

THE HIGH SCHOOL PRODUCTION of "Urinetown" is set to be full of laughs, featuring Channing Fortin (above right) Elizabeth Nedland (above left) and Kaine Fredrickson (above middle). Caleb Koerperich (below right), Miki Dorshorst (below middle) and Regent Erickson (left) also star in the show. — Photos by Sarah Fredrickson

Students to perform musical

It's an odd name for a musical, but then again, "Urinetown" isn't your typical musical. While the title may be a little controversial, the show itself is irreverently funny, says Susan Nelson, vocal music director at Decatur Community High School. "It's about a community that has had a drought for years and years," she said, "and this rich guy takes over the toilets and makes people pay to use them. It's real satirical. It makes fun of all the things that are standard in musicals — romance, politics between rich and poor and even musicals themselves. It's really funny, and the music is really cleverly written."



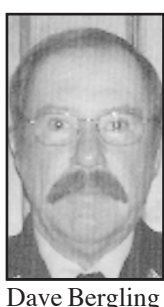
You can catch the show at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the high school auditorium. Tickets, available at the door, will cost \$6 for adults and \$4 for senior citizens and students. The school's vocal department will be serving a soup lunch for people in the cafeteria before the Sunday matinee for a donation.

Three generations of veterans served

By **MARY LOU OLSON**
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As veterans across the country stop to remember their years of service to their country on Veterans Day, Dave Bergling of Oberlin, who was in the U.S. Army for nearly 22 years, notes that his was the third generation in his family to serve. He said that he, his grandfather, Albert Bergling; his father, Quentin Bergling; and his brother, Richard Bergling, fought in four wars to help keep our country free. His grandfather, whose parents immigrated to Rawlins County from Sweden, was born and reared on the original Bergling home place east of Atwood. He served in World War I, taking basic training at Fort Riley, then spending his entire time there as a chief cook. While he was stationed there, he and Nanna Olson married on June 5 1918, in Junction City. After the war, he was discharged as a Master Sgt./E8 and the young couple returned to Rawlins County

to farm and rear their son, Quentin, and daughter, Sylvia. When World War II broke out, Dave said, his parents, Quentin and Olive (Hurst) Bergling, were living in California when his father received a draft notice. He served in the Army with the 314th Troop Carrier Group in England and France as an airplane mechanic. He received an honorable discharge on Dec. 30, 1945, at Fort Logan, Colo., as a technical sergeant, then he, too, returned to the family farm, where he and his wife and their children, Jeri Ann, Dave and Richard, lived. When his parents retired, they moved into Atwood. "I was born on Jan. 26, 1948, after the war," Dave said. "Due to bad weather, my dad took my mother to stay with her sister at Colby two weeks early, since there was no hospital in Atwood at the time. My folks drove to Colby in a blizzard, then Dad returned to the farm. When he got the call that Mom was in the

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Dave Bergling

Banks to close for holiday

Veterans Day comes Sunday this year, but will be observed by government offices, banks and post offices on Monday. Norcat's new place, Jerry's Bar and Grill, will be open Saturday and Sunday, but closed Monday. Oberlin's Frontier Restaurant will open at 5:30 a.m. Monday to accommodate hunters. Pizza Hut, Subway, ReLoad, Crossroads Express and Eagle will be open regular hours. The Sunflower Recreation bowling alley will be open from 5 to 10 p.m. Monday. In honor of all veterans, past and active, Dollar General will offer them an 11 percent discount on purchases made Monday, said Mandi Fick, manager. The store will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Oberlin Livestock Auction will have the usual sale and the Stockmen's Cafe will also be open. The Oberlin Herald office will be open and the paper will observe normal deadlines. This week's paper is being delivered a day later than usual so complete local election results could be included.

Pool, dairy questions pass by big margins

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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Both the city ballot question for a new swimming pool and the Decatur County question about allowing corporate-owned dairies appeared to be passing by wide margins early today, with the pool sales tax question up 434 to 230 and the dairy issue winning 802 to 315 in incomplete returns. County election officials were still counting more than 300 early ballots, but it didn't appear that those figures would change the results. As the results came in and the voters' decisions became clear, many excited conversations reverberated through the courthouse halls. Though a somber reaction greeted the news of President Barack Obama's re-election, those gathered were still impressed by the amount of people who supported the two ballot measures. "I think everything went good otherwise," said Republican Commissioner-elect Brad Marcuson, referring to the presidential results, "though I hope we can find enough water for the dairy." "Maybe all the water we're going to save from the pool can be

pumped out there for it," suggested pool committee member Danielle Leitner, laughing. The pool question — whether or not to impose a 1.5 percent city sales tax to pay for the construction of a new \$2.15 million swimming facility — was heavily campaigned for by the pool committee. Members gave presentations and held informational meetings over the last few months. The biggest concern to those voting against the pool was that borrowing the money needed for its construction could max out the city's credit. The pool committee, however, countered that the city could set up a Public Building Commission, which can borrow money on the city's behalf without that money being held against its credit. Those who supported the pool argued that the current one is out of date, wasteful and dangerous. A new pool, members of the committee said, would be safer, accessible to the handicapped and bring money to city businesses. Many people go to neighboring towns for their pool facilities when they would rather be spending their money here, they argued. The new pool would have

facilities for seniors and adults, and would be large enough to hold swim meets. The dairy question, too, won by a wide margin. Though the question itself is more broad — should corporate dairies be allowed to come here, as opposed to just family-owned dairies — it did not have the immediate implications that the pool decision did. No dairy is set to move here, but if they should look into the area, supporters said, they will find Decatur County "open for business." Those against the dairy question cited concerns over pollution and a lack of water. Proponents cited Rep. Ward Cassidy as saying that he knows of at least four dairies in California looking to set up shop in northwestern Kansas, and the argument was that Decatur County should do everything it can to make it open to them. Dr. Jay Anderson, a longtime civic leader and former city councilman who promoted the question, pointed out that an industry such as a dairy moving to town could bring much-needed money and population to the county, which has been suffering from a loss of both for decades.

Sen. Ostmeyer wins race over Democrat opponent

By **KEVIN BOTTRELL**
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The tale of two incumbents running for one seat came to an end Tuesday with state Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell soundly defeating Sen. Allen Schmidt of Hays in the general election. With 217 of the 224 precincts in the 40th District reporting unofficial results early today, Mr. Ostmeyer captured 66 percent of the vote to Mr. Schmidt's 34 percent. Sen. Ostmeyer had 21,421 votes to his opponent's 11,227. Results for Ellis, Logan and Decatur counties were still incomplete. Ostmeyer apparently carried every county in the district, which contains about 71,500 people. He won by a large margin in the counties to report their vote totals except for Ellis. In Decatur County, Mr. Ostmeyer got 909 votes in incomplete returns, while Mr. Schmidt got 244. The two nearly split Ellis County, Sen. Schmidt's home, which reported more than 12,000

voters. Turnout was up across the district. In Sherman County, which had 69.3 percent voter turnout, election workers nearly ran out of ballots. Sen. Ostmeyer, a two-term incumbent, and Sen. Schmidt, who was appointed after the resignation of 36th District Sen. Janice Lee in 2010, were thrown into the same district during the reapportionment process earlier this year. The 40th District was reduced from 17 counties to 13 1/2, but took in Hays and Ellis County, long considered to be a Democratic stronghold. Sen. Ostmeyer is a farmer and rancher in Grinnell. After serving two terms in the state House of Representatives, he was elected to the Senate in 2004 and re-elected in 2008. He has served on the Natural Resources, Local Government Rules and Regulations and Energy and Environmental Policy committees. Ostmeyer defeated Norton County Commissioner John Miller in the



Ralph Ostmeyer

Republican primary election by a hefty margin, 64.4 percent to 35.5 percent, 7,396 votes to 4,078. He carried every county in the district, including Ellis County, new to the district this year — 995 to 554. Sen. Schmidt, running unopposed in the Democratic Primary, received 1,623 votes. The district averaged 39.3 percent voter turnout in the primary. Sen. Schmidt grew up on a dairy farm north of Hays. He attended Thomas More Prep and the University of Kansas. He served in the Army Medical Service Corps and remained active in the Army Reserve after moving back to Hays to manage his family's dairy. He returned to active duty in 1994, serving in several postings before being assigned as a deputy commander of the Army Reserve Medical Command in Tampa, Fla. In 2009, he moved back to Kansas. When he took over the 36th District two years ago, it included Phillips, Smith, Osborne, Mitchell, Ellis, Russell, Rush, Pawnee and Hodgeman counties, along with part of Jewell County.

Republican wins race with over 300 county votes

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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With over 300 votes, Republican Brad Marcuson appeared to have won the race for the District 3 Decatur County commissioner seat as election officials continued counting into the early morning. Unofficial numbers put Mr. Marcuson in the lead with 302 votes. Write-in candidate Republican Bob Jones, who serves as county election of-

former mayor of Jennings, came in second with 81 votes and Democrat Brad Long had 54. The unofficial numbers don't include any of the 367 advance votes, as workers were still counting those ballots at 1:30 a.m. today. Otherwise, all precincts were reported and counted, said County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler, who serves as county election of-



Brad Marcuson

ficer. Mr. Marcuson, who was at the Decatur County courthouse to see how the counting was going, said he was looking forward to serving on the commission. It's an honor to be elected, he said, adding that he will do his best in serving the county. Sid Metcalf, a Republican, who ran unopposed, took the District 2 commissioner seat with 432 votes. He, too, was at the courthouse on election night. Mr. Metcalf said he

Saturday starts bird season

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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The opening weekend of pheasant season will be jam-packed with activities this year, from competition shooting to raffles to a banquet and more. Kicking off Friday will be the annual Turkey Shoot, from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Oberlin Gun Club, one mile east of Oberlin on U.S. 36. The shoot, open to the public, will feature turkeys, hams and bacon for prizes, as well as money, fun, women's and practice shoots. Pop, candy and lunch will be served.

Friday evening will be the annual Pheasants Forever banquet, put on by the Sunflower Chapter. Charlie Haag, banquet chairman, said tickets are \$25 at the door and no reservation is needed. If you like, he said, you can pre-register this year at First National Bank. Memberships may also be purchased for \$35 at the bank. Events will begin at 5:30 p.m. Friday at The Gateway, at the intersection of U.S. 83 and U.S. 36 in Oberlin. Dinner will be served starting at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Haag said that hunters under 18 who pay the \$25 for the

dinner will get a membership in the Pheasants Forever Ringnecks youth group. This year, they will be entered to win a lifetime Kansas hunting license, and two lucky kids will win a gun with all the accessories, donated by Brad and Linda Wade. "The No. 1 through No. 5 hats will be auctioned off live as usual," said Mr. Haag, "but this year, those who buy the hats will also have their names entered to win a Ruger .22 semiautomatic rifle." (See BANQUET on Page 8A)

