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LOUISIANA'S HOSPITAL SYSTEM

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## IN THE NEWS

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[TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007]

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## Medical Explorer Post to soon be formed in Bogalusa

The Daily News | 05.21.07

By Amy Dickinson

BOGALUSA - High school students and young adults interested in the medical field have the opportunity to join an Explorer post that will focus on medical related services.

The Istrouma Area Council Explorer Post with a sponsorship from LSU Bogalusa Medical Center is ready to introduce the new post to interested high school students and young adults, said Scott Fischer, district executive for the council.

This is a co-ed post for 14-to-20-years-olds, with an interest in medical occupations. There are a minimum number of five youth and five adults needed to start an Explorer post. Exploring is a program under the wing of Boy Scouts of America that is open to boys and girl.

Training and materials are provided to adults who fill the leading positions, along with support from other leaders.

"Several years ago we had a Boy Scout troop tied in with the former Bogalusa Medical Center, but little by little the students became adults. So now, with an interest from Explorer post group, we're hoping that high school students and young adults just leaving high school will be seeking summer activities and especially those who are interested in the medical field might find this an excellent opportunity to join," said education director for BMC, Beverly Sheridan.

A meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, in the BMC boardroom, to discuss details for bringing a medical oriented Explorer post group back to the community. This meeting, called "First Nighter," will be used to organize the post and to get to know parents as well as their children.

Serving as post advisor is Joyce Adams, with Michele Lyon as Committee Chair. The committee members are Regina Runfalo, Kurt Scott, Beverly Sheridan, Tammy Stewart, Penny Terrell, Lynn Wells and Merlin Duke.

There will be a \$10 membership fee at registration. Registration is year-round and the post's goal is to start activities soon after the school year.

For more information and to pre-register for the Explorer post, contact Penny Terrell at 730-6771. <http://www.edailynews.info/articles/2007/05/21/news/news06.txt>

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## The babies are coming ... back

The Daily News | 05.21.07

By Jacob Brooks

BOGALUSA - Dr. Allen Singleton Jr. can't quite pinpoint the final birth he handled not long before he retired in 1995. But it's easy to understand why: Singleton, now 81, delivered thousands of babies in his nearly 40 years as an obstetrician. If you were born in Washington Parish between 1956 and 1994, there's a good chance Singleton pulled you from your mother's womb.

"It was a very satisfying way to practice medicine," Singleton said.

For nearly 40 years Singleton and his business partner Dr. Glenn Waldrup delivered babies at what were then called the Bogalusa Community Medical Center and Washington-St. Tammany Regional Medical Center, more commonly known as "Charity." There was a year when the two doctors delivered a total of 486 babies, Singleton said. In another year they delivered 387. The retired doctor who still lives in Bogalusa said the most babies he delivered in one day was 12. Fittingly, that was on Mother's Day.

But after Waldrup died of cancer and Singleton retired, the practice of delivering babies in the parish dried up. For about the past 10 years, the only babies born in Washington Parish have been delivered in the emergency room, or else some other place not designated as a delivery room. But that will soon change. By spring of 2008, the LSU Bogalusa Medical Center on Plaza will have a maternity ward ... again, hospital officials said.

The last baby born at BCMC delivered by Waldrup and Singleton was a C-section done on Nov. 23, 1994, according to current hospital officials. The hospital did continue to deliver babies, but staff issues were raised. A shortage of available doctors was a big part of the reason the hospital stopped delivering babies after the departure of Waldrup and Singleton, said Regina Runfulu, the assistant CEO at BMC.

"We couldn't attract permanent, full-time positions," she said.

The last baby born at the BCMC labor and delivery unit was born Nov. 18, 1998. It was a boy, hospital officials said. Since then, however, the two Bogalusa hospitals merged and became part of the LSU system, which has a wide reach. Having a maternity ward is an important part of being a fully functional hospital, Runfulu said.

"This has become such a goal for our area," said Runfulu. "It's an LSU priority."

The state approved \$15 million to BMC to address expansion needs last year. Of that, \$5 million is to go towards the maternity ward, which will be on the hospital's first floor. It used to be on the third floor. The rest of the \$15 million will be spent on doubling the size of the family residency clinic, an emergency generator and other needs. At least 30 personnel will staff the new maternity ward, and will include doctors from a residency program in Bogalusa now being developed. Obstetric facilities are a requirement of the residency program, which currently has two doctors, but is slated to have 12 once it is in full swing, said Dr. Dennis LaRavia, who heads the program. A visiting doctor was scheduled to be in town Friday to review the local facilities and programs for accreditation by the American Board of Family Medicine.

A big boost for having a local maternity ward is "this will reduce the need for people to travel," Runfulu said. And that's a big deal when it comes to delivering a baby, Singleton said.

"It can be at 2 o'clock in the morning. It can be stormy weather," he said, but when a woman goes into labor, time is an issue. And with traveling to Covington or elsewhere to deliver, there is a risk factor.

"The closer you are to where you are going to deliver, the safer it is," Singleton said.

The new unit will not strictly be a maternity ward. Other women's health procedures, such as hysterectomies, will also be part of BMC's obstetrics and gynecology clinic.

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## **Nike donates \$1 million in shoes to New Orleans kids**

**The Associated Press | 05.21.07**

By BECKY BOHRER

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Nike Inc. said Monday that will donate 13,000 pairs of shoes to New Orleans' teenagers as part of a national campaign to encourage physical fitness and help fight obesity in young people.

The donation, which Nike values at about \$1 million, was announced at a recreation center stacked with boxes of trainers and high tops. Dozens of students got shoes, along with a box-top autograph from New Orleans Saints running back Deuce McAllister.

"People are caring about you," said McAllister, whose black T-shirt bore a golden fleur de lis above the word 'Rebuild.' "You just have to do your part by hitting the books and staying out of trouble."

A city spokeswoman said shoes would be distributed over the next week to public and Catholic school students in middle school and high school. Schools were asked in advance to provide the shoe sizes of their students.

McAllister said it's important the needs of New Orleans — and particularly it's children\_ are not forgotten as the city continues to recover from Hurricane Katrina. The storm struck Aug. 29, 2005, flooding 80 percent of the city. Many families lost all their possessions.

"The kids lost clothes; they're rebuilding, too," said Larry Barabino Jr., the city's recreation director.

Barabino said the teens will have plenty of opportunity to break in their new shoes, in spite of the damage that remains here. New Orleans has re-established summer athletic programs and reopened some community centers, playgrounds and stadiums since Katrina.

Jon Smith, 14, said he planned to wait for something special — a holiday or a party — before trying out his new black high-tops. He really liked the shoes — which he and the other kids compared in the noisy gym like brothers and sisters showing off Christmas presents. But he said they paled next to meeting McAllister, one of his role models. "I'm excited it's happening to me," he said.

Phillip Nelson, 18, called the shoes a "blessing" that topped the fleeting time he spent with McAllister. The shoes, he said, would "be for life, basically."

This summer, Oregon-based Nike said it plans to donate, through a partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association, more than 60,000 shoes, worth about \$6 million, to youth in 21 communities nationwide.

Nike's Sandy Pressley said the company wants to help kids get fit: "We put them in shoes and parks and recreation gives them places to play," she said.

<http://www.nola.com/newsflash/louisiana/index.ssf?/base/sports-12/1179799156307560.xml&storylist=louisiana>

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## Hospitals Protest Proposed Medicaid Regulatory Change Congressional Quarterly | 05.22.07

By Mary Agnes Carey, CQ HealthBeat Associate Editor

A regulatory proposal by the Bush Administration to end Medicaid payments for graduate medical education would hurt hospitals' ability to train physicians, an industry group said Monday.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) proposed regulation, which was put on public display Friday and will be published in the Federal Register May 23, "cuts back on Medicaid's historic commitment to train the physicians that serve in America's hospitals and care for all patients," Rick Pollack, the executive vice president for the American Hospital Association, said in a statement.

At a February hearing on the Bush administration's fiscal 2008 budget proposal, members of the House Ways and Means committee said the administration's proposal to stop Medicaid graduate medical education (GME) payments would hurt teaching hospitals. But HHS Secretary Michael O. Leavitt responded that the hospital industry is in good financial shape, suggested that it could sustain the cuts.

Congressional Democrats have tried to stop implementation of the proposal in their supplemental funding measure for the Iraq war , and also did not include the Medicaid GME language in their fiscal 2008 budget plan.

"Both the Senate and the House have already rejected this proposal, yet the Administration continues to ignore Congressional intent," Pollack said.

The administration proposal would reduce Medicaid funding by about \$1.8 billion from 2008 through 2012. The administration is accepting public comment on the proposed regulation through June 22.

Hospital groups, lawmakers and governors are also continuing to fight the Bush administration on other proposed regulatory changes to Medicaid they say would cut nearly \$4 billion from the nation's health care safety net over the next five years. (See related story, CQ HealthBeat, March 23, 2007).

<http://www.cq.com>

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