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SENTINEL-PRESS

Volume 156, No. 67 ■ 20 pages Plus Supplements ■ Wednesday, January 6, 2010 ■ \$1.00 per copy

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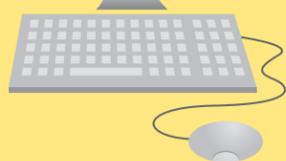
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PUBLIC NOTICES

- Foreclosure Petition
- Chase Home Finance v.
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- Ordinance No. 259
- Service & Repair Boats
- Delwood School Board
- Dec. 21, 2009 meeting



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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

- Jackson County
- City of Maquoketa
- City of Andrew
- City of Baldwin
- City of Monmouth
- City of Delmar
- Delwood School District
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Changes at hospital are going 'very well'

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The use of nurse practitioners and physician assistants in the emergency room at the Jackson County Regional Health Center is working out well, the hospital's board of trustees was told last month.

Curt Coleman, hospital executive director, told the board on Dec. 22 that the hospital is finishing its first month under the new arrangement, with 10 of the 20 weekday work shifts during the month staffed by the midlevel practitioners.

"That has gone very well," Coleman told the board. He said plans call for 15 of the 20 weekday work shifts during January to be covered with nurse practitioners and physician assistants and for all weekday shifts to be so covered starting in February.

He said physician assistants Ann Reid and Bill Specht have covered several shifts and called them "very capable individuals."

The hospital board earlier last year agreed to have emergency room coverage with a midlevel practitioner instead of a physician from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday as a cost-cutting move.

Coleman said transfers of emergency room patients to another medical facility, which requires authorization by a physician, have been accomplished smoothly.

Coleman also reported that the new Maquoketa Kidney Center has five dialysis patients.

The Quad City Kidney Center of Moline, Ill., is operating the dialysis unit at the hospital.

Coleman also reported that the relocation of the hospital's specialty clinics from the emergency room to other locations in the hospital also is going well. He said the transitions will occur this month.

He said patients should make appointments directly with the physician or group that operates the clinic rather than with the hospital.

Patients also should register at the clinic rather than with the hospital when they arrive for an appointment or a procedure, unless they are having a hospital procedure done, such as an X-ray or lab test.

In other business, the hospital board unanimously re-elected the current slate of officers to their same positions for 2010.

They are Kevin Burns, chairman; Gloria Jorgensen, vice chairman; Jodi Helmle, secretary, and Dwain Trenkamp, treasurer.

Donna Roeder, hospital finance director, reported that the hospital in November showed a net financial gain of \$146,365.

Although operating expenses exceeded operating revenue by \$5,958, nonoperating revenue pulled the hospital into the black for the month.

Nonoperating revenue includes the hospital's property tax levy, donations and interest income.

Figures for the hospital's fiscal year to date show the hospital with a total operating gain of \$593,253 as of Nov. 30, five months into the fiscal year. That figure includes nonoperating revenue.

Figures for the five-month period show operating revenue of \$5.56 million and expenses of \$5.46 million for an operating gain of \$98,601 excluding the nonoperat-

ing revenue.

In other business, Cheryl Curl, nursing director, reported on the activities of the hospital's auxiliary during the past year for Evelyn Fagerland, auxiliary president.

She said the auxiliary has 60 members and 14 sustaining members. The auxiliary meets monthly and has general membership meetings in January, July and October.

She said the auxiliary closed the hospital beauty shop with the closing of the hospital's long-term care unit as of Nov. 1. The auxiliary had managed the beauty shop, which served patients in the long-term and skilled nursing units.

She said the auxiliary is in the process of selling the equipment, which includes a special lift and two special wheelchairs. Proceeds from the sale of the equipment will be placed in the auxiliary's scholarship fund.

Curl reported that the auxiliary awarded nine scholarships to students studying in medically-related fields during 2009.

The auxiliary awarded two \$600 scholarships, two for \$500 each and five for \$300 apiece to students in the areas of physical therapy, laboratory technician, dental hygienist and radiology.

She said the auxiliary did not donate any funds specifically for the hospital or hospital, as it has done in the past. Last year the auxiliary donated \$4,600 toward hospital equipment. She said the auxiliary hopes to make another donation in 2010.

Coleman also reported on the activities of the hospital's foundation during the past year.

He noted that the foundation conducted a fundraiser with its annual appeal campaign early in the year, which raised \$3,360. Those funds went into the foundation's unrestricted funds for future investment in the hospital.

The foundation sponsored a dance in March, which raised \$4,510 toward the purchase of audiology equipment for screening of newborns in the obstetrics department.

In June, the foundation conducted its 24th annual golf outing, which raised \$20,500. The event was held in memory of Alice Burmahl, who had helped with the event in the past and was a volunteer for the hospital's diabetic education department.

Golf outing proceeds last year were donated to that program in memory of Burmahl.

Coleman noted that the foundation currently is conducting another appeal campaign.

He said the foundation is discussing whether or not to hold another dance in the spring and said it may change the format of the event to keep it fresh and new.

The 25th annual golf outing is scheduled for June 11 at the Bellevue Golf Club.

Coleman expressed appreciation to donors, sponsors and others who support the foundation. The foundation's board consists of Steve Flynn, chairman; Coleman, vice chairman, and members Rochelle Ray, Dwain Trenkamp, Barbara Miller, Kevin Burns and Mike Hawks.



MSP photo by Kelly Gerlach

Humorous etchings, especially art-themed, are on display at Maquoketa Art Experience. An opening reception for the artist, Arthur Geisert of Bernard, will be held Saturday, Jan. 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. at 124 S. Main St., Maquoketa. The public is invited to attend, meet the artist, view the 40-some etchings and purchase limited edition prints.

Etching artist holds show at MAE Jan. 9

By KELLY GERLACH

The Maquoketa Art Experience will showcase the etchings of area illustrator Arthur Geisert this weekend.

An opening reception for Geisert, who lives in Bernard, will be held Saturday, Jan. 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Maquoketa Art Experience, located at 124 S. Main St., Maquoketa.

The public is invited to meet Geisert, view 40 or so of his humorous etchings and watch a short documentary about the artist.

Geisert practices the 500-plus-year-old technique of copper plate etching. In pure etching, a metal (typically copper, zinc or steel) plate is covered with a type of waxy substance that is resistant to acid. The artist scratches off the substance with a pointed tool to delineate the finished product, exposing the bare metal. The plate is dipped into an acid bath, which bites into the metal, leaving the scratched outlines. The remaining substance is cleaned off the plate, which is then inked.

The inked plate is typically put through a printing press of sorts with a sheet of paper. The ink adheres to the paper and a print is formed.

Etching artists' exact techniques vary according to their preferences and equipment.

Geisert is an artist and illustrator who has had books printed. His publishing credits include "Hogwash," "Nursery Crimes," "The Giant Ball of String," "Oops" and "Lights Out," many telling stories strictly through visuals.

His works have been featured in acclaimed publications such as "The New Yorker" and have been on display in the Art Institute of Chicago, National Museum of Art in Washington, D.C. and the Figge Art Museum in Davenport.

Geisert is a regular participant in Maquoketa Art Experience's weekly drawing sessions, which are held Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. in downtown Maquoketa.

Rose Frantzen and Charles Morris visited Geisert's Bernard studio and filmed a short documentary about him and his art. The resulting video will be shown at the 6 p.m. during the Jan. 9 opening reception.

Prints of Geisert's 5-inch by 7-inch etchings will be for sale. The etchings are limited editions and will be signed and numbered for buyers. Framing is also available.

Geisert's humorous etchings will be on display at Maquoketa Art Experience for the next month. More information is available by calling (563) 652-9925 or visiting www.maquoketa-arts.org.