan. "Fire fights" lasting up to 36 hours are not uncommon, as this is the main area that the Taliban uses to cross from Pakistan. There have been times the fighting has been so intense, the Army has not been able to deliver supplies. Units have gone for up to three days without supplies. The unit has received UM's packages and are most grateful. Sent were 18 packages with Christmas CDs, Christmas decorations, baby-wipes and tons of snack food. The biggest hit: Santa hats. Also rans: power bars, beef jerky, granola bars, packaged cheese and crackers and peanut butter and crackers – all pockets items. Pictures and news stories of this unit can be viewed at www.173rdairborne.com, (*Shelly Mason, ext. 7364*).

How to submit to/find "Pulse"

All medical staff, hospital staff and volunteers are welcomed to submit items for "Pulse." Items should be between 50-150 words and pertain to LMH news, milestones or events. Items should be directed via in-house mail to the Community Development Department or via email to Lori Horan or Carol Farron. "Pulse" is published every other Monday, and items for the newsletter should be received by 8a the preceding Friday. "Pulse" can be accessed electronically via the LMH network (L:\News & Announcements\Internal\Pulse) or on the LMH website, www.lodihealth.org. Those who would like to receive "Pulse" via e-mail should contact Lori Horan, ext. 7590, or send an e-mail to lhoran@lodihealth.org, (*Carol Farron, ext. 7535*).

CME program scheduled

A CME program is set for Tues., Dec. 11, from 12:30-1:30p, in Classrooms F and G. Topic is "The Clinical Uses of Blood Components (and some possible alternatives)." Speaker is Paul Holland, MD, (*Donna Schulz, ext. 7609*).

ADC welcomes new staffer



Brockett

Welcome, Faith Brockett, to the Adult-Day Care family. Faith comes to the program with many years of experience in long-term and community-based senior care. We look forward to her fresh ideas. Additionally the Adult-Day Care and Camp Hutchins have teamed up again to "pay it forward" and help Lodi Adopt-A-Child.

Both programs have 100-percent participation from all employees, (*Terri Whitmire, 369-4443*).

Junior volunteers ready to assist

LMH has several junior volunteers who are very eager to help in any way they can. Junior volunteers come in to work weekdays from 3-5p. Any department that has jobs they would like a junior volunteer to do, such as filing, deliveries, etc., should contact volunteer services, ext. 7616, (*Sarah Beasley, ext. 7616*).

Pay it forward to Lodi House

The LMH Perinatal Department's Pay-It-Forward project is collecting toys for children at Lodi House. Their Christmas party is on Thurs., Dec. 13. Those wishing to donate should bring a wrapped toy with a sticker indicating whether it is for a boy or girl, and what age range the toy is, to the Perinatal Department by Dec. 10 so they can be delivered before the party. The age range is from newborn to age 16. Thank you, (*Lesley Muscha, ext. 7554*).

Adopt a child by Dec. 10

Lodi Adopt-A-Child "Angels," representing the Christmas wishes of several disadvantaged Lodi-area children, are now available on the holiday tree in the cafeteria. Simply choose one or more "angels" (yellow tags), complete the bottom portion, deposit into the box near the tree, and then go shopping. Each angel lists a child's first name, age and their wishes for a toy and clothing item. You may purchase their exact wishes or choose age-appropriate gifts. If the child wishes for a higher-priced item, such as a bicycle, you can always get together as a group and pool your funds. Before dropping off your unwrapped gifts to the Lodi Adopt-A-Child office, located at 100 E. Pine St., please tape the toy portion of the angel to the toy gift and the clothing portion to the clothing gift. Gifts must be turned in by Mon., Dec. 10. Instructions are printed on the back of each angel. If you would like more information or wish to volunteer to wrap gifts, work at the gift-giving party or spend an afternoon delivering brand new bicycles to very excited children, call 333-1056, (*Melinda Sparks, ext. 7401*).

Project Linus warms up babies

LMH wishes to thank the members of Project Linus for all of their hard work. Project Linus is a volunteer organization that provides blankets for children in hospitals, shelters and anyplace else where a child might need the comfort of a special blanket. Chapter coordinator Darcy Dolnick was kind enough to deliver 50 new blankets to LMH. The blankets are all handmade and have a Project Linus tag stitched into one corner. Each morning as the patient-advocate volunteers make their rounds, they will pass out blankets to children and babies who would appreciate them, or call if there's a child in need on a unit, (*Sarah Beasley, ext. 7616*).

Help decorate the cafeteria

LMHers who would like to contribute an ornament to decorate the LMH dining room for the holidays should bring ornaments to the cafeteria and drop them in the available box. They will be hung in the cafeteria throughout December, (*Kay Campos, ext. 7937*).