



Passing the baton

From left, Richard Spencer, Jan Knewtson and Dee Sell bask in the adulation of Iola Community Theatre supporters Friday night at a reception in their honor at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. The trio passed the baton of leadership to a newer generation. Mandy Moyer, below right, and Pam Tressler, pictured with Knewtson, are now president and vice president, respectively, of the local theater company.



ELSMORE DAYS FUN



Rainy weather gave way to storybook weather conditions just in time Saturday for the 47th annual Elsmore Rural-Town Days celebration. Above, Marmaton Valley High School's Genna Mitchell plays the flute as the marching band performs during the parade. At bottom left, Karen Price shows off the Elsmore Community Garden, which has provided ample produce all year, and was a popular site again Saturday. At bottom right, Emily Heskett, 4, shows off a piece of candy she retrieved during the parade. REGISTER/RICHARD LUKEN



The 2015 Farm-City Days activities map.

Hunt: Medallion clues ahead

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and are available at the Iola Area Chamber of Commerce; from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Jump Start Travel Center during a mega car wash and Sept. 24-25 in front of Walmart. Fifty youngsters will take part in the car wash as a means for them to get carnival access for the Farm-City Days carnival when it arrives in town Oct. 7. While the list of kids to help wash cars already has reached its limit (50), committee members still are ac-

cepting applications for alternates. (Just send an email to farmcitydays.com for details). **AMONG** other pre-festival activities are auditions for the Farm-City Days Idol and Idol Junior vocal talent contests. The competition will be divided into two age groups: 16 and under (Idol Junior) and 17 and older (Idol). Auditions for both groups will be at 6 p.m. Sept. 20 at the Iola Community Theatre Warehouse, 203 S. Jefferson Ave. On-site registration begins at 5:30, however entrants are encouraged to pre-register online at farmcitydays.com, under the "applications" tab. For auditions, participants must have two

song selections from two different musical genres (e.g.: one country and one rock) prepared, even if only one is sung due to time constraints. Contestants must provide their own musical accompaniment, such as instrument or audio track. The FCD Idol Jr. finals are Oct. 7; the FCD Idol finals are Oct. 8. The top three finishers in each division will receive a cash prize.

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Boyd: Municipal judge in eight towns

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native became the assistant county attorney in Bourbon County, where she developed an abiding interest in juvenile law. Next, she worked for a couple of years in private practice in Fort Scott, before eventually assuming the role of district judge pro tem. "I did that for several years," explained Boyd. "And then — I decided I wanted to have my kids and stay home." Which she did. At least for a while. "You know, I tried to get out of law," laughed Boyd. "Obviously, it didn't work. ... Somehow I started accumulating all of these municipal court judgeships. I'm in eight towns at the moment. "You want the list?" she asked in an interview with the Register on Thursday, not long after signing on to replace Thomas Saxton as the municipal court judge in Iola. "OK — I am currently judge in Moran, Humboldt, LaHarpe, Savonburg, Uniontown, Bronson, Gas. And now: Iola."

BUT SHE didn't enter her freshman year at the University of Nebraska with the idea of becoming a lawyer. The oldest of three girls, Boyd grew up in a little town in the Sandhills region

of north-central Nebraska with her sights set squarely on broadcast journalism. "When I was in high school, I worked at this little radio station that was basically" — Boyd raises a cupped hand over her head and says, in stentorian tones — "the Voice of the Sandhills." "Actually, it was super fun, and one of those jobs that you get when you're 14 and realize later that it was the best job you've ever had." In college, Boyd, having declared herself a journalism major, picked up work at a variety of radio stations around Lincoln. "But radio was starting to change then. It was starting to get less localized; there was more hooking up with satellites. ... When I was in small towns, local news was still a very significant thing. They still had reporters that went out and covered things. And we still did live broadcasts. But it was starting to change in the '90s; radio was becoming more background noise and less about the heart of the community." (Boyd is quick to exempt Iola's own KIKS-FM from this trend. "They're great.") "These are fun things to do," Boyd realized as her undergraduate years

were careening to a finish. "But they are also things that do not pay well." And so like millions of young people, before and since, who wobble on the fence of an uncertain future, Boyd wisely decided: "OK, I'll go to law school." Boyd's palpable intelligence and orderly mind are belied by her effervescent personality and immense friendliness, which make her a widely liked fixture in the community. "You know how it is in small towns," said Boyd, who serves on the local hospital board and who, amongst much else, is the dance coach at Marmaton Valley High School, "I guess most people around here already know me." But that doesn't interfere with her application of the law. "You have to be pretty good at compartmentalizing, saying: At this time I'm doing this job and I've got to look at the situation as neutrally as possible. ... And I think the nice thing about small towns is that people do sort of sit down and say, 'OK, she's in this role now.' Even if I've had a dancer, somebody I've coached, come into court, I've felt entirely comfortable being the judge in their case.

I know we know each other, but I'm making this decision and here we go." But there's nothing in Boyd that wants to introduce more distance between herself and those who appear in court than is strictly necessary. "For instance, I don't wear a black robe. I just wear my regular clothes. Like what I have on now. ... Somebody in Humboldt told me that they thought it made me seem more like a real person up there making decisions, and that they appreciated that. So that may be something that is different in Iola compared to how it was before. But, of course, I've still got my gavel," laughed Boyd. "And am not afraid to use it." "I SPENT a lot of time in my late-40s wondering what it was going to be like this year when I turned 50. I never felt that way about any of the other big birthdays. I think this came along at the right time. See, you can always, at any time, look back on where you've been and what you've done and say, 'Hey, I'm going to do something new.' But the goal, I think, is to bring all that you've learned along the way into this new thing. It keeps life exciting."

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