

The Weekender

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Saturday, May 6, 2017

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SAVING MORAN'S STORE

*Effort afoot to
avoid becoming
a 'food desert'*

By BOB JOHNSON
The Iola Register

MORAN — Here's the dilemma: Stub's Market is for sale and there is no assurance that it will remain open. A good share of Moran's residents are elderly and would find it a burden to travel elsewhere for groceries. The closest full-service groceries are in Iola, a round trip of about 30 miles, and Fort Scott, at least 10 miles farther.

Spur-of-the-moment needs would go unmet.

"If Nelda is baking cookies and she needs eggs, I can run to Stub's and get a dozen," Larry Manes mentioned. "Without it, I'd have to drive to Iola," or pass on fresh-baked cookies.

ON WEDNESDAY, a delegation of Moran and Thrive Allen County folks drove to



Yvonne Scott, Thrive Allen County Healthy Food Initiative coordinator, and Larry Manes, Moran resident, discuss what may be done to ensure Moran's grocery will remain a part of the town's retail community. REGISTER/BOB JOHNSON

St. Paul to see what that community did 10 years ago to have a grocery.

"We had had grocery stores, but not for several years," said City Clerk Jeri Heitman.

In 2007, voters approved a proposal for the St. Paul Community Development Corporation to borrow \$400,000 from Heartland

Electric, an aside the power company does to help communities it serves.

The loan, co-signed by city council members, paid for construction of the store on land owned by the city. Before the vote, it was impressed on citizens that if the store failed, remaining debt would be on their backs. Moran, population 530, and

St. Paul, 610, are of comparable size.

In January 2018, the loan will be paid off and five months later, in June, the store will celebrate its 10th anniversary as the flagship retail enterprise in St. Paul.

At the start, Jay and Jo Renfro, experienced grocers, See **GROCERY** | Page A3



This video shows two suspects who stole several thousands of dollars in \$20 bills from the Bank of Gas ATM. COURTESY OF ALLEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

ATM theft probed

By RICHARD LUKEN
The Iola Register

It took all of about 2½ minutes for a pair of thieves to empty "several thousands of dollars" from a Bank of Gas ATM early Thursday.

"They knew what they were doing," Sheriff Bryan Murphy said Friday, as the Sheriff's Department continues to search for clues in the late-night burglary.

The suspects entered the foyer in the front of the bank

See **ATM** | Page A6



A group of children peer into the window of Santa's Toy Shop in December. All of the shop's toys and most of the decorations were destroyed in last week's flood. REGISTER FILE PHOTO

Floodwaters waste Santa Shop toys, decorations

By SHELLIE SMITLEY
The Iola Register

Last week's torrential rains were a stinky deal for Santa's Toy Shop.

Years of hard work went down the drain when flooding destroyed many of the toys and items used in the toy shop that were stored in the basement of Tracy Keagle's home.

The basement had never flooded before, Keagle said, speculating that the 3 feet of water found its way into her home after she and husband, Willie, removed their driveway with the intention

See **FLOOD** | Page A3

ICT's 'Frog and Toad,' a musical delight

By RICHARD LUKEN
The Iola Register

Frog and Toad are friends, and as such get into a number of frequently silly, occasionally scary and always heart-felt adventures.

The Iola Community Theatre brings Arnold Lobel's beloved title characters to life through the dynamic duo of Drew Shepherd and Bryan Johnson, with "A Year With Frog and Toad."

The dessert theater show runs tonight at 7:30 and at 2 p.m. Sunday at the ICT Warehouse, 203 S. Jefferson Ave. Tickets sell for \$15.05 for adults and \$10.70 for students online, and \$15.50 and \$10.50, respectively, at the door.

In Johnson, a seasoned veteran See **'FROG'** | Page A5



Bryan Johnson, left, and Drew Shepherd are the titular Toad and Frog, respectively, in the Iola Community Theatre production, "A Year With Frog and Toad." REGISTER/RICHARD LUKEN

Big things come in tiny package for pageant hopeful



Adayrean West's polished interviewing skills, creativity and drive helped to secure four trophies along with the title, sash and tiara during the pageant held April 22-23 in Junction City. REGISTER/SHELLIE SMITLEY

By SHELLIE SMITLEY
The Iola Register

Bonnie Pullian, Iola, is the proud grandma of 6-year-old Adayrean West of Le Roy, the reigning 2017 Princess of America's Tiny Miss Kansas.

"When I grow up I hope to become a wheat scientist and help develop ways to grow more food on less land. I want to be able to feed the future," Adayrean told the judges.

Her polished interviewing skills, creativity and drive helped to secure four trophies along with the title, sash and tiara during the pageant held April 22-23 in Junction City. West placed first overall and

in two separate categories; creativity and community service. She placed runner-up for casual wear. She collected the most non-perishable food items and donated them to God's Store House, Burlington.

"This is the first official pageant she has entered," said her mother, Amy West.

Adayrean has participated in three pre-pageant preliminary programs including the Miss Hay Capital princess program held at Yates Center. "It's a confidence-builder for little girls," Amy said.

It was Adayrean's dad, See **WEST** | Page A3



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Quote of the day

"The time is always right to do what is right."

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Hi: 81 Lo: 51

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Iola, KS



Safety first

Humboldt Elementary School students were grilled Thursday on bicycle safety, courtesy of the Humboldt Police Department. Police Chief Brian Dillow focused on hand signals, wearing helmets and how to approach unmarked intersections.

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Homewrecker

OLATHE, Kan. (AP) — A man allegedly lost control of his vehicle and crashed into two homes Thursday. Witnesses saw a light blue Ford Taurus driving erratically before the crash. The driver allegedly drove through two other yards before striking the houses. Officers are investigating the cause of the accident. No injuries were reported.

'Frog': Musical tonight, Sunday

Continued from A1

eran of countless ICT productions and Shepherd, a rookie with the Community Theatre, the play's protagonists will keep the audience delighted from the first signs of spring through the next winter's hibernation.

Johnson is Toad, whose fondness for keeping tabs on his best friend often lead to fits of anxiety. He's a worrier, whether it be from planting flower seeds or trying to figure out why Frog wants to be alone to sledding down a steep hill covered with snow.

Shepherd, as Frog, is a bit more affable, content to simply being a frog, and patient enough to endure his best friend's idiosyncrasies.

Shepherd and Bryan see that their personalities shine through.

Shepherd's deep baritone voice (much more melodic than a croaking frog, mind you) and expressive nature show just how much he enjoys his time on stage.

Johnson, meanwhile, perfects his neurotic, yet pleasant character, who yearns, mostly, to



Kate Terhune, from left, Kendall Glaze and Alison Fees portray migrating, musical birds in the Iola Community Theatre dessert theatre production of "A Year With Frog and Toad," which runs at 7:30 tonight and 2 p.m. Sunday at the ICT Warehouse, 203 S. Jefferson Ave. REGISTER/RICHARD LUKEN

keep his friends happy. He, too, will have the audience tapping their toes to a number of cheery tunes.

BUT "FROG and Toad" is much more than just a frog and toad.

Kate Terhune, Alison Fees and young Kendall Glaze sparkle as a trio of birds, who frequently pop in to announce the arrival of spring, dine on cookies, or tease the titular characters in their ill-fated attempt to fly a kite.

Mandy Moyer — co-director with Angie Terhune — has a handful of memorable

scenes as a cheery turtle, while newcomer Jacob Cooper is a hoot as a determined mail carrier. That it takes months to deliver a single letter — did we mention he's a snail? — matters not a lick to the single-minded snail (who puts the "go" in "escargot.")

And keep an eye on young Cole Moyer, whose voice belies his young age. The future, indeed, is bright in the local theater scene.

Angie Whitmore is joined by newcomers Stephanie Fees, Cole Moyer and Spencer Sargent on a brief interlude.

TYING THE production together is the cheery music and simple but effective scenery, ensuring a play geared for youngsters is an enjoyable day at the theater for folks of all ages.

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