

# THE IOLA REGISTER

Neosho Falls ■ Humboldt ■ Gas ■ Colony ■ LaHarpe ■ Moran ■ Le Roy ■ Elsmore ■ Savonburg ■ Bronson ■ Uniontown ■ Mildred ■ Kincaid ■ Piqua ■ Yates Center

## Hospital a 'third leg' to city's success

By SUSAN LYNN  
Register Editor

Allen County Hospital has room to grow — patients, that is.

Of the possible patients in its surrounding area, the hospital attracts only 43 percent.

"It should be 70 percent," said Joyce Heismeyer, ACH chief executive officer since April 2008.

The hospital loses patients primarily to Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center in Chanute and to Coffey County Hospital in Burlington. For 2009, 374 Allen County patients sought treatment in Chanute; 173 in Coffey County.

A healthy monthly count at the hospital is 125 patients, Heismeyer said. "You can make good money," with that number, she



This is an artist's rendering of what a new Allen County Hospital could look like. No final designs for a new hos-

sital

have been decided or has its location.

west Arkansas — she declined to name it — averaged a 5 percent profit, which was "lean. It's hard to recapitalize yourself" with that amount, she said. "There are no cheap toys in health care."

RECAPTURING the lost market boils down to having a new hospital, Heismeyer said.

She counters the argument of the county's declining population as making a new hospital unnecessary to the role health care plays in an area's survival. "Without a vital hospital, a town starts dwindling," she said. "If we lose this

(Cont. page 11, column 3)

## Health care economics different 61 years ago

By BOB JOHNSON  
Register City Editor

As Allen Countians look ahead and consider approval of a quarter-cent countywide sales tax to help pay for a new hospital, a 1949 bill from Iola's first hospital, St. John's, shows how much healthcare economics have changed.

Marie Miller of Chanute permitted a peek back in time when she sent the Register a bill she had saved from the hospital that year.

Total cost for an emer- (Cont. page 11, column 1)



Register/Bob Johnson

"The Marvelous Wonderettes" are, from left, Sara Lott, Humboldt, Pam Tressler, Ulrich, both of Iola. Tickets, \$12 for adults and \$8 for students, are available at Yates Center, and Kim Strickler and Liz Sophisticated Rose, 19 S. Jefferson Ave.

## ICT delights with oldies

By BOB JOHNSON  
Register City Editor

When "The Marvelous Wonderettes" unfolds on the Bowlus Fine Arts Center stage this weekend, it will be a "Back to the Future" reprise for all who remember and enjoy pop tunes of the late 1950s and '60s.

There's never an idle moment as four local songbirds belt out one golden oldie after another, interspersed with predictable drama for girls of the time.

In the first act they are song leaders at Springfield High's Super Senior Prom. In the second they've returned, a little older, maybe a little wiser and with personal concerns that are resolved through individual vocal sets for their 10-year reunion.

Pam Tressler, Kim Strickler and Liz Ulrich, veterans of the Iola Community Theatre productions, are joined by Sara Lott, Humboldt, appearing in her first ICT

### 'The Marvelous Wonderettes'

7:30 p.m. Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday  
Bowlus Fine Arts Center

show. She has a rich voice, which reminds one of early country crooners, and is at home on stage.

As Cindy Lou, she has an on-again, off-again sisterhood with Betty Jean, played by Tressler, Yates Center. She is accused of being a "boyfriend stealer" in one breath but the two cuddle seconds later, joining little fingers in an overt sign of their friendship.

When the show moves ahead 10 years in the second act, the two get together a second time after Cindy Lou has returned home from a failed attempt to become an actress in Hollywood and Betty Jean laments her rocky marriage.

Meanwhile, Suzy, por-

trayed by Ulrich, is now nine months pregnant and still in love with the boy who ran the spotlight on prom night and again for the reunion. She fears her love isn't returned in full measure.

Missy, played by Strickler, for five years has had a relationship with a former teacher and at the reunion puts him on the spot to advance the friendship with her rendition of "With this Ring."

HARMONY in the show is as good as it gets. An added bonus is that each of the women, who fit remarkably well into their roles, has ample time with lead (Cont. page 11, column 1)

## Friday Feature

Richard E. Wood, author of "Survival of Rural America: Small Victories and Bitter Harvests," will talk about the survival of small towns in a presentation at 7 p.m., Friday in the Creitz Recital Hall of the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. Admission is free.

## Pope admits abuse failures

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — Pope Benedict XVI began a controversial visit to Britain today by acknowledging the Catholic Church had not acted decisively or quickly enough against priests who molested children. He said the church's top priority now was to help abuse victims heal.

The pope's comments to reporters traveling with him from Rome marked his most thorough admission to date of church failures to stop pedophile priests, but they again failed to satisfy victims' groups. The issue has reignited with recent revelations of hundreds of victims in Belgium, including at least 13 of whom committed suicide.

Benedict's four-day state visit has been overshadowed by disgust over the abuse scandal and indifference in highly secular Britain, where Catholics are a minority at 10 percent and endured centuries of bloody persecution until the early 1800s.

The pope's first meeting was with Queen Elizabeth II, both head of state and head of the Church of England, at The Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, (Cont. page 11, column 1)

## Tome studies ravages of war

By RICHARD LUKEN  
Register Reporter

Not all of the stories to be discussed at Saturday's Iola Family Reading Festival are of the light-hearted fare.

Jason Malott's debut novel, "Evolution of Shadows," explores the other end of the spectrum, focusing instead on man's most notorious atrocities and its inherent effects on those who witness it.



Jason Malott

Malott will discuss "Evolution of Shadows" at 3 p.m. Saturday at Allen County Community College.

"Evolution of Shadows" follows the story of three acquaintances of a missing (Cont. page 11, column 5)



photojournalist Gray Banick, traveling to his last known whereabouts near Sarajevo in war-torn Bosnia.

One, Jack, is a fellow photographer, who like his missing counterpart, saw firsthand the effects of the Serbs' ethnic cleansing of Bosnians following the disintegration of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s.

The second, Emil, is a Bosnian native who served as an interpreter for the two

## Heavy story fills book for youths

By ANNE KAZMIERCZAK  
Register Reporter

Writers are always told to "write what you know." Laura Manivong decided to write what she married.

"Escaping the Tiger," is the fictionalized story of her husband, Anousone "Troy" Manivong and his escape from communist-held Laos.

Written for young adult readers, the tale chronicles the escape of a Laotian family into neighboring Thailand in the early 1980s. Laos, at that time, had been under the control of communists since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

The main character, Vonlai, was a young boy when his country's government was altered. "Life under communist control was all he remembered," Manivong states.

Across the broad Mekong River, though, Laotian youths watched as Thai citizens "went about their busi-



ness freely." Laotians trying to cross the river were shot dead by communist guards.

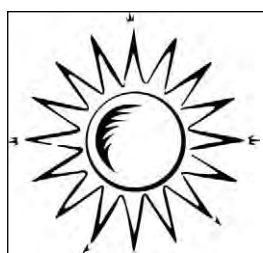
One dark night, Vonlai's family escapes by crossing the Mekong in a leaky canoe.

In Thailand, instead of being free, the family is relegated to life in a squalid refugee camp.

For Vonlai and his family, (Cont. page 11, column 4)

### — Weather —

Temperature	Precipitation	Tonight, mostly clear. Lows 55 to 60. Friday and Saturday, mostly clear. Highs 85 to 90. Lows 65 to 70.
High yesterday 75	24 hrs. ending 7 a.m. 1.70	
Low last night 61	This month to date 9.28	
High a year ago 79	Total year to date 39.85	
Low a year ago 63	Excess since Jan. 1 11.21	
	Sunrise 7:04 a.m.	
	Sunset 7:28 p.m.	



### — Inside —

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# ★ Pope

(Continued from page 1)  
Scotland.

Benedict was warmly welcomed by the queen, who wore a blue-gray knee-length coat and matching hat and gloves, as tartan-wearing bagpipers marched and thousands of people watched under blustery, cloud-streaked blue skies. The pontiff himself donned a green tartan scarf as he rode through Edinburgh in the Popemobile.

Later, he enjoyed a very Scottish treat: a lunch of

haggis — sheep heart, liver and lungs simmered in sheep stomach — at the home of Scottish Cardinal Keith O'Brien.

The queen told Benedict that his visit reminded all Britons of their common Christian heritage and said she hoped relations between the Anglican Church and the Catholic Church would be deepened as a result.

She also praised the Catholic Church's "special contribution" to helping the poorest and most vulnerable

people around the world.

"We know from experience that through committed dialogue, old suspicions can be transcended and a greater mutual trust encouraged," she said. "We hold that freedom to worship is at the core of our tolerant and democratic society."

The pope, too, recalled the shared Christian heritage of Catholics and Anglicans and said he wanted to extend a "hand of friendship" to the British people during his trip.

He said the queen's forefathers' "respect for truth and

justice, for mercy and charity come to you from a faith that remains a mighty force for good in your kingdom."

The German-born Benedict's visit also came as the U.K. marks the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Benedict recalled how Britain fought the "Nazi tyranny" during World War II, "that wished to eradicate God from society and denied our common humanity to many, especially the Jews, who were thought unfit to live."

The trip is the first state visit by a pope to the U.K., and his meeting with the

queen is symbolically significant because of the historic divide between the officially Protestant nation and the Catholic Church.

The queen is head of the Church of England, which split acrimoniously from Rome in the 16th century, a division followed by centuries in which Catholics were fined, discriminated against and killed for their faith in Britain. The visit also coincides with the 450th anniversary of the Reformation in Scotland.

**THE LAST PAPAL** visit to Britain was by John Paul II

in 1982. Benedict's trip is a state visit because he was invited by the monarch.

The British media has been particularly hostile to the pope's visit, noting its 12-million-pound (\$18.7 million) security cost to British taxpayers at a time of austerity measures and job losses. Protests are planned and "Pope Nope" T-shirts have been spotted around London.

There also remains strong opposition in the U.K. to Benedict's hard line against homosexuality, abortion and using condoms to prevent the spread of AIDS.

# ★ Economics

(Continued from page 1)

agency appendectomy and an eight-day stay was \$72.70. Dr. Randal Weed, Humboldt, charged \$100 to perform surgery, which Miller said was rather involved because of complications.

She suffered the attack the night of July 22 as she was doing up her hair.

A sharp pain produced an equally sharp scream, which got her husband, Everett, hopping.

The Millers opted for the Iola hospital over Chanute's Johnson Clinic, but not before a stop at police headquarters, where Everett told officers of his wife's condition and that he was headed for St. John's as fast as his car would run.

"Don't try to stop me," he

told officers.

At the hospital Miller's problem was quickly diagnosed and resolved.

A breakdown of the bill St. John's issued was: \$48 for room and care for eight days; \$12.50 for use of the operating room; \$4.75 for laboratory work; \$3 for dressings; \$4.25 for medicines; 20 cents for laundry.

For comparison's sake, the daily rate for a room at Allen County Hospital today is \$906.

When Miller was well enough to be dismissed, a Chanute ambulance was called to take her home. The charge? Not a penny.

"They did things that way back then," said Miller, who will celebrate her 86th birthday in October. Everett Miller died in 1993.

# ★ Hospital

(Continued from page 1)

hospital, it's the death sentence for our town."

A prosperous hospital is also the third leg in what props up a community along with good schools and infrastructure.

"Without good health care you don't have the luxury of keeping the other two," she said.

Heismeyer cited a recent news program that polled opinions of the most livable U.S. cities in which to retire. Good health care was named the No. 3 reason people selected a location. Raleigh, N.C. was the top-ranked city. Its Duke University was the No. 1 draw, followed by attractive parks

and then its renowned university medical center.

A new hospital will not only serve to attract retirees, but also those of child-bearing age, Heismeyer said. Neosho Memorial often captures new mothers because of its birthing facilities, she said.

A new facility will also attract health care professionals, Heismeyer said. Part of the reason the hospital's patient numbers are down is the lack of a general surgeon on staff. An orthopedic surgeon also would greatly boost inpatient numbers. Labette Health in Parsons is the frequent destination for those needing surgery to repair broken bones.

**PULLING IN** patients

from Humboldt and Yates Center is a goal, Heismeyer said.

Besides a new hospital in Iola, Heismeyer sees eventually establishing clinics in Humboldt and Yates Center staffed with full-fledged physicians. Currently, a part-time physician assistant, Mark Harms, works at Ashley Clinic in Humboldt. Ashley also has a presence in Yates Center staffed by Karen Hayes, a nurse practitioner.

For 2009, only 57 Humboldt residents were inpatients at Allen County Hospital; 52 were from Yates Center.

Heismeyer also sees "finding a niche" in health care as a draw to the hospital. She mentioned several of its unique services for

this area, including lymphedema treatments for those who suffer from swollen arms and legs, a sleep studies facility and its new wound care center.

Digital mammography will be available by year's end, she said.

She also touts the hospital's Joint Commission Accreditation, a strenuous classification of hospitals, without which "I would hesitate to be a patient," she said. ACH is the only hospital within 75 miles of Iola to receive the accreditation, "which probably means more to health care professionals" than the public at large, Heismeyer admitted. The nearest hospital to have JCA is Cass Regional Medical Center in Harrisonville, Mo.

# ★ ICT

(Continued from page 1)

vocals. Strickler, Tressler and Ulrich have demonstrated their expertise many times over and don't disappoint this time around. Lott is a delightful and skilled addition.

Strickler and Tressler are bold and animated and leave no doubt that they are in charge when their roles call them to center stage. Ulrich is a little demur early on, but bursts out with wails and tears that put an exclamation point on

scenes in the second act. Lott may be best described as cute in her acting forays, but that's what is called for when she emotes.

The play will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets, \$12 for adults and \$8 for students, may be purchased at Sophisticated Rose, 19 S. Jefferson Ave.

Richard Spencer is the show's director and Glenda Johnson is assistant director and stage manager. Reagan Webster did choreography and Strickler is music director. Many others, listed in the program, had a role in putting the show together.

# ★ Heavy story

(Continued from page 1)

life was shattered from normalcy to constant strain. Trapped in the camp, his family experienced hunger, crowding and privation.

Born of necessity, a closeness springs between Vonlai and his teenaged sister. They must rely on one another to stay safe in an environment that hints of evil behind every dirty latrine or dark corner of the camp, and danger that comes at the hands of camp guards.

Vonlai, 12, meets other youths in the camp who share his love of playing soccer. Through the game, they try to regain some sense of self.

At the camp school, Vonlai learns English and about American culture. His sister, at 14, is too old for school, and spends days attending their mother in the tiny room the family calls home.

The boy even befriends an elderly man in camp, who, in telling tales of the war that tore their country, reminds them, "History doesn't change just because we fear the truth."

Vonlai mostly mourns the loss of his parents' humor.

At one point, though, his father tells him to retain his memories of better times.

"They can't burn what's in your mind, Vonlai," his Pah tells him. "You can't let them steal your hope."

Through four long years in camp, Vonlai's only hope is in dreams of the place called America, a place so strange that buildings touch the sky and there is even special food just for dogs.

Though the details of

"Escaping the Tiger" are specific to Thailand and Laos, the refugees' situation is replicated daily across the globe as families seek better lives on every continent.

**AS PART** of the Iola Public Library's Family Reading Festival at Allen County Community College, Manivong will discuss her book at 10 a.m. in room A-24; she signs books at 11 in the library.

# ★ Tome

(Continued from page 1)

photographers. Emil has demons of his own — his family was among those slaughtered.

The third, Lian, is a former love interest of Banick, who reluctantly chose to marry another in keeping with her family's Chinese-American customs, despite her affection for the missing photographer.

The story's vivid attention to detail takes the reader on a gripping journey to such places as the Bosnian killing fields, while referring to several locations

certain to catch the eye of any Kansan. Banick's character — like the author — is a Kansas State University graduate, and Malott drops in other local references, such as Lawrence, Kansas City or even Worlds of Fun.

Malott recounts wrenching origins of each character's scars, both physical and emotional, as the story shifts seamlessly from one character to another and from intimate settings between lovers to the quagmire of the battlefield.

Jack's marriage has ended because of his refusal to leave the chaotic lifestyle of a wartime journalist.

Lian's own loveless marriage has created a strain between her and her estranged husband as well. She traveled to Bosnia without telling him.

Emil, likewise, is hoping to find another loved one in addition to Banick — uncertain if they will find either, dead or alive.

Malott, who lives in Kansas, also is publisher and editor-in-chief of the literary magazine, "The Project for a New Mythology." He will sign copies of his book at 2 p.m. Saturday at the ACCC library. "The Evolution of Shadows," was a November 2009 Indie Next Pick.

Malott earned a degree in creative writing at K-State and a master's degree in writing and poetics from Naropa University's The Jack Kerouac School of Embodied Poetics in Boulder, Colo.

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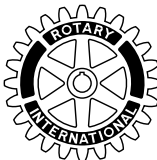
# Sat., Sept. 18

## paper drive day!

### FOR NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

Here's how you can help a local organization and the environment, too:

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1. Put the newspapers you have saved in paper grocery sacks. Plastic cannot be accepted. **KEEP NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES SEPARATE.** Please **DOUBLE SACK** magazines and catalogs. (NO phone books, NO hardback books & NO computer paper will be accepted.)

2. Choose the organization you wish to help from the list below. Write the name of that organization on the grocery sacks in bold letters or attach a label on the sacks identifying the organization.

3. Telephone the organization and tell them to pick up your scrap paper by 8 a.m. Sat., Sept. 18 at the curbside in front of your residence. **Your papers must be at your curb by 8 a.m. for pickup.** Be certain to give your address to the person you talk to. **Collection Point — IGA PARKING LOT, North State St.**

#### Participating Organizations

ACCC Phi Theta Kappa.....365-5116 Ext. 244	Bronson Ruritan.....939-4745
Humboldt United Methodist Church. 473-3769 / 473-3544	First Christian Church.....365-3436
Iola Night Lions Club.....365-6060	Hope Chapel, Moran.....939-4828
Girl Scouts - Iola.....365-6445 / 228-3296	Moran Baptist Youth Group.....939-4868
Iola Area Community Christian School.....228-3296	Tri-Valley.....431-7401
Challenger All Star Field.....852-3314	

#### Organization Delivery Schedule for Saturday, September 18 —

<b>8:30-9:30</b>	<b>9:30-10:30</b>	<b>10:30-11:30</b>
Humboldt Lutheran Youth	Challenger All Star Field	Bronson Ruritan
ACCC Lions Club	Humboldt Methodist Church	W.B.E. PTO, Uniontown
First Christian Church	Girl Scouts	Community Christian School
Iola Night Lions Club	Hope Chapel	Tri-Valley Developmental Svcs.
ACCC Phi Theta Kappa	Moran Baptist Youth Group	

This schedule will apply for Sept. 18; however, groups can change assigned times with another group. Please let the Register know if that is done.

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