

Local & Regional EMS News

by Kathy Clayton



ETMC Air 1 staff join Forrest Wagner, who has been diagnosed with a rare cancer and who is the son of ETMC security officer Sam Wagner, as he prepares to have his dream come true. Through a generous donation and in coordination with Make-A-Wish North Texas, Wagner will receive his wish of helicopter flight lessons. ETMC Air 1 contributed a flight suit, helmet and funds for the trips to Dallas to attend the lessons.

ETMC and Make-A-Wish team up

East Texas Medical Center Air 1 teamed up with Make-A-Wish North Texas in April to make an East Texas teenager's dream of flight lessons become a reality. Forrest Wagner, 16, of Winnsboro, has been diagnosed with a rare cancer called Ewing's sarcoma. He is the son of ETMC security officer Sam Wagner. Forrest would like to be a helicopter pilot, and thanks to a generous donor, he will receive his wish of flight lessons from Dallas-based SKY Helicopters and FlightSafety International Inc.

ETMC Air 1 donated a flight suit, helmet and a gas card to drive to Dallas for the lessons. Jim Speier, operations manager, told Forrest: "We hope you come back to ETMC one day and be a pilot for us." After the presentation, Forrest and his family were treated to a luncheon with the ETMC flight crew.

Forrest hopes to attend the Air Force Academy. "When he was diagnosed with cancer about a year ago, that undid some of his dreams, but maybe he's getting some of those back today," said his dad, Sam. "I'm immensely proud."

Forrest has been in and out of the hospital and through several rounds of chemotherapy. He was surprised that he received his wish. "It's overwhelming," he said. "People don't get helicopter lessons out of the blue."

Make-A-Wish grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. While many kids request things like a trip to Disney World, North Texas director Sherry Johnson says this was truly a unique wish for them to grant on World Wish Day, during the 30th year of the organization's operation.

Anniversaries celebrated

Travis County Emergency Services District No. 4 celebrated its 50th anniversary in May with the dedication of the newly remodeled fire station 401. It now includes four drive-through bays, sleeping quarters, a kitchen and a workout room. The remodeling project, which more than doubled the station's size, started in December. The celebration and dedication ceremony included an open house with equipment and informational booths. The organization was started in 1962 by Fire Chief Lee Basore and the young members of Explorer Post 13, and it was known as Travis County Fire Control. In the early days, there was a Chevrolet pickup as the first firefighting vehicle and high school students who fought fires in the area.

Hopkins County EMS also celebrated 30 years of service in May during EMS Week. The celebration was dedicated to honoring employees past and present, featuring a reception on Sunday at the main EMS station in Sulphur Springs. HCEMS began in 1982 and was operated by the City of Sulphur Springs Fire Department before being taken over by Hopkins County Memorial Hospital in 1983.

GETAC
November 10-12
Hilton Austin,
downtown



Six representatives from England's Southeast Coast Ambulance Services (serving Kent, Sussex and Surrey Counties) visited MedStar's headquarters in Fort Worth in July. They were able to learn more about MedStar's centralized management system and other operational activities.

MedStar hosts visitors from England

Six senior leadership representatives of the Executive and Operations Team from Southeast Coast Ambulance Services (SECamb, part of the British National Health Service Ambulance Trust network) visited the MedStar headquarters in July. The guests arranged the visit to learn more about the key elements of MedStar's operations and how to incorporate them into their system in the United Kingdom.

SECamb covers the area of Kent, Sussex and Surrey Counties in England, employing 3,200 staff members who respond to nearly one million "9-9-9" calls per year. They are currently transitioning from a traditional ambulance service delivered from 65 ambulance stations spread over 3,500 square miles to 12

"Make Ready Centers" supported by a matrix of approximately 100 demand-led response posts.

"It is an honor for MedStar to be selected as a learning center for international EMS providers," says MedStar Board Chairman Zim Zimmerman, who is also Ft. Worth's Mayor Pro-Tem.

The U.K. team studied how MedStar schedules and deploys centralized units, the use of "System Status Management" to dynamically move units throughout the service area to improve response times and reduce costs, and MedStar's protocols. The visit also included discussions about measuring staff performance, destination hospitals, ambulance maintenance and other operational tasks.

Acadian creates emergency app

Acadian Ambulance Service has developed a free, high-tech way to help people prepare for an emergency.

While many people have set up I.C.E.—"in case of emergency"—contacts on their cell phones, it's impossible for authorities to find them if the phone is locked. To solve this problem, Acadian's I.C.E. app creates an emergency-contact banner for a cell phone's home screen or lock screen. Even if the phone's owner is unable to communicate or if the phone is locked, emergency responders can see the contact information.

The I.C.E. app also can securely store information on current medications, medication allergies and health conditions. This information can be accessed only after the phone has been unlocked.

This free app is available for iPhone and Android. Search "Acadian I.C.E. in the App Store or Google Play.

**Tell us your EMS news,
and we'll share it in Local
and Regional EMS News.**

Send your news to:
Texas EMS Magazine
Kelly Harrell, Editor
MC 1876
P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347

or
kelly.harrell@dshs.state.tx.us
(512) 834-6743
Fax (512) 834-6736

Local & Regional EMS News



Big Spring Fire/EMS, Big Spring Police, AEL Patient Care Services and Big Spring Air Evac Lifeteam combined forces to spell out “Dyrk,” joining a growing number of firefighters and other public servants in a campaign to show support for young patient Dyrk Burcie.

DYRK photos show support for Dallas-area toddler

People across the country are sending in pictures of themselves showing support for Dyrk Burcie, a four-year-old boy from Dallas diagnosed with stage four liver cancer.

Dyrk’s struggle began when he was just three years old. “On March 8, 2011, while Dyrk was getting a bath, we felt a distinct mass on his abdomen,” Dyrk’s mom, Shelley, wrote on the “Fundraiser for Dyrk Burcie” Facebook page. “Both Dameon [Dyrk’s dad] and I had a sinking feeling in our gut that this is not good.”

When they took Dyrk to the

emergency room the next day, they were given the unimaginable diagnosis.

And so the Burcies began the long process of trying to heal their young son.

Dyrk has endured nine rounds of chemotherapy, five surgeries and a liver transplant, according to ABC News Dallas affiliate WFAA.

Dyrk’s dad, Dameon Burcie, is a lieutenant with the Dallas Fire Department. His fellow firefighters decided that while doctors worked to heal Burcie’s son physically, they wanted to do something to lift the Burcie family’s spirits.

So the firefighters began taking

photographs of themselves to support Dyrk—holding up posters with words of encouragement and spelling out Dyrk’s name in creative ways. The support began to spread—first to other fire departments in the area and, eventually, it became a trend across the country.

Firefighters, sports teams, hospital staff and families have all sent in photos to boost Dyrk’s spirits and help support the Burcie family. To see the photos or to send in your own picture for Dyrk and his family, you can visit the Fundraiser for Dyrk Burcie Facebook page.

UMC Brackenridge redesignated as Level I trauma center

University Medical Center Brackenridge has been redesignated as a Level I trauma center by DSHS, DSHS Commissioner David Lakey announced in August.

The state designation is valid for three years. UMC Brackenridge, operated by Seton Healthcare Family was originally designated a Level I in 2009.

Dr. Lakey, the state's top health official, made the announcement at UMC Brackenridge during an event marking the anniversary of the 1966 University of Texas Tower shootings. The rampage left 32 wounded and 17 killed, including the shooter, Charles Whitman. The first victim arrived at 12:12 p.m. at Brackenridge Hospital—and victims arrived at a rate of one every two minutes during the first hour. This ceremony featured a moment of silence for the victims and the unveiling of a

newly discovered historical artifact: a plaque presented later in 1966 by the Austin Police Department to Brackenridge, commending hospital staff for their exceptional response that day. The plaque will be displayed at Brackenridge with a historical photo taken at the hospital on Aug. 1, 1966.

The state determination follows inspection and verification by the American College of Surgeons. To maintain Level I designation, both UMC Brackenridge and Dell Children's Medical Center (also operated by Seton) are increasing trauma research and education activities, as well as providing special procedures such as microvascular surgery and digit and limb reattachment. Both medical centers provide 24/7 availability of specialists in neurosurgery, anesthesiology, emergency medicine, radiology, internal medicine, oral and



maxillofacial surgery, and critical care.

The Seton Healthcare Family, a faith-based non-profit organization founded in 1902 by the Daughters of Charity, operates more than 90 clinical locations, including five major medical centers, two community hospitals, three rural hospitals, an inpatient mental health hospital, three primary care clinics for the uninsured and several other health facilities. Seton is home to The University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW) Medical Center's Austin medical residency programs, as well as the Seton/UTSW Clinical Research Institute.



City of Baytown Health Department EMS paramedic Jeremiah Chaplain recently completed the CSAT Tactical Medical Integration Course and was honored with a pinning ceremony at the Baytown Police Department. Chaplain will be able to treat medical emergencies citizens and SWAT officers face during critical incidents. Pictured from left to right are C. Keith Dougherty, chief of police; Mike Lester, director of health and EMS; Dana Dalbey, LP, EMS coordinator; Jeremiah Chaplain, paramedic; Bob Leiper, city manager; Lt. Eric Freed, investigations divisions.