

THE IOLA Register

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Swimmers make a splash at Iola meet



PAGE B1

Russia might take 'strategic pause'

PAGE A4

Got COVID? Here's what doctors say

By EMILY ALPERT REYES
Los Angeles Times/TNS

More than two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, when Dr. Anthony Fauci tested positive for the coronavirus, his federal agency announced that he would "continue to work from his home."

So did U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, who announced on Twitter that after testing positive, "I plan to work remotely." And so did San Francisco Mayor London Breed, whose office announced she would conduct meetings from home after testing positive.

As vaccines and new treatments have eased some of the alarm around a COVID-19 diagnosis, continuing to work — but from home — has become a familiar practice among professionals who can do their jobs remotely. Fauci

See COVID | Page A6

Appeals court considers kids brought to US

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Attorneys hoping to save an Obama-era program that prevents the deportation of thousands of people brought into the U.S. as children told a federal appeals court Wednesday that ending the program would cruelly disrupt the lives of thousands who have grown up to become tax-paying, productive drivers of the U.S. economy.

An attorney for the state of Texas, leading an effort to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, argued that DACA recipients have

See COURT | Page A6

Every step counts

By RICHARD LUKEN
The Iola Register

For many, retirement means a chance to kick back a spell, maybe take up gardening or some idle hobby.

Kenny Mintz has taken a different approach.

Mintz, who retired last summer as a 30-year Army veteran, is roughly halfway through his "Kenny Walks Across America" campaign, a 3,000-mile, seven-month venture to raise funds for pancreatic cancer research, as well as two veterans charities.

Mintz and daughter Margaret, who drives a support vehicle for the 53-year-old retired colonel, stayed overnight Tuesday in Iola before heading back out Wednesday.

By Wednesday evening, and having covered his daily 20-mile goal, the Mintzes were in rural Woodson County.

Mintz crossed the 1,500-mile barrier on Monday — Independence Day — as he heads west from the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., to Swami's Beach in Encinitas, Calif., on the northern edge of

See JOURNEY | Page A4



Kenny Mintz, with daughter Margaret, is crossing America by foot. He retired from the Army last summer and decided on the trek to benefit pancreatic cancer research and two charities that cater to veterans and their families. REGISTER/RICHARD LUKEN

British PM Johnson resigns

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced his resignation Thursday amid a mass revolt by top members of his government, marking an end to three tumultuous years in power in which he brazenly bent and sometimes broke the rules of British politics.



Boris Johnson

Months of defiance ended almost with a shrug as Johnson stood outside No. 10 Downing St. and conceded that his party wanted him gone.

"Them's the breaks," he said.

The brash, 58-year-old politician who took Britain out of the European Union and steered it through COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine was

See JOHNSON | Page A3



Nic Olson, standing center, tries to corral the cast of "County Fair: A Country Hits Musical" offered at 7 tonight and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. Sunday at the ICT Warehouse Theatre. REGISTER/VICKIE MOSS

Yeehaw! Let's go to the 'County Fair'

By VICKIE MOSS
The Iola Register

Ain't nothin' like a county fair.

And while it's still a few weeks until the actual Allen County Fair, the Iola Community Theatre is fixin' to offer a great warm-up.

"County Fair: A Country Hits Musical" is offered at 7 o'clock tonight through Saturday, and at 2 p.m. Sunday at the ICT Warehouse Theatre, 203 S. Jefferson.

The toe-tappin', two-steppin', boot-scootin' musical extravaganza is topped with a heaping helping of small-town drama.

The large cast ranges in

age from youngins to those a little longer in the tooth, including a whole herd of high schoolers. Mandy Moyer is the director.

"County Fair" is a new musical, released earlier this year, and the Iola troupe is one of the first in the nation to bring it to the stage.

The play is inspired by Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" and features modern country music hits such as "Chicken Fried," "Hey Good Lookin'," "The House That Built Me," and "Thank God I'm a Country Boy."

COUNTY FAIR is the story. See MUSICAL | Page A3



Macie Hoag, bless her heart, tries to bamboozle the folks at a county fair in rural Georgia. From left behind her are Winston Jordan, Kate Schroeder, Max Andersen and Nic Olson.

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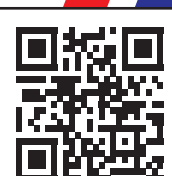
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Musical: Slip on down to the theatre for some southern charm

Continued from A1

ry of two sisters who return to their hometown after a decade away, eager to claim the inheritance of their late father who owned a county fair in rural Georgia. Instead of staying put, the sisters are hoping to sell the land to New York developers and hightail it back to the city.

Macie Hoag and Cara Porter, well known to fans of Iola High School's theater performances, are the sisters.

Hoag shines as sweet Claudia, once beloved by all and an athletic standout. She plans to capitalize on those fond memories and past relationships, gaining the trust of the townsfolk to get the information she needs so they can finalize the deal.

Things get mighty complicated, though, when she falls in love with the town, its people and especially the tenderhearted fair board member, Harry, played with an "aw shucks" charm by Cole Moyer.

She also runs up against a former friend, Bea, played with righteous indignation by Maddie B'Hymer.

Porter's haughty southern disdain provides the perfect foil as the other sister, DJ. She'll do whatever it takes to sell the fair, even if it comes down to sabotaging her own sister and her sister's feller.

But just hold your horses.

In order to suc-



Cara Porter, as the villainous sister DJ Stratford, competes in a hot dog eating contest against her sister's feller, Harry Marlow, played by Cole Moyer.

ceed, DJ must get past "Coach" Willett, whose love for the game is matched only by her love of the town. Even Coach's love interest, Dogberry, the head of fair security, must do some fancy footwork to get past her defenses.

A couple of ICT veterans take on those endearing characters.

Alison Fees tackles the role of Coach with an intimidating but passionate enthusiasm.

Nic Olson commands the stage as he tries to hide a secret romance and corral the craziness.

The entire cast is funny as all get-out, and in the end, things go a little cattywampus.

MOYER, the director, said she wanted to wrap up the season with a musical but warned it may be quite some time before you see another

musical on the ICT stage. They'll be shifting to different types of performances for the next season.

The COVID-19 pandemic claimed two seasons. ICT returned in November 2021 with "All Together Now!," a global event aimed at celebrating local theatre. The success of that musical event encouraged Moyer to develop a summer musical.

"We've been trying to do a summer show for 10 years," she said. "It was fun to do another show, and we had so much talent to work with."

Hayley Derryberry, a newcomer with professional acting experience, is assistant director. Moyer praised Derryberry for her contribution. Derryberry also plays a small role in the play.

"She's been a huge help," Moyer said.

Rounding out the cast are: Sam Terhune, Kate Schroeder, Max Andersen, Rhi Jordan, Stephanie Fees, Moyer, Angie B'Hymer, Piper Jordan, Sheila Lampe, Michelle Compton and Jim Ol-



Playing a scorned friend, Maddie B'Hymer, at left, ain't buying anything Macie Hoag is trying to sell.

son. A live three-piece band accompanies the cast, featuring Roberta Wilkes on piano, Colten

Shockley on fiddle and Thomas Becker on guitar. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children.



Alison Fees tackles the role of Roberta "Coach" Willett, who's been hiding a secret romance with Nic Olson's Dogberry.

Johnson: One scandal too many for PM

Continued from A1

brought down by one scandal too many — this one involving his appointment of a politician who had been accused of sexual misconduct.

The messiest of prime ministers did not leave cleanly. Johnson stepped down immediately as Conservative Party leader but said he would remain as prime minister until the party chooses his successor. The timetable for that process will be announced next week. The last leadership contest took six weeks.

But many want him to go now, with some Conservative politicians expressing fear he could do mischief even as a caretaker prime minister.

"It's very difficult to see how Boris Johnson, given the character that he is, is going to be able to govern for three months in quiet humility and contrition," said George Freeman, who resigned as science minister on Thursday.

Among the possible candidates to succeed Johnson: former Health Secretary Sajid Javid, former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and Defense Secretary Ben Wallace.

About 50 Cabinet secretaries, ministers and lower-level officials quit the government over the past few days because of the latest scandal, often castigating the prime minister as lacking integrity.

The mass resignations stalled the business of some parliamentary committees

because there were no ministers available to speak on the government's behalf.

Johnson clung to power for days, defiantly telling lawmakers on Wednesday that he had a "colossal mandate" from the voters and intended to get on with the business of governing.

But he was forced to concede defeat Thursday morning after one of his closest allies, newly appointed Treasury chief Nadhim Zahawi, publicly told him to resign for the good of the country.

"In the last few days, I tried to persuade my colleagues that it would be eccentric to change governments when we're delivering so much and when we have such a vast mandate," Johnson said. "I regret not to have been successful in those arguments, and of course it's painful not to be able to see through so many ideas and projects myself."

He said it is "clearly now the will of the parliamentary Conservative Party that there should be a new leader of that party and therefore a new prime minister."

Critics said the speech showed Johnson, to the end, refusing to take responsibility for or admit his mistakes.

After Johnson's repeated ethical lapses and brushes with political ruin, many Britons reacted to news of his departure with relief and surprise, given the way he had hung on before.

"It felt like he can just keep on going and keep on ignoring it, so I was bit surprised this

morning when saw it on my phone," Himmat Dalyway, an investment trader in his 20s, said outside an Underground station in London. "Are you still 100% sure that he is going?"

As Johnson gathered his cobbled-together Cabinet for a meeting after his resignation announcement, he promised not to rock the boat in his remaining weeks. He told members the government would not "seek to implement new policies or make major changes of direction."

It was a humiliating defeat for Johnson, who not only pulled off Brexit but was also credited with rolling out one of the world's most successful mass vaccination campaigns to combat COVID-19.

But the perpetually rumpled, shaggy-haired leader known for answering his critics with bombast and bluster was also dogged by allegations he behaved as if the rules did not apply to him.

He managed to remain in power despite accusations that he was too close to party donors, that he protected supporters from bullying and corruption allegations, and that he misled Parliament about government office parties that broke COVID-19 lockdown rules.

He was fined by police over the parties and survived a no-confidence vote last month in Parliament in which 41% of Conservative lawmakers tried to oust him.

Johnson became prime minister in July 2019, succeeding Theresa May, who resigned

after Parliament rejected the Brexit agreement she negotiated with the EU. Johnson pushed his own Brexit deal through in an often messy and turbulent debate.


With his mop of unruly blond hair, he often looked like a schoolboy who had just rolled out of bed and run to class with his pajamas under his clothes.

In his rise to power he showed many of the same habits and abilities that would carry him far but also spell his downfall: He was an ebullient, attention-loving mayor of London; a journalist who was fired for making up a quote and filed exaggerated stories about EU excesses; and a politician with an Eton- and Oxford-honed talent for colorful language and the thrust and parry of debate.

He became known for his light regard for the truth and his glib and offensive marks. He called Papua New Guineans cannibals and likened Muslim women who wear face-covering veils to "letter boxes."

Recent disclosures that Johnson knew about sexual misconduct allegations against a Conservative lawmaker before he promoted him to a senior position in government proved to be one scandal too many.

The crisis began when Chris Pincher resigned as deputy chief whip amid accusations that he had groped two men at a private club. That triggered a series of reports about past allegations against Pincher.



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