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SENTINEL-PRESS

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★★ NOVEMBER 3 ★★

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Due to a varying numbers 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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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- Personal Prop. Brian Koch
- Keith Page - Child Born Aug. 27
- Maquoketa City Council
- Oct. 19, 2009 meeting
- Proposed Ordinance #257
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- JC Zoning Board
- William Hayes
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- Oct. 12, 2009 meeting
- MMEU
- Sept. 3, 2009 goal setting
- Sept. 22, 2009 meeting
- Public Notice - City Election
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Our public notices are also published on the web at:

<http://www.publicnoticeads.com/IA/search/searchnotice.asp>

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

- Jackson County
- City of Maquoketa
- City of Andrew
- City of Baldwin
- City of Monmouth
- City of Delmar
- Delwood School District
- Maquoketa School District

Cancer survivors fight together

By KELLY GERLACH

Bosom buddies.

Somehow, somewhere, these wandering souls meet and form a bond, typically over some shared experience or interest.

These Bosom Buddies cherish their new friendships but would rather have skipped the shared experience that brings them together once a month.

Breast cancer.

The cancer affects millions of women – and some men – each year. And with that devastating diagnosis, people need someone to turn to, someone to talk to who empathizes with them and understands the situation.

That's exactly why some area breast cancer survivors formed Bosom Buddies, a support group for individuals fighting and surviving breast cancer. The group first met about a year ago and continues with no fees, no officers, just a potluck meal and an informal conversation among friends.

For decades a stigma seemed to follow breast cancer, as well as other ailments termed "female things." Years ago such things as breast cancer, menopause, uterine cancer, etc., were barely acknowledged, much less publicly discussed.

"Most people are more open about it now," said Teddy Crawford, breast cancer survivor and one of the Bosom Buddies founders from Maquoketa.



MSP photo by Kelly Gerlach

Bosom Buddies share a bond – surviving breast cancer. The group, which formed about a year ago, helps support and educate those who've been diagnosed and who are fighting the disease. The group meets once a month for a potluck meal and to share their stories with others who empathize.

"We talk pretty openly about things," said Eunice Till, who fought two bouts with breast cancer since 1994. "It's almost like a sisterhood."

All pretenses are left at the door. There's no judgment, only concerned faces, sympathetic words, caring inquiries, informed advice and plenty of supportive hugs from

people who truly understand.

"You can have family and friends to support you, but they haven't been through it. They don't know what you're going through. You sit at home after (you're diagnosed or have surgery) and you're alone. Everyone else's life goes on, they go off to work and their lives and you don't know what to do next,"

Till said.

"I remember sitting at home all by myself after getting the diagnosis. It's not like I was incapacitated or anything but I was all alone at the time and didn't know who to turn to," described Peggy Flenker,

■ **BOSOM BUDDIES,**
Please turn to page 3

Number of school absences jumps overnight

By KELLY GERLACH

The bubble of good health burst in the Maquoketa Community School District.

The number of ill students in the district, particularly the high school, increased dramatically over the course of two days, from Wednesday to Friday of last week.

Hardest hit is the high school, where the number of absences quadrupled from Wednesday to Thursday. Reported absences there on Oct. 21 were 41. That number doubled the next day as more than 80 students either stayed home or were sent home during the course of the school day. (Students are sent home if they are exhibiting typical cold and flu symptoms such as coughing, sore throat, headache and elevated temperature.)

By Friday, the high school reported 127 absences, according to District Superintendent Kim Huckstadt, who himself stayed home Monday, Oct. 26 because of the flu. He said 108 of those absences were because of illness and the remainder had yet to be confirmed.

"Absences continue to climb everywhere except Cardinal," he wrote in an e-mail Monday.

Cardinal Elementary School reported six absences last Wednesday compared to 12 on Friday. Briggs Elementary School saw 32 students absent due to illness Friday compared to seven only two days earlier.

Maquoketa Middle School absences also more than tripled in two days' time, with 13 students ill Oct. 21 and 40 ill Oct. 23.

■ **HINI,** Please turn to page 3



Beautiful fall décor

Little remains of Mother Nature's dazzling display of fall foliage in Jackson County. The leaves on this tree near Innovative Proteins stayed intact on one of few dry, blue-sky days last week.