## Clubs and family living

### Author to be recognized 2025 Kansas Notable Books announced next week in Oskaloosa

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 Dvson, Samuel Gutschenritter, William Kimmel, and Victor Segraves, William Davis of Winchester, and William Smith of Valley Falls, among

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.

career playing as an offensive

The home of Oskaloosa's 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 Nichols later had a brief is located at 406 Delaware

The State Library of Kansas has announced the 2025 Kansas Notable Books selections. This year's Notable Books contain stories for Kansas readers of many interests to include mystery, fantasy, poetry, memoirs, and enthusiasts of Wichita's

distinct blues tradition.

"This year's Kansas Notable Books selection offers variety and familiar themes, inviting readers into the lives of a Kansas ranching family, selfdescribed Kansas girl turned international spy, and a treetop world created in the imaginations of a Kansas illustrator and New York Times author,' said Ray Walling, State Librarian. "Books explore family and friendships, finding success in Kansas, how a Kansan became the first person of color to serve as vice president of the United States, and the faith of Father Emil Kapaun as told by the

Each year, the Kansas Notable Books committee recommends 25 books written by Kansans or about Kansas to the State Librarian. The State Librarian then selects 15 Notable Books as a celebration of the sunflower state's rich culture and storytelling. The

prisoners-of-war he selflessly

served."

2025 Notable Book selection committee included representatives of public, university, and regional libraries, scholars and writers from across Kansas.

Kansas Notable Books authors will be recognized and awarded medals during the Kansas Book Festival reception Sept. 19 at Washburn Univer-

2025 Kansas Notable Books

Coco, Snow!

by Julie Mosiman, illustrated by Ellen Youngman Publisher: Author

Dress Me Like a Prizefighter by Catherine Strayhall Publisher: Spartan Press

From the Reservation to Washington: The Rise of Charles Curtis by Debra Goodrich Publisher: TwoDot

Life in the CIA, Unmasked by Jonna Mendez Publisher: Public Affairs

In True Face: A woman's

Las Madres: Latinas in the **Heartland Who Led Their Family to Success** by Dennis Raphael Garcia

Publisher: University Press of Kansas

State Library of Kansas celebrates variety of genres among Kansas-related books and authors

The Last Rancher by Robert Rebein Publisher: Meadowlark Press

The Lies We Conjure by Sarah Henning Publisher: Tor Teen

No Bullet Got Me Yet: The Relentless Faith of Father Kapaun by John Stansifer Publisher: Hanover Square

**Not the Worst Friend** in the World by Anne Rellihan Publisher: Holiday House

Outdoor Farm, **Indoor Farm** by Lindsay H. Metcalf, illustrated by Xin Li Publisher: Astra Young Readers

Remnants of a **Scarlet Flame** by Cindy L. Sell Publisher: Aether and Ash Press

The Rhino Keeper by Jillian Forsberg

Publisher: History Through Fiction

The Switch Point by A.D. Childers Publisher: Next Chapter

**Treehouse Town** by Gideon Sterer, illustrated by Charlie Mylie

Publisher: Little, Brown

**Books for Young Readers** 

**Wichita Blues:** Music in the African **American Community** by Patrick Joseph O'Connor Publisher: University Press of Mississippi

Kansas Notable Books is a project of the Kansas Center for the Book, a program at the State Library of Kansas which is the state affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book. The mission of the Kansas Center for the Book is to highlight the state's literary heritage and foster an interest in books, reading, and libraries.

Visit library.ks.gov/KSNotableBooks for more information. If you have questions about Kansas Notable Books, contact the State Library of Kansas at 785-296-3154 or email allie. lousch@ks.gov.

## EHU Council gives 3 local scholarships

The Jefferson County Extension Education Unit Executive Council met April 15 at the Extension office in Oskaloosa for their bi-monthly meeting.

The meeting called to order by President Bobbi Clough of the Grantville EHU. Attending members from that unit were Donna Buchanan and Clede Garringer. Members of the County Line Unit from Winchester in attendance were Leanne Chapman and Susan Voelker with Cindy Williams, the county extension agent from Meadowlark District.

The last meeting's minutes and current treasurer's report were given with membership dues being paid for 32 total members for both units.

The Executive Council has a scholarship program that was opened to all seniors in the county. Fourteen applications from county school counselors were received. The applications were reviewed by council members and the selection of three seniors were made to receive

The students receiving these scholarships were Abraham Noll, Jefferson County North; Cassidy Frakes, Valley Falls;

and Sarah Leitner, Oskaloosa. The council plans to again have pie sales June 21, the Saturday night of the Old Settlers Reunion, on the northeast corner of the square under the tent. This is a major fundraiser

for the scholarships that are

given by the council.

Discussion and plans were made for the Fall Tea to be held by the Grantville Unit Thursday, September 18, at the Methodist Church in Grantville. A Kansas Humanities speaker, Marla Day, will do a presentation on "Flour and Sugar Sack Clothing" with the theme for this year's tea being "Western."

Discussion of member participation in the "Kids Cooking Camp" being held May 28-30 in the basement of the Oskaloosa Methodist Church was had. Deb Hochard and Cindy Williams have made plans for the learning activities for children all three days.

—Leanne Chapman, secretary

#### **ODDS AND ENDS**

• The theme of this summer's Jefferson County 4-H Fair is 'Sew It, Grow It, Show It."

Parade lineup will be at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, at designated areas near Maple Street on the east side of Valley Falls. The parade starts at 6:30 p.m.

Grand Marshals are Bill and Arleta Manville, Valley Falls. The University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth, celebrated the close of another academic year and the achievements of the class of 2025 during a commencement ceremony May 3 in McGillev Field House.

Listed among the graduates was Preston Gibson, Ozawkie, earning a Bachelor of Science in Sport Management.



Mark & Nina Jepson

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Fried okra, shrimp platters, homestyle dinners, the Hangover burger & more!

> Monday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 12 a.m. Kitchen closes

at 10 p.m.

For daily specials check out our Facebook page





# <sup>™</sup> Valley Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

Meets the 1st Thursday of each month at noon at Kendall Bank. Call 785-945-3231 to make a reservation.

 Aahh Some Blossom, LLC – 785-945-0181, www.AahhSomeBlossom.com

- Assured Title of Northeast KS, Inc. -785-863-2224, DeDee@assuredtitleks.com
- Bain Millwrights, Inc. 785-640-4456
- The Barn Bed & Breakfast Inn 785-945-3225, thebarnbb.com
- BeOutdoors Real Estate 913-669-7649, beoutdoors.com
- Bottom Line Accounting & Tax 785-806-0904
- Braum, Jim & Carol
- Brickstreet Bourbon 785-573-7605 Brown Brothers Self-Storage –
- 785-215-2636 Burdiek House of Hair –

785-945-3366

785-945-3315

785-573-1667

- City of Valley Falls 785-945-6612, valleyfalls.org
- Clark Construction 785-640-2222 Country Harvest Apple Market –
- Delaware Township Library –
- 785-945-3990, www.valleyfalls.org/library
- Denison State Bank 785-484-3322,
- www.dsbks.com The Elevator Bar & Grill –

- FreeState Electric Co-op 800-794-1989, freestate.coop
- F.W. Huston Medical Center -944-536-9449, fwhuston.com
- Giant Communications, LLC -785-362-9331, giantcomm.net
- Granny's Porch Café, LLC -785-573-1022
- Hamon Seed Farms, Inc. -785-640-9317
- Heinen Custom Operations, Inc. -785-945-3321, www.heinenhco.com
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- Heinen P-H-E Services, Inc. -785-945-6668, heinenphe@yahoo.com
- Heinen Repair Services -785-945-6711
- Paul Heinen & Associates, Inc. 785-945-3245,
- paulheinenassoc@gmail.com
- Herring Seeding, Inc. 785-224-4363 • Hollis Truck Line, LLC – 785-484-2482
- Jefferson County Fire Department #11
- Jefferson County Humane Society -785-945-6600, jfcountypets.com Jepson & Associates Insurance –

785-945-6211, www.jepsonins.com

- K4 Ag & Services, LLC -785-945-3202
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- BROADWAY NIGHTS/FOAM PARTY FRIDAY, JUNE 13 6 TO 8 P.M. 300 BLOCK OF BROADWAY ST.
- Kendall Bank 785-945-3231,
- kendallbank.com Leslee Bowers
- Mercer Funeral Home -785-945-3223, mercerfuneralhomes.com
- Metzger, Terry & Gerry
- Pia Friend Realty 785-250-1984, piafriend.com
- Scott's Auto Maintenance & Service 785-640-3700
- Sew Fine Quilting 785-231-4145
- TFM Services 785-224-1491 Turner Designs – 785-640-3278

USD #338 Valley Falls –

- 785-945-3214 Valley Falls Chiropractic Clinic – 785-945-3261
- Valley Falls Community Foundation (VFCF) - valleyfallscf.org

• Valley Falls Music Academy, LLC -

- Valley Falls Historical Society Open the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 785-854-7284 • Valley Falls Pharmacy, LLC -
- 785-945-3711 Valley Falls Vindicator & Oskaloosa Independent –
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785-945-3257, jeffcountynews.com

- The Wash Spot Car Wash -785-851-7284 • Werring Law Office - 785-945-3281, werringlaw.com

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Valley Falls Vindicator May 15, 22, and 29, 2025)3t

Please take notice that a hearing before the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Meriden, Kansas will take place on June 5, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Meriden City Hall at 103 East Main St. Meriden,

The subject matter of the hearing will be whether a variance should be granted to change the current setback requirement along 74th Street near the intersection of 74th Street and Kansas Highway 4, to allow a softball field to be constructed within a portion of what is now the current setback.

#### **Help wanted:**

Maintence and office clerk at Lakeside Village. Apply at 785-249-6838.

Sales, Sales Lecompton City Wide Garage Sales Friday - Sunday

General start time is 8 a.m., individual start times may vary.

June 6, 7, & 8

No garage sale maps, but look for signs. Some sales may be in the rural township of Lecompton. Elmore Street Marketplace Shops, downtown Elmore Street businesses, Hillcreek Market & Museums will be open.

Lecompton is North West of Lawrence about 8 miles off county road

There are treasures to be found. Don't miss out on this City Wide

Sale!