

ACC projects jump to \$14 million

By VICKIE MOSS
The Iola Register

Allen Community College trustees agreed to spend up to \$14 million for construction of a new Career and Technical Education facility and a maintenance building. They acknowledged it also could cost another \$1 million or so to purchase equipment and furniture, and build a road from the main campus to the site.

That's more than the \$12 million board approved for



the project in April.

The good news: The college has up to \$24 million in its reserve funds, so the project can be fully funded and still leave plenty for emergencies.

As trustees have worked with an architect and construction manager to design the facilities, they quickly realized costs would exceed the original estimate. Trustees said a committee worked

to narrow the project, and the result will suit their needs without compromising on quality.

Trustees also hope they can offset the final cost, such as by obtaining grants. The budget will include nearly \$1 million for contingencies, so they hope to limit the need to dip into those funds, as well.

"I want to thank the committee for the work they put into this," Rebecca Nilges, chair of the board of trustees, said during a special meeting Tuesday.

"What you see today is not where we started, by any means. There was a lot of cutting back and shifting. This group wanted a product that we can use far into the future. It will be flexible, very functional and hopefully impressive because that's what you need for recruiting. I hope the finished product will be something we're very proud of."

Trustees hired a construction manager, Simpson Construction of Wichita, to oversee

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Playoff rematches



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Residents endorse candidates

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Elsmore residents want housing, infrastructure

By SARAH HANEY
The Iola Register

Infrastructure and housing top the list of priorities for Elsmore residents. The small community held a Community Conversation Oct. 22 to discuss what they enjoy about their town, as well as what areas need improvement.

Allen County Commissioners received an update on the conversation Tuesday morning from Thrive Director of Community Engagement Marcia Davis.

She noted that the conversation had 10 residents in attendance, as well as Commissioner David Lee and Road and Bridge Director Jeremy Hopkins.

"What they like about their community is that it is quiet and welcoming," said Davis. "They help each other."

Location was also deemed an appealing factor. "The lake is close and there is good hunting in the area," said Davis. "It's in the middle of everywhere. It's close to Fort Scott, Moran, Chanute, and Iola."

Housing is another area for improvement residents would like to work on. "They brought up trying to do some sort of short-term rental housing," said Davis. "Maybe an RV park or small rentals for hunters and people who are coming to the lake." She added that getting families to move to Elsmore is a priority for citizens.

As far as infrastructure, they would like to see some work done on their drainage and ditches. "The mayor was at the conversation and said she was going to take care of

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Ben Alexander spins his wife, Sofie, during an unforgettable dance number to "Shoo Shoo Baby" as part of the "World War II Radio Christmas" program offered at the Iola Community Theatre Warehouse at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. REGISTER/RICHARD LUKEN

Don't touch that dial

Theatre group offers WWII Christmas radio show

By RICHARD LUKEN
The Iola Register

From the humorous to the heartfelt — and occasionally the heart-breaking — the W-ICT RadioLand Players are here to transport the audience back 80 years or so, to a time when the world was at war, and the entertainment outlet of choice was the radio.

"World War II Radio Christmas," a series of vignettes and period radio advertisements interspersed with Christmas songs, will come to the Iola Community Theatre Warehouse at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

The show was penned by playwright Pat Kruis Tellinghusen, who drew on her skills as a news reporter to interview folks who lived through the war years.

She took that to create the experience of attending a live recording of a 1940s radio show broadcast during World War II.

What results is a lively, 50-minute journey back to yesteryear, told by skits and songs, with nothing more than a piano, kazoo and xylophone providing most of the



Candice Grundy takes part in a skit.

sound effects, accentuated by the rich harmonies provided by the RadioLand ensemble.

And boy, can they belt out the tunes.

IT'S PROBABLY an impossible task to decide afterward who shone brightest in a sea of stars, so we'll start with two of the newcomers.

Erica Hunt, when not reading through postcards or letters from soldiers, offers one of the early highlights, with a powerful rendition of "Accentuate the Positive."

Meanwhile, fellow ICT rookie Gracie Campbell is one of the soloists, alongside castmate Candice Grundy — more on her later — as the lead vocalists as they offer up a version of "White Christmas" that could bring a smile to Bing Crosby.

Dan Davis also pours out his dulcet tones to a pair of classics, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" and "I'll Be Seeing You," accompanied by the rest of the troupe.

Grundy sparkles in multiple scenes, such as when she's on stage with Campbell

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Rock, paper, scissors

Iola Elementary School's first- and fourth-graders presented "Space Case," a music program featuring a space-and-Halloween-themed skit, followed by Halloween songs Tuesday evening at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center. From left are Jhett Cochran, Thomas Smith and Jase Michael. REGISTER/RICHARD LUKEN

Vol. 127, No. 09
Iola, KS
\$1.00



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Radio: Play reflects on World War II

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bell and Monica Wright as nurses sharing stories from the front-line, or when she's on stage with Logan Stenseng for a Lucky Strike Cigarette ad, or a rib-tickling promo for Scott Tissue alongside the effervescent Michelle Kretzmeier.

Shelia Lampe has a number of memorable moments, whether it be with the aforementioned Wright alongside Wayne Stephens for a Vaseline Hair Tonic ad, or another skit in which Stephens is Clyde, a recruiter seeking pet dogs to join the war effort.

BEN AND SOFIE Alexander offer up one of the most touching pieces as Jess and Hattie, a couple who meet the day before Jess is set to sail off to the Pacific, while Hattie continues her service in the Ma-



Monica Wright, from left, Shelia Lampe and Wayne Stephens create a hair tonic ad for the "World War II Radio Christmas" show at the Iola Community Theatre Warehouse Friday through Sunday.

as he announces some letters have been held back because the soldiers who penned them have been killed in action.

help keep the entertainment flowing with nary an interruption. Brown serves as the radio announcer, introducing the vignettes and ads, occasionally describing the setting, while Olson offers up the sound effects through any means possible.

And three cheers to the show's three directors, Diana Stephens, Rhi Jordan and Katie Jo Knoblich, who stepped forward when the original director, Mandy Moyer, was called away to serve as the interim director at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center, just as rehearsals began.

Knoblich directs the multiple musical numbers, while Stephens and Jordan ensure the actors are pitch-perfect with their timing and inflection through

the skits and advertisements.

IN TODAY'S society, it's easy to find distraction, through cell phones, video games, or yes, television.

And while the entertainment options were more limited a generation ago because of technology, it's a fallacy to say it was a simpler time, as "World War II Radio Christmas" audiences will attest.

And don't touch that dial.

TICKETS are available at the door for \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

"World War II Radio Christmas," a series of vignettes and period radio advertisements interspersed with Christmas songs, will come to the Iola Community Theatre Warehouse at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

rines helping sort letters to and from those serving.

They bond quickly, and deliver an unforgettable dance number to "Shoo Shoo Baby" — watch out Fred and Ginger!

BUT BENEATH every chuckle, there's a stark reminder, sometimes through news bulletins, occasionally from letters, that there's a world at war.

The letters and postcards are a story unto themselves.

Kretzmeier, Hunt, Cody Easley and Alison Fees read through postcards at different times, perfectly capturing the mood of the soldiers fighting overseas, and their loved ones making due at home.

Hess, Cody Easley, Jacob Cooper and Winston Jordan offer up a handy public service announcement about the letters. (Who knew sending cookies to the Philippines could lead to an ant infestation.)

Grundy, Stenseng and Hess, as letter censors, get a kick out of hearing stories of soldiers sharing their devotion to their wives and girlfriends, and are none too pleased when they realize one of those soldiers apparently isn't as devoted as they think he should be.

Jacob Cooper also gets a notable moment

YOUNGSTERS Winston Jordan and Lanie Mileham get their turns on stage as well, to show the talent pool at ICT extends to the middle school now.

While rarely in the spotlight, both Connie Brown and Nic Olson



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