

## Humboldt athletes look to the future



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## Kelly renews call for Medicaid expansion as clinics close

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## Midwest may see fewer butterflies

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Monarch Cement's railroad project is underway south of the plant in Humboldt. Crews pictured are working on the rail expansion on 1200 Street Wednesday morning. REGISTER/SARAH HANEY

# Monarch kicks off railroad expansion

By SARAH HANEY  
The Iola Register

HUMBOLDT — Monarch Cement began construction this week on a much-anticipated railroad expansion project south of its main plant.

The project is partially financed by a \$2.1 million state

transportation grant awarded in 2022.

Once completed, the expansion is projected to eliminate approximately 2,800 truckloads of deliveries annually.

"This project will help bring in larger units," said Kent Webber, Monarch pres-

ident. He attributed the driving force behind the initiative to Watco, a transportation company in Pittsburg that serves as Monarch's partner for the project. Watco owns the portion of the railroad being updated.

Watco is providing project management, engineering,

surveying and designing for the project.

Heartland Rail is the contractor doing the rail work. The approximately \$5.5 million project consists of 5,506 feet of new track; 1,000 feet of track rehabilitation; crossing and signal rehabilitation; and

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# Women supporting women

## Theatre troupe brings 'Five Women Wearing the Same Dress'

By VICKIE MOSS  
The Iola Register

Nothing brings women together like tulle, trauma and a shared distaste for the bride.

"Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" tells the story of a group of bridesmaids who escape the chaos of a society wedding by hiding out in the bedroom of the bride's younger sister. She's also a bridesmaid.

The Iola Community Theatre presents the play at 7 tonight and Saturday at the ICT Warehouse, directed by Paige Shauf-Olson of Piqua.

The play is set in 1993 but feels timely and relevant for the #MeToo era. It raises questions about how empowered modern women reconcile their feelings for men, societal expectations, wounds of the past — and even each other. It's a fast-paced and hilarious romp, particularly relatable to anyone who's ever been forced to squeeze into an ill-fitting abomination of a garment intentionally designed not to upstage the bride.

In this case, the bride is never seen, making her the perfect target for gossip, speculation and a stroll down memory lane. Each of the women have a very different background but ultimately find they have a lot more in common beyond wearing the same dress.

IT'S DIFFICULT to imagine a more perfectly cast crew of women (and one man).



The cast of "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" includes, front from left, Kate Vernon, Jenna Morris, Halie Luken; back, Rhi Jordan and Talulabel Gilpin. Cody Easley is not pictured. At right, Gilpin's character hides out in her bedroom during her sister's wedding. The play will be performed at 7 tonight and Saturday at the ICT Warehouse theater, 203 S. Jefferson St. REGISTER/VICKIE MOSS

Talulabel Gilpin delivers a stunning performance as Meredith, the bride's younger sister who desperately wants to escape the forced cheerfulness of the wedding. She seeks refuge in her bedroom, then ultimately confesses her deepest, darkest secrets to the comforting bosoms of other women. Gilpin expertly uses sarcasm and scorn to hide her pain. She shines brightest in the quiet, vulnerable moments.

Jenna Morris, a veteran in her third ICT show, lends a

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## Lawmakers, mom demand action on guns

By RACHEL MIPRO  
Kansas Reflector

TOPEKA — Mary Snipes is mad. She's been mad since 2018, when her son was shot and killed in Junction City.

"I became the maddest person ever. I am still a mad mom," Snipes said to the rows of her fellow red-shirted "Moms Demand Action" advocates gathered on the second floor of the Statehouse on Thursday. "I am not the same."

Snipes recounted her journey of navigating grief to become a gun control advocate as one of several speakers at the annual gun safety event. Advocates chatted with each other before leaving to urge legislators to reject a proposed state constitutional amendment that would protect gun rights and instead implement a safe storage law.

In the Republican-dominated State Legislature, where some consider guns a God-given right and more than 60 lawmakers have sponsored the amendment, this may be an uphill battle.

House Concurrent Resolution 5020 would amend the Kansas Bill of Rights to place possession and use of ammunition, firearm accessories, and firearm components under the shield of the state constitution. The bill proposes that gun restrictions be examined under the strict scrutiny standard, the highest level of review a

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# Women: Play offers amusing look at serious women's issues

Continued from A1  
sweet naivety to the "weird cousin" role of Frances. She's a devout Christian (as she reminds the audience again and again) who would deny that she's ever tempted to sin though her actions speak otherwise.

Enter the always-entertaining Kate Vernon as Georgeanne, delightfully drunk and distraught. She's struggling in her marriage and runs into an ex-lover at the wedding — who is also the bride's ex-boyfriend. Vernon's versatility and dramatic flair hit just the right notes as she delivers some of the most powerful insights, including this line during a monologue about how women diminish themselves for men: "... All those times I sat waiting for his phone call, me going out of my way to make things convenient for him."

Rhi Jordan, another ICT veteran, tackles one of the heavier roles in Mindy, the groom's lesbian sister. The play's setting in the early '90s offers a slightly dated reminder of how far society has come on LGBT rights; a group of modern bridesmaids probably wouldn't be quite as shocked and uncomfortable having a lesbian in their midst. But Jordan's cheerful and effervescent yet sincere approach to the role sets her up as a sort of role model. A goofy, hungry and clumsy role model, perhaps, but still a mentor.



Jenna Morris, center, watches as Kate Vernon paints her nails in "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress." Halie Luken is shown in back. At right, Rhi Jordan practices her balancing skills.

Halie Luken is no stranger to the local arts scene as a high school speech and drama teacher, as well as a leader of the ICT's Improv Comedy Troupe and ICT board member. Yet, somehow, this is her ICT acting debut. She's clearly a pro, though, serving as the voice of reason with the character of Trisha, who helps each character come to terms with conflicting emotions. Her character is portrayed as the ultimate left-wing feminist who has to reconcile her feelings when she meets a man who seems too good to be true.

And as the lone male



in the show, Cody Easley has his work cut out for him. He slides into all that feminine energy with the confidence of a man accustomed to getting what he wants.

**THE PLAY** is a bit of a homecoming for the director. Shauf-Olson starred as Mindy in the same play in a 2009 performance at Allen Community Theatre,

when she was a student there. She appreciated the frank yet humorous discussion of social issues, but it was the relationships Shauf-Olson formed with the other women in the cast that stuck with her.

"It's important to hear women's stories, even though it was written by a man," she said. Playwright Alan Ball also wrote

the screenplay for the movie "American Beauty" and created the television series "Six Feet Under."

"It deals with several serious themes but it is a comedy," Shauf-Olson said. "I hope people feel seen and understood, and have a good time."

Since the play was written and set in 1993, the elaborate bedroom set is based on decorating themes from the time period and inspired by Shauf-Olson's childhood. Even the programs hearken to the era, using fonts and art elements used

by the ICT crew in 1993. The Register printed the programs and can assure you the paper is probably 30 years old as well, found during a recent cleanup.

Tickets for the show are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children; the production is rated PG-13 and features adult themes such as drug and alcohol use, and descriptions of sexual abuse of a child. Dessert is provided. Keep the program and bring it to the bar Pour Choices after the show Friday and Saturday for a discount on specialty drinks.

## Public notices

(First published in The Iola Register February, 7, 2024)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS  
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Nationstar Mortgage LLC	)	Case No. AL-23CV42
Plaintiff,	)	Court No.
vs.	)	Title to Real Estate Involved
Shawn Sinclair, et al.	)	Pursuant to K.S.A. §60
Defendants,	)	

**NOTICE OF SALE**

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me by the Clerk of the District Court of Allen County, Kansas, the undersigned Sheriff of Allen County, Kansas, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand at the Steps of the Allen County Courthouse, Iola, Kansas, on February 28, 2024 at the time of 10:00 AM, the following real estate:

LOT TWENTY-ONE (21), BLOCK TWO (2), TWISS' ADDITION TO THE CITY OF IOLA, ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS, Parcel ID No. 077-26-0-20-23-009-00-0. Commonly known as 819 N Washington Ave, Iola, KS 66749 ("the Property") MS216889

to satisfy the judgment in the above-entitled case. The sale is to be made without appraisal and subject to the redemption period as provided by law, and further subject to the approval of the Court.

Allen County Sheriff

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC

By: Victor B. Finkelstein, #13410  
vfinkelstein@msfirm.com  
Chad R. Doornink, #23536



MS File No. 21080-03153 K2FC

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8900 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 180  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
(913) 339-9132  
(913) 339-9045 (fax)

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF  
MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC AS ATTORNEYS FOR NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

(Published in The Iola Register Jan. 26, 2024)

GILLMORE & WILSON, LLC  
HISTORIC NEWTON STATION  
121 E. 5TH STREET - BOX 546  
NEWTON, KANSAS 67114  
PH: 316-283-1550  
FX: 316-283-3782

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS  
PROBATE SECTION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JUAN VILLANUEVA, JR., Deceased  
CASE NO. AL-2023-PR-300008

(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:  
You are hereby notified that

on the 22nd day of January, 2023, a Petition was filed in this Court by Stacey Lee Gomez, a devisee and legatee of Juan Villanueva, Jr., deceased, praying for Informal Administration.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the **23rd day of February, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.** in this Court, in the City of Iola, in Allen County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Stacey Lee Gomez, Petitioner

By: /s/ A. James Gillmore  
A. James Gillmore, #7495  
GILLMORE & WILSON, LLC  
Historic Newton Station  
121 E. Fifth St., P.O. Box 546  
Newton, KS 67114  
(316) 283-1550  
gillmore@sizemorelaw.com  
Attorneys for Petitioner

## Monarch: Railroad

Continued from A1  
installation of new railroad unloading station.

The renovated railroad line is expected to reduce the need for truck traffic by allowing Monarch to move more materials by rail.

The transportation grant is one of 17 distributed to short line railroad projects throughout Kansas, for a total of \$11.5 million in funding.

Monarch received the largest award. Under the terms of the grant, recipients are required to contribute a minimum of 40% towards project costs. With those contributions, the total investment in rail projects will be \$19 million.

These grant funds, made available to short-line railroads, shippers, and other qualifying entities, will be used for significant track rehabilitation and capacity improvement projects. Funds may also be used for financing and acquisition activities and the purchase of rolling stock.

Governor Laura Kelly announced the grant awards in May 2022. The projects — the majority of which are in western and southern Kansas — will be funded through the Kansas

The \$5.5 million project consists of 5,506 feet of new track; 1,000 feet of track rehabilitation; crossing and signal rehabilitation; and installation of a new railcar unloading station.

Department of Transportation's State Rail Service Improvement Fund (SRSIF). The fund has invested more than \$57 million in the rail network system to improve 1,800 miles of track.

The SRSIF is part of the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE). Since IKE was founded in 2019, it has awarded nearly \$50 million in grants and matching community contributions to 26 improvement projects.

"Kansas' railroad industry is vital to the state's economy and the nation's supply chain system," Gov. Kelly said at the time. "This \$11.5 million investment will modernize our rail network, strengthen our position as a national logistics hub, and enable farmers and ranchers to get their products to market faster."

## Iceland volcano erupts

GRINDAVIK, Iceland (AP) — A volcano in southwestern Iceland erupted Thursday for the third time since December, sending jets of lava into the sky, triggering the evacuation of the popular Blue Lagoon geothermal spa and cutting heat and hot water to thousands of people.

The eruption began along a nearly two-mile fissure northeast of Mount Sýlingarfell, the Icelandic Meteorological Office said. Several communities on the Reykjanes Peninsula were cut off from heat and hot water after a river of lava engulfed a supply pipeline.

The strength of the eruption had decreased by mid-afternoon, the Met Office said, though lava continued to spew from parts of the fissure and a huge plume of steam rose over a section of the crack where magma mixed with groundwater.

The eruption site is about 2½ miles northeast of Grindavik, a coastal town of 3,800 people that was evacuated before a previ-

ous eruption on Dec. 18. The Meteorological Office said there was no immediate threat to the town on Thursday.

Civil defense officials said no one was believed to be in Grindavik at the time of the new eruption. "They weren't meant to be, and we don't know about any," Víðir Reynisson, the head of Iceland's Civil Defense, told national broadcaster RUV.

# EVERYTHING

## Chocolate

# SALE

**Wednesday, February 14**

**9 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

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Fundraiser for
Friends of the Library

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