



April 30, 2021

# New Direction

## Welcome Erica Ballard, new emergency department manager

Erica Ballard is the new emergency department manager at Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital. She started work in February, and we couldn't be happier to have her.

Born in Shreveport, Erica currently lives in Carthage where she attended Carthage High School. She furthered her education at Panola College for her LVN and RN degrees, and then proceeded to go to Lamar University for her BSN and MSN.

Erica says she wanted to work at Memorial Hospital because she was looking to work in a "large hospital environment that provided me with the opportunities to expand my knowledge and training by working along with experts within Memorial. I was looking for a stable, long-term position, and this facility is known for its strong, collaborative teams and career satisfaction among its nurses."

Erica completed her clinical rotation at Memorial Hospital for her master's program and fell in love with the hospital. That led her to where she is today. She said, "The administration staff welcomed me with open loving arms and allowed me to participate in administrative functions, as well as problem solving, including clinical experiences that are evidence-based and reflect contemporary practice and nationally established patient health and safety goals."

She sees Memorial as a "big hospital that offers many services to get the care you need right here in this small town. Memorial provides high-level, focused team-oriented solutions."

Erica is married and has three adult daughters and one granddaughter. Her hobbies include taking care of her 83-year-old father and 78-year-old mother with dementia who lives with her.

One of the philosophies Erica lives by is "not getting sidetracked by people who are not on track." Her other motto is "don't make excuses, make improvements."

Erica, we are excited to see what you will accomplish here!



## Matthew Malloy honored with Wow Moment for COVID work

Staff from Nacogdoches Memorial Professional Group proudly nominated coworker Matthew Malloy for the WOW Moment of April. Matthew Malloy, manager of quality, has showcased many moments of selflessness that are worth recognition.

"During the initial months of the pandemic Matthew was instrumental in helping get the county-wide COVID testing center off the ground and working with the county officials, Memorial staff, Medical Center staff and SFA staff to make this happen." After the county COVID testing center shut down, Matthew set up smaller clinics here at the hospital, making sure it was staffed and that the staff was well trained.

Most recently, Matthew has taken on a leadership role in the county-wide vaccine clinics. He made sure the process was put into place, manages the staffing from NMPG and works alongside other NMH staff to make it all possible.

"During the last year, we have not heard one complaint about all of the work or hours he has had to put in, even on weekends to catch up with his regular work," said Reagan Moore, NMPG director. "Patient care is his number one priority. His dedication makes Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital a better organization and we are lucky to have him." Thank you for everything you do, Matthew!



## Hospital board acknowledges state nurse for Job Well Done

The Nacogdoches County Hospital District Board of Directors honored state nurse Heather Curtis for a Job Well Done for her generosity to her coworkers and compassion for our patients at this month's board meeting.

You probably know Heather as the kind ICU nurse who sponsored the four recent Employee Appreciation Day events for staff, but her generosity has involved so much more. "Though she wants no recognition, we could not let her many gifts go unacknowledged," said Kristine Sutton, chief nursing officer. "Heather saw needs that needed to be filled. Using money from her own pocket, she set about filling those needs. In the course of the nine months Heather has been part of our family she has purchased an ultrasound for locating veins with two iPads that can also be used for patient and family communication; multiple turning wedges to make our patients more comfortable; a recliner for patients to make them more comfortable; fun T-shirts for staff; warm jackets for staff; two microwave ovens for staff areas; and countless meals for staff."

Though the gifts were definitely notable and appreciated, Dr. Binusha Moitheennazima said she was truly impressed with Heather's nursing skills and compassion for all of our Memorial patients.

"Heather has truly earned a place in our hearts and we would love for her to become a permanent part of our Memorial family someday," said Kristine.



## Lab professionals celebrate Lab Week

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week takes place towards the last full week each April and celebrates its 45th anniversary this year. Lab Week was celebrated at Nacogdoches Memorial last week.

Some events and activities to celebrate our lab professionals included an itinerary of pastries and coffee, full breakfast, deserts and tea bar, pot luck luncheon, and lots of pizza. There were activities throughout the week such as lab coat superheroes decorating contest, fast solving puzzles (three puzzles to solve), and all of the activities came with a gift certificate prize.

Thank you laboratory professionals for your important role in every aspect of healthcare!

## Changed your mind?

Covid vaccines are still available. Contact Amanda Mechelle, employee health nurse, at [meshella@nacmem.org](mailto:meshella@nacmem.org) or ext. 4601 to get signed up.



## Mechanic wins 1 of 4 prizes

Plant operations mechanic Wayne Fitzgerald, pictured left, won this summertime prize pack at one of four Employee Appreciation events earlier this month. Wayne is a new employee here at Nacogdoches Memorial and won one of the four raffle prizes sponsored by Heather Curtis and Angel Staffing, a healthcare staffing agency. Each prize pack featured wine glasses, Igloo cooler, beach chair, super soakers, beach towels, beef jerky, and sunscreen.

## Don't forget!

*Deadline to order Mother's Day Bouquets from the Auxiliary Gift Shop is Monday, May 3.*

## May Food Truck Fridays

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Blount Park

May 7

*Sbali's Indian Kitchen  
Chamber's Smokehouse*

May 21

*Sbali's Indian Kitchen  
Uncle Pete's*