Remodeled Food Court Opens November 4

Sandra Doss of Food and Nutrition Services cuts the ribbon Nov. 4 on NMMC's newly remodeled Food Court in Tupelo, cheered on by director Arlis Rucker (left), Octavius Ivy (right) of Administration and Food and Nutrition Services staff members. The redesigned Food Court features two new additions – a Showtime Cooking Station where an NMMC chef or his designee freshly prepares items such as stir fry and taco salad, and Flavors 450, a meal that provides balanced nutrition with 450 calories or less. Many of the hospital's Food Court favorites have returned with a new twist – the pizza station features a new pizza oven, and the grill area has been expanded. The cafeteria line offers many new Morrison's recipes, and the deli boasts a new sandwich menu.
Eleven North Mississippi Medical Center employees were named to the organization’s All Star Team for 2010. The employees were recognized by NMMC’s Stars On-Line program for outstanding performance throughout the year. NMMC launched Stars On-Line in 1999 to recognize employees who exhibit extraordinary care and concern for their patients, customers and co-workers. The All Stars were honored at a banquet Oct. 29. For more information on the recipients, visit www.nmhs.net/all_stars.php.

Terrie Cantrell of Hackleburg, Ala., director of materials management at NMMC-Hamilton. Cantrell has been with NMMC since 1984.

Jennifer Brooks of Shannon, respiratory therapist at NMMC-West Point. Brooks has been with NMMC since 2009.

Andrea Carpenter, RN, of Mantachie, with Home Health and Hospice. Carpenter joined the NMMC staff in 2007.

Cindy Cockell, RN, of Houston, with Home Health and Hospice in Pontotoc. Cockell joined the NMMC staff in 1997.

Amy Jenkins of Houston, admissions/discharge specialist with Chickasaw Medical Clinic. Jenkins joined the NMMC staff in 1997.

Brandon Leathers of Tremont, security officer at NMMC-Tupelo. Leathers joined the NMMC staff in 2008.

Tina Bell Floyd of Plantersville, certified nursing assistant with Home Health and Hospice. Floyd has been with NMMC since 2004.

Terry Kendrick of Tupelo, certified occupational therapist assistant in the Skilled Nursing Facility. Kendrick has been with NMMC since 1991.

Continued on page 3
Rhonda Kelly, CRNA at North Mississippi Medical Center, recently went on a trip with the People to People medical exchange program to China and Tibet.

Nine other certified registered nurse anesthetists from around the nation went on the trip. The People to People program provides a method for medical professionals to share information – participants attend lectures and witness patient care in a variety of settings. They compare different treatment and diagnostic methods to help each other improve care.

“We met with anesthesiologists in China and Tibet – they don’t have CRNAs over there,” Kelly said. “We went to five hospitals and attended several lectures. It is very interesting to see how different they practice medicine there. One of the most interesting lectures was on holistic healing – the principles of hot and cold therapy, acupuncture and herbal medicine. It is definitely very different from what we do here.”

The trip lasted 12 days, and in addition to learning about how medicine is practiced there, they were able to share information on how medicine is practiced in the United States.

“They were all very interested in our OB anesthesia,” said Kelly, who works at the NMMC Women’s Hospital. “We had a very nice professional exchange and we all came away from it with a lot of new information.”

Kelly, who has worked at NMMC for six years, was nominated by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists to be a part of the program.

For more information about NMMC’s Stars On-Line program, call 377-9000 or 1-800-843-3375.

Telena Westmoreland, RN, of Fulton, Home Health and Hospice. Westmoreland has been with NMMC since 2000.

Loralei McGee of Tupelo, resource coordinator for the Education Department. McGee joined the NMMC staff in 1997.

Wade Westmoreland, RN, of Fulton, with Home Health and Hospice. Westmoreland joined the NMMC staff in 2004.
Cheryl Ford, CNA, rehabilitation technician with the North Mississippi Medical Center’s Rehabilitation Institute, was named NMMC’s Employee of the Month for September.

Ford has been with NMMC since 2001. She has also worked as a managerial assistant for Acute Rehabilitation and a unit coordinator for the Rehabilitation Institute.

A graduate of Shannon High School, Ford attended Itawamba Community College in Fulton and Tupelo.

“What I love most about my job is building relationships with the patients while they are in rehab and watching them improve, go home and return later to visit,” Ford said. “I love seeing how they recover over time.”

In her nomination, coworkers emphasized Ford’s friendliness and strong work ethic.

“Cheryl leads by example for others to do not only their best work, but to always keep the patient’s best interest in mind,” one coworker wrote in her nomination. “Cheryl has an excellent rapport with the patients, allowing her to push them to do their best in therapy.”

“Cheryl is truly selfless and does whatever it takes to make our team successful,” another coworker wrote in her nomination. “It is truly an honor to work with someone who contributes, at all costs, for the good of the patient and this facility.”

Ford resides in Tupelo and attends White Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

Rehabilitation employees on 1 West were on hand when Cheryl Ford (front row, middle) was recognized as September’s Employee of the Month for NMMC.

Employee Recognition & Observances

November is Home Care Month
November 7-13 is Patient Transportation Week
November 7-13 is National Radiologic Technology Week
November 7-13 is Health Information Services Week
November 15 is National Philanthropy Day

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication throughout the year.
Dr. Eugene Murphey Celebrates 90th Birthday

Dr. Eugene Murphey (center) celebrated his 90th birthday with medical assistant Amy Loggins, former original founding partner Dr. Floyd Lummus and IMA-Tupelo coworkers Sept. 30 at a Mardi Gras-themed party in his honor. A 1944 graduate of Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, he also graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson. Dr. Murphey has practiced in Tupelo for 60 years. He continues to see patients four days each week and says he has no immediate plans to retire.

Nurse Manager Assigned Higher Responsibility

J. Adams has been named director of North Mississippi Medical Center’s Central Sterile Processing and Case Cart Assembly.

Adams joined NMMC more than six years ago as the nurse manager for cardiothoracic surgery. In his new role, Adams will be working over the next six to 12 months on getting the new Central Sterile Processing and Case Cart Assembly plant up and running.

He attended Itawamba Community College in Fulton, and received his bachelor’s degree in nursing from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus.

He is currently working toward his master’s degree in health care administration at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

His wife, Becky Adams, is a nurse anesthetist at NMMC, and they are expecting their first child in December.
Helping Is Watchword For Clinic EOM

Alberta Rutherford of New Albany has been chosen as the September Employee of the Month for North Mississippi Medical Clinics.

Rutherford has worked as an admissions/discharge specialist for the clinic organization since 2002, and has been with New Albany Medical Clinic since 2008. She is a graduate of Myrtle High School, and attended Itawamba Community College and Faith Bible Institute in Monroe, La. She is certified in Biblical studies and in office systems technology.

“The best part of my job is being able to encourage and help my patients, co-workers, friends and family,” Rutherford said. “I really love helping whenever and wherever I can.”

Rutherford and her late husband, Michael, have two children, Scherrita Tucker and Kevin Rutherford, and three grandchildren, 13-year-old Jashanae’, 10-year-old Jonathan, and the late Javon Tucker.

She is a member of First Evangelical Bible Church in Ripley, where she serves as financial secretary, church clerk, member of the choir, and director of the Faith Bible Institute’s Ripley location. She is also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

The Employee of the Month honor recognizes employees with exemplary job performance and customer service skills, as well as community involvement.

Several Win Prizes During Credit Union Day Celebration

Several employees took home prizes from NMMC’s National Credit Union Day celebration Oct. 20:

- TV – Greg Grissom, Radiology
- iTunes gift cards – Melissa James, MIS
- Bakeware set – Zak Coats, Facility Operations
- Gourmet Cookies – Robert McCoy, SPD
- Queen Air Mattress – Shelia Willis, Education
- Gourmet Peanuts – Amy Weathersby, 5 South
- Family Night Games – Billy Mullins, Facility Operations
- Queen sized blanket – Leanne Davis, Wellness Center
- Coffee Maker – Bonnie Finney, Pulmonary Consultants

As part of the celebration, Credit Union employees issued 1,135 Christmas Club checks totaling more than $1 million. Employees wishing to enroll in the Christmas Club for 2011 may do so through Dec. 23. Enrollment forms may be downloaded from the Intranet or picked up at the Credit Union.

Medical Ethics Forum meetings are held each month to provide a forum for discussing moral values as they apply to medicine. The next meeting will be held at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, in the NMMC Education Center, Room 21. Renee Sutton, case manager, will present “Ethical Dimensions of Dealing with a Defiant Patient.”

Visit www.nmhs.net/physicians_portal and click on “Medical Ethics” for a schedule.

All members of NMMC staff and community are invited to attend this informative meeting. Continuing education credits are available for physicians, nurses, case managers/social workers, PT, OT, SLP and pharmacists.
Pam Hodges’ coworkers honored her with a reception Sept. 17 for more than 30 years of oncology nursing at North Mississippi Medical Center. Well-wishers included (from left) Beth Sherfey, Judy Duncan, Hodges, Karen George, Rachel Williamson, Alfreda Lockridge and Erin Watson. Employed at NMMC since 1979, she is certified in oncology, hospice and palliative care nursing, and recently received the prestigious American Cancer Society Lane W. Adams Quality of Life Award. Hodges is now serving as a nurse practitioner at Baldwyn Medical Clinic.

Diana Chiles (from left), community educator with Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital Community Health and Well Being, and Bernard, Le Bonheur’s hospital puppet, share a laugh with Brianna Cottles, Jackson Gore and Andrew Green at North Mississippi Medical Center’s Child Care Center. Chiles and Bernard visited with Child Care Center staff and students Oct. 8 to thank them for collecting $1,955.31 in donations for Le Bonheur. Room 9 was treated to an ice cream party for collecting the most money at $399.30. Room 8 came in second with $349.46, and Room 10 came in third with $344.10.
Two New Physicians Join Area Clinics

Pontotoc Medical Clinic is pleased to announce that Steven N. Dirmeyer, M.D., is joining the clinic for the practice of family medicine.

Dr. Dirmeyer joins Drs. Stephen Montgomery, Andrea Warren and Dale Wing at the clinic.

Dr. Dirmeyer earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Mississippi College in Clinton. He received his medical training at the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Medicine in Jackson, and he completed his internship and residency in family medicine at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

The clinic is located at 345 Hwy. 15 N. The phone number is (662) 489-7430.

North East Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine and Dr. William Pillow are pleased to announce the association of Bryan C. Fagan, M.D.

Dr. Fagan graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1996 with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. He received his M.D. from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 2004 and subsequently completed his orthopaedic residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in June 2009.

Following his residency, Dr. Fagan completed a one year arthroscopy and sports medicine fellowship at Mississippi Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center in Jackson.

Dr. Fagan will be practicing general orthopaedics. He has special interests in sports medicine injuries and arthroscopic surgery of the shoulder, hip and knee. He is a member of the Mississippi Orthopaedic Society and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Dr. Fagan is board eligible by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

North East Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine is located in Longtown Medical Park, Suite 102, at 4381 S. Eason Blvd. in Tupelo. For more information, call (662) 377-6700.

Job Is Easier When Coworkers Are Like Family

Lisa Clark, medical staff coordinator and Medicare coder at North Mississippi Medical Center-West Point, has been selected by her peers as the most recent Employee of the Quarter.

Clark joined the NMMC-Tupelo Health Information Services staff in 1990 as a medical coder and transferred to West Point three years later. In 2000, she became director of the department. In 2006 she accepted the job of medical staff coordinator and continues to serve in that capacity.

Clark is a graduate of Meridian High School and Meridian Community College. She earned her credentials as a Registered Health Information Technician in 1989.

“Lisa is well liked and respected by the medical staff,” her nomination stated. “She is an excellent coder and continually seeks opportunities to learn more about her job.” Clark was cited for being an excellent physician advocate and working diligently on Medicare compliance issues.

“What I love most about my job is working with such a wonderful group of people,” she said. “It is such a pleasure to work in a place where coworkers are like family. I especially enjoy the great working relationship I have with the dedicated and caring physicians at NMMC-West Point. They are easy to work with and make my job very rewarding.”

She and her husband Kevin Clark live in West Point with their three Boston terriers – Spencer, Baxter and Bentley. She also enjoys spending time with her two godchildren, Colton and Bryar Gates.

Clark is an avid supporter of the Mississippi State University Bulldogs, and her hobbies include collecting Paula Deen recipes and shopping.