

Hospital

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doctors four times a year — I don't do that anymore."

Luttbeg also sees a lot more specialists in Bryan-College Station.

"In the past, a lot of people were in the habit of going out of town for specialists," Luttbeg said. "Now, because of the number of specialists in town, that isn't necessary."

Sweeney said the number of doctors in Bryan-College Station has doubled in the last five years.

Dick Haddox, a member of the College Station City Council and the vice chairman of the College Station Economic Development Foundation, said that people who migrate to Houston hospitals might begin to use the local health facilities since there are now so many.

"I lived in Houston for 15 years before I moved back (to College Station)," Haddox said. "When I left College Station there were one or two pediatricians — that was about all the specialists."

"Today they have many more specialists, and the more you have, the more people from Caldwell, Madisonville, Snook and Navasota will come here rather than go to Houston."

Sweeney said that if both Humana and St. Joseph bring in patients from outside areas, Bryan-College Station will become a medical center.

But Luttbeg said it's too early to know what effect the new Humana Hospital will have on St. Joseph.

"I don't think there will be that much difference," she said. "There were already two hospitals in the

area. Now one is just bigger and newer."

Luttbeg said although the two hospitals will push each other to excel, there may be some unnecessary duplication of equipment.

Herring said, however, that most of the 35 added beds at the new hospital are allocated to new services, not just to expanding current programs.

Another concern, Browne said, is that Humana Hospital is a corporate, profit-motivated hospital and will financially hurt the Catholic

"With two hospitals you have competition and hopefully, competition results in improvement."

— Dr. David Hackethorn, Scott & White Clinic medical director

Church-operated St. Joseph Hospital.

The indigent patients will be sent to St. Joseph, while patients paying for their medical services will go to Humana, causing St. Joseph to lose money, she said.

Browne points to the obstetrics department as an example of what could be a major problem for the two hospitals.

St. Joseph has invested a lot of money in its neonatal care unit to take care of newborn babies that are seriously ill, but Browne said that with the construction of Humana's obstetrics ward in its new facility, potential St. Joseph patients will be

taken by Humana and sick babies too expensive to treat will be sent to St. Joseph.

St. Joseph will end up with indigent pregnant women, teenage pregnancies and critically ill babies, she said, while Humana will get healthy babies from parents who can pay their bills.

Herring said that, although ill babies will be transferred by a doctor to St. Joseph from Humana, patients coming to the door with a medical need will be treated, regardless of their ability to pay.

Sweeney said that in the case of indigent patient care, there isn't as much difference between Humana and St. Joseph as one might think.

"St. Joseph has to make a profit just to survive," he said. "You can't improve or expand if you don't make a profit."

Hackethorn said he doubts there will be a problem and that Humana will provide service for anyone who goes there.

Luttbeg agrees that Humana will provide care to indigent patients, but she doesn't rule out the possibility of a problem in the future.

"We (St. Joseph Hospital) really don't know if that is going to happen or not," she said. "If someone shows up at Humana about to deliver, they're not going to kick them out."

Herring said the added obstetrics department at Humana is important to have in the community because it gives women a choice of hospitals.

Hackethorn also thinks a choice of facilities is important, especially from the aspect of competitiveness.

Local doctors with private practices belong to one group that may not support the new Humana Hos-

pital, not because either hospital may lose money, Hackethorn said, but because the buildings are too far apart.

If doctors had patients in both Humana and St. Joseph hospitals before the April move, they had less than 100 yards to walk between the buildings. With the new Humana located nearly 8 miles away from St. Joseph, the doctors must spend more time in their cars.

However, Dr. Sudhir D. Patel, an obstetrician and gynecologist whose office is in Bryan, near St. Joseph and the old Humana, said most people in the Bryan-College Station area are used to driving to both communities anyway.

"I don't see any problem," he said. Luttbeg said the location of the new facility also will be a bonus to the people who live in College Station because accident victims in that part of town will have an easier trip to a hospital.

Hackethorn said that with the number of specialists, the quality of existing facilities and the addition of new facilities, such as Humana and the Scott & White Clinic, the area is keeping pace with other cities.

"Many of the changes in the health care facilities have paralleled the changes of other cities throughout the state and the country," he said. "I really think this area is evolving into a first-class medical community, compared to other areas of this size," he said.

But Sweeney said the only real test of the need for the new Humana Hospital will be time.

"If this expansion is a needless duplication it will eventually die out," he said.

Ride leaves NASA for job as scientist at Stanford center

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Sally K. Ride, the first American woman to fly in space, is leaving NASA to take a position at Stanford University, her alma mater, she said Tuesday.

Ride, who was 36 on Tuesday, will be leaving the National Aeronautics and Space Administration this fall to become a scientist for the Stanford University Center for International Security and Arms Control in Palo Alto, Calif.

The announcement comes a few weeks after she and her husband, astronaut Steven Hawley, were divorced.

She became the first American woman in space in 1983 as a mission specialist on a six-day space shuttle mission with four crewmates. She flew a second time in 1984 on an eight-day mission.

She also held a variety of other positions at NASA, including serving as a member of the presidential commission that investigated the Challenger accident.

Ride said in an interview Tuesday that she would miss spaceflight, but that the Stanford job "is a good opportunity."

"I'm going to be using, for the first time in quite a while, my physics background," she said.

The new job, Ride said, "is something I've been thinking about for quite a while."

In 1982, Ride married Hawley, an astronomer she met after they were both named to the astronaut



Sally Ride

corps. She said they separated in September and were divorced a few weeks ago in Houston.

"It was completely amicable," she said Tuesday. "We talk at least once a week."

Hawley, deputy chief of the astronaut office, declined comment. A NASA spokesman said he is in line for spaceflight.

Ride was one of six women selected for the astronaut corps in 1978 and her assignment to shuttle flight made her an instant celebrity, a status she disliked.

She chided the press for making "such a big deal" about a woman in space and declared, "It's time that people realize women in this country can do a job that they want to do."

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