



Hospital announces groundbreaking for Physical Therapy Expansion project

By Lisa Brooks
CCH Administrator

Comanche County Hospital is pleased to announce the official groundbreaking ceremony for its upcoming Physical Therapy Expansion project, scheduled for Monday, June 29 at 9:00 a.m.

Community members, patients, employees and supporters are warmly invited to attend this special event as the hospital begins construction on a project designed to enhance access to high-quality rehabilitation services close to home.

Once completed, the expanded facility will significantly increase the hospital's outpatient capabilities, featuring additional space and the introduction of three new service lines:

- Aquatic Therapy
- Women's Pelvic Health Services
- Cardiac Rehabilitation

This expansion reflects our commitment to providing comprehensive care within our community. Our goal is to ensure patients can receive the services they need locally, without the burden of travel-

ing long distances for care.

The Physical Therapy Expansion is part of an ongoing capital campaign aimed at strengthening rural healthcare infrastructure. Comanche County Hospital continues to actively fundraise to support the project and minimize financing costs.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity shown by our donors thus far. Their support underscores the importance of investing in accessible, high-quality healthcare for our region.

Rendering courtesy of HFG.

FORMER PROTECTION PRESS SUBSCRIBERS: If you have been receiving both a print and digital copy of the *Star-Press*, by the end of June you should decide which version(s) you'd like to continue reading. See the subscription info in the blue box at the lower right corner of page 8 for details.

DIGITAL SUBSCRIBERS: Beginning with the July 2 issue, you will *no longer receive your digital copy by email*. You can renew your digital subscription at kconline.com. More info in the blue box at the lower right corner of page 8.

County commission has light agenda

By Dennies Andersen

Meeting this Tuesday morning, June 16, the Comanche County Commissioners faced what appeared to be a light half-day agenda, adjourning well before noon.

Coming up while they were meeting with Comanche County Road and Bridge Supervisor AJ Becker and Consulting Engineer Tanner Yost from the Salina office of Kirkham Michael Engineering was a problem with drainage along one county road and the flooding of an adjacent farm place. Aaron Sawyers and his family live on that farm northeast of Protection.

"Let's fix it," Commissioner Zack Ellis said. "We've heard about this for three years, and haven't accomplished anything." He added, "I'm tired of hearing about it, so let's fix it and go on down the road."

Ellis said that for years there had been no complaints about flooding, and the only thing that had changed was the elevation of the road. It has worn down and the ditches have filled in so that "there are no ditches there."

"I don't think the county can fix the whole problem," the consulting engineer said, noting that he felt the landowner would have to do some dirt work in conjunction with the county's road work in order solve the problem.

The commissioners told Becker and Yost to talk to Sawyers and figure out how to fix the problem.

In other business, the commissioners:

—Approved payment of bills in the amount of \$107,692.36, including payroll in the amount of \$49,436.59.

—Noted that the next commission meeting will be Tuesday, July 7.

—Met with Comanche Coun-

ty Hospital Administrator Lisa Brooks and Financial Officer Lauren Swingle who presented the financial statement for the first quarter of 2026, noting that the hospital had more revenue than those three months in the previous five years.

—Received from Mrs. Brooks the proposed 2027 budget for the hospital, requesting 12 mills or \$400,000.

—Heard Mrs. Brooks report on upcoming grants which she foresees the hospital and medical clinic receiving.

—Heard Yost report that the bulb in the airport beacon keeps blowing out and he cannot find parts for the old beacon. A new beacon will cost \$47,000.

—Heard Becker report that the county mowers are starting in the Wilmore area.

—Heard Yost report that surveying has been completed for a bridge in the southwest part of the county.

—Discussed the fact that the county roads need work in multiple places, and nearly every culvert needs some work.

—Discussed a phone call from Tom Murphy about spraying a stretch of road ditch along his property northeast of Protection. Becker said he can't spray there because of bees in the field along the road.

—Received and reviewed a draft copy of a strategic plan for public works in the county for this and the next two years. The plan includes roads and bridges, airport, noxious weeds, landfill/solid waste, and recycling. Yost asked the commissioners to look over the draft copy and make recommendations at their July meeting, with final adoption in August.

See Commission, page 2

Commissioners discuss 2027 budgets

By Dennies Andersen

Holding a special meeting a week ago on Monday, June 8, all three Comanche County Commissioners met with department heads, as well as the county's auditor Scot Loyd with the Loyd Group from Galva.

The single topic of the meeting was to discuss budgets for the year 2027. Each department head presented his or her proposed budget to the commissioners.

Comanche County Clerk Bri Uhl asked that her office budget and election budget remain the same as in 2026. She talked with the commissioners and auditor about the need to buy

new equipment in the next two years.

Comanche County Ambulance Director Terri Brosius, met with the commissioners that her personal service line will most likely go over budget for this year. She has requested a raise in the budget so she can give EMTs a raise next year, but kept her supplies and services line the same as this year. She asked them to increase her capital outlay line as there are a few maintenance items she is needing to repair or replace on ambulances. She would like to replace lifts on the ambulances and one lift cost around \$33,000.

Comanche County Register of Deeds Heather Puderbaugh met with the Commissioners to present her 2027 budget request. She asked for a two percent increase, putting her budget back where it was before the cut in 2026. She also explained a courthouse computer server is going to need to be replaced.

Clerk of the District Court Jenni Bruckner presented the commissioners her 2027 budget request — the same budget as last year. She also informed them that the county will be getting grant funds for the sound system that was installed in 2025.

County Appraiser Cheryl Budge and Deputy Appraiser Penny Bruckner said their major concern was how some of the line items are arranged in their budget. The county clerk and auditor will look at that to correct for 2027.

Comanche County Health Administrator Jerri McKnight requested an increase in supplies and services so she can purchase a new vaccine machine. She and the commissioners talked with the auditor about cutting the employee benefit reimbursement line in her budget, and the

auditor will look into it.

Road and Bridge Supervisor AJ Becker requested an increase of \$3,000 for the airport as the cost of fuel has gone up, an increase for solid waste to give a raise to whomever works at the landfill, as well as cover the cost of parts and repairs. He discussed with the commissioners the noxious weed and road and bridge budgets, and the auditor is going to put personal services back into the budget. The cost of chemical has also gone up, so they are going to account for that as well.

Becker will present his finalized budget request after it is completed.

Comanche County Dispatch Director Cleta Lampe requested her personal service budget be increased by \$5,000 to give each of her employees a 50 cents per hour raise. She also said she now has four full-time employees and four part-time employees. Giving a heads up for budgeting a year from now, she said that in 2028 she will need to purchase new dispatcher consoles at \$20,000-\$30,000.

Emergency Management Britt Lenertz did not ask for an increase in her budget. She did discuss with the Commissioners a few items she would like to purchase next year and requested that the county pay \$50 a month for her phone as she uses it for work 50 percent of the time.

No real action was taken at the meeting, other than gathering information for the county's 2027 preparation process.

Coldwater City Council meets in special meeting

By Dennies Andersen

With a special meeting called for this Tuesday afternoon, June 16, members of the Coldwater City Council met in executive session to discuss personnel matters for about an hour, with no one else in the room.

When the executive session was over, City Clerk Kristal Sherman was allowed to enter, and the council did take action.

The council members voted unanimously to "in the event of the current pool manager's termination" offer the position to Brenna Jellison who is now assistant pool manager. She would be offered \$18 per hour to take the position—if the need arises.

Currently managing the pool is Kayla Snyder who has held that position for several years.

STEM Camp offered in July

Hey, kids (and parents, too). Are you looking for something to do when you're not swimming, or playing with friends, or reading... or whatever else you do in the summer?

Check this out: Attend this summer's STEM Adventures Day Camp at your school building in Protection.

It runs from Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

You and your local teachers will have nothing but fun—sparking creativity, building

confidence, and igniting your love of learning.

Who can attend?

Anyone who'll attend kindergarten through sixth grade this year.

All you need to bring each day is a sack lunch! The cost is \$50 per student because generous local donors have paid the rest of the cost.

If any of your friends from other counties would like to attend, their parents should contact Andi Dale about receiving a discount off the \$285 price.



To register contact Andi Dale daleandi@usd300ks.com
For ?s contact Tonia Traas sandhillsvetks@gmail.com
or Melanie Thompson thompsonm@usd300ks.com

A blue pouncing Panther?!



No, this isn't meant to rekindle old rivalries with Coldwater Eagles, Wilmore Tigers, or even Ashland Bluejays. It's time to think about the Protection High School alumni reunion, an event that takes place every five years. The next one is scheduled Memorial Day Weekend 2027.

The PHS Alumni Committee needs your ideas as we are thinking of the theme "Protection Connection Reunion" and

scheduling activities that not only include PHS graduates but past or present residents.

Next meeting for the Alumni Committee is Tuesday, June 23, at 7 p.m. If you have suggestions, contact Janell Smit (chairman), Dave Webb, Matt Jellison, Susan Edmonston, Becky Holler, Joe Murphy, or email janellsmit@gmail.com.



PROTECTION POOL PROTECTORS this summer. For swimmers taking advantage of Protection's city pool this season, members of this smiling group will be on lifeguard duty to ensure everyone has a safe swim. (Left to right): Nicholas Erickson, Emma Jellison, pool manager Molly Murphy, Ellie Murphy and Landry Price. Not pictured are lifeguards Sloan Petty, Emerie Woolfolk and Keith Howell. Photo by Susan Edmonston.

NEWS

Star Forum

observations by d.a.

Covering right at 2,500 governmental meetings adds up to a lot of time sitting at a table or desk.

Without going back through the papers or digging through their minutes, I can't be sure just how many city, county, and school board meetings I have attended to let *The Western Star* and now *The Western Star-Protection Press* readers know what their elected officials were doing.

When I started doing that here nearly 46 years ago it was with a pen and notepad. Then I got what might have been the first laptop computer in Comanche County. That simplified things a bit, but the sitting time was still the same.

Making it hard to tell exactly how many meetings I have covered for *Star* (now *Star-Press*) readers is the fact that the city of Coldwater met twice a month when I first got here. They changed to once a month with occasional special meetings in between several years later.

About the same time, the county commission had been meeting monthly, but, due to the workload, started meeting twice a month — plus some special meetings thrown in along the way.

At one point, the school board adopted the policy that if one of their meetings lasted until midnight, it was automatically adjourned and continued the next evening. Prior to that, many of the school board meetings had lasted well beyond midnight.

For several years, the city council meetings regularly lasted until midnight or beyond.

In addition to the city, county, and school board meetings, for about 15 years I covered the Protection City Council meetings. My schedule changed and I had to quit attending those meetings, but still got minutes from their city clerk the next morning to keep readers informed. Then, the Protection City Council decided that the minutes should not be available to the public until they were approved the following month. As a result, I quit covering them completely. It was a "news" paper, not an "olds" paper.

Along the way I have missed a few meetings due to scheduling conflicts or illness (a heart attack will do that for you), but I think the estimate of 2,500 since I came to Coldwater is pretty close. If you wanted, you could add in about 150 city, county, planning commission, and regional planning commission meetings during my three-year stint as a reporter for the *Garden City Telegram*.

And I'm not quite done yet.

As Jason and Stephanie Jump take the reins of *The Western Star-Protection Press* in July, I have agreed to do a little writing for them when needed.

Katee Underwood, Coldwater, will cover the city, county, and school board meetings, as well as writing some other articles.

Last week I attended my last Coldwater City Council meeting, and the week before I covered my last USD 300 Board of Education meeting. This week I attended my last county commission meeting — unless I'm called out of mothballs to fill in for some reason.

That's all with mixed emotions.

I am glad that the chores before me will be lightened, but also saddened a bit that I will no longer be reporting on something I enjoyed — and thought I did rather well.

In fact, I had been going to the meetings longer than anyone sitting on any of those three boards. I had "tenure."

Times change, people change, and it's time to pass on (most) of that baton.

Attention Postmasters

The *Western Star-Protection Press* is the result of a merger between *The Western Star* and the *Protection Press* newspapers. It is entered as periodical class mail at the U.S. Post Office in Coldwater, Kansas. USPS No. 679-660

This newspaper is published weekly, every Thursday, in Coldwater and Protection, and has the largest circulation in the trade territory.

Postmasters should send any address changes to *The Western Star-Protection Press*, PO Box 518, Coldwater, KS 67029-0518.



Save the Date to attend the Celebration of Life honoring Mike Deewall

June 27th (Saturday) 2 pm at the Coldwater Veterans' Building

Bring your good memories of Mike to share

All of Mike's friends are invited and welcome

LEGAL NOTICE

First published in *The Western Star-Protection Press* on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

46-48c

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

CANDIDATES TO BE VOTED FOR AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION, STATE OF KANSAS, COMANCHE COUNTY, KANSAS, TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, THE UNDERSIGNED COUNTY ELECTION OFFICER OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COUNTY, HAVE RECEIVED A CERTIFIED LISTING OF CANDIDATES FOR THE VARIOUS NOMINATIONS TO BE MADE BY EACH OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES OF THIS STATE, AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF LAW, I HEREBY PUBLISH SO MUCH THEREOF AS IS APPLICABLE TO THIS COUNTY, AND I HAVE ADDED THERETO, THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THE CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATION OF THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES:

NATIONAL OFFICE

UNITED STATES SENATE
 REPUBLICAN:
 Roger Marshall, St. John
 Pond Naramore, Lawrence
 DEMOCRAT:
 Damon Anderson, Shawnee
 Christy Davis, Cottonwood Falls
 Jason Hart, Wichita
 Kevin Latz, Mission Hills
 Erik Murray, Kansas City
 Sandy Spidel Neumann, Overland Park
 Michael "Mike" Soetaert, Wellington
 Noah Taylor, Kechi
 Patrick Schmidt, Topeka
 Anne Pareikar, Overland Park
 Adam Hamilton, Stilwell

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – DISTRICT 4th
 REPUBLICAN:
 Ron Estes, Wichita
 Frank A McCollum, Fall River
 DEMOCRAT:
 Chris Carmichael, Andover
 Cole Epley, Bel Aire
 Ryan Gilbert, Goddard
 Katy Tyndell, Wichita

STATE OFFICES

GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR
 REPUBLICAN:
 Charlotte O'Hara/Michelle Dombrosky, Overland Park/Olathe
 Stacy L Rogers/Michael W Smith, Wichita/Lansing
 Ty Masterson/Jeffrey Klemp, Andover/Lansing
 Nick Reinecker/Katy Reinecker, Inman/Inman
 Philip Sarnacki/Joy Eakins, Overland Park/Wichita
 Vicki Schmidt/Joe Newland, Topeka/Neodesha
 Scott Schwab/Ken Rahjes, Overland Park/Agra
 DEMOCRAT:
 Ethan Corson/Renee Duxler, Fairway/Saline
 Cindy Holscher/KC Ohaebosium, Overland Park/Wichita
 Curt Skoog/Jenner Dacani McKenney, Overland Park/Fredonia

SECRETARY OF STATE
 REPUBLICAN:
 Pat Proctor, Leavenworth
 DEMOCRAT:
 Jennifer Day, Overland Park
 Samuel Lane, Shawnee

ATTORNEY GENERAL
 REPUBLICAN:
 Kris Kobach, LeCompton
 DEMOCRAT:
 Chris Mann, Lawrence

STATE TREASURER
 REPUBLICAN:
 Steven Johnson, Assaria
 DEMOCRAT:
 Juan C Luengo, Olathe

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
 REPUBLICAN:
 Daniel Hawkins, Wichita
 DEMOCRAT:
 Dinah Sykes, Lenexa

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 116TH DISTRICT
 REPUBLICAN:
 Kyle D. Hoffman, Coldwater
 Herb Landwehr, Sharon
 DEMOCRAT:
 Nathan Bales, Pratt

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION 7TH DISTRICT
 REPUBLICAN:
 Alana McWilliams, Abilene
 DEMOCRAT:
 Ann Zimmerman, Salina

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 16 DIVISION 1
 REPUBLICAN:
 Sidney R. Thomas, Montezuma
 DEMOCRAT:
 No Candidate

COUNTY OFFICES

COMANCHE COUNTY COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 1
 REPUBLICAN:
 Zackery Ellis, Wilmore
 DEMOCRAT:
 No Candidate

COMANCHE COUNTY CLERK
 REPUBLICAN:
 Abriana (Bri) Uhl, Coldwater
 DEMOCRAT:
 No Candidate

AVILLA PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN
 REPUBLICAN:
 Kyle Hoffman, Coldwater
 DEMOCRAT:
 No Candidate

AVILLA PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN
 REPUBLICAN:
 Sandy Hoffman, Coldwater
 DEMOCRAT:
 No Candidate

POWELL PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN
 REPUBLICAN:
 Michael York, Wilmore
 DEMOCRAT:
 No Candidate

POWELL PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN
 REPUBLICAN:
 Debra York, Wilmore
 DEMOCRAT:
 No Candidate

COLDWATER PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN
 REPUBLICAN:
 No Candidate
 DEMOCRAT:
 No Candidate

COLDWATER PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN
 REPUBLICAN:
 Margaret Hamor, Coldwater
 DEMOCRAT:
 No Candidate

PROTECTION PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN
 REPUBLICAN:
 No Candidate
 DEMOCRAT:
 No Candidate

PROTECTION PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN
 REPUBLICAN:
 No Candidate
 DEMOCRAT:
 No Candidate

POLLING LOCATIONS, TIMES
 Protection, 404 N Broadway Ave, Protection, KS 67127
 Coldwater, 239 W Main, Coldwater, KS 67029

PURSUANT TO THE FOREGOING, I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT A PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON THE 4th OF AUGUST 2026 AT WHICH TIME THE CANDIDATES FROM THE ABOVE LIST MAY BE VOTED ON AT THE POLLING PLACES LISTED ABOVE. THE POLLING PLACE WILL BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. UNTIL 7:00 P.M. ON AUGUST 4th, 2026.

ADVANCED VOTING WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15th, 2026, AT THE COMANCHE COUNTY CLERKS OFFICE, 201 S NEW YORK, COLDWATER, KS 67029.

ADVANCED VOTING WILL END ON MONDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 2026, AT 12:00 NOON.

DONE AT MY OFFICE IN THE CITY OF COLDWATER, COUNTY OF COMANCHE AND STATE OF KANSAS THIS 13TH DAY OF JUNE 2026.

BRI UHL
 COMANCHE COUNTY
 ELECTION OFFICER

(SEAL)

Commission, continued from page 1

—Heard a report from Register of Deeds Heather Puderbaugh and County Clerk Bri Uhl on a recent meeting with representatives of Soteria Technology Solutions of Wichita. The company needs to raise their support cost on the computer system in the courthouse, sheriff's office and road and bridge department. Those prices have not been raised in the past five years. At that time there were 20-some computer workstations with 50-some separate email addresses. Now there are 54 workstations and 44 email addresses. Currently the county pays \$2,538 per month and after counting the work stations and separate email accounts, the company representative has

explained the amount should be \$6,948.90. Soteria offered to spread that increase over several years, but no final dollar figure has been set. The Solutions representative also recommended that the extended warranty on the five-year-old computer server connecting all the computers in the courthouse be renewed for two more years at \$1,100 per year. They also discussed the price of replacing the old server within the next few years. They had no estimate of the cost of a new server.

—Agreed to advertise for bids cutting and baling the grass around the airport.

—Discussed the fact that county offices and services will be closed Friday, July 3 for the Fourth of July holiday.

LEGAL NOTICES

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First Published in *The Western Star-Protection Press* on June 11, 2026. 45-47c

IN THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT, COMANCHE COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

Case No. 2026-PR-000005

In the Matter of the Estate of:)

ELLA MARIE ALEXANDER CHURCH, deceased.)
 (Petition Pursuant to Chapter 59 of K.S.A.)

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF DESCENT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed on June 1, 2026, in said Court by Ricky D. Smith, petitioner. You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 30th of June, 2026 1:30 o'clock p.m., on said day, in said Court, in the City of Coldwater, Comanche County Courthouse, Probate Division, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition.

RICKY D. SMITH

HANNAH L. MOLZ, #27626
 124 E Kansas
 PO Box 148
 Medicine Lodge, Kansas 67104
 620-886-5611
 620-886-5560 (facsimile)
 office@bclawks.com
 Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF COMANCHE COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RADLEY O'NEILL CHRISTIAN, DECEASED
 Case No. CM 2026 PR 000006
 Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified Shelby Christian filed a Petition in this Court June 8, 2026 to determine descent of real estate owned by Radley O'Neill Christian, deceased, located in Section 8, Township 32 South, Range 18 West of the 6th P.M.; Section 16, Township 33 South, Range 19 West of the 6th P.M.; and Sections 3 and 35 in Township 34 South, Range 19 West of the 6th P.M. all in Comanche County, Kansas, and other property owned by Radley O'Neill Christian, deceased, subject to the Kansas laws of intestate succession.

Persons wishing to challenge the Petition must file written defense on or before July 6, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the District Court of Comanche County, Kansas, Courthouse, 201 South New York Avenue, Coldwater, Kansas 67029 at which time and place the Petition will be heard. If you fail to do so, judgment will be entered in due course on the Petition.

Shelby Christian
 Petitioner

Charles H. Herd SC#12809
 Attorney for Petitioner
 PO Box 428
 Coldwater, Kansas 67029
 Phone 620-582-2020

Fun Monday mornings at the Chief Theatre!

Free Movie & Free Concessions!

Monday, June 22

Starts at 10 a.m.

at the



Animated/Teen/
 Comedy/Adventure
 95 minutes



Movie sponsored by Pat Soderberg
 Concessions provided by Katie Watson



INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW TO MAKE SALSA?

The Comanche County Extension is hosting a workshop where you can learn the basics of water bath canning, and go home with two different canned salsas.

The Salsa Making Workshop is set for 6-9 p.m. Thursday,

July 2 at South Central High School.

Cost of the workshop is \$20, payable to Comanche County Extension. For more information, or to sign up, call the office at 620-528-2411 or email cjsnyder@ksu.edu.

Local students on college spring honor rolls

Fort Hays State releases spring 2026 Dean's Honor Roll

HAYS, Kan. — Fort Hays State University has named 1,996 students to the Dean's Honor Roll for the spring 2026 semester.

The Dean's Honor Roll includes undergraduate students only. To be eligible, students must have completed 12 or more credit hours and earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.60 for the semester. Full-time on-campus and online students are eligible.

The list does not include students who requested privacy.

Sarah Hardy of Coldwater and **Ivan Gardea** of Protection were listed on FHSU's Dean's Honor Roll.

Sarah graduated from South Central High School with the class of 2023. Her parents are Matt and Amanda Freund and Jason Hardy.

Ivan graduated from SCHS with the class of 2025. His

parent is Alonso Gardea.

Northwestern announces honor roll for spring 2026

ALVA, Okla. — Spring honor rolls at Northwestern Oklahoma State University have been announced by the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Those on the President's Honor Roll earned all A's, or a 4.0 grade-point average (GPA), in a minimum of 12 undergraduate or nine graduate hours.

Those on the Vice President's list had grade-point averages of 3.5 or better in a minimum of 12 undergraduate or nine graduate hours.

To be listed on any of the rolls, students could not have any incomplete work.

Ashton Patterson of Protection is an undergraduate student and was listed on the Vice President's Honor Roll. She is the daughter of Tammie Thronsbury of Protection.

County Extension Office's community garden is in full growth

By **Cindy Snyder**
County FACS Agent

Folks driving by the Comanche County Courthouse will notice a difference in the community garden on the southeast corner of the block.

Thanks to a generous grant from the South Central Community Foundation, the Kansas State University Extension office in Comanche County is expanding its community garden (*below*) that benefits the communities of Coldwater, Protection, and Wilmore.

This year the garden features 11 raised beds measuring 17 inches tall by 24 inches wide, and nine feet long. In addition is a bed that is U-shaped, measuring 17-24 inches wide by 13

feet long. Another is rectangular, measuring four feet wide and nine feet in length.

A pair of large arched trellises have been put in place for the climbing plants.

The raised beds are made of corrosion-resistant metal, have a 20-plus-year life-span, and made of recyclable metal if they ever need to be replaced.

As of this week, tomatoes, beans, onions, squash, and more were already growing in the planters and looking healthy. They have benefited from recent rains, but they are also being watered with a drip watering system.

All three communities will have access to the produce grown in the beds, and agents

will work with area schools and daycares to provide learning opportunities in gardening and plant growth.

In concert with classroom teachers and daycare providers, students will experience hands-on learning by starting seeds indoors and, once sprouted, caring for the plants.

Once the plants are ready to harvest, a cart located in the Comanche County Courthouse will provide individuals with access to free fruits and vegetables, with the option to make a free-will donation.

The South Central Community Foundation and Comanche County Extension are happy to bring beauty and bounty to this part of southwest Kansas.



HOP movie offered free!

Playing free at the Chief Theatre next Monday, June 22 is the movie *HOP*. The live action/animated movie will be sponsored by Pat Soderberg and free concessions will be provided by Katie Watson.

HOP is a very funny movie, with some laugh-out-loud dialogue, that insightfully points out the problems in every family. That said, although its subject is Easter (it was released just two weeks before Easter 2011), it contains no religious or spiritual elements whatsoever. It is produced by Illumination Entertainment — the creators of *Despicable Me*, *The Grinch*, and *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie* (among others).

At the time it was acclaimed as one of the better children's movies in a long time. There's very little objectionable material. The violence is mild, although augmented by good dialogue and good writing to heighten its impact. In fact, the writing is terrific.

The most notable thing about *HOP* is its technical perfection. It puts live action and animation into the same frame so seamlessly that the filmmakers might easily not get credit for it

The movie's appeal is largely the result of the perfectly cast James Marsden as Fred, a lovable slacker who accidentally injures a floppy-eared rabbit who calls himself E.B. (perfectly voiced by Russell Brand).

HOP, the comic tale of Fred, an out-of-work slacker who accidentally injures the Easter Bunny and must take him in as he recovers. The movie opens with young Fred waking up in the middle of

the night to see the Easter Bunny land in his backyard in an egg-type sleigh drawn by flying chicks. No one in his family believes him.

Next — 20 years later on Easter Island — the Easter Bunny is preparing to pass the magical Easter egg wand to his son, E.B., who wants nothing to do with Easter. Instead, he wants to go to Hollywood and become a drummer in a rock band.

Two weeks before Easter, E.B., the future Easter Bunny, arrives in Tinsel Town. While looking for a place to live, he is hit by Fred's car. E.B. takes advantage of Fred, and they develop a conflict-laden relationship as E.B. manipulates Fred into getting him into a talent tryout with David Hasselhoff (who plays himself rather well).

While both Fred and E.B. are rebelling against their fathers, they eventually realize they should do the right thing. So, the movie has a strong moral core that parents will appreciate. There are many other positive moral statements in *HOP*. Cleanliness, punctuality, kindness, and all sorts of other virtues are affirmed.

HOP is a surprisingly enjoyable and fun film for younger kids that also makes decent viewing for older audiences.

County fair is coming up

By **Cindy Snyder**
County FACS Agent

Monday, July 13 through Saturday, July 18 will be the six-day Comanche County Fair with a variety of agricultural, educational, and fun-for-the-whole-family events going on throughout the week.

One of those fun events will be the ever-popular **Community Carnival**. It

runs from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, July 16. As in the past, it will be held at the Comanche County Fairgrounds.

Included will be games for young and old alike, with many organizations there raising funds through whatever events they have scheduled.

For more information, or to register your booth, call the extension office at 620-582-2411 or email cjsnyder@ksu.edu.

DID YOU SEE the painted lines on the sidewalk and grass in front of Dave's Pizza Oven in Coldwater last week? It signaled a power pole replacement. Last Monday, six Pioneer Electric trucks, including a pair of pickups, took up nearly the entire outside lane of US160/183 as they placed a new utility pole in order to keep the power to the old Family Bowl bowling alley from crossing over the roof of the building. The change was made because a new owner has plans for the structure. Southern Pioneer employees from Coldwater and Medicine Lodge made up the crew that drilled a hole for the new pole, put the pole up, and installed new transformers on it. The chore took much of Monday morning to accomplish. Photo by Dennies Andersen.



KANSAS FOOD BANK MOBILE PANTRY

Wednesday, June 24
1-1:30 pm while supplies last

Coldwater
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NEWS



ON ITS FIVE-DAY, 21-TOWN, 1,000-MILE 2026 SUMMER ROAD TRIP across the state, the KSN news team broadcast this Monday's noon news from the Coldwater Veterans' Memorial Park. Taking advantage of the shade of the park's gazebo, anchors (left to right) Julia Thatcher, Jeff Herndon and Zach Martin check their electronic "cue cards" (mobile phones) during the broadcast. Shot earlier in the day, but aired during the noon news, was an interview with Comanche County Hospital Administrator Lisa Brooks and physical therapist Lisa Girk about the hospital's physical therapy expansion project and fundraising efforts to make it possible. Photo by Dennies Andersen.



By Andrea Mitchell

Summer activities are in full swing at the Protection Township Library. Kids enjoy the air conditioning daily.

Several kind ladies donated games for them to play and we also received an anonymous shipment of games from Target that someone had ordered for us. Thank you so much for your generosity and for helping me make the library somewhere they want to hang out.

The new games are Game of Life of Dogs, Hi-Ho Cherry-O, UNO, Dora Dominos, Connect Four, Chutes and Ladders, four card game sets for toddlers, and a USA map puzzle.

We had a couple of fierce games of Hi-Ho-Cherry-O going on with the three-year-olds at Toddler Time.

The library had a few new events for Friday, June 12, to keep everyone busy. From 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., there was a Kids Paint with Andrea and from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. was the adults-only Welcome Mat paint event in the Community Room. Both events were fun and we all learned from each other.

The kids' class is FREE and the adult class is \$15 to cover supplies. If you plan to join us

please call the library at 620-622-4886.

- A few new books arrived last week:
- The Probability of Murder* by J.D. Barker
- The World of Starts Anew* by Jean Grainger
- Voice in the Wind* by Francine Rivers
- Look Again* by Tim Tebow
- The Women of the Bible* Speak by Shannon Bream
- Imogene's Antlers* by David Small
- Pretzel* by Margret Rey
- Katy No-Pocket* by Emmy Payne
- Doctor Dan* - Little Golden Book
- Nurse Nancy* - Little Golden Book
- Santa's Workshop* - Little Golden Book

Stop by our library and check out all of the fun and sign up for our Summer Reading Program, *Unearth a Story*. Get the kids' book tracker and they can start winning prizes now!

Until next time, be kind, stay out of the heat, and grab a new book.
Andrea

County Rec Commission

By Susan Edmonston

T-Ball update

Sports are still happening this summer with the Comanche County Recreation Commission. It ends with the T-Ball Tournament on Saturday, June 27, at Kinsley.

T-Ball teams involved are Ashland 1, Ashland 2, Bucklin,

Dear Editors...

Great paper as always and so thankful for the *Star-Press*! Arlie and I thank all of you who are keeping this going!

Patricia Lohrding
Coldwater

Wishing you much success in continuing the *Star-Press*. I was very impressed with your debut issue.

Linda Phillips
Andover

Thanks to both of you for your positive comments. As we said a couple of issues back, we're just "holding down the fort" before new publishers Jason and Stephanie Jump of Kingman take over. They have arranged with Katee Underwood of Coldwater to gather county news and photos for this new publication beginning in July.

In the coming months, however, you will likely see some familiar bylines in the *Star-Press*. Several former *Protection Press* and *Western Star* personnel plan to contribute material periodically.

And, please: Support Jason, Stephanie and Katee!—Dennies Andersen/Dave Webb.

Toy Story 5 plays this weekend at Chief Theatre

By Dennies Andersen

On the first weekend of its release, *Toy Story 5* will play in the Chief Theatre in Coldwater this Saturday and Sunday evenings, June 20 and 21, sponsored by Randy and Sally Selzer of Protection.

The 3-D animated comedy/adventure runs one hour and 42 minutes and is rated PG. Both showings will begin at 8 p.m., with the concession stand and box office opening 45 minutes prior to the movie.

Toy Story 5 is directed by Andrew Stanton and is a direct sequel in the Toy Story franchise. Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, and Joan Cusack reprise their roles as Woody, Buzz, and Jessie.

The sequel brings back all the regular characters to face a new threat to young Bonnie's playtime: technology in the form of the Lilypad (Greta Lee). Toy Story is Pixar's original animated franchise, and even 30 years after the original is still one of its biggest hits.

Notable about the movie's PG rating is that it is the first time in 31 years that a Toy Story film has received the more mature PG rating, rather than G, which is for all ages.

All four previous Toy Story movies have been rated G, although a spinoff, *Lightyear*, received a PG rating. That film was rated PG for some violence and mild bathroom humor. *Toy Story 5*'s PG rating could simply be due to stricter classification rules, rather than much darker material. Notably, several Disney films that appear very family-friendly have also received PG ratings in recent years.

Toy Story 5 picks up three years after *Toy Story 4*, with Woody having spent that period out on the road with Bo Peep, helping lost toys find new owners.

The bald spot and the belly that Woody now has show the wear and tear of a toy that has been working hard and living rough, instead of sitting safely on a shelf.

In the new sequel, Pixar revisits the plot of the original Toy Story when Buzz Lightyear's arrival threatened Woody as the favorite toy.

Now it's Lilypad, a frog-faced tablet voiced by Greta Lee that lets kids build chat groups, make digital friends, and disappear into a screen for hours.

Bonnie, now roughly eight or nine years old and voiced by Scarlett Spears, uses Lilypad to get invited to a sleepover through a friend request, and the toys start to feel like background furniture.

Having returned, Woody and Buzz slide right back into their competitive, affectionate back-and-forth routine that has been the backbone of the franchise since it first began.

As *Toy Story 5* hits the screen, the franchise is already the fourth highest grossing animated franchise in history. And early *Toy Story 5* reviews all say all the same thing—this movie could be another instant Pixar classic.

One early reviewer called *Toy Story 5* "another heartfelt film in this franchise."

Unless you are one of the few moviegoers who didn't like the earlier Toy Story movies, this will be one you want to see.

Levi Miller and Lora Welsh from Protection.

T-Ball 3 team is coached by Phillip Sawyers and Aaron Sawyers of Protection.

Here is the schedule for the rest of the T-Ball season. All games begin at 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 18

Ashland 2 vs Comanche Co. 2 in Protection

Comanche Co. 3 vs Comanche Co. 1 at Coldwater, north field

Tuesday, June 23

Comanche Co. 2 vs Kiowa Co. 1 at Greensburg, east field

Kiowa Co. 2 vs Comanche Co. 3 at Coldwater, north field

Comanche Co. 1 vs Kinsley 2 in Kinsley, Lions field

Machine Pitch update

Our Machine Pitch team in Comanche County has only two games left before the tournament is held in Bucklin

on Thursday and Friday, June 25-26.

Machine teams involved this summer are Ashland, Bucklin, Comanche County, Kinsley 1, Kinsley 2, Kiowa County, Spearville 1, Spearville 2, and Spearville 3.

The Comanche County Machine Pitch team is coached by Bryce and Rhiannon Hazen of Protection and Gene and Jerica Glenn of Wilmore.

The Comanche County team won't play this Thursday, June 18, because they have a bye.

Tuesday, June 23

Spearville 3 versus Comanche County at 7:30 p.m. at Coldwater, north field.

Thursday, June 25

Comanche County versus Kinsley 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Kinsley, grandstand area.

Kids and parents invite you to come out on a summer evening and watch the fun.

Capturing Classic Coldwater



HERE'S A PEEK AT CENTRAL AVENUE IN DOWNTOWN COLDWATER. We're on top of what now is Dave's Pizza Oven, looking south. At the far left, the Harbaugh building was built 1888. Before it became a bank (People's Bank, a branch of Stockgrowers State Bank, Ashland, today) it was a department store with the town's opera house upstairs. The frame building just south was Kimple's real estate office at one time. The cinder block building next to it is the home of *The Western Star*, built in 1910. Based on the plethora of telephone and power poles and early automobiles, the photo likely dates from the late Teens or early 1920s. At least four wooden elevators stood along the railroad at that time, but the depot is hidden behind the long shed labeled "The Farmers Elevator Co. Vehicles & Implements." In the right foreground, the Golden Rule Oil Co. was one of a chain of service stations started in 1896 by Elbert Rule of Sharon in nearby Barber County. He claimed his Blue Ribbon gasoline produced "A straight run, was crystal white, and sweet smelling." According to a sign along the sidewalk, the hidden business just south of the station was a blacksmith. Several wagons and buggies in front of the large cinder block building indicate it was a livery barn. Photo was found at *The Western Star*.

Past Paragraphs

Protection news from earlier times

Compiled by Dave Webb

125 YEARS AGO

Western Star
June 21, 1901

Protection paragraphs

The Fourth of July celebration [here] is the principal topic of discussion now.

The rain on Tuesday evening cooled the atmosphere and made it very pleasant.

Lon Holbert, Fred Deppink and A. Gould have gone to Barton county to help harvest.

Mrs. G.W. Reed is improving. Lloyd Vance has gone to Alvaretta, Oklahoma.

A.T. Rodgers has put up a new Sampson windmill.

I.K. Rodgers attended court several days this week.

J.O. Bare, of Clark County, was a trader in Protection this week.

Mrs. M.M. Cosby spent a few days at Coldwater the latter part of last week and the first of this week.

G.W. Reed drilled a well this week for C.h. Volkman, of Irwin Township. He struck an abundance of water at a depth of 37 feet.

Elder Martindale's sermon here last Sunday morning was a splendid one, as are all of his sermons. Rev. Fisher, the pastor, preached a good sermon in the evening. —[Correspondent] "RALEIGH."

Protection prattle

Get ready to celebrate. Who is to be the orator at Protection on the Fourth?

Bicycling is coming into style in Protection, judging from the appearance last Thursday night.

They say that R.H. Morton is learning to "Reed."

George Thomas commenced work on the [railroad] section [gang] Monday.

Jesse and Orley Edmonston and Harvey Snell started to harvest Monday.

Did you notice how happy Homer Moore looked Sunday evening?

We haven't heard a criticism from "Ralph" for a week or two. Something must have gone wrong with him.

The "birthday party" in this city on Friday night is looked forward to with a great deal of interest. —[Correspondent] "JUNIPER."

In court

The case of Edward Carroll vs. John A Lightner which was begun in the district court on Thursday afternoon of last week, was prolonged far into this week, nearly five days having been consumed in the examination of witnesses and the reading of depositions.

The jury was readily secured on Thursday evening. . . .

The importance of the case is due to the fact that several important points of law involving the ownership of several

thousand dollars work of cattle would be determined.

Judge F.C. Price, C.H. Kohler and Rich Brothers appeared for the plaintiff and J.W. Davis, T.K. Richey and Charles M. Myers for the defendant.

Every detail of the case was thoroughly gone over and ably argued on each side. The taking of evidence was completed Wednesday evening, and yesterday morning the judge read his instructions—29 in all—to the jury.

Four hours time was then consumed by the attorneys in arguing the case before the jury. At the time we go to press on Thursday afternoon the jury is still deliberating.

The Carroll-Lightner cattle case which occupied just one week in the district court was probably the longest civil case ever tried in the county. It was one of the hardest fought from a legal standpoint. The issues in the case were of vital importance and the outcome was watched with much interest by the cattlemen all over the county.

Home topics

The whistle of the threshing engine will soon be heard far and near.

Protection expects to give a music entertainment in the near future.

The ladies of the Protection Methodist Church will give a "birthday party" in the city tonight.

A number of Comanche County people will attend the sale of the Osage Indian lands at Dodge City on July 10. . . . —[Correspondent] "HOMER."

Just plain hot

The temperature on the shady side of buildings during the afternoons of the past few days has ranged from 95 to 100 degrees.

100 YEARS AGO

Protection Post
June 17, 1926

Harvest is in gear

The last days of last week and the first of the present week saw the opening of the 1926 harvest in this part of south central Kansas.

In a few scattered fields the binders were started Thursday and Friday, but they are very rare indeed that started last week.

However, on Monday a more general movement was made toward the beginning of harvest and in some localities the header crews began work and very generally over the section by the last of the week the combines will be operating as the wheat is ripening very rapidly these hot days with high winds at night to

prevent dew falls.

The harvest hand situation seems to care for itself very well this year and plenty of hands are showing up for the demand as but few farmers have been unable to date to fill their crews.

Locally, the combine has helped to decrease the demand for labor of the harvest hand, and tractor and threshermen are in more demand.

Dozens of combines have moved from Protection and similar surrounding towns this year into the harvest fields and the effect of the combine is felt not alone by the laboring harvest hand, but by the grocer and supply men, as well as in the business line.

Coupled with the combine comes the tractor, which will furnish the motive power for the combine and hourly can be heard the hum of the tractor leaving the implement houses for the combine lot and there picking up its burden and leaving for the harvest field and in almost every direction one motors these days and at all hours of the day and into the night, the tractors and combines are on the roads leading into the harvest fields. . . .

By 1926 combines pulled by tractors were rapidly replacing old-fashioned headers that had been pushed through wheat fields by teams of mules or work horses. The pull-type combines had an offset header that allowed the tractor to run over the last cut wheat. It also began a new harvest trend—hauling a load of wheat to the elevator directly from the field by truck (see "First wheat loads" below). For decades, wheat had been cut in June, then threshed later by other equipment, and then still later moved to elevators by teams and wagons.

The next harvest innovation—self-propelled combines—weren't common in Kansas until after World War II.

First wheat loads

Tuesday evening at about four o'clock, the Eubank Grain Company* purchased the first load of new wheat on the local market.

This wheat was from the crop of Floyd Harness and was combine wheat. It tested 57 pounds and was of good quality though a little tough. It sold for \$1.20 [or about \$22.58 today, believe it or not!]. Mr. Harness had started his combine at noon.

On that same day, Tuesday, June 15, but about two hours later, the Farmers Cooperative Supply Company** purchased the second load of new wheat on the local market from Cale Winn. The wheat tested 59 pounds and was exceptionally good quality. It also sold for \$1.20.

On Wednesday the first [railroad] carload of new wheat from the local market was consigned and billed by the Protection Cooperative Supply Company of Protection to the Farmers Commission Company at Hutchinson, and the manager of the local elevator, J.D. Groves, stated that he hoped to be the first on the market and that he felt sure that his car of wheat would rank high as to its quality. It tested a heavy 59 [pounds] and would probably test 60 as the wheat loaded into this car was all of exceptionally good quality and test. . . .

*At that time Eubank Grain had moved to a frame elevator along the south side of the railroad, located on the site of today's Farmers Cooperative warehouse.

**The Protection Cooperative Supply owned two frame elevators along the north side of the railroad, northwest of their successor's large concrete elevator today.

Noted entertainer

Last Wednesday evening, Blind Boone (below), the noted colored musician and his assistant, a young colored girl, rendered a program at the Pastime Theatre under the auspices of the Baptist Woman's Missionary Circle.



He played to a full house and the people fully appreciated his wonderful skill as a pianist. The girl sang several songs which were much enjoyed by all. Blind Boone calls his affliction a blessing in disguise. He seems a very happy old man and is of a pleasing personality. He called from a pianist from the crowd and Miss Gladys Ramey was persuaded to play. He pronounced her a real musician.

The Baptist women were well pleased with the success of the entertainment and realized a goodly sum as their part of the proceeds.

John William "Blind" Boone (1864-1927) was born to an ex-slave mother in a Union military camp in Missouri. When he was six months old, "brain fever" swelled his brain. Doctors relieved the pressure by removing his eyes.

Friends later sent him to a school for the blind to learn how to make brooms, but he left to pursue music. As word of his talent on the piano spread, he began touring the country giving over 300 concerts a year. He retired in 1924, but had to go back to work after his incompetent manager lost most of his assets. Boone died just over a year after appearing in Protection.

Living illegally

Tuesday afternoon City Marshal Roy Row arrested and took to Coldwater on "Bill" Benefield, address given as Coffeyville, and Evelyn Coffman, address given as Wichita, for lewdly abiding.

The couple had drifted into Protection some three weeks ago and had been living as man and wife, until picked up and arrested by Marshal Row.

They are being held at Coldwater until investigation of the charges against them can be made and if found correct, they will be tried in the district court for violation of the statutes covering the offense with which they are charged.

75 YEARS AGO

Protection Post
June 15, 1951

Teachers find housing

Chester Hayden, new athletic coach, and Russell Duer, new high school mathematics teacher, visited in Protection the first of the week. They were guests at the Tuesday Lions Club dinner. Mrs. Lora Hayden and Mrs. "Janie" Duer and Cynthia visited with Mrs. Ruby Cushman.

Chester and Lora Hayden made arrangements to occupy the new residence being built by Mrs. Clara English. The Duers and Cynthia will reside in the Mrs. Tom (Dorothy) Percifield residence. They both plan to come to Protection early in August.

55 YEARS AGO

Protection Post
June 18, 1971

Harvest 1971 underway

Harvest got underway Tuesday afternoon in the Protection vicinity with farmers cutting all around the town.

The usual three- and four-day jump the south of town farmers get on the north of towners doesn't hold true this year, as the crop is ready to cut over a large area.

The Collier Flats got a hard rain Sunday, measuring 2.90 inches at Ralph Baker's, so moisture content in the grain and muddy fields have actually slowed that neighborhood down.

If the elements behave, this will be one of the better yielding years for the Protection community. One of the better reports from the north of town area reported 41 bushels an acre average on an 80-acre field.

Although some farmers are reporting green berries and 18 percent moisture content, the bumper wheat crop will mostly be in the bin by the first of the week.

Ouch!

Stewart Herd entered the Comanche County Hospital Monday afternoon with a brown spider bite, which he had received sometime Sunday night while sleeping. It was a severe bite requiring surgery on the right side of his back. Stewart is the son of DeWayne and Dolores Herd.

New arrival

Roger and Sandy Hoffman of Coldwater announce the birth of a son, Kyle Dee. He was born June 11 and weighed 7 pounds, 5½ ounces. Maternal grandparents are Garland and Irene Fitzwater of Protection and paternal grandparents are William and Eunice Hoffman of Coldwater.

35 YEARS AGO

Protection Press
June 20, 1991

Harvest 1991 in the bin

By Bob Greer
Wheat harvest in the Protection area is virtually complete. Combine crews moved on northward several days ago. Only a few fields were being cut this week.

Wade Harmon, general manager of Protection Co-op, estimated at 5:00 p.m. Monday that about 97 percent of the crop in this area had been harvested.

The big surprise was the quality of the wheat cut. It was generally excellent grain. That was remarkable considering the lengthy drought conditions which plagued the growing season through the winter.

Wade said one area farmer had remarked to him: "We raised wheat this time on two dews and half an inch of rain!"

That was almost literally true. . . .

As of Monday evening, the co-op's two elevators in Protection and Coldwater had taken in about 700,000 bushels of wheat. Harmon estimated the final total at the two elevators from 1991-harvested wheat will probably reach 825,000 bushels.

Harmon early last week had predicted the wheat quality might be better than expected, in spite of low precipitation. And his "hunch" was correct.

The highest yield in the Protection area of which he had heard was 66.45 bushels per acre on a plot of 90 acres. Several others were in the 40-bushel range.

"But the majority of the yields will be in the 20-bushel range," he guessed. . . .

The co-op had no problems with railroad hopper cars. Nine were in Protection Monday and eight at Coldwater the same day.

Rains never stopped the harvest here, but did slow things down on occasion. Threatening clouds and storms were plentiful. . . .

15 YEARS AGO

Protection Press
June 16, 2011

Harvest 2011 about done

By Bob Greer
Precipitation during the first five months of 2011 has been extremely lean.

Protection got only 3.92 inches of moisture in that period. Coldwater had 3.82 inches. Ashland was the driest place in the immediate area with only 3.28 inches.

So the "big talk" around this region has been about drought. And it has been real. Dry conditions have existed through Oklahoma and Texas, too.

But this story isn't about rain-fall or droughts. It's about the 2011 wheat harvest around here.

And would you believe this? The almost-finished harvest has been substantially better than was expected just a couple of weeks ago.

Brian Harris is branch manager for elevators at Protection, Sitka and Ashland. He commented on Tuesday:

"Honestly, I cut my anticipated budget for this harvest to about half of normal. But we have been doing much better than we expected!"

He summarized the matter in this manner:

"We have probably taken in about half the number of bushels this year compared to what we did last year. Our workers have been doing a good job for us."

Yields per acre have ranged widely—all the way from 5 to 40 bushels per acre.

"I'm hoping the average will run about 25 bushels," Harris said.

Moisture content has been about 9 percent. That's a low figure, but a good one. . . .

As of Monday night, Protection had taken in 563,380 bushels of wheat. Sitka 75,246, and Ashland 72,918—for a total of 710,538 bushels.

"We're still cutting," Harris said late Tuesday, "But not much."

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NEWS

Back in the Older Days

Coldwater news from earlier times
Compiled by Teresa Jones

130 YEARS AGO From June 20, 1896 Star

The Republican county central committee is hereby called to meet in the city of Coldwater, at 2 p.m., on Saturday, June 27th, 1896. Business of importance to the party will come before the committee at this meeting.

The annual round-up of the Salt Fork Live Stock Association is now in progress. Frank King is captain of the roundup and has with him six or eight assistants. It will require about two weeks to do this job.

A slight shower of rain came up Monday night, but there was not enough of it to do material good.

If the thermometer is any test, Monday and Tuesday were Summer days. The thermometer was ranging around the 105 mark in the shade these days.

The recent rain was much needed and is making wheat much better. Corn is growing nicely.

There isn't a small boy in town that thinks he can climb the greased pole on the Fourth and gain the prize.

The Fourth-of-July committee has made arrangements to have four barrels of free ice water stationed on the four corners of the main business thoroughfare of the city for thirsty mortals on the Fourth.

The city marshal killed a dog this week that showed symptoms of being rabid. August is the month for rabies, but the dry weather is likely to usher the season prematurely.

120 YEARS AGO From June 15, 1906 Star

Teachers' examination today and tomorrow.

The teachers will now soon be looking around for schools.

The next regular teachers' examination will be held at the close of the county Normal institute, on Friday and Saturday, June 15 and 16, beginning each day at 7:30 a.m. This will be the last examination before the schools begin, hence it is important that all who expect to teach in this county and who are not already holders of certificates should attend this examination. Anna H. Gray, County Superintendent.

The Peoples State Bank put on two artistic window signs this week.

Another good rain on Monday forenoon. It was quite general all over the county.

Remember the Sunday school convention in this city on next Sunday, afternoon and evening, and plan to be present.

Geronimo, at one time, the most blood-thirsty among Apache Indians, the other day preached a short sermon to about a hundred members of his tribe at the Fort Sill military reservation in Oklahoma. The old chief seemed much affected while speaking. He stood on a tree stump amid a cluster of elms on the Medicine river. At the close of the services he offered a prayer for President Roosevelt.

110 YEARS AGO From June 16, 1916 Star

Do you realize that the year 1916 is nearly half gone?

The "good roads movement" ought to have numerous converts, as a result of the recent heavy rains.

The Coldwater baseball team walloped the Protection nine Tuesday afternoon on the local diamond. The boys scored hits easily from Protection's pitcher, running in 5 scores in the 7th inning, when the game was called on account of darkness. The score was 15 to 6, with the Coldwater boys holding the heavy end.

Two or three good rains have fallen over the greater part of Comanche-co. during the past week. In the vicinity of Coldwater on Sunday night, some damage was done by the wind to small buildings and to trees. On Tuesday night some hail fell, but very little damage reported to have resulted therefrom. The temperature has been delightfully cool for middle of June weather. The ground has about all the moisture it will hold and the farmers are now hoping for two or three weeks of sunshine.

Carpenters are busy remodeling the high school room and

getting the third story of the main building ready for use as a high school auditorium.

June, 1916, is so far proving to be an ideal month as far as weather conditions are concerned. The farmers say, however, that it has been a little too cool, much of the time, for corn or kaffir to make the most rapid growth.

100 YEARS AGO From June 18, 1926 Star

While Kendall Coles, the 12 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Coles, who live near Coy, was riding his father's cow pony in a pasture one day last week, he scared up a coyote in a canyon. Kendall decided that he would rope the coyote like his daddy does calves, and uncoiling his lariar rope, he started after the animal. He was fortunate enough to throw the rope around the coyote's neck and part of its body at the first throw. The lad did not stop to bull dog the coyote, but wrapped the rope around the saddle horn and dragged the animal home at a lively rate. When he reached home the coyote was nearly dead, and Ed finished killing the varmint. We have heard of some men roping coyotes, but we believe this red-headed 12 year old boy holds the national championship in coyote roping.

During the busy summer rush, cars may park on Main street from the Peoples State Bank corner to the Commercial Hotel corner, both in the center and at the curb. However, double parking (one car directly behind another) will not be permitted. Cars at the curb are to park between marks on the sidewalk and at a 45-degree angle. Cars in the center of the street are to park at right angles to the street. Please take notice and help avoid accidents, CITY COUNCIL.

Keep in mind the fact that the Comanche-co. fair for this year will be held during the first week of September, and begin now to get your exhibits ready for it.

Comanche county recently purchased a new 60 h.p. Caterpillar tractor, for use in doing road work. Arthur Goodale has charge of the tractor, also of the tractor purchased by the county from Avilla-tp. He is considered a dependable man for that work.

90 YEARS AGO From June 12, 1936 Star

The Western Light & Power corporation has a crew of men here, rewiring the distribution system of the company, where needed.

Real hot weather hit Comanche county with a bang this week.

Coldwater's free swimming pool is popular with other towns, too.

Tennis is affording physical exercise for a lot of our young people just now.

On last Sunday, the Coldwater baseball team defeated Ashland, at Ashland, by a score of 14 to 8. Coldwater is scheduled to play the Paruna, Okla., nine at the fair grounds east of Coldwater next Sunday.

The Lookout Panthers played ball with a team from Waynoka on the Freedom diamond, Saturday afternoon, winning with a score of 19 to 2. They were presented with \$5.00 for being winners.

All mothers interested in a kindergarten for five year old children should meet at the Murray-Meador home next Wednesday afternoon, June 24, at 2:30 to discuss the possibility of beginning that work.

Grasshoppers are terrible, here in Comanche county, most gardens having been partially destroyed by them. They are also eating some wheat and it is feared that they will eat up the tiny spring crop as it comes up.

80 YEARS AGO From June 21, 1946 Star

The rain Tuesday afternoon was welcomed by everyone as a relief from the temperatures of 100 to 104 degrees, which had prevailed for about a week, but it put a stop, temporarily, to the harvesting of wheat. The hot, dry weather was ideal for the ripening and combining of the golden grain. Old Man Rain

gave the fields a precipitation which ranged from .38 in Coldwater to 2½ inches at the Ernest Miller farm in the south part of the county.

Wednesday was cool and cloudy most of the day and Wednesday night the temperature dropped from the 104 ceiling of last week to a low 50. However, the combine crews started again Thursday morning.

Editors visiting here used to boast of "all the news that's fit to print," but with the newsprint shortage so acute they just use the news that's printed to fit. Virg Hill.

70 YEARS AGO From June 15, 1956 Star

The annual state convention of Job's Daughters was held in Great Bend last Friday and Saturday, ending with a ball Saturday evening. Miss Sandra Prophet, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Prophet of Coldwater, was selected by a drawing as Queen of the Ball and was awarded an arm bouquet of beautiful roses, a crown and pin, which she may wear for one year. Miss Prophet was also chosen as Second Messenger of the Grand Bethel of the State organization.

Mrs. Harry Kropf of Coldwater was the lucky winner of the Game of Tag program over KGNO Dodge City, last Saturday morning. The program is put on by the Phillips 66 Company. It is a new program and Mrs. Kropf is the first winner. To win the prize it was necessary that she have her card displayed in her car window and that she call the station before the program was over. Her Comanche tag number was selected at the broadcasting station. She complied with all the rules and won the jackpot, which amounted to \$132.00 [just over \$1,600 in today's dollars].

Edward Collett, who had been farming near Mullinville with his father, Wm. Collett, for several years, was recently appointed as a border patrolman and is attending a nine weeks' border patrol school at El Paso, Texas. His wife and four children packed their belongings into a trailer and their car and on Monday set out for El Paso to join Mr. Collett. Mrs. Collett is the former Miss Alice Pearl Lawrence, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Lawrence of Coldwater.

60 YEARS AGO From June 16, 1966 Star

Stephen Carrithers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wyman Carrithers, won second place trophy in the Championship fight at the Duffers tournament in Dodge City on Sunday. The tournament was sponsored by the American Legion of Dodge. He also won first for making the longest drive, 280 yards, winning three golf balls.

All boys ages 13-15 interested in playing baseball in the Pony League, please contact Rev. Baugh or Robert Yadon and get a practice schedule.

This is hot, windy, harvest weather. Wheat cutting is in full swing in Comanche county.

Rev. and Mrs. George Baugh last week received a several days' visit from their son, Jack Baugh, and wife and their two sons. Mr. Baugh had been employed as an electrical engineer for Naval Ordinance at Norco, Calif. His new position is a plant representative at Boeing in Wichita for the U.S. Government. Jack is a graduate of the

engineering school at Kansas University, Manhattan.

The woman who constantly interrupts a man's conversation is either already married or never will be.

50 YEARS AGO From June 17, 1976 Star

Remember Coldwater's Bicentennial Parade and Celebration July 3rd.

The Coldwater Chamber of Commerce bicentennial beard growing contest is now in progress. For those who do not wish to grow a beard, a permit pin can be purchased for \$10 [over \$58 now] from Glenn Hess, Independent Oil Co. Contest ends July 3 when winners will be selected by three impartial judges.

Scouts Garry Smith and Richard Smith, of Troup 236, were assisted by Scott Fleming in the Flag Ceremony at the opening of the Comanche County Bicentennial Pageant, June 5th and 6th.

Greg Schultz, David Beckham, Mike Jesseph, Gayle Thomas, Fred Smith, George Reid, and Celia Brown went to Pittsburg, Kans., to the state Special Olympics, June 3 to June 5. Sponsors were Phyllis Haltom, Mary Schultz, and Wayne Davis. Greg Schultz took first in softball throw; David Beckham took first in shot-put; Mike Jesseph took first in standing long jump and third in fifty yard dash; Gayle Thomas placed third in the fifty yard dash; George Reid placed first in standing long jump and second in the 220 yard run.

Track meet for boys and girls who were in grades 1 through 8 last year will be held Saturday, June 19, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Coldwater track. Schedules of the events to be run in this track meet are posted around town and interested children are asked to call Glenn McFall. Older youth and adults who would be able to help run-off the meet are also asked to call McFall. It is expected that there will be entrants from Mullinville and Protection also.

Brandi Jo Stewart was the first baby in this Bicentennial year to be born in the Comanche County Hospital. Brandi Jo was born at 1:10 a.m. Monday, June 14, 1976, weighing 5 lbs. 13 oz. Her parents are Mr. and

Mrs. Rocky Stewart, Coldwater. Mr. Stewart is the Fifth grade teacher and his wife, Elizabeth, is the First grade teacher in the Coldwater Grade School. Elizabeth (Libby) and baby were discharged from the hospital on Wednesday, June 16th.

40 YEARS AGO From June 19, 1986 Star

If elderly folks want to stay in their own homes rather than live in rest homes, they might want to consider "Lifeline." It is an emergency system demonstrated to members of city council, law enforcement and hospital auxiliary people by Beverly Marr, Lawrence, at Prairie Plaza recently. It consists of a battery powered communicator button which the person wears, hooked up to a receiving base at a hospital or other 24-hour emergency service. A one party telephone line is required for the user. It has a failure rate of less than 1 percent; invented in 1972 and on the market since 1980. There are a variety of safety features built into it; there is a phone line check done every four hours; it has a "sip and puff" capability for a person rendered speechless. "Lifeline" serves as a means of security and reassurance that help can always be contacted, no matter what the circumstances. It offers an alternative to live-in help or nursing homes at considerably less cost to the user. The estimated individual equipment lease charges of \$15-\$30 [\$45-\$90 in 2016 dollars] per month, and indicated that the system is covered by Medicaid.

Mrs. Marr said, "We prefer to sell "Lifeline" to hospitals, but we are offering it to all emergency agencies and rest homes. These agencies can then lease the equipment to individuals." One base unit can handle as many remote communicator buttons as required. The system will not become obsolete.

"There are two local people presently using communicator buttons hooked up to distant hospitals, and I want to assure them that nothing will interfere with their service." Mrs. Marr also said "In a town this size, a start-up remote non-voice unit with 20 communicators would cost \$4,995. The sponsoring agency can get started with one month's lease fee.

Insight: Picture perfect

By Kim Baldwin
McPherson Co farmer/rancher

Sixteen Junes ago my soon-to-be-husband and I had our engagement photos taken. We began at the photographer's Main Street studio.

Then we drove out to a wheat field with our local elevator in the background and the photographer captured a few more images of us standing in the field surrounded by golden wheat.

Those wheat field images would become my favorites, and it was something I thought we could capture annually to celebrate another year together.

Little did I know that finding a time to schedule an annual photo in a field of ripe wheat would be a challenge.

While the wheat has always been present for a photo, purposely stopping the daily workflow of farming in June to get cleaned up and dressed up to have those photos taken is another story.

Nonetheless, we've still somehow managed to get our wheat field photo session taken every year—although not by a professional. Sometimes it takes half an hour whereas other times it's only a few minutes. Over the years, these photos have been captured in a variety of ways.

Sometimes I've handed my camera over to a friend or family member with short to little notice. In other instances, I've just propped a cell-phone up on a tailgate and set the timer in a spur of the moment photo opportunity.

The photos we've logged over the years of my little family standing in a field of golden wheat have recorded something much more important to me.

They have captured our life over those years.

And while these pictures are definitely not studio-quality and most years they haven't even been edited, they are, in my eyes, picture perfect!

Kyle Hoffman

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Applications are available at the Road and Bridge Office, 401 S. Philadelphia, Coldwater, or at the County Clerk's office in Courthouse at 201 S. New York Ave., Coldwater.

COMANCHE COUNTY USD 300 is now seeking applications for a custodian, full-time, 40-hour work week, 10-hour days four days a week, Monday through Thursday, good benefits. Contact Supt. Mike Baldwin at 620-582-2181 or 316-239-9995.

ON-FARM TIRE REPAIR — Call Kropf Oil Company in Coldwater. 620-582-2391.



Event dates and times subject to change on short notice.

Many thanks to the great patrons who visited Cake Club and talked to PBS's "See Taste and Do" host Phil Richardson! You are the heart of Ashland and you made the community look great.

July 4th Parade: Join the Kazoo Band! The library will purchase great kazooos for all who plan to ride the Kazoo Trailer for the parade. Band members will play the greats, such as "America the Beautiful" and "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

Author Jefferson Knapp of *Kingdom at the End of the Drive* fame, Monday, June 22, 10 a.m.

Adult Art with Mary Harden, Monday, June 22, 6 p.m.

Summer Reading, "Unearth a Story." All events are free and open to the public.

Kids Art, every Wednesday through June, 4 p.m.

Dan Dan the Magic Man, Monday, June 29, 10 a.m.

Summer Foods continues every Monday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All children from

birth to age 18 are eligible for a food box from the Kansas Food Bank. Children must be present at the time of sharing or come in early to sign a permission sheet.

Reading Earns Pizza! Summer Readers can earn a mini pizza from Sam's Pizza Barn by reading 500 pages (at your level). Graphic Novels earn pizza at 1,000 pages due to words per page. Pick up a Summer Reading page at the library and start earning pizza!

New Summer Reading Books!

Cloud Puppy by Kelly Leigh Miller

Mixed Feeling by Sara Amini

Chasing Eruptions by Curtis Manley

Feo the Chupacabra by Sequoia Blankenship

While We're Here by Anne Wynter

Beginning Middle and End by Jon Burgerman

102 by Matthew Cordell

A Salmon Story by Willie Poll

New Adult Titles:

The Dinner Party by Freida McFadden

Deep Water by Stuart Woods

A River Red With Blood by John Connolly

Road Trip by Mary Kay Andrews

Cold Fire by Clive Cussler

Down With The Shipmans by Meg Mitchell Moore

Harvest 2026 is wrapping up

Harvest is winding down in this area and will probably be finished by this weekend.

The Alliance Ag & Grain elevator at Sitka is now closed and took in around 50,000 bushels of wheat. The elevator in Ashland has around 60,000 bushels and Protection's elevator received 475,000 bushels of wheat with a few trucks still coming in on Tuesday.

Rusty Frazier, manager at the Alliance Ag facility in Coldwater, said Wednesday that wheat harvest is about 80 per cent completed for the year in the Coldwater and Wilmore area.

The elevator in Coldwater has taken in about 280,000 bushels so far and Frazier said three cutters planned to be in the fields Wednesday, with a few others just finishing up.

Recent scattered rains have cut the test weights down to about 58 pounds per bushel. As far as yields go, he said most are reporting in the 20s, with an occasional 30 bushels per acre report. Many, however, are falling below the 20 bushel level.

Manning the elevator at Wilmore, Joe Booth said that while wheat started out around there at 61-62 pounds per bushel, it is now down around 58. He said yields had been ranging from

20 to 30 bushels per acre. Booth reported Wendell Unruh is the only one still cutting wheat in the Wilmore area.



Date	High	Low	Precip.
6-10	97	67	0.20
6-11	97	67	0.00
6-12	85	60	0.00
6-13	86	67	0.15
6-14	94	60	0.00
6-15	76	63	0.00
6-16	81	63	0.00

Wheat prices

JUN 10	\$5.55
JUN 11	5.59
JUN 12	5.59
JUN 15	5.65
JUN 16	5.58

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NEWS



3-YEAR-OLDS-1ST GRADERS SOCCER CAMP coached by Jaymi Westrup. Back row (left to right): Patriot Lopez, Sebastian Hazen, Kellyn Fletcher, Taylor Cox, Keenan Waters, Chloe Hazen, Merritt Harris. Front row: Tatum Warden, Sutton Lohrding, Halstyn Lohrding-Huck, Taygen Jackson, Ka-leigh Lopez, Arlo Bean, Knox Carlin, Shepherd Harris, Stetson Baker. Photos by Reagan Carlin.



PROTECTION NATIVE STAN HERD's latest "earthwork" was unveiled on the Kansas University campus at Lawrence earlier this week. It's a huge image of the Algerian flag in green, white and red. Stan used the natural grass at the site for the green half of the flag, sand for the white (to honor the Sahara Desert) and red mulch for the flag's crescent and the star design. Why an Algerian flag? During the World Cup Soccer matches that are being played in Kansas City, the Algerian team is using Lawrence as its "home base." Photo from Stan Herd Arts Facebook page.

Comanche County Rec Commission offers summer camps



2ND-5TH GRADERS SOCCER CAMP. Back row (left to right): Sadie Snyder, Jake Miller, Quaid Swingle, McCrae Hazen, Keegan Brumbaugh, Ava Glasgow. Front row: Thea Welsh, Quinton Swingle, Dawson Baker, Hallie Miller, Oliver Herd, Judson Welsh.



TENNIS CAMP. (Left to right): Coach Stephanie Salisbury, Alex Lichtenwalter, Aspen Freund, Harper Loesch, Kitana Black, Coach Claudia Abel.

Mailman Mike Taylor is having a milestone birthday, June 30!

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Susie's Scribbles



By Susan Edmonston

The home on West Walnut that was advertised for sale in the *Star-Press* this month has been sold to Nathan Welsh of Protection.

Residents may remember this was the house where Chuck, Charlotte, Kip and Kelly Fiegel lived. Chuck taught from 1974-1998 at Protection High School. He coached, and taught history, government, PE, social science, and driver's education classes. His wife Charlotte was a cook at the school. Kip graduated in 1991 and Kelly in 1988 from PHS.

It was announced Saturday evening at the monthly Bingo event that Bingo at St. Joseph's Church in Ashland is canceled in July because the Clark County Fair is going on.

The highlights of my birthday were the cards and gifts I received and the time spent with daughters Sheri, Emily, Amy and Connie and their families.

The whole area in Comanche County has greened up

because of the rain received this month. The wheat harvest is winding down, and farmers have begun to plant crops to be harvested this fall.

The children in the Love-bugs class at the Protection Methodist Church have enjoyed using "clay dough" as we wait for everyone to arrive. It is a recipe I've used for years and stays soft a long time if it is saved in a plastic container or a zippered baggie.

The ingredients are: 1 cup water, 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, food coloring, 1 cup flour, ½ cup salt, 2 teaspoons cream of tartar.

Pour water in pan on stove. Add oil and drops of food coloring to the water. Stir. Add flour, salt and cream of tartar. Stir. Heat at low to medium and the mixture will thicken into lumps as you continue stirring. It will begin to stick to sides of pan. Then empty the mixture on a piece of wax paper. Knead. It will be warm at first so you might have to wait a minute. After playing with it, put in a zippered bag or a plastic container with a lid.

The Western Star-Protection Press

Volume 142/Issue 44 Official Newspaper for Comanche County, Cities in Comanche County, USD 300 June 4, 2026

Do you like what you're reading in this "new" newspaper? We hope so!

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