

# The Western Star-Protection Press

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Official Newspaper for Comanche County, Cities in Comanche County, USD 300

June 25, 2026

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## Worship Woodworks owner/operator says goodbye

By Susan Edmonston

After 32 years of creating handcrafted Christian education materials, Sally Selzer (*below*) is leaving her business in Protection, Worship Woodworks (WW). She says she's looking forward to spending more time with her friends and family. Her son Ryan and daughter Christina live nearby. Sally and her husband Randy have six grandkids, ages 2 to 8.

Through WW, she has sold handcrafted biblical materials for use by churches, home schools, and hospitals, including purchases by West Point Academy.

To aid in teaching children the wonder of worship, these materials are used with two books: *Young Children & Worship*, coauthored by Ashland native Dr. Jerome Berryman, and Dr. Sonja Stewart of Holland, Michigan, and *Following Jesus*, authored by Dr. Stewart.

Using Sally's products, teachers can help children understand difficult Biblical stories using a piece of felt as a "landscape."

While instructors talk, they move wooden figures around the background. Sally has used a variety of wood, some exotic: walnut, aromatic cedar, Spanish cedar, cypress, cherry and zebra wood. Most of the story characters (*below right*) are 3 to 5 inches tall and they depict individual Biblical characters. Through WW Sally also sells specially-designed wood structures including Noah's ark, Solomon's temple, boats, houses and scenery pieces.

After the teacher finishes a Bible story, the children are asked "wondering questions." The teacher acknowledges the children's responses, not replying with a "teacher's thought." This allows the children to share their own "wondering" ideas.

More than 1200 separate items are listed in the Worship Woodworks, Inc. online catalog: [worshipwoodworks.com](http://worshipwoodworks.com)

Sally has shipped products across the U.S. and Canada, and occasionally to Europe, Asia, Australia and even China.

### A homegrown company

Worship Woodworks began in 1994 while Sally was working for Godly Play Resources in Ashland. It was suggested that she start her own business making some of the materials needed by Godly Play Resources.

So in 1995, Sally opened shop in the family garage in Protection, making products to use with the book, *Young Children & Worship*.

With her husband's help and encouragement, she hired her first employee, Donna Shaw. The small business grew; she soon needed more help and more space. In 1997, with the neighbors' approval, Sally purchased a house at the corner of Walnut and Garfield streets, formerly owned by Vernon and Pearl Loucks. It was a convenient location, just a block west of the Protection post office.

**See Worship Woodworks, page 2**



**CLOSED FOR THE SEASON.** For a few weeks recently, the Alliance Ag & Grain elevator at Wilmore (*below*) added some hustle to the bustle of everyday life in Comanche County's city along Mule Creek. But now, until semitrucks haul loads of this year's wheat crop out to other facilities for shipment, this white skyscraper will stand silent, waiting for next year's wheat harvest to open its office, tune up its truck scale, and crank up the legs in the elevator—ready to do its duty storing wheat for another year. Photo by Dave Webb.



**FORMER COLDWATER MAYOR JOE CEBALLOS (right) surrendered to Immigrations and Customs Enforcement officials in Wichita in mid-May. He was accompanied by attorney Sara Balderas (left) plus reporters and a crowd of protesters against the U.S. Government's handling of his case. Once taken into custody by ICE, Ceballos was moved to a detention facility in Chase County. After a bail hearing, he was released on bond and is now back at work for CMS Electric Cooperative in Comanche County. Photo by NPR station KCUR, Kansas City.**

## Joe Ceballos is back home, awaiting a hearing on his case in November

By Dennies Andersen

Joe Ceballos, 54, of Coldwater, had to once again go to Wichita last week to meet with an Immigration and Customs Enforcement official.

Charged last November for voting without being a qualified American citizen, and for election perjury, he faced those charges in Comanche County District Court in April, and paid a fine. The district judge also sentenced him to six months in jail, but suspended the sentence.

Most people thought that was the end of the matter, with Ceballos saying at the time he planned to pursue getting his U.S. citizenship—but it proved not to be the end of the matter.

In May he was told to report in Wichita to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office. There he was taken into ICE custody and spent 22 days in the Chase County jail before he was granted a bond hearing. Once he bonded out he returned to Comanche County.

Last Tuesday's trip to Wichita was for a post-jail-time check in, and Ceballos was to receive an electronic ankle bracelet so his location could be tracked.



However, Sara Balderas, his attorney, pointed out to Senior Case Specialist Wendy Escobar that the electronic bracelet would interfere with his job, since he wore steel-toed boots and worked around high voltage electric lines. She said if Ceballos had to wear the bracelet he would lose his job.

Escobar checked with her boss, and it was determined that Ceballos did not need to wear the tracking bracelet.

Balderas specializes in guiding clients through complex immigration challenges. She has extensive experience in removal defense, fighting to protect individuals facing deportation, and keeping families together.

Since his green card, social

security card, and driver's license had never been returned to him since last May when they were taken from him in Kansas City, Michael Bushnell drove him to and from Wichita. Bushnell is the district manager of the CMS Electric Cooperative office in Coldwater, and Ceballos' boss. His green card, social security card, and driver's license have since been mailed to his attorney and Ceballos now has them.

What's next? Ceballos said this week that he is now awaiting a Nov. 25 "master hearing" at which time it is to be decided whether to deport him or let him remain in Coldwater where he hopes to pursue his U.S. citizenship.

## Board holds special meeting

By Dennies Andersen

Members of the USD 300 Board of Education met last Thursday evening at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the two open faculty positions at South Central High School.

After signing a waiver of notice for the special meeting, board members briefly discussed applicants for the open positions of principal and technology director at South Central High.

They then went into ex-

## Kason Valerius improving after surgery

By Dennies Andersen

Kason Valerius, 2026 graduate of South Central Middle School, has been diagnosed with some type of infection in his left femur.

Former South Central High School Principal Bud Valerius said this Monday was his son's eighth day being treated for the infection. He has had two operations on his femur (upper leg bone).

"They think they got the infection," Valerius said Monday, "so now we're just waiting on the test results to come back."

He is now in the Oklahoma University Children's Hospital Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

Young Valerius will be a freshman in high school in Medford, Okla., this fall. His father is the Adult Basic Education Coordinator at the Pioneer Technology Center in Ponca City, Okla. His mother, Laura, was formerly the technology director at SCHS and is currently an online instructor for Barton County Community College at Great Bend.

ecutive session to discuss personnel matters for 10 minutes, and again for another 10 minutes. No action was taken before the meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Those two openings are the result of the resignations of Principal Bud Valerius and his wife Laura. They have moved to Ponca City, Okla., where he will be in charge of an adult education career technology program.

When Valerius shared his future plans with the local school board at a recent meeting, he explained that it was a change he had wanted to make for some time, and it would allow him to spend more time with his family.

## Hospital project groundbreaking Monday at 9 a.m.

Don't forget—the groundbreaking for the new physical therapy expansion project at Comanche County Hospital is this coming Monday, June 29.

Everyone is invited to stop by (in the space between the hospital and clinic) at 9 a.m. to witness the groundbreaking ceremony.

Many Comanche County residents, both current and past, have contributed to this important health project and they (and you) are welcome to see your donations begin to work. When finished, the expansion will greatly increase the hospital's outpatient capabilities in several areas—aquatic therapy, women's pelvic health services, and cardiac rehabilitation.

These types of health care are currently available at a considerable distance from Comanche County. Soon they will be offered right here!

# NEWS

## Worship Woodworks, from page 1

Over the years, Worship Woodworks continued to grow. The house became a shop with the office in the bathroom, the large equipment in the living room, the scroll saws in a bedroom. She put a felt-cutting table in another bedroom and stored wood and shipping boxes on the front porch. Every inch of that house was utilized.

As good fortune would have it, the business flourished as other books using the hands-on approach teaching Bible stories were released. Worship Woodworks items are now adapted for use by all ages, not just children. Sally also produces materials for stories written by some of its customers, including retired Methodist minister Richard Gibson of Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Sally soon needed more space so in 2000 she had a self-contained steel shop building put up east of the house to facilitate easier lumber delivery. She purchased additional equipment, and hired several more Comanche County employees.

She kept the office in the original house (though it was moved out of the bathroom) and she set up the packing/shipping area in the original living room.

In 2004 she had the original garage adjacent to the house torn down and replaced with another metal building.

As her business expanded Sally purchased a building in Coldwater. There, with Danny Bruckner and Mike McMoran running a CNC (computerized milling) machine, they were able to produce more in less time. There they also made kitchen cabinets, desks, bookcases, and urns.

In 2019 Sally had the house in Protection demolished, and she replaced it with a large steel building that included plenty of office space, storage units,

and areas for processing and shipping.

The COVID pandemic in 2020 caused many businesses and churches to shut down, and orders for WW products slowed. Fortunately, sales have come back. In fact, when she notified her longtime customers that she was retiring, she said “new orders came flooding in.”

Three years ago, Worship Woodworks became an access point for UPS deliveries and drop-offs. UPS now stops there three days a week: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. (The driver picks up outgoing packages on Fridays at Stick It Signs in Coldwater.)

Sally Selzer is one busy woman with her business and community activities. She has served as mayor of Protection, taught Sunday school and Vacation Bible School, organized Methodist Church condolence dinners, been an Alzheimer’s supporter, farmwife, made bazaar crafts, attended Bible studies, helped with fundraisers, visited Protection Valley Manor residents, and still had the energy to be a blood donor.

Sally has also been a guest speaker and has led programs for local clubs and organizations. She also helps place flags and flowers at the cemetery over Memorial Day weekend and enjoys learning and sewing for special events.

As one of her former employees said, “Sally has a heart of gold, and in her business, she did a little bit of everything.”

She makes it plain she’s not retiring just yet. She continues to make products and fill orders. She would like to find a buyer to continue operating Worship Woodworks.

If that isn’t possible she would sell her equipment and then hope to find someone to purchase her buildings (*below*).



## SING is final free Monday movie this summer

By Dennies Andersen

The Iroquois Center for Human Development, based in Greensburg, is sponsoring *SING* as the free movie at the Chief Theatre Monday, June 29. The Iroquois

Center is also sponsoring the concessions.

As have the other free Monday movies during June, *SING* will begin at 10 a.m. with

See *SING* page 6

## 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, not provided, Lawrence  
Pond Naramore, 1339 Maple Ln, Lawrence 66044  
DEMOCRAT:  
Damon Anderson, PO BOX 890010, Shawnee 66226  
Christy Davis, 715 1st St, Cottonwood Falls 66845  
Jason Hart, 302 N Pershing, Wichita 67208

Kevin Latz, 6341 Belinder Ave, Mission Hills 66208  
Erik Murray, PO BOX 3032, Kansas City 66103  
Sandy Spidel Neumann, PO BOX 2159, Mission 66201  
Michael “Mike” Soetaert, 815 N Woodlawn Ave, Apt 127, Wellington 67152-2837  
Noah Taylor, 7130 W Maple St, Wichita 67209  
Patrick Schmidt, 303 SW Woodlawn, Topeka 66606  
Anne Parelkar, PO BOX 25174, Overland Park 66225  
Adam Hamilton, PO Box 6, Stilwell 66085

#### UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – DISTRICT 4th

REPUBLICAN:  
Ron Estes, PO BOX 782952, Wichita, 67278  
Frank A McCollum, 465 W Rd, Fall River 67047  
DEMOCRAT:  
Chris Carmichael, 2634 N Bluestone Ct, Andover 67002  
Cole Epley, 5711 N 45th St N, Bel Aire 67220  
Ryan Gilbert, Not provided, Goddard  
Katy Tyndell, PO BOX 781004, Wichita 67207

### STATE OFFICES

#### GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

REPUBLICAN:  
Charlotte O’Hara/Michelle Dombrosky, Overland Park/Olathe  
15712 Windsor Ave, Overland Park 66224  
Stacy L Rogers/Michael W Smith, Wichita/Lansing, Not provided  
Ty Masterson/Jeffrey Klemp, Andover/Lansing  
1539 Phyllis Ln, Andover 67002

Nick Reinecker/Katy Reinecker, Inman/Inman  
504 S Maple, Inman 67546  
Philip Sarnecki/Joy Eakins, Overland Park/Wichita  
PO BOX 12081, Overland Park 66282

Vicki Schmidt/Joe Newland, Topeka/Neodesha  
PO BOX 3801, Topeka 66604  
Scott Schwab/Ken Rahjes, Overland Park/Agra  
PO BOX 2818, Olathe 66062

DEMOCRAT:  
Ethan Corson/Renee Duxler, Fairway/Saline  
PO BOX 4513 Overland Park 66204  
Cindy Holscher/KC Ohaebosium, Overland Park/Wichita  
PO BOX 2903, Olathe 66063  
Curt Skoog/Jenner Dacani McKenney, Overland Park/Fredonia  
PO BOX 7053, Overland Park 66207

#### SECRETARY OF STATE

REPUBLICAN:  
Pat Proctor, 624 Kickapoo St, Leavenworth 66048  
DEMOCRAT:  
Jennifer Day, PO BOX 104, Mission 66202-9810  
Samuel Lane, 6302 Hallet St, Shawnee 66216

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL

REPUBLICAN:  
Kris Kobach, PO BOX 155, Lecompton 66050  
DEMOCRAT:  
Chris Mann, 3514 Clinton Pkwy Ste 108, Lawrence 66047

#### STATE TREASURER

REPUBLICAN:  
Steven Johnson, 10197 S Hopkins Road, Assaria 67416  
DEMOCRAT:  
Juan C Luengo, 14904 S Summit St, Olathe 66062

#### COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

REPUBLICAN:  
Daniel Hawkins, 9406 W Harvest Ln, Wichita 67212  
DEMOCRAT:  
Dinah Sykes, Not provided, Lenexa

#### STATE REPRESENTATIVE 116th DISTRICT

REPUBLICAN:  
Kyle D. Hoffman, 1318 Avenue T, Coldwater 67029  
Herb Landwehr, 11778 SE Walstead Rd, Sharon 67138  
DEMOCRAT:  
Nathan Bales, 112 N Ninnescah St, Apt 303, Pratt 67124

#### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION 7th DISTRICT

REPUBLICAN:  
Alana McWilliams, Not provided, Abilene  
DEMOCRAT:  
Ann Zimmerman, 3904 N Ohio, Salina 67401

#### DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DISTRICT 16 DIVISION 1

REPUBLICAN:  
Sidney R. Thomas, 2317 Kerri Dr, Dodge City 67801  
DEMOCRAT:  
No Candidate  
COUNTY OFFICES

#### COMANCHE COUNTY COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 1

REPUBLICAN:  
Zackery Ellis, 2287 Avenue C, Wilmore 67155  
DEMOCRAT:  
No Candidate

#### COMANCHE COUNTY CLERK

REPUBLICAN:  
Abriana (Bri) Uhl, 110 N Topeka, Coldwater 67029  
DEMOCRAT:  
No Candidate

#### AVILLA PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN

REPUBLICAN:  
Kyle Hoffman, 1318 Avenue T, Coldwater 67029  
DEMOCRAT:  
No Candidate

#### AVILLA PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN

REPUBLICAN:  
Sandy Hoffman, 1382 Avenue T, Coldwater 67029  
DEMOCRAT:  
No Candidate

#### POWELL PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN

REPUBLICAN:  
Michael York, 2127 Road 20, Wilmore 67155  
DEMOCRAT:  
No Candidate

#### POWELL PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN

REPUBLICAN:  
Debra York, 2127 Road 20, Wilmore 67155  
DEMOCRAT:  
No Candidate

COLDWATER PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN  
REPUBLICAN:  
No Candidate  
DEMOCRAT:  
No Candidate

COLDWATER PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN  
REPUBLICAN:  
Margaret Hamor, 304 S. Chicago, Coldwater 67029  
DEMOCRAT:  
No Candidate

PROTECTION PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN  
REPUBLICAN:  
No Candidate  
DEMOCRAT:  
No Candidate

PROTECTION PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN  
REPUBLICAN:  
No Candidate  
DEMOCRAT:  
No Candidate

AVILLA TOWNSHIP CLERK  
REPUBLICAN: No Candidate  
DEMOCRAT: No Candidate

COLDWATER TOWNSHIP CLERK  
REPUBLICAN: No Candidate  
DEMOCRAT: No Candidate

PROTECTION TOWNSHIP CLERK  
REPUBLICAN: No Candidate  
DEMOCRAT: No Candidate

POWELL TOWNSHIP CLERK  
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)

As of July 1, 2026, the former *Protection Press* telephone number 620-622-4288 and email address *propress@unitedwireless.com* will be disconnected.

If you’ve been a subscriber and have questions about your subscription you may call Teresa Jellison at 620-622-4501, or email her at [Howell@unitedwireless.com](mailto:Howell@unitedwireless.com)

And last, but not least, as we try to fill this empty space: Thanks aplenty to the staff and management of the *Great Bend Tribune* for always making us look good in the copies you’ve printed! You’ve been great to work with.

**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.

**Tree Trimming & Removal**  
**Stump Grinding**  
**Ironbark Services LLC**  
Call Duane Mosshart 620-622-7094  
**Free Estimates**



**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

Fun Monday mornings at the Chief Theatre!  
**Free Movie & Free Concessions!**  
**Monday, June 29**  
Starts at 10 a.m.  
at the  
**Chief THEATRE**  
Animated/Teen/Comedy/Adventure  
95 minutes  
PG  
Movie & concessions sponsored by the Iroquois Center for Human Development

# Past Paragraphs

Protection news from earlier times

Compiled by Dave Webb

## 125 YEARS AGO

Western Star  
June 28, 1901

### Protection prattle

Weather still dry.

Did you see the promenade Wednesday night?

Atlee Smith went to Coldwater Sunday to—of course you can guess why.

The "birthday party" in this city last Friday night was a success in every particular.

Miss Nellie Reed visited last week with Mrs. Sadie Richardson and Miss Nellie Baxter.

The boys who went to harvest report that they are getting very good wages—from \$2 [worth just over \$39 now] upward for single hands.

The ballgame at Protection last Saturday was very interesting. The score was 14 to 7 in favor of Ashland.

The concert in this city has been postponed until July 17. A good program has been prepared and all are expecting a rare musical treat.—[Correspondent] "JUNIPER."

### Newsbits

Not many harvest hands have been imported into Comanche County this year.

A considerable acreage of kaffir corn remains unplanted in this county. Waiting for rain.

Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Holland went to Protection Wednesday evening to spend two or three days with friends. While there Mr. Holland will do some canvassing with the view of organizing a council of the Modern [Woodmen Lodge] at that place.

George Rickstein, who is now an employee on the C.W. Sherman ranch in Protection Township, is gaining quite a reputation as a bronco breaker. Have you heard him tell about his experience last Sunday?

District Clerk R.A. Strain has a supply of blanks to be used by those who wish to purchase government land at the sale at Dodge City on July 10. Call at his office for them.

### On the railroad

A Santa Fe work train passed through Coldwater this week.

Very little stock shipping now.

H.J. Newman [Coldwater depot agent] moved to Kiowa yesterday where he will at once assume his new duties as Santa Fe station agent at that place. Mrs. Newman accompanied him as far as Wichita. She will return to Comanche County the first of next week and remain here until a house can be secured in Kiowa.

New Santa Fe agent [at Coldwater].

The morning train Tuesday did not leave [Coldwater] until about 9 o'clock. Loading sheep was the cause of the delay.

J.M. Lobaugh went to Kansas

City Tuesday with a shipment of 1,583 head of sheep from his ranch southeast of [Coldwater]. The sheep were put on the market in Kansas City on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Lobaugh has also sold the remainder of the sheep—nearly 1,000 head—including the lambs—now at his ranch, and will deliver them today or tomorrow. They will be taken to the range about 50 miles south of Englewood. The present prices offered for sheep are somewhat lower than they were last year.

Traveler (riding on an Englewood branch train): "This train must have been built on the sixth day." Companion: "Why so?" Traveler: "On the sixth day the Lord created all things that creepeth upon the face of the earth."

### Inside joke?

The "birthday party" given by the ladies of Protection on last Friday night was a very enjoyable affair and a decided success financially. The proceeds amounted to about \$35 [about \$1,400 now] which will be applied toward purchasing a bell for the Methodist church at that place.

This "birthday party" in Protection was mentioned several times by the Star editor; but never explained. Apparently it was some sort of inside joke known only to readers in 1901, leaving us today uninformed.

### Verdict decided

The jury in the case of Carroll vs. Lightner, which occupied so much of the time the court last week, brought in a verdict for the defendant. It is probably that this will be the end of this somewhat noted case.

## 100 YEARS AGO

Protection Post  
June 24, 1926

### Wheat on wheels

While harvest officially commenced last week, the general movement of the wheat onto the markets, locally, did not commence until Monday of this week when as one might state, it started with a bang and a roar.

The latter part of last week was used by wheat raisers in tuning up combines and repairing headers, preparing for the cutting time for the combine to strike, and Sunday and Monday was that time.

Generally, combines commenced work on Monday and every available truck and wagon were pressed into service to move the wheat onto the market.

From dawn of Monday until long after dark, a constant stream of trucks and wagons lined the streets of Protection moving to the local elevators with their loads of Kansas wheat.

Monday receipts at the local

elevators approximated in round numbers 25,000 bushels and every elevator was operating to capacity. Tuesday the figure mounted to between 30,000 and 32,000 bushels. . . . Wednesday a decided increase was absorbed successfully by the elevators, as the receipts of wheat [that day] amounted to above 40,000 bushels.

Wednesday night's rain with its regrettable hail will slow up the wheat movement. . . . Fields as far as the harvest has gone are varying as to localities. Some growers have reported yields as high as 35 bushels average, and some report as low as 15 bushels. Average yields are around 20 bushels. . . . Officials of the Santa Fe [railroad] are bending every effort to move the wheat as rapidly as the elevators can load it. Forty-seven cars of wheat had been taken from the local sidings up to Thursday morning of this week.

Wednesday evening, two large Mallet\* locomotives, each capable of pulling a hundred carloads, were in the Protection yards. Monday, a wheat train originated in the local yards; Tuesday, another wheat train originated locally. On Wednesday the movement from west of Protection began, but the heavy origination of wheat seems to be local.

From present indications, the 1926 wheat movement will be one of the largest in the history of this section of the wheat-raising country.

Price has remained fair with a declining tendency. The market opened at \$1.20 [\$22.58 in today's dollars] locally for best milling grades, and Wednesday was \$1.16 [\$21.83] for the same grade. . . .

Harvest hands are below the demand in numbers, but most harvest men have enough hands to keep operating and as some growers with small acreages are already finishing, with a few days harvest hands will meet the demands.

### Sad case

Last week when Marshal Roy C. Row of Protection arrested Bill Benefield and Nettie Baker, alias Evelyn Coffman, for lewdly abiding, a more important arrest was made than officials at first suspected.

Upon questioning, the girl who first gave the name Evelyn Coffman, later broke down and confessed her true name as Nettie Baker, told County Attorney Baker the true story of Benefield's relation with her.

In her confession, the girl states that she is only 13 years old, that she had known Benefield for some time, as his wife and she are cousins. . . .

[Benefield] has a wife and two small children in Coffeyville. One morning as she was on her way to school, she borrowed the couple of a filling station owner near her home to drive to school. She met Benefield on the way to school and he persuaded her to leave with him, taking the car also.

They drove to Benefield's home where he obtained a suit of clothes and either borrowed or stole some money from his wife. The couple left Coffeyville about May 28, heading for Protection, as Benefield seemed to have information regarding the community. . . .

Monday afternoon the Coffeyville officials arrived in Coldwater and left a few minutes later on their return with Benefield and the girl. No charges, they stated, would be filed against her, but Benefield, say they, would receive all that they could give him.

What better lesson in the evident wages of sin. . . .

### Maytag man

The O-K Light & Power Company of Kiowa has leased the south room of the P.D. Thorn-

hill building and is installing a Maytag washing machine shop in Protection.

The new shop will be directed by Mr. A.M. Hughbanks and will deal exclusively in Maytag washing machines and the accompanying accessories.

## 75 YEARS AGO

Protection Post  
June 22, 1951

### Former editor dies

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon, June 17, at 2:30 p.m., in the Methodist church at Hot Springs, New Mexico, for Robert C. Swenson, former editor of the Protection Post. . . .

In December 1936 Mr. Swenson, with his wife, purchased the Post from the Albert Hough Jr. estate, and he and Mrs. Swenson published the paper from January 1, 1937, until October 1, 1949, when they went to Hot Springs to make their home. . . .

Robert Carl Swenson, son of S.J. and Carolina Dorf Swenson, was born March 15, 1894, on a farm near Lindsay, Kansas, and passed away June 14, 1951, in Hot Springs, New Mexico.

He spent his youth on this farm which is still a part of the family estate, and moved into Lindsay to take his high school and college work at Bethany Academy and College where he received his A.B. and A.M. degrees. Later he took additional work at Missouri University and Kansas State College at Manhattan.

Following his college training, he entered the architectural field, transferring several years later to the newspaper profession in which he remained the rest of his life. He was married on June 25, 1923, to Mignon Louise Mayberry at Emporia, Kansas.

Together with his wife he owned and published newspapers in Pritchett, Colorado, and Wilmore and Protection, Kansas, until his health forced him to seek relief from the long hours and heavy duties of a newspaper editor.

Coming to Hot Springs in the fall of 1949, he found the climate and community very much to his liking and immediately was offered congenial work with shorter hours at the Sierra County Advocate, where he was employed at the time of his death.

### Harvest 1951 is delayed

Potential wheat harvest continues to take a beating from the weather and the arrival of hail the past two days.

Fields south of town are waiting for the combine—meanwhile the ground is a muddy mess and weeds are taking the stands. The situation became really alarming Tuesday when hail hit west of town and again Wednesday evening, this time east of town.

Some farmers near Coldwater report 100 per cent losses diminishing to about 30 per cent loss at the Cox farm four miles east of Protection.

Clouds have threatened each night the past week and rain has fallen on four of them. The unofficial moisture amounts to 2.55 inches in Protection with larger amounts falling on all sides of town.

All creeks in the valley are running bank full or slopping over. Field runoff will consequently be slow. Some low fields will not be cut, weeds will take some more and only with complete absence of rain the next two weeks may Comanche County hope to realize even a partial crop.

The present plight of harvest is even more discouraging because of the remarkable comeback the crop accomplished after being written off in March and April. . . .

While spraying wheat at Olin Millam's north of Sitka Tuesday afternoon, Phillip Randall, E.S. Dale, and Olin and Jack Millam viewed a tornado funnel north of Ashland.

Frank Lindsay's dam north of the highway went out during the rain Wednesday night.

### Big tent revival

Next week will be the final week of the big tent revival of the First Church of God in Protection, located at Main and Broadway. Interest and attendance continues to be good.



\*"MALLETT" LOCOMOTIVES (pronounced mal-LAY) had two steam boilers on a flexible frame. They were run from one cab, supposedly doing the work of two locomotives with a single crew. But the design was flawed because the two small boilers made only enough steam to move the long engine and a train at barely 15 mph. The Santa Fe Railway owned a few of the locomotives but had rebuilt most of them by 1926. It was likely the type above that hauled wheat from Protection that summer.

The Rev. Ernest A. McCool and Rev. Charles F. Thomas will be preaching next week and Rev. Thomas will be playing his saxophone. There will be a big basket lunch and an all-day meeting on Sunday, July 1, with everyone cordially invited to be present on that day for the three services. . . .

Preaching this week have been the Rev. D.P. Smith, pastor of the Church of God in Dodge City and former pastor of the Church of God here, and Rev. Earl J. Germany, pastor of the Church of God in Hill City.

Sunday, June 24, the Rev. Delbert Tetrick will be preaching in both the morning and evening services. Rev. Tetrick is pastor of the Church of God in Springfield, Colorado, and is a former pastor of the Church of God in Protection.

## 55 YEARS AGO

Protection Post  
June 25, 1971

### Harvest 1971 is over

Although a heavy Saturday night rain stopped harvest a couple of days, excellent weather conditions this week have allowed most farmers to say "finished" to the 1971 wheat harvest.

Historically, it was a good year, with yields running between 25 and 40 bushels an acre. Test weights were also good, though some less-than-60-pound wheat was cut. Protein tests taken so far show 12 percent, or less—which is not good.

The Protection Co-op Supply elevator set a record last Friday, according to manager Wade Harmon, when more than 145,000 bushels of wheat crossed over the co-op's scales. The weather was perfect last Friday, allowing farmers to get to the fields early, and to cut late into the night—accounting to the all-time daily receipts record.

Up to this past Wednesday, the co-op had taken in something less than 800,000 bushels of new wheat. Quite a bit of grain went into farm storage, so a total harvest figure for the area will not be available for some time, but it is apparent that 1971 will be remembered as a year when Protection people were able to jingle-jangle a few coins in their pockets.

### In a Capsule . . .

By Orin Strobel

The inch-and-a-half rain Saturday night slowed wheat harvest for a few days; however, since recent rains have been going around this area, the weekend moisture will be very beneficial to the recently-planted feed crop.

Carroll Smith and I will go to eastern Kansas Friday and truck [to Bucklin] a large offset press sometime this weekend. By the first of September we hope to be printing our newspapers by the offset method.

Although we have exceptionally good letterpress equipment and hate to convert our printing process, we are having problems with our picture reproductions, and beginning this fall our source of supply for engravings will no longer be available, so we are going all the way and will do all of our own picture work in our shop.

Since installing our first offset press, camera and equipment for our commercial printing department 5½ years ago, we have enjoyed a tremendous growth and are gaining a hard-earned reputation over a large area as a printing plant doing quality work. . . .

## 35 YEARS AGO

Protection Press  
June 27, 1991

### County has grown a bit

According to a tabulation of the county assessor as of January 1, 1971, posted in County Clerk Bonnie Parcel's office in Coldwater, Comanche County has gained in population during the past year.

On January 1, 1970, the population of this county totaled 2,842 people. A year later the number had grown to 2,904, a gain of 62.

During the same period, Coldwater had a gain during 1970 from 1,057 to 1,135, an increase of 78.

Protection's citizens increased in number during the year from 685 to 698, a gain of 13.

See More Past, page 4

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# NEWS

## Back in the Older Days

Coldwater news from earlier times

Compiled by Teresa Jones

### 130 YEARS AGO

From June 27, 1896 Star

The outlook is for a splendid celebration at Coldwater, July 4th.

The little boys who love a noise will not be in it for a minute unless they buy a good supply of fire works at the city drug store.

The watermelon season will follow up the July peach crop. We have had no reports from the watermelon crop this year, but there never has been a year in the history of the county when there was not a good crop of melons raised.

During June 1895, six inches of rain fell in this county. Thus far this year, there has been a trifle under 3 inches; however, there has been no rain in April or May last year.

This week has been a rainy one and if rains continue much longer the farmers will be praying for them to stop so they can hoe the weeds out of their crops. Something like three inches of water on a level has fallen in this vicinity since Sunday night, and the rains seem to have been general all over the southwest. The rains have been accompanied by very little wind, and have fallen gently, giving the ground a thorough soaking. A great change has been wrought on all vegetable life within the past six days, and the grass has changed its hue from a brown to a bright green.

The base ball game on the fourth will be between the Coldwater and Haviland clubs. As there will be a prize of \$15 in hard cash for the winners, it will be a closely contested game.

### 120 YEARS AGO

From June 22, 1906 Star

Cooler weather this week.

These are the "longest" days of the year.

The Fourth occurs on Wednesday this year.

This is a good time to cut the weeds about your premises.

What neighborhood will be the next to join the telephone movement?

Twenty-four applicants were present and took the county teachers' examination on last Friday and Saturday. The board of examiners will probably have the grading completed and certificates issued to the successful applicants by tomorrow afternoon.

Under the provisions of the present school law the time of holding the annual school meetings is fixed at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday in July.

City Marshall, J.J. Bagsley, requests the STAR to remind all persons that the firing of fire-crackers and the playing of ball on the principal streets of Coldwater are contrary to law and must not be engaged in. Every person, old and young, should respect the wise provisions of the city council to prevent losses or damages which might result from the violation of these ordinances.

Geronimo, the Apache warrior and scout, is reported to have made a contract to join a wild-west show. Geronimo is a prisoner of war on the Fort Sill military reservation, Oklahoma, and permission, which was granted him by the war department to enter into the contract, is regarded as a way of freeing the old Indian without pardoning him. He is now 84 years old, and has made many attempts to gain his liberty, in one of which he made a recent trip to Washington and saw President Roosevelt. With Geronimo are about three hundred Apaches.

### 110 YEARS AGO

From June 16, 1916 Star

The Fourth is not far away— one week from next Tuesday.

The county treasurer is in receipt of a letter from Secretary of State Botkin, urging the careful registration of all autos in the county. This is requested in order that the number of cases of auto theft may be reduced. The number of automobiles stolen each year is alarming and appears to be done in many cases by an organized band. Hand in the engine number of your car to Mr. Chapman. The number will be sent to the secretary of state and recorded. When a stolen car is found, the

engine number can be located soon by telegraph.

There evidently is need for an organized effort on the part of the citizens of Coldwater to help apprehend the sneak thieves who have been operating in this city of late. Last Sunday evening, while the preaching services were in progress at the Christian church, some sneak entered Elder Hendrickson's home and stole a good suit of clothes. Several instances of the theft of small articles, such as eggs, chickens, fruit, flowers, etc., are reported. Such thievery should be stopped, and that right soon.

The harvest hands this year in Comanche-co. seem to be a good class of men who are wanting to work.

Don't fail to read carefully the Premium List for the coming county fair. It would be a good idea to cut the list out of the STAR this week and preserve it for future reference.

### 100 YEARS AGO

From June 25, 1926 Star

Coldwater now has three butcher shops, the third one having been started this week by Roy Burnett Jr., who had been working for some time with his father in conducting a butcher shop in Dodge City. The new shop is located in the McCool Cash and Quality Store. Mr. Burnett is said to be an experienced butcher and a dependable young man. He is a son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. R.E. McGaully.

On last Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Barlow received a letter, containing birthday greetings to Mr. Barlow, from his sister, Miss Amy, who lives in Miami, Florida. The letter was brought practically all of the way by the air mail service. It required 10¢ in addition to the regular postage. The envelopes used in this service are white, with a red and a blue stripe across them lengthwise.

The tearing down of Coldwater's old school building, which was built 37 years ago, was begun this week, the contract for the work having been let to V.K. Blackard. He is to receive \$500 [about \$9,400 in today's dollars] for the work. The task of removing the material from the school grounds, of disposing of the usable material and of putting the grounds to good shape is not included in Mr. Blackard's contract. The old building was built in 1889 at a cost of about \$10,000.00 [nearly \$362,000 now]. John P. Curran, now of Pittsburg, was the first superintendent to teach in the building.

Over and over, there has come proof of the truthfulness of the Bible warning, "The way of the transgressor is hard," and yet it seems that some people go right ahead and violate many of the laws of man and of God with impunity. May it not be true that they are finding it too easy to "get by" with their misdeeds, and may not the frequency with which paroles are now granted have something to do with it? Evidently, there is need for people to learn that just punishment is apt to be meted out to all law violators.

### 90 YEARS AGO

From June 26, 1936 Star

At our meeting on June 16, the Girl Scouts made Year Books for the first time. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 30 on the lawn at Hazel Pennington's home. All of the Civic Improvement Club members are especially invited to come. We will have reports of our accomplishments during the last year and plans for the next year. We are planning to go to camp this summer. If we do not go, it will not be because we did not work with this aim in view.

The Cline brothers of this city, who won second place in the recent Protection amateur contest, will broadcast a program over KFBI, Abilene, from 12:30 to 1 p.m., on next Sunday, June 28. The three winning groups, of which the Cline brothers are a unit, will broadcast in a contest over KFBI Sunday afternoon, from 5 to 5:30 p.m. The winning group will be decided by the amount of cards and letters received by the above radio station. It is stated that the winning group of the contest stands a good chance of being given a contract

as staff artists of a radio station. The people of this county will doubtless listen in next Sunday afternoon and give the Clines a big hand by writing to KFBI, if they keep up to the usual standard as entertainers.

The children are making good use of the swimming pool these hot days.

The Comanche County Peace Action committee highly recommends for adults two picture shows, which will be shown in Coldwater at the Gossett Theater—*The Prisoner of Shark Island*, on June 26 and 27, and *Things to Come*, on July 3 and 4. These pictures should be seen in the interest of Peace.

### 80 YEARS AGO

From June 29, 1946 Star

As July Fourth occurs next Thursday, the day on which the STAR is usually printed, we should like for our advertisers and correspondents to get their copy in one day earlier than usual next week so that our force may celebrate the Fourth leisurely. We shall appreciate your cooperation.

The great American game—baseball—will soon be on the calendar in Comanche county again, now that harvest is practically over. Coldwater will play Greensburg there next Sunday, June 30, at 2:30 p.m. We will play Protection, at Protection, next Wednesday, July 3. This will be a night game commencing at 8 o'clock. Then on July 7, the Wilmore nine will play here at 2:30 p.m.

A group of Pratt boosters were in Coldwater Tuesday afternoon in the interest of a Fourth of July "Well Done Day" which is being sponsored by the Pratt Junior Chamber of Commerce. The day is full of attractions and should attract a large crowd.

Due to some of its big water pumps wearing out, the local light and power company is having trouble supplying the City of Coldwater with its normal need for water. Our citizens are asked not to waste any water.

### 70 YEARS AGO

From June 22, 1956 Star

Since last Sunday the weather in Comanche county and most of western Kansas has been hot and dry—fine for harvest but hard on vegetation and humans. According to Vernon Pepperd, weather observer, the government thermometer registered 107 last Sunday, which, it is believed, was the hottest recorded in the state. On Monday the high was 103 degrees, 100 on Tuesday and 104 on Wednesday. Thursday bids fair to be even hotter and no rain in sight.

George Scholle, Coldwater Fire Chief, asks that our citizens use exceptional care in seeing that while burning trash the burning bits of paper do not reach the dry grass, which covers the ground. Also please see that embers are extinguished at night so they will not fan into flame should the wind come up in the night. "We have been exceptionally fortunate in the past and let's all help to keep that record," he states.

Mrs. Will Darroch of Coldwater, president of the newly organized Comanche County Cow-Belles, told of the work of the group in a broadcast over KFBI, Wichita, on Tuesday June 12. The broadcast at 11:30 a.m. was heard by a number of Comanche county residents.

### 60 YEARS AGO

From June 23, 1966 Star

Karel Pavlik, who is the Coldwater manager of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, was installed as president of the Coldwater Lions Club at its noon meeting in the Comanche Restaurant on Wednesday, June 22. Mayor Donald Booth is the retiring president.

Junior Williams, who had been conducting his garage business and Allis-Chalmers agency at the rear of the Nielsen building on North Central in Coldwater, has purchased the Champlin Oil Company buildings on the corner across the street west of the Peoples State Bank in Coldwater and has moved to the new location. See his ad in this issue.

Largest private support of

4-H award programs comes from business and industry through the National 4-H Service Committee.

An estimated 600 boys and girls participated in a total of 38 events as Fort Hays State College sponsored its annual summer Track and Field Development program. Results in the six divisions included the following: 120-yard low hurdles, 1st, Skip Herd, Coldwater; 160-yard low hurdles, 1st Pat White, Coldwater; and high jump, 2nd, Mike White, Coldwater, 4 feet, 4¼ inches. Jack Crowe placed fourth in the 75-yard dash.

### 50 YEARS AGO

From June 24, 1976 Star

Coldwater's Bicentennial Celebration and 10th annual Appreciation Day will begin Saturday, July 3, at 11 a.m. The parade entries will line up beginning at the intersection of U.S. 183 and Cleveland Street east of the Branding Iron Motel and Restaurant. The parade route will be south on Central to Main Street where it will turn east to the tracks on East Main. Merchants will also feature special bargains in their stores during the Sidewalk Sale. Several will have special bicentennial arts and crafts displays in their windows.

Glenn McFall, Summer Recreation Director, has announced that a newly formed T-Ball team has just started summer practice. They will practice on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 7 a.m. at the ball diamond.

The high school cheerleaders will be selling fireworks at the Darrol Miller shop at the north edge of town, June 27 through July 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The money will be used to promote school spirit through Pep Club activities. Come help the Pep Club support our teams!

## Insight: Cultural exchanges

By Greg Doering

Kansas Farm Bureau

I can't help but think that all of the events planned for America's 250th birthday have been upstaged by World Cup visitors giving us fresh insight into how lucky we are to live in the United States.

Foreign visitors have reminded us that our everyday lives are extraordinary—from

## More Past Paragraphs,

continued from page 3

Wilmore's population decreased only slightly from 96 to 92, a loss of four.

Comanche County's college students are included in the above census, Mrs. Parcel says.

*The U.S. Census Bureau takes a citizen count every 10 years, and then posts annual estimates online. In 2020 the official Comanche County population was 1,689. The bureau's estimate for 2025 was 1,673.*

*WorldPopulationReview.com lists populations for each Kansas county, town and city. According to the site's 2026 estimates, Coldwater has 678 residents, Protection 491, and Wilmore 32. Out of the 723 communities listed, Coldwater ranks 247th, Protection 279th, and Wilmore 680th. (Smallest Kansas town is in Nemaha County in the northeastern part of the state: Kelly, population 1.)*

### Railroad up for sale

By Bob Greer

The Santa Fe Railway's trackage through the Protection area—which played a major role in helping develop the region during years past—will be sold.

An Illinois-based company was selected Tuesday as the high bidder among five trying to buy and operate 800 miles of Santa Fe lines in Kansas.

The move was hailed in the region as a good one. It strongly indicates that the line through here will not be abandoned or tracks taken up for sale and salvage. It means railroad freight service to this area will continue.

American Railway Corporation was the successful bidder. It is based in Lake Bluff, Illinois. The corporation hopes to

### 40 YEARS AGO

From June 26, 1986 Star

"July 4th fun for everyone" was the goal of the Coldwater Chamber of Commerce planners Monday night, when the final touches were put on the Independence Day Celebration plans at Lake Coldwater and here in town. Almost everything will be centered at the lake this year, and instead of spreading the various activities throughout the day, everything will start at 5 p.m. All the lakeside activities will take place on the west side of the lake. Kicking off the events will be registration for the games beginning at 5 p.m. Kids get into the action at 6 o'clock with the turtle race. Only dryland box turtles should be entered. As with all the contests of the day, prizes will be awarded the winners. Capping off the lakeside entertainment will be the annual fireworks display. The display is sponsored by the city of Coldwater and set off by the Chamber of Commerce and the Coldwater members of the Comanche County Fire Department. It will begin at approximately 9:30 - just as soon as it gets dark enough to enjoy the full effect of the fireworks. After the fireworks, a teen dance will be held in the Coldwater Veterans' building. That dance will be limited to those 18 and under. It is slated to run from 10:30 to 1:30.

On April 25, Kansas became the 25th state to pass a law requiring motorists to use their safety belts. Kansas' new mandatory seat belt use law goes into effect on July 1. The Kansas law applies to drivers and front seat passengers; includes vans, pickups and most other farm trucks; applies to every vehicle operated in Kansas, not just Kansas-registered vehicles; does not include cars made without seatbelts; exempts mail carriers, paper carriers and a list of others.

our giant gas stations to the overwhelming choices we have in grocery store aisles—compared with much of the world.

Usually, one has to leave the U.S. to experience such a revelation. Now, we can use the eyes and experiences of our visitors to rediscover how our ordinary is awe inspiring.

It's far too easy to become

See Insight, page 6

complete the deal by September 1....

*Yes, the railroad through Comanche County was sold, but no, it was not bought by the Illinois corporation. That deal fell through and on January 1, 1993, OmniTRAX, a Denver-based real estate company, took control of over 887 miles of former AT&TF trackage (mostly branches) in Kansas and Oklahoma.*

*The deal wasn't advantageous to shippers in Comanche and Clark counties because Central Kansas Railway (the subsidiary that ran trains for OmniTRAX) did more track abandonment than grain shipping—including tearing out the line from Protection west to Englewood.*

### 15 YEARS AGO

Protection Press  
June 23, 2011

### Harriet Richardson, 96

Harriet Irene (Scott) Richardson 96, died Sunday, June 19, 1991, at Cumbernauld Village in Winfield.

She was born July 10, 1914, east of Winfield, the daughter of Ivan James Scott and Luetta May (Ford) Scott. She graduated from Winfield High School in 1932 and Southwestern College in 1936.

Harriet taught home economics in Utica, Washington, Winfield, Wilmore, and at Southwestern College; then elementary classes in Wilmore, Elementary and Great Bend.

She married Royce Clark Richardson on April 19, 1942. He died November 11, 1968.... She is survived by one daughter, Mary Rogge (David) of Topeka.

Burial was June 22 at the Wilmore Cemetery.

## Minutes of Protection City Council meeting held May 13

*Editor's note: These minutes are published after the council approves them at their next monthly meeting. Thus this report in the June 25 issue includes minutes from May 13.*

Protection City Council met in regular session on the evening of May 13, 2026. The business they conducted is as follows:

— City court was held on April 22 at 5:30 p.m. Tickets were the only items on docket. Next court date is May 27 at 5:30 p.m., with a following court date on July 22 (No court scheduled in June). Approved moving court to every other month unless needed.

— Discussed clean up of properties and a possible city-wide clean-up mid-September.

— Approved purchase of equipment from Coldwater Police Department: digital camera, life proof case and portable radio Motorola Apex (with case and battery charger) for \$1,000.00.

— Heard a report from City Treasurer Shirley Norton that funds received from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) status completed. Waiting for go-ahead to complete and submit closeout report. Total funding received was \$70,658.04.

— Approval of April 30, 2026 Journal Entry, Petty Cash, Treasurer report, and Bank Statements.

— Made a conference call with pool manager Molly Murphy to cover any issues prior to opening of pool on Monday, May 25. She will have nine lifeguards working this year. Council discussed having some night swims, a possible hamburger feed, along with times for nursing home residents to swim.

— Council discussed pool prices with decision made to leave price for daily entry

(\$2.00/all ages), single pass (\$40.00), family pass (\$80.00). Pool parties will increase from \$50.00 to \$75.00 in order to cover cost of lifeguards.

— Approved adjusting water usage at 500 South Broadway Avenue. Leak has been repaired.

— Discussed changing to summer hours for public works employees, replacement of fire hydrant at Monroe/Walnut, purchase of shop lights, cold mix asphalt, work on John Deere.

— Discussed repairs needed to sewer lagoon lift station. Cables had rusted and were sucked up in pump.

— Also, notices will be posted regarding various items being flushed into the city sewer that creates problems at lift stations. Even though wipes are sold as “flushable”—they are NOT. TOILET PAPER is the only thing to flush in toilet; everything else needs to go into trash.

— Reviewed on options for various equipment to lease-purchase. Also discussed a list of equipment that could be able sold. Tabled the matter until next month. Approved selling (auction) various other items listed on agenda.

— Reviewed two quotes for repairs to water well #5. It needs a new pump and motor. Approved bid from Clarke Well & Equipment for \$14,000.

— Approved purchase of one semi load of cold mix asphalt for \$2,905.06 from APAC.

— Heard a report from City Clerk Jennifer Monroe that first-quarter water reports have been submitted. Council payment of Easy Time Clock payments of \$15/month from check to ACH.

— Approved a motion for Advantage Computer to design

website for City in the estimated amount of \$ 3,725.00.

— Approved increasing the limit of the city clerk's VISA card from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

— Approved donating \$2,500.00 to Comanche County Recreation for a new scoreboard at the Protection ball field.

— Approved sponsoring a hole at the upcoming “Greenskeeper” golf tournament for \$50.00.

— Discussed options for chip and seal on various streets around town. Per Adams Brown (city auditors) funds are available in current budget. Approved using up to \$80,000

for street work.

— Received two bids for hauling gravel and approved accepting Sam Mosshart's lower bid.

— Approved paying claims for April 9, 2026, through May 13, 2026, in the amount of \$70,152.83

— Adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

### LEGAL NOTICE

First published in *The Western Star-Protection Press* on Thursday, June 25, 2026.

47-48c

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2026-1

A RESOLUTION FIXING A TIME AND PLACE AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF A HEARING BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF PROTECTION, KANSAS, AT WHICH THE OWNER, HIS OR HER AGENT, LIENHOLDERS OF RECORD, OCCUPANTS AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST OF STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN SAID CITY AND DESCRIBED HEREIN MAY APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY SUCH STRUCTURE SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED AND ORDERED REPAIRED OR DEMOLISHED AS AN UNSAFE OR DANGEROUS STRUCTURE.

WHEREAS, the enforcing officer of the City of Protection, Kansas, did on the 12th day of June, 2026, file with the governing body of said city, a statement in writing that the structure, hereinafter described, is unsafe and dangerous.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF PROTECTION, KANSAS:

That a hearing will be held on the 19 day of August, 2026, before the governing body of the City of Protection at 6:30 o'clock p.m., at the Protection Township Library, 404 N Broadway Ave, Protection, KS 67127, at which the owner, his or her agent, any lienholders or record, any occupant and any other parties in interest, as that term is defined by law, of the structure located at:

208 W. Main Street Protection, KS 67127

Legal Description: Lots Ten (10), Eleven (11), and Twelve (12), in Block Two-Hundred and Ten (210), Hickok's Addition to the City of Protection, Comanche County, Kansas.

May appear and show cause why such structure should not be condemned as an unsafe or dangerous structure and ordered repaired or demolished.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall cause this resolution to be published once each week for two consecutive weeks with at least 30 days elapsing between the date of the last publication and the date set for the hearing and shall, within three days after the first publication, mail a copy of this Resolution, by certified mail, to each owner, agent, lienholder, and occupant at the last known place of residence and shall be marked “deliver to addressee only.”

Passed and adopted by the Governing Body of the City of Protection, Kansas, this 12 day of June, 2026. *Chris Brosius*

Chris Brosius, Mayor

Attest:

*Jennifer Monroe*  
Jennifer Monroe, City Clerk

These newspapers are those known to have been previously published in Comanche County, beginning in 1884. Many have been preserved in microfilm (or in digital form) in the county's three libraries: Comanche County Citizen, The Avilla Democrat, The Western Star, The Republican, The Coldwater Review, The Electric Light, Coldwater Signal, Coldwater Echo, Coldwater Real Estate Journal, Comanche County Farmer, Coldwater Enterprise, Comanche Sun, The People's Advocate, Echo-Advocate, Coldwater Voice, Stock Journal, The Free Knight, The Coldwater Talisman, Comanche City News, Evansville Herald, Rumsey Record, Comanche Chieftain, The Western Kansan, Nescatunga Enterprise, Protection Echo, Western Advocate, The Protection Press, The Western Kansan, Kansas Weekly Ledger, The Leader, Protection Press, The Protection Press, Protection Eagle, Protection Press (different than the other two), and the Wilmore News.



**THESE YOUNG ARTISTS** proudly display the works they created after reading the book *Where Is The Frog*, inspired by Julie Lichtenwalter, Jeremiah Savyers, Oaklee Selzer and R.J. Redger. Art program sponsored by Comanche County Recreation Commission. Photo by Reagan Carlin. Space didn't allow room for photos of over a dozen other artists.

**A BIG thank-you to all the subscribers and advertisers who have supported *The Western Star* for over 142 years and the *Protection Press* for over 42 years! Because of your help and the help of those who came before you, editors and publishers over the years have kept current and former Comanche County residents informed, entertained, and perhaps upset at times. The files of these newspapers have preserved the history and heritage of this special county nestled along the southern border of Kansas. Thank you!**

# THANK YOU!

**And now we give another large thank-you to Jason and Stephanie Jump of M3 Publishing, LLC. They have agreed to carry on Comanche County's journalism tradition in the form of this 'new' newspaper: *The Western Star-Protection Press*. We know readers and advertisers of *The Star* and *Press* will continue to support the Jumps as they continue newspaper publishing in Comanche County. Thank you!**

# NEWS



COMANCHE COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS. Photos from the department's Facebook page.

## Comanche County firefighters receive over \$15,000 from Kansas Dept. of Insurance

Topeka, Kan. — Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt has announced that the Kansas Department of Insurance has made its annual distribution to local Firefighter Relief Associations (FRAs). Pursuant to the Kansas Firefighters Relief Act, \$15,441.20 has been distributed among one local FRA in Comanche County.

“Firefighters put their lives on the line to keep us safe, and the Kansas Firefighters Relief Act acknowledges that by providing additional protections for firefighters and their loved ones,” said Commissioner Schmidt.

“The Act not only gives first responders needed safety nets, but it also allows local communities to provide their citizens with improved firefighting equipment and resources.”

The funds from the Kansas Firefighters Relief Act are generated by a two percent tax paid by insurance companies on fire and lightning insurance premiums written in Kansas.

Associations primarily use their distributed funds for insurance premiums and safety

enhancements. The relief funds may pay for the health, accident, disability, and life insurance premiums of local firefighters.

Safety enhancements such as new firetrucks, fire station building improvements, and firefighting gear can be purchased via relief funds loaned to local governing entities.

This year’s statewide

distributions totaled over \$20.7 million, distributed to 552 FRAs. The statewide distribution of the 2025 Kansas Firefighters Relief Act funds can be viewed online at [insurance.ks.gov/otherservices/firefighters/fra-relief-distributions.php](https://insurance.ks.gov/otherservices/firefighters/fra-relief-distributions.php). Kansas can learn more about the Firefighter Relief Act by visiting [insurance.kansas.gov/consumers/firefighters](https://insurance.kansas.gov/consumers/firefighters).



## Five North American native shrubs for the garden

By Melinda Myers

Here are a few of the many North American shrubs you may want to include in your landscape. As always, make sure each is suitable for the growing conditions, hardy for your location and will fit the available space once mature.

Support a wide range of pollinators and songbirds with buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) which is native to much of North and Central America. It grows 5 to 8 feet tall, prefers full to part sun, moist to wet soil and is tolerant of heat and compaction.

Buttonbush is late to leaf out but your patience is rewarded when the 1-inch diameter, fragrant white flowers appear in summer, attracting a variety of pollinators. The flower heads mature to red and the round seed heads provide food for songbirds.

Consider including one or more of the North American native roses to your landscape. Look for those species native to your area and ones that complement your garden design.

Grow them in a sunny location with plenty of space and good air circulation for the best flowering and fewest disease problems. Enjoy the flowers and many pollinators that visit and the colorful fruit (rose hips) that songbirds enjoy.

When looking for a drought tolerant shrub consider ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*). Watch for white or pinkish flowers and visiting pollinators and songbirds dining on the seeds. Place the plant where you can appreciate the exfoliating bark which reveals layers of reddish to light brown inner bark and looks great against a winter sky. Hardy in zones 2 to 8, it prefers full sun in northern locations and benefits from a bit of afternoon shade in the south.

Plant common elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) if you need a vigorous plant to control erosion, support pollinators and songbirds and naturalize large spaces. Hardy in zones 4 to 8, it tolerates both wet and dry soil and is often included in rain gardens. The fragrant white flowers appear

in summer and are used to make elderflower water. The purple-black fruit is used to make jams, jellies and wine and is eaten by birds.

The fruit of another native elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) is also black and not considered as tasty as those of the common elderberry. Always cook or ferment the fruit of both as eating uncooked fruit can cause nausea, diarrhea and vomiting. The flowers are edible and can be eaten raw or cooked.

Give elderberries plenty of space as they quickly grow and spread. Regularly remove suckers and seedlings if you need to contain the size of these vigorous plants.

Add year-round greenery along with shelter and food for songbirds by growing one of the North American native junipers. They tolerate full sun and well drained to dry soil once established. Songbirds and small mammals feast upon their fleshy cones that have also been used to flavor gin

and season some foods.

Check with your local garden centers and plant nurseries as more of them are selling native plant species. You will also find cultivars of native plants being bred for unique features or more compact growth to better fit into urban and suburban landscapes.

Find out more about native plants at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflowers Center website [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org) and from your local extension service.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* “How to Grow Anything” streaming courses and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV* and radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

BUTTONBUSH. Photo by Melinda Myers



## Insight: Exchanges, from page 4

accustomed to our surroundings. I'm sure there are Italians who don't bother to look up if they're passing the Colosseum or Trevi Fountain. Or residents of Tokyo who don't see anything special about the endless stretch of skyscrapers that make up the skyline. And I'm sure even Egyptians don't so much as glance at the pyramids and contemplate the past 5,000 years of civilization.

One of the few benefits of social media is that we get to follow along as our visitors see with fresh eyes what we've previously considered mundane like free chips and salsa at a Mexican restaurant or gratis ice water basically anywhere. They've also experienced receiving severe weather alerts, have drunk Boston taverns dry and fallen in love with ranch dressing.

And, of course, it's good to finally have the rest of the world recognize that air conditioning is, in fact, a necessity and not a luxury for much of the continental U.S. Fortunately for our visitors, the World Cup will conclude well before August's sweltering temperatures.

If there is one lesson I hope both the hosts and guests take away from these encounters, aside from Europeans coming around to putting ice in

drinks, it's that while borders do give shape to a country, the people are more alike than we appear.

Different cultures and their customs are shaped by geography, but at the end of the day, we all have much more in common than not. A good meal with friends both new and old is always welcome no matter where you're from.

As delightful as it is to have visitors genuinely enjoying our country, I know from past travels abroad the novelty of a new nation fades. Eventually the comforts of home will overcome all the new experiences here.

For me, after being out of the country for a few days, there's nothing like returning home and having a cheeseburger and fries as my first meal off the plane. I'm sure our guests will have similar experiences when they return home as well.

Until then, those of us in the U.S. can be thankful for a cultural exchange that hasn't required a passport, security lines or any travel anxiety. Rather, we've been given a golden opportunity to rediscover our own culture through the awe and astonishment of others. I can't think of a better way to celebrate America's 250th birthday.

## County Rec Commission

By Reagan Carlin and Rhiannon Hazen

The Comanche County Machine Pitch team has only one game left before the tournament. The game is tonight (June 25) vs. Kinsley at Kinsley's grandstand area. The tournament will be held in Bucklin on Thursday and Friday, June 26-27.

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 Jerrica Glenn of Wilmore.

The Comanche County team didn't play Thursday, June 18, because they had a bye.

The Comanche County team is having a great season. As of the beginning of this week they have a record of 6-0. Great job!

And it should be noted that this year is the first time that the Rec Commission teams have been combined across the county. Kids from Wilmore, Protection and Coldwater have been attending school together for over 25 years and now they're able to play together — instead of against each other — during their summer recreation activities.



By Andrea Mitchell

Hello from the library. Several kids are enjoying the donated games while the pool isn't open because of the recent rain.

Eight children attended the Paint with Andrea class and each finished a paint-by-number as well as a create-your-own canvas painting. It was fun to see their imaginations come to life in their paintings.

We will try the Welcome Mat class again sometime in August or early fall. We skipped it because only one person attended. This time of year is so busy with class reunions, baseball, camps, and family vacations that planning is almost impossible.

Added to the library this week are six books by Kim Vogel-Sawyers, several new children's books, and a few Christian-based ones.

Please come in and check out a good book to read on your patio while listening to the rain.

Until next week. Andrea

## LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF COMANCHE COUNTY, KANSAS

Case No. 2026-PR-000005

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

In the Matter of the Estate of:

NOTICE OF HEARING

ELLA MARIE ALEXANDER CHURCH, deceased. )

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

(Petition Pursuant to Chapter 59 of K.S.A.) )

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.

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF DESCENT

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.

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 (facsimile) office@bclawks.com Attorney for Petitioner

Shelby Christian Petitioner

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

# CLASSIFIEDS

**TO PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS** call M3 Publishing at 620-582-2101 or Katee Underwood at 620-518-1896 OR email [katieunderwood@thestarpress.news](mailto:katieunderwood@thestarpress.news) or [jasonjump@thestarpress.news](mailto:jasonjump@thestarpress.news).

**YOUR DISPLAY AND CLASSIFIEDS** in the *Star-Press* will reach **OVER 900 READERS!**

**COMANCHE COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE** is looking for heavy equipment operators and laborers.

Pay starts at \$14, with the possibility of higher pay with experience.

If you have questions, please call AJ at 620-582-5222.

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.

51tfn

**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.

16tfn

**ON-FARM TIRE REPAIR** — Call Kropf Oil Company in Coldwater. 620-582-2391. 1tfn



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## Harvest 2026 is 99% complete

Phone calls to the two “head-quarters” Alliance Ag & Grain elevators in Comanche County Wednesday morning revealed that this year’s wheat harvest is rapidly coming to a close.

Less than a handful of local trucks bringing in new grain were expected. For all intents and purposes, the 2026 wheat harvest is “in the bin.”

The Protection elevator, managed by Brian Harris, took in 530,000 bushels this year. Some of his employees opened the Sitka and Ashland elevators during the peak of harvest. Sitka accepted 55,000 bushels and Ashland received 90,000. Both of those elevators are now closed.

The 2026 wheat harvest is finished up in the Wilmore area, where about 35,000 bushels were taken in this year.

That was the word from Rusty Frazier, Alliance Ag facility manager in Coldwater. He also oversees the operation of the Wilmore Alliance Ag elevator.

As of this Wednesday, the elevator in Coldwater had taken in about 360,000 bushels of wheat.

But Frazier said that around Coldwater, there was a bit more wheat yet to cut, thanks to several rain showers.

Three farmers in the Coldwater area are still trying to get all the rest of their wheat cut to officially end this year’s harvest.



**Coldwater Weather**  
as recorded by Greg Vanderveer

Date	High	Low	Precip.
6-17	91	77	0.00
6-18	97	70	0.00
6-19	72	62	0.00
6-20	86	65	0.00
6-21	88	65	0.00
6-22	87	65	2.49
6-23	77	62	0.09

**Wheat prices**

JUN 17	\$5.77
JUN 18	5.72
JUN 19	Closed
JUN 22	5.63
JUN 23	5.48

**Alliance Ag & Grain Protection**  
620-622-4619

**Coldwater**  
620-582-2251

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Big and small jobs welcome  
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Coldwater

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**H**

**Howell Insurance**

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**TOYS STORY**

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**COMANCHE COUNTY MEDICAL CLINIC**

Coldwater 620-582-2136  
301 South Washington

Monday-Friday 9 am-noon 1:30-5 pm

Protection 620-622-4588  
463 US Highway 160

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday 9 am-noon 1-4 pm

Daniel Schowengerdt, MD  
in Protection Tuesday morning

Melanie Dunn, APRN-C  
in Protection Wednesday morning

Four providers serving the county

Carmen Nelson, APRN-C  
in Protection Wednesday afternoon

Ashley Alvarez, APRN-C  
in Protection Thursday morning

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Offices in Ashland and Greensburg

Phone 866-635-2331  
Email [bootes@ucom.net](mailto:bootes@ucom.net) or [shattuck@ucom.net](mailto:shattuck@ucom.net)

Monday-Saturday 4-12 midnight  
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Readers will see your message right here!

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at King's Corner 2  
Gas, Food, & Beverages  
Fourth & Central Coldwater

See...You looked at this tiny type. Folks will look at your ad, too!

# NEWS

## SING, continued from page 2

the box office and concession stand opening 45 minutes earlier.

*SING* is a 2016 American animated jukebox musical comedy film released by Illumination Studios. It stars the voices of Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Seth MacFarlane, Scarlett Johansson, John C. Reilly, Taron Egerton, Tori Kelly, Jennifer Saunders, Jennifer Hudson, Peter Serafinowicz, and Nick Kroll. Every voice actor delivers and the animators nailed it. The pacing and directing are also very well done.

It is the story of ambitious theater-owning koala bear Buster Moon (McConaughey), who needs a hit show to save his beloved theater from foreclosure. Buster has the bright idea to host a singing competition at the theater, but, due to a printing error, the reward on the promotional flyer changes from \$1,000 (which he didn't even really have) to \$100,000.

Once news of the big payoff spreads, local contestants vie

for the top spot, including under-appreciated pig mama Rosita (Witherspoon).

Buster's auditions attract a colorful array of animals, and there are some fabulous and comical performances. Buster and his aging assistant, the hilariously incompetent and cross-eyed lizard Miss Crawly, choose their favorite acts for the final talent show and rehearsals begin.

This movie's makers knew all too well how to fully exploit the power of a catchy pop song. There are more than 65 dynamite ditties—everything from the Beatles and Irving Berlin to Beyonce and Carly Rae Jepsen—performed to their full crowd-pleasing potential as the choices smartly span the decades.

*SING* also has an original song by Stevie Wonder and Ariana Grande called "Faith," nominated for a Golden Globe. The film itself was nominated for 11 different major theatrical and music awards.

## PROTECTION FUNFEST 2026

After 20+ years, Protection's FunFest is BACK!

We're hard at work behind the scenes with an incredible crew, bringing new life to this beloved community tradition.

Our goal is simple: bring people together, create lasting memories, and have a whole lot of fun along the way.

SAVE THE DATES: August 28-29-30, 2026. Mark your calendars and get ready for a weekend filled with fun, community, and celebration!

Stay tuned. We'll release a full schedule of events and activities soon.



### Circle of Friends

Everyone come join us Saturday evening, June 27 at 5:30 p.m. for Circle of Friends at the Legion building in Protection! We are having a carry-in salad supper; dessert and drinks will be provided. Whip up your favorite salad and come join us. There will be lots of fun, fellowship and laughter! Everyone is welcome!

## On and Off the track By Dave Webb

I'm resurrecting this column to add a few words from an amateur journalist in Comanche County who has contributed to every issue of the *Protection Press* (and the new *Western Star-Protection Press* up to this point). Forty-two and a half years.

When Bob Greer was *Press* editor, I used this space to encourage readers and advertisers to support his hometown paper. He was too proud to ask for financial help, but he needed it. He often subsidized the *Press* with his Social Security check.

When Susan Edmonston moved into the editor's chair, I occasionally discussed financial help again because she was too embarrassed to ask.

We used to say Protection was big enough to need a newspaper, but too small to support one. Now we have the power of all of Comanche County and

more (!) behind the *Star-Press*.

And after this issue we're passing the torch (or computer mouse, actually) to Jason and Stephanie Jump. As we've gotten to know them, they are genuine hometown-newspaper folks. You're in good hands.

Please support them as you have the *Press* and *The Star*. In this digital-social-media-climate, small-town newspapers will literally *not survive* without READERS and ADVERTISERS!

As many advertisers know, *The Star* and *Press* have spoiled you with rates far below papers in the surrounding area. Of necessity the Jumps will increase those prices.

But remember, when you place one ad in the *Star-Press*, you'll be spending less than you did when you ran separate ads in the *Press* and *The Star*. And you'll reach over 900 readers! Thanks for supporting this paper.

# SOUTH CENTRAL TRACK IMPROVEMENTS

- FALSE START...**  
Our grant application was denied due to lack of funds by the deadline.
- THE BATON IS STILL IN OUR HANDS.**  
We are committed to continuing our fundraising efforts and pursuing future grant opportunities.

**THE CURRENT FUNDS NEEDED FOR RENOVATIONS IS**  
**\$225,000**

All funds will be used for track improvements. Repairs will include installation of a crack repair system, then poly base mat with structural spray to all 6 lanes, high jump, and jumping runway.

Donor signs will be hung at the track.

Platinum		\$10,000+
Gold		\$5,000-\$9,999
Silver		\$1,000-\$4,999
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**TRACK UPGRADES WILL BENEFIT ALL USD 300 STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY.**

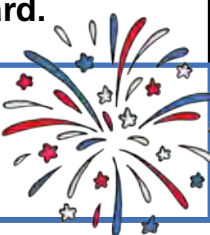
**ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

Make checks payable to: **SCHS Track Fund**  
Turn in to either school office or mail to: PO Box 578, Coldwater, KS 67029

## NOTICE • NOTICE • NOTICE

- That fireworks can only be sold from July 1 to July 5, 2026.
- Per City Ordinance 7-303, discharge of fireworks in the City of Protection can only be shot off from 8 a.m. until 12:00 midnight July 1 to July 5.
- No warnings will be issued by law enforcers. Anyone caught discharging fireworks outside of these hours will be issued a citation.
- Those shooting off fireworks within the city limits are to clean up any debris left by those fireworks.
- That no fireworks may be used within the area bounded by Main Street on the south, Washington Avenue on the east, Cedar Street on the north, and Lincoln Avenue on the west. This includes downtown from Filson Livestock Equipment to the former lumberyard.

The Protection City Governing Body



## COMANCHE COUNTY HOSPITAL

cordially invites you to the groundbreaking for our Physical Therapy Expansion Project,

Monday, June 29, at 9 a.m. between the hospital and clinic!

# Happy 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday, AMERICA!

Kicking off this special 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2026 with 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of America Medallion Hunt!

★ There will be 2 age groups: ★  
Child hunt for 17 years and under, and Adult for 18 years and above.

**\$250** prize for the winner in each division.

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