



The Charles City High School Drama Department is getting ready for its spring production. "Lost Girl," a "Peter Pan"-inspired story exploring the aftermath of Wendy's adventure in Neverland, will be performed at the Charles Theatre on Saturday, April 4, at 2 p.m. with a second showing at 7 p.m.

High school actors flying to spring play

By Travis Fischer
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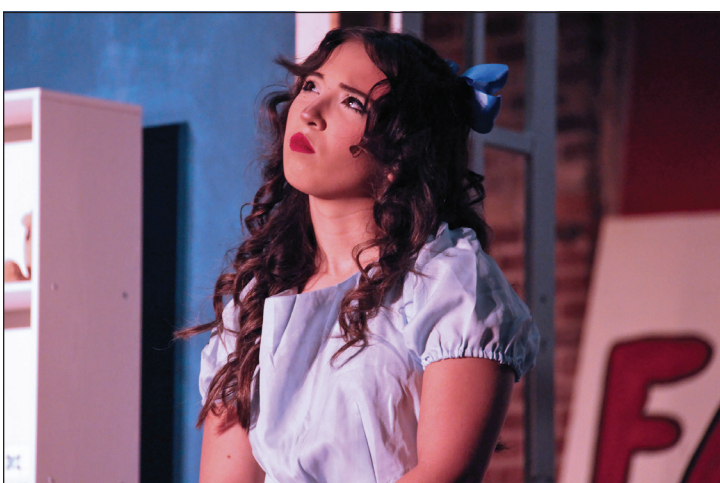
The Charles City High School Drama Department is getting ready for its spring production. "Lost Girl," a "Peter Pan"-inspired story exploring the aftermath of Wendy's adventure in Neverland, will be performed this weekend at the Charles Theatre.

The play will showcase the talents of Mikyla Sellers, Ryley Keyes, Norah Massawe, Sierra Hinz, Alexia Clark, Emma Read, Camryn Hoefl, Blake Dean, Ivan Vallebo, Melanie Castaneda, Jacob Jones, Nyssa Salinas, Isaac Gassman,

Karina Ibarra and Xander Chase.

Directed by Erika Joiner and assisted by Jenna Haglund, the behind-the-scenes crew includes Lynn Bayer on hair and makeup, stage manager Tessa Knecht, Kati Haglund on sound, Braelynn Painter on sound, Renner Kober on tech and crew hands Parker Deardeuff, Brynlee Bergeson, Mackenzie Mach, Dixie Price, Abbe Necht, Sabrina Willsher, Katie Soifer, and Jordan Winters.

The play will be performed on Saturday, April 4, with a matinee showing at 2 p.m. and an evening performance at 7 p.m.



Mikyla Sellers will play Wendy in the Charles City Drama Department's two performances of "Lost Girl" at the Charles Theatre on Saturday, April 4.

Fine night for fine arts

Katelyn Kliver directed her second, third and fourth grade students through the Lincoln Elementary Fine Arts Night concert on Monday, March 30. Washington Elementary's 30. Washington Elementary's Fine Arts Night will take place tonight at 6 p.m. Watch for the story and photos from both events in Friday's Press.

Press photo by Travis Fischer



RUDD FIRE

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Rockford, Marble Rock and Floyd. Additional assistance was provided by AMR Ambulance, Floyd County Search and Rescue and Floyd County Emergency Management.

Firefighters battled the blaze for about four hours, using both ground crews and the Floyd Volunteer Fire Department aerial unit to bring the fire under control.

Authorities said there were no injuries reported.

Floyd County Emergency Management Coordinator Jason Webster said at least some of the units had been used and the Red Cross and Salvation Army were helping with relocation efforts.

The building, located at 105 Depot St., was determined to



Press photo by Bob Steenson

The Floyd Volunteer Fire Department aerial truck sprays water onto an apartment building in Rudd early Sunday morning, March 29.

be a total loss. Property records from the Floyd County Assessor's Office list the owner as Jason LaCour of Orchard, doing

business as East Lake Apartments. The property consists of two single-story brick apart-

ment buildings built in 1973 — one with four units and an L-shaped building with five units. The L-shaped building

was the structure destroyed in the fire. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

DIRECTOR

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experience and commitment made her a strong choice to lead the organization.

"Her passion for serving the community and dedication to our mission make her an excellent fit for this role," Ellingson said. "We are excited to partner with Lauren as we continue to strengthen our programs and expand our impact."

Lundberg also brings experience as a local business owner, operating a flower business, along with skills in customer service, organization and community engagement.

Her appointment comes at a pivotal time for TLC, which has the physical capacity to serve significantly more children but has struggled to do so because of staffing shortages. TLC has room for up to 175

children but currently serves about 65, with additional families on a waiting list.

A key factor has been staff wages, and an effort is underway to help the center attract more staff through pay incentives.

The Floyd County Board of Supervisors and the Charles City Area Development Corp. have approved a Childcare Wage Enhancement Program designed to recruit and retain workers through incentives such as hiring and retention bonuses.

The program is supported by a \$67,820 grant from Floyd Mitchell Chickasaw Early Childhood Iowa and a \$10,000 contribution from Floyd County.

Organizers say the goal is to stabilize staffing levels, improve wages and ultimately allow TLC and other providers to expand capacity, helping meet the needs of working families and local employers.

SCHOOL

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now being pushed into phase two, which will provide better opportunity to gauge the building's electricity needs after the HAV's in place.

A pre-bid walkthrough of the high school is being planned for next week and bids for phase one of the project are expected soon after.

Looking ahead to a second high school improvement project, the board set a public hearing date for April 13 to receive funding for a proposed \$12.5 million SAVE bond to facilitate additional work to the high school.

A public hearing date was also set for the same meeting for the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

In other business, the board decided to table a proposal from Mediacom to provide broadband service to the district.

Traditionally, the district has utilized the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) for broadband service, however the

board was considering switching to Mediacom, which bid a lower rate for a three-year agreement.

The board reviewed the agreement during its last meeting, and asked Mediacom to provide clarity regarding service guarantees and contingencies for outages.

Coming up against the deadline to apply for eRate funding, Mediacom was unable to provide the contract review in time. The district will instead renew its agreement with the ICN for a year and revisit the proposal next time around.

Finally, the effects of the storage shortage have made their way to Charles City. As part of the scheduled cycle of technology, the board had previously approved the purchase of 1,260 HP Chromebooks from CDW Education with a total bid of \$350,910. Since then, the district has been notified that HP cannot fulfill the order and it must be canceled.

As a result, the district has moved on to the next lowest bid, approving the purchase of 1,260 Asus Chromebooks for \$389,340.

**READ THE LEGAL NOTICES
YOUR RIGHT TO BE INFORMED!**

ChickFest is Saturday

The annual ChickFest Friday, April 4, offering a daylong promotion aimed at showcasing local retailers.

Activities begin at 9 a.m., with participating businesses hosting specials, promotions, treats and prize opportunities.

Participating locations include Appliance Plus, Birdie & Bo's, Cardigan, Charles City Arts Center, Charles City Electronics, Darbe & Co. Boutique, Columbus Club (home-based business location), North Iowa Coins, Otto's Oasis, Schiller Fine Art Photography & Framing, Schueth Ace Hardware and The McCoy Smoothies & More.



Sign-On Bonuses Available at TLC: The Learning Center for Childcare Associates!

\$1500 full-time [30+ hours weekly] and \$1250 Part-Time Paid Upon Hire Date

Consider a position presenting opportunities both personally and professionally!

**Apply in person at TLC: The Learning Center
201 5th Ave Ste #2 Charles City
or call the Center at 641-228-4525.**

Ask to speak with Machele Forsyth or Christie DeBower



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