

Sports: Mustangs gear up for Homecoming

See B1

THE IOLA REGISTER

Locally owned since 1867

Thursday, September 11, 2014

www.iolaregister.com

Obama vows to rout extremists

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opening a new military front in the Middle East, President Barack Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes inside Syria for the first time Wednesday night, along with expanded strikes in Iraq as part of “a steady, relentless effort” to root out Islamic State extremists and their spreading reign of terror.

“We will hunt down terrorists who threaten our country, wherever they are,” Obama declared in a prime-time address to the nation

from the White House. “This is a core principle of my presidency: If you threaten America, you will find no safe haven.”

Obama announced that he was dispatching nearly 500 more U.S. troops to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, as well as conduct intelligence and reconnaissance flights, bringing the total number of American forces sent there this summer to more than 1,500. He

See OBAMA | Page A5

LAHARPE COUNCIL

City sounds off on electric outages

By RICHARD LUKEN
The Iola Register

LAHARPE — A series of recent electrical outages — not all of which were storm-related — prompted a lengthy discussion about how LaHarpe is served by Westar, the state’s largest public utility company.

LaHarpe City Council members discussed the outages Wednesday, noting the incidents have begun to fray the nerves of local residents.

“It’s becoming a major concern,” council member Mae Crowell said. “I’ve received a lot of complaints. I know everybody up here has.”

The most recent issues can be traced to issues with Westar’s electric grid, City Superintendent Carol Buzbee said. “It’s not on our end.”

The first issue came when a 12 kilovolt switch on lines south of LaHarpe “just blew apart,” Buzbee said.

See LAHARPE | Page A6



Above, Seymore, played by Brian Johnson, talks to Audrey II. Right, Orin, played by Trent Christenson, sings about being a dentist with the Street Urchins, from left Pam Tressler, Valeree Winslow and Sabre Aguirre. “Little Shop of Horrors” is Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. REGISTER/KAYLA BANZET



‘Horrors’ an absolute delight

By KAYLA BANZET
The Iola Register

Don’t feed the plants, or at least at your own risk.

The Iola Community Theatre will present the musical-comedy “Little Shop of Horrors,” on the Bowlus Fine Arts Center stage this weekend.

Seymore, played by Brian Johnson, is an average nice fella who is grateful for his job from

Mr. Mushnik. Mr. Mushnik, played by Andrew Oatman, owns Mushnik’s Flowers, a failing flower shop on Skid Row. His flowers are dying and so is his business. Seymore does his best to keep the business going as he pines over his co-worker, Audrey, played by Susie McKinnis.

Audrey is a sweet, insecure girl whose self-esteem is as flagging as the store’s plants. She is dating Orin, a sadistic, pain-loving dentist played by Trent Christenson.

See ICT | Page A5

Kincaid poised for annual fair

By BOB JOHNSON
The Iola Register

KINCAID — On an overcast afternoon Wednesday four vehicles were parked on Commercial Street, the main thoroughfare here. The only noticeable outdoor activity was a U.S. flag fluttered atop its standard in front of the post office.

That will change dramatically Saturday when the 104th annual Kincaid Free Fair unfolds. The event has been heralded as being as close to a world’s fair as any small town in the nation could have.

Kincaid’s population is expected to swell from 122 to a couple of thousand, noted Roberta Aubuchon, in charge of this year’s queen competition.

For all intents and purposes, the fair is a homecoming.

Aubuchon and Irene Louk were on hand Wednesday afternoon to prep the building that will be filled with all sorts of flowers and arrangements by the time the sun rises Saturday.

“These buildings are old, but we’re lucky to have them,” said Louk of the flower emporium and a couple of others nearby.

Absent from this year’s fair will be Randal Beckman, longtime parade announcer. Beckman and his son, Nathan,



Irene Louk, left, and Roberta Aubuchon were on hand Wednesday to start getting things in place for the 104th annual Kincaid Free Fair. REGISTER/BOB JOHNSON

were injured in a truck wreck in the Blue Mound area last Friday.

The accident and that fact that corn on the Beckman’s farm was yet to be cut, serves as a metaphor for the community spirit that has made the

annual fair such as success.

When services let out Sunday at Kincaid United Methodist, a covey of farmers darted home to gather up combines and grain trucks. Before long,

See KINCAID | Page A6



Jack Hastings

Community loses longtime mayor

Former longtime Mayor Jack Hastings died Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014, at Allen County Regional Hospital. He was 90.

Hastings served as mayor from 1965 to 1980 and was instrumental in seeing Iola secure a new library, fire station and city hall.

It was also during his tenure that Gates Corporation, Berg Manufacturing and Intercollegiate Press came to town. Those years during the 1970s have come to be

known as the second heyday for Iola, surpassed only by the gas boom days of the 1920s.

Hastings was born Feb. 9, 1924, in Douglas, Wyo., the son of Philip Lewis and Flora Melinda Wellner Hastings.

As a child he also lived in Washington and Colorado before the family settled in Joplin, Mo., in 1931. After he graduated from Joplin High

See HASTINGS | Page A5



Quote of the day

“A people free to choose will always choose peace.”
— Ronald Reagan



Hi: 71 Lo: 54

8 04879 15761 8

Vol. 116, No. 225

75 Cents

Iola, KS

Capital murder charges pursued

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A 30-year-old man has been charged with capital murder in connection with the killing of a Kansas police officer during a car stop.

The death penalty will be sought for Ross Preston Lane in the shooting death of Topeka police Cpl. Jason Harwood, Shawnee County District Attor-

ney Chad Taylor said Wednesday. The charge against Lane of Topeka was filed late Tuesday.

Harwood, 40, a decorated, 15-year police veteran, was shot after he pulled Lane's car over Sunday in east Topeka, Taylor said.

"We lost a great man and a dedicated police officer," the district attorney said.



Audrey, played by Susie McKinnis, and Seymore, played by Brian Johnson, answer phones at the Mushnik Flower Shop. REGISTER/KAYLA BANZET

ICT: Little Shop

Continued from A1

Just as the shop is about to close for good Seymore decides to show Mr. Mushnik his strange and interesting plant. The plant, which Seymore names Audrey II, looks like a Venus fly trap but doesn't eat flies. The flower shop crew decides to display the unusual plant in the front window to attract customers.

Seymore quickly learns that Audrey II doesn't like average plant food. When he accidentally pricks his finger, the plant thrives on a drop of his blood.

Unfortunately, the plant can't get enough of the human lifeblood.

As the success flows into the shop and Audrey II grows into a big, demanding monster, Seymore is faced with the dilemma of how to

keep the plant thriving.

THE LIVELY plot and whimsical music is a natural for the cast. Backup singers known as the Street Urchin Girls are Sabra Aguirre, Pam Tressler and Valerie Winslow whose strong voices add depth to the production.

Audrey II comes to life thanks to Richard Peters, Hazel Ebberts and Dan Johnson. Peters and Ebberts help animate the large puppet and Johnson is the voice of the ungainly plant.

Show times are at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for students and can be purchased at the door.

Richard Spencer directs the musical.

Hastings: Former mayor dies

Continued from A1

School in 1942 he joined the Navy and trained to be a pilot.

He served aboard the USS Nashville and the USS St. Paul as senior pilot. He crashed in the South Pacific but was rescued uninjured.

He was honorably discharged with the rank of ensign in June 1946. He was awarded the Victory Medal for his service in the Pacific Theatre, the American Theatre and the Philippine Libera-

tion.

On Feb. 17, 1946, he and Alice Garcelon Lincoln were married. He went back to work at Fox Theatres, a job he began in high school. He served as the manager of The Orpheum in Joplin.

From there Jack and Alice moved to Marysville, Kan., then to Iola on Flag Day, June 1949, where he worked as manager of the Fox Iola and Uptown Theatres until 1950. He also purchased and managed the

Pic Theatre for several years.

Hastings was instrumental in building the 54 Drive-In Theatre outside of Gas with partners Dr. Gerald Pees and John Krupp. Hastings managed the drive-in until 1975.

Hastings worked in the advertising department of The Iola Register from 1952 to 2012.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Charles, in 1988, a daughter-in-law, Kathy,

and four grandchildren, Eric, Reuben and Cara Hastings, and Philip Hastings.

Survivors include his wife, Alice; two sons, Ladd, and Mark and Chardel Hastings; six grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

Memorials can be made to St. Timothy's Episcopal Church.

The time of the memorial service will be announced in Monday's Register.

Obama: Airstrikes on Syria announced

Continued from A1

also urged Congress anew to authorize a program to train and arm Syrian rebels who are fighting both the Islamic State militants and Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Obama's plans amounted to a striking shift for a president who rose to political prominence in part because of his early opposition to the Iraq war. While in office, he has steadfastly sought to wind down American military campaigns in the Middle East and avoid new wars — particularly in Syria, a country where the chaos of an intractable civil war has given the Islamic State space to thrive and move freely across the border with Iraq.

Speaking on the eve of the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Obama's plans were also an admission that years of American-led war in the Middle East have not quelled the terror threat emanating from the region.

Obama insisted that his plan to "degrade and ultimately destroy" the Islamic State militants would not involve returning U.S. combat troops to the Middle East. Even so, he acknowledged that "any time we take military action, there are risks involved, especially to the servicemen and women who carry out these missions."

"But I want the American people to understand how this effort will be different from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It will not involve American combat troops fighting on foreign soil," he added.

The president's speech, which lasted about 15 minutes, followed a summer of deliberation at the White House over how to respond to the violent Islamic State militants. While administration officials have said they are not aware of a credible threat of a potential attack by the militants in the U.S., they say the group poses risks to Americans and interests across the Middle East.

But I want the American people to understand how this effort will be different from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It will not involve American combat troops fighting on foreign soil.

— President Barack Obama

Officials are also concerned about the prospect that Westerners, including Americans, who have joined the militant group could return to their home countries to launch attacks.

In recent weeks, the militants have released videos depicting the beheading of two American



President Obama

journalists in Syria. The violent images appear to have had an impact on a formerly war-weary public, with multiple polls in recent days showing that the majority of Americans support airstrikes in both Iraq and Syria.

The U.S. began launching limited airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq earlier this summer at the request of that country's former prime minister. But Obama vowed that he would not commit the U.S. to a deeper military campaign until Iraq formed a new government that allowed greater participation from all sects, a step Iraqi leaders took Tuesday.

Officials said Obama plans to proceed with both the broader airstrikes in Iraq and the strikes in Syria without seeking new authorization from Congress. Instead, he is to act under a use-of-force authorization Congress passed in the days after 9/11 to give President George W. Bush the ability to go after those who perpetrated the terror attacks. Obama has previously called for that authorization to be repealed, but he has also used it as support for strikes against terror targets in Yemen and Somalia.

Obama said his approach in Syria is modeled after those long-running U.S. counterterrorism campaigns. But it is different in important ways, starting with the fact that it marks the first time since 9/11 that a U.S. president has authorized the bombing of terror targets in

late.

"He has finally begun to make the case the nation has needed him to make for quite some time: that destroying this terrorist threat requires decisive action and must be the highest priority for the United States and other nations of the free world," Boehner said.

As if to answer the criticism that he has been too cautious, Obama declared of his plan: "This is American leadership at its best."

Obama is seeking authorization from Congress for a Pentagon-led effort to train and arm

He has finally begun to make the case the nation has needed him to make for quite some time: that destroying this terrorist threat requires decisive action and must be the highest priority for the United States and other nations of the free world.

— John Boehner, Speaker of the House

more moderate elements of the Syrian opposition. Even before his remarks, congressional leaders were grappling with whether to support that request and if so, how to get such a measure through the fractured legislature before the November elections.

The White House wants Congress to include the authorization in a temporary funding measure lawmakers are expected to vote on before adjourning later this month. Republicans have made no commitment to support the request and the House GOP has so far not included the measure in the funding legislation.

A spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said the Nevada Democrat might opt to seek separate legislation.

While the CIA currently runs a small program to arm the rebels, the new version would be more robust. Obama asked Congress earlier this year to approve a \$500 million program to expand the effort and put it under Pentagon control, but the request stalled on Capitol Hill.

Some of Obama's own advisers, including former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clin-

group.

France's foreign minister said Wednesday that his country was ready to take part in airstrikes against extremist fighters in Iraq if needed. And the German government announced that it was sending assault rifles, ammunition, anti-tank weapons and armored vehicles to Kurdish forces in Iraq fighting, breaking with Berlin's previous reluctance to send weapons into conflicts.

Secretary of State John Kerry, who met with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad Wednesday, was also scheduled to attend a conference with Arab leaders Thursday to discuss their role in confronting the militants.

Do you need to renew your subscription to The Iola Register?



It's EASY - Go to www.iolaregister.com and click on Renew Now to get started!

Duck Soup Tournament
~ Celebrating George Sweatt ~

Proceeds go to help support the George Sweatt Birthplace Marker by Humboldt Historical Preservation Alliance

September 27, 2014 • 8 a.m.
Humboldt Sweatt Field - Wolf Drive/12th Street, Humboldt

Form
a
Team

Sponsor
a
Team

Duck Soup Co-ed (5&5) Softball Tournament
Game will consist of 4 Innings

1st Inning - Everyone bats opposite handed (if you are a righty, you will bat left)

2nd Inning - Run bases opposite direction (Grd. 2nd, 1st, home)

3rd Inning - Everyone except Pitcher/Catcher will draw for positions

4th Inning - Hit a lb ball

Concessions Available

First round of games will play at scheduled time. Once everyone has played once, games will start 10 minutes after the game ends.

Entry Fee *120
Enter by Sept. 23

PLAY BALL!

Contact Mona -
620-704-5573 or
monahull24@gmail.com

Come out and enjoy a day of fun with Family & Friends!

*** NOTICE - CHLORINE BURNOUT ***

The City of Iola Water Treatment Plant will be conducting our semi-annual free chlorine burnout of the distribution system. The burnout will began September 10 and will last 3-4 weeks. The burnout consists of turning off the ammonia feed and increasing our chlorine feed in order to maintain a more uniform disinfection level throughout the distribution system. Customers may notice a strong taste or odor of chlorine in their water. This is a normal part of the burnout process and the water is safe to drink. Any questions should be directed to the City of Iola Water Plant at (620) 365-4940.