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— M A Q U O K E T A —

**SENTINEL-PRESS**

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MSP photos by Douglas Melvold

**Barb Burmeister** of the Jackson County Regional Health Center, right, shows Arlin and Bernice Kilburg of Maquoketa one of the exercise machines in the hospital's newly renovated cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation center. The Kilburgs were among many area residents attending the hospital's recent open house to show off the newly remodeled facility.

**Rehab center showcased**

By **DOUGLAS MELVOLD**

Jackson County Regional Health Center recently showed off its new rehabilitation services unit with an open house.

The event, held Nov. 21, featured self-guided tours of the hospital's rehabilitation services department. The area, located on the south side of the hospital complex, formerly served as the long-term care unit.

Services offered in the new unit include physical, occupational and speech therapy. The services are provided across the continuum of care, including inpatient, outpatient and home health.

After the hospital closed the unit in November of 2009, the hospital undertook a renovation of the area. The project was started in December last year and was completed in March. Patients began using the new facility in April.

Approximately 12,000 square feet of space was renovated at a cost of about \$330,000.

Curt Coleman, hospital executive director, said the unit is one of the finest such rehabilitation facilities to be found at any hospital, including larger institutions.

Benefits to the new unit include greater

privacy for patients, close access to parking and spacious treatment areas.

The new unit also features a private cardiac rehabilitation classroom and a new activities-of-daily-living area for occupational therapy.

A new diabetic education facility located in the rehab services department provides better access for patients, a private waiting area and large, more private conference space for patient consultation and education and diabetes support group meetings, Coleman noted.

It also is outfitted with modern video technology.

The unit will give the hospital improved Medicare and Medicaid cost reimbursement, helping the hospital's financial bottom line.

The new department was made possible in large part through donations of the Jackson County Health Foundation, with a contribution of \$15,395 to the diabetic education program in memory of Alice Burmahl, diabetic education volunteer and a longtime golf outing supporter, and a \$12,000 donation from the hospital's Auxiliary.

Those funds are raised from the hospital's gift shop and Books are Fun sale.



**Shelly Deutmeyer**, right, a physical therapy assistant at Jackson County Regional Health Center, watches as Mary Shekleton of Andrew tosses a ball at a device that will spring the ball back to her. The exercise is designed to improve patients' motor skills and hand-eye coordination. The device was among the activities for area residents attending the Maquoketa hospital's recent open house to show off its new cardiac rehabilitation, pulmonary rehabilitation and fitness center. The renovation project, which was started last December, was completed in March. Services to patients began in April.

**Andrew residents invited to comment and ask questions**

By **KELLY GERLACH**

Andrew Community School District residents have the opportunity next Monday to comment on proposed whole grade sharing agreements with neighboring districts.

A public hearing will begin at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13, at the school. Parents, district employees, and the general public are invited to attend.

Andrew is proposing to enter into two separate whole grade sharing agreements with the Bellevue and Maquoketa school districts. If approved, all Andrew 9-12 grade students would attend all classes at one of the two districts. High school students would also participate in extracurricular activities at the same district.

Students and families would choose which district to attend. Andrew would provide transportation to the schools and pay a set tuition fee per student. Students would follow all rules and policies of the high school they attend.

A copy of the full agreement is posted on Andrew's Web site, [www.andrew.k12.ia.us/](http://www.andrew.k12.ia.us/)

Bellevue Community School Board members officially approved its whole grade sharing agreement Monday, Dec. 6. Bellevue's motion followed a joint meeting with the Andrew Community School Board a tour of the high school's new facilities.

Maquoketa Community School Board met with their Andrew counterparts last month to discuss the proposed agreement. Maquoketa will hold a public hearing about the proposed agreement when it meets at 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13. (Also on Maquoketa's agenda is discussion and possible action about entering into a 28E course sharing agreement with the Preston Community School District.)

Andrew is expected to take final action on both whole grade sharing agreements during its Jan. 17 board meeting.

People with specific questions or concerns about the agreement are encouraged to e-mail former Andrew superintendent Kent Hammer, who is serving as a district consultant, at [khammer@andrew.k12.ia.us](mailto:khammer@andrew.k12.ia.us).

**Auditions announced**

It will soon be a new year! Make a resolution to have fun and audition for the upcoming comedy, "Over the River and Through the Woods" the latest Ohnward Fine Arts Center and Peace Pipe Players joint production.

Auditions for "Over the River and Through the Woods" by Joe DePietro will be held Jan. 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. at Ohnward.

This show will be directed by Onward Fine Arts Center Executive Director Richard Hall.

Show dates are Feb. 11-13.

Please be ready to read cold from the script at the audition, which will be held at the Ohnward Fine Arts Center. Scripts can be checked out at Ohnward, 1215 E. Platt Street, Maquoketa, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"Over the River and Through the Woods" centers on Nick, a single Italian-American guy from New Jersey who routinely visits both sets of grandparents every Sunday for dinner. This is a standard practice until he has to tell them he's been offered a dream job that would take him away from his beloved - but annoying - grandparents.

This news doesn't sit so well with his family and starts a series of schemes to keep Nick around. Thus ensues a familiar, tragi-comic dialogue between the generations, transcending ethnicity and cultural background.

Characters include Nick, a young man in his 20s or 30s who strikes just the right balance between frustration and adoration. He loves his grandparents and means well but gets annoyed with their cooing and awing over him. There's Aida, Nick's paternal grandmother who is in her 60s or 70s. She loves to cook and see that everyone eats, and she's a relentless ball of energy who will clearly outlive everyone.

Aida is married to Frank, who keeps hitting things with his car and always wants 'his chair'. He is strong and consistent.

Nick's maternal grandfather Nunzio is also in his 60s or 70s. He is the personification of the Italian grandparent, shar-

■ **AUDITIONS,**  
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