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Oconee Medical Center joint unit to debut April 11

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SENECA — A $1 million renovation to the second floor of the old wing of Oconee Medical Center (OMC) will be unveiled in mid-April as home to the Center's New Life Center for Joint Health.

However, the public will be able to get a sneak preview of the facility on Thursday, when a public open house is held from 10 a.m. to noon and 3 to 6 p.m.

The unit, which specializes in knee and hip replacements and the ensuing rehabilitation those procedures require, has been operating for the past four months on the fourth floor of the new patient tower.

OMC Vice President for Operations Hunter Kome said the facility is nearing its licensing survey by the state after which patients will begin using the former cardiac and pulmonary care space of the old hospital.

The second floor facility has been completely remodeled to include 14 private patient rooms, dining facilities and a large gymnasium for rehabilitation. The unit will also include a restaurant booth, car simulator, curbs and inclines, all of which require special training following replacement surgery.

A ribbon cutting is planned for 3 p.m. April 11.

Kome and Vice President for Patient Services Pat Smith also told board members this week that pulmonary medicine and dialysis will be moving from the third floor of the old hospital to the former labor and delivery area.

Smith said the move would put caretakers closer to their patients.

The move is expected in two weeks.

OMC will host a wellness clinic April 9 at the Shaver Recreation Center in Seneca.

Free screenings will be conducted from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., and counselors will be available to go over results with patients.

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