

## Play BHS and Community Theater

# '30 Plays in 60 Minutes' takes stage Friday

BURLINGTON — Despite an ongoing worldwide virus pandemic, the show must go on, and Burlington High School has found a way — actually 30 ways. In what will likely be the most unique theatre performances in recent history, BHS Theatre will perform "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind: 30 Plays in 60 Minutes."

Shows last 60 minutes and will be performed in the BHS auditorium by a basic group followed by an advanced group of students, with the following schedule: Basic group — 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 and Saturday, Nov. 14; with a final performance 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15. Advanced group —

7:45 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 and Saturday, Nov. 14, with a final performance 3:15 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15. The show will be performed by members of the community theatre group the following weekend, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20 and Saturday, Nov. 21, with a final performance 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22.

Tickets for the shows will be available to purchase at the door and doors open one hour prior to show time. Limited seating will be used and masks will be mandatory throughout the duration of the show. The show can be viewed virtually anytime online. Ticket costs for adults are \$3 for one show, \$5 for two shows in one night. For se-

niors and students, cost is \$2 for one show and \$3 for two shows in one night. To view the shows virtually, cost is \$6 and a link will be provided on the school website, [www.usd244ks.org](http://www.usd244ks.org).

The high school shows are directed by BHS instructors Holly Thomsen and Michael Vander Linden, and student Kylie Garner. The advanced shows are directed and choreographed by the actors themselves. They also decided their own blocking, props and lights for the performances.

"The show is a different type of production," Vander Linden said. "After the introduction, the audience is told they should shout out any number from 1 to 30. These numbers represent different plays that the actors have memorized. These can be monologues, audience interactive or simply jokes. However, the goal is to get through all 30 of the plays memorized within 60 minutes. When the timer goes off, the show is over, no matter how many plays are still left on the line."

"This is a show that was produced at Emporia State University multiple times while Michael was attending," Thomsen said. "(It) gives great opportunities for the kids to prepare the plays while having improvisational moments with an audience. It was a great way to split our theatre into smaller groups to perform and have rehearsals with small groups.

"It's amazing to perform,

even during a pandemic," Thomsen said. "Getting to work with these dedicated individuals — freshmen through seniors, is amazing. It's been a different process and one that has been a breath of fresh air needed in our theatre program for a while."

"Convincing the kids this was going to be something great to be a part of, before auditions, was the most difficult part," Vander Linden said. "We had many kids who said they were just going to 'wait for the musical.' However, once the kids who chose to participate were cast, they read the scripts and got super excited.

"We are excited to put together our first virtual and in person performance," Vander Linden added. "We appreciate every opportunity to perform in front of an audience, but the support we received from the community during this tough time period is more crucial than ever."

Actors will play themselves — the basic group actors are Brylee Huber, Emma Yunk, Michelle Deveault, Kylie Garner, Harleigh Baker, Toby Murray, Chandler Wright and Owen Yokum. Advanced group actors are Taven Allen, Emmy Furman, Chloe Medlock, Allie Schneider, Seth Jarvis, Deric Cole, Derek

Jesse and Kurt Keegan. Community actors are Shauna Devening, Adrienne Fleming, Stephanie Shinn, Ryan Gilbert, Sammy Somerhalder and Michael Vander Linden.

Crew members for the high school performances are Thomas Unruh, stage manager; Kylie Stevenson, assistant stage manager; Paige Akers, sound board operator; Jacob Lee, light board operator; and Lillyan Gerow and E'owynn Codney, spotlight operators.

Holly Thomsen will direct the community theatre performances, Jen Plummer is light board operator and Amanda Vander Linden is sound board operator.

## BHS to host blood drive Nov. 20

BURLINGTON — A Burlington High School organization and the Community Blood Center will team up to host a blood drive Friday, Nov. 20, at the high school. Participants should park in the school's west parking lot and enter through the band room door on the west side of the high school. All blood collected during this drive stays in Coffey County for local usage.

The community is invited to donate between the hours of 1 and 4 p.m. that day — school staff and students will have an opportunity to donate between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. the same day. T-shirts will be given to participants.

To schedule an appointment to donate, contact Myka Wat-

kins, Champions of Character, at [mykawatkings14@icloud.com](mailto:mykawatkings14@icloud.com) or Burlington High School at (620) 364-8672, or contact the Community Blood Center by going online to [www.savealife.org](http://www.savealife.org) or call to schedule an appointment at 1-816-753-4040.

Masks are required and temperature checks will be done at the door.

All precautions related to donating, and information about coronavirus can be found at [www.savealife.org/coronavirus](http://www.savealife.org/coronavirus). Please stay home if you are feeling ill.

This is a great opportunity to help those in need. Blood donations are down this year and as we approach the holiday season, the demand continues to grow.

## Test optional scholarships available

MANHATTAN — Kansas State University is offering a new way for fall 2021 incoming freshmen from the U.S. to earn scholarships without using ACT or SAT scores.

K-State is offering test-optional scholarships for both in-state and out-of-state freshmen, with total four-year award potential ranging from \$4,000-\$48,000. This new scholarship path is part of the university's test-optional admission policy, which begins in fall 2021.

For test-optional scholarship consideration, new incoming U.S. freshmen will be required to submit a supplemental scholarship application. Each application will undergo a holistic review by

the scholarship committee, with award announcements following shortly after the supplemental application priority date of Jan. 5, 2021. Highly encouraged for all students is submitting their admission application by the Dec. 1 priority date.

The new test-optional scholarship pathway is in response to problems some high school students may be having taking the ACT and/or SAT because of the pandemic.

Each student's application for admission will still be automatically reviewed for the university's test-considered scholarship offerings. As such, students are encouraged to still submit test scores through April 30, 2021, of their

senior year if they are able, as that ensures the earliest notification of award. However, all students are also encouraged to complete the supplemental test-optional scholarship application.

While students can only earn one general university scholarship/award, which includes either a test-considered award or test-optional scholarship, the university affirms that students will be considered for the highest award possible.

Students can review K-State's test-optional scholarship opportunities and can learn more about all of K-State's scholarship offerings by visiting the Office of Student Financial Assistance's scholarship and award site.

# THANKSGIVING COLORING CONTEST

A Special Thanks to Burlington Dental Center for the donation of the Grand Prize, two Electric Toothbrushes



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Contest is open to all children ages 3-11. Children may use markers, crayons or colored pencils. Entries must be returned to The Republican by Thursday, Nov. 19 to be eligible.

Winners from each of the four age groups (3-4 yrs., 5-6 yrs., 7-8 yrs. and 9-11 yrs.) will be awarded \$20 Chamber Bucks. Entries will be judged by the Burlington High School Art Club.

**Winners will be announced in the Nov. 26 newspaper.**