

THE IOLA Register

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An ensemble cast is certain to delight audiences this weekend at the Bowls Fine Arts Center with the Iola Community Theatre production of "Clue." In this scene, the suspects react after seeing Mr. Boddy (Paul Porter) has been killed. Others in the scene are, from left, Mike Marsh, Paige Olson, Morgan Lea, Candice Grundy, Nic Olson, Judd Wiltse and River Hess. REGISTER/RICHARD LUKEN

Follow the 'Clue' to a murder mystery

By RICHARD LUKEN
The Iola Register

Leave it to the Iola Community Theatre troupe to expand upon the simple "whodunit" genre in absurdly hilarious fashion.

After all, there's also "wheredunit" and "howdunit" questions to be answered.

Such is the theme for this weekend's production of "Clue" a dark comedy based on the popular board game and subsequent cult classic movie of the same name.

And, much as a game night with friends and family, this ensemble brings laughs and surprises from start to finish.

Under the guidance of ICT stage veteran and first-time director Hayley Derryberry, "Clue" runs Friday and Saturday nights at 7 o'clock and at 2 p.m. Sunday on the Bowls



Mike Marsh, left, reacts after finding the cook (Alison Fees) in "Clue."

Fine Arts Center stage. Adult tickets sell for \$10 apiece, students for \$5, and are available via iolacommunitytheatre.org or at the door.

The setting, a mansion sometime in the early 1950s,

provides the backdrop for this prerequisite dark and stormy night.

A cadre of guests has been invited to Boddy Manor for dinner — and a game.

As they enter, each is given

a pseudonym, which should sound quite familiar to those who have played the board game — Col. Mustard, Miss Peacock, Professor Plum, etc.

It's up to Wadsworth the Butler, the superb Nic Olson, to help explain why these seemingly random dinner guests have been selected.

See, they've all been the subject of blackmail from the same person: the aforementioned Mr. Boddy.

As one might suspect, the evening quickly takes a left turn. I mean, what fun is a murder mystery without a good old-fashioned murder?

And what follows is a rapid-paced, uproarious series of events as each of the characters tries to uncover who had the motive (spoiler alert: they all do), the means (here's where it gets a little trick-

See CLUE | Page A6

Now is the season for vaccines

By VICKIE MOSS
The Iola Register

The shift from summer to fall is a good time to start thinking about how to protect yourself against illnesses that tend to thrive during cooler months.

Vaccinations are particularly important this year as a variety of threats — new, old and returning — have emerged.

Vaccines have been developed to protect against those illnesses. Even if someone who is vaccinated becomes ill, symptoms are typically less severe and much less likely to be fatal.

Influenza is an annual threat, and vaccines to protect against the flu are regularly offered at health clinics, physician offices and pharmacies starting in the fall.

Vaccine for COVID-19 remains available; new booster shots to protect against the latest variants are expected to be available soon.

Polio, one of the most feared diseases in U.S.

See SHOTS | Page A4

Allen volleyball falls to Cowley County



PAGE B1

Queen Elizabeth has died

PAGE A2

Blinken, in Kyiv, unveils \$2B in military aid

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken paid an unannounced visit to Kyiv on Thursday as the Biden administration announced major new military aid worth more than \$2.8 billion for Ukraine and other European countries threatened by Russia.

In meetings with senior Ukrainian officials, including President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Blinken said the Biden administration had notified Congress of its intent to provide \$2.2 billion

See UKRAINE | Page A4

Kansas wants to plug abandoned oil wells

By CELIA LLOPIS-JEPSEN
Kansas News Service

Last summer, a utility worker stumbled across a well — one of thousands of abandoned, unplugged oil and gas wells scattered across Kansas — just 15 feet from a stream in La Cygne, an hour south of Kansas City.

Such sites bear witness to the state's history of fossil fuel production — and they can leak pollutants into the air and water generations after they've been forgotten.

Tens of millions of federal tax dollars will help the state seal thousands of openings over the next several years, though many will remain unaddressed.

Old wells in Kansas can

Abandoned oil & gas wells in Allen County (Categories ranked in order of most to least serious by the Kansas Corporation Commission.)

- Priority 1A: 1
- Priority 1B: 251
- Priority 1C: 285
- Priority 2: 56

date back to the start of oil and gas drilling in the region in the mid-1800s.

Operators behind unprofitable sites often walked away without plugging the holes properly — if at all.

Unplugged wells can leak methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere. Their pipes can



Workers plug a well that was leaking natural gas next to a long-term care center near Wichita in 2014. KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION

break, letting in groundwater that disappears down the holes forever.

Other times, changes in

pressure can push contaminated fluids from the bottom of the wellbore toward the

See WELLS | Page A3

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Clue: Community theatre group takes on a classic whodunit

Continued from A1
er) and the opportunity (and that's where the fun begins.)

THE ENSEMBLE cast features a delectable motley crew of characters.

River Hess is brilliant as Col. Mustard, a Washington, D.C., insider who would just as soon keep his insider past secret from the others. He's a bit of an eccentric, often flustered, and always spot-on hilarious.

Speaking of hilarious, Judd Wiltse shines as the lecherous Professor Plum, a disgraced psychiatrist who takes a job with the government after losing his medical license for doing "what male doctors aren't supposed to do with their lady patients."

And there's Paige Olson, the glamorous (and a wee bit feisty) Miss Scarlett, the lone guest who fully acknowledges why she's being blackmailed. She runs a profitable, but frowned upon, escort service, again in Washington, D.C. (Notice the connection yet?)

Three ICT newcomers also are part of the central troupe. Here's hoping they stick around.

Morgan Lea is top-notch as Miss White, who remains under a cloud of suspicion after

not one, but two, of her former husbands have died under mysterious circumstances. (One was decapitated; the other an illusionist who disappeared — and just never came back.) "He wasn't a very good illusionist," she explains.

Mike Marsh lets his acting chops show as the easily spooked Mr. Green. His crime? He's a disloyal Republican who declined to vote for Eisenhower in the previous election. (He'd rather out himself as a homosexual than a GOP imposter.)

And Candice Grundy gives a virtuoso portrayal of the puritanical, yet albeit quirky, Mrs. Peacock, wife of a prominent senator who may or may not have conspired with the misus in a massive bribery scheme.

Tying it all together is the incomparable Nic Olson as Wadsworth, the butler.

He's quick with a quip, and long with the snark, and keeps the other actors on their toes.

Without spoiling too much, Olson provides a breathtakingly outrageous synopsis of the play as it reaches its thrilling climax.

THE SUPPORTING characters are every bit



From left, Paige Olson, Morgan Lea, Judd Wiltse, Mike Marsh and Candice Grundy eavesdrop in a scene from the Iola Community Theatre production of "Clue," which opens Friday at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center.

the equal to the headliners in their all-too-brief time on stage.

Newcomer Paul Porter enters in grand fashion as Mr. Boddy, exuding the appearance of a melodrama villain, even as he tries to explain that perhaps he's not the source of the guests' displeasure.

Katie Jo Knoblich sparkles as Yvette, a housemaid who offers just the right mix of humor and mystery. Alison

Fees serves up a helping of laugh-out-loud hijinks as the cook.

Jacob Cooper, as an unexpected cop, Ben Olson, as a stranded motorist, and Cody Easley get their turns to lead the audience into a laugh or three. And look for a delightful cameo from Cara Porter and Chelsea Lea Hawley, who make a memorable appearance late in the production as a singing telegram.

IT WOULD be foolhardy to sing the production's praises without mentioning the musical accompaniment of Roberta Wilkes on piano, who gives a virtuoso performance as she sets the pitch-perfect tone from scene to scene.

Keeping the production humming along is Derryberry, who has striven to make the 90-minute production run seamlessly, without

an intermission. It's a sight to behold as the production moves from room to room in a moment's notice.

The Register is loath to give away spoilers from dramatic productions, and we're not about to start now, particularly when it comes to mystery.

But we can make one prediction. By the end of the show, it will be you, at the Bowlus, with a smile on your face.

Powell: Higher rates unlikely to cause deep US recession

WASHINGTON (AP) — The last time the Federal Reserve faced inflation as high as it is now, in the early 1980s, it jacked up interest rates to double-digit levels — and in the process caused a deep recession and sharply higher unemployment.

On Thursday, Chair

Jerome Powell suggested that this time, the Fed won't have to go nearly as far.

"We think we can avoid the very high social costs that Paul Volcker and the Fed had to bring into play to get inflation back down," Powell said in an interview at the Cato Insti-

tute, referring to the Fed chair in the early 1980s who sent short-term borrowing rates to roughly 19% to throttle punishingly high inflation.

Powell also reiterated that the Fed is determined to lower inflation, now near a four-decade high of 8.5%, by

raising its short-term rate, which is in a range of 2.25% to 2.5%.

Even so, he did not comment on what the Fed may do at its next meeting in two weeks. Economists and Wall Street traders increasingly expect the central bank to raise its key short-term rate by a

hefty three-quarters of a point for a third straight time. That would extend the most rapid series of rate hikes since Volcker's time.

The Fed's benchmark rate affects many consumer and business loans, which means that borrowing costs throughout the econo-

my will likely keep rising.

On Thursday, the European Central Bank increased its key rate by three-quarters of a point, the largest in its relatively short history, as Europe also struggles with record-high inflation and a stumbling economy.



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