

Clubs and family living



Flint Seymour
March
Dragon of the Month

The Valley Falls High School March Dragon of the Month is junior Flint Seymour. He is the son of Kris and Angie Seymour. Dragon of the Month for April is senior Heidi Gibbens. She is the daughter of Jordan and Wendy Gibbens.

Students are nominated for the honor by VFHS faculty each month. Nominees must exemplify outstanding characteristics both as a student and as a citizen of the community. Final selections of students are done by the principal and a committee of faculty members. The administration presents a certificate to the chosen student, as well as \$10 in chamber bucks and a Dragon logo hat or T-shirt.



Heidi Gibbens
April
Dragon of the Month

SpaceBase at Valley Falls Elementary

by Chris Hansford
VFES 5th-grade teacher

If you have stayed up with the news earlier this year, a very important federally funded program was suspended. STARBASE, which operates as part of the U.S. Department of Defense, is an awesome educational program that teaches students about Science through STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics)-driven activities. Due to not being able to attend STARBASE this year, a parent from my 5th-grade class, Sam Pence, decided to create a few STEM activities to allow students to have a similar experience.

Mr. Pence, our “Bill Nye, the Science Guy,” designed what he called, “Space Base, a Mission to Mars.” There were four different modules to the mission.

The first was, “Life on Mars without Earth—What Would You Take With You?” Students had to use math to calculate the weight of what they would take on their mission and were limited due to the amount of rocket

fuel needed to blast off of Earth’s surface.

Then, the students worked in teams of 3 or 4 to design a “Mars Lander” using straws, popsicle sticks, string, balloons, cardboard tubes, and plastic bags. This “Mars Lander” would be tasked to secure Lieutenant Eggbert. We dropped each group’s lander from about 20 feet high. Their designs worked wonderfully because 7 out of 8 landers landed on the surface of Mars without damaging the lander or Lt. Eggbert!

Once we made it to the surface of Mars, Mr. Pence had the students make Elephant Toothpaste, which taught students how to create water, heat, and oxygen on the planet. The kids thought that was absolutely cool!

Our final module was to construct a Pitsco rocket. Mr. Pence reached out to STARBASE and they were gracious enough to donate Pitsco rocket kits. Brent Mumford, director of the Topeka STARBASE, came out to the football field April 8 and helped



launch our 5th graders’ rockets. Several grade levels came down to the field to watch and cheer on the students during their rocket launch. On behalf of our 5th grade, we would like to thank Sam Pence and Brent Mumford for making this time exciting and educational for our students.

VFW Post recognizes public servants with meal

VFW Post 3084, Valley Falls, will hold a picnic-style meal for the public from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at the post hall, 405 Walnut Street. The meal of burgers, brats, beans, and all the fixin’s, will be served in recognition of federal, state, county, and local public service employees, active duty military, and veterans.

Public Service Recognition week takes place from May 4 to 10 this year. The purpose of celebrating is to honor those who deliver public services, making everyday chores possible for residents.

“From basic transportation services to the roads and pavements we travel on, we make use of many government-sponsored facilities on a daily basis,” shared Post Commander Jerry Tullis in a press release. “It is thanks to the efforts of public service employees that we are able to go about our daily lives. So, this week, we raise our glasses to the people employed in the public sector and shine the spotlight on their work.”

The public service profession has existed at least 4,000 years, beginning with joining the military to provide security for the people. In time, more fields of public service opened up.

Proper departmentalization of public service began in 1871 when President Ulysses Grant formed the first Federal Civil Service. This laid the foundations of the institutions that would deliver services and facilities sponsored by the government.

Since 1985, the first full week of May has been set aside as Public Service Recognition Week — a concept introduced by former President Ronald Reagan, who set aside the week to acknowledge the efforts of those in the public sector.

VFW Post 3084 is currently looking to recruit new members to its organization. Interested parties can contact Commander Tullis at 785-213-6232.

No local bids received for museum work

The monthly meeting of the Valley Falls Historical Society was called to order April 9 by President Lesa Brose. Other embers in attendance included Mike Brose, Dee Heinen, Rebecca Heinen, Nels and Kathy Peterson, Tamie Ferrell, Gary Coleman, Heidi Pickerell, Jo Tichenor, and Holly Allen.

March’s monthly minutes were perused and accepted following changing Rhonda Lindsay’s name for Susan Phillips.

Nels Peterson discussed the Chamber’s new art council and outlined his idea for a postage stamp/jigsaw puzzle-type mural comprised of the art of various local artists highlighting esoteric subjects significant to the area. He suggested utilizing an advertisement from decades past, the mills, river, or trains. He also suggested we not constrain the artists too much in their subject matter, allowing for the creative process. Artists should retain ownership and copyright of said art, though city should be able to use it promotionally. No call for artists will be made until a grant determination is shared.

Projects for Match Day fundraising were once again discussed with ADA-compliant bathrooms, repair of the freight elevator, installation of sprinklers, commission of lighted, heightened display cabinets, and storage room repairs mentioned. No bids were given by local contractors for the museum work.

The group voted to renew its Internet contract with Giant Communications for a discounted \$30/month. The organization is still struggling to set up a

Venmo account for museum sales and donations.

The group briefly discussed setting up an Ancestry.com account for the museum. Rebecca had sent an email about discounted rates and was awaiting a reply.

Members talked about contributing to the new Ragweed Trail with signage of local historic businesses and information and photos about the Ragweed Special which ran along the line.

Lesa suggested quarterly workdays be put in place for upkeep at the museum. The first such workday will take place before/after the regular meeting in May.

The next regular meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, at the museum.

—Holly Allen, secretary

KDOT announces local service anniversaries

The Kansas Department of Transportation is acknowledging employees celebrating state service anniversaries in May.

According to a press release, “KDOT is proud to acknowledge them for the long-term dedication they have provided to the state of Kansas.”

Listed below are the employees listed from Jefferson County.

20 years — Curtis Eichman, McLouth, Pavement Evaluation Engineering Associate, and 10 years — Kade Heuertz, Valley Falls, Equipment Operator Senior.

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Notice of 2025 Annual Budget Meeting

Participating Members,
Please be advised that the 2025 Annual Budget Meeting of Jefferson Co. Rural Water District 10 will be held on May 13th at 6:15 at 9383 Delaware Drive, Ozawie, KS 66070. This is a Non-Election year so this is not a ‘voting’ meeting. However, we have 1 position open on the Board and are requesting those who are interested in helping RWD10 in monthly duties to come to this meeting and apply for the position. The regular monthly meeting will follow the Budget Meeting. Hope to see you there!

Hospice Volunteer Appreciation Month

April is Hospice Volunteer Appreciation Month, and the administrators and staff at Jefferson County Hospice would like to take a moment to express our gratitude for the dedicated support our volunteers provide. Your contribution did not go unnoticed, and we are truly grateful for all of your tireless efforts. Our volunteers are a vital part of our team, and because of devoted volunteers like you, our nurses, social worker, and administrative staff can provide the highest level of care for our patients and their families.

Our volunteers have graciously taken time away from their families to become professionally trained hospice volunteers so that they are able to accommodate the many needs of our staff and patients. Your willingness to offer support is unwavering and we appreciate your assistance with everything from small projects in the office, volunteering on a committee, playing cards with a patient, or sitting with a patient so their caregiver can go to the grocery store. Every task you perform is hugely appreciated.

Jefferson County Hospice takes great pride in honoring our volunteers and one volunteer we would like to highlight is Judy Schwinn, our 2024 Hospice Volunteer of The Year. Judy is a lifelong resident of Jefferson County and worked part time for the Jefferson County Health Department from 1976 to 1985. She became a volunteer with our organization in September of 2021. Her caring and compassionate manner comes from her 46 years of experience as a Registered Nurse and our patients greatly benefit from her care. Judy loves what she does and wishes she could help more patients.

We would also like to mention four dedicated and compassionate women, who between them have an unbelievable combined total of 91 years of service: Marlene Williams with 32 years of service, Karen Heinen with 21 years of service, Carole Moore with 21 years of service, and Sara Oliver with 17 years of service. Your dedication to our agency and those we serve is vitally important and held in the highest regard.

On behalf of everyone at Jefferson County Hospice, we want to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your dedication and commitment to our organization. We are honored to have you as part of our team and look forward to working together so that we may continue to provide the residents of this county with the best possible care. We want to thank all our volunteers for their invaluable contributions to our organization. Thank you, Cathy Barnett, Jim Braum, Jo Denny, Janet Fox, Karen Heinen, LuAnn Lenz, Annie Matzek, Carole Moore, Sara Oliver, Julia Pennel, Sharon Porter, Judy Schwinn, Marlene Williams, and Michelle Williams. You make it possible!

Jefferson COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the Valley Falls Cemetery Association will be at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at the Kendall Bank Community Room. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Jim Braum, President June Huston, Secretary

36-2tC

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NEW MENU HAS ARRIVED

All your old favorites with some of our new favorites! Fried okra, shrimp platters, homestyle dinners, the Hangover burger & more!

Monday - Saturday
11 a.m. - 12 a.m.

Kitchen closes at 10 p.m.

26-1tC For daily specials check out our Facebook page

2025-Spring Valley Falls Community Garage Sales

Sign-up Form for Friday & Saturday – May 2 & 3

Your sale will be placed on the map. Payment may be left in the City’s drop box or mailed to PO Box 162, Valley Falls, KS 66088. Make checks payable to the Valley Falls Chamber of Commerce. Forms must be received by Fri., April 25, at 5 p.m. to be included on the map.

Please complete the form & include \$5

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Circle one: Friday / Saturday / Both
List of items for sale _____

35-60w-2tC

Post 3084 auxiliary cited at district

The auxiliary to the Graham-Herbers Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3084, Valley Falls, met April 10 with 10 members present.

The District 1 meeting was held in Leavenworth April 5 and was attended by local members Kay Gibbens, Gail Craig, and Lori Barnett.

Auxiliary 3084 received numerous certificates of appreciation and recognition. The scrapbook completed by Gail Jepson received second place and will be forwarded to the state level for further judging.

Ardith Spencer conducted flag education for the second graders at Valley Falls Elementary. Each student received a small flag, coloring page, and a Pledge of Allegiance bookmark.

Veteran and auxiliary breakfasts will be held the third Saturday of each month starting May 17 and running through Sept. 20.

The next auxiliary meeting will be May 8. Information about Post 3084 can be found on their Facebook page.

—Lori Barnett, secretary

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