

Happy Independence Day!

Western & Protection The Star-Press

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

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July 2, 2026

Great American State Fair Underway in D.C.

BY SAM GAUNTT
States Newsroom

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Great American State Fair on the National Mall has all the trappings of a classic state fair: food vendors, merchandise, a Ferris wheel and scores of activities.

But on Tuesday, just days before the nation's 250th anniversary, one thing was, for the most part, notably absent. The crowds.

Early in the afternoon, few of the exhibits representing every state had lines to enter. Most were small rooms with a few tables showcasing artwork or cultural items, with a trickle of guests politely making their way

through. Concessions areas were plenty and unfiled.

Some attendees said the heat might have hurt attendance. The Washington, D.C. area saw temperatures in the high 80s to low 90s most of the day Tuesday, according to the National Weather Service.

It's only going to get hotter. Temperatures through the rest of the week are expected to reach highs of up to 105 degrees, with a heat index of more than 110 degrees.

'Every State Has Something to Contribute'
Pamela Lathrop, 56, of Florida, said more people will likely attend as it gets closer to

the Fourth of July.

"It's getting busier as the day lets on, and so I hope everybody comes today, because I hear tomorrow's gonna be really hot," she said. "But I don't really pay attention to crowd size. I'm just here enjoying myself, and I'm glad that D.C. put this on, and I think it's a good thing to celebrate our 250 years."

Lathrop, who traveled from The Sunshine State for the 250th, added that she's staying through the weekend to attend Independence Day celebrations and President Donald Trump's speech on Saturday. What's billed as an extraordinary fireworks display is scheduled to finish out the Fourth in the

nation's capital.

Despite the rising temperatures, more guests continued to arrive throughout the day, and the state exhibits started to fill up.

Doug Woody, 66, of Fairfax, said the event felt different from a classic state fair, but that it was well put together.

"I think this is really more to promote the U.S.A. and give the individual states a chance to show what they bring to the table," he said. "Every state has something to contribute, you know? Maybe some states have put a little bit more time and energy

See FAIR / Page 4

Changes for Protection Celebration

STAFF REPORT

Protection Valley Manor recently announced a change to the Independence Day celebration.

PVM will light up the sky for the annual fireworks show on Friday, July 3 instead of the actual holiday on Saturday.

Community members are welcome to line the street or pull up a chair with residents to watch the celebration of 250 years of America.

Free snow cones will be available to everyone.

The annual show is made possible through community donations.

Coldwater Fireworks Show on July 4th

STAFF REPORT

Coldwater's annual July 4th celebration will be held on Saturday at the Coldwater Lake.

Onlookers can view the show at any spot around the lake. Fireworks are set to begin at dusk.

Boaters will need to keep their vessels on the north half of the lake.

Personal fireworks are not permitted at the lake.

The annual show is made possible through community donations, including a \$500 donation from AJ Prusa and her crew.

The city of Coldwater allows the sell and discharge of personal fireworks from June 27 to July 5 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

On Friday and Saturday hours are from 8 a.m. to midnight.



TIM SIGLE PHOTOGRAPHY

New Addition: CCH Breaks Ground on PT Expansion

Representatives of the Comanche County Hospital administration, physical therapy department, hospital board and two Wichita construction firms break ground Monday morning for the hospital's planned physical therapy expansion. Also present were hospital personnel, local medical providers and community members. The event was followed by a brunch provided by the hospital's food service staff. "This expansion project will house expanded PT space, the addition of cardiac rehabilitation, women's pelvic rehabilitation and an aquatic therapy pool," CCH Administrator Lisa Brooks said. "The addition is scheduled to be completed mid-February 2027. Comanche County Hospital is partnering with HFG Architecture and Icon Structures for the project. The hospital would like to thank everyone for their donations, support and patronage and look forward to serving them many years into the future." Pictured (L to R) are Brian Hatvick, Aden Rausch and Mason White of Icon Structures, Kurt Dale, board member, Environmental Services Director Brett Swingle, CCHS Administrator Lisa Brooks, physical therapist Lisa Girk, Jaci Hoffman, CPTA; Emily Hackney, board member and Dave Webb, board member.



KSN TV

Road Trip: KSN Representatives Visit Coldwater

Members of the KSN newstation recently visited Coldwater for a stop on the news team's annual Summer Road Trip. Julia Thatcher, Jeff Herndon and Zachary Martin (back row, blue shirts) pose for photos with members of the Coldwater community.

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NEWS

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



COMANCHE COUNTY RECREATION

Rec Tournaments: Local Teams Place to End Seasons

Comanche County Recreation teams medal during season-ending tournaments held on Monday and Tuesday night in Greensburg and Bucklin. Pictured are the boy's machine pitch team (middle) which placed third and two softball teams that placed second (top) and third (bottom).

OBITUARY

VICKI KAREN STARK-LOUSCH-MORGAN
Vicki Karen Stark-Lousch-Morgan passed quietly with her family by her side on May 31, 2026.

She was born on Nov. 1, 1941, in Wichita. She grew up in Coldwater, and her father, Victor, a farmer and Kansas State Representative and local community voice. Vicki participated in all kinds of local and school activities, as well as class trip fund raisers. She started marching in the band incredibly early at nine years old eventually becoming drum majorette. Vicki was chosen to be the second messenger in Model Bethel for Kansas in Wichita, selected for homecoming attendant her sophomore year, received honors in high school for typing 98 words a minute and she graduated in 1959.



She married Roger Lousch and had three children, and later married Gary Morgan, and they enjoyed a great life traveling the world. The couple lived in South Africa for a while before returning to Wichita for her final years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Victor and Donita Stark, sister, Bambi Russell, who worked at the doctor's office for years and grandson, Blake Grommesh.

She is survived by her children: Mitch Lousch, Karen Lousch Rowe and Monte Lousch Morgan; seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

MICHELLE HAHN

A Celebration of Life for Michelle (Fry) Hahn will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1 at the First Baptist Church in Protection.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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The Western Star & Protection Press

New look with new faces, but same committed focus to local coverage you care about!

Fire Slightly Damages Home in Protection

STAFF REPORT

Protection's fire department made quick work of a blaze at a local residence last Thursday evening, June 25.

Chief Brian Harris and some of his crew found a fire that had started when the vent on an electric clothes dryer was plugged at 311 South Washington Avenue after responding to a 911 call.

Firefighters quickly extinguished the flames and moved the damaged appliance outside. Harris said smoke had accumulated in the rest of the house, but he felt it wasn't thick enough to cause major damage. There was some damage in the laundry room, but it was also minor.

No one in the home at the time of the fire was injured.

Comanche County Fire Chief Greg Ellis and some of his crew also answered the request for several pieces of equipment from Coldwater, but none were needed, but CCFD did respond to a Coldwater fire on Monday afternoon.

Celebrating **250** YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

God Bless America!

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Kyle Hoffman
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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BISCUIT & SAUSAGE GRAVY
YOGURT PARFAIT

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(USPS #679-660)

Jason and Stephanie Jump
OWNERS
Jason Jump
PUBLISHER/EDITOR
jasonjump@thestarpress.news

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PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Western Star & Protection Press on Thursday, June 25, 2026) 2t

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-1

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

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

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

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

208 W. Main Street Protection, KS 67127

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

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

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

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

Chris Brosius, Mayor

Attest:
Jennifer Monroe, City Clerk

NEWS

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

Past Paragraphs

Protection news from earlier days

Compiled by Dave Webb

125 YEARS AGO Western Star July 5, 1901

Protection prattle

Protection is on the boom—we now have a resident physician. George Thomas unloaded a car of lumber for I.K. Rodgers this week.

The Normalites [teachers taking training in Coldwater] have returned home. They report a very interesting and profitable Normal. —[Columnist] “JUNIPER.”

Protection and vicinity

The wind still blows. Nothing but dry weather and dirt in the air nowadays.

The farmers report everything dry. Most of them have concluded to take a vacation until it rains—if it ever does.

G.E. Davison’s new residence is about completed and he will move in shortly.

Ed Fleming goes south now for a ride on his wheel.

A carload of stock was unloaded at the stockyards last Saturday evening.

The Rev. J.C. Fisher preached two very interesting and eloquent sermons here last Sunday.

Commissioner Z.J. Bratcher spent Monday and Tuesday at Coldwater attending the meeting of the board. —[Columnist] “AMATEUR.”

Voices from Valley Twp

Hot winds are burning the crops. Farmers are quitting work on account of dry weather.

Joe Hopkins says that he is tired of walking. He purchased a new riding cultivator last week. We see where he is right.

It comes so natural for S.S. Smith to haul water that he hitches up his team and starts for a barrel and then happens to think that he has a new well and wind pump. —[Columnist] “BUTTERFLY.”

Ranchers

A.H. Baker, the Valley Township sheep grower and farmer, was in [Coldwater] Wednesday. He is holding his 1901 crop

of wool—about 20,000 pounds—for a little better market.

Smith & Mussett, the owners of the big Box Ranch [south of Protection] and the fine herd of Quien Sabe cattle, stopped at Emporia on their way east and bought several registered Hereford bulls at the famous Sunny Slope Farm. They are firm believers in good blood in cattle. Mr. Mussett arrived Wednesday evening with the animals.

J.T. Maris and J.E. Ham, who have been doing the carpenter work on James Briggs’ new residence in Irwin Township [north of Protection], came down [to Coldwater] Saturday to spend a few days with their families. They were compelled to wait a few days on the plasterers.

100 YEARS AGO Protection Post July 1, 1926

Wheat movement

While the market has been heading for the cellar, because of the market congestion, the movement of wheat onto the local Protection market has been heavy all week, and during the past week the movement increased materially.

The Santa Fe [railroad] has used in the wheat movement this year the utmost endeavors to supply the wheat cars and has used the large Mallet type engines to move the loaded cars to the markets.

Last week 103 [railroad] cars of wheat were billed from Protection onto the grain centers, an average of about 20 cars a day.

On Monday of this week the largest number, 38, for any one day, was loaded by the local elevators.

Several wheat trains have originated in [the] Protection yards, and Tuesday a train of 127 empty wheat cars went through Protection for points west.

Wheat is still moving rapidly onto the local markets. Thousands of bushels are being stored upon the ground as haulers cannot truck the wheat into the market as fast as the combines and machines are threshing it.

Much wheat is going into storage in elevators and on the farms.

Ranchers

The Wheat Festival Special, operated by the Santa Fe Railway cooperating with the Kansas State Agricultural College, will arrive in Protection, Friday, July 23, at 12:30 p.m. for a public meeting to be held near the Santa Fe station.

For several years in the Teens and 1920s, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway operated “Demonstration trains” in cooperation with what is now Kansas State University.

Each train had an agricultural theme and traveled up and down the company’s mainlines and branchlines. The train included cars with exhibits for the public to see (including livestock at times), as well as experts from the college who gave short talks at each stop about new farming techniques, crop varieties and other agricultural information.

75 YEARS AGO Protection Post June 29, 1951

Harvest hits snag—rain

The wheat harvest, gaining momentum Wednesday as hot dry weather invaded the area for the first time this season, hit another snag early Thursday morning as .25 inch of rain was dumped on fast-drying fields.

Yields brought to local elevators are exceeding expectations in most instances. Farmers are announcing from 8 to 20 bushels an acre and the outlook seems better than the past two seasons. That is, with the return of cutting weather.

Weeds are giving lots of trouble and the new crop coming on after fields were sprayed are threatening to ruin the quality of the yield, plus the waste caused in weedy fields.

Grain dried so fast Wednesday Gano stopped taking moisture tests soon after noon. Lowest reported moisture content Wednesday was 10 percent.

High humidity is also giving the farmers trouble by cutting harvesting hours short. Mutt Thornhill’s wheat tested 60 Wednesday, but when the heat of mid-afternoon slackened, the test had dropped to 56 pounds as the wheat absorbed the moisture.

Sanford Miller says the grain in his area south of town is running 8 to 18 bushels to the acre. There might be a few fields better than that.

Glen Woolfolk has averaged about 20 bushels to the acre on his early varieties. He said soft spots in his fields will not give any trouble if we can get three good days of drying weather. The continual, but light, rains in the lowland have not caused the damage that was first feared.

Alva Alexander sold the first new wheat of the season Saturday to the Co-op. Grover Sanders was the second farmer in. In both cases moisture content was high.

George Gibson was the first man in at Gano’s Tuesday. His wheat tested 15 percent moisture and 57 pounds. Cliff Sibbitt brought the first 60-pound wheat into Gano’s. Its moisture content was under

13 percent.

Kern Bayne brought in the first wheat to Larabee’s. It weighed 56 pounds. Charles Petty was second. His wheat tested 58 pounds. Lester Selzer had the first 60-pound wheat for Larabee.

Although harvest is already a week behind last year’s slim yield, chances are it will take from two to three weeks before all fields are ready to cut.

Some north of town farmers moved into fields Wednesday, but the movement was spotted. It appears that what has been cut up north might lift a few eyebrows. Hubert McLaughlin has brought the best wheat in to date as far as the 62-pound weight and the 10.65 moisture content is concerning. His grain is making close to 20 bushels to the acre.

Albert Hazen got into the field Friday for one of the first cuttings of the season. However, it rained on the cut wheat over the weekend and no accurate test could be run on the quality.

Protection received .10 inch of rain last Thursday. Friday and Saturday another .125 fell. Harvest was stopped with .26 inch early Thursday morning.

Most prevalent averages reported so far are in the 15-bushels an acre range.

With all due respect to Mr. Erickson, the crop forecaster who as much as intimated anyone who expected wheat out in this country this country was nuts, *The Post* editor would like to intimate that Mr. Erickson should submit to a self-examination.

Theatre thank-you

We would like to take this means of thanking all the people of Protection and community for the fine patronage they have given us in our three and one-half years as owners of the Midway Theatre

The press of other business has forced us to sell the theatre to Mr. Sol Frank of Coldwater. He will take over operation of the business July 1. We are certain Mr. Frank will give the people of Protection the best pictures obtainable. His plans also call for complete remodeling and modernization of the theatre. —Merle and Leona Long.

Socially speaking

Glen and Bernice Woolfolk and Neoma, and Wayne and Marlene Woolfolk spent Wednesday evening with Joy and Jessie Hendrix.

Abe and Ruth Willems and three children of Berlin, Ohio, are visiting relatives at Greensburg, Protection, and La Junta, Colorado. Mrs. Willems is the former Ruth Miller.

Ernest and Helen Bird and family, Merle and Pat Nichols, Clarence and Bertie Nichols and Anna Gates were Sunday guests of Fred and LaVaun Lohrding and sons of Coldwater.

55 YEARS AGO Protection Press July 2, 1921

Out and about

The PHS A-team cheerleaders are attending activities at Oklahoma University at Norman this week. The girls are Michelle Morlan, Elaine Wait and DeAnn Willems. Two cheerleaders were unable to go: Janet Webster because of illness and Connie Whiteley is at music camp.

Charles and Penny Peterson and Paul and Linda Kissel were Woodward visitors Saturday evening.

Lawrence Selzer took a load of chutes to Illinois leaving Thursday, and is returning with a load of steel.

Chester and Alice Baker visited with the Rhodes family at Buffalo Sunday afternoon.

Rex and Phyllis Haltom and girls and Nora Miller were Sunday evening visitors of Grace Baxter.

Josephine Blue’s callers last week were Florence Kirk, Patsy Park and Ruby Winn.

Devin and Douglas Kerstetter were Sunday evening visitors in the Kenneth and Jeanne Webb home.

Sid Herd and Sid Rowland have been “farm jockeys” at the Cleon Parkin Ranch the last several days.

Junior and Maxine Herd, and Mac and Sherry Leeper, Kristi and Mishawn were Pratt visitors Sunday afternoon at a family reunion.

David and Mary Lee Harris and family visited in Hays over the weekend.

Mary McGee was a Friday luncheon guest of Cora Seacat at Ashland.

Dixie Schultz of Albany, Ore., was the honored guest at a tea in the home of her parents, Hubert and Violet McLaughlin. The following guests enjoyed the afternoon with Dixie and Violet: Pansy Riner, Daisy Maris, Retta Hopkins, Lillie Christopher, Ethel Maris, Ethyl Ward, Charlotte Filson, Mary Ellen Riner and son, Marjorie Eubank, Marge Sangster, Mary Schultz, Gracie McLaughlin, Debbie and Becky, and Valerie, Paul and Kerri Jane Schultz.

Sandy Hoffman and Kyle of Coldwater were Thursday callers of Calla Sanders. Mabel Richardson, Esther Webb, Minnie Alexander, Clara Schweitzer and Josephine Blue called on Ruby Winn and Winnie Dale Monday.

Keith and June Boone were Sunday morning coffee guests of Bessie Christopher.

Bill and Margaret Morlan, and Gene and Betty Ewy were Sunday evening supper guests of David and Doris Anne Leeper.

Joyce Veatch and Pat Sanders called their mother, Lila Myers, last Saturday from Louisville, Ky., to wish her a happy birthday.

35 YEARS AGO Protection Press July 4, 1991

Landmark blown down

By Editor Bob Greer
Another of the old landmarks of what used to be the thriving little community of Sitka has fallen to Mother Nature.

The old abandoned wooden structure which served for many years as St. Mary’s Catholic Church was blown down on Sunday, June 23. It had not been used for many years and is surrounded by weeds, just north of the railroad tracks there.

Jesse Waits lives north of the old church. He was not at home when it blew down, but said it must have occurred on that date.

John York and Vera Daily of Ashland were able to locate some historical data on old St. Mary’s. A manse was built there in the fall of 1917, and work was begun immediately on the new church.

It was dedicated on

September 22, 1918. . . . The manse was moved to Ashland in the later years.

The final services at St. Mary’s church in Sitka were held sometime during the mid-1950s. The church was then closed, and stood abandoned.

Under new management

Both Convenience Plus stores in this area—at Protection and Coldwater—are now under new management. They have changed their names.

Effective Monday of this week (July 1) both are now known as the Stop and Rest convenience stores. They are still owned by Wes-Kan of Liberal, but a longtime leasing arrangement for the two stores has been worked out.

They have been leased to Harold Rogers and Chelle Rogers, both of whom reside in Pratt. Bill Proctor of Coldwater is business manager for the stores in Protection and Coldwater.

Christi Maris formerly was manager of the store at Protection. She will now be store operations supervisor for both locations.

No staff changes are planned, and the hours at both stores will continue the same. That is 6 a.m. until 11 p.m., seven days a week.

15 YEARS AGO Protection Press June 30, 2011

Susie’s Scribbles

By Susan Edmonston
Sunday was Pastor Micki McCorkle’s last Sunday at the United Methodist Church here. The Bible School children sang songs and we watched a slide show of the three days VBS was in session.

Church members gave Micki a cross with the inscription “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” She also received a framed photo of the Protection UMC. Congregation members had signed the matte around the image.

After worship services, we enjoyed a bountiful covered dish meal in Fellowship Hall.

Micki and her husband Ed Friesen and their children Phillip and Rebecca are moving to Derby. Ed will be the pastor at Madison Avenue UMC, and Micki will be registrar for the boards of ordained ministry for Nebraska and Kansas at the United Methodist Church office in Wichita.

We were blessed to have her and her family in Protection the past two years.

Tomorrow (Friday, July 1) Pastor LaVerne Bolling will arrive in Protection. If you notice a lot of cars around the UMC at noon, that’s because there is a “welcome lunch” honoring LaVerne.

She is moving to Protection from her pastorate at the Oxford UMC near Winfield.


Bobbing Along Broadway

By Bob Greer
Recently I wrote in this column that Meade State Lake is having problems again.

Last summer, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks shut down access to the lake and beach there. The lake experienced a blue-green algae bloom.

This spring the trouble seemed to have cleared up. But recently the same problem happened again. So once again the lake is closed to visitors. . . .

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NEWS

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



SAM GAUNTT / States Newsroom

The New York state exhibit was one of a handful to form a line at the Great American State Fair on Tuesday in Washington, D.C.

FAIR

• From Page 1

into it than others, but overall, I mean, they're here, so they're representing, so that's good."

Trump's Freedom250

The Great American State Fair is part of Freedom250, the Trump administration's marquee celebration of the nation's semiquincentennial. It is separate from America 250, the nonpartisan commission created by Congress tasked with organizing its own celebration of the anniversary.

Not all states are staffing booths at the fair. A spokesperson for Washington state's lieutenant governor's office told States Newsroom the administration declined to join because of "the costs to the state associated with participating."

According to news reports, Connecticut, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island and Vermont did not contribute exhibits, though many are still represented by flags outside the individual booths.

Pennsylvania did not initially take part but on June

27, Pennsylvania's two U.S. senators, Dave McCormick and John Fetterman, announced that a coalition of Pennsylvania organizations would represent the state in its booth.

Oregon resident Michael Lowe Mackenzie said he was surprised there weren't more people in attendance Tuesday. He added that the celebration should not be partisan toward any one side or political figure, but rather "disconnected from all of that."

"I want to celebrate our nation's history, wars and all, unobfuscated," he said.

COLDWATER WEATHER

By Greg Vanderree

June 24
High 75 / Low 62 / Precip 1.10
June 25
High 80 / Low 62 / Precip .12
June 26
High 77 / Low 66 / Precip Trace
June 27
High 72 / Low 65 / Precip .34
June 28
High 94 / Low 65 / Precip None
June 29
High 96 / Low 78 / Precip None
June 30
High 96 Low 72 Precip Trace

WHEAT PRICES

June 24 - \$5.40
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June 26 - \$5.41
June 27 - CLOSED
June 28 - CLOSED
June 29 \$5.30
June 30 - \$5.45

CLASSIFIEDS

YOUR DISPLAY AND CLASSIFIED ADS in the Star-Press will reach OVER 1,000 READERS!

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. 51tfn

COMANCHE COUNTY USD 300 is now seeking applications for a custodian, full-time, 40-hour work week, 10-hour days four days a week, Monday through Thursday, good benefits. Contact Supt. Mike Baldwin at 620-582-2181 or 316-239-9995. 16tfn

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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.

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Protection 620-622-4588 463 US Highway 160
Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday 9 am-noon 1-4 pm
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Melanie Dunn, APRN-C in Protection Wednesday morning
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Carmen Nelson, APRN-C in Protection Wednesday afternoon
Ashley Alvarez, APRN-C in Protection Thursday morning

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The Western Star Protection Press

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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 The Western Star, July 4, 1896

The STAR will be 12 years old next month. It was established almost a year before the county was organized.

The STAR office cleaned house this week, by papering and carpeting the sanctum and scrubbing out the floor of the composing room. The office now assumes an unusually neat appearance for a print shop.

Today the people meet throughout the several states to do honor to the anniversary of the birth of the United States of America and to celebrate the one-hundred and twentieth anniversary of American Independence.

Fire crackers, cannon crackers, Young American crackers, colored rockets; lemons, oranges, bananas, nuts, canned goods; ladies, misses and children's hose; ladies' and gents' ties; white and negligee shirts, at Potter's.

Boys, be careful today with firecrackers and all manner of powder and explosives. There has not been a Fourth-of-July celebration in the past hundred years, without many fatal and serious accidents in different parts of the country. The most of them occur from careless handling of crackers and powder. Don't shoot a cracker in another boy's face or you might deprive him of his sight or otherwise disfigure him.

Voting is not a crime, but it is liable to bring on us all the pains, penalties, exasperating annoyances and inconveniences of jury duty.

120 Years Ago

From The Western Star, June 29, 1906

This year, 1906, is already half gone. The number of hours of daylight will now gradually grow less.

July Fourth next Wednesday. Not much enthusiasm yet anywhere over the celebration of the approaching "Glorious Fourth."

You can take your choice on next Wednesday, July Fourth, between Englewood, Ashland, Protection, Coy, Lookout, Wilmore and Coats, or staying at home.

Even the railroad section men – some of them – have fled to the harvest fields.

A good rain fell on last Saturday night. In some places the rainfall amounted to three or four inches.

The Children's day exercises of the Presbyterian Sunday school of this city will occur at 11 o'clock a.m. on next Sunday.

The STAR is authorized to announce that there will be a Fourth of July celebration at Wilmore on next Wednesday. Everybody cordially invited to join in the celebration. Wilmore has every facility for a nice celebration.

Business very quiet just now, say the merchants. But just wait until the wheat harvest is over and the grain is being brought in!

This has been an unusually favorable season so far for wheat harvesting. There has been a notable absence of hail storms and hot weather.

110 Years Ago

From The Western Star, June 30, 1916

Most of the stores of Coldwater, especially the grocery stores, will be closed all day on the Fourth. If you are thinking of doing some trading in this city on that day, it would be well to make your purchases on Monday.

The swimming pool is growing in popularity again.

Tomorrow, July 1, we will enter upon the last half of the year 1916.

The band concerts on each Friday evening continue to draw large crowds.

Protection will have a few thousand visitors "within her gates" on next Tuesday, the Fourth.

Have a good time on the Fourth, but help to keep it a "safe" Fourth as far as fireworks in the hands of children are concerned.

It seems that the good-roads movement in Comanche-co. ought to continue to thrive and grow, even through the busy harvest season. If good roads are ever needed, it is during the busy wheat hauling season.

The teachers will have the right-of-way in town next week.

From all indications as we go to press this week, it appears that war between the United States and Mexico is inevitable.

100 Years Ago

From The Western Star, July 2, 1926

Fourth of July Sunday.

During the harvest season, Postmaster O.J. Mark is keeping the postoffice open from 9 to 10 each Saturday evening. It is quite a convenience to harvesters who are too busy to get to town during the week.

Coldwater's old school building [at the south edge of town] begins to look very much like a wrecked building. The top story is pretty well demolished.

The Junior band will practice on next

Monday evening and the Senior band will practice the following evening. An outdoor concert will be given as soon as harvest is entirely over.

The Farmers Elevator of this city has averaged almost 12 carloads of wheat per day this week. The other elevators have also been kept quite busy. Twenty-five carloads of wheat were hauled out of Coldwater on Wednesday morning, and on other days from ten to fifteen carloads have been loaded here.

One observer reports that recently some boys, most of them armed with air guns, were seen in our city making a promiscuous raid on the birds. They had killed several dozen birds of different kinds and various ages and seemed bent upon killing all of the birds possible, no matter what kind.

It looks as though there is need for some of the young people being taught that it is wrong to kill the birds, and especially many kinds of harmless song birds. The wanton destruction of birds by anyone should be strongly condemned. The fact is, the use of "nigger shooters" and air rifles should be prohibited by law.

It is said that there is still need for an 11 o'clock night whistle, to remind all young people who are still out at that time that it is time they were at home and in bed.

90 Years Ago

From The Western Star, July 3, 1936

The second annual Pioneer Days Fourth of July celebration in Protection will be a super success. There will be two outstanding features of the celebration this year – the parade, with its increased number of floats, including ox teams, covered wagons, bewhiskered men, and fair young women with bustles, and the historical pageant in the city park during the evening.

The people of Protection have given much time and thought in preparing a pageant which will show the founding of the city of Protection by the Red Bluff Town Company. An excellent public address system will enable all to enjoy this part of the day's program, which has much historical value.

Remember that the Coldwater stores will be open Friday night, but will be closed on the Fourth.

Coldwater business houses will be closed all day on the Fourth and most of our citizens plan to celebrate with our neighboring city. As announced last week, there will be two ball games – Coldwater vs. Protection and Anthony vs. the Red Sox, beginning at 1 p.m. There will be carnival features, a street dance and fireworks, also. And don't forget the free buffalo barbecue at noon.

Representative Chas. H. Jackson of this county plans to go to Topeka next Sunday to be present on July 7 at a special session of the Kansas Legislature at which time a Constitutional Amendment concerning Social Security will be considered. The session will probably last three days.

Back in the horse-and-buggy days the horse was considered worth a hundred dollars for every time he could roll over. Well, writes Mack Cretcher in the Newton Journal, it doesn't work that way with a car.

Early day baseball players who caught them barehanded have grandchildren who wear padded mitts to catch a punkinball pitched underhanded. Sedan Times-STAR

80 Years Ago

From The Western Star, July 5, 1946

Last Sunday the Coldwater baseball team traveled to Greensburg and in a spectacular ninth inning rally made five scores and won the game 12 to 8. Coldwater was one score behind when they came to bat in the ninth. Coldwater made a total of 18 hits to Greensburg's nine. The local team has a strong offensive and are good hitters. They play Protection there Wednesday.

The Coldwater municipal swimming pool was opened Tuesday, water for the pool having been made available by the rains of last week lessening the amount of water needed for gardens and lawns, also by the power and light company receiving some pump repairs. W.A. Doty has been hired by the city as swimming pool attendant and swimming instructor. He is well qualified for the position. The pool will be open for the Fourth and as much of the time thereafter as the water situation will permit.

It follows that in the future, tourists will play an increasing part in the economy along Highway 54, leading into the scenic southwest. Rapidly being patched up and improved Highway 160, between Meade and Wichita, is possibly the state's most scenic stretch. Highway 23 loads into scenic historic Oklahoma. – Meade Globe-News.

D.D.T. will control horn flies on our cattle. The power sprayer operated by Comanche Hereford Association is at your call.

Better get your date set in the County

Agent's office. Spray your barn hen house, hog sheds, hog troughs, etc. and notice how your house flies disappear. For average small jobs around the home and barn, your druggist has D.D.T. in an oil emulsion that will do the job.

After the war of 1812, a white coat of paint was given to the President's home to cover black smudges caused when the British set fire to the building. It was then that the mansion was given the name of "White House."

70 Years Ago

From The Western Star, June 29, 1956

The Glorious Fourth will be observed in Coldwater rather quietly during the day with practically all of the places of business closed, but that evening the Coldwater Business Men's Association has arranged to have a good exhibit of fireworks for the pleasure of the people of this area. The pyrotechnics will be set off at dark at the Stark airport, where adequate fire protection will be provided. And there will be ample parking space for all to come and enjoy the fun.

After the fireworks the merchants have matched a baseball game between the 13 and 15 year olds of Buttermilk and V.F.W. sponsored Coldwater team. Also the V.F.W. is sponsoring a dance Tuesday evening July 3, in the veterans building.

Virgil Prophet, Coldwater manager of the Home Lumber and Supply Co., announces this week that the company has this week moved its office from the former location south of the railway tracks in this city to the former Houston-Doughty Lumber Co., office one half block north of Main street.

The building has newly decorated and an attractive sales and display room completed. The office and yard is being newly arranged this week and all should be in good shape by the first of next week, Mr. Prophet states. The warehouse space at the former location will continue to be utilized.

The drawing held last Saturday evening on Main street attracted a large crowd and the person whose name was first drawn – Butler Hadley – was present and received \$50 in \$1 trade certificates, good at any of the places of business of the 39 participating Coldwater firms or individuals. Some other merchandise prizes were also given.

The Business Men's Association will hold the second of the 26 weeks of drawings this Saturday, June 30, at 7:00 o'clock. Plan to be present. Register at the Orr Hardware if you have not already done so. It is planned to have other drawings for merchandise prizes.

A non-professional district baseball tournament began at Protection on Monday evening, June 25 at 8 o'clock with a game between Coldwater and Protection. The county seaters won the tilt and were scheduled to play Ashland Wednesday night until a storm came up.

60 Years Ago

From June 30, 1966 Star

The Fourth of July will be observed in Coldwater this year in a fitting way for the benefit of all ages. The stores will close during the day, it is announced.

The Coldwater Chamber of Commerce has purchased 50 American flags which will be displayed on the Fourth along the highway through town from north of the railway crossing to the north end of the business district; also along Main street from a block west of the highway to the Presbyterian church.

The Coldwater Jaycees have made brackets for displaying the flags and they will be put up under the direction of Larry Hatfield, flag display chairman. Henry Oeser has charge of the day's program. Merchants and householders, alike, are asked to display their flags on Independence Day. All are invited.

The Coldwater Chamber of Commerce is providing a spectacular show of fireworks which will be in charge of the Coldwater Fire Department and will begin when it is fully dark. Preceding the fireworks, the newly-organized Comet Community Band, under the direction of Donald Booth, will give a short concert ending with the Star Spangled Banner. A dance will be held in the Municipal building after the fireworks.

The Eagle weight lifting club meets every night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Weight lifting, ping pong, basketball and volley ball. All prospective Eagle athletes are invited to attend regularly in Dr. McCoy's back yard.

Swimming lessons given by the American Red Cross, will begin July 5th. These lessons are given by the Red Cross drive and are free to anyone interested.

These lessons will be divided into six different divisions: Beginners, Advanced Beginners, Intermediates, Swimmers, Junior Life Saving, and Senior Life Saving.

The first general session will be held at the Coldwater swimming pool at 9 a.m., July 5th. At this time the schedule of classes will be announced. The regular lessons will start the following Thursday, July 7, 1966. Mike Steele, Instructor.

Donald G. Booth, municipal swimming pool supervisor, announces that the pool in Coldwater will be open on the Fourth of July from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Girl Scouts of Wilmore and Coldwater who would like to attend Day Camp this summer should register now. Day Camp will be held at Tom Pepperd's artesian well July 9. Registration and fee of \$2.00 should be given to Margaret Steele or Madeline Elwell.

Coldwater girls should meet at the Junior High auditorium with a sack lunch and plastic glass, ready to leave for camp by nine o'clock on Tuesday morning, July 5.

50 Years Ago

From The Western Star, July 1, 1976

Swimming pool hours for Saturday, July 3, are 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, July 4, 2 to 7:30. Closed Monday.

Saturday and Sunday, July 3rd and 4th, the Comanche County Museum will be open every afternoon, 1 to 5 p.m.

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

This Saturday will be Coldwater's observation of the nation's 200th birthday of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The all-day celebration will begin with a parade of people, floats, depicting historic themes and events. There will be three prizes for floats. Also, youngsters are invited to participate with prizes for best girl's decorated bicycle and best boy's decorated bicycle. There will be a prize for best children's entry and the Best Parade Entry will be given by the Coldwater Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber's Annual Appreciation Day barbeque has been incorporated into this celebration. It is free and will be held at the tennis courts at the CHS football field beginning at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited. This is an excellent opportunity to visit, renew acquaintances and enjoy an excellent feed.

Immediately following, the Chamber of Commerce will announce the winners of the Bicentennial Beard Growing contest at 8:30 p.m.

The finale and grand climax of the day's events will be the fireworks festival beginning at dusk at the football stadium which should provide ample seating and convenience for all who wish to participate. There is no admission charge.

Plan to eat lunch at the Job's Daughters' "Salad Bar" July 3, 1976, 11:30 to 2:00 at the Masonic building. All you can eat \$2.00. Anyone unable to make the steps call 582-2342 for arrangements.

40 Years Ago

From The Western Star, July 3, 1986

Activities galore are slated for the Annual July Fourth Celebration at Lake Coldwater beginning with a 5 p.m. registration, adult and kid games will be held on the west side of Lake Coldwater, running until about 8:15.

Dale Long of Gate, Okla., will put on a musical program, singing and playing guitar. At approximately 9:30 p.m. (as soon as it gets dark enough), the annual fireworks display will begin, sponsored by the city of Coldwater, the Coldwater Chamber of Commerce and the Coldwater members of the Comanche County Fire Department. After the fireworks, the Chamber will sponsor a teen dance at the Coldwater Veterans' Building. The dance – for those 18 and under – will run from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Dorothy Stewart received her drawing prize from Coldwater National Bank President Jim Herrington at last Friday's CNB open house. In observance of its 100th anniversary, CNB hosted the day-long affair, giving away cash prizes to six winners. Other winners were Dixie Bailey, Wayne Thompson, Pat Hess, Gina Johnson and Ollie Hackney.

The Kansas Mandatory Safety Belt Law took effect Tuesday and Kansas Secretary of Transportation, John B. Kemp, said the law will save lives and reduce the number of persons seriously injured in automobile crashes.

Results of the Missouri Valley AAU track meet held in Manhattan on June 27 and 28, Stephen Hokanson, first, discus, 150'; second, shotput, 49'9". Adrienne Brown was third in high jump, 5'; third, 100 m hurdles, 15:8; fourth, long jump, 15'10 1/4"; second in 400 m hurdles, 1:10.

NEWS

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

Birthright Citizenship Upheld by Court

BY ARIANA FIGUEROA
States Newsroom

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday struck down President Donald Trump’s attempt to redefine the constitutional right to birthright citizenship.

In the decision, a majority of the justices upheld the country’s long understanding of automatic citizenship by birth on American soil, regardless of the immigration status of a newborn’s parents. The majority opinion, written by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., found the president’s executive order violated the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

“Citizenship, then and now, was the right to have rights – to freely participate in our political community,” Roberts wrote. “The Framers of the Fourteenth Amendment extended that promise to ‘every free-born person in this land.’ We keep that promise today.”

While six of the justices agreed – Roberts, Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson – that the president’s executive order was unlawful, conservative Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Neil M. Gorsuch dissented.

Only five of the justices agreed that the 14th Amendment extends citizenship to the children of immigrants, with Kavanaugh partially dissenting along with Thomas, Alito and Gorsuch.

Kavanaugh argued that Trump’s executive order did not violate the 14th Amendment, but instead violated federal statute. He added in his dissent that Congress could “enact new legislation establishing exceptions to birthright citizenship for children born to foreign citizens unlawfully or temporarily in the country. But Congress has not yet done so.”

The White House did not immediately respond to States Newsroom’s request for comment, but a day before the decision, Trump said in the Oval Office that he would accept the Supreme Court’s ruling.

“It’s up to them, but in terms of for the good of the country, it’d be great if they ... didn’t allow it,” Trump, who in a highly unusual move for a president attended the oral arguments on the case, said of birthright citizenship.

After the ruling, the president called on Congress, which is controlled by Republicans, to pass legislation to codify his executive order into law, dismissing the need for a constitutional

amendment.

However, a constitutional amendment would be needed, not legislative law, because a majority of the justices still found that any change to birthright citizenship violated the Constitution’s 14th Amendment. Utah’s GOP Sen. Mike Lee, who previously clerked for Alito, noted that “we’re going to need a constitutional amendment.”

The opinion is a major blow to Trump, who has sought to redefine who is American as part of his broader immigration agenda.

But it also follows two decisions from the high court that vastly expanded the president’s authority over immigration policy by allowing him to limit asylum seeker claims at the Southern border and strip legal protections for 350,000 Haitians and 6,000 Syrians.

Tuesday’s decision is based on one of the first executive orders that the president signed on the first day of his second term. It aimed to deny citizenship to children born to parents who either do not have legal status, or hold temporary legal visas.

Experts warned if the order were to take effect, it could create an entire class of stateless people and cause chaos for hospitals and local governments.

Coldwater to Host America 250 Celebration on Saturday

STAFF REPORT

The city of Coldwater will celebrate America’s 250th birthday in style on Saturday, July 4.

Turtle races will kick off the day’s festivities at 10:30 a.m. Kids can take part in inflatables, face painting and touching a fire truck from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A free community lunch will be provided at noon as locals can enjoy hot dogs, chips, water and watermelon.

The Coldwater mayor will brave a dunk tank from 11-11:45 a.m.

The Coldwater swimming pool will host

a free swim from 1-5 p.m.

Just after the community lunch the Most Patriotic Dressed Person will be announced.

Adults have not been left out of the day’s events with a 21-plus cornhole tournament starting at 1 p.m. The tournament will include competition for singles, as well as doubles. Alcohol will be permitted from 1-5 p.m.

A cannonball contest will take place at 2:45 p.m., and the night will come to a close with fireworks at dusk, which will take place at Coldwater Lake.

GOT NEWS?

Email news tips to jasonjump@thestarpress.news

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Western Star & Protection Press on Thursday, June 26, 2026) 2t

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

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

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

NATIONAL OFFICE

UNITED STATES SENATE
REPUBLICAN:
Roger Marshall, not provided, Lawrence

Pond Naramore, 1339 Maple Ln, Lawrence 66044
DEMOCRAT:
Damon Anderson, PO BOX 890010, Shawnee 66226
Christy Davis, 715 1st St, Cottonwood Falls 66845
Jason Hart, 302 N Pershing, Wichita 67208

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

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – DISTRICT 4th
REPUBLICAN:
Ron Estes, PO BOX 782952, Wichita, 67278
Frank A McCollum, 465 W Rd, Fall River 67047
DEMOCRAT:
Chris Carmichael, 2634 N Bluestone Ct, Andover 67002
Cole Epley, 5711 N 45th St N, Bel Aire 67220
Ryan Gilbert, Not provided, Goddard
Katy Tyndell, PO BOX 781004, Wichita 67207

STATE OFFICES

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

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

66282
Vicki Schmidt/Joe Newland, Topeka/Neodesha
PO BOX 3801, Topeka 66604
Scott Schwab/Ken Rahjes, Overland Park/Agra
PO BOX 2818, Olathe 66062
DEMOCRAT:
Ethan Corson/Renee Duxler, Fairway/Saline
PO BOX 4513 Overland Park 66204
Cindy Holscher/KC Ohaebosium, Overland Park/Wichita
PO BOX 2903, Olathe 66063
Curt Skoog/Jenner Dacani McKenney, Overland Park/Fredonia
PO BOX 7053, Overland Park 66207

SECRETARY OF STATE
REPUBLICAN:
Pat Proctor, 624 Kickapoo St, Leavenworth 66048

DEMOCRAT:
Jennifer Day, PO BOX 104, Mission 66202-9810
Samuel Lane, 6302 Hallet St, Shawnee 66216

ATTORNEY GENERAL
REPUBLICAN:
Kris Kobach, PO BOX 155, Lecompton 66050

DEMOCRAT:
Chris Mann, 3514 Clinton Pkwy Ste 108, Lawrence 66047

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

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

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 116th DISTRICT
REPUBLICAN:

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

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION 7th DISTRICT
REPUBLICAN:
Alana McWilliams, Not provided, Abilene
DEMOCRAT:
Ann Zimmerman, 3904 N Ohio, Salina 67401

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DISTRICT 16
DIVISION 1
REPUBLICAN:
Sidney R. Thomas, 2317 Kerri Dr, Dodge City 67801
DEMOCRAT:
No Candidate
COUNTY OFFICES

COMANCHE COUNTY COMMISSIONER -
DISTRICT 1
REPUBLICAN:
Zackery Ellis, 2287 Avenue C, Wilmore 67155
DEMOCRAT:
No Candidate

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

AVILLA PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN
REPUBLICAN:
Kyle Hoffman, 1318 Avenue T, Coldwater 67029

DEMOCRAT:
No Candidate

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

POWELL PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN
REPUBLICAN:
Michael York, 2127 Road 20, Wilmore 67155

DEMOCRAT:
No Candidate

POWELL PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN
REPUBLICAN:
Debra York, 2127 Road 20, Wilmore 67155

DEMOCRAT:
No Candidate

COLDWATER PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN
REPUBLICAN:
No Candidate
DEMOCRAT:
No Candidate

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

PROTECTION PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN
REPUBLICAN:
No Candidate
DEMOCRAT:
No Candidate

PROTECTION PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN
REPUBLICAN:
No Candidate
DEMOCRAT:
No Candidate

AVILLA TOWNSHIP CLERK
REPUBLICAN: No Candidate
DEMOCRAT: No Candidate

COLDWATER TOWNSHIP CLERK
REPUBLICAN: No Candidate
DEMOCRAT: No Candidate

PROTECTION TOWNSHIP CLERK
REPUBLICAN: No Candidate
DEMOCRAT: No Candidate

POWELL TOWNSHIP CLERK
REPUBLICAN: No Candidate
DEMOCRAT: No Candidate

POLLING LOCATIONS, TIMES

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

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

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

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

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

BRI UHL
COMANCHE COUNTY ELECTION OFFICER (SEAL)

The Western Star & Protection Press

Online 24/7 at thestarpress.news

LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in The Western Star & Protection Press on the Thursday, July 2, 2026) 3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estates of

Case No. CM-2026-PR-000007

JACK FITZWATER and MARY FITZWATER, both deceased.

NOTICE OF HEARING THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Amy Baker, as an owner of an interest in and to the following described real estate, praying that descent be determined of the decedents’ interests in and to the following described real estate in Comanche County, in Kansas:

An undivided interest in and to:
The Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE/4 NE/4) of Section 12;
North Half of the Southeast Quarter (N/2

SE/4) and the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE4 SE/4 of Section 1, all in Township 33 South, Range 20 West of the 6th P.M., Comanche County, Kansas

and that such property be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before the 28th day of July, 2026, at 1:30 P.M. in the District Court of Comanche County, in Coldwater, Kansas, at which time and place the Petition shall be heard. If you fail to file written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Amy Baker
Petitioner

David H. Snapp, LC
100 Military Plaza,
Suite 204
Dodge City, KS 67801
Attorney for Petitioner

PUBLIC NOTICES

(Published in The Western Star & Protection Press on Thursday, July 2, 2026) 1t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TESTING OF ELECTION MACHINES

Pursuant to K.S.A. 25-4411 notice is hereby given that public testing for the Unisyn voting machines will be on July 9th, 2026, at 9:00a.m. in the County Clerk’s Office in the Courthouse at 201 S New York, Coldwater, KS.

The equipment to be tested is intended to be used for voting and counting of votes cast in the Primary Election on August 4th, 2026, in Comanche County.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my seal this 30th day of June 2026.



Bri Uhl
County Clerk/Election Officer

(Published in The Western Star & Protection Press, July 2, 2026) 1t ORDER FOR CLOSING OF REGISTRATION BOOKS BEFORE PRIMARY ELECTION AUGUST 4TH, 2026

Pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 25-2311(c), notice is hereby given that on the 14th day of July, 2026, all registration books for the primary election will be closed at the end of regular business hours. Registration books will remain closed until the 5th day of August, 2026.

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of my office this 30th day of June 2026.

Bri Uhl
County Clerk/Election Officer

Thank you for your support.