

A KNEAD FOR SWEETS



Register/Bob Johnson
Stacy Mueller shows Growing Place preschoolers a bowl of bread dough she whipped up before they toured her bakery and sandwich shop, Stacy Cakes, in Humboldt.

New bakery opens doors to Humboldt youngsters

By BOB JOHNSON
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HUMBOLDT — Eleven 3-year-olds who attend the Growing Place preschool got a hands-on lesson in decorating cookies at Stacy Cakes, Etc. here Wednesday morning.

Stacy Mueller, who opened a combination bakery, sandwich shop and soda fountain in the old Garvey Drug Store building, 804 Bridge St., Saturday, had freshly rolled and cut sugar cookies laid out for the kids.

Amid the excitement of seeing enough sugar-laced goodies to have them bouncing wall to wall, the youngsters finally settled down enough to line either side of a low table holding the cookie cut-outs.

They plastered candy bits and sparkles atop each before Mueller laid them out on a metal cookie sheet and plopped all into an oven.

She also gave the kids opportunity to experience kneading a wad of bread dough.

A couple took bites — “It won’t hurt them,” Mueller assured — and another or two jammed the dough against a wall, just to see if it would stick. Three-year-olds are inventive.

After an hour of simple tutorials from Mueller, the young visitors — rambunctious as any their age would be — traipsed back to their van to ride back to the preschool at the north edge of town.

“Aren’t they cute,” observed Jan Coykendall, who helped with the

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Santorum: Kansas key to victory

LENEXA, Kan. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum told supporters Wednesday in northeast Kansas that winning the state’s upcoming GOP caucuses are important as he tries to overcome front-runner Mitt Romney and capture the party’s nomination.

John Hanna

Associated Press



The former Pennsylvania senator held an afternoon rally in the Kansas City suburb of Lenexa, which is located in Johnson County — the state’s most populous county and a GOP stronghold that’s home to more than one-fifth of the state’s registered Republicans. It also was a signal that the race in Kansas is suddenly on the map ahead of Saturday’s vote.

About 200 people crowded into the main production area of Harvest Graphics, a commercial printing business, waving signs and occasionally chanting, “Rick! Rick! Rick!” About 75 people waited outside to get a chance to shake hands, collect an autograph or get

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Adult-humored play debuts Friday at theatre warehouse



Register/Bob Johnson

Discussions about a newborn occupy Katie Knoblich, Andrew Oatman, center, and Bryan Johnson in a scene from “I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change.” The Iola Community Theatre production opens Friday night at the Warehouse Theatre, 213 S. Jefferson Ave.

By BOB JOHNSON
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As the lights go up, Bryan Johnson and Katie Knoblich pop up at the head of a bed, all in swoons.

Not all that great, says Knoblich of the just concluded encounter. From corner stage Andrew Oatman, playing a “love” attorney in this scene of “I Love You, You’re Perfect, Don’t Change,” starts predictable dialogue given his profession.

A few minutes later he delivers one of the best lines of the musical comedy, which Iola Community Theatre will stage Friday and Saturday nights and March 16, 17 and 18 at its Warehouse Theatre, 203 S. Jefferson Ave.

“If your partner doesn’t take you to heaven, we’ll take them to court,” Oatman states with conviction.

The scene is one of 19 in the ICT production that almost didn’t come off, but will albeit a couple of weeks later than antici-

pated. After the show was cast, the two female leads had to withdraw because of a family death and a personal commitment.

“I wasn’t sure we were going to get it done for a little while,” said Richard Spencer, veteran ICT veteran.

The pieces fell together. Greta Adams, USD 257 vocal instructor, had wanted to audition, but her schedule for February wouldn’t permit. Moving the show back freed her to join in. Knoblich, a former student of Adams’, jumped at the opportunity to play the second female lead.

Johnson and Oatman were on board from the start.

“We’ll have everything in place by (Friday) for the opening performance, said Spencer.

Those who attend any of the five shows will find witty comedy, sometimes at belly-laugh levels, and — as a warning —

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Ron Paul to speak at KU

Presidential candidate and Texas Congressman Ron Paul will speak at a University of Kansas Town Hall meeting Friday at 7:30 p.m. The town hall is at the university’s Lied Center.

Paul has drawn large crowds during stops at universities and colleges, having to turn away supporters at similar events in Michigan, New Hampshire and Idaho. For guaranteed admittance, those interested in attending should register at <http://ronpaulatku-estw.eventbrite.com>. The event is free and open to the public.



Ron Paul



Register/Joe Sneve

Slippery slopes

Emergency units respond to a single vehicle accident just north of Humboldt on the Old 169 Highway. As temperatures hovered around freezing, rain this morning turned into snow, causing anything but ideal road conditions throughout Allen County. Between 7 and 9 a.m. a series of vehicles lost control on that stretch. No injuries were reported.

Active Iolans aim to put mark on city buildings

By RICHARD LUKEN
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Armed with three sizable donations, the Community Involvement Task Force is nearing its goal to have enough cash in hand to paint trim around a pair of buildings in Iola’s Riverside Park.

The group’s aim is to paint trim around the tops of both the Recreation Community Building and the Iola Municipal Pool bathhouse to match the design of the nearby football stadium grandstand.

All three structures were built in the 1930s through Works Progress Administration projects.

The singular color of the rec building and bathhouse masks much of the art deco style, noted Tony Piazza,

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CITF member. The idea to spruce up the buildings came from Piazza.

The trim around the rec building will be painted blue and burnt orange. The blue will match colors of the nearby football stadium trim, orange the building's interior wall color.

The pool's deco trim will be painted two shades of blue.

Representatives from Community National Bank and Sonic Equipment Company presented CITF with pledges of \$1,000 and \$500, respectively. Iolan Jim Smith gave the task force another \$500.

Cost estimates for the paint have been pegged at \$2,700 or more.

Both Sonic Equipment and Community National Bank have aided past community service projects and were eager to be a part of the park improvements.



Sonic Equipment Company, Community National Bank and Iolan Jim Smith have contributed to an effort by Iola's Community Involvement Task Force to paint the trim of two Riverside Park buildings. Taking part in a ceremony recognizing the contributions were, from left, Kara Godfrey, Nancy Ford, Beth Ann Turner, Holly Slakowsky, Corey Schinstock, Donna Houser, Jeff Kluever, Shelia Lampe, Bill Maness, Jim Smith, Judy Brigham, April Hawkinson, Mike Waldman, Tony Piazza, Kasey Shay and Sarah Noah.

"We're always looking to donate to projects that help improve buildings around the community," said Kasey Shay, repre-

sending Sonic at Wednesday's CITF meeting.

Community National, meanwhile, found the CITF project a worth-

while effort in what is the bank's 25th anniversary, said April Hawkinson, assistant vice president at CNB.

"We're always happy to give back to the community," Hawkinson said.

The group is working with the city to determine

if Parks Department employees may help with the painting once the supplies are purchased, said CITF member Donna Houser.

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their pictures taken with Santorum. He said he plans to return to Kansas on Friday. His wife, Karen, will speak at caucus meetings Saturday.

"We have to start anew," he told the crowd inside. "We have to do well here in Kansas — no, we have to win here in Kansas."

Rival Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, who's drawn some of the largest crowds of any presidential hopeful, planned events in Topeka, Wichita and Lawrence on Friday, and state GOP officials also were hoping for a visit from Romney.

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— Gary Howard,
Press secretary for the national Paul campaign

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hoping for a strong finish there while gaining more delegates," Gary Howard, the Paul campaign's national press secretary, said in an email to The Associated Press.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich canceled his plans for Friday and Saturday stops in Kansas, instead focusing on upcoming contests in southern states after his victory Tuesday in Georgia. Santorum took Gingrich's decision as a sign that GOP conservatives in Kansas see Santorum as the leading alternative to Romney. "Is Kansas up in the air? Well, of course. I think Kansas is going to be a competitive caucus," Santorum told reporters after the rally. "If you've got

conservatives behind you in Kansas, you're probably going to do OK."

Kansas Republicans had hoped for such attention when they set their caucuses for the Saturday after Super Tuesday, which saw Romney pad his delegate count, but not by enough to knock out his rivals. Romney won in six states; Santorum carried three.

Forty delegates are at stake in Saturday's vote, and the state GOP hopes that between 50,000 and 60,000 registered Republicans participate. The caucus will be held at 96 sites across the state.

Santorum's strong conservative views on social issues, such as abortion, appeal to many party activists who control the Kansas' organization.

Susie Wheeler, a 41-year-old stay-at-home mother from Olathe, another Kansas City suburb, said she didn't see Santorum as a typical politician — more "real" than others. She likes his conservative views on issues such as abortion and gay marriage.

"I think we need radical change in Washington, and I think he's got the courage to lead the way," she said.

Romney has been endorsed by Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, a conservative Republican. Gingrich is backed by some conservative Kansas legislators.

State Rep. Anthony Brown, of Eudora, said Gingrich best articulates Republican ideas and can still win.

"He's got to win the South. He's got to win Texas. He's got to get the uncommitted delegates," Brown said. "There's not much margin for error."

Whoever wins the GOP nomination is all but certain to carry Kansas in the November election. No Democrat has done it since Lyndon Johnson in 1964. Republicans hold all statewide and congressional offices and have large majorities in the Legislature.

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occasional adult situations that might be a little racy for the young.

The play's script comes in two versions. Spencer, with family audiences a likelihood, chose the milder one.

The four actors portray a variety of characters and, with constant costume changes, scenes don't come off with finger-snap regularity. But, a little down time is a small price to pay for the quality entertainment that comes when any of the four is on stage.

All have rich voices. Each has ample opportunities to share.

Occasional dramatic in-

terludes also show all four actors have considerable talents in that discipline.

Special note needs to be made of Maggie Terhune's expertise with lighting for the show, a phase of stagecraft often overlooked and particularly important to the flow of this show.

THE PLAY is a series of vignettes that explore love and relationships.

Adams and Oatman decide to skip a first date at the top of the show and quickly race through others to their break-up and then reconnection. Relationships, dating, parenting, child-rearing and end-of-life follow, with one of the more intriguing

scenes the last when Oatman and Adams are strangers at a funeral and after frank conversation leave together; there comes a time when courting must be compressed.

The show is popular with community theater groups and ran for 5,003 performances in New York before closing last July.

The Friday and Saturday night performances each week begin at 7:30, with the March 18 matinee at 2 o'clock.

Tickets, which include dessert, are available at Sophisticated Rose, 19 S. Jefferson Ave. They are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.



Register/Bob Johnson

Bryan Johnson and Greta Adams, standing, with Andrew Oatman and Katie Knoblich rehearse what turns out to be a contentious scene from Iola Community Theatre's upcoming production of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change."

Oil up to \$107 amid Greece, Iran concerns

By PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press

Oil prices climbed to above \$107 a barrel today on a combination of optimism about the Greek debt crisis and concerns that tensions over Iran's nuclear program are lowering crude supplies.

By early afternoon in Europe, benchmark oil for April delivery was up 90 cents to \$107.06 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$1.46 to settle at \$106.16 per barrel in New York on Wednesday.

In London, Brent crude was up \$1.26 at \$125.38 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Commodities were in step with rising equity markets, optimistic that Greece will be able to complete a bond swap plan with private in-

vestors aimed at cutting \$7 billion (\$140 billion) off its national debt.

Crude has risen from \$96 last month to near 10-month highs because of worries a military conflict over Iran's nuclear program would disrupt global oil supplies. The U.S. and Europe have imposed sanctions while Iran has threatened to halt crude tankers passing through the Persian Gulf.

Fueling the concerns, Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Europe's largest oil company, said today it would soon stop buying oil from Iran, well ahead of a July deadline imposed by the European Union.

Iran agreed Tuesday to let international nuclear inspectors into its facilities. However, diplomats said Wednesday that satellite

images of an Iranian military facility appear to show trucks and earth-moving vehicles at the site, indicating an attempted cleanup of radioactive traces possibly left by tests of a nuclear-weapon trigger.

"It is extremely unlikely that this latest round of possible negotiations will fundamentally reset Iranian relations with the West," commodities analyst Amrita Sen of Barclays Capital said in a report.

Low spare production capacity and crude inventories are also bolstering prices. According to the International Energy Agency, crude inventories in developed countries are now more than 65 million barrels below their average over the last five years and European stocks are at a 15-year low.

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