

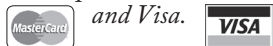
2 HOUR SALE

Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009 ONLY!

563-652-2441 or
800-747-7377

Pre-Pay Sale

Maquoketa Sentinel-Press
accepts MasterCard
and Visa.



Call from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday night and get a special rate
when you pre-pay for 52 weeks.

RENEW YOUR CURRENT SUBSCRIPTION
OR BECOME A NEW SUBSCRIBER!

MAQUOKETA SENTINEL-PRESS

Volume 156, No. 21 ■ 28 pages Plus Supplements ■ Saturday, August 1, 2009 ■ \$1.00 per copy

IN THIS ISSUE

Local	Pages 2-3
Editorial	Page 4
Family	Pages 5-7
Sports	Pages 19-20
Obituaries	Page 23
Classifieds	Eastern Iowa Bizzzy Bee

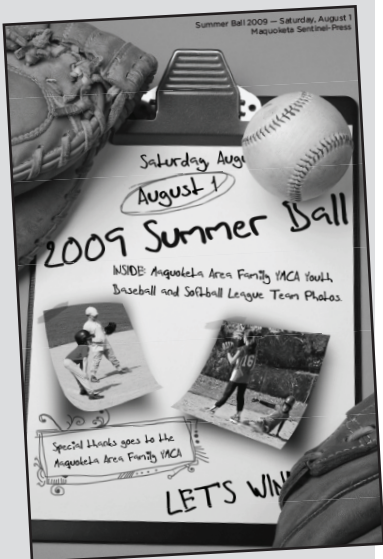
SUPPLEMENTS

■ Eastern Iowa Bizzzy Bee

■ Iowa State Fair

■ Menards

Due to a varying number of supplements purchased by our advertising customers for insertion in *The Maquoketa Sentinel-Press*, subscribers in some areas may not receive all the supplements listed.



2009 Summer Ball Teams

Pages 9-18

PUBLIC NOTICES

- Jerry A. Andresen probate
- Jackson Co. Sheriff Sale
- HSBC Mortgage Services
v. Lisa Kalmes et al
- Storm Water Discharge
- City of Bellevue



Our public notices are also
published on the web at:

[http://www.publicnoticeads.com/
IA/search/searchnotice.asp](http://www.publicnoticeads.com/IA/search/searchnotice.asp)



MSP photo by Kelly Gerlach

A steel culvert lies exposed along hard-hit Mill Creek Road west of Bellevue after a severe rainstorm dumped as much as 6 inches of water in a 1 1/2-hour period Monday night, July 27 in northeastern Jackson County, causing flash flooding and property and crop damage. Secondary roads crews had covered the culvert in the roadway and marked the edge of the road with flags, as seen in left foreground.

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Facing a mounting financial deficit brought on by the economic recession, pressures of federal reimbursement rules and changing trends in health care, the Jackson County Regional Health Center Board of Trustees this week voted to close the hospital's skilled nursing-long term care unit and its renal dialysis unit.

The hospital also will discontinue preparing meals for Maquoketa's Meals on Wheels Program.

The moves will take effect Nov. 1.

Along with other cost reductions previously enacted, the reductions are expected to give the hospital an estimated \$445,000 annually in cost savings and increased reimbursement by Medicare and Medicaid.

A solemn hospital board approved the measures during its monthly meeting Tuesday afternoon, July 28.

Hospital board Chairman Kevin Burns called the action "obviously a huge decision on the part of the board.

"It's not a decision that anyone takes lightly. It impacts a lot of people—patients, residents, employees, the community.

"I think in the end we have come to the conclusion that these are services that we really have no choice financially but to terminate for the overall good of the hospital and the long-term viability of our core service, our core mission—to maintain that."

Hospital Executive Director Curt Coleman and hospital board members had cautioned when enacting less severe cost cuts in recent months that larger ones likely would be necessary.

The cuts are needed to stem a series of operating losses that at the end of June stood at approximately \$325,800 for the past year.

Those losses do not include revenue from the hospital's property tax levy, interest and donations.

Coleman and board members said they would

cut costs and services rather than increase the property tax levy to make ends meet.

Coleman explained that the three areas—the 18-bed skilled nursing unit, the dialysis unit and Meals on Wheels participation—were chosen for elimination because the hospital does not receive Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement for those and they are not otherwise self-sustaining.

He also noted that those services are outside the hospital's most basic mission, which is to provide emergency and acute care services.

To maintain those services, the hospital would have to subsidize them from more profitable services or increase taxes to cover the losses, Coleman said.

In a presentation to the board, he noted that the skilled nursing and long-term care unit lost \$571,000 in 2000 "and that has continually grown. It's trending in the wrong direction for us and putting more strain on the hospital financially."

He noted that 56 percent of the hospital's long-term care patients qualify for Medicaid, which limits its reimbursement to \$146.55 per day, about \$80 less than the cost to the hospital of \$226.67 per day.

The hospital opened its newly renovated skilled nursing and long-term care unit in December of 2003 as part of an \$8.9 million expansion and renovation project.

The hospital opened its dialysis unit in February of 2003. The unit reached a peak of 22 patients in 2007, then the numbers began declining.

"When we opened this, we felt the prevalence of certain diseases would contribute to the need for dialysis services because they contribute to end-stage renal disease," for which dialysis is necessary, Coleman explained.

"We know the prevalence of these conditions is very high and on the rise in much of the Midwest and in Jackson County. What we did not expect is some changes that occurred in outpatient services."

Storm causes damage

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

One of the hardest rainstorms to hit Jackson County in recent memory flooded farm fields, left culverts exposed on county roads, washed tons of debris into low-lying areas and left many Bellevue residents with flooded or wet basements.

While the entire county received a drenching rain, damage was concentrated in Bellevue and the northeastern part of the county.

Mud and debris washed onto Mill Creek Road, which parallels Mill Creek, which became a torrent.

The rain, along with light hail, began Monday night, July 27, shortly after 9 p.m. and continued for about an hour and a half.

Sheriff Russ Kettmann said Don Scheckel recorded six inches at his rural Bellevue residence during the hour-plus storm. He said Frank Yaklin reported 5.4 inches.

In Bellevue, Police Chief Lynn Schwager said the rain gauge at his home showed 3.5 inches.

Kettmann, Schwager and county Engineer Clark Schloz all said it was worst case of flash flooding they had ever seen in Jackson County.

While residents were assessing property damage and clean-up costs, no storm-related injuries were reported.

Lyn Medinger, Jackson County emergency management coordinator, said

Wednesday that the damage likely wasn't severe enough to qualify for declaration of the county as a disaster area, which would qualify it for federal aid.

Edward Green of 31766 Mill Creek Road reported that a berm at his house had been breached and water was gushing in through the windows.

The water flooded Annie's Acres, a strawberry patch operated by David and Ann Kendell, and machinery was being washed into a cornfield.

The rain washed out many fences, allowing cattle to roam free. Farmers were out Monday night rounding up their herds and making makeshift repairs.

County road crews "saw lots of rolls of fence," Schloz said.

Crops in some areas were flattened as the rushing water sought a final resting place.

Schloz said county road crews were called out at 9:30 p.m. and continued working until about 2:30 a.m. They were sent home to get some sleep, then returned to the job at 6 a.m.

"That was a long day," Schloz observed.

The worst damage was to Mill Creek Road and roads leading to it. Bellevue and LaMotte fire trucks traveling on Mill Creek Road from opposite directions both reported difficulty traversing the road because of

■ **STORM,**
Please turn to page 3

JCRHC drops some services

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Facing a mounting financial deficit brought on by the economic recession, pressures of federal reimbursement rules and changing trends in health care, the Jackson County Regional Health Center Board of Trustees this week voted to close the hospital's skilled nursing-long term care unit and its renal dialysis unit.

The hospital also will discontinue preparing meals for Maquoketa's Meals on Wheels Program.

The moves will take effect Nov. 1.

Along with other cost reductions previously enacted, the reductions are expected to give the hospital an estimated \$445,000 annually in cost savings and increased reimbursement by Medicare and Medicaid.

A solemn hospital board approved the measures during its monthly meeting Tuesday afternoon, July 28.

Hospital board Chairman Kevin Burns called the action "obviously a huge decision on the part of the board.

"It's not a decision that anyone takes lightly. It impacts a lot of people—patients, residents, employees, the community.

"I think in the end we have come to the conclusion that these are services that we really have no choice financially but to terminate for the overall good of the hospital and the long-term viability of our core service, our core mission—to maintain that."

Hospital Executive Director Curt Coleman and hospital board members had cautioned when enacting less severe cost cuts in recent months that larger ones likely would be necessary.

The cuts are needed to stem a series of operating losses that at the end of June stood at approximately \$325,800 for the past year.

Those losses do not include revenue from the hospital's property tax levy, interest and donations.

Coleman and board members said they would

cut costs and services rather than increase the property tax levy to make ends meet.

Coleman explained that the three areas—the 18-bed skilled nursing unit, the dialysis unit and Meals on Wheels participation—were chosen for elimination because the hospital does not receive Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement for those and they are not otherwise self-sustaining.

He also noted that those services are outside the hospital's most basic mission, which is to provide emergency and acute care services.

To maintain those services, the hospital would have to subsidize them from more profitable services or increase taxes to cover the losses, Coleman said.

In a presentation to the board, he noted that the skilled nursing and long-term care unit lost \$571,000 in 2000 "and that has continually grown. It's trending in the wrong direction for us and putting more strain on the hospital financially."

He noted that 56 percent of the hospital's long-term care patients qualify for Medicaid, which limits its reimbursement to \$146.55 per day, about \$80 less than the cost to the hospital of \$226.67 per day.

The hospital opened its newly renovated skilled nursing and long-term care unit in December of 2003 as part of an \$8.9 million expansion and renovation project.

The hospital opened its dialysis unit in February of 2003. The unit reached a peak of 22 patients in 2007, then the numbers began declining.

"When we opened this, we felt the prevalence of certain diseases would contribute to the need for dialysis services because they contribute to end-stage renal disease," for which dialysis is necessary, Coleman explained.

"We know the prevalence of these conditions is very high and on the rise in much of the Midwest and in Jackson County. What we did not expect is some changes that occurred in outpatient services."

He said physicians are doing a better job of managing hypertension "and because of that patients are not experiencing end-stage renal disease. They're living to the point they're dying of other things and not getting on dialysis."

He said the hospital currently has 14 dialysis patients and said that number is not likely to increase significantly.

He said Medicare reimburses the hospital only 35 percent of its charges for dialysis. Even in the dialysis unit's best year, it lost \$140,000, Coleman said.

"At that time we thought it would continue to improve and would increase beyond 22 patients. But you can see the losses continue to grow and are unlikely to get better. And they're subsidized by the remainder of the hospital."

Because of the losses, Coleman said the hospital administration and board faced the question of whether and how long the hospital could continue to afford providing those services.

"In looking at this, we feel we really have no choice if we're going to continue to support the core mission of the hospital," he said.

Over the next three months he said the hospital staff will be working with patients and families affected by the closing of the skilled nursing-long term care and the dialysis units to find services elsewhere.

He said fortunately in Maquoketa and elsewhere in Jackson County, approximately 25 nursing home beds are available currently, and more are available in outlying cities such as Dubuque and the Quad Cities.

Once it is closed, the plan calls for the skilled nursing-long term care facility to be converted for outpatient rehabilitation services.

Those services would include physical, occupational and speech therapy, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, fitness center and diabetic

■ **HOSPITAL,**
Please turn to page 3