

Iola eyed as federal superfund site

By **RICHARD LUKEN**
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Iola eventually may be declared a Superfund site by the Environmental Protection Agency in order for more lead-contaminated soil to be removed from several hundred properties.

Don Bahnke, project manager for the EPA, told Iola City Council members Monday that more than 1,700 properties needed to be sampled to determine whether they have unsafe levels of lead or other contaminants.

A similar study in 2006 found more than 130 properties surveyed in Iola — many located near where zinc smelters operated in the early 20th century — had unsafe levels of lead. Those studies were largely voluntary, in which samples were taken from properties only upon the landowner's request.

Properties that had more than 800 parts per million of lead-soil concentration were remediated by removing at least two feet of topsoil, replaced with "clean"

dirt and reseeded with grass.

Roughly 400 other properties had less than 800 ppm of lead, but more than 400 ppm, and should be cleaned up as well. Bahnke said he suspected as many as one-third of the remaining 1,700 properties exceeded the 400 ppm threshold.

IT WAS anticipated there would be some other parties that would help pay for the cleanup other than the federal government, Greg Gunn, EPA branch

See **CLEANUP** | Page A2



Play anticipation grows like a nose

By **BOB JOHNSON**
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Wednesday evening's rehearsal of "My Son Pinocchio: Geppetto's Musical Tale," had director Richard Spencer on edge.

"Just about bit off more than I could chew," Spencer said, as he darted about the Bowlus Fine Arts Center auditorium, directing, tacking together props and dealing with worries and concerns that come 48 hours before opening night.

It is mildly organized mayhem on stage:

A girl stretches her snug black tights to a more comfortable fit.

A couple of other girls dance an impromptu jig; anxiety isn't an emotion always visited on the young.

But like the sun's soothing warmth on a cold dawn, a dozen sweet voices quickly quiet the chattering cast as they begin to sing the Disney classic, "When You Wish upon a Star."

"Pinocchio" will unfold Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30 and in a matinee Sunday at 2 o'clock at the Bowlus Center, a production sure to delight young and old alike. Tickets for the Iola Community Theatre show are available at Sophisticated Rose or at the Bowlus door the day of the productions at \$12 for adults, \$8 for students.

TWO OF THE SHOW'S actors



In a scene from Iola Community Theatre's fall production, "My Son Pinocchio: Geppetto's Musical Tale," are, from left, Bryan Johnson as Stromboli, Zachary Cokely as Pinocchio, Cody Cokely as Geppetto and Olivia Bannister as the Blue Fairy.

stand out in their ICT debuts.

Olivia Bannister plays the Blue Fairy, who grants the puppet maker Geppetto's wish to turn his creation into a real boy.

In her opening scene she floats to stage in a brilliantly lighted costume, singing "When You Wish upon a Star." For the rest of the 90-minute production her effervescent talent

keeps eyes riveted her way.

Zachary Cokely is less notable only because he doesn't have as much time in front of the audience.

Those associated with theater like to talk about stage presence and how that defining quality is inherent. Young Cokely has it. As Pinocchio he talks and sings with equal aplomb and has

mastered the mannerisms and characteristics that make him believable, first as a puppet and then a little boy, which he is.

Geppetto is played by Cody Cokely, an ICT veteran also as comfortable on stage as he would be hanging with friends, munching pizza and sipping a soft drink.

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Chamber leader settles in

By **RICHARD LUKEN**
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In today's economic times, a chamber of commerce is a vital tool for businesses and the community, Shelia Lampe said.

Lampe, 50, assumed office today as new executive

director of the Iola Area Chamber of Commerce. She replaces Jana Taylor, who resigned in August.

"This is a good fit for me," said Lampe, who has worked for the past 2 1/2 years as a congressional aide for U.S. Rep. Lynn Jenkins.

"I loved my job with Lynn, and I still think the world of her," she said. "But with my grandkids now reaching school age, I wanted to do more things with my family."

The daily commute from her home in rural Piqua to the Jenkins office in Pittsburg typically meant drives of 150 miles or more, Lampe said.

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Shelia Lampe

Art students' work sees motion through mobile

By **JENELLE JOHNSON**
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Since 2001 Kevin Reese — actor, designer and visual artist — has worked with thousands of school children to bring their drawings to life as moving pieces of art.

Reese, who makes his home in Washington, D.C., is spending a week in Amy Shannon's art classes at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center teaching students how to build large mobiles.

"It's all about the students and their vision for the mobiles," Reese said.

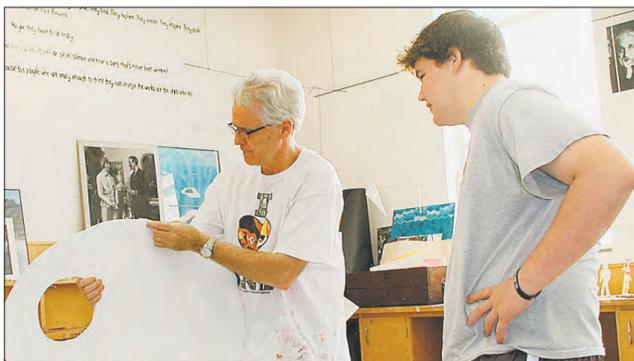
Mobiles being constructed will resemble drama masks, a large painter's pallet and musical notes.

The six art classes are working on five mobiles — one large and four smaller mobiles — that will hang from the ceiling of the commons area at the high school starting Friday.

The objects are carved from a light-weight foam board. The largest mobile will weigh about seven pounds. The components will be primed with a flame-resistant coating before being painted with bright colors.

Reese was in Iola two years ago to work with middle school students. This year's visit is made possible by the Bowlus Fine Arts Center and Sleeper Family Trust.

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Kevin Reese explains to Nathan Meadows how to finish the edges of his painter's pallet for the mobile that Iola High School art students are constructing. The mobiles will hang in the commons area at the high school.



McKinley Elementary School teachers receiving Walmart Teacher Rewards cards or gift bags are, from left, front row, Chris Rausch, Briana Curry, Amy Welch, Amber Cripps, Loretta Ellis; and back row, Jeff Livingston, Iola Walmart manager, Terri Carlin, Cindy Clark, Larry Regehr, Karen Jesseph and Kristin Michael. Not pictured are Jackie McIntyre, Barb Sherrill and Deb Greenwall.

Walmart gives Iola teachers \$1K

By **JENELLE JOHNSON**
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McKinley Elementary School teachers recently received \$100 gift cards to buy classroom supplies through Walmart's Teacher Rewards program.

Teachers annually spend \$500 out of their pockets for school supplies and an additional \$300 for food for their classroom, according to the National School Supply and Equipment Association. The Walmart Teacher Rewards program helps teachers supplement their classroom budgets, said Jeff Livingston, Iola Walmart manager.

The names of McKinley teachers were put in a Walmart bucket and the students were given the opportunity to draw the winners. Receiving 10 Teacher Reward Cards or a gift bag from Walmart were Chris Rausch, Briana Curry, Amy Welch, Amber Cripps, Loretta Ellis, Terri Carlin, Cindy Clark, Larry Regehr, Karen Jesseph, Kristin Michael, Jackie McIntyre, Barb Sherrill and Deb Greenwall.

Through its Teacher Rewards program, Walmart and Sam's Club locations nationwide are investing \$4.5 million in America's teachers,

providing 45,000 educators gift cards to help teachers offset the cost of classroom expenses.

"Walmart appreciates the impact teachers continue to make in our community," Livingston said. "We know our educators contribute not only their time, but also their money to ensure our students have a successful school year. The Teacher Rewards program is our way of saying thank you."

School districts have trimmed their budgets considerably during the past few years. USD 257 district class-

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★ Theatre

Continued from A1

The Cokelys are brothers and their stage relationship is enhanced by that reality. Geppetto's love for Pinocchio is made more genuine by their familial ties. When Geppetto pats Pinocchio on the head and strokes his hair it isn't a contrived piece of stage-craft.

Bryan Johnson, who has delighted local audiences for years in a variety of roles, may have found his best on-stage outlet as Stromboli, a puppet master who covets having Pinocchio under his thumb, and does for a time. Outfitted in a striking red costume and generous locks of flowing black hair, Johnson generates sometimes delightful and sometimes hiss-evoking moments.

Others have roles of varying duration and several play more than one. Eye-catchers are Clara Wicoff, Clarie Moran, Micaiah Larney and Zach St. Clair, all young and all new to the rigors of an ICT production. They adapt well and like what they're doing.

As always a number of others work behind the scenes to perform a multitude of tasks that make the difference between a ho-hum presentation and a very good one. They are listed in the program and should get their share of audience adulation.



Register/Bob Johnson

On the first day of classes, Pinocchio piles atop other kids in a departure from educational decorum — much to their delight. Looking on is Liz Ulrich.



Register/Bob Johnson

Clara Wicoff, left, and Trilby Bannister perform as marionettes during the Iola Community Theatre's play.

Cooler

Today, partly sunny. A chance of sprinkles in the afternoon. Highs 60 to 65. East winds 5 to 15 mph.

Tonight, cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Lows in the mid 40s. East winds 5 to 10 mph.

Friday, cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers. Highs in the mid 60s. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.

Friday night, cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows 50 to 55. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.



Temperature		Precipitation	
High yesterday	71	24 hours ending 7 a.m.	Trace
Low last night	44	This month to date	.18
High a year ago	75	Total year to date	21.45
Low a year ago	65	Def. since Jan. 1	7.01
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There's No Place Like Home

By Eunice Boeve
Illustrated by Michelle Meade



Chapter 4

The Great Depression

Last Chapter: Jack and Mollie are surprised to find themselves transformed into Indians in a Kansa village during the 1620s. Finding 3-D looking glasses in leather cases, they put them on and are immediately sent back to 2011 as themselves, and, off to their right, sets the time machine. Taking the glasses off puts them back in the Indian village as Indians, with the time machine nowhere in sight.

They stood on an empty road that looked like it stretched on forever. Overhead, the sun was a pale ghost in a hazy sky and small whirlwinds of dust skittered across the road and out into barren fields.

"I don't know where we are, but it's not home," Mollie said.

"I don't know either." Jack raised a ragged shirt sleeve and wiped sweat from his forehead. "But I know it's hot and we're not Indians anymore."

"And you're right in style." Mollie pointed at his jeans ragged and full of holes. "The older kids buy them new that way, but no one would buy this dress." She looked down at her knee-length faded blue print, patched in several places, and back again at Jack. "Looks like we're poor."

"Not much different than home," Jack said. "But that'll change when we get back."

Suddenly they remembered the glasses and both checked their pockets. They were empty.

Now a shadow fell across them and they looked to see a cloud cover the sun and a dark mass rising up on the horizon. Jack felt his heart leap with fear as Mollie cried, "It's a tornado!"

A gush of wind whipped around them, showering them with dust and sandy grit. "Just in case, we'd better lie down in that

ditch," Jack said. "I've heard you're supposed to do that if a tornado catches you out in the open."

A horn blared just as they started for the ditch. They swung around, squinting through the blowing dust, to see an old black truck pull up and stop beside them. The door opened and a woman jumped out. "Get in!" she yelled. "There's a dust storm coming!"

They filled the front seat of the truck. "Like sardines in a can," the man said and then fell silent as the storm battered the truck, shaking and rocking it as dirt and dust sifted into the cab, making them cough. Outside, daylight vanished into darkness and soon all they could see of each other were hazy outlines.

Later, Jack told Mollie, he was sure the time machine had malfunctioned and they were going to suffocate in that truck along with those strangers, and never see home again.



"We're lucky it only lasted a few hours," the man said when the storm finally passed. "They can last for days."

As they stepped out of the truck, the twins stepped in dirt piled up to the running board.

When the couple introduced themselves as Jim and Mary Clayberg, the twins gave their real names and explained that they were headed for Liberal where they had relatives who would take them in. "Cousins," Mollie said.

They were amazed that they were given the words that in their regular life would be lies. "But these words are for this time and this place," Mollie said when they talked about it

later. "So they're not really lies."

The Claybergs told the twins they had left their farm just south of Great Bend.

"Our crops were smothered in dust," Mrs. Clayberg said. "The government men came and took the cattle that could be saved to feed the hungry. The others they shot and buried where they fell."

"I've got bad lungs," Mr. Clayberg said, "So we're heading to California. We've heard there is work there picking field crops."

"Mr. Clayberg can't take the dust," his wife said. "He can get dust pneumonia and folks can die from that."

Because they had seen a film at school about the Great Depression of the 1930s when thousands were hungry and homeless and dust storms plagued the Midwest, the twins knew they were in that time period, even if they didn't know the year.

The dust storm had blown dirt and dust across the road in drifts like snow. Mr. Clayberg had to shovel some of it away before the truck could plow through and they could go on.

Jack shuddered when he saw the ditch he and Mollie thought would protect them. It was filled level with dirt and dust.

When Jack told him what they'd planned to do, Mr. Clayberg said, "You'd have died in that barrow pit. Covered over and suffocated."

"Now, Jim," Mrs. Clayberg put her arm around Mollie. "No need to scare the children."

The cab of the truck was a tight fit, so Jack rode in the truck bed high atop the Claybergs' belongings. But even without Jack, Mollie had to keep her legs over against Mrs. Clayberg's so Mr. Clayberg could work the gearshift sticking up out of the floorboards.

The hot air, blowing through the open windows, made Mollie vow never again to take their air-conditioning for granted. Although in their efforts to save money for the time machine, their parents had quit using their air-conditioner even on the hottest days. She smiled, imagining their faces when she and Jack returned and they realized the time machine worked and their money worries were over.

They camped at dusk on the open Kansas prairie, the locusts setting up a constant din and a few fireflies flitting about. The Claybergs shared a meal with Jack and Mollie of canned beans and tomatoes heated over an open fire.

A little later, a family with six children

pulled up a few feet away in a battered old truck. When no effort was made to build a cooking fire, Mrs. Clayberg said, "They're out of food, Jim."

Jim Clayberg smiled. "All right, Mary, we'll take some over. It probably won't hurt us to miss a meal or two, anyway."

When the Claybergs came back, Mrs. Clayberg said, "We think we have it bad, until we see starving children."

Mrs. Clayberg gave the twins a couple of blankets from the truck to sleep on. "We should be in Liberal by late morning," she said smiling.

The twins had not yet found their glasses, but when they spread out the blankets, Jack noticed a white cotton sack and as soon as he picked it up, he knew the glasses were inside.

Eagerly they put them on, but this time the glasses changed nothing. Even when they pulled them off and put them on again, they were still camping with the Claybergs and the time machine was nowhere in sight.

All night they dreamed about home. By the time they reached Liberal, they were sick with fear. They were sure the time machine was broken and without their parents it could not be fixed. As they watched the Claybergs' old truck rumble down the street, headed west, their hearts thumped with fear.

To Be Continued.

Editor's note:

The Iola Register is running "There's No Place Like Home," in tribute to the 150th birthday of our fair state.

The 16-chapter serial is geared to children to further their education of Kansas.

The story was written by Eunice Boeve of Phillipsburg and illustrated by Michael Meade of Salina. It was funded by the Kansas Newspaper Foundation.

The historical-fiction story follows the adventures of 10-year-old twins Jack and Mollie, who are whisked away in a time machine that was built by their parents and experience events in Kansas history as they happen. Their adventures take them to many time periods and places in Kansas.

— Susan Lynn

This is an original serial story that is written and illustrated by two Kansas women. To learn more about them, go to their websites: www.euniceboeve.net and www.michellemeade.weebly.com



Progress on VA home, clinic

Local effort to attract facility needs more input

By SUSAN LYNN
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The possibility of locating a 68-bed Veterans Affairs home hinges on just a few remaining steps, said local enthusiast Carolyn McLean.

Most importantly, McLean needs the names and addresses of all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces to verify the number of those living in the area. Secondly, she needs their feedback as to whether they would use such a home and if they would use the services of a VA clinic if it were stationed in Iola.

Currently, Fort Scott, Chanute and Garnett all have VA clinics. The only nursing homes specifically for veterans are in Winfield and Dodge City. Most states have five veterans homes, McLean said.

McLean and VA representatives will be out in full force Oct. 15 during Farm-City Days to gather the needed information as well as assist veterans and their families to obtain VA benefits.

At issue is a disparity of the count of how many veterans re-



Carolyn McLean

side in southeast Kansas and whether a demand exists for an extended-stay home or clinic.

"The state says we have one number, while the federal government says we have a much larger count," McLean said.

According to state enrollment, there are 2,283 veterans among Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Coffey, Neosho and Woodson counties, McLean said.

Federal statistics list 5,578 veterans for the same area, she said. Add in Crawford, Montgomery, Labette, Cherokee and Linn counties — additional counties that would use the nursing home — and the number jumps to 17,653.

One reason McLean is such an advocate of the VA home is the jobs it would bring to the area.

"It's a \$20-million facility that would create 70 jobs," she said.

Funding for the home is a 35/65 percent split between the state and federal government. McLean said Gov. Sam Brownback has agreed to commit to its funding.

"We almost have the application completed," McLean said of the arduous task. It's unknown when to expect approval of the project, she said.

A VA CLINIC is also in the works, though not being pursued

as aggressively.

The idea is that the clinic would operate in a new medical arts building on the grounds of Allen County's new hospital.

Until then, a mobile unit with two examination rooms and a waiting room, could be parked near the hospital to attend to veterans.

In Chanute and Garnett, the VA clinics rent space in their hospitals. In Fort Scott, the clinic is in a former doctor's office.

If the clinic and nursing home come to pass, McLean envisions Iola as "the mecca of VA health care," she said.

She sees both as being "feeders" to Allen County Hospital.

VETERANS are encouraged to give McLean their opinions about either the veterans home or the VA clinic by calling her at 620-365-5577.

At Farm-City Days they should bring their discharge papers to check eligibility for possible enrollment for VA health care.

Meltdown expands in SEK

By BOB JOHNSON
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The focus of Allen County's meltdown this year is to develop healthier lifestyles through exercise and attention to nutrition.

Five other southeast Kansas counties will be joining in the effort to get healthy. This will be the third year for Allen County.

Sign-up will be Oct. 1 at three sites, said Sunny Shreeve, chairperson of Thrive Allen County Meltdown.

Elaine Stewart will oversee sign-up of Moran area participants at Marmaton Valley High School from 8 to 10 a.m.

Kate Works, Humboldt coordinator, will have sign-up at The Family Physicians Clinic, 111 S. Ninth, from 8 to 10 a.m.

In Iola, Jake Lawrence, with See MELTDOWN | Page A5

Speakers help celebrate Kansas history

By RICHARD LUKEN
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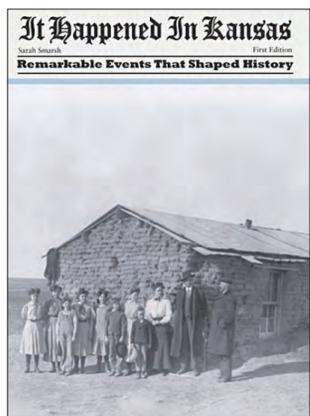
Thomas Fox Averill, a writer-in-residence at Washburn University, Topeka, will speak about "What Kansas Means To Me" at a book signing at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Allen County Community College Theatre.

Averill's 1990 book features 17 essays and poems about the meaning and appeal of the Sunflower State from noted Kansas authors of the 20th century.

Averill pored through hundreds of writings, paying particular attention to works that focused on the history and culture of the area. The works are arranged chronologically, from 1910 to 1990.

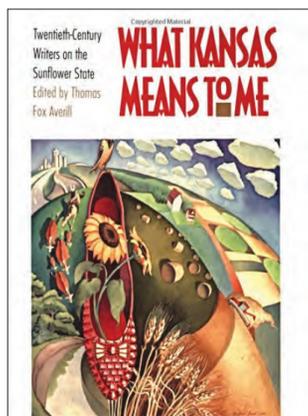
Averill will sign copies of the book after his presentation.

THE PRESENTATION is one of several ACCC Speakers Series events in both its Iola and Burl-



ingame campuses in the coming weeks.

Other speakers will focus discussions on Sarah Smarsh's book "It Happened in Kansas: Remarkable Events That Shaped History." Smarsh, an assistant professor



at Washburn, filled the book of nonfiction essays covering everything from Quantrill's infamous Civil War raid on Lawrence, the exploits of aviator Amelia Ear-

See SPEAKERS | Page A6



Puppet master

An expressive Bryan Johnson portrays Stromboli in "My Son Pinocchio: Geppetto's Musical Tale," which will be staged tonight at 7:30 and at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center.

Volunteers' only aim is to help fight fires

No one was more concerned about the rash of fires in rural Allen County the past month and eager for resolution than members of the Allen County Volunteer Fire Department.

They rigorously train to deal with fires. Part of their role is also to instruct fire safety precautions. They would be delighted if their pagers never sounded.

Understandably, they were distraught earlier this week when one of their own was arrested for allegedly having set more than 20 fires in Geneva and Carlyle townships, the heart of their service area. It was a slap in their collective face, they feared.

Sheriff Tom Williams said information that helped lead to the arrest was provided by the volunteers and Iola firefighters.

The volunteer firefighters are very serious about their role in providing public service and protecting property.

At Week's End

Bob Johnson

The department has been around about 40 years, the brainchild of Ray Pershall, then president of Allen County Bank & Trust, now Emprise Bank. Rural areas near Iola were without fire protection and the bank, at Pershall's urging, purchased two old U.S. Army trucks that were outfitted with tanks, hoses and spray nozzles.

Today the department has four trucks, two for fighting brush fires, a tanker that carries 1,200 gallons of water and a pumper.

They are stationed at Storage See FIRES | Page A6



Register/Joe Sneve

EMS Director Jason Nelson and the father of Olivia McCullough, 16, Neosho Falls, share a few words after the Friday afternoon car accident north of Iola.

Weekend starts with a crunch

Brother witnesses sister's accident

By JOE SNEVE
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The car accident that sent a 16-year-old Neosho Falls girl to the hospital Friday afternoon was a family affair.

Olivia McCullough, a Crest High School junior, was traveling westbound on West Virginia Road, just west of Old U.S. Highway 169, when she lost control of

her 1996 Chevy Lumina.

McCullough's brother, Shawn McCullough, 24, was a passenger in a Chevy pickup that was traveling east bound on West Virginia Road.

Shawn McCullough said before the two vehicles passed each other his sister lost control of the vehicle before rolling twice.

The driver of the pickup swerved to the right to avoid a collision. The Lumina came to rest on its wheels in the north ditch.

Speed and loose gravel contributed to the wreck.

"The only thing I could think was I didn't want anything bad to happen," Shawn McCullough said, referring to what crossed his mind when he saw his sister's vehicle go out of control. "She's my only sister."

Olivia McCullough, who wasn't wearing her seat belt, was taken to Allen County Hospital in an ambulance with a head injury, which her brother said wasn't serious.