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SMMC earns Level IV trauma designation

Special to the Herald

Scenic Mountain Medical Center has announced the hospital has earned the Texas Department of State Health Service's Level IV trauma designation.

The designation, first achieved in 2005, re-certifies that SMMC provides the necessary equipment and resources to provide care to patients with traumatic injuries. The hospital staff will celebrate this accomplishment with a breakfast and certificate presentation Thursday. Breakfast will be served from 7 a.m. until 9 a.m. in the Yellow Rose Cafe.

The public is invited to attend.

"This designation was given after SMMC voluntarily underwent the intensive survey process by the Texas Department of State Health Services to demonstrate its commitment to high quality trauma care for the residents of Howard County and the surrounding area. We will continue to work to set new standards of excellence in providing emergency care," said Larry Rodgers, chief executive officer. "We are particularly appreciative of the dedication shown by our employees and physicians, who were instrumental in

SMMC receiving this designation."

The Level IV designation certifies that the hospital has advanced comprehensive plans in place for providing care to patients with traumatic injuries, including vehicle accident injuries, major fractures, falls and injuries to the head, spine and internal organs. To meet these strict requirements, SMMC must have specially trained staff, emergency equipment, transportation resources and the capability to transfer patients to another facility when appropriate.

"This demonstrates our commitment to providing exceptional care to Howard County residents, particularly those in need of emergency services," said Jonetta Sweatt, emergency department director.

"We are truly fortunate to have such dedicated medical staff and clinical support at SMMC," added Judv



Rodgers



Roever

Roever, chief nursing officer.

All medical providers and acute care registered nurses at SMMC have advanced certification in trauma life support, according to hospital officials. In addition, the hospital offers radiology, surgery and other departments that can assist in the care of trauma patients.

"I am very proud of our hospital," said Rodgers. "This milestone achievement will serve Big Spring and the surrounding areas for years to come. This Level IV Trauma designation supports the quality emergency healthcare SMMC provides right here, close to home."