

State and Local

A&M medical service workers help save heart-attack victim

By Kimberly House
Reporter

Paramedic Steven McDonald of Texas A&M Emergency Medical Service said as volunteers for the service, the paramedics' paycheck is to help others and possibly save someone's life. On November 14, members of the EMS were paid 15 minutes before the Arkansas State at Kyle Field, five EMS volunteers and a physician from Belton saved a man's life with a Life Pack 5 defibrillator.

William Goodrum, 56, of Bay City suffered a cardiac arrest on the intersection of Clark Street and Rount Boulevard. University police officers were called to the scene to help Goodrum, who was thought to be having seizures.

Several onlookers started CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) on Goodrum while medics from the first-aid station at the north end zone rushed to help, McDonald said. He said Goodrum had no pulse and was not breathing when he and other paramedics arrived.

"Clinically, and for all records, when there is no pulse or breathing the patient is dead and there is only a 33 percent chance that he can be brought back to life in the field," McDonald said.

However, he said, with the new Life Pack 5 and heart medications

now available, the medical service is able to do anything in the field that a hospital can do. Consequently, Goodrum was breathing before the ambulance reached the hospital, he said.

The Life Pack 5 defibrillator monitors the electrical activity of the heart and delivers shocks to the patient to "jump start" the heart, McDonald said.

He said CPR was continued in the ambulance.

Sandra Lark, Goodrum's girlfriend, said, "We should praise the paramedics in this town. They are wonderful."

Goodrum was out of intensive care and was receiving treatment in

a progressive care unit late Sunday afternoon.

Lark said Goodrum was at Humana Hospital by 1:20 p.m. that Saturday afternoon and was on a life support system for three days.

McDonald said the first hour after a person is injured is called the "golden hour," which means the more that can be done in that hour, the better the chance a person has to live.

McDonald said EMS has had the Life Pack since May and it cost about \$9,000. It was purchased by the A.P. Beutel Health Center with money gained from research performed by Dr. Claude Goswick, director of the health center.

Texas City residents worry about ill effects from chemical leak

TEXAS CITY (AP) — Dead trees and grass are a daily reminder of last month's chemical leak, and some residents want to know whether the leak has long-term health implications.

Della Scurry says her 3-month-old son, Wayne, has scars on his head and face and a bald spot on his scalp where his hair has fallen out.

"I'm worried about him," she said.

A passing cloud of highly toxic hydrofluoric acid from a Marathon Petroleum Co. plant forced the evacuation of about 3,000 Texas City residents Oct. 30.

"Will he be able to have a family of his own?" asks Scurry, who also has blisters on her arms from the incident. "Will he be able to survive?"

The answer to that is, "Yes," say two experts on the effects of exposure to hydrofluoric acid.

But experts caution that not enough research has been done on the long-term effects from a single exposure to the acid to put Scurry's mind at ease.

"One single exposure should not have life-threatening, long-term effects," said Dr. Suresh Gupta, a scientist for the federal government's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health headquartered in Cincinnati.

"But these people should be monitored once a year (or) every five to 10 years for the next 20 years," he said.

Frank Weir, director of environmental safety for the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, agrees.

"If they survived the immediate exposure, they should survive in the long term," Weir said.

"The human body has a phenomenal ability to repair itself," he said.

There are no conclusive studies on long-term effects from single exposures.

"If they survived the immediate exposure, they should survive in the long term."
— Frank Weir, UT Health Science Center environmental safety director

But there are reams of studies on long-term effects from repeated exposures, the kind that people who work daily with the acid might receive.

In 15 to 20 years, these victims began to show symptoms of various ailments — osteoporosis, which is a bone disease characterized by a reduction in bone density; kidney failure, and in children, discoloration of teeth, Gupta said.

Weir says the harsh aspects of hydrofluoric acid usually are present in the beginning. Nasal passages, lungs and other moist skin membranes are at risk.

Low concentrations, such as the exposure in Texas City, could result in some upper respiratory problems and scarring that could last a lifetime, Weir said.

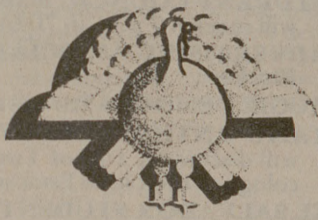
But once the burning, searing and most painful effects of the exposure wear off, the residue fluoride becomes the cause of concern.

Fluoride, the experts say, seeks out and replaces calcium. If enough is absorbed by the body, it could collect in the bones, ligaments, kidneys and teeth.

Whether these symptoms show up in Texas City residents in later years largely will depend on how concentrated an exposure they received when the acid cloud passed over the city, and the passage of time, Gupta and Weir say.

Students have several dining options for traditional Thanksgiving feasting

By Janice Riggs
Reporter



Graphic by Susan C. Akin

Many Aggies, like most Americans, will sit down to a Thanksgiving dinner Thursday, and students who in town for the holiday have vast choices on how and where to eat themselves.

Many area restaurants, the MSC Cafeteria, Rudder Tower Dining Room and even some students are preparing to feed hungry Aggies and their friends.

"I'm having a hard time figuring out where my family is going to eat," said David Walter, a sophomore environmental design major. "Students get reservations or plans made for their Thanksgiving dinner."

"This may not seem to be a problem now, but when the A&M and fans come into town, this place is speaking to be a madhouse," said Carole Evans, a clerk at the Rudder Tower Dining Room, said they

will be serving from 11 a.m. until the game starts.

"We will have a buffet with turkey and the traditional trimmings," she said.

Ronald Beard, a Texas A&M dining center manager, said the MSC cafeteria will be open from 7 a.m. with Thanksgiving dinner being served at 10:45 a.m. until the game starts or until the last person is fed.

"We'll be geared up for all the people," Beard said. "Most families will be appropriately dressed in their

maroon and white. Some people have been coming here for years."

Beard said the cafeteria will be serving a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with turkey, ham, candied yams and holiday salads.

Dining centers like Sbsa and the Commons will be closed Thursday.

But what about students who are expecting relatives or a small army from all over the county, state or country?

One option for them would be to order a fully prepared Thanksgiving dinner from cafeterias in the Bryan-College Station area.

Take-out dinners at Luby's and Wyatt's cafeterias will consist of turkey, dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Small and large meals are available.

James Harvill, manager of Luby's, and Russell Kost, assistant manager of Wyatt's, said they are expecting big crowds.

Other restaurants that will serve Thanksgiving meals include Fort

Shiloh Steakhouse, 3 C Bar-B-Q, K-Bob's Steak House, Interurban Eating House and Casa Tomas Mexican Restaurant.

Jim Talbot, manager of Casa Tomas, said the restaurant will serve a traditional Thanksgiving buffet with added dishes that have a southwestern flair, like tamale dressing and pumpkin empanadas and flans.

But some students, like Emerson Sox, a junior engineering and technology major, plan to have a home-cooked meal.

"My girlfriend and her mother will probably cook the turkey and I'll run around and take orders," Sox said. "I'll eat anything but a processed turkey roll. Those things are nasty."

Walter said his cooking responsibilities regarding the Thanksgiving hoopla probably will be limited.

"I would help cook the turkey and everything, but I have a hard time heating up frozen dinners," he said.

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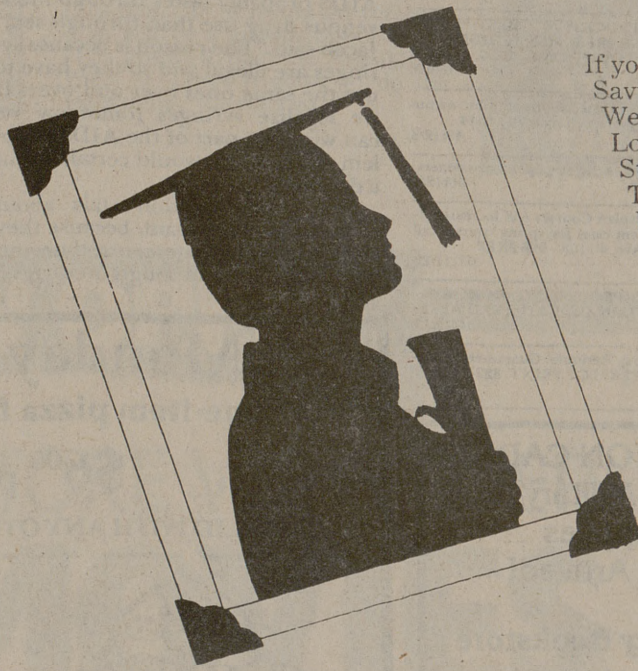
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