



JACK HERD proves once again he's "A jack of all trades"—and he also illustrates the complete version of the old saying—"is master of none, but oftentimes better than a master of one." His javelin throw at the state track meet in Wichita over the weekend set a new meet record in all classes: 217 feet, 2 inches. The medal around his neck (and the grin on his face) are evidence of him being crowned this year's champion in the Class 1A boys javelin throw.

Jack graduated from South Central High earlier this month. He will attend Friends University in Wichita and play football this fall. Jeremy and Kayla Herd of Protection are his proud parents. See a photograph of Herd in action at the state meet with other photos on page 6 in this issue. Sports in Kansas photo.

School board accepts principal's resignation and hires new math teacher

By Dennies Andersen

The USD 300 school board met this Monday night, starting at 7 p.m. and adjourning about 8:40 p.m.

The biggest surprise of the meeting, though board members had been informed of it before the meeting, was the resignation of South Central High School Principal Bud Valerius. Valerius has been at South Central for the past six years, and has also served as the head coach of the SCHS boys basketball team during that time.

Valerius said that leaving South Central was a difficult decision for him to make, having had a successful coaching career here, as well as being well thought of as the high school principal.

He said that it was a move he had considered some time ago, and had finally applied for and received a position running the adult education career tech program at a college in Ponca City, Okla. He said he would have to work past 4 p.m. four or five nights a year in the new position—as opposed to four or five nights a week at his current job. That would allow him more time with his family—something he has been wanting.

Board members also discussed the fact that as the high school principal leaves, the district will also need to replace his wife, Laura Valerius, who has been the district's technology director.

In other business, the board approved payment of \$430,363.15 in monthly bills including \$304,820.92 in payroll.

—Heard District Superintendent Mike Baldwin report that the district's application for a grant to fund refurbishing the existing track in Protection had been turned down. He said the main reason the grant application had been denied was the lack of local matching funds. Supt. Baldwin recommended that a group be appointed to decide how to proceed. Board President Kelly Herd suggested that a three-member committee be appointed to include Ashley Petty, a track coach and a board member. Mrs. Petty, the main proponent of the project, said she would like to hold a fundraiser of some sort to help provide the seed money. The high school and

middle school principals both said they thought the committee would be a good idea, and one pointed out that the board needs to approve formation of the committee. The board appointed Mrs. Petty, South Central Elementary/Middle School Principal Matt Jellison, the head track coach and Board Member Hanna McCleary to the board. A pancake breakfast was one suggestion for such a fundraiser.

—Received a written report on the recent district auction of surplus equipment from agriculture teacher Jordan Jackson which she said the sale went very well and most of the big items were sold. She had no figures for the board yet for the amount the district made on the sale.

—Approved hiring Alondra Rivero as the new SCHS mathematics teacher starting this fall. She is a 2016 SCHS graduate.

—Approved an amendment to the dates of two regular board meetings for the coming year for which Supt. Baldwin said he had overlooked conflicts when proposing the dates which the board had earlier approved.

—Approved KASB-recommended policy changes, after a couple of minor modifications to them.

—Received a video presentation by both principals of changes in the high school handbook and middle school handbook. They covered class offerings, use of cell phones on busses, and the district's alcohol, drug, and drug paraphernalia policy. The board voted to approve the changes.

—Approved purchase of two smaller used cars from APEX Auto Sales. The two were a 2012 and a 2016 Ford Focuses with a combined cost of \$11,000. Supt. Baldwin reported that the smaller cars be used when one teacher or administrator goes back and forth between Coldwater and Protection, or to an out-of-town meeting somewhere—in order to save on fuel or the expense of reimbursing an employee for use of his or her own vehicle.

—Voted to give the district superintendent, clerk, and treasurer authority to pay year-end bills and handle year-end transfers as necessary, thus avoiding a year-end meeting for the board.

—Heard Board President

Attention shoppers: City-wide garage sale Saturday

The "biggie" in Coldwater this Saturday will be the big City-Wide Garage Sale.

Sponsored by the Coldwater Chamber of Commerce, more than a dozen garage sales will be in gear across town, offering bargains galore, and many items you might not even know you need. The sales are scheduled to run 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., weather permitting.

Maps showing the location of each of the sales will be available at several spots around town. The maps will not be available until early Saturday morning, so that nobody gets a jump on buying all the "good stuff" Friday evening.

Those maps can be picked up at United Country/Red Hills Real Estate, Snappy Stop, and King's Corner 2.

Commissioners may create a new county department

By Dennies Andersen

Meeting this Tuesday morning, June 2, the Comanche County Commissioners faced what appeared to be a full half-day agenda—which actually lasted until almost 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday the commissioners indicated they might want to consider splitting the noxious weed duties off into a separate department—separate from the road and bridge department. They took no action on the matter after discussing it, but noted that Road and Bridge Supervisor AJ Becker has plenty to do without handling the noxious weed budget, purchasing, and execution himself.

For the last 40-plus years, noxious weed control has been under the road and bridge department, but Tuesday the commissions agreed to think about the matter further before actually making it a separate department.

They did vote to name Jeff Heath Comanche County Noxious Weed Director—a position that has been vacant for some time. Since he is now a state-certified weed sprayer they voted to pay him \$18 per hour, based on a 40-hour week.

The road and bridge supervisor told the commissioners that Heath has had good luck spraying the county road ditches for the past two weeks, and they figured it would take about 13,000 gallons of Roundup to spray all the county ditches one time, noting that other chemicals would have to be added to control some noxious weeds such as johnson grass and bindweed.

Becker told the commissioners that the county's "government agency license" for spraying weeds had expired in 2024, and he has already had it reinstated.

In other business, the commissioners:

—Approved payment of bills in the amount of \$91,397.13 including payroll in the amount of \$55,659.22.

—Completed the paperwork to make two vacant lots tax exempt. Both are owned by the county—one where the proposed new firehouse is planned west of Comanche County Hospital, and a lot adjacent to

See Commission, page 2



HEADS UP MONDAY!

The 52nd annual Biking Across Kansas event is happening next week. Sunday night, June 7, about 400 bikers will be spending the night in Ashland.

On Monday, they will ride along US 160 from Ashland, all across Comanche County, to their next overnight stop in Medicine Lodge. They will take a midday meal break in Coldwater.

The bikers usually ride in small groups, so watch out for them all day Monday! Some start very early in the morning.

Between June 5 and June 13, the hearty riders will cover 550 miles between the Colorado border near Johnson and the Missouri line close to Pittsburg.

Ceballos granted bail

By Dennies Andersen

Bond was set for former Coldwater Mayor Joe Ceballos Monday by Federal Judge Jason Thomas. The bond hearing was held via Zoom, Judge Thomas in Kansas City and Ceballos in the Chase County Jail in Cottonwood Falls.

While the average bond is set at \$5,000-8,000 for this type of case, Ceballos' bond was set at \$3,000. It was reported that the "stack of letters" sent by Comanche Countians in support of Ceballos may have had something to do with the lower-than-usual bond amount.

The court paperwork, however, was not finished in time for him to be released until Wednesday.

A hearing to decide whether or not he will be deported has not been set at this point, but one will be scheduled at a future date, finalizing the case.



JOE CEBALLOS. Photo by Travis Heying, Wichita.

Updates on county investigations

By Dennies Andersen

What is the status of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation looking into the \$80,000-plus credit card problem in Comanche County that occurred more than a year ago.

An on-going KBI investigation of employees in the Comanche County Clerk's office has been in the "still under investigation" status for months, but no word has been received locally on the matter.

A telephone call to the office of Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach the first of the week was met with the response, "I will check into that and call you back." That call was not returned by press time.

Tuesday at the Comanche County Commission meeting, all three commissioners said they had been told that the dollar amount involved had gone up from the original \$80,000-plus range to well over \$200,000.

None of the three would reveal where they had gotten that information.

Comanche County Sheriff Jacob Bruckner said this week that after investigation by his office, as well as the Kansas Fire Marshal's office, the recent elevator fire in Protection has been deemed "accidental."

Sheriff Bruckner said the paperwork has not been filed yet finalized, but has been decided the fire was accidental and that juveniles and fire-works were involved, though no charges will be filed.



TRUCKS FIRST BEGAN HAULING WHEAT from the 2026 crop to the Alliance Ag elevator in Coldwater Tuesday afternoon, May 26, with Roger Dunn running the combine, grain cart, and semi truck all himself.

Along with a little help from his son Joe and friend Sam Oller running combines, they finished another field Sunday.

At the elevator, Manager Rusty Frazier

said wheat was coming in from four farmers Sunday. Frazier said that they received had consistently good test weights, running 60 to 63 pounds per bushel. Some yields Frazier had heard were 30 bushels per acre, with others "not nearly that good." Higher yields were reported in the western part of the county.

A general rain Monday night stopped cutting. Photo by Dennies D. Andersen.

NEWS

Commissioners, from page 1

the road and bridge department that was donated to the county.

—Met with Aj Prusa who recommended that the commissioners be proactive in putting policies in place to keep data centers from setting up in Comanche County “since they cause more harm than they do good.” She cited the drain on the already dwindling water supply and overloading the existing electric distribution infrastructure in the county that a data center would bring about.

—Met with Comanche County Ambulance Director Terri Brosius who provided the commissioners with a second quote for roofing at the Comanche County Fire Station in Protection where one of the county’s ambulances is housed. The quote from AR Roofing of Pratt was to seal all the seams in the existing metal roof and coat the whole roof using an acrylic roof coating with a 15-year warranty for \$12,665.28. An earlier quote from Gomez Roofing of Ashland was for \$22,515.22 for removing and replacing the existing metal roof. The commissioners agreed they had additional questions for AR Roofing before a decision could be made, so they talked to him on the phone. After the telephone discussion with AR representative Roger Slief, the commissioners agreed to hire AR Roofing to install a new roofing on the Protection fire station.

—Met with Sheriff Jacob Bruckner who presented the commissioners with his 2027 budget request explaining that he would be unable to attend the June 8 budget meeting. He said that his prisoner care budget would remain the same at \$58,800, but requested an increase in the sheriff’s budget from \$377,300 this year to \$385,000 next year.

—Lifted the countywide

burn ban at the recommendation of Comanche County Fire Chief Greg Ellis after the recent rains in the county.

—Heard County Treasurer Laura Sawyers again ask for a salary increase. She pointed out that other county employees had received raises. Her last raise was in 2023. She said she didn’t want a big raise, but the cost of living has gone up and she would like a raise to keep up with it. She also asked that the commissioners again consider setting a pay scale for county employees — something that the commissioners and the county attorney were going to do a number of years ago, but hadn’t. Tuesday, however, she was asking for a raise for herself. She said that a number of others had received six, seven, or eight percent raises, but she would be happy with a three or four percent. She said she would like the commissioners to consider her request and not keep putting it off. After she left the meeting, the commissioners voted to give her a two percent raise, which would amount to about \$1,000 on top of her current \$51,000 per year salary.

—Heard the road and bridge supervisor report on progress with mowing of ditches, with the commissioners recommending that the mowing and spraying be done as far apart as possible.

—Heard Becker report that all the lights, except the rotating beacon, were now working at the county airport.

—Heard a report from the road and bridge crew supervisor on repairs to some of the county equipment.

—Noted that next Monday, June 8, they will meet with department heads to gather various department budget requests. Their next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 16.



Red Cross blood drive in Protection tomorrow

Protection is hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Friday, June 5. The event is being held again at Grace Bible Church (the former Menonite Church) at 500 South Broadway.

Sandy (Murphey) Dobrinski of Coldwater is now the person in charge of the Red Cross drives, replacing Debbie Barby of Protection who organized the blood drive for nine years. She replaced the late Arlynn Baker in that volunteer job.

Tips for Blood Donors

- get a good night’s sleep
- eat a healthy meal
- drink extra water
- complete a RapidPass
- bring your ID
- donate every 56 days, up to 6 times a year

Deeds of faith

By Glenn Brunkow

Let me introduce myself, I am Glenn Brunkow, the president of Kansas Farm Bureau. I am a farmer, stockman from Pottawatomie County. Most importantly I am Jennifer’s husband and Isaac and Tatum’s dad. I am also the fifth generation to farm the ground my family bought in the 1890s.

We raise cattle and sheep and grow corn, soybeans and hay. All I have ever wanted to be is a farmer, and I am living my dream.

Agriculture is my passion, and I can think of no better way to represent agriculture than

Chief Theatre hosts a free movie each week in June

Roy and Gina Hoffman will be sponsoring *Migration*, the first free Monday morning movie this summer. Concessions will be provided by Jeremy and Sara Stapleton.

Beginning at 10 a.m. Monday, June 8, the movie is rated PG and lasts an hour and 23 minutes.

The focus of the film is a family of ducks, the Mallards. The family consists of overly cautious dad Mack, adventurous mom Pam, teen son Dax, adorable duckling daughter Gwen, and grumpy Uncle Dan.

It is a bright and colorful drama, with plenty of slapstick and the story is easy enough for the kids to follow without much difficulty.

They have never left the confines of their New England pond, largely due to Mack’s fears of what could happen to them in the outside world.

However, when another family of ducks, including one (voiced by Isabela Merced) that Dax immediately crushes on lands in their pond for a brief stop on their annual migratory journey to Jamaica, the rest of the family cajoles the initially hesitant Mack to break out of their collective rut and make the trip to the Caribbean themselves.

As with most family trips, things don’t go as planned for the Mallards — like almost

every family that has taken a vacation together will relate to the Mallards.

Migration comes from Illumination—the same animation studio that brought us the *Despicable Me* franchise and its spin-off *The Minions*. Illumination is responsible for *Sing*, Dr. Seuss’ *The Lorax*, and *The Secret Life of Pets*. All of these movies have become beloved films for kids and parents alike.

This one features the voices of Kumail Nanjiani, Elizabeth Banks, Danny De Vito, Caspar Jennings, Tresi Gazal, Keegan-Michael Key, Awkwafina, Carol Kane, David Mitchell, and Isabela Merced.

It is made out of all the good stuff that children’s films should be made of. It’s a stuffed story, with multiple storylines, that in its most parts contain the anxiety of parents and the will to let the children fly out of the nest.

Migration is a charming choice for all ages to watch together—best suited for the big screen where the swooping action and in-your-face visuals put viewers in flight alongside the Mallards.

Overall, *Migration* is packed with adventure, laughs, and relatable moments for all families. Those looking for a fun family film to see at the Chief next Monday morning should add this one to their list.

‘New’ county newspaper sponsors *The Sheep Detectives*

Sponsored by *The Western Star-Protection Press*, *The Sheep Detectives* will play at the Chief Theatre in Coldwater Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7.

Rated PG, the movie runs an hour and 49 minutes, beginning at 8 p.m. both evenings.

It fits in the action, comedy, family, and mystery categories, and can be enjoyed by the whole family. *The Sheep Detectives* is based on the 2005 novel *Three Bags Full* by Leonie Swann.

It loses one of its stars early in the movie when shepherd George (voiced by Hugh Jackman) dies. For as long as any of the sheep could remember, George had read detective novels to his beloved sheep every night—assuming they couldn’t possibly understand. But they did.

When the sheep, one day, find George mysteriously dead in the field, they realize they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate

human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers.

The smartest of the sheep, Lily (voiced by Julia Louis-Dreyfus), believes that the stories they have heard give her all she needs to solve the mystery. And it looks like she will have to because the sole police officer in their tiny town seems barely able to write a traffic ticket and has never investigated a serious crime.

But there’s more to *The Sheep Detectives* than just a mystery. The flock is full of its own eccentric characters, but they have all heard the detective stories, and work together. For the sheep, much like the people in the village, traditions order their lives, dictating how they treat one another.

Often PG-rated movies are made for kids but mix in enough comedy that adults can endure them. That is not the case in *The Sheep Detectives*. Previous examples of PG movies truly made

for viewers of all ages include *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *The Princess Bride*, *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*, and *Home Alone*.

Other stars who lend their voices to the different characters are Brett Goldstein, Patrick Stewart, Regina Hall, Chris O’Dowd, Bella Ramsey, and Bryan Cranston.

And the visual effects are impeccable because they are invisible. Many movies made with computer-generated elements master textures like fur and wool, and even movement and muscle.

But a bigger challenge is to create believable bulk and weight. The sheep in this movie seamlessly integrate with the world around them, whether

they are walking, being held, or ramming a car.

What’s most special about *The Sheep Detectives* isn’t any one element. Instead, it’s the way the elements work together—humor, mystery, goofiness and even sentimentality, all balanced beautifully.

It’s a movie that treats each member of its audience with respect, no matter his or her age. Yes, adults can enjoy talking animals, and children can understand an existential question on their own level.

There’s wisdom amid the silliness, as the story gently makes a case for grief, mindfulness and mortal awareness. A shepherd can enjoy a good detective story. So can a sheep.

in Advocacy Leadership class ignited my interest and love for Kansas Farm Bureau and the grassroots nature of our organization. The success of Kansas Farm Bureau starts with our county level leadership, which is what gives us our power and influence. It is not about those of us in Manhattan; the most important people are each one of you.

I am proud of the legacy of Kansas Farm Bureau, but I am even more excited about the future. My dream is to grow our organization, make it stronger and hand it off to the next generation of leaders as the most influential organization in Kansas. I promise that with every decision I make, I will do so with the best interest of each county and, ultimately, each member in mind.

Over the next few months, I plan to meet as many of you as I possibly can. Please know I value each member’s opinion and look forward to hearing from you. My door is always open.

I am incredibly honored and humbled to serve as your president, and I thank our past president, Joe Newland.

Lewis Gean service June 6

A Memorial Graveside Service for Lewis F. Gean will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, June 6, 2026, at the Protection Township Cemetery. He passed away February 5, 2026, at Protection Valley Manor. He was 90 years old, the father of John (Patty) Gean and Sherry (Marvin) Burnett. Pastor Jeff Perry will preside. The service will include full military honors.



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

Susan Edmonston
is turning 80 on June 15th

Her family would like the Press/Star Readers
and friends to shower her with cards.

Please mail them to: Sheri Darnell
PO Box 22
Protection KS 67127

Her daughters will present them to her on her special day!

Fun Monday mornings at the Chief Theatre!
Free Movie & Free Concessions!
Monday, June 8
Starts at 10 a.m.
at the

MIGRATION

Animated/Comedy/
Family/Adventure
83 minutes

PG

Movie sponsored by Roy & Gina Hoffman
Concessions provided by Jeremy and Ron Stapleton

Past Paragraphs

Protection news from earlier times
Compiled by Dave Webb

A note to new readers: "Past Paragraphs" is my attempt to refresh our memories about what some people call "the good old days" in and around Protection.

Sometimes that was the case, and in other instances it wasn't. Just like the present, the past had its ups and downs, but thankfully those early Comanche County residents stuck with it, making it possible for us current citizens to be here today.

I copy news from the back issues of newspaper just as it originally appeared, with some occasional comments like this (in italics) to give some added clarity.

When past editors expressed their political point of view, I'm not including that material in support of any opinions that might or might not be held today.

But I do hold one bias — my lifelong interest in railroads causes me to include nearly every mention of trains. While we've gone without railroad service locally for a quarter of a century, a hundred years ago or more, any interruption (even a day or two) made the news. So if railroading doesn't interest you, skip to the next item. —DW

125 YEARS AGO

Western Star
June 7, 1901

Protection paragraphs

Marion Bratcher comes to town on his wheels now.

Clyde and Will Moore have gone east to harvest.

Gene Cotting started Wednesday morning for Kansas City.

Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Richardson, of Clark County, were in town this week.

G.E. Davison is building a fine house at his ranch four miles east of Protection.

Frank Moore has his horses so well trained that they stop at a certain house regularly.

Austin Hoover, of Ashland, and Miss Ella Tade, of Valley Township, were quietly married in Protection last Sunday.

We understand that a Fourth of July celebration will be held at or near Protection.

Memorial Day exercises in this city were well attended and the interest shown was very commendable. The address by T.K. Richey, of Coldwater, was an able effort and was well received. Splendid music was furnished and, all in all, the day was most appropriately observed. —[Correspondent] "RALEIGH."

Protection prattle

Crops are needing rain.

Theron Myers [father of the late Lane Myers] will tell you when peaches are ripe.

A number of boys from this neighborhood have gone east to

help in the harvest.

We understand that there was a push car [handcar] conference at the [railroad] tool house last Wednesday night.

Lawrence Bratcher returned Monday from Winfield where he had been attending college.

Protection is preparing to celebrate the Glorious Fourth.

We understand that a musical concert will be given in Protection soon.

Protection was filled with a happy and patriotic crowd on Memorial Day.

Robert Dunne, Miss Martha Truesdell, John and Joe Connaughton are among Protection Township's representation in the county Normal [annual school-teachers' institute]. —[Correspondent] "JUNIPER."

Voices from Valley Twp

Crops are looking fine. The wind still continues its blowing.

Memorial services proved to be quite a success at Protection last Thursday.

Clarence Tade is having to re-list some of his crop. We all know that doesn't suit him.

A large number of our people attended Sunday school last Sunday and a pleasant day was spent.

Marion Bratcher is making preparations for a large number of his near friends to visit him next Sunday, as that will be his last Sunday in Comanche County for a while. Ice cream and cake will be served in the afternoon. —[Correspondent] "BUTTERFLY."

Teacher training

The 16th annual session of the Comanche County Normal Institute convened in [Coldwater] on Tuesday morning. No time was lost in organizing the classes. . . .

The attendance is larger than usual for the first week and it is expected that the total enrollment for the session will be even beyond that of the past three or four years. . . .

On the railroad

The Santa Fe weed burner was over the [rail]road in this county Wednesday.

Milo Wright shipped a carload of fat hogs to Wichita Tuesday [from Coldwater].

H.J. Newman this week received additional evidence of the confidence in which he is held by his employers — the Santa Fe Railway Company — and a recognition of his faithfulness to duty while in the company's employ.

He has been offered and has accepted the position as agent for the company at Kiowa. It is quite a promotion for Mr. Newman and he well deserves it.

He began work for the Santa Fe company in March 1896 and has since been agent at Anness, Ashland and at Coldwater. He

is promoted over a number of persons who have been in the employ of the company much longer, which fact speaks well for him. His many friends in this county, while regretting to have him and his estimable wife leave [Coldwater], will still extend hearty good wishes for their continued prosperity in their new home.

100 YEARS AGO

Protection Post
June 3, 1926

Action requested

The commissioners of Clark County have requested of the state highway commission that the county road from the [Clark-Ford] county line east of Lexington be made a state highway.

Ford County has asked that the county road from the [Ford-Clark] county line to Bucklin be made a state highway.

Comanche County asks for the road from the [Comanche-Clark] county line northwest of Protection to the schoolhouse on the Albert Pike highway to be made a state highway.

The three projects will make a continuous highway from Bucklin to the Oklahoma line to connect with Oklahoma State Highway No. 1.

The boards of commissioners of the three counties have been called to appear in Topeka for a conference on June 3. —[Reprinted from the] *Clark County Clipper*.

75 YEARS AGO

Protection Post
June 1, 1951

Golden-agers party

Mrs. Eva Bare was hostess Saturday, May 19, to the annual party she gives at her home for the citizens of Protection who have attained or surpassed their allotted three score and ten. . . .

The day began at 7:45 a.m. with a special dedication song, "What I Would Do For You," beautifully and feelingly sung by radio station WIBW's favorite tenor, Edmund Denney. Then about 9:30 the group began to assemble at the Bare home, bringing with great pride their favorite covered dishes, which, when dinner was announced, tempted even the "oldsters" to indulge to the state of uncomforatableness. There was a great variety of meats, vegetables, salads, pie, cake, strawberries and coffee, a la Keltner. . . .

An interesting comment on the health status of our community is seen in the fact that there are at least two women above 90, 11 women and 6 men in their 80s, and 33 women and 33 men in their 70s. This is roughly one-tenth of the residents of Protection.

Mrs. Chester Bare,* Miss Ida Bare, Mrs. Clarence Bare and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vincent assisted Mrs. Bare at the party.

Many of those in their 70s are still active in business and did not take time out for the party. [Those photographed at the party were]:

Mrs. Bessie Bare, Mrs. Tom Lindsay, Miss Ida Bare, Mrs. Winnie Bare.

Mrs. J.O. (Eva) Bare, Mrs. Levona B. Bachman, Mrs. Charlie Wilson, Mrs. Anna Schultz, Mrs. Ella King, Mrs. Phoebe Mooney, Mrs. Albert Thornhill, Mrs. Joe A. Herron, Mrs. Essie Keltner.

Mrs. O.D. Wimmer, Mrs. Walter Teter, Mrs. Ida VanWey, Mrs. Irene Gaylord, Mrs. W.P. Sanders, Mrs. Edith Doolittle, Mrs. Jane German.

Mr. LeRoy Smith, Mr. Walter Teter, Mr. Fred Denney, Mr. Elmer Smith, Mrs. Harry Vincent, Mrs. Charles Holler, Mr. Harry Vincent, Mr. Joe A. Herron.

*Unfortunately, past newspaper editors and contributors continually insisted on referring to many married women as "Mrs. John Smith" — instead of recognizing a wife's first name. When I know her given name or have

time to research it, I "update" the original article to reveal a woman's true identity.

Parents organize

A meeting was held Saturday evening in the kindergarten room in the grade school for all those interested in forming a tuition kindergarten.

The group organized and the following officers were elected for the coming year: Mrs. Gerald Teter, president; Mrs. DeWayne Herd, vice president; Mrs. Jimmy Williams, secretary; and Mrs. Milo Edmonston, treasurer.

All parents who are interested and have children of kindergarten age are urged to contact one of the officers.

The association officers state that parents may join the association whether they have children of kindergarten age or younger. Several individuals who do not have kindergarten age children have expressed their desire to contribute to the kindergarten fund.

Harmony's anniversary

The Harmony Home Demonstration Unit celebrated its 25th anniversary with a tea for their former members and guests on Tuesday afternoon in the Methodist church basement.

After a short business meeting, Mary Overocker told us "What the well-dressed window wears," in the lesson on curtains and draperies.

Bertie Nichols, as chairman of the program committee, presented the following numbers: group singing, presentation of scatter pins to the five charter members present, Winnie Dale, Minnie Wait, Mabel Rich, Lillian Webb and Mabel Bird; pins were sent to Mrs. Claude Simkins, Mrs. Cora Murphy and Mrs. Lily Shrauner; whistling solo, Irene Herron; solo by Myrel Rich; flute solo, Leah May Vaughan.

Letters were read from former members who were unable to be present by Winnie Dale, Minnie Wait and Laura Simonds. Included among these was one from the first president, Mrs. Lily Shrauner of Dallas, Texas; also Mrs. Squires of Cordova, Alaska; Mrs. Clifford VanWey of Coffeyville.

Mrs. Ethyl White gave us some interesting information on the new Harmony Club from an old record book, also some old pictures taken at mother's camp back in the Thirties.

Miss Vadaline Strobel congratulated the club on its 25 years of service to the community.

A delicious tea was served by the committee from a beautifully decorated table. Guests present were Mrs. Ethyl White and Miss Strobel, and former members Mrs. Sue Mills, Mrs. Alverna Malcom of Mulvane, Mrs. Ben Bird, Mrs. Harley Gard, Mrs. Nat Barnes, Mrs. Bud Scott, Mrs. Duane Harden, Mrs. Clemmie Sanders, Mrs. John Webb, Mrs. Clara English, Mrs. Jane German and Miss Rosa Wimmer, and 13 members.

Kansas Home Demonstration Units began in 1914 when a group of women from Leavenworth County met with an expert on food preservation. Over the years the name changed from Community Clubs, to Farm Bureau Units, HDUs, Extension Homemakers Units and in 1992 to the Kansas Association for Family and Community Education (KAFCE). They were then organized through Kansas State University Extension.

Besides Harmony, other HDUs/EHUs in Comanche County through the years included Twin Hills and Pikeview.

55 YEARS AGO

Protection Post
June 4, 1971

Here and there

Kent Sanders spent Thursday of last week in Peabody and Wichita helping Hal and Cathy Sanders move [to Wichita]. He was accompanied to Peabody by Travis Baker of Coldwater.

Jim and Carol Petty, who have lived on the Ralph Baker farm for some years, are moving to the Irene Brooks home [at the southeast edge] of Protection June 1. Robert Cooks will be moving to the farm presently.

Vaughn Willems left Friday for Wichita where he took a flight for Portland, Oregon, to

visit his brother Verlyn, also Harvey and Dana Selzer.

Mrs. Bertha Ellison spent the first part of last week in Salina with her son Hubert and his family. Later she was in Oklahoma City with Cleve and family.

Beth Rowland had a tonsillectomy at the Comanche County Hospital last Friday morning.

Karolyn Woolfolk was a Sunday and Monday guest of Jana Hart.

Wilmer and Ethyl Ward were Saturday evening supper guests of Hubert and Violet McLaughlin at a Coldwater cafe.

Gary and Charlotte Girk and Gari-Ann were Sunday evening guests of Charles and Penny Peterson, Tammy and Tim.

Roger Probst of New Haven, Connecticut, called Monday to visit with his parents, George and Wilma Probst.

Kenneth and Jeanne Webb and family and Mrs. Edna Williams attended a picnic Monday evening at the Darrol and Pauline Miller home in Coldwater.

35 YEARS AGO

Protection Press
June 6, 1991

New motel owners

Protection Motel will continue in business and it now has new operators.

Garry and Judy Smith have purchased the business from Vickie Williams. The sale was effective last Saturday, June 1. The motel has six units.

The office for the motel during daytime (9 a.m. until 10 p.m.) will now be at G&J Reruns, a half block north of the motel. That business is operated by the Smiths, and some member of their family is at G&J throughout the day. The phone number is 622-4818.

After Vickie Williams is able to move all her belongings from the motel (where she and her son Caleb live), the Smiths plan to move into the motel and reside there. . . .

Still raining

Soaking rains continue to bring moisture to the area.

During a 12-day period from May 22 through June 2, the community received 3.75 inches on the gauge of weather observer Richard Wright.

That included 1.13 inches on May 24 and 1.11 on May 30. The month of May had moisture on six of its 31 days: a total of 3.13 inches.

As a result, 5.62 inches was recorded through the end of the first five months of the year . . . and adding the .77 of an inch received Saturday afternoon [June 1], the year of 1991 has received 9.39 inches so far.

First '91 harvest report

By Bob Greer
Wheat harvest for 1991 around the Protection area will probably start within the next few days — if Mother Nature will cooperate.

That was the word Monday evening from Wade Harmon, longtime manager of Protection Co-op & Supply.

"We could start cutting around here pretty soon," he said. "That is, if we have no more rain for a while and if the weather is hot and windy."

No new wheat had been brought into the Co-op elevators through Tuesday of this week. Some sampling was done last Friday. But the wheat was still too wet at that time to cut. . . .

"I think the harvest will surprise a lot of people," he said. Lengthy drought conditions have made most folks pessimistic about chances for a decent harvest in this region. . . .

Acres in Comanche County is somewhat down from previous years. A lot of wheat

See More Past, page 4

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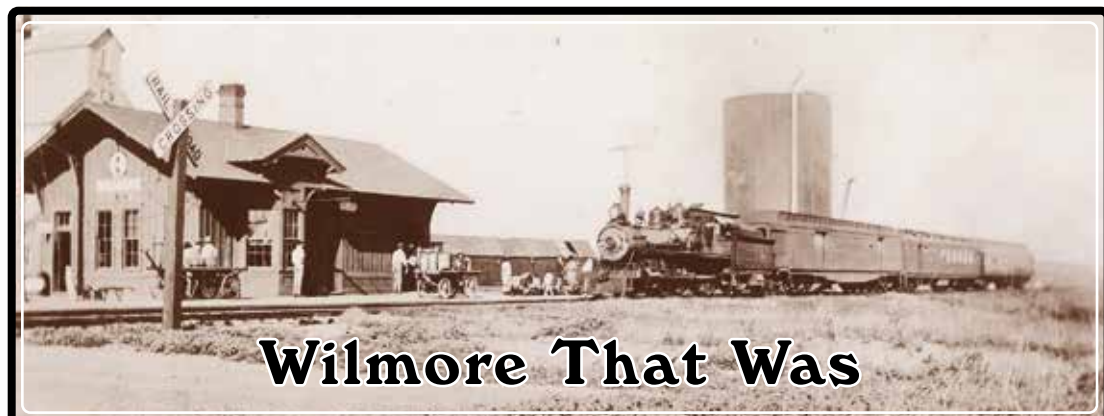
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FDIC

EQUITY LENDER



Wilmore That Was

TRAIN TIME! This view of an eastbound passenger train arriving in Wilmore was likely captured about 110 to 120 years ago. At that time a train left Englewood each morning headed to Wichita, and a companion train left Wichita going to Englewood. They met somewhere along the line. All that's left of this scene today is the metal water tank. Photo by the late Harvey Schrock, Wilmore.

Back in the Older Days

Coldwater news from earlier times

Compiled by Teresa Jones

130 YEARS AGO From June 6, 1896 Star

Thursday was one of those old-time hot, windy days.

H.J. Williamson has erected an awning in front of his office, which makes quite an improvement, as the sun will be shut out from shining in at the door and windows.

Heretofore, Coldwater has been crowned with success in her attempts to have a Fourth of July celebration and there is no reason why she should fall short of the mark this time. Ample arrangements will be made to entertain all that may come. Horse-racing, sack racing, base ball and all things of amusements will be afforded, that go to make up a first-class Fourth of July celebration. The grand display of fire-works at night will be worth coming a great way to see. Good speakers will be secured, and good music will be one of the features of the day. Most everyone is taking hold and it promises to be a gala day. The picnic on Mule creek has been withdrawn in favor of Coldwater. Barrels of ice-water will be on every corner, and a room has been secured for those bringing their dinners with them, in which they may eat. Everyone should take some active part in making this the best celebration Coldwater has ever had. The inducements will be such as to attract some good horses to our tracks on that day. More will be said in the future, giving list of purses offered in the races.

120 YEARS AGO From June 1, 1906 Star

How about celebrating the Fourth? It is not Coldwater's "turn," but it is probable that some neighborhood celebrations will be arranged. It's about time preparations were being begun.

An ice-cream and strawberry social will be given at the New Eden school house on Saturday evening, June 2. The proceeds will go to the Baptist minister at that place. Everybody cordially invited to attend.

A meeting of the committee having in charge the program for the Sunday school convention for the Coldwater district was held on last Saturday. The time for holding the convention was fixed at Sunday afternoon and evening, June 17, in the M.E. church in this city. All interested in Sunday school work are urged to be present and assist in making the meeting profitable to all.

Another cement-stone plant will soon be installed in Coldwater. Henry Bean ordered this week from Rochester, N.Y., a complete Hercules cement-stone machine and will soon be prepared to turn out all kinds of cement-stone products. This is another evidence of the steady and substantial growth of Coldwater and the surrounding country. The baseball game between the Ashland and Coldwater team, which was played in this city on last Friday afternoon, was an interesting and closely-contested one. At the close of the 12th inning, the score stood 13 to 12, in favor of Coldwater. Our boys now have the record of winning nine games out of ten.

110 YEARS AGO From June 2, 1916 Star

Next Saturday is the last day to have the baby photographed for the Baby Show, June 7 to 17. Enter your baby in the baby show. All you have to do is bring your baby May 27 to June 3 to the Cottage Studio, to be photographed, give its name and it will be entered in the baby show. It costs you absolutely nothing. The baby pictures will all be thrown on the screen at the "movies" June 7 to 17 inclusive. One hundred votes given with each "Movie" ticket purchased. The baby receiving the highest number of votes will receive: \$5.00 in Gold — 1st prize; Child's Sulky — 2nd prize; Large Toy Dog — third prize. All babies between the ages of eight weeks and three years are eligible to enter the show.

The baby receiving the most votes on June 10 will receive a gold ring; on June 11 a child's table set and on June 15 one dozen photos. This is for the most votes on the single night, not for the candidate standing the highest. Five-hundred votes with each adult ticket on above dates. All votes must be used on

date issued and are void after said date.

Protection is a candidate for Fourth of July honors this year. That town has good shade, some hustling business men and a number of other requisites for a successful Fourth of July celebration.

100 YEARS AGO From June 4, 1926 Star

The members of the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary are planning their first outdoor picnic for themselves and families at the Lightner ranch on next Monday evening. Cars will be provided for all who will go, and all are requested to meet in front of the Post Headquarters at 6:00 p.m. on Monday. Swimming, fishing and a wiener roast will be some of the attractions. All members are urged to be present. The Legion members will furnish wieners and coffee. Each family will bring the salads, bread, etc., to complete the picnic supper.

In Coldwater and vicinity, the rainfall Tuesday amounted to 1.58 inches. Quite an electrical storm accompanied the rain, and some damage resulted.

Early Wednesday morning after this rain and electric storm, a quantity of plastering fell in the store room occupied by M.H. Jabara, but luckily not much damage was done to the goods. Whether the loosening of the plaster was caused by the electric storm of the night before or by a water leak has not yet been determined. Another good rain fell on Wednesday night, and it seemed to be quite general over the county. The farmers are now hoping for a couple of weeks of sunshine.

Andy Six moved this week with his shoe repair shop into the Coldwater Hardware, Co's store room and will hereafter be the harness and shoe repair man for the company. A.A. White will include the room vacated by Mr. Six in his meat market and grocery store.

90 YEARS AGO From June 5, 1936 Star

On Thursday evening rain again fell in this county. Between an inch and an inch and a half of moisture had fallen when the STAR went to press after midnight.

Mrs. Edythe Hecht is opening a Beauty Salon in the rooms recently vacated by Dr. Dougherty on Main street. Her opening will be on Saturday, June 6, and Harry Rosell, a well-known artist in his profession, will be here on that day to demonstrate the Duart Machine. Special demonstration at 2:30. Free registration for prizes will also be given on that day.

Some of God's noblest sons, I think, will be selected from those that know how to take wealth, with all its temptations, and maintain Godliness, therewith. H.W. Beecher

Life begins at 40 and so do fallen arches, lumbago, bad eyesight and the tendency to tell a story to the same person three or four times.

A Newton man who was taking the family out for a ride, drove past a marsh in which cattails were growing. One of the kids yelled: "Oh, Pop, look at the hot dogs on sticks."

80 YEARS AGO From June 7, 1946 Star

The recently organized baseball league begins its series of summer games here with Coldwater playing Ashland Sunday, June 9, at 2:30 p.m. The ball diamond is located a mile west of Coldwater at the Rodeo Grounds. The Coldwater team is now 25 strong and is being sponsored by the Coldwater American Legion Post 122. Plans are being made to purchase new and flashy uniforms for the regular players. Coldwater has been wanting something like this for several years, and a great deal of enthusiasm is being shown both by players and townspeople. Ashland is promising a good first game and the Coldwater team is ready for anything they can give. The game will begin promptly at 2:30 so come and give your support to your team.

At the 26th annual convention of the Lions Clubs of Kansas, held in Wichita last Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, the

Coldwater club, which is rated as one of the best in the state, was presented with a fine two-piece walnut and bronze shield to hang in the dining hall of the club. It bears the wording "Meets Here Each Wednesday at Noon." The plaque was awarded Coldwater for being second in activities during the past year, placing ahead of Pittsburg, Kiowa, Newton and Baxter Springs. The many activities of the club, which has about 50 members, included much work in helping to secure a county hospital, improvements in the park, streets, honor roll, fire hazards, Boy Scouts and many other activities.

The American Legion has taken over the sponsorship of the local troop of Boy Scouts. Heretofore, they have had a committee of citizens of the community without a permanent organization behind them. The Legion post will now be the sponsoring group with the committee composed one half of Legion members and other half of citizens at large. Lewis Hopkins will be scout master and will have Robert W. Helman and Eugene Smith as assistant scoutmasters.

70 YEARS AGO From June 1, 1956 Star

Harvest is not far away.

Cooler weather on Thursday. There will be the regular first Sunday of the month family night dinner and picture at the Methodist church this Sunday evening. Covered dish dinner at 7. All members and friends welcome.

The Coldwater Bethel of Job's Daughters will hold a food sale at the Western Light and Telephone office starting at 10 a.m. Friday, June 1, today.

Scotty, the two and one-half year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Miller, gave his mother and the neighbors quite a scare one day recently, when he decided to climb over the fence where he was playing in the yard at his home. His mother said he wasn't out of her sight over two minutes. When found 30 minutes after his disappearance he was visiting with the men at the Coldwater Motor Co. They figured he had run away. He said he was going to the post office. They asked his name and thought he was saying "Marty," instead of Scotty. They called Mrs. Kenneth Sizemore, who lives two blocks east of the garage, but her boy wasn't missing. Mrs. Miller drove around, inquiring from everyone if they had seen him, when she suddenly spied him visiting with the garage men. Scotty is no worse for the ordeal but, his mother can't say the same. She was frantic from fright and is sure that was the most tragic 30 minutes of her life. The Millers live in L.B. Williams' house and Mr. Miller works for the county.

60 YEARS AGO From June 2, 1966 Star

The Coldwater Lions Club is again sponsoring two Coldwater high school musicians who will be members of the 237 piece All-Kansas Lions Band, which will play and parade at the Kansas Lions state convention in Dodge City June 3, 4, and 5. They are Miss Carol Timmons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Timmons, and Mike Steele, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Steele.

A new farm implement dealership is announced in this week's WESTERN STAR, Junior Williams, owner of the Highway Garage and Implement Co., announces this week that he is now the franchised Allis-Chalmers-Baldwin farm implement dealer for this area. He has in stock several pieces of equipment and a good supply of parts.

The Comanche County Art Guild will hold a spring festival Sunday June 5, in Protection from two to five o'clock in the afternoon.

Saturday, May 21, the Junior High City track meet was held at Colorado Springs, Colo., where Tracy Goodale, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jude Goodale, took first place in the high jump. He received his letter there and on Thursday, June 3rd, he will be presented a gold medal at the annual Awards Day.

50 YEARS AGO From June 3, 1976 Star

The Apollo Music Club is extending a personal invitation to attend the Bicentennial Celebration, "Comanche County Salutes America," June 5 and 6 at 8:00 p.m. at the Coldwater Football Field. This show is a history of our country given through songs, dances, historically famous speeches and fireworks. All performers are past and present Comanche County residents and range in age from 4 to 88 years. We have a chorus that numbers 85, a stage band, square dancers, speakers, and continuous piano and organ accompaniment, involving a total of 150 performers from throughout the county. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, or sit on the stadium bleachers and see the show! Admission prices: Adults—\$1.50, children under 12—.75. In case of rain, the show will be held at Coldwater High School.

Fifteen Comanche County boys completed the tractor safety course Friday, May 28, 1976. These boys are not experienced. They are to be used in the field on a tractor where an experienced adult operator is in the same field on another tractor for at least one week. We expect them to have understanding problems as they are not familiar with your equipment. These boys know tractor safety and have demonstrated this. However, I remind you that they need more experience under fire.

Vacation time is here!

40 YEARS AGO From June 5, 1986 Star

With nice weather predicted, a good turnout is expected this

NEWS FROM WILMORE

By Christina Griffin

We had a visitor in Wilmore city looking for Clark Yost. His name was Richard Jansen, went to school in Wilmore until 2nd grade and then the family moved. He lived in Clark's old house, and was good friends with Mark Trummel. He was just passing through.

Avery Myers came by looking for odd jobs. I was so happy to see her because I had some things I couldn't do. I have to oil the gingerbread woodwork in this old house every time I come, but I can't climb anymore. Avery did a great job, thanks.

Kelly Wilson slipped right through my fingers; she came from Arizona and went on up to Hutchinson. See you next time, Kelly.

Virginia Helm and I took a quick trip to Ashland to go to a store, Holy Stitches. We'd never seen it before so we were surprised to find it so quickly right on Main street. It's the little red house right as you start down Main street. It is full of fabric, sewing machines and craft items. We had a great time, bought fabric.

The Post Office: is ours better than yours? As Clerk in Charge, Brooke Ferrin keeps the place very inviting. There is kleenex, candy treats, extra envelopes, pads, and pens. Then we get announcements in our boxes.

The Prince of Egypt was offered free at the Chief Theatre, in Coldwater this week, sponsored by the Catholic Church. What a big success, even concessions were free. There was a great turnout, thanks to the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Coldwater.

Palmer Marie, weighing in at four pounds 15 ounces is Vi Trummel's new great-granddaughter, number two from Overland Park. Her father is Noland. Congratulations to all.

Thursday evening we had a shopper at Angel's Attic who had lost a \$20 bill out front. She stopped, needed the \$20, went out front and looked for it. By the time I got out front, ready to leave the \$20 was in the gutter by my truck. I knew exactly who it belonged to, so I gave them a call and the \$20 and the person were reunited. In a place with more people that wouldn't have happened.

We got all of our recycling over to Coldwater. It's amazing what you accumulate in two months plus.

In church we had a record

week for the 7th Annual Take-a-Kid Fishin' Derby at Lake Coldwater. Youth up to 15 years of age are invited to compete in two divisions (10 and under and 11-15) with three trophies to be presented in each division. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the sign-up will be at the lake entrance near the information center. All participants are to be accompanied by a parent or adult sponsor. Lake use fees will be waived for the day for derby participants and their sponsors. Weigh-in will be at 5 p.m. at the north shelter house on the west side of the lake. The trophy presentation will immediately follow the weight tabulations. An open-to-the-public wiener feed will follow that trophy presentation. The event is sponsored by the Coldwater Chamber of Commerce, with the soft drinks provided by Pepsi.

Coldwater High School's track and field boys gave it a good try Friday and Saturday in the annual Class A state meet at Wichita State University. The Eagles placed fifth in the final team standings, missing a third-place trophy by 3 points.

Secretary of State, Jack H. Brier, has announced that his office is sponsoring an election poster art contest for Kansans of all ages. Winning entries will be used to promote the 1986 primary and general elections. "An active and informed citizenry, participating freely and fully in the political process is the foundation of democracy," Brier said. "Unfortunately, many Kansans do not exercise their right to vote. The poster contest is an effort to encourage greater involvement in the state's primary and general elections. Our goal is to develop a series of posters that may be used to promote and encourage citizen participation."

crowd this Sunday. Patrick Greenleaf did the officiating, and we had a lot of songs. The video song "I just feel like something good is about to happen" had all of the heads bobbing and toes tapping. They even sang my request, "Jesus Loves Me." We had brunch after with lots of good food and good company.

Gerri Offutt's daughter Nicole and her family came to ride the carousel after church. They were in town for Landon Uhl's wedding.

We are leaving early this year to try to surprise my daughter on her 60th birthday. We had to put it in higher gear to get everything done.

We'll see you in the fall. —Christina

More PAST, continued from page 3

was grazed off by farmers with cattle. "The price of cattle has been high," Harmon noted.

How was last summer's wheat harvest in the area: the harvest of 1990?"

"We took in 1,986,000 bushels at our Co-op elevators in Protection and Coldwater last summer," Harmon recalled.

"We're ready for harvest," he concluded. "We have about 125,000 bushels of wheat left in our two elevators now."

15 YEARS AGO Protection Press June 2, 2011

Two business changes By Susan Edmonston

Mike Brosius, city councilman for several years, mayor of Protection since 1998, firefighter for many years, golfer, experienced mechanic—and in June he will take ownership of Protection Automotive/Loucks Service on the east side of Broadway.

As everyone is more familiar with the name Protection Automotive, it will stay, but the business will be known as Mike's Repair. [He is buying the firm from Orlin and Dora Loucks, who are moving to Great Bend].

Have you welcomed the new man in our business district?

He's Jeff Heath, age 47. He moved here from Wichita to become store manager of Protection Automotive [because Louckses are moving].

Protection Automotive is a Bumper to Bumper franchise; it will now go by that name.

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

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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. 51tfnc

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. 16tfnc

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



Event dates and times subject to change on short notice.

Cake Club, Noon to All Gone, **Friday, June 12.**

PBS "See Taste Do" host Phil Richardson visits Cake Club and Ashland on **Friday, June 12**, as he uncovers the hidden gems of Kansas, showcasing its best sights, flavors, and experiences

Learn & Play, 10 a.m., **Saturday, June 13**

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

THANK YOU to the Holy Spirit Catholic Church for sponsoring *The Prince Of Egypt* and also providing all the concessions that evening as well. We had a great turnout—it's always exciting to see our community theater being enjoyed!!! Thanks again, Debi Sherman, manager. 44c

sharing or come in early to sign a permission sheet.

Dinosaurs Are Roaming around Ashland!

Small dinosaurs are roaming Ashland and hiding everywhere, waiting for you to find them and bring them in to the library to receive a treat. Fifty dinos will be specially marked and can be exchanged for a \$1 coin at local banks!

Summer Reading "Unearth a Story"!

All events are free and open to the public.

Saturday, June 6, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., kickoff Summer Reading with Dino Day Camp! RSVPs are full at this time.

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

Monday, June 8, 10 a.m., PBS Storytime

Tuesday, June 9, 10 a.m., Extract DNA with Candy Hemel, of Farm Bureau.

Monday, June 15, 10 a.m., Mad Science

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

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

New Books!

Craig Johnson *The Brothers McKay*

Weather reports for May 2026

Bonnie Lindsay, the Protection "precipitation person," reports the town has now received a total of 2.61" from January 1 to May 31.

Her May 2026 records show a total of 1.07" in May. Here are the days' readings:

May 2 - trace; May 6 - .15; May 7 - .02; May 10 - .04; May 11 - trace; May 21 - .04; May 22 - .79; May 23 - trace; May 28 - .03; May 29 - trace.

June began with a thunderstorm that developed Monday evening and dumped 1.97" overnight in Bonnie's rain gauge.

Farmers began harvesting wheat last Tuesday (May 25) and the Monday (June 1) storm has delayed cutting. But rain was so desperately needed that farmers can now begin to plant their fall crops.

Livestock are no doubt happy that pastures will green up the grass for them. Ranchers are happy that perhaps some water holes in the pasture were partially filled. Kansas can always use rain!



Date	High	Low	Precip.
5-27	93	45	0.00
5-28	93	45	0.70
5-29	72	59	0.04
5-30	88	59	0.00
5-31	73	63	0.00
6-1	80	63	0.00
6-2	94	62	1.36

Wheat prices

MAY 25	Closed
MAY 26	\$6.01
MAY 27	5.95
MAY 28	5.90
MAY 29	5.74

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SPORTS

Action track photographs from the State Meet in Wichita courtesy of new Star-Press publisher Jason Jump; group and posed photo from SCHS teacher Patsy Jellison.

Track coaches report on the 2026 season

By Coach Kayla Snyder

South Central High School 4x800 girls' relay team with Emerie Woolfolk, Bretlynn Westrup (not pictured at right), Breckyn Snyder, and Sophia Hernandez competed at the state track meet in Wichita. They got 18th place with a time of 11:23.88. Their time at Regionals was 11:45.15 that qualified them for the State meet.

By Coach Charlie Austin

South Central boys finished off a strong track and field season by placing 14th with 19 points out of 54 scored teams.

Axtell won championship with 67 points. Runner-up was Cunningham with 46 points and 3rd place went to Little River with 36 points.

Individually, South Central had three medal winners. Senior Jack Herd won the Javelin with a throw of 217'2." He shattered the previous meet record of 202-0. He currently sits at 11th all-time in the State of Kansas.

Senior Hayden Herzer capped off his high school career with a 5th place finish and a trip to the podium with a high jump of 6'2."

Freshman Wiley York jumped 21'7½" to claim 4th in long jump. He ran in the 4x100 relay but failed to qualify for finals in the 200-meter dash.

Judd Petty, a repeat state qualifier from last year, failed to qualify for finals in the 110-meter hurdles but had a successful sophomore campaign.

Finally, the 4x100 team of freshman Wiley York, sophomore Jett Petty, freshman Ryder Woolfolk and sophomore Thaydon Macias failed to qualify for finals.

The 2026 South Central boys had a successful track season by winning three meets, runner up in two meets, and a fourth place finish at regionals. They qualified six events for state this year despite being a young team with only two seniors. The expectations will be high next year and the goal is to get as many to state as possible.



TEAM AND COACHES who represented SCHS at the state track meet in Wichita last Saturday. (L-R): Coach Charlie Austin, Jett Petty, Emerie Woolfolk, Wiley York, Sophia Hernandez, Isaac Girk, Mylee Turley, Judd Petty, Ryder Woolfolk, Jack Herd, Breckyn Snyder, Thaydon Macias, Hayden Herzer, Aida Fernandez, Westynn Stapleton, Coach Kayla Snyder, Coach Micaela Jellison.



SCHS GIRLS RELAY TEAM (far left): Breckyn Snyder, Emerie Woolfolk, Sophia Hernandez, Bretlynn Westrup. (Left): Medalist Hayden Herzer. (Above): Medalist Wiley York. (Below): Thaydon Macias. Photos by Jason Jump and Patsy Jellison.



Susie's Scribbles

By Susan Edmonston

New Protection business

Some of you have probably seen the new fencing installed in front of the steel building where Jick Davis' laundromat was a long time ago. Recently, Rachel Willems had a clothing business there, "Speckles & Stripes."

Jonathon Webster bought the building and the car wash facility. People locally thought it might become a laundromat again. Plans changed and now a daycare. I don't know any other details but now a daycare center will open there. I will feature this new business in the newspaper soon.

So long, Sally

Readers will notice a classified ad on page 5 listing a business for sale in Protection. That's Sally Selzer, who has owned and operated Worship Woodworks for more than 30 years. She's retiring and both her buildings on West Walnut are up for sale, as well as her business making Bible story cutout figures from 13 kinds of exotic and unusual woods. We'll miss Sally as part of the Protection business community and wish her all the best in her upcoming retirement.

Coyote Deli & Market LLC

Driving by the Coyote Deli (diner and gas station) just east of Protection on US 160-183 last week I noticed a new bright yellow paint job on its building. Quite eye-catching! Their hours may change during harvest, staying open longer at night, and possibly opening on Sunday.

The BAK (Biking Across Kansas) event is going on, and Monday, June 8, watch out for the hundreds of bicyclists coming from Ashland, going by Protection, through Coldwater (for lunch) and traveling to Medicine Lodge.

Susan's retirement

The retirement reception for me was last Wednesday afternoon. I did meet the deadline on getting the Press pdfs to the printer at Great Bend, but people began to come into the office before I could finish converting the print version to the digital edition. Therefore, that online issue didn't get sent until almost 7 p.m.

My sisters Sally and Nancy came from Lyons and McPheron to help my daughters Sheri and Amy decorate for the occasion. People gathered to visit in the old American Legion Building after they had stopped in the office to greet me.

Amy brought a beautiful bouquet of flowers, along with nine

varieties of cookies on a platter. I was certainly surprised to see five more bouquets on the tables in the Legion Hall when I went over there later. She said Dillons in Hays mark their flowers way down on Tuesday.

Another surprise was when daughter Connie arrived from Halstead. She had taken many sick days from work after kidney surgery, but her boss let her take the afternoon off to come to Protection. While here she went to the cemetery to leave flowers at her father's gravesite.

My brother Steve and Jan from Bucklin were also here. Daughter Emily was still in Japan. My oldest granddaughter, Ashley, came from Kansas City, MO, with her husband Daniel and my youngest great-granddaughter Cameron, almost eight months.

The nicest gesture that day was Dave Webb taking photos of the event, saving memories for me and my family.

I do want to thank my family for the secret planning and all the work and expense that went into holding such an occasion.

I also appreciated the phone calls, especially my longtime friend Pat (Riner) Mitchell from Wheatland, Wyoming, and Sara Rich of Protection who was with her family in Ottawa. The cards were very special, too. I especially enjoyed the many emails I received from subscribers who've read the Press in digital form.

Some of my friends came quite a distance, as well as local residents who dropped in and those who arrived from area towns. I enjoyed visiting with them all.

Blending two newspapers

A new adventure begins this week with *The Western Star* and *Protection Press* combining the two newspapers into one for Comanche County.

Dave Webb of Protection and Dennies Andersen of Coldwater are putting together the newspaper during the month of June, helping new owners Jason and Stephanie Jump transition into their newest newspaper.

Yes, I retired, but I plan AT MY LEISURE to submit various feature stories and my column "Susie's Scribbles." And maybe an occasional photo.

Since the lists of *Star* and *Press* subscribers have been combined, there may be subscribers who don't know me.

Who am I?

I came to Protection in 1949 with my parents Orin and Judy

Strobel and two sisters. My dad who grew up in Hiawatha, Kansas, had just graduated from Kansas University with a major in journalism. My mother had grown up in Falls City, Nebraska. They bought *The Protection Post* newspaper and owned it until 1976.

I was three years old when we moved here. Sally had been born July 17, 1947, and Nancy arrived on July 17, 1949. We all helped with the *Post* as we grew older. I think I was about fourth-grade age when Mother taught me to use the Linotype typesetting machine, and later the job printing press.

I always thought I would go into journalism but as a freshman at KU, I received a F in my first journalism class. I never missed a class but the professor (who also taught my father 20 years earlier) gave pop quizzes and I failed to know the answers.

Being too young to know better, I should have gone to the professor for help. If I had, he would have told me I should be reading the newspapers in the dorm to find out what was going on in this world.

I also wanted to be an English teacher. I loved grammar and writing. Again I struggled because I couldn't figure out the symbolism of what the literature really was about. I received a D.

My college advisor then said since I had mentioned I wanted to be a teacher, why not teach elementary children. So, I switched majors and the next semester I received straight A's.

After graduating from KU in 1968, I became the second-grade teacher in Protection for five years, then had my second baby.

Jay Pepperd was my principal in Protection, then became the principal at Ashland. When the librarian there retired, he asked me if I would be interested being a half-day librarian. I went to St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City for three summers to earn my degree and taught kindergarten-sixth classes for 20 years.

In August 2000 I began work at the *Protection Press*. Since I will be 80 in June, I'm retiring to avoid the stress I go through on Wednesdays trying to meet the printers' deadline.

You will see my "Scribbles" column occasionally in this "newly-named" newspaper. In the meantime, let's give the new owners a chance to be successful!



The Western Star-Protection Press

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Do you like what you've read in this "new" newspaper?

We hope so!

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