

The Western & Protection Star-Press

Serving Coldwater, Protection, Wilmore and Comanche County for more than 140 years!

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Official Newspaper for Comanche County, All Cities, Townships and USD 300

July 23, 2026

EDITORIAL

With Expansion Comes Possibilities But Challenges

BY JASON JUMP
Publisher

Hello everyone and welcome to the wild and wacky world as I see it.

Since this is the first time you are seeing a column from me – this is how I always open.

To me we are living in a wild and wacky time, and it just seems to get more wild and more wacky as the days go by. It doesn't even takes years or months anymore.

I apologize it has taken me so long to basically introduce our company to you our readers.

As some of you may know,

we are a family-owned group of small, weekly newspapers in south central Kansas and north central Oklahoma under the name M³ Publishing, LLC – pronounced M Cubed Publishing. Our company was named after our three children – Micah, Matilyn and Maelyn.

We started with one newspaper in June of 2012 – the *Kingman Leader-Courier*. Our first expansion was taking over *The Harper Advocate* in October 2020. Then came *The Attica Independent* and the *Medford Patriot-Star* – our only Oklahoma title – in June of 2022.

At that point we really weren't

looking to expand any more outside of the possibility of obtaining *The Cunningham Courier*, which I had been actively pursuing basically since we moved to Kansas.

Nothing really seemed to take shape for a couple of years, although we did visit with a number of people about various scenarios, until the previous owner of *The Courier* decided she wanted to sell in 2025. We offered to purchase the paper at that time, but she wanted to try to find someone that would purchase the paper and move to Cunningham if she could not find a local buyer.

Fast forward a few months and

your neighbors to the east lost one half of the ownership group when, sadly, Kevin Noland passed away. His wife, Ronda, did not want to stay in the newspaper business without him by her side, and so we stepped in to save *The Gyp Hill Premiere* from shutting down.

We get to 2026, and that is when the insanity that is our world now started to begin. All of a sudden a number of newspapers in south central Kansas needed buyers or face closure. And for some strange reason they all had picked June as the month the doors were going to slam shut.

Skipping all the boring details,

and here we are with eight newspapers under the M³ Publishing umbrella now. Thankfully, we were able to talk to staff at *The Western Star* and *Protection Press* into hanging on until July.

To be honest with you, I was really nervous about taking on another newspaper with the limited staff we have in place even after they agreed to hold off on closing the doors for an extra month. Our company has produced award-winning products for a great number of years, and I knew trying to tackle eight papers was

See **OPINION** / Page 6

Comanche County Fair Horse Show

Photos by Kelly Rohde



CHRISTOPHER KIRKHAM PHOTOGRAPHY

Feature: Photographer Travels to Coldwater

Christopher Kirkham, a photographer and videographer that shares stories of Kansas cities and towns, recently paid a visit to Coldwater. Kirkham shared a brief post on his social media channels talking briefly about Coldwater's founding and attractions.

Coldwater Swim Lessons



NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email jasonjump@thestarpress.news



MACY SAWYERS

County Fair: Brother, Sister Compete at Fairgrounds

LEFT: Kay Sawyer poses for a photo with a pair of ribbons she won at this year's Comanche County Fair, including an Open Class Grand Champion ribbon. RIGHT: Jeremiah Sawyers works his pig around the ring during the annual pig show.

OBITUARIES

TRISA GAYLE ROTH

Trisa Gayle Roth (Patrick), of Coldwater, left this earth to be with her heavenly father on Sunday morning July 19, 2026. She passed away peacefully at the Via Christi Hospital, in Wichita, after suffering from a brief illness.

This "Freebird" is now freed from this earthly body to soar as she was intended.

Trisa was born on June 10, 1960, in Topeka, to Curtis and Barbara Patrick. She attended primary school in Oskaloosa, high school in Goodland and community college in Colby.

Trisa married Joe Welter, and to that union came their son – her pride and joy – Christopher Welter. She later met and married Simon Roth who preceded her in death.

Trisa was a loving, kind and compassionate soul, who adopted and cared for any stray animal or suffering person down on their luck. She had a big heart who would share what little she had with those less fortunate. She had several hobbies, including creating art, crocheting, rock collecting and making jewelry and floral arrangements. However, she loved plants. Trisa was gifted with a green thumb, she was able to propagate, nurture and grow all kinds, but especially succulents. She followed this passion and made it her career as a landscaper and greenhouse worker.

Trisa was preceded in death by her husband, Simon, her mother, Barbara, paternal grandparents, William and Harriett Patrick, maternal grandparents, Glenn Kline, George and Bernadine Bellingier.

Trisa is survived by her father's current family, Curtis and Jonni Patrick (children Maddux and Rory) of Cheyenne, Okla.; brothers Bill and wife, Dori, Patrick of Winder, Ga., Curtis Jr. and wife, Denise, Patrick of Laverne, Okla. and Shawn and wife, Christina, of Norman, Okla.; sister, Traci and husband, Roger, Mettlen of Haviland; son, Christopher Welter, of Hastings, Minn. and his family – wife, Leaanna and children Isabella, Micah, Carina and Alethea; and grandsons Oliver and Sam Welter. In addition, there are many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends that will mourn Trisa's passing.

Arrangements were made by Affordable Cremations Plus, of Wichita.

RUSSELL ARDEN DUER

Russell Arden Duer passed away on June 18, 2026, at the age of 100.

Born in Alton, on Nov. 5, 1925, he was the son of Leslie Owen Duer and Nellie Grimes Duer. He began his education in Alton and later earned a master's degree in mathematics from Fort Hays State Teachers College.

Russell served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. While in the Navy, he began his undergraduate studies at Miami University, in Ohio, and Dartmouth College. Following his discharge, he served as principal of the Alton Grade School, where he met a young teacher named Alice Jane Bear, who would become his wife of 59 years.

After earning his bachelor's degree, Russell devoted his career to education as both a teacher and administrator. He served in the communities of Protection, Coldwater, Waterville, Tonganoxie and De Soto.

Following his retirement, Russell became a resident of Texas, where he continued teaching and volunteering in Weslaco, in the Rio Grande Valley. A lifelong learner, he spent his golden years teaching himself Spanish and working on calculus proofs for fun.

Russell was preceded in death by his wife, Alice Jane "Janie" Bear Duer and his daughter, Cynthia Ann Offield. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, his son, Leslie, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

F.L. 'VON' MILLER

F.L. "Von" Miller was born on June 21, 1936, and passed away on July 18, 2026 at Ashland Health Center.

He was born at Richards, Colo., to Raymond and Dorothy "Arndt" Miller. He married the former Virginia Ann Wyatt on Aug. 5, 1967, in Ashland. To their union were born Shaila Ann, Shari Lynn and Daniel Miller.

Their primary residences were Plains, Erie County and Ashland.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Shaila, his parents and his sister Darlene McCollum.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Virginia; daughter Shari Jellison (Mark), of Protection and son, Daniel, of Ashland.

He also proudly leaves grandchildren: Rylee Jellison-Cox (Steven Cox), Eli Jellison, Haley Miller (Greyton Wilson); two great-grandchildren: Taylor Cox and Leona Cox; three brothers Vernon of Hershey, of Nebraska, Raydean, of Wichita and Richard (Victoria) of Colwich.

We rejoice that Von was a born again Christian and knew the Lord as his personal savior.

Wilkinson Funeral Service in Ashland is charged with the arrangements Visitation was held on Wednesday, July 22, with the family present.

Celebration of Life will be held at the First Christian Church, in Ashland, on July 23 at 10 a.m. Internment will take place at the Ashland Cemetary following the Celebration of Life.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial gifts be made to Ashland Health Center and Ashland EMS.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in The Western Star & Protection Press on Thursday, July 9, 2026) 3t

In the Sixteenth Judicial District District Court, Comanche County, Kansas Probate Department

In the Matter of the Estate of John D. Willbanks, Deceased.

Case No. CM-2026-PR-8

Notice of Hearing

The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that on the 26th day of June, 2026, a Petition has been filed in said Court by Betty Jean Willbanks praying for admission of foreign Will to probate and record without administration; and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 4th day of August, 2026, at 1:30 o'clock p.m. of said day, in said Court, in the City of Coldwater, in Comanche County, Kansas, 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.

Betty Jean Willbanks, Petitioner

Megan L. McCann
Davis & McCann, P.A.
2300 1st Avenue
Dodge City, KS 67801
Phone: (620) 225-1674
Fax: (620) 227-2770
e-mail: mmccann@dclawfirm.net
Attorneys for Petitioner

In Loving Memory of

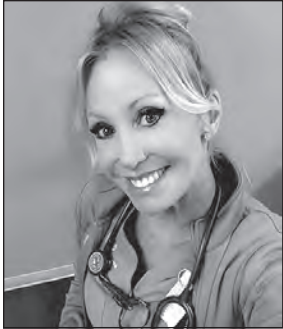
Melissa Thompson Short

November 18, 1974 –
December 5, 2025

Please join us to celebrate
Melissa, share memories
and enjoy a meal with
family and friends.

Dress casual. Bright
colors or leopard
are encouraged.

Saturday, August 1st / 4 p.m.
Veteran's Building / Coldwater, Kansas



PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Western Star & Protection Press on Thursday, July 9, 2026) 3t

SCR 1611 Constitutional Amendment

A PROPOSITION to amend sections 5, 8 and 15 of article 3 of the constitution of the state of Kansas; relating to the supreme court; providing for direct election of justices; abolishing the supreme court nominating commission; permitting justices to make contributions to and hold office in a political party or organization and take part in political campaigns.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Kansas, two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives concurring therein:

Section 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of the state of Kansas shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval or rejection: Sections 5, 8 and 15 of article 3 of the constitution of the state of Kansas are hereby amended to read as follows:

"§ 5. Selection of justices of the supreme court. The citizens of Kansas who are qualified electors shall elect the justices of the supreme court. The rules applicable for such elections and the designation of position numbers shall be provided by law. Justice positions 1, 2 and 3 shall be elected at the general election in November of 2028, justice positions 4 and 5 in November of 2030 and justice positions 6 and 7 in November of 2032, and every six years thereafter, respectively. Any vacancy occurring on the supreme court for an unexpired term shall be filled by election as provided by law.

(a) Any vacancy occurring in the office of any justice of the supreme court and any position to be open thereon as a result of enlargement of the court, or the retirement or failure of an incumbent to file his declaration of candidacy to succeed himself as hereinafter required, or failure of a justice to be elected to succeed himself, shall be filled by appointment by the governor of one of three persons possessing the qualifications of office who shall be nominated and whose names shall be submitted to the governor by the supreme court nominating commission established as hereinafter provided. (b) In event of the failure of the governor to make the appointment within sixty days from the time the names of the nominees are submitted to him, the chief justice of the supreme court shall make the appointment from such nominees. (c) Each justice of the supreme court appointed pursuant to provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall hold office for an initial term ending on the second Monday in January following the first general election that occurs after the expiration of twelve months in office. Not less than sixty days prior to the holding of the general election next preceding the expiration of his term of office, any justice of the supreme court may file in the office of the secretary of state a declaration of candidacy for election to succeed himself. If a declaration is not so filed, the position held by such justice shall be open from the expiration of his term of office. If such declaration is filed, his name shall be submitted at the next general election to the electors of the state on a separate judicial ballot, without party designation, reading substantially as follows:

— "Shall
(Here insert name of justice.)

(Here insert the title of the court.)
— be retained in office?"

If a majority of those voting on the question vote against retaining him in office, the position or office which he holds shall be open upon the expiration of his term of office; otherwise he shall, unless removed for cause, remain in office for the regular term of six years from the second Monday in January following such election. At the expiration of each term he shall, unless by law he is compelled to retire, be eligible for retention in office by election in the manner prescribed in this section. (d) A nonpartisan nominating commission whose duty it shall be to nominate and submit to the governor the names of persons for appointment to fill vacancies in the office of any justice of the supreme court is hereby established, and shall be known as the "supreme court nominating commission." Said commission shall be organized as hereinafter provided. (e) The supreme court nominating commission shall be composed as follows: One member, who shall be chairman, chosen from among their number by the members of the bar who are residents of and licensed in Kansas; one member from each congressional district chosen from among their number by the resident members of the bar in each such district; and one member, who is not a lawyer, from each congressional district, appointed by the governor from among the residents of each such district. (f) The terms of office, the procedure for selection and certification of the members of the commission and provision for their compensation or expenses shall be as provided by the legislature. (g) No member of the supreme court nominating commission shall, while he is a member, hold any other public office by appointment or any official position in a political party or for six months thereafter be eligible for nomination for the office of justice of the supreme court. The commission may act only by the concurrence of a majority of its members."

"§ 8. Prohibition of political activity by justices and certain judges. No justice of the supreme court who is appointed or retained under the procedure of section 5 of this article, nor any judge of the district court holding office under a nonpartisan method authorized in subsection (a) of section 6 of this article shall directly or indirectly make any contribution to or hold any office in a political party or organization or take part in any political campaign, except when such judge is a candidate for election to a position on an appellate court."

"§ 15. Removal of justices and judges. Justices of the supreme court may be removed from office by impeachment and conviction as prescribed in article 2 of this constitution. In addition to removal by impeachment and conviction, justices may be retired after appropriate hearing, upon certification to the governor, by the supreme court nominating commission that such justice is so incapacitated as to be unable to perform adequately his duties. Other judges shall be subject to retirement for incapacity, and to discipline, suspension and removal for cause by the supreme court after appropriate hearing."

Sec. 2. The following statement shall be printed on the ballot with the amendment as a whole:

"Explanatory statement. This amendment gives the voters the right to elect the justices of the Kansas supreme court. The justices shall serve terms of six years, with the elections of justice positions 1, 2 and 3 to occur in 2028, positions 4 and 5 to occur in 2030 and positions 6 and 7 to occur in 2032, and every six years thereafter. The rules applicable for such elections and the designation of position numbers shall be provided by law. Any vacancy on the court for an unexpired term shall be filled at an election as provided by law.

"A vote for this proposition would give Kansas citizens the right to elect Kansas supreme court justices as provided by law. Justices will hold office for terms of six years. The Kansas supreme court nominating commission, whose membership consists of a majority of lawyers, would be abolished.

"A vote against this proposition would continue the current system in which the Kansas supreme court nominating commission, whose membership consists of a majority of lawyers, provides the governor a list of three individuals to choose from for vacancies on the Kansas supreme court. Justices hold office for a term of six years and retain their offices if they win a retention election in which they do not face an opponent.

Sec. 3. This resolution, if approved by two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives, shall be entered on the journals, together with the yeas and nays. The secretary of state shall cause this resolution to be published as provided by law and shall cause the proposed amendment to be submitted to the electors of the state at a special election, which is hereby called on August 4, 2026, pursuant to section 1 of article 14 of the constitution of the state of Kansas, to be held in conjunction with the primary election held on such date.

Western & Protection

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Jason and Stephanie Jump

OWNERS

Jason Jump

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

jasonjump@thestarpress.news

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CONTACT US

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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email jasonjump@thestarpress.news

Past Paragraphs

Protection news from earlier times

Compiled by Dave Webb

125 YEARS AGO Western Star July 26, 1901

Protection paragraphs

The site for a new lumber-yard is located in Protection and a few carloads of lumber are expected soon. — [Correspondent] “RALEIGH.”

Protection prattle

Watermelons, now.

Mrs. Reed is now able to take charge of the Sunday school. We are glad to see her well again.

We look for some of the harvest hands home this week (at least some of us do). Glad to see them again.

A large crowd attended the concert given by Mrs. Meisinger last week. Everybody reports a very good time. Mrs. Meisinger will organize a class in vocal music soon. — [Correspondent] “JUNIPER.”

Back to work

George S. Thomas of Protection started to St. Louis last Friday. He expects to begin work soon as operator and agent for some railroad — just which one or where had not been determined at the time he went. His family will continue to live at Protection, for awhile at least.

Farm and ranch news

Edgar Baker of Valley Township went to Topeka Tuesday with a carload — about 20,000 pounds — of wool which will probably be sold to the Topeka woolen mills. The wool is part of the 1901 crop at the big Baker sheep ranch in Valley Township.

A.L. Rodgers of Protection Township went to Kansas City Tuesday with a carload of fat hogs. He will spend a few days visiting in southwestern Missouri before returning home.

Several prairie fires have been visible this week. Too much caution cannot be exercised in this direction.

A prairie fire broke out in the vicinity of the Smith & Mussett Ranch on Tuesday and burned over a portion of the Box Ranch, about half of J.E. Harbaugh’s ranch, and a small portion of the Andrews ranch.

Four ricks of wheat belonging either to J.G. Jarnagin or John Cumpton

were destroyed. Just how the fire started seems not to be known.

Teacher shortage

It is claimed that there will be a shortage of school teachers in Comanche County this year. Members of school boards will now be the most sought-after people — until after the teachers are all located.

Rain!

During the past week Kansas has been visited in almost every county by local rains, and as a result, the farmers and stockmen have been feeling much more hopeful of raising a fair crop of feed.

In Comanche County the rain came Monday afternoon in “small and broken doses” as someone put it. The western part of Coldwater Township, the northern half of Protection Township, and the eastern part of Avilla Township were the most favored portions of the county.

The heaviest rainfall was in the vicinity of Protection where between 1½ and 2 inches fell. In some portions of the county, however, the rainfall was very slight — not enough to do the growing crops any good. What we are still hoping for is a good soaking rain that will thoroughly saturate the still-thirsty earth.

Headin’ to Oklahoma

Among the 140,000 or more people registered at El Reno and at Lawton for a chance to draw a quarter-section of land in the new country, Comanche County has furnished about 40.

Charley Sickler and Ed Deppink started by the wagon route on last Friday, and on Tuesday morning of this week the following named persons started over the Santa Fe [railroad] by way of Mulvane and Oklahoma City: Spencer Huff, J.G. Doig, C.A. Fridley, Dick H. Rich, T.A. Cole, Lon Emerson, J.R. Jones, Charles Sewell, W.H. Sewell, Willis DeWees, Mace Chapman, J.C. Smith, Miss Margaret McIntyre, Charley Taylor and Ed Price.

These, added to the number who had previously gone, will bring the total up

to nearly half a hundred.

At the ratio of one claim to two applicants, about four Comanche County people will secure homes in the much talked of new country.

J.E. Mark, of Protection Township, and Sullivan Brickerstaff, of Clark County, started last week for the land of “10 to 1.”

More land sold

About 13,000 acres of government land were sold at Dodge City on July 10 and 11. Nearly 37,000 acres remain unsold in this land office district. Unsold lands can be bought at any time at the fixed price of \$1.25 per acre [just over \$49 in today’s dollars].

Some of the land at the recent sale brought \$1.50, \$1.75, and as high as \$2.10 per acre [\$59 to about \$83 now], but the majority of it brought the minimum price of \$1.25 per acre.

100 YEARS AGO Protection Post July 22, 1926

Big bakery plans

Recently J.F. Teague purchased the former Elite Hotel building from P.D. Thornhill. He received possession of the property last week and Monday morning of this week, J.O. Freshour and a force of men began work on the building to remodel and rebuild it. . . .

Mr. Teague plans to make out of the building a modern bakery. Mr. Freshour and his force of men are tearing the upper story off the old building and it will be made into a one-story building. The front will be entirely remodeled. New entrances and a plate glass front will be put into the building. The entire front above the beam will be refinished in stucco. Skylights will be builded [sic] in both rooms, new roof and ceiling and a modern ventilating system installed. . . .

When completed the building will have two nicely appointed rooms. The south one — the larger room — will be occupied by Mr. Teague with his Bon Ton Bakery and the bakery department, both front room and rear, or baking and oven room, will be specially built for the bakery. . . .

The north, or smaller room, will continue to be occupied by Mr. [Bert] Miller with his barbershop. Mr. Miller is likewise planning new equipment that will modernize his shop and give the latest furnishings.

When completed, Mr. Teague will have a beautiful new building, occupied by two modern business institutions in which Protection can justly take pride, and in addition, [he] will have converted an eyesore for the town into a beautiful building that will reflect credit upon the community.

Recent car sales

Several local people have invested in new cars the past week or two, and some new tractors have been sold to help in the field plowing and seeding.

E.G. Tharp is driving a new Chrysler “70” Royal Coupe, purchased from Windus & Son.

E.S. Dale bought a Chrysler “60” Coach from Windus & Son, last week.

A.C. Alexander purchased a Chrysler “60” Standard Sedan, last week, from Windus & Son.

Roy Lewis is the owner of a new Studebaker

Brougham, purchased this week from F.C. Lindsey.

F.C. Lindsey sold and delivered a new Studebaker Coach to A.M. Alexander of Ashland, this week.

W.F. Anderson is driving a new Studebaker, purchased from F.C. Lindsey.

Bachman & Company sold a new Ford Touring Car to J.L. Morris, this week.

Sol Kraus of Selman, Oklahoma, purchased a new Fordor Ford Sedan from Bachman & Company this week.

Bachman & Company sold a Fordson tractor to Jess Williams of the Upper Bluff Creek neighborhood, this week.

75 YEARS AGO Protection Post July 20, 1951

On the sick list

The Bus Petty children are ill with the measles.

Cathy, two-year-old daughter of Dean and Mary Shoemaker, was taken to the St. Francis Hospital in Wichita last Wednesday, ill with polio. The disease was in her shoulders and arms, but at the present time she is responding nicely to treatment and the doctor thinks she will be completely recovered within six weeks.

Connie McLaughlin underwent an emergency appendectomy at the St. Francis Hospital in Wichita Monday evening. Her room number is 360. Miss McLaughlin is employed with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in Wichita.

Mrs. Faye Evelyn Riner entered the Hardtner Hospital last Friday due to a severe case of poison ivy.

Birthday swats

The two youngest Strobels girls celebrated their birthdays Tuesday, the 17th. Sally was four and Nancy two. At supper Daddy asked Sally if she had received any birthday spankings during the day and when she said she hadn’t, he explained the custom to her and administered four playful whacks in the proper place.

Later that evening a naughty Sally received several not-so-playful whacks. She tearfully told five-year-old Susan that “Daddy spanked me on my Happy Birthday.”

We amusedly wondered if she was referring to the occasion or place.

New lights on Broadway

Mrs. Ona Mae Satterlee had a large neon sign installed on the Brunswick Hotel Monday. The sign measures eight feet tall. She has also installed a large electric clock circled with “Brunswick Hotel” in neon in the hotel lobby. Mrs. Satterlee is to be commended for these fine additions to the business district.

The Brunswick Hotel was on the west side of North Broadway, located about where My Brother’s House stands today.

Hot, hotter . . .

Summer sun has played a trick on Claude Rowland and Frank Barnhart. The hot rays caused a window in Claude’s Chevrolet to shatter. The rear glass in Frank’s Ford did likewise.

Hottest

The fire truck was called to the Boy Scout house Monday afternoon, when waste paper stored there became ignited. The fire started in

front of the front window and was soon discovered.

A few well-aimed buckets of water by the POST editor kept the flames down until W.W. Martin showed up with a garden hose which was hooked up to the Post Print Shop faucet. After that, the fire didn’t have a chance. Heat of the flames cracked a couple of front windows and charred the walls of the building, otherwise damage was slight.

The Boy Scout meeting house was a small frame building just south of the Post Print Shop, which was just south of the abandoned lumberyard today. The Lane Myers Company now has a metal building and quonset hut on those sites.

Wheelin’ and dealin’

Jack Lindsey finished alterations and cleaning of his building last week and has opened a car agency there. He had previously leased the building to the Lehman Hardware.

At the present, Jack is handling Plymouth cars and Chevrolet trucks. He is angling for an authorized dealership in a popular car line.

55 YEARS AGO Protection Post July 23, 1971

County fair grows

For the first time in many years, there will be a Comanche County Fair [this year]. This means there will be open class exhibits as well as 4-H Club exhibits at the fair. [At that time, the annual 4-H Fair had been a fixture in Protection for some time.] Anyone in Comanche County may exhibit in the open class division. . . .

Future All-Stars at play

Protection’s Pee Wee baseball team and their coach, Mike Maris, went to Bucklin last Thursday evening where . . . Protection defeated the Bucklin Pee Wee team.

Members of the Protection team are: Brad Christopher, Jamie Hart, Kent Moore, Mitch Moore, Kurt Allender, Mike Bayne, Kelly Allender, Chad Sanders, Corey Filson, Don Smutz, Jeff Cooper and Kirk Kissel.

Kelly Butts, Charles Herd, Kip Petty, Glen McMillin, Kyle Riner, Danny Dale, Merlin Moore, Chad McMillin, Earl Webster and Byron Smith.

Kris Moore, Mike Moore, Scott Moore, Tim Petty, Duke Harmon, Kevin Allender, Kendal Filson, Merle Wait Jr. and Sid Woolfolk.

35 YEARS AGO Protection Press July 25, 1991

Big Peterson party

A celebration of 50 years on the Peterson farmstead and the 50th birthday of Phyllis Fellers were held on Saturday, July 6, 1991.

Hosting the event were Charles and Penny Peterson and their children: Tim Peterson of Greensburg, and Ed and Tammy Davis of Pratt.

Those present were Bob and Pat Fellers, Tom and Phyllis Fellers, and Jim Fellers of Ashland; Paul Fellers of Lawrence; Elizabeth Fellers of Manhattan; Jim, Jacque, Alex, Andrew and Katie Stearns of Houston, Texas; Wilbur and Shirley Wood and Mike, Lori, Leah and Kevin Wood of Trousdale; Greg, Denies, Tara and Ashlev Wood of Fellsburg;

Eric, Shelly, Erica and Nick Doll of Garden City; Garland Peterson and Ramona Lawrence of Protection; Rachel Nausban of Boulder, Colorado; and Eric Stearns of Houston.

Many of the group arrived early to tour the farm and to reminisce. A sandwich and salad luncheon was served at noon. In the afternoon, several enjoyed swimming in the city pool.

At 5:30 p.m. everyone met in the Fellowship Hall of the Methodist church for a program and supper. Family Trivia was played, which Pat had prepared.

Mother Peterson spoke of what the past and present years have meant to her. . . .

The Wood family styled a variety of clothes, featuring a dress of Garland’s mother, a cape jacket of Fremond’s mother, and several dresses Garland wore in the time when she taught school [1922–1935].

To complete the style show, Shirley and Wilbur styled the wedding clothes that Garland and Fremond wore on their wedding day in 1935. . . .

Phyllis was “roasted” honoring her on her 50th birthday. Everyone enjoyed the delicious birthday cake made by Edna May Webster.

15 YEARS AGO Protection Press July 21, 2011

Five fires in three days

By Bob Greer

Since early Saturday morning, July 9, Comanche County firefighters have kept busy — fighting five fires including one that lasted three days. All but one were thought to be started by lightning.

They first responded to a call about 5:45 a.m. Saturday to a half-mile north of the Kansas-Oklahoma line about two miles west of K-1 Highway.

On the way to that fire, Comanche County Fire Chief Larry Ellis discovered a second blaze three miles north and a mile and a half east of Coldwater.

Trucks and firefighters from Wilmore handled the fire northeast of Coldwater, while men and trucks from Coldwater and Protection, along with rural fire trucks from Southeast and Valley View, all went to the larger fire south near the state line.

On their way to the southern part of the county, trucks spotted a third fire, just south of the county landfill (about two miles south of Coldwater). The Valley View truck and crew extinguished that fire on their way south, and then headed for the larger fire.

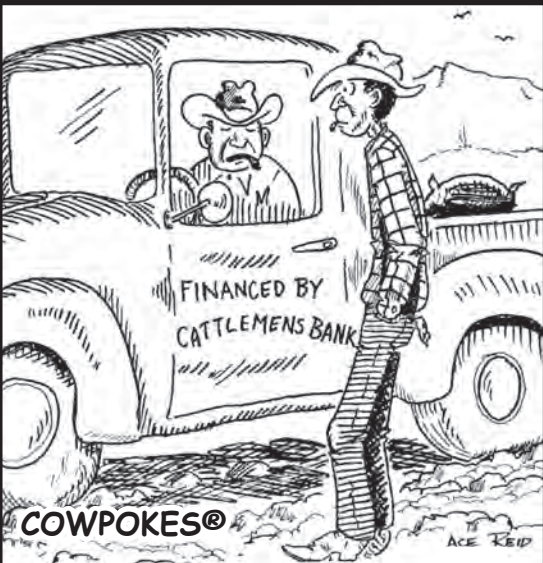
A fourth fire was reported around noon about the time the firefighters and trucks were returning from the state line fire. It was three miles south and two miles west of Coldwater, and the firefighters extinguished that fire before leaving.

Saturday afternoon, fire crews were recalled to the fire in the south end of the county, as smoldering trees rekindled and spread to CRP land and pasture ground.

The fire crews stayed on that fire until 4 a.m. Sunday morning (July 10). They were recalled about 11:15 a.m. Sunday and were kept busy through most of Monday.

The fifth call was to southeast of Coldwater where wooden pallets purposely set on fire got out of control.

YOUR HOMETOWN BANKS ARE READY TO SERVE YOU!



The Bank of Protection
302 North Broadway, Protection, 620-622-4224

The Bank of Coldwater
145 East Main, Coldwater, 620-582-2113

bankofprotection.com



NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email jasonjump@thestarpress.news

REUNION REPORT

By Susan Edmonston

The Riner Cousins Reunion took place the weekend of July 17-19. The main get-together was all-day Saturday in the community room of the Protection Township Library.

Just before the potluck meal at noon, everyone filled a cup with Pepsi and made a toast to Grandma Ruby Riner who drank Pepsi by the case. Ruby also gave birth to five girls and five boys. All 10 are deceased but the cousins look forward every year to having this annual reunion.

Next is the list of the 10 children and the ones who represented their parent:

Waldo, the oldest child, was represented by both of his daughters Kay Cooper, Kansas City and Pat Mitchell, Wheatland, Wyo. and Pat's husband, Steve.

Nevan, the second child, usually is represented by his

daughter, Lana Barnes of Mesa, Ariz., but she recently broke her femur bone and was still recuperating from surgery.

Enid, the third child and first girl, was represented by her son, Steve Gunther, of Denver and grandson, Greg Gunther, also from Denver, and Enid's grandson, Bret Loibl, of Valley Center.

G.T., the fourth child and third boy, was represented by his daughter, Trudy Eikenberry and husband, Don, of Scott City and his son, Bill Riner and wife, Sue, also from Scott City.

Ida Mae was the fifth child and second girl. Her son, Bill Foster and his wife, Carol, planned to come but Bill got sick. Attending this reunion were her son, Greg Foster and his wife, Donna, of Tecumseh, granddaughter, Mindy Foster, of Wichita and her son, Josh Moff,

also of Wichita.

Velmaree, the sixth child and third girl, had three sons present: Paul Harden, of Benton, Phil Harden, of Ashland and Jim Harden, of Ashland.

Gladys, seventh child and fourth girl, was represented by her son, Boyd "BK" Vogt, from Ohio.

Billie June, eighth child and fifth girl, had nobody there.

Ted, ninth child and fourth son, also had no representation. He never married.

Richard "Dick" had daughter, Kim Monroe, of Jasper, Texas and her grandson, son D.J. Riner and his wife, Lori, of Tulsa, Okla. and daughter Debbie Brooks and husband, Doug, of Protection.

Sunday, brothers Phil and Paul Harden preached during the church services held at the library.

PROTECTION CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June Meeting

PRESENT: Mayor: Chris Brosius; Council: Bryce Hazen, Phillip Sawyers, Dwayne Thronsbury, Tyler Woolfolk; City Hall: Shirley Norton, Jennifer Monroe; Police: Devon Duffield; Public Works: Danny Shaw

ABSENT: Council: AJ Zimmerman; Public Works: Chris Snyder

NOTE: Due to lack of quorum, Council meeting rescheduled from Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

Governing council members and staff were present as noted with the City of Protection

June 12, 2026 regular meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

Moved by: Thronsbury, Seconded by: Sawyers, Carried: 4-0

Approval of Minutes from last regular council meeting held May 13, 2026.

Moved by: Thronsbury, Seconded by: Hazen, Carried: 4-0

Pool: Molly

Nathan Welsh donated the time to install the basketball goals for the pool and kids are having a lot of fun with them. A night swim is schedule for Saturday June 13, 2026. PVM coming Tuesday and Friday evenings to swim.

Police: Devon

Had a safety event last year and would like to do again this year in July – hot dogs, fire/EMS. Grant funding would pay for cross walk paint, flashing sign by cross-walk (park to pool), etc. Matching funds of \$2,000 needed by City.

Moved by: Hazen, Seconded by: Sawyers, Carried: 4-0

Municipal Court: Shirley

Court was on May 27 at 5:30pm. Tickets were only items on docket. Next court date is July 22 (currently no court scheduled in June).

New Meters:

• David Leckner and co-worker with D. C. & B. Supply, Inc. (Pratt) here to visit with Danny regarding their meters. Dropped by City Hall to introduce themselves. Listing of addresses for City and Rural Water have been sent for their review.

• Tony with Schultze will be here Thursday, June 18th, at 11:30 to go over regarding interfacing with their meters. Also, will be bringing meters for trial run.

Public Works New Business:

• Discussion on asphalt saw, filter system

See MINUTES / Page 8

Handy Man Big and small jobs welcome 720-474-5232 Coldwater	howell@unitedwireless.com H Howell Insurance Teresa Jellison Hilary Murphy Holly Fast Erin Boggs 620-622-4501 620-635-2297	Red Hills Waste Solutions Justin York, owner-operator Coldwater 316-833-2990 <i>Advertise here!</i> ON FARM TIRE REPAIR Kropf Oil Co. Coldwater 620-582-2391	Moana Rated PG / 115 minutes July 25-26 <i>Sponsored by</i> RED HILLS WASTE JUSTIN & NICOLE YORK Chief THEATRE Showtime 8 pm BOTH Saturday and Sunday Box office opens 45 minutes prior to showtime
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 <i>Four providers serving the county</i> Carmen Nelson, APRN-C in Protection Wednesday afternoon Ashley Alvarez, APRN-C in Protection Thursday morning			
SHATTUCK LAW OFFICE Offices in Ashland and Greensburg Phone 866-635-2331 Email bootes@ucom.net or shattuck@ucom.net Sally Shattuck Attorney Linda Brower Assistant	Monday-Saturday 4-12 midnight <i>Kitchen closes at 10 pm</i> My Brother's House Mark and Jeanette Houghton 311 N B'dway • Protection • 620-622-7352	Finishing Touch FAMILY HAIR CARE Debi 620-253-4396 Beverly 620-546-3204 204 East Main Coldwater Open Tuesday-Saturday	Waiting for your special message!
Tony and Lisa Gales ★ Pharmacists 620-582-2134 ★ 800-794-4307 113 East Main ★ Coldwater MAIN STREET PHARMACY			
UNRUH SAND & GRAVEL Sand-Gravel-Rock-Road base Delivered Oil field road work Fully insured-Fast service 620-582-5035		Ashland Veterinary Center Randall Spare, DVM John Kellenberger, DVM Kelly Deewall, DVM Mark Spare, DVM Josh Dowdy, DVM West Hwy 160 • Ashland 620-635-2641	Readers will see your message right here!
THE FRIDGE Retail Liquor Store 717 S Central Coldwater 620-582-2242 Mon-Thur 11 am-9 pm Fri-Sat 10 am-10 pm Sunday Noon-7 pm		HATFIELD-PRUSA FUNERAL HOME COLDWATER 620-582-2154	
Peoples Insurance For all your Insurance needs call 620-582-2166 or 800-889-9887 ask for Leasa		Established 1907 Fleener's Furniture & Flooring 620-723-2741 114 W Florida St GREENSBURG	
WILMORE OIL COMPANY PREMIUM LUBRICANTS & FUEL Mobil • Chevron • Motorcraft Shell • Citgo Mystik LUBRICANTS Wilmore Propane LLC To-your-tank propane sales We appreciate your business! AARON • 620-546-3427 RYAN • 620-546-1592 Greensburg • Wilmore wilmoreoil.com		COMANCHE COUNTY CONSERVATION Fencing Materials Grass Seed Ordering Grass Drill Rental 201 South New York, Coldwater Mon-Thur 8 am-4 pm 620-582-2211	
Sandhills Veterinary Services Coldwater 620-582-5393 Tonia Traas DVM		Brooks Plumbing & HVAC Taylor Brooks Protection 620-635-5172	
We're saving this spot for your ad!		Matt Freund FREUND FABRICATION Welding repair work, fabrication, custom projects Portable welding 316-617-1667 1 mile north of Coldwater on west side of Hwy 183	
Ample Electric EST. 2024 Free Estimates Michael Peeler 785-635-7100 Michael@ampleelectricllc.com Licensed & Insured		IROQUOIS CENTER FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, INC. C. Lucas Stephens, LCP, LCAC Counselor at Coldwater Satellite Office 207 S. Washington Every Other Thursday for Appointment, call: 620-723-2272	
The Western Star Protection Press		Coldwater Pet Care CPC & VET SUPPLY	
KAT Construction 601 East First Street PO Box 566 Coldwater KS 67029 Kelsey Thompson 620-582-5336		APEX Auto Sales Used Autos 620-582-2740 101 N. Central Coldwater	
SAM MOSSHART TRUCKING Hauls CATTLE, HAY, ROCK Sam Mosshart 620-635-6512 AJ Zimmerman 620-518-3194		Bison Merc 704 Main St Ashland 620-635-4063 bisonmerc.com • Housewares • Bedroom • Office • Outdoors • Furniture • Seasonal • Appliances • Delivery Full selection on our website!	
CMS ELECTRIC Your electric cooperative! Meade 620-873-2184 Coldwater 620-582-2534 After hours 800-794-2353		Fuel Up! 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!			

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email jasonjump@thestarpress.news

Back in the Older Days

Coldwater news from earlier days
Compiled by Teresa Jones**130 YEARS AGO*****From July 25, 1896 Star***

The mail going east will be made up each morning except Sundays, when it will be made up at 6 p.m. The mail west will be made up at 4:00 p.m., each day. Money Order and Postal Note office closed at 5 p.m. sharp. L.M. Rich, Postmaster, Coldwater, Kansas.

The late rains have played mischief with the ceiling of the court room again. The roof is undoubtedly in fault and needs repairing.

A great many persons have remarked since the light rains, that they never remember of seeing such bounteous rains before in the month of July. The trouble is that their memory is poor.

By actual measurement, 4 inches of rain was registered at Coldwater during July 1895—this July registered 4½ inches. The difference is not much. The July rains in this section have been even more bountiful than the June rains.

The rainfall between July 10th and 20th, as measured by the rain gauge in this city, was 4½ inches in Protection. It is claimed there was more rain-fall than here. At any rate, there has been plenty of rain all over the county and the farmers and cattlemen are feeling jubilant.

More rain yesterday. It came from the north and was cool.

Earl Powell presented THE STAR with the first watermelon Wednesday, for which he has our thanks. The watermelon crop will be up to the usual standard, but it is a little backward.

The Coldwater Ball Team went to Ashland Saturday to play, but owing to the ground being too muddy and wet caused by the rain during the forenoon, they did not play.

They returned to Coldwater happier than they would have been had they played, for Joe Smith said they were loaded for them. Ashland told the Coldwater team to come again if they want to play ball, but pick a better time than occurred.

120 YEARS AGO***From July 20, 1906 Star***

Miss Kathryn Fridley is now central girl at the telephone office.

To all girls and boys, if you will tell us the number and kind of live stock your papa will ship this year, you will get a nice set of dominoes. Give Papa's name in full. RICE BROTHERS

Z.T. Powell has installed a brand-new express wagon and will be found ready at all times to do any work in that line. He is now mail carrier between the depot and the post office.

J.S. Nokes and family moved last week from Woodward-co. to this city and will locate here, for a few months at least. He will work at his trade—plasterer, stonemason and brickmason—with his father, S.L. Nokes.

Coldwater will present a busy scene today and tomorrow. Many people from all parts of the county will come in to enjoy the “carnival” and see the balloon ascensions.

And still the rain-making showers continue to come. The weather continues very nice. The green fields and pastures are beautiful to look upon.

Corn in this vicinity is very promising and the alfalfa fields are first-class.

Home grown peaches are on the market and of good quality.

More than 1,000,000 immigrants entered the United States through the Ellis Island station at New York during the fiscal year ending June 30, last.

School teachers can now legally contract for the next term of school.

110 YEARS AGO***From July 21, 1916 Star***

The children of the playground, thinking to be hospitable, treated the Ashland children to ice cream cones, which all enjoyed very much, but since there were more Ashland children than home children, a deficit for the cones was created.

It is requested that the children who did not bring their dimes [worth about \$3 now] last Friday, will bring them soon to Miss Cheshire, or parents who wish to help further on this treat will send small sums to the playground leader, that this little bit may be paid off at once.

A union Anti-Cigarette meeting will be held at the court house grove in this city on next Sunday evening, beginning at 8:15. The meeting will be held under the auspices of the Temperance department of the W.C.T.U. The program should prove of interest to all. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

The city of Coldwater is giving some of the streets another application of oil. Wherever oil has been properly applied on streets and roads in this part of the state the results have been quite satisfactory.

The oil will help to render the surfaces of the ground impervious to water, thus causing the ground to drain more quickly and more thoroughly, leaving the highway very firm.

Only 10 days more of campaigning before the primary election.

The printers are now busy at work printing the ballots for the primary election which will be held on August 1—one week from next Tuesday. There will be five separate ballots—republican, democratic, socialist, prohibition, and blank, besides the “sample” ballots.

L.A. Baldwin of the Coldwater Municipal Water and Light plant estimates that from 35,000 to 50,000 gallons of water is now being used each day by Coldwater people. That's some water.

100 YEARS AGO***From July 23, 1926 Star***

If you are a voter, you should begin now and plan to go to the polls on August 3 and cast your vote for the candidates on your party ticket, who will best represent your ideas of efficiency and good service in office.

It is important that the most capable, trustworthy, and the most efficient candidates be chosen. Hence there should be a large turnout of voters at the primary.

Come to Coldwater today, Friday July 23, and hear the big program which will be put on by the home folks and by the people on the Wheat Special Train. It should be a great day for both Protection and Coldwater.

Today, Friday, July 23rd, will be a big day in both Protection and Coldwater. In each town, hundreds of people will assemble to hear and see the splendid programs which have been provided.

The Wheat Special will be composed of represen-

tatives mainly of the Santa Fe Railroad and the Kansas State Agricultural College [now KSU], will visit each town and put on a splendid program which will be of special interest to farmers and stockmen.

In Coldwater the day's program will begin at 10 a.m., and something will be doing until the close of the two hours' program, which will be put on between the hours of 3 and 5 p.m. by the people who travel on the Wheat Special.

Plan to bring your dinner and enjoy the picnic dinner with your friends in the town and country, at the court house square. You cannot afford to miss the programs offered.

Good-sized crowds have been in attendance each evening this week, since Sunday, at the plays put on in our city by the Happy Jack Jenks players, under the auspices of the Coldwater Country Club.

The usual Saturday afternoon matinee will be sponsored by some of our merchants, “A Romance of the North Pole” will be presented Friday night, “A True American” will be shown at the Saturday matinee, and the play on Saturday evening will be “The Counterfeiters.”

This is Chautauqua season again in a good many towns. J.E. Whitman of Preston, Kansas, one of the Republican candidates for Congressman for this district, paid Coldwater a visit on last Friday.

He is a practical farmer, a successful business man and an experienced legislator, having had considerable experience as Representative, and later as Senator, in the State Legislature.

In every position where he has been tested, Mr. Whitman has made good, and a vote for him at the August Primary will be an expression of confidence in a very worthy candidate.

90 YEARS AGO***From July 24, 1936 Star***

Last Saturday was the hottest day of this season and for that matter, was the warmest in many years. Mercury reached 114 degrees in the shade in Coldwater with little, if any, breeze.

On Sunday and Monday a very hot wind blew from the north, which burned one's face, though the temperature was three or four degrees lower than on Saturday.

Tuesday and Wednesday were cooler, but on Thursday thermometers again began to climb and only fair and hot weather is in immediate prospect. In Fredonia, Kans., the temperature reached 121 degrees on Saturday. The most desirable thing in Comanche county is a good rain. Spring crops continue to shrivel, though in a number of fields serious damage has not yet been caused by the heat wave. No prostrations from heat have been reported in this county.

Kansas ranks fifth in acreage of alfalfa in the United States.

The last camping period for Boy Scouts at Camp Pawnee near Larned will begin next Monday morning. For a list of articles to bring, as well as paying \$5.50 for the week, see J.W. Brewer, scoutmaster.

The Scouts will leave Coldwater early Monday morning. There is a limit set that each Scout may spend for “extras” daily. Parents

are asked to co-operate in sending their sons to this camp.

The Protection Boosters will play baseball in Coldwater with the Coldwater team on Friday afternoon of this week, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Each team has won one victory over the other team this season.

A Coldwater softball team defeated a team from Dodge City on the Coldwater diamond last Friday night by a score of 7 to 4.

80 YEARS AGO***From July 26, 1946 Star***

Seven Coldwater Boy Scouts are at Camp Pawnee, Boy Scout camp near Larned, this week enjoying a week of outing.

While many towns in southwestern Kansas have had to ration water this summer, Coldwater has had an ample supply, though their pumps were practically worn out. A fine new well has been brought in by the Western Light & Telephone Co., and its supply line will be tapped this weekend by a force of men here for the job.

The water tower will be filled Thursday night and it will then be necessary to cut off all the pumps from the tower, while the change-over to the new well and its conveyor is being made. It is absolutely necessary that the people of Coldwater co-operate so that the tower full of water will last Friday and Saturday, and perhaps longer, or until the necessary tapping of the new supply is made.

Our citizens are asked not to water lawns or gardens or use any water not absolutely necessary, but window coolers are used. In this manner we can likely get by all right and not be caught short in case of fire. During this period, particularly, everyone is asked to use extreme caution to prevent any fires occurring. Beginning next week, you will have available all the water you want.

The Kansas Commonwealth Club has started a campaign to adopt “Home on the Range” as the official state song. It has been announced by David D. Fishback, Wichita, president of the club. Although Colorado and New Mexico also claim the song was written in their states, continued investigations seem to indicate that Kansas' claim is the more legitimate. Best information is that the song was written by Dr. Brewster Higley, years ago in a cabin near Smith Center. The club officials plan to ask the state legislature to officially adopt the song.

S.M. Mitchell, Secretary of the Kansas State Fair, has just announced the completion of the 1946 Premium List. It is just off the press and the 116 pages are crammed with information and prizes offered in all departments. Exhibitors on the regular mailing list will receive copies just as rapidly as they can be mailed.

Mr. Mitchell says: “The Premium Lists are free, and we will be glad to mail them to all who request them.” He further states: “Interest in the Kansas State Fair is constantly growing, and we fully expect this year's records for exhibitors and attendance to reach a new all-time high.”

There were 31 girls and 34 boys who went to 4-H Club camp near Dodge City, Sunday, July 21, on a three-day camping trip.

The 64 4-H Club members were accompanied by H.L. Murphey, County Agent, Louise Johnson, Emergency Assistant, and Bennie Bird, Emergency Assistant. George Wolf also accompanied the group as their guest and to help the 4-H club members with their camp programs.

70 YEARS AGO***From July 20, 1956 Star***

Thunderstorms and light showers have been falling with some degree of regularity the past few weeks bringing the total precipitation in Coldwater to over 4 inches since late June. Tuesday morning .04 inch fell in town, and farms south and southeast received from .75 to 2 inches. Wednesday night late we received .17 inch with Clinton Herd west of town getting about .50 inch.

These scattered but beneficial showers are keeping pastures green and feed is starting to grow. As yet, there is not much sub-soil moisture and the top soil dries out quickly. Some fields have been too wet to permit re-seeding washed out feed.

The sub-district softball tournament will begin Monday night, July 23, at the Northside ball park with Wilmore playing Northside No. 2 at 7:30. The second game of the evening will be Greensburg against Medicine Lodge starting at 9:00 o'clock.

Social Security old-age and survivors insurance checks totaling \$6,812 monthly went to 150 persons in Comanche County in January 1956, the latest month for which complete figures are available, according to Norman H. Ehrlich, manager of the Dodge City district Social Security office.

“Put safety at the head of your list in planning that vacation trip!” That was the advice given to motorists today in discussing the vacation safe driving program which the Traffic and Safety Department of the State Highway Commission of Kansas is sponsoring this month.

60 YEARS AGO***From July 21, 1966 Star***

The Coldwater Cornet Band, which has been practicing each Monday, will give a concert in the shelter house of the Coldwater city park next Monday evening, July 25, primarily for the residents of the Pioneer Lodge and the ambulant patients at the county hospital. Other citizens are invited to attend the concert. All band members who can are asked to be at the park by 6:30 p.m. and help in the concert, which starts soon after 6:30.

The Coldwater recreation track team will travel to Wichita Saturday, July 16, for the Wichita All Comers Track and Field meet. This meet is the second of two held during the summer in Wichita. The Coldwater squad of 48 members is made up of outstanding talent from Coldwater, Cimarron, Fowler, Protection, Wilmore, Greensburg, Zenda, and Minneola. The group is in need of transportation to the meet. Anyone willing to take a car to the meet, please contact Bob Yadon.

Show love to your children by having an interest in things that are important to him/her. Remember what

it was like to be a child and see things from his/her point of view. Take your child into your confidence and encourage him/her to confide in you. Take time to enjoy being his parent.

50 YEARS AGO***From July 22, 1976 Star***

The Buttermilk Saddle Club will have its Trail Ride on September 4 and 5, 1976. As a courtesy to the Coldwater-Comanche Area, the Buttermilk Saddle Club Trail Ride Reservation Committee is giving first opportunity for reservations to those in this area, if reservations are made on or before July 29, 1976. Call Clair Carlisle, Leo Oller or Bob Huck.

What better way to view our land's natural beauty than a horseback ride through country that has changed little with years, and what better time to ride than on our country's 200th birthday?

The boys' baseball team ended their season Monday night when they lost to Greensburg in the League Tournament being played on the local diamond this week.

A group of the mothers are planning a picnic in the park to honor these boys and their coaches on Tuesday, July 27.

Weight lifting continues on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights at 9:00 p.m. The ice skating trip to Wichita has been canceled. Many more persons will need to sign up for the busload trip to Kansas City for the Royals game and to Worlds of Fun, August 14 and 15, if that trip is to come off. So call Glenn McFall right away for more information to get on the list.

40 YEARS AGO***From July 24, 1986 Star***

The opening day of the Fifth Annual Comanche County Fair is this Thursday. This year's fair marks the first use of the newly acquired Comanche County Fairgrounds and building there.

For the first time, the fair will be held in the northeast part of Coldwater at the former Coldwater airport. Facilities at Coldwater High School will also be used for some exhibits, and booths. The high school is just west of the new fairgrounds.

The first activity of this year's fair, however, will not be at the fairgrounds or at CHS. It is the fashion revue, clothing construction and home ec judging. That will all be held Thursday at the Protection Mennonite Church. Friday, Saturday and Sunday are reserved for set-up of the rest of the activities that begin Monday.

The street dance to be held Monday night has been moved, due to the recent resurfacing of Main Street in Coldwater. The dance will be instead held in the Whites IGA parking lot on South Central just north of the railroad tracks. Clean-up after the Fair will be Thursday and the carcass show will be Tuesday, Aug. 5, at the Coldwater Locker Plant.

Coldwater High School got plenty of “ink” in metro newspapers from Saturday's first annual Kansas high school 8-man football all-star game.

The inaugural event was played at Beloit and was a big success. A crowd of 3,000 fans turned out. The game was started this year by the new Kansas 8-Man Football Assn. Goal is to give recognition to the many Kansas 8-man gridders.

OPINION

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email jasonjump@thestarpress.news



OPINION

• From Page 1

going to be a mind-numbing stretch. But what sold me on the adventure was the people of Comanche County. I was told about how much this county and former residents truly loved their hometown newspapers. Quite frankly we’ve heard that pitch seven times before, but there was just something that said this is not just a smoke screen this time. I mean you have stories of people sending in extra money with their subscriptions when they didn’t have to. I was told one person sent \$500 above and beyond their subscription. I was told there were nearly 30 people that sent extra money beyond their subscription each and every month. All because they wanted to see “their newspaper” survive. I mean – wow. For someone that truly believes in community journalism and its importance, how could that not inspire you to want to keep that excitement alive. To my knowledge, while we have received a couple of nice notes so far, we have not received any extra monetary donations that I am aware of at this point. But, even with the inspiration of serving a community that loves “their newspaper” the challenges are still there and more evident as the fear of what might happen has slowly started to turn into what is happening.

My Fear

I know this is going to be a lengthy column, but please continue on. When I was in college – Oklahoma City University in the early to mid-90s – we discovered a tiny Mexican food joint called Ted’s Café Escondido – we fondly referred to it as just Ted’s. Man they had the best Tex-Mex around at that time and for many years. It was so new when we started going you could walk right in at any time and get a table with no wait. As this tiny little mom-and-pop restaurant grew in popularity the longer the wait times. On a Sunday afternoon, after church, it was not unusual to have to wait far more than a hour to get a table and sometimes the waitlist was pushing two hours. Eventually, we left Oklahoma City and moved to Texas. But every trip through Oklahoma into Kansas we would stop and rekindle our love for this tiny Tex-Mex spot. And every time we stopped I would leave the tip to expand. Ted’s, at some point, decided expansion was needed, and the ownership bought or rented a spot across the street from their original location in a strip mall. But it was still the same one location with more seating. Fast forward and now Ted’s has eight different locations in Oklahoma. The restaurant did have two other locations in Kansas at one point, but they have closed down. While begging for expansion to help ease wait times and making it more convenient for fans to visit their favorite Tex-Mex spot in other locations, we got what we wanted. But what has

happened is somewhere along the way the quality of the product has suffered. Ted’s today is just not the same Ted’s of 1991. Really the only thing that has remained consistent through the years is their flour tortillas and queso, which are both free. Well, that is unless you don’t order a meal. They used to be free for everyone, but people started coming in and just getting the chips, tortillas, salsa and queso and maybe ordering some drinks. Ted’s eventually implemented a setup charge, so if that’s all you come for – and it’s still worth it – you have to pay for it. But the food just doesn’t have the same quality it once did. That is where my fear comes in. I don’t want M³ Publishing to end up like my once favorite Mexican food place. I don’t want any of our titles to suffer because of our expansion. I want to produce the same award-winning content and advertising for all of our papers from the smallest title to the largest. The problem is we just don’t have the staff capacity to do that. We have three full-time staff members that are producing seven of the eight newspapers. And I don’t really count as a full-time employee, because far more of my time has been devoted to our largest newspaper than I was originally intending, which means I have less time to devote to our other seven titles. We have two part-time employees that help us as well with our seven titles. And we are very thankful for their contributions, but there are still some steep learning curves to maneuver with our newbies.

What Does This Mean

So, you may have made it this far and are now wondering okay so what? When we took over what has now become one newspaper – *The Western Star & Protection Press* – we knew right away that the rates were going to have to change. In order to remain a viable and profitable newspaper the rates that were out of date 20 years ago weren’t going to be sustainable. Most of you know that rates were increased. What we didn’t know at the time was how all of our new titles were going to play out for us as a company, as well as each individually. What we didn’t know at the time was some of our expenses were going to be far more costly than we were even anticipating. One example – postage rates. The first week we shipped out *The Star-Press* our postage check was nearly \$500. I about fell over when I saw that. That was nearly three times more expensive than any other paper we have. So phone calls were made and some buttons were pushed, and we got that down to \$280 something the next week, which is still \$90-100 more than any other paper we have. After another phone call and a forensic postal analysis, we have discovered that it is costing us more than \$1 per issue just to mail *The Star-Press* to our out-of-county and out-of-state

readers. That doesn’t even take into consideration printing costs, sales tax, labor or any of the other expenses incurred to produce the product each week. **Final Takeaway** We fully intend to continue publishing *The Star-Press* as long as we are capable. But our company as a whole is going to have to find more help. That’s just the bottom line. It is not mentally or physically possible for three full-time people – and again I don’t really count as full-time – and two part-time folks that are just learning the ropes to produce seven newspapers of any kind of ongoing quality. I know it has been a very rough start to our tenure in Comanche County, but trust me when I say we are working on it. We are trying to get folks up to speed as quickly as possible. We are looking for more help. But with the ever increasing price of doing business and added costs of more employees we simply have to have your help to continue “your newspaper.” So when you see a house ad that says we need your support. That’s no joke. We need your support. We’ve already had some comments and complaints about new rates or having to charge for items that were free in the past. We just simply cannot stay in business by doing business the way it was done in the past. Trust me if we could, I would. I know everyone is struggling, and we are navigating the same treacherous waters as everyone else. Thank you so much for staying with me through this long column. And thank you so much for the patience and support you have shown us so far. I can already see the love that this community has for “your newspaper,” and I am truly excited to be a part of the journey and legacy left by the previous owners and staff members. And we don’t intend to be completely anonymous individuals that cash your checks, take your credit card payments and ship your newspaper each week. I look forward to meeting folks as much as it is possible while in town or at community functions and sporting events. We just continue to ask for your grace and understanding as our time and attention right now is being pulled in eight different directions all at the same time. It feels a lot like a real-life version of Plastic Man. **Thank You** I don’t want to end this column without expressing our immense gratitude to those that came before us, and those that are even sticking around a little while longer to help – Dennies Andersen, Dave Webb, Susan Edmonston, Teresa Jones and Teresa Howell. We appreciate all the help you gave during the transition, and we are thankful for your ongoing contributions to help keep local journalism alive in Comanche County. Now, just as I open with the same line each time, my new tradition is to close my columns the same way with a good line from a bad movie, “And that’s all I have to say about that.”

PAID CONTENT

My name is Troy Waymaster and I have represented Kansas House District 109 in central Kansas since 2013. From the time that I was sworn in, Representative Kyle Hoffman has been one of my closest allies and friends in the Kansas House of Representatives. During my first term, Representative Hoffman served as the Chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget committee, where I served as a member of that committee. He and I would together identify cost savings for the numerous agencies and departments that reported to that committee, while ensuring that we were serving the needs of all Kansans. Representative Hoffman also served on the House Appropriations committee and the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, where at that time he also served as the Vice-Chairman. Representative Hoffman has always been committed to the needs and concerns of the agriculture industry and the water needs for the state of Kansas. In 2017, I was named as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, where Representative Hoffman served as a member where we worked together in addressing the budgetary needs for the state. He also served as my Vice-Chairman where he was instrumental in implementing solutions for an array of issues, though mainly focusing on how he could use his influence as Vice-Chairman of the Appropriations Committee to address the concerns of his constituents in the 116th Kansas House District. There are many examples that I could share on how Representative Hoffman’s focus was not only to the state of Kansas, but specifically for his constituents. One example of how Representative Hoffman works for his constituency was when he proposed, and it passed an amendment for three small communities, Hardtner, Sharon, and Sawyer, to a long-term natural gas supply. In his amendment to the state budget, these communities were specifically named, and he provided for the funding for these connections with the Kansas Corporate Commission (KCC). This amendment that he had added went through the entire budgeting process and became law to help benefit these small communities. Another example where Representative Hoffman assisted small communities was his instrumental proposal for the BUILD Kansas Fund. The money for the fund was introduced by Governor Kelly in her budget report to the Kansas Legislature at the onset of the 2023 Legislative session. Although the Governor proposed the money, which was \$200 million, she did not provide any criteria, guard rails, or stipulations on how the money would be spent. Representative Hoffman, advocating to protect the Kansas taxpayer’s money, created the parameters of the fund, advocated that the fund should be used to assist smaller communities, did not allocate the full \$200 million however had that dispersed the money for \$50 million over four years so the Legislature can evaluate the program. He even devised the name of the fund, who would administer it, and a Legislative committee to evaluate the applications before we forwarded them for final approval by the Federal Government. Representative Hoffman diligently worked on this program with me and is a sitting member on the Legislative committee that evaluates the applications. His actions on creating the fund and the parameters are a testament that his focus is on the communities in his district and the smaller communities throughout the state of Kansas. Representative Hoffman is now the Assistant Majority Leader and a well-respected legislator, he constantly works for the benefit of his constituency, the state of Kansas, and for you. I am grateful to call him a colleague, a member of the leadership team, and, most importantly, a friend. My simple ask is that you please re-elect Representative Kyle Hoffman on August 4. Troy L. Waymaster State Representative, Kansas House District, 109

PAID CONTENT

Fellow residents, I wanted to share some good news and also take the opportunity to thank Rep. Kyle Hoffman for assisting the city with our water/waste water project. As most of you are aware the city has been trying to get our water/wastewater plan off the ground for a couple of years now. As you can imagine funding for these type of huge projects is always a rather tall hurdle to get over. The good news is that when it comes to the waste water side, with the help of Rep. Hoffman we have now gotten over the first hurdle. Several months ago we submitted a pre-application form to KDHE Clean Water State State Revolving Fund, requesting a low interest loan and 30 percent loan forgiveness for our much needed sewer work. The loan forgiveness would be like getting a huge grant of approx \$180,000. The loan would cover work on the five most problematic sewer line locations in town, rehabilitating 14 manholes and replacing 2,580 feet of existing sanitary sewer mains. In total the cost will be \$660,500. Our city public works director, our city engineer, the mayor and I spent several meeting pulling together a strategy to satisfy KDHE and get above the funding line for this project. We asked Kyle for assistance and he pitched in as well. He has lobbied KDHE on our behalf and when the Assistant Majority Leader calls it gets the agency’s attention. We have been notified that our pre- application made it above the line and we were invited to proceed to the next and final stage. So we are over the first hurdle and have one more to go. So congratulations to our city staff, our engineer and thanks to Kyle! Now it’s time for more work, more letters and more calls to get this needed project over the finish line. My sincere thanks for allowing me to serve our community! Gary Haulmark

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

If you would like to send a letter to the editor to *The Star-Press* please email jasonjump@thestarpress.news. All letters must be authenticated prior to being published, so please include your name, city and daytime telephone number. Deadline is Monday at noon for the upcoming week’s publication. Letters longer than 650 words may be edited by staff if necessary. Letters will also be corrected for grammar and style. Offensive material will be edited out. All political endorsements or stances taken on political questions must be paid. Thank you in advance for your letter.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email jasonjump@thestarpress.news

From the Squeaky Church Mouse

It's me, the squeaky church mouse, and I know it's been awhile but this summer heat is keeping me hiding out inside with the AC on.

The church folks are gearing up for Vacation Bible School, and I wanted to tell you that you should bring your kids. They are decorating the place up with clocks and calling it "Beat the Clock" VBS. I didn't know clocks were mentioned much in the Bible but I got a sneak peak at their lesson plan and It's Bible stories about Gods timing, and how God got them out of tight situations. So this year's VBS will have -Escape rooms-, I can't wait to watch the kids solve puzzles and find clues to escape. The kids will learn that God always has a plan and we need to trust his timing. July 28-Aug 1, yep, it's Tuesday through Saturday from 8 to 11 a.m. each morning. All kids fifth grade and down to PreK participate, and sixth grade and up can be helpers. I'll be watching from my hidey hole, watching for the kids to drop some yummy snacks. Plus I'll enjoy the music, watching the kids play games, and create fun crafts. Hopefully

this year I don't get stuck in any glue again. Sounds like fun for everyone. Contact Chelsea Blundell for more info or to sign your kids up early (620) 635-5564 but walk-ins are always welcome.

Plus they are throwing their annual Back to School Bash on Saturday, Aug. 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is invited, not just the VBS families, so come join the fun. They'll have a meal, bouncy houses, and games, they plan on ending the summer with blow out fun.

Sunday Aug. 2 will be the VBS program at 10:30 a.m. It's so fun watching the kids share the songs they learned at VBS, and then we hear things they learned. Jeff Blundell will be sharing the message that day.

Sunday mornings are a wonderful time in my church. I listen to the worship, enjoying watching everyone talking and hanging out. The preaching for June and July was Tim Erickson. You should come hear him preach. Always a good message straight from Scripture that we can apply to our lives and learn from. I heard that for August and September Jeff Blundell will be preach-

ing, and Tim will rotate back in for October and November. They both would love to see you at church.

I won't come out of my hidden hole, but I can say it's a great group of people to fellowship and worship with. Squeak, who you bringing to church with you?

They took Summer off, but KICS Bible Club will start back after school starts, 5 to 6 p.m. every Wednesday. All kids preschool to fifth grade. They sure hope you'd join them, and I'll stay in my little corner and listen. Squeak eek.

Be watching for Adult Bible Study to start back up, and maybe even some new ministries are in the works.

Change can be good and I never know what these humans are up to. Yet one thing we know will never change is our Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. His Word is true and living. Sin is sin, truth is truth, and that will not change. But what he can change is you, he can give you life to the fullest, he can repair brokenness, he can heal hurt, he can restore the lost, he can

forgive your sin, he can make you a new creation in Christ. It's all there in His Word, the Bible. His love for you is true, and He is there for you if you choose to accept, believe, and turn from this world and follow Him. Need someone to talk to about that? Come to church, or call someone from our church, they'd sure love to visit with you.

So, until I scurry up some more paper to write to you again, God Bless, and know there is room for you to join us at the First Christian Church, in Coldwater. From Sunday morning classes at 9:30 a.m, church worship service at 10:30 a.m, and plus all the other gatherings we have to worship and fellowship together, this is a place, a family, that you can be a part of and belong too. See you there, I won't pop out and scare you, you won't even know I'm there, but please know I'm already praying for you, because God loves you, and I love you. Squeak.

Have a wonderful week, and remember what Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

John 14:6

CLASSIFIEDS

To place your classified ad email jasonjump@thestarpress.news.

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. 51tfnc

ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL AND SOUTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL are now seeking applications for an assistant softball coach. Please contact Tyler Bates, South Central High School at (620) 582-2181.

SOUTH CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL is seeking a boy's middle school basketball coach for the 2026-27 season. Please contact Matt Jellison at (620) 622-4545.

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

Pioneer Lodge is looking for a RN/LPN for the Night position. FT benefits include health insurance, vacation and sick time – Pioneer Lodge, 300 West Third Street, PO Box 487, Coldwater, KS 67029 or call (620) 582-2123.

Wanted: Paraprofessional at South Central Elementary and Middle School in Protection. If interested fill out an application at www.scksec.com or call Matt Jellison at (620) 622-4545.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Western Star and Protection Press on Thursday, July 23, 2026) 1t

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-2

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 16th day of July, 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 9th day of September, 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:

107 W. Main Street, Protection, KS 67127

Legal Description: Lots Six (6) and Seven (7), in Block One-hundred and Ninety-one (191), of the Original Town of 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 16 day of July, 2026.

/s/

Chris Brosius, Mayor

Attest: /s/

Jennifer Monroe, City Clerk



What a fun week we had during the Summer Reading Program. In all we had 82 kids show up! Thank you again, parents, for bringing

them and also staying to participate with them in the week long activities. Keep visiting throughout the rest of the summer to pick out fun books to improve on their reading skills before school starts in just a few short weeks.

In the afternoons, several kids come in to play games on the computers but they have recently been enjoying board games and Jenga too! It can get a little noisy in

here at times but as long as they are learning something, I'm okay with it. Of course if someone comes in needing to study, etc., I do have them switch to a quieter activity. I remember when I was little we didn't make a peep in the library, things have certainly changed over the years.

The library has been approved for the Kansas Notable Grant again this year. It features 15 authors from

Kansas and we will have the books on our shelves within the next week. What the grant reimburses the library \$250 for purchasing the books and featuring them on a special display to raise awareness of Kansas authors. Please stop in and take a look.

In the Gallery we still have featured artist J.C. Thomas. He is from Ashland and is the father of Jill Ellis of Greensburg. We have over 50 of his handsculptured wooden pieces that are simply gorgeous. Come by during the library hours to see his impressive art.

My mission is to make the Protection Township Library a safe and inviting place for everyone. Everyone is welcome to stop by and visit, look around, and pick out a new book at any time. Please stop in and see all the excitement. Until next week stay safe and hydrated, this heat is still no joke. See you at the library.

WHEAT PRICES	
<i>Alliance Ag & Grain</i> Coldwater - 620.582.2251 Protection - 620.622.4619	
July 15 - \$6.45	
July 16 - \$6.41	
July 17 - 6.57	
July 18 - CLOSED	
July 19 - CLOSED	
July 20 - \$6.49	
July 21 - \$6.58	

PROTECTION PRECIPITATION	
<i>By Bonnie Lindsay</i>	
July 14	Precip / None
July 15	Precip / None
July 16	Precip / None
July 17	Precip / None
July 18	Precip / None
July 19	Precip / None
July 20	Precip / None
Total Year-to-Date: 8.22	

COLDWATER WEATHER	
<i>By Greg Vanderree</i>	
July 16	High 90 / Low 67 / Precip - None
July 17	High 90 / Low 66 / Precip - None
July 18	High 90 / Low 69 / Precip - None
July 19	High 93 / Low 69 / Precip - None
July 20	High 95 / Low 69 / Precip - None
July 21	High 100 / Low 69 / Precip - None
July 22	High 100 / Low 70 / Precip - None

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GRAND OPENING / August 10th, 2026

Buffet Bar is only \$9.99 per person that day!
Kids 8 and under will be half price.

Breakfast: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Lunch & Dinner: Tuesday and Saturdays open
Lunch: Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Breakfast Buffet / \$13.99 for 2 trips.
Lunch & Dinner Buffet / \$16.99 for 2 trips
Kids Buffet / half price ages 8 and under!

Call 620.622.2030 to order ahead
off the regular menu.

THANKS TO OUR VETERANS

GREENSBURG VETERAN EXPO

KIOWA COUNTY SENIOR CENTER
431 S MAIN ST / GREENSBURG, KS 67054

JULY 25TH, 2026
9 AM - 3 PM

- BENEFITS INFORMATION
- SURVIVOR BENEFITS
- GET MILITARY RECORDS/DD214
- PACT ACT AND EXPOSURE INFO
- WOMEN VETERANS' INFORMATION
- LOCAL VETERAN CRISIS CASE MANAGEMENT

A MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED

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