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Register/Richard Luken

Rehearsing a dance number for the upcoming Allen County Community College production of "The Drowsy Chaperone" are, from left, Trevor Marshall, Kelcy Gulick, Reagan Webster, Archie Huskey, Shelby Cruz, Jessica Truitt, Debbie Coltrane, Sarah Kies, Brandon Collins, Mack Melvin, Nathan Hill and Brandon Eckley.

College brings comedy, drama to stage

By RICHARD LUKEN
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The upcoming Allen County Community College drama season promises to showcase the entire spectrum of theater to local audiences.

Students have begun rehearsing for their season opener, "The Drowsy Chaperone," a self-described "musical-within-a-comedy" that runs Oct. 6-8 at the Bowles Fine Arts Center.

As in years past, the Bowles

production serves as a collaboration between the college's drama and music departments.

The remainder of the ACCC drama productions — "Almost, Maine," "Student-Directed One-Acts" and "Night of the Iguana" will be in the ACCC Theatre.

The season will feature both comedies and dramas, as well as new and classic plays, drama instructor Tony Piazza said.

"It will be a good season," Piazza said. "We've got some strong

returning actors, and some fresh, new faces on board this year."

"THE DROWSY Chaperone" is an homage to musicals of the jazz era, Piazza said, with a music buff reliving her daydreams through old theater show tunes. As the narrator, portrayed by Tanya Wilson of Garnett, plays various tunes, the characters in her fantasies come to life for the audience.

A healthy portion of the story

follows an aging starlet who must decide whether to give up her showgirl career in order to get married.

"There's a slender 'boy-meets-girl' plot as well," Piazza said. "It's a fun show, really well done."

The collaboration with the music department means several actors will sing and dance — some for the first time, Piazza said. Likewise, some music students

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Prairie Spirit Trail extension draws nearer

By BOB JOHNSON
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Bids will be opened Oct. 4 for extension of the Prairie Spirit Trail from Cofachique Park to Benton Street at the northeast corner of Riverside Park.

Engineers estimated cost of the asphalt trail, 10 feet wide and covering about a mile, at \$460,000. The Kansas Department of Transportation will pay 80 percent, the city the remainder. If the estimate is realized in the successful bid, Iola's share will be \$92,000. The city will spend another \$29,000 to erect lights along the trail.

While contract documents call for construction to take 90 days, weather may have a role, said Cory Schinstock, assistance city administrator. Asphalt can not be

laid if the weather is too cold.

The new portion of the trail may not be the end of its southward expansion.

City officials eventually would like to take the trail on to the south city limit, which would have it run all along the east side of Riverside Park, Schinstock noted.

Recreation and exercise activists in Humboldt also would like for the trail to cover the intervening rail bed between Iola and Humboldt. If that were to occur, the trail would dead-head at Humboldt, where rail service remains active on to the south.

The Iola-to-Humboldt trail, covering six miles, is a project that

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Register/Bob Johnson
A car zips past the Prairie Spirit Trail crossing on North State Street, where signal lights soon will be installed.

Budget still in flux

By BOB JOHNSON
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Iola's 2012 budget remains in abeyance.

City commissioners again deferred action on the budget at their meeting Monday night. The meeting was a continuation of their Aug. 22 meeting at which they rejected their budget, which by state law must be completed by Aug. 25.

Monday's budget talks were held in back-to-back executive sessions, to the exclusion of the public.

Once back in open session, City Administrator Carl Slaugh's explanation of the budget was quickly interrupted by Councilman Steve French with a motion to adjourn until 6 o'clock this evening.

French's motion was tabled in deference to a handful of people who came to discuss the site of a new hospital.

Karen Gilpin, an Allen County Hospital trustee, said trustees had narrowed the site to

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Crash closes highway

The U.S. 169 roundabout south of Garnett was closed for nearly 12 hours starting Monday afternoon after a highway transport carrying a load of ethanol crashed there.

According to the Kansas Highway Patrol, Rodney Honn, 46, Kincaid, crashed while maneuvering his truck and a 53-foot trailer through the roundabout, where U.S. 169 and U.S. 59 intersect.

Honn was uninjured, but ethanol began leaking from the trailer.

The highway was closed and traffic rerouted around the accident scene from about 2 p.m. Monday until 1:18 this morning, according to KHP.

Fall Sports 2011



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The Register's annual 2011 Fall Sports Preview

Jobs plan in works

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hamstrung by budget cuts and a tight debt ceiling, President Barack Obama is preparing a September jobs package with limited tools at his disposal to prime the economy and crank up employment.

At a minimum, the president's plan will call on Congress to extend current payroll tax cuts and jobless benefits, spend money for new construction projects and offer

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Area woman finds solutions, not excuses

By JENELLE JOHNSON
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PIQUA — Oftentimes, it's the little things that can be insurmountable challenges to a person confined to a wheelchair.

Take for instance the joy of soaking in a bathtub. For Connie Buller that was a long and tedious three-step process requiring transfers to various-sized stools and chairs.

"The days I got into the tub I didn't plan anything else. It wore me out. Getting out of the tub was as hard as getting in. Once back in my chair, I didn't feel as though I had taken a bath because I was all sweaty and tired," she said.

Life became a whole lot easier for Buller in June when her son, Shane Schauf, purchased her a bathtub designed for the handicapped.

"With my new bathtub all I have to do is park my chair and slide right into the tub," she said. "I have had more baths in the last couple of months than I have had in years."

BULLER HAS met all her life challenges head on.

Born in 1947, Buller contracted polio when she was 10 months

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Connie Buller shows off her new bathtub that allows her to move directly from her wheelchair into the tub.