

The Vindicator

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In others' words

"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on."
—Robert Frost

Books

Following some serious infighting and resignations following allegations of sexual misconduct, financial malpractice, and repeated leaks, the Swedish Academy has said no Nobel prize for literature will be awarded this year. For the first time since 1949, the secretive jury that hands out the world's most prestigious literary prize will not unveil a winner this autumn, instead revealing two laureates in 2019, it has announced. Book readers might recognize some of these great opening lines from novels: "Call me Ishmael," Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick*; "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife," Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*; "A screaming comes across the sky," Thomas Pynchon, *Gravity's Rainbow*; "Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice," Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*; "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way," Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*; "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen," —George Orwell, *1984*; "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair," Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*; "I am an invisible man," Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*.

Timetables

Journalist Margaret Fuller is said to have been the best-read person in New England, male or female, in her day. Her seminal work, "Woman in the Nineteenth Century," was published in 1845. She was returning from Europe after four years and on this date in 1850 a hurricane drove her ship into a sandbar off Fire Island. She did not survive nor did her husband, an Italian revolutionary, and their small son. Five days later, Henry David Thoreau arrived at the beach, sent by Fuller's friend Emerson to search for any sign of their bodies or possessions. In particular, Emerson wanted the manuscript of Fuller's book on the Roman revolution—the great work he always expected her intellect would produce. Wichita car salesman F.W. "Woody" Hockaday published one of the first road maps during this week in 1918. The map contained 33 marked automobile highways in the United States. Hockaday single-handedly encouraged the numbering of state highways and the state did have them numbered and marked by the 1930s.

About words

faux pas — French for an error or blunder. The plural is also *faux pas*.

The weather

by Thomas J. Ryan III

	Hi	Low	Precip
July 2	93	66	.00
July 3	100	74	.00
July 4	98	71	.03
July 5	93	71	.00
July 6	97	68	.00
July 7	95	65	.00
July 8	96	65	.00
July 9	99	68	.00
July 10	100	70	.00
July 11	101	74	.00
July 12	103	73	.00
July 13	102	71	.03
July 14	90	67	.00
July 15	98	69	.00



Delaware Place residents Patricia Abramovitz and Evelyn Glissman used a very large and very dull pair of ceremonial scissors in an attempt to cut a ribbon Friday prior to an open house in the new housing district. Failing to cut the ribbon did not spoil the round of congratulatory messages aimed at a number of entities that accomplished building 14 new apartments.

Delaware Place apartments dedicated

by Clarke Davis

The completion of a seven-duplex housing development in Valley Falls was celebrated with a ribbon cutting and open house at one of the apartments July 13.

Representatives from all the entities involved were on hand to watch two of the residents, Evelyn Glissman and Patricia Abramovitz, cut a ceremonial ribbon marking the occasion.

Both residents expressed how fortunate they were and complimented the city for acquiring the new housing.

The two-bedroom apartments include a garage, all appliances, laundry facilities in the bathroom that serves as a storm shelter, and services such as lawn mowing and snow removal.

Those attending represented the city of Valley Falls, which donated the land and sponsored the building of one of the duplexes for moderate income

younger families; the Mesner Development Co., Central City, Neb., who owns and developed the six duplexes for senior citizens; Community Housing of Wyandotte County, which oversaw the construction and is in charge of rentals and caring for the property; and the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, that administers the Kansas low-income housing tax credit and moderate income housing programs.

Clifford Mesner, who heads the development company and has built numerous housing tax credit projects in Nebraska and Kansas, was highly complementary of the city of Valley Falls.

"With my experience, I can generally tell within 30 minutes of being in a town if it's a place we want to work with," he said. "This has been a good experience working with the people here."

Speaking briefly at the ribbon cutting was Barry McMurry,

home program manager for the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation.

He explained the tax credit programs and the state funds that make these developments possible and cited the partners who all worked in unison to make it happen.

Among those present was Donny Smith, who was with Community Housing of Wyandotte County for 10 years and its director the last six. He has since left and returned to his hometown, but not before introducing Mesner to the city officials and sparking interest in the housing project. It was also a rare project for CHWC to accomplish outside of Wyandotte County.

The current CHWC executive director, Brennan Crawford, and community manager, Tawnya Martinez, were also on hand for the event. Representing the city were Administrator

See **Housing** Page 3



Lisa Smith and her cadaver dog, Laudie, play tug of war after Laudie demonstrated her keen ability at finding a target. The team is from Kansas Search and Rescue, a coalition of handlers and dogs that assist law enforcement.

Cadaver dog meets test

by Clarke Davis

Area law officers with the Capital Area Major Case Squad got a treat when they met at Perry recently. Lisa Smith of Kansas Search and Rescue put her cadaver dog, Laudie, through its paces.

Smith and LeeAnn Tuft, both K-9 handlers and trainers, were taking the opportunity to introduce their services to law enforcement officials who may in time need their services.

Laudie, a 5-year-old border collie-mix, was relaxed enough to sleep through Smith's presentation, but when asked to go to work was all business.

Ignoring the 30 people in the room and a stack of pizza boxes in the kitchen, the dog circled the room looking for a target at Smith's instruction. The canine sounded a few loud barks when she found the hidden target.

Her reward was a chance to play a game of tug of war with a toy provided by Smith.

The demonstration was also repeated outside.

Cadaver dogs help find missing persons after natural disasters and following suspected crimes.

KSAR is a coalition of volunteer handlers and canines who provide teams ready to assist law enforcement agencies.

They assist with trailing people and human remains detection. The women report that they can deploy after dark and even under light pre-

cipitation.

Smith told of taking her dog to the Pioneer Cemetery at Valley Falls and the dog "hit" on an 1876 tombstone.

She could tell that the tombstone had recently been resurrected and surmised that this particular stone had laid on the ground for many years. She believes the porous stone had absorbed the scent from the grave and the dog was able to detect it many decades later.

Smith said Laudie is not as keen on water as she is on land although she can detect a body in a general area. The handler said the dog is used to a specific spot on land and a body of water is a little confusing to the dog.

Smith is a registered nurse with 25 years experience working in an emergency room. She has also served as an investigator with the Shawnee County Coroner's office.

She said it takes one to two years to properly train a search and rescue dog.

Perry Police Chief Ramon Gonzalez, who is also an investigator for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, served as host to the Major Case Squad June 28.

The squad consists of investigators from a nine-county area in northeast Kansas. Jefferson County detectives who are members include Captain Kirk Vernon, detective sergeants Troy Frost and Kevin Kufahl,

Threshing show starts Friday

by Clarke Davis

People will be able to relive the early days of the wheat harvest when the Meriden Threshing Show opens Friday for three days.

Wheat harvest equipment, tractors, and steam power common in the pre-1950 agricultural era will be at work and on display.

The show features a daily parade at 1:30 p.m., a garden tractor pull all three days, and an antique tractor pull Saturday.

Music by 4Closure and Whiskey Rich round out the night entertainment Friday and Saturday and the Bloomfield Church will have services Sunday morning.

Jess Noll, president of the Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association, reports a couple of improvements this year can be found in the wheelwright building.

"We've enclosed the barb wire collection in a glass case

and have a start on a collection of survey equipment," he said.

Noll himself is a surveyor and hopes to add to the collection over time and provide some material that explains the artifacts.

Surveying was one of the earliest professions in the founding of the nation and the instruments used have changed with the years.

The featured tractors this year are the Ford, Fordson, and Ferguson. The featured engines are called "orphans and oddballs."

There are concessions on the grounds and a \$6 pass gets admission for all three days. Those under 12 and veterans get in free. For a schedule and other details see their ad elsewhere in this edition.



MAETA President Jess Noll



Three separators were busy last year building a stack of straw.

Electric co-op returns \$750,000 to members

by Sarah Farlee Marketing Specialist

Thousands of FreeState Electric Cooperative members will get a reprieve on their July electric bill with a credit after the Board of Trustees approved a capital credit retirement of \$750,000.

FreeState's board determined the method for returning capital credits is a hybrid method called Last-in-First-Out/First-in-First-Out, or LIFO-FIFO. This method manages equity by retiring a combination of the oldest and newest years and provides value to new and long-time members.

The FIFO retirement covers 2017 for FreeState. The LIFO retirement includes Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative years 1984, 1985, 1986, and part of 1987, and Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative credits for part of 1992.

Active members will receive a credit on their July bill. Members who are entitled to capital credits but are no longer active members are mailed a physical check.

To further explain this retirement and what this means for members, it is essential to understand that a member-owned

co-op does not technically earn profits. Any revenues above the cost of business are considered margins.

"Capital credits are our margins, or what is left over after all the costs to operate are paid," said Steve Foss, FreeState's CEO. "Investor-owned utilities would have profits that would go back to shareholders, but cooperatives are different. We retain money to reinvest into our system and then return it to our members when the financial health of the cooperative is stable."

These margins represent an interest-free loan of operating capital by the membership to the co-op. These funds allow FreeState to finance operations with the intent to repay in later years, either through allocation or retirement.

The amount of capital credits each member is entitled to be determined by how much electricity members purchased from the cooperative during the margin allocation year.

For more information on capital credits and to download FreeState's guide to understanding capital credits visit freestate.coop/capitalcredits.

Commission approves bridge bids, Special Event permit

by Rick Nichols

Meeting the afternoon of July 9, the Jefferson County Commissioners OK'd three bids connected with the planned construction of a replacement bridge along Marion Road and an application for a Special Event permit to hold a Poker Run.

Both decisions enjoyed the support of all three county commissioners, Richard Malm, Wayne Ledbetter, and Lynn Luck.

The bids favorably received by the trio were submitted by Husker Steel, Columbus, Neb., Norfolk Contracting Inc., Norfolk, Neb., and McAfee Henderon Solutions Inc., Oskaloosa, and were in the amounts of \$118,518, \$23,970 and \$9,960, respectively.

Husker Steel, the general

contractor, will be supplying the steel needed for the new bridge, which will be located along Marion between 182nd Street and 190th Street.

Norfolk Contracting, a subcontractor, will be assembling the structure.

And MHS will be inspecting Norfolk's work at critical points during the course of the project.

The bids were brought forward for consideration by the commissioners by Public Works Director Bill Noll.

The approval of SP2018-13 at the request of David Porter with Sons of the American Legion Post 142 in Perry will enable the organization to proceed with its plans to hold an all-terrain vehicle Poker Run in the general vicinity of Perry Lake on

See **County** Page 3

Housing... Ruth Heuertz Remmers headed for Siberia

(Continued from page 1)
Denise Streeter, Clerk April Herbster, and council members Salih and Betsy Doughramaji. KHRC, the state's independent affordable housing corporation, administers the tax credit program, which promotes investment of private capital in the development of rental housing by proving credits to offset investors' federal income tax liability. To date, it has been the most successful rental housing production program in the nation, creating thousands of residences with affordable rent, according to CHWC. The city has created a Rural Housing Incentive District for the platted lots in the addition and that allows it to reap all of the property tax revenue for 15 years to offset the cost of establishing streets, water, sewer, and other infrastructure needs. This was accomplished through the cooperation of the Jefferson County Commissioners and the local school board, who signed off on it. This is the first housing to be built in the Walker-Barnes Addition to the city, which was a gift from the three children of the late Gerald and Juanita Barnes.

Ruth Heuertz Remmers of the University of Kansas, Lawrence, has received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program Award to Russia in geography from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Remmers will conduct research at Gorno-Altai State University, the Altai Republic, as part of a project to understand perceptions among small indigenous clans and a religious sect on how tourism affects the local environment. The Altai Republic is in south-central Siberia, an area of the Altai Mountains near Mongolia, China, and Kazakhstan. Remmers is a 1969 graduate of Valley Falls High School. She completed a master's degree in geography in 2017. She spent 26 years working as an IT professional in Overland Park and Gardner for telephone companies, the last one being CenturyLink. She left CenturyLink to return to school and to care for her first husband, Bill Remmers, who had cancer and died in 2013.



Ruth Heuertz Remmers at the Katun River when she visited the Altai Republic in 2015. Having received a Fulbright Award for the 2018-19 school term, she is returning to Russia.

She married Anthony Ware in 2017 and he is now taking an intensive Russian language course this summer and will travel with Ruth to the Altai Republic. They will leave in early September and return at the end of May. She traveled to and gathered data for her geography master's degree in the Altai Republic in July 2015.

Remmers is one of over 1,900 U.S. citizens who will conduct research, teach English, and provide expertise abroad for the 2018-2019 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement as well as record of service and leadership potential in their respective fields. The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to build lasting connections between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Fulbrighters address critical global challenges in all areas while building relationships, knowledge, and leadership in support of the long-term interests of the United States. Fulbright alumni have achieved distinction in many fields, including 59 who have been awarded the Nobel Prize, 82 who have received Pulitzer Prizes, and 37 who have served as a head of state or government.

Firefighters Relief Funds distributed

The Kansas Insurance Department is currently making the annual funds distribution to state and local firefighter relief organizations. More than \$13.3 million will be distributed among 564 local Firefighters Relief Associations across the state. "This fund assists firefighters and their families when an accident or death occurs in the line of duty," said Ken Selzer, CPA, Commissioner of Insurance. "We are honored to assist in its distribution." The money is generated by a 2 percent tax paid by insurance companies on fire and lightning insurance premiums written in Kansas for the previous calendar year. It is collected by the department, on behalf of the Kansas Firefighter Relief Act, and passed on to the FRAs, as required by Kansas law. The funds are disbursed electronically. "The local association funds are used for purchasing accident and health, disability, and life insurance premiums to assist firefighters and their families," said John Boyd, FRA administrator for the department.

Also, the Kansas State Firefighters Association will receive \$502,863 for education and research purposes and for funding the state association's death benefit fund. These funds also come from the generated premium tax. Of the state association total, \$402,863 is earmarked for educational purposes and research into fire prevention and firefighting, and \$100,000 is used to replenish the death benefit fund.

The Jefferson County FRAs received a total of \$83,573. Following is a breakdown: FRA #641 Jefferson Co. #11: \$7,023.71 FRA #711 Jefferson Co. #12: \$6,362.91 FRA #556 Jefferson Co. #5: \$11,385.02 FRA #618 Jefferson Co. #6: \$3,757.43 FRA #600 Jefferson Co. #9: \$10,168.31 FRA #623 Jefferson Twp. #10: \$4,030.16 FRA #548 Kaw Twp. Jefferson Co.: \$5,912.58 FRA #719 Kentucky Twp. Jefferson Co.: \$4,546.25 FRA #599 McLouth Volunteer FD: \$4,152.03 FRA #525 Oskaloosa Twp.: \$8,213.62 FRA #576 Ozawkie Twp.: \$6,014.20 FRA #456 Perry: \$2,954.79 FRA #662 Rural Township FD #3: \$4,172.19 FRA #654 Sarcoxie Twp.: \$4,880.77

Blood drive in Valley Falls

A blood drive is scheduled to be held in Valley Falls Thursday (today) from 2 to 6 p.m. and the Community Blood Bank is billing it as an "Emergency Blood Shortage." The event is being held at the Delaware Township Hall.

Concealed carry apps. decline in fiscal year

The number of Kansans applying for new concealed carry licenses continued to decline in the recently ended 2018 fiscal year, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said last week. Between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018, the attorney general's Concealed Carry Licensing Unit received 4,896 new applications. This was the lowest number of applications received in a fiscal year since the licensing program began in 2006. A legislative change in 2015 allows eligible Kansans to carry concealed without a license. While the number of new applications has waned, most Kansans who already have licenses are choosing to keep their licenses active. The Concealed Carry Licensing Unit received more than 16,000 renewal applications during the 2018 fiscal year. Licenses are still required in most states, and Kansas licenses are currently recognized in 40 states. "Many Kansans continue to recognize the benefits of obtaining a license, including our reciprocity agreements with other states," Schmidt said. "We continue to work with other states to ensure Kansas licenses are recognized." The Kansas Legislature also recently adopted a reduction in the application fee for concealed carry licenses for the 2019 fiscal year. The application fee for new applicants was lowered to \$112 from \$132.50. The cost for license renewals remains unchanged at \$25. Schmidt also encouraged all Kansans who intend to carry firearms to pursue training opportunities. He reminded all Kansans who choose to carry firearms to comply with properly posted signage and all applicable law. Currently, more than 85,000 Kansans have active concealed carry licenses.

Tailgate Talk 3 set for Aug. 21

The third in a series of Tailgate Talks is scheduled for Aug. 21 for the Meadowlark Extension District. The focus for the talk will be water and fencing, two of the most limiting factors in grazing animals. The event will be held at the Charles and Paul Kennedy farms located in the western part of Jackson County. This host is Luke Kennedy. Will Boyer, KSU water quality specialist, will discuss livestock water systems and the many options that are available besides a stock pond. Will works out of Manhattan and covers 17 counties within northeast Kansas watersheds. Rod Schaub is the Frontier District livestock agent. He is a founding member of the Eastern Kansas Grazing School committee. He also does rotational grazing on his own land and has an arsenal of the latest fencing tools and gadgets to show producers. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a light meal sponsored by the Jackson County Conservation District. In order to plan enough meals, RSVP by Aug. 17 to 785-364-4125 or email jhalthau@ksu.edu.

County commission...

(Continued from page 1)

Saturday, Aug. 25 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Just the same, Ledbetter indicated to his fellow commissioners that he would be speaking with Porter shortly and encouraging him at that time to make a sincere effort to limit the number of riders who potentially could be participating in this year's event. In other business, Emergency Services Director James Tweed appeared before the board to give a presentation covering the central call line that has been established to process requests for open burn permits through the dispatch center at the Sheriff's Annex. He was assisted in the presentation by Kirk Webb with the Geographic Information Systems/Information Technology Department, who was credited with having designed the new system property owners, the county's 12 township fire chiefs and the dispatchers with 911 Communications will be using going forward. "I'm excited about it," Tweed told the commissioners. "It's a great system. Kirk really built a nice user-friendly system." Tweed said the system would require property owners using it to make some adjustments on their end but that he wanted to have it up and running in advance of the fall burning system. He also promised the commissioners that he would be returning at some point to let them know how the new system

was working out. The telephone number selected for the central call line is 785-403-0108, so that is the number property owners eager to burn brush, grass, trash and the like need to call in order to secure the necessary open burn permit. At one point, Ledbetter asked the Emergency Services director why property owners still needed to obtain an annual burn permit if they were already being required to get permission to burn on a daily basis, to which he replied that he was not the person to be asked that question. Voting 3-0, the board authorized County Treasurer Lisa Buerman to place an advertisement in the official county newspaper, The Oskaloosa Independent, letting it be known that the county intends to sell four lots in the Hilldale South subdivision and will be accepting bids on them. The action was prompted by Buerman's just-delivered report that someone has formally expressed an interest in purchasing these lots. The lots in question are Lots 1 and 2 in Block E and Lots 1 and 2 in Block F. In the motion the commissioners approved, it was stipulated that the minimum acceptable bid is \$300 per lot. "Reassembling" as the overseers of the Jefferson County Land Bank, the commissioners unanimously OK'd the proposed transfer of Lot 56 in Block M of Lake Ridge Estates from the inventory of county-owned property to the land bank at the request of Tye Zehner, Kansas City, Mo. Zehner reportedly wants to build a house on the lot, so by 'depositing' the lot in the land bank, the commissioners will be in a position to negotiate the terms of the sale with him.

Public Works Director Noll reported that the Road and Bridge Department was chip-and-sealing Wellman Road from 21st Street to 27th Street that very day and that the company hired to stripe the road would be on site the next day. He went on to say he looked for the road to be reopening to all traffic the following day. "Overall, it's (the widening of the shoulders along Wellman from 21st to 27th) been a very successful project," Noll told the commissioners, proceeding to add that it was 30 working days ahead of schedule at that point. In further discussing the project, Noll heaped praise on the general contractor, King's Construction Company, Oskaloosa, for the way in which it had tackled the work it was tasked with completing in a timely manner. Noll informed the commissioners that he had ordered a metal convex mirror that is to be installed near the intersection of 21st and Wellman in an effort to aid motorists in seeing vehicles headed south along Wellman. The mirror should be arriving in two weeks, he said. Noll reported that some issues involving the air conditioning system at the Information Technology Building had arisen but that because the system was still under warranty, the necessary repairs would be made at no cost to the county. Filling in for both County Clerk Linda Buttron and Deputy County Clerk Annie Landis, the county treasurer took minutes during the meeting, which adjourned at 1:53.

Marketing Advisory Board needs members

The Kansas Department of Agriculture's agricultural marketing, advocacy and outreach team is seeking talented Kansans to serve on the Marketing Advisory Board. The mission of the KDA marketing team is to serve all Kansans through innovative programming and deliver solutions designed to create an environment that facilitates growth and expansion in agriculture while increasing pride in and awareness of the state's largest industry — agriculture. The Marketing Advisory Board will advise the program team on a variety of topics through the following sub-programs: agricultural business development, international agricultural development/trade, From the Land of Kansas, local foods and affiliated programs, agricultural workforce development and agricultural education. Those interested in applying to serve as a Marketing Advisory Board member, can email a resume, statement of interest/cover letter and tax clearance confirmation PDF. For more details about the board and about the application process, go to agriculture.ks.gov/marketing-advisory-board. Submit application materials and address questions to Kerry Wefald, marketing director, at kerry.wefald@ks.gov or call 785-564-6758. Applications are due Aug. 9.



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Name: Who is burning
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