

SOCIETY



Photos submitted

Women in Faith hold banquet

The United Women of Faith held their annual Mother/Daughter Banquet May 17 at the Oskaloosa United Methodist Church. For the program, sisters, Bristol and Brooklyn Farmer, daughters of Eric and Brandy Farmer, recited “If You Give A Mom A Muffin.” Ella Curtiss, Oskaloosa, sang for the attendees.

Author to be recognized next week in Oskaloosa

The home of Oskaloosa’s Larner-Segraves American Legion Post 36 will provide the setting Friday, June 6, for a special event during which the man who has written a book about Kansas’ connection to the “Great War” will be honored by the Jefferson County Historical Society. Set to start at 7 p.m., this special event being co-sponsored by the Oskaloosa Public Library and Friends Of Oskaloosa Library (FOOLS) will see Blake Watson, the author of “Kansas and Kansans in World War I — Service at Home and Abroad,” receive what is being called a “Countywide Award” for his literary efforts.

Watson is scheduled to provide a description of his book for the benefit of his listeners and detail the exhaustive research that went into it as well. Afterward, he will field questions from the audience.

Those wishing to purchase a copy of the book and then have the author autograph it will be able to do just that during the special event, which is open to the public at no charge.

Published by the University Press of Kansas, “Kansas and Kansans in World War I — Service at Home and Abroad” devotes multiple chapters to the lives of Oskaloosans Ralph Nichols, Watson’s great-uncle, Theodore Blevins, Melvin Dyson, Samuel Gutschenritter, William Kimmel, and Victor

Segraves, William Davis of Winchester, and William Smith of Valley Falls, among others.

According to the author, Nichols saw duty in France and was only 19 when he was shot through the cheek near the Argonne Forest. But he lived to tell about his injuries and completed high school following the war before he enrolled at Kansas State Agricultural College (now Kansas State University), where he was a captain on the Aggie football team of 1923.

Nichols later had a brief career playing as an offensive tackle in America’s then-new professional football league, the National Football League.

Segraves, the second namesake of Oskaloosa’s American Legion post, was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for the bravery he displayed during the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

Davis, the first namesake of the American Legion post in Winchester, was the first soldier from Jefferson County to die in battle and later became the subject of a well-known painting by Jefferson County’s own John Steuart Curry.

As its captain, Smith led Company B of the 139th Regiment of the 35th Infantry Division when it entered the fray in September of 1918. This company included a number of men from Jefferson County.

Smith, who held a law degree from Washburn College (now

Washburn University), eventually went on to serve as the chief justice of the Kansas Supreme Court.

Other soldiers mentioned in the book were Congressional Medal of Honor recipients John Balch of Edgerton and Syracuse, Erwin Bleckley of Wichita, George Mallon of Ogden, and George Robb of Salina, Charles Orr of Rice County, whom Watson describes as “the first American hero,” and Clyde Grimsley of Stockton and Salina, who was among the nation’s first prisoners of war.

According to the author, Kansans were involved “in the thick of the fighting” at the battles of Cantigny, Belleau Wood, the Marne, St. Mihiel, and the last Meuse-Argonne offensive.

The book also touches on the contributions African Americans from the Sunflower State made to the war effort in the face of racism and segregation, and it looks at the musicians from Holton and other towns in northeast Kansas who performed with the Sixth Marine Regimental Band.

The American Legion post is located at 406 Delaware Street.

Deadline for News & Ad Copy is Monday, at noon.

County tax sale this week

The large courtroom on the second floor of the Jefferson County Courthouse in Oskaloosa will be the scene later today (this Thursday) of a county-organized sale involving tax-delinquent properties that can be had by any eligible bidder who is willing to outbid all of the other eligible bidders he or she is up against, assuming there are some, of course.

The sale is set to commence at 10 a.m. and will be preceded by the necessary registration of the bidders. That will get underway at 9.

County Treasurer Douglas Bond told the paper May 13 in an email that for a prospective bidder to be eligible to participate in the sale, he or she can’t have any unpaid property taxes.

Bond said preregistration forms are available in his office, which is located on the first floor of the courthouse. He also said that because the form will be notarized, a prospective bidder will need to show up with his or her driver’s license or some other form of identification.

Close to 190 properties will be up for grabs during the sale. These properties include lots in all three of the improvement districts, Lake Shore Estates, Lakewood Hills, and Lakeside Village.

A lengthy legal notice that included detailed information about all of the properties to be auctioned off was published in the April 17, April 24, and May 1 issues of The Oskaloosa Independent, the official county newspaper.

Bandel is recipient of Dale M. Dennis award

Cresinda Bandel, a senior at McLouth High School, has received the Dale M. Dennis Excellence in Education Award, sponsored by United School Administrators of Kansas.

JD Nelson, principal, announced Cresinda has demonstrated the characteristics necessary to receive this annual award given in honor of a distinguished Kansas educational leader. Recipients of this award are identified from their schools and across the state as individuals who have displayed the citizenship, community and schools service, scholarship, and strong self-awareness that make them a quality individual.

The Dale M. Dennis Excellence in Education Award was established in 1996 by Kansas school administrators to honor the long and valuable service Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of the Kansas State Department of Education, provided to the



Cresinda Bandel

students and educators of Kansas. The individual attributes which characterize Dennis as a friend of education, and more importantly as a first class citizen, are the basis for determining the recipient of this award.

Cresinda is the daughter of Corey and Chrissy Bandel, McLouth.

Retirement . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Student To Succeed program and became a full-time employee in 2004 as a preschool aide. She became an elementary school aide for several grades and has spent the past 11 years as the library aide.

“My best memories are being able to dress up for reading events such as Read Across America, reading books to the classes, and doing STEM projects with the classes,” Hofstra said.

Hofstra and her husband, Nathan, have two adult chil-

dren. Wyatt teaches and coaches at Valley Falls High School and Mackenzie is a prevention case manager for O’Connell Children’s Shelter in Lawrence.

“My retirement plans are yet to be determined, but the list is long,” Hofstra said. “I have many projects in mind.”

A public retirement reception was held for the trio May 14 in the multi-purpose room.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent May 29, 2025)1t
Jefferson County, Kansas

Board of County Commissioners Resolution – Z2025-05

WHEREAS IT APPEARS that, under the provisions of Article 30 of the Jefferson County Zoning Regulations, Don and Mary Hurd applied for a change in Zoning Classification from “RR” Rural Residential to “SR” Suburban Residential on a tract as described below:

A tract of land located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 13, Township 11 South, Range 18 East of the Sixth P.M., Jefferson County, Kansas, described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Northwest Quarter; thence N87°46’19”E assumed bearing, along the North line of said Northwest Quarter 660.00 feet for the Point of Beginning; thence S02°19’59”E 654.50 feet; thence N87°46’19”E parallel with said North line 1995.38 feet to the East line of said Northwest Quarter; thence N02°04’05”W 654.50 feet to the Northeast corner of said Northwest Quarter; thence S87°46’19”W along said North line 1998.41 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 29.99 acres more or less. Subject to easements of record and public road right-of-way.

AND WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Regional Planning Commission, after advertising and holding a public hearing on the subject application on the 28th day of April 2025 submitted the following report and recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners:

Voted to recommend approval of said change to the zoning classification.

AND WHEREAS, after due consideration, the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County, Kansas decided on the 19th day of May 2025 that said zoning request be approved.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 19th day of May 2025, that the above zoning request be approved.

Board of

County Commissioners:
/s/ David Christy
David Christy
/s/ Richard Malm
Richard Malm
/s/ Doug Walbridge
Doug Walbridge

ATTEST:
/s/ Julie Dunkle
Julie Dunkle, County Clerk

Jefferson County Tax Sale

May 29, 2025, at the Jefferson County Courthouse in the Large Courtroom
Registration from 9:00-9:50 am
Bidding starts at 10:00 am

Properties up for sale are listed on the Jefferson County Treasurer’s Website:
<https://www.jfcountyks.com/158/County-Treasurer>

Bidders must bring a driver’s license/ID, have no delinquent taxes, and have not had a property in a previous tax sale.

Questions Call the Treasurer’s Office:
785-403-0000 Option 2

42-52-11c



You’re invited to a

KU Small Business Development Luncheon

The KU Small Business Development Center assists with the growth of Kansas small businesses by providing free one-to-one advising services.

Join the Jefferson County Area Chamber of Commerce
Tuesday, June 10 • Noon

8998 US-59 Hwy., Oskaloosa, KS

A light meal will be served. Please RSVP to Bridget Weishaar at bridgetweishaar@yahoo.com before Wed., June 4.

42-52-11c



HOMETOWN CARE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Melissa Norris, APRN

Upcoming Community Events for Parent & Kids

Stuffy Story Time & Clinic with Melissa Norris, APRN
Friday, June 6 at 1 p.m.
McLouth Public Library
215 S Union St, McLouth

Stuffy Story Time and Clinic with Alex Winkler, MD.
Friday, June 27 at 10:30 a.m.
Tonganoxie Public Library
217 E 4th St., Tonganoxie



LMH Health
Primary Care

313 S. Union Street, McLouth
Call 913-796-6116 for appointments.
lmh.org/mclouth

Since 2007, LMH Health Primary Care has been here for McLouth, offering friendly, quality healthcare. We care for your whole family, from kids to seniors. Need specialized care? Our network of expert physicians is ready to help, right in your own backyard.

52-2tc