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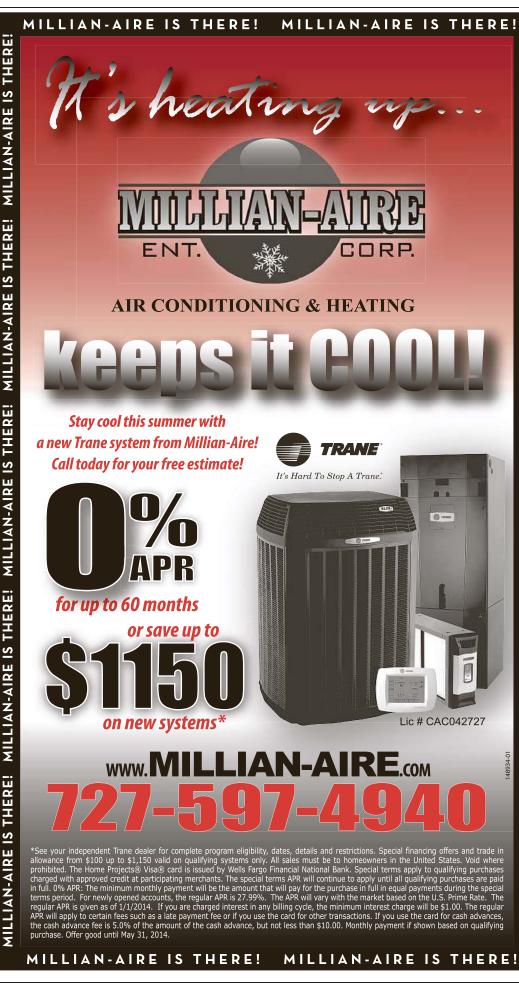
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Around Pinellas

Health notes New defibrillators at EMS

Early this month the entire Pinellas County emergency medical services system, including Sunstar Paramedic ambulances, transitioned to new Philips HeartStart MRx ECG monitor/defibrilla-

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tors will bring state-of-theart cardiac monitoring BEALL and treatment capabilities for tampabay.com all Advanced Life Support

providers," said Mark Postma,

Sunstar's chief operating officer. Sunstar invested approximately \$1.5 million in the upgrade. The cardiac monitors are capa-

ble of electrocardiogram monitoring, defibrillation, cardioversion, 12 lead cardiogram acquisition and transmission to the hospital. The monitors are also able to act as a temporary pacemaker, monitoring blood pressure, pulse, oxygen and carbon dioxide saturation.

One of the most significant features of the new monitors is Q-CPR, which allows firefighter/ paramedics and Sunstar to ensure quality cardiopulmonary resuscitation to patients without a pulse. The Q-CPR is a sensor connected to the cardiac monitor that is placed on the chest of the patient. This provides caregivers real-time feedback on the depth and rate of compressions during CPR.

The monitor also provides a clear picture of changes in a patient's heart rhythm, allowing for timely recognition of heart attacks.

Sunstar, the 911 ambulance transport service for all Pinellas County residents, employs 550 local residents, and responds to around 500 calls a day. The organization is also a recipient of the Florida Governor's Sterling Award, recognizing role models for organizational

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New Philips HeartStart MRx ECG monitors/defibrillators are now in use by the Pinellas County emergency medical services system, including Sunstar Paramedic ambulances.

performance excellence.

Clearwater's Morton Plant Hospital recently received "Baby-Friendly" status again from the World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund by continuing to demonstrate its ability to offer mothers the information, support and skills needed to successfully initiate and continue breastfeeding their babies.

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The hospital received its first Baby-Friendly designation in 2003.

"Baby-Friendly status is a tangible recognition of our team's commitment to creating a system of support for our breastfeeding mothers," said Marcia Albanese, Morton Plant Mease

director of women and children's services. "Breast milk is uniquely suited for babies and their nutritional needs and helps protect against a host of illnesses for both children and mothers."

The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative was launched in 1991 by the WHO and UNICEF and is a global effort to implement practices that protect, promote and support breastfeeding in maternity centers. Since then,

more than 16.000 facilities in 152 countries have received Baby-Friendly status.

To achieve this status, a maternity facility must meet requirements set forth by the WHO and continue to follow the "10 Steps of Successful Breastfeeding" which include helping all mothers initiate breastfeeding within one hour of birth, showing mothers how to breastfeed and maintain lactation even if they should be separated from their infants, giving newborn infants only breast milk unless medically indicated, practicing rooming-in by allowing mothers and infants to remain together 24 hours a day and encouraging unrestricted breastfeeding on cue.

Since 1991, Morton Plant has seen the number of women successfully breastfeeding rise from 63 percent in 1991 to 85 percent in 2013. The hospital offers lactation consultants, educational classes for expectant mothers to post-delivery and a variety of support groups for nursing moms.

Mail health news to Tampa Bay Times, 1130 Cleveland St., Suite 100-A, Clearwater, FL 33755; fax to (727) 445-4119

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Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Florida Knee & Orthopedic Pavilion

Monday, April 21, 2014 Bilgore Conference Center Largo Medical Center 201 14th Street SW, Largo, FL 33770 5:00 - 7:30 PM

Presentations, refreshments and tours of the 5th Floor Pavilion, will help kick-off our year-long festivities

