

T-Mobile Selects SCHS in Friday Night 5G Lights Contest

STAFF REPORT
South Central High School is among 21 Kansas schools selected to receive a share of \$105,000 awarded by T-Mobile in its Friday Night 5G Lights competition. The Timberwolves will receive \$5,000 in funding, as well as still being alive in the running for a complete football field transformation, which is valued at \$1 million. SCHS Athletic Director Tim Erickson originally applied for the district to receive funding to modernize the sound system at South Central’s 40-year-old stadium. The system was in need of upgraded speakers, wiring, microphones and internet connectivity in hopes of giving the athletes, cheerleaders and fans a more energized game-day experience. Applications closed on Sept. 18, and the Top 40 finalist schools will be announced on Thursday, Oct. 8. The public will be able to vote through Oct. 25 to narrow the field down to the Final Four schools to advance to the ultimate final round of competition. “Our stadium is more than just a place where we play football,” Erickson said. “It is a gathering place for our students, families, alumni, and entire community. “This generous grant from T-Mobile will allow us to make an important investment in our

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SUSAN EDMONSTON / The Star-Press
Dave’s Pizza Oven owners Dave and Monika Gerstner stand in front of the National Geographic maps on the wall of their restaurant. The local Coldwater pizza joint begins its 42nd year in business this month.

Local Pizza Place Celebrates Another Anniversary in October

BY SUSAN EDMONSTON
Editor Emeritus
Dave’s Pizza Oven in Coldwater will begin its 42nd year this October and owner Dave Gerstner will celebrate his 66th birthday on Oct. 9. He and his wife, Monika, do a little bit of everything in the restaurant. Dave does the bookkeeping and she does the scheduling. The menu in this business offers many choices of pizza – the most popular one is “The Works”; the salad bar, a variety of bread sticks, spaghetti, four choices of sandwiches, dessert pizzas – apple, cherry, and peach – and soft drinks, tea and coffee. **Dave’s Journey** Gerstner arrived in Coldwater in October of 1984. Merle Wait from The Bank of Protection financed him to open a pizza place. Pat Freund de-

signed the pizza man logo, and Dave’s Pizza Oven opened that month in the former Bowman’s Cafe on Main Street – where Angels’ Attic is now. The business was open every day – Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., on Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ten years later, in August 1994, a

See **PIZZA** / Page 8

Sheriff’s Office Arrests Protection Man on Suspicion of Copper Theft

STAFF REPORT
Protection resident Eric Boyles has been arrested by the Comanche County Sheriff’s Office after an estimated 500 pounds of what officials suspect as stolen copper materials was seized from the residence following the execution of a search warrant recently. Boyles was booked into the Kiowa County Jail on “requested charges of felony theft and burglary,” according to a post made on social media by the sheriff’s office. The CCSO also reminded local residents to be diligent as the price of copper and other metals have continued to increase in price. “Please pay particular attention to vacant residences, farmsteads, outbuildings, construction sites, and other properties that may be unattended for extended periods. If you observe suspicious activity around these locations, contact the Comanche County Sheriff’s Office,” the statement said.



COMANCHE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE
DARE: Huck Completes Training
Comanche County Sheriff’s Office Deputy Tanner Huck recently completed a two-week DARE officer training. Huck will be reimplementing USD 300’s DARE program along with school administration. The program will be used in both the middle school and high school.

South Central Volleyball Coaches Mark Career Milestone

STAFF REPORT
Batman had his Robin. Sonny had his Cher. And Abbott had his Costello. There are hundreds of names that will come to mind when thinking about legendary duos through the annals of history – but Comanche County has its own dynamic duo in Cindy Snyder and Jenni Cronin. The two have coached the South Central Lady Timberwolves volleyball team long enough the pair celebrated their 500th coaching victory together last week. Snyder and Cronin are in their 21st season together with the SCHS volleyball program. Snyder started as an assistant coach with Diana Stout two years before taking the head coaching job. Cronin coached in Coldwater before the Comanche County schools consolidated. She was the head coach for the Lady Eagles for five years. **South Central at Lyons Tournament** The South Central volleyball team faced some tough competition at the Lyons tournament Saturday. Snyder said she was proud of how the girls played, noting they competed hard in each match and were in all of the matches, finishing 2-3 on the day. “We faced several very strong teams, including a number of 3A schools, and every match provided tough competition that challenged us to play at a higher level,” Snyder said. “We were led by our seniors, Ellie Murphy and Piper Price, who provided strong leadership throughout the tournament.” The Lady Timberwolves got a win over Chaparral in three games, 25-23, 24-26, 27-25. They then faced Little River and lost 25-18, 26-24. South Central took on host Lyons and won in three, 25-27, 25-17, 29-27. Against South-east of Saline, the Lady Timberwolves lost 25-23, 25-19.



SOUTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
South Central High School volleyball coaches Cindy Snyder and Jenni Cronin celebrate their 500th coaching victory as a tandem with their 2026 squad.

NEWS

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



KATEE UNDERWOOD / The Star-Press

Concrete work was finished up recently on the new physical therapy department of the Comanche County Hospital recently. The entire project is expected to be completed by February 2027.

Work Continues on Comanche County Hospital Improvements, Completion Expected Early 2027

STAFF REPORT

Construction on the new physical therapy department addition at Comanche County Hospital reached another

milestone Monday as crews began pouring the concrete foundation for the project.

The concrete work is expected to take about an hour

to complete. Once poured, the concrete will be allowed to cure for approximately one week before construction continues.

According to the project superintendent, crews are scheduled to begin installing steel next Monday, with exterior framing expected

to begin Oct. 12. The roof is scheduled to arrive Oct. 14. The project is expected to be complete in February of next year.

The addition will expand the hospital's physical therapy department and is part of ongoing improvements to the hospital campus.

Kansas Residents Reeling Amid Sweeping ICE Enforcement Actions

KANSAS NEWS SERVICE

The arrests of plant workers and others around southwest Kansas began last Tuesday, causing alarm and confusion across the region, where immigrants make up a large portion of the agriculture workforce.

A widespread Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation continued across southwest Kansas on Thursday. Residents in Dodge City, Garden City, Liberal and the surrounding areas are on edge, according to people interviewed by The Midwest Newsroom and

Kansas News Service.

There are unconfirmed reports that ICE agents have detained people at local meat processing plants. About 22% of the nation's grain-fed beef supply sits in this region, according to the Kansas Livestock Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Kansas statistics.

City and state officials, including U.S. Senator Roger Marshall, said they had no prior notice before the raids began. According to Liberal Vice Mayor Janeth Vazquez, dozens of people have been detained

since the enforcement operation began early in the week. So far, ICE has not provided local officials with information regarding the exact number of those arrested.

"We first became aware of the operation Monday night, and since then, unfortunately, our community has been living with tremendous fear, and a lot of people are just absolutely terrified to leave their home," Vazquez told The Midwest Newsroom.

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas posted on X Wednesday evening that he spoke with The Department

of Homeland Security's Secretary Markwayne Mullin. He said Mullin assured him that ICE is working with local law enforcement to target those with warrants for criminal activities.

In response to a question from the Kansas News Service about the southwest Kansas enforcement operation, ICE emailed examples of what they referred to as "the worst of the worst," a list of undocumented immigrants with criminal histories that have been deported in the Kansas City area.

However, Kathleen Alonso, an

immigrant rights advocate for the organization New Frontiers, said she followed up with families after their loved ones were detained.

"The family shared that they had no criminal records," Alonso said.

Residents and officials in the area told The Midwest Newsroom they believe agents are breaking traffic laws and racially profiling community members who are U.S. citizens.

The United Food and Commercial Workers Local 2 union

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CONTEST

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facility and improve the game-day experience for everyone who walks through our gates."

The stadium sound system plays an important role during athletic events by providing announcements, music, school traditions, emergency communications and recognition of students and community members. Over time, aging equipment and limited resources have

made it increasingly difficult to maintain the quality and reliability expected of a modern athletic facility, according to Erickson.

The \$5,000 T-Mobile grant will help address those challenges by providing funding for new and upgraded speakers and sound-system equipment. The improvements are expected to provide better sound coverage, improved clarity and a more dependable system throughout the stadium.

The project will benefit not only the football program, but also the many students and community members who use the stadium throughout the school year, including band, cheer, other athletic programs, school activities and community events.

"Creating a great atmosphere on game night is an important part of high school athletics," Erickson said. "Our students work extremely hard, and they deserve a facility that helps

showcase their accomplishments.

"We are grateful to T-Mobile for helping us make this improvement possible."

Erickson said USD 300 is appreciative to T-Mobile and the 5G Friday Night Lights program for investing in local schools and communities. This grant will provide a lasting improvement to the stadium and help create a better experience for generations of students, athletes, families and fans.

OBITUARY

DIXIE ILENE PARKER

Dixie Ilene Parker passed away on Aug. 28, 2026, at her home in Winnemucca, Nev., surrounded by her loved ones. She was born on Dec. 12, 1958, in Coldwater to Ed and Shirley Thompson. She was one of four children.

She spent her childhood in Protection. She moved to Buffalo, Okla., in 1970 and then to Grants, N.M. where she spent seven years.



Dixie married Gregory Parker on Nov. 27, 1975. They moved around for Greg's work living in Sayre, Okla., Congress, Ariz., Beaty, Nev. and finally settling in Winnemucca, Nev. in 1999, welcoming two children along their journey — Chet and Virginia.

She had many jobs as a CNA, waitress and floor person for a casino working the slots and the bar, but her best job of all was being a homemaker for her family.

Dixie was a devout Christian who attended Living Stones Church. She enjoyed crafts, crocheting, cross-stitching, quilting, home improvement projects, cooking, gambling and spending time with her family.

She was very family oriented and loved her kids and grandkids more than anything. She loved any excuse to get

together with family and make memories. She was always the last one to go home even throughout her sickness.

She is survived by her husband of 50-plus years, Greg Parker; her children: Chet (Tera) Parker, Virginia (Lenny) VanKirk and Rochelle Beaman; grandchildren: Katie Petersen, Michael (Laurena) Wing, Krista Parker, Jordan (Juli) Parker, Caoimhe Parker, Jaaston Grau (Lilly Custis), ReiCyan Grau, Taeyvan Grau, Tristan VanKirk, Mason VanKirk, Teagyn Tolbert, Braylon Tolbert and Tyleigh Tolbert; and great-grandchildren, Havyn Grau and Ivey Parker; brother Gale (Lisa) Thompson; sister, Teresa Morris; sister-in-law, Peggy Puckett; and nieces and nephews: Nick Thompson, Matt Thompson, Keith Morris, Michelle Nabinger, Meagan Nation, Dustin Parker, Cody Parker, Warren Parker and Annie Lou Bergantino.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ed and Shirley Thompson; grandparents, Chet and Elma Nicholas and Edson and Leta Thompson; brother Tommy Thompson; brother-in-law, Doyle Morris; and nephews Thomas Thompson and Travis Morris.

Funeral service was held on Friday, Sept. 11 at Living Stones Church. A procession to the graveside service followed. There was a reception potluck that followed at the Parker Residence.

The Parker Family would like to extend a thank you for the extraordinary care of Dr. Soares' team and Dr. Burt's team at Huntsman Cancer Institute, Sweet Tiayra of the Infusion room at HGH, and Thea and Ashley at Guiding Light Hospice.

Carve out a new tradition!
Give blood!

Protection Community Blood Drive
Grace Bible Church
500 S. Broadway
Protection, KS 67127
10:30am-4:00pm
"Every drop counts in the journey to save lives."
For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Join your friends at
Antioch Community Church
Saturday, October 3rd 12:00pm
5th Annual Fall Festival & BBQ
At Buttermilk, KS
Smoked Pork, Brisket, &
Turkey BBQ & Pie Social
MUSIC by Aaron Mullins of Destiny Worship
Disc Golf, Sling Shots, Face Painting,
Corn Treasure Hunt & kid's activities
ARCHERY: Genesis Bows provided for age
8-adult with Range Safety Certified Instructor
Sign-up for free archery lessons this fall!
Questions: Call 785-409-9318 Pastor Jeff Perry
Admission is free If it rains, we will be inside.

The Western Star & Protection
The Star-Press

(USPS #679-660)

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Published by:
M3 Publishing, LLC
140 N. Main Street / Kingman, KS 67068

Weekly - Thursday
Periodicals Postage Paid at
Coldwater, Kansas 67029

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
The Western Star & Protection Press
PO Box 518, Coldwater, KS 67029-0518
email: subscriptions@m3publishing.news

CONTACT US
Phone: (620) 532-3151
Billing/Classifieds/Notices/Subscriptions
billing@m3publishing.news
notice@m3publishing.news
subscriptions@m3publishing.news
Classified and notice deadlines
are Tuesdays by noon.

Advertising:
Katee Underwood
managingeditor@m3publishing.news
Advertising deadlines are Tuesdays by noon.

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Past Paragraphs

Protection news from earlier times

Compiled by Dave Webb

125 YEARS AGO
Western Star
October 4, 1901

Protection prattle

The dance here last Friday night was not largely attended. Most of those in attendance were compelled to remain in the hall until near morning on account of the rain which began falling at 12 o'clock.

The Democratic and Populist conventions held in this city on Wednesday nominated J.E. Harbaugh for commissioner from the Third District.

The Republican primary convention which met here last Saturday afternoon made the following nominations—for commissioner from the Third District, M.L. Baxter. Protection Township ticket: trustee, I.K. Rodgers; for clerk, George Meisinger; for treasurer, Alex Thornhill; for justice of the peace, Mitt Poe. —[Correspondent] "JUNIPER."

Protection paragraphs

The wheat that was sown some time ago is looking fine.

G.W. Reed is gone on a week's trip to the Strip.

Henry Jett, of Clark County, shipped four cars of cattle to Kansas City this week.

Levona Belle Bachman and children went to Wichita this week on a visit to Mrs. Bachman's parents. —[Correspondent] "OWEN."

Cattle on the move

Several carloads of cattle have gone out of Clark County this week.

Wright Brothers shipped a carload of mixed cattle to Kansas City Monday.

Harry Houston returned Monday evening from Tilden, Nebraska, whither he went last week with a trainload of cattle.

Hugh Gannon arrived Monday evening from his home in Valeria, Iowa. He expects to ship out a couple of carloads of cattle the last of this week or the first of next week, and about the middle of the month will ship several more carloads. Mr. Gannon says that Iowa had some good rains last week, also.

T.E. Hull and J.W. Robbins, of Eureka, Kansas, shipped out a trainload of cattle Sunday evening to their Greenwood County farms, where the cattle will be fed for several months, mostly on cottonseed meal.

The shipment comprised 15 carloads, or about 403 head—all three-year-olds. Messrs. Hull and Robbins bought 300 head from John A. Lightner, 75 head from L.M. Rich and 28 head from J.W. Rodgers. Twelve carloads were loaded at Coldwater and three at Wilmore.

The Santa Fe has put in a telegraph operator at Wilmore and now the cattle shippers and patrons of the office have some conveniences which for several months they were denied. L. Leverton is the new depot agent.

Timely rain

Another good rain fell, this time all over the county, on last Friday night. It put the wheat ground in good shape and will cause a rapid growth of all the wheat that has been sown or that may yet be sown. It was the heaviest rain since the middle of May.

J.G. Jarnagin informed the STAR Monday that he had just finished sowing 100 acres of wheat and that a good portion of it was already looking quite green.

Odd Fellows

About 17 of the members of the IOOF lodge at Protection went to Ashland last Thursday and assisted in the burial services of E.M. Harper.

W.H. Meers, S.M. Jackson, Edward Seyffrit, James Jackson and B. Oren Butcher, members of the Odd Fellows lodge at this place, went to Protection Saturday evening to meet with the lodge there. The first degree of the order was conferred upon Fred Denney and B. Oren Butcher.

Days before bridges

Mr. and Mrs. S.M. Jackson can relate a thrilling experience while attempting to cross Cavalry Creek Sunday evening. They were driving Miss Hazel's pony and started to cross a boggy place when the pony suddenly began to sink in the mire.

There was only one way out, and that was to back

out, or rather by unhitching and pulling the buggy out backwards—all of which gave Sam a good chance to exercise his patience and his even temper and to "keep cool," at least about his lower extremities, as he waded water and mud for half an hour, more or less. No serious damage was done.

100 YEARS AGO
Protection Post
Sept. 30, 1926

Successful Fall Festival

Friday night the curtain was run down on the 1926 Fall Festival and closed on one of the most successful fairs and festivals that Protection has ever given.

Weather conditions were not so ideal, as was hoped for at the time that the festival was dated.... However, in spite of the inclemency of the weather, good crowds turned out each day and the attendance was fully up to expectations.

Exhibitions at the festival were excellent this year. Possibly the poultry exhibit was not so extensive as in past years, but the time of the year was not so good, as poultry is just moulting and many who had planned to exhibit their birds at the festival could not do so.

Exhibits galore

In the exhibit building the arrangement under the superintendency of Mr. Snyder was ideal this year. On the right of the entrance was the fancywork and flower department.

Continuing on the right of the exhibition building and following the arts department were the jellies and canned fruits.... The 4-H clubs had an excellent exhibit of garments and house wear as well as many pieces of finer needlework....

The fruit and vegetable displays were especially noticeable for the number of exhibits.

The grains [included] corn, kaffir, milo maize, and wheat [that had] been grouped in this department. Large ears of corn decorated the walls and monstrous stalks of maize were to be found here....

A goodly exhibit of pets and curios were found [near the poultry]. To the left of the main entrance of the exhibits building was the school exhibit, including both the rural school department, the local grade school, and the high school.

Businesses show wares

The merchants' booth and display tent was just south of the exhibits building.

With the entrance of the tent fronting the street or midway, to the right as one entered was the display booth of W.J. Lehman with a line of his IHC products; then in successive order followed as one went around the tent from right to left:

Bedinger Brothers with their Delco light plants, Purina feeds and Beatrice cream separator; Cohlmlia Cash Store with a lavish display of their general line of merchandise.

The Ashcraft Hardware with an attractive display in the lines they handle; Sibbitt & Son with groceries and market display; A.M. Hughbanks and his Maytag products and Maytag power washers; the A.B. Peacock Furniture Company with a lavish display of kitchen furnishings and draperies. Bachman & Company

with Fords and Fordson and their auto equipment, service and accessories; Windus Motor Company with the Chrysler; Brewer & Brewer with the Chevrolet and Nash cars; the Lindsey Hardware Company with a large booth.

Heston Cash Store and its well-appointed and lavish display of women's apparel and furnishings; Fleming Shoe Store and their Florsheim shoe exhibits; Herndon Motor Company with their line of Overland cars; and Edmonston & Dorsey with the Hudson and Essex line.

Down the center aisle of the tent was the rest room to the rear, and the booth of Roy Lewis Grocery & Market, and the Home Lumber & Supply Company with a paint and builders' booth.

This tent was well lighted and excellently arranged under the able direction of F.P. Heston.

To the north of the exhibits building was the stock pavilion and the display of dairy cattle and beef cattle under the able direction of Ben Bird and with the splendid cooperation of E.S. Dale, C.J. Simkins, W.C. Murphy and Noah Zimmerman....

Fun and food, too

And at night, as during every night of the festival, the E.P. James Carnival Company, with their swings and concessions, provided the amusement and entertainment for the crowd....

Thursday, of course, with the big free barbecue, was the best day of the Festival and several thousand people took advantage to come to Protection and enjoy the festival. Over 2,000 pounds of choice beef had been barbecued for the dinner hour....

Thursday afternoon, prior to the ball game, C.D. Shupe, of the Cimarron Ranch south of Sitka, gave an exhibition of trained horses and German police dogs that was very creditable.... [Then] Selman, Oklahoma, and Sun City played a good game of baseball with Selman the victors by a very close margin.

Friday, the afternoon was given to a rodeo under the auspices and direction of John [Wait] and the comments on Mr. [Wait's] management of the rodeo have been more than favorable and a goodly crowd gathered at the grounds and watched the rodeo.

As the midnight hour came, Friday night, the closing scenes of the 1926 Fall Festival were enacted....

Everyone was impressed

Clifford R. Hope of Garden City, the Republican candidate for Congress at the November polls... said: "It's good, mighty good, and speaks well for the community spirit and its enterprise...."

Harry E. Brown of Hutchinson, who is the Democratic nominee for Congress from this district: "Protection has a reputation that I have often heard of at Hutchinson for this fair and festival, especially has it established an enviable reputation for the barbecue...."

Just one casualty

Frank Herron had his leg broken at the festival grounds last Saturday morning. Mr. Herron was assisting in lowering and preparing for shipment the large tent that had been used for a merchants' booth display.

The tent had been lowered and the workmen were taking down the center poles when one of the guy ropes broke and the large center

pole fell, hitting a heavy piece of timber that was lying near and the timber, in turn, flew up and hit Mr. Herron on the leg, breaking it....

Bakery nearly done

Frank Teague is a busy man this week as he is moving the Bon Ton Bakery from its former location in the Masonic building into the new building that he is completing by the Charles & Ballard Drug Store.

Mr. Teague will soon be located in his new location and better prepared than ever to serve his customers and the general public.

It's not known where Teague's bakery moved in 1926, but in the 1930s it was located on the west side of Broadway in the building just north of today's Protection Venture grocery store, previously the Home Cafe, then a youth and later a senior center.

Cherokee 'Strippers'

On the registration books during the showing of [the movie] *Tumbleweeds* at the Pastime [Theatre] a goodly number registered as making the famous "land run" into the "Strip" on September 16, 1893, at the time it was opened for settlement....

Many from a distance registered at the Pastime, but the POST has reproduced only [names of local people: Omar Gaylord, Emma Briggs, J.R. Williams, M.E. Wilborn, Sanford VanWey, F.C. Brown, W.S. Anderson, John and Lenore Ashcraft, C.E. Wilson, J.T. Hatten, J.P. Statton, J.E. Deck, S.R. Shupe, G.W. Reed, C.W. Harden.]

75 YEARS AGO
Protection Post
Sept. 28, 1951

Signs of the times

The front of the cinder block building housing the Filson Manufacturing Company has been painted white and a sign painter was lettering the building Thursday. Other new signs noted the past week have been painted on the Houston-Doughty Lumber Company and the Lindsey Motor Company.

Rangers routed

A superbly conditioned Protection football team battled Greensburg into submission in three quarters at the local field last Friday night and went on to score 32 points in the fourth quarter to stun a Greensburg crowd, exceeding local rooters' fondest expectations. The final score was Protection 44, Greensburg.

55 YEARS AGO
Protection Post
October 1, 1971

Out and about

Larry and Melvina Harvey, Troy and Darin, were Saturday afternoon and evening guests of Jim and Pat Hart and family.

Sid Woolfolk was a Thursday overnight guest of Kelly Butts. On Friday he attended the State Fair with Raymond and Arlene Butts and Kelly.

Elsie Beyler and Linda Kissel and children went to Hugoton Saturday where Elsie visited her daughter, Linda May and family. Linda Kissel visited with her sister, Carolyn Gaskill.

Violet McLaughlin, LaVaun Lohrding, and Patricia Lohrding, Mark and Kim, were Dodge City visitors Monday afternoon.

35 YEARS AGO
Protection Press
October 3, 1991

PHS homecoming

By Bob Greer

A big success again—in every fact of the day. That was the story here Friday for the annual homecoming celebration at Protection High School.

Highlight of the evening was the traditional football game. Protection swept past Spearville by 43–22 in that contest. The Panthers boosted their overall season record to 3–1 with the win. PHS led by 43–0 at intermission, and played reserves the second half. That allowed reserve gridders to see plenty of homecoming action, too.

Cindy Lohrding was crowned homecoming queen for 1991, and Kraig Lindsay reigned as king.... Many attended the Homecoming dance, held in the gaily-decorated school auditorium. Music was by disc jockey Dave Jackson, 95DCK.

This year's Homecoming theme was "Unforgettable." The parade and pep rally downtown on Friday afternoon also drew a large turnout of townspeople. Most agreed it was the best such parade in recent years.

The seventh-grade float was judged to be the best in the parade. It featured a number of wounded Lancers on a football field. Second place went to the senior class float. Its theme was "Flush the Lancers." That float featured a toilet seat, with a Lancer stuffed inside. The freshman class won third place in the float contest....

New radio station

Great Plains Christian Radio, Inc. will break ground at 3 p.m. Sunday, October 6 for KJIL's (99.1 FM) studio in Meade.

Construction is scheduled to begin immediately, and a fund drive is now underway. The facilities will include a 1,000-foot tower in Cope-land.

KJIL went on the air September 5, 1992. Its signal is now heard through 21 transmitters and translators around Kansas, 6 in Oklahoma, 4 in Texas, and 2 in Colorado. One of its long-time on-air personalities is Blake Carter, who lived in Protection while his parents, Dennis and Betty Carter, pastored the Protection United Methodist Church.

15 YEARS AGO
Protection Press
Sept. 29, 2011

Comanche County 4-H

By Mike Deewall

National 4-H Week [is next week.] Comanche County 4-H clubs were chartered 80 years ago in 1931. There have been seven 4-H clubs in the county: The Antioch Hustlers, Collier Flats, Happy Valley, Kiowa Creek, Loyal 4-H, The Mule Creek Beavers, and Sunny Valley.

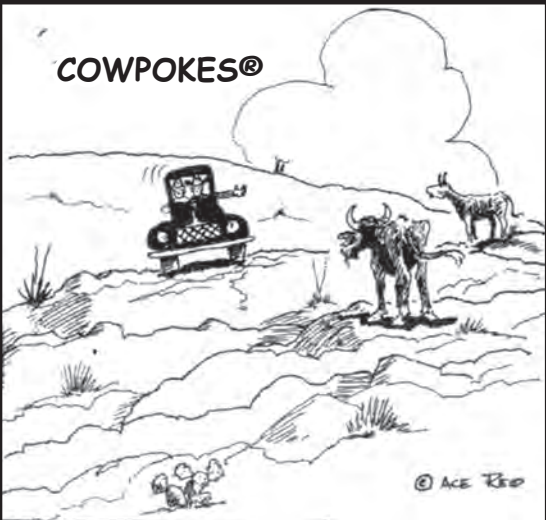
Over the decades the clubs have merged into two: Kiowa Creek and Loyal Hustlers.

Comanche County 4-H has a rich tradition. We have a framed article from 1961 hanging in our Comanche County Extension Office in Coldwater. It highlights club members and leaders from 1931 through 1961. It's interesting to read the names of the club members of the '30s and note that these 4-H'ers became club leaders in later years.

4-H has a strong tradition that remains applicable today. Leadership never ceases to be in demand.

We are proud that our Comanche County 4-H membership this year totals 72. We have a very fine group of young people and volunteer leaders....

YOUR HOMETOWN BANKS ARE READY TO SERVE YOU!



"Wul, this is it. We've gotta rob a bank 'er steal from a feed store!"

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

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

bankofprotection.com FDIC LENDER

NEWS

ICE

• From Page 2

representing plant workers at National Beef released a statement condemning what they call “ICE chaos.”

National Beef has facilities in Dodge City and Liberal, with more than 2,500 members at the Dodge City location.

“ICE’s targeting of these communities sows fear, instability, and chaos into the lives of those trying to make a living and feed our nation,” the union’s statement said.

This comes just weeks after the group secured a new wage increase contract with the plant.

Vazquez said the situation in Liberal and surrounding towns is indescribable. At Meadowlark Elementary School, 120 students missed school on Wednesday, she said.

“This is something that you see in the news, and this is something that small towns in southwest Kansas would never imagine could happen to them,” Vazquez said.

Vazquez said she witnessed ICE detain a mother who had a baby in her car Tuesday morning. A volunteer with a local community organization had to call a family member to come pick up the child.

“We feel hopeless,” Vazquez said. “We don’t know what to do to fix this.”

Vazquez and officials in nearby cities said they are also worried about some ICE agents driving dangerously.

“I was driving, and in front of me was an ICE vehicle going south, and out of nowhere, he basically just busted a U-turn and went after the other car in the other lane, so traffic was going the opposite direction, and he was targeting them,” Vazquez said.

Community members have organized on social media. Some have offered to buy groceries for neighbors who fear leaving their homes. Others said they are willing to drive children to and from school.

Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas has partnered with Cardoza Law,

an immigration law firm based in Oklahoma, to offer free legal consultations to residents in the area.

City leaders said many businesses have closed for the week. Workers are also missing shifts at the local meat processing plants in the region out of fear. Social media accounts reviewed by The Midwest Newsroom are full of descriptions of ICE agent sightings across the region.

The area has a large immigrant population that is vital to the agriculture sector.

Frank Duran and his 20-year-old daughter, Guadalupe Navarrete, were on their way home from work in southwest Kansas on Tuesday when they noticed a black truck with sirens following them. The pair immediately pulled over.

According to Navarrete, an officer approached Navarrete in the driver’s seat and demanded she roll down her windows and show identification. The 20-year-old asked if the officer had a warrant and why she had been pulled over. She said the officer did not reply.



CALEN MOORE / Kansas News Service

High school students wave wet flags and hold up rain-soaked signs protesting the presence of ICE at in intersection in Liberal, on the morning of Sept. 23.

The interaction left Duran rattled.

“I got pissed off because this is my daughter picking me up from work. It’s not even 15 minutes (from work),” Duran told The Midwest Newsroom.

Duran and his daughter are both U.S. citizens and

said they have lived in Kansas their entire lives. Duran works at the Cargill meat processing plant in Dodge City, while Navarrete works at the National Beef facility in Liberal.

After agents scanned Navarrete’s identification, she and Duran drove off.

When they arrived home, Navarrete got out of the car shaking and crying. Duran hugged her.

“She’s like, ‘We’re both born here in Kansas. We’re legal citizens, Dad,’” Duran recalled. “They profiled us.”

PAID POLITICAL CONTENT

Paid for by Dennis McKinney

After my primary victory I set out on a rural listening tour through the 4th Congressional District on a mission to connect with the Kansans who keep rural America alive. From Larned to Sedan I’ve been surrounded by good, hard-working people who are invested in their communities and our country. I’ve toured farms, hospitals, and schools and broken bread with citizens who feel like they don’t have a voice in their own government anymore.

That feeling is attributable to having a representative in Ron Estes who has lost touch with the people, while supporting policies that make our lives harder. Nothing demonstrates that more clearly than two issues confronting Kansas right now: agriculture and healthcare.

Kansas agriculture is hurting. It started last spring when Ron Estes sat on his hands while this administration dismantled USAID and our humanitarian aid infrastructure. Why does that matter? Because those were folks who made sure our Kansas commodities could feed the world through the Food for Peace program, an Eisenhower program that began with Kansas farmers in mind.

But the damage didn’t stop there, Estes rubber-stamped abhorrent tariff policies that have taken away our farmers’ markets. Kansas farmers and ranchers have spent years navigating drought, rising input costs, labor shortages, and increasingly volatile markets. Now, they are being asked to absorb the consequences of Washington’s regressive trade policies and an unstable global economy. Farmers cannot simply replace a lost export market overnight. Many of our grain markets may be gone for good. China is getting more soybeans and corn from Brazil. Once a customer finds another supplier, that relationship can be extraordinarily difficult to rebuild.

Then there is the cost of producing the food itself. Fuel. Fertilizer. Equipment. Insurance. The War with Iran has jacked up prices across the board, Congress refuses to intervene, and there is no end in sight. The price of diesel fuel alone is at a record high! Diesel costs \$2 more per gallon than it did last year at the same time, and we’re heading into harvest season.

Kansas ranchers have not been spared in all this. The latest ploys by the White House to import 300,000 metric tons of beef in order to drive down beef prices right before the midterm elections is a slap in the face to Kansas cattlemen who are just now starting to get their feet under them after years of drought. This is just one more example of Ron Estes playing games with the livelihoods of rural Kansans.

Then, there’s healthcare. Kansas is second only to Texas when it comes to the number of rural hospitals at immediate risk of closure. According to a recent analysis, 58 Kansas rural hospitals are at risk of closing, including 21 at immediate risk. These hospitals aren’t just lifelines for patients; they are anchors of rural economies, providing stable jobs and helping communities attract families and businesses. When rural hospitals close, convenient access to care is lost, jobs disappear, families leave, businesses become harder to recruit, and an already fragile community becomes even more vulnerable.

Ron Estes is paving the way for those closures. He supported the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB) which contained devastating cuts that will ultimately result in tens of thousands of Kansans losing coverage. Rural hospitals already operate on razor-thin margins and rely heavily on Medicare to survive. They cannot simply make up lost reimbursement by seeing more patients. And many of those cuts won’t take effect until after the midterm elections. How convenient.

Congressman Estes and his colleagues like to tout the Rural Health Transformation Program as evidence that Washington is addressing the problem, but rural hospital administrators have said otherwise. These temporary funds must be used for specific ends, such as investments in technology or workforce development, but the gaping hole left by Medicare cuts is largely due to a loss in reimbursement for services.

During our hospital visits, administrators told us that some of this new funding comes with administrative requirements that may require additional personnel just to manage. Where is the money for that additional hiring supposed to come from? It’s almost as if this wasn’t a well-

thought-out plan at all but rather just an after-the-fact band-aid attempting to cover the gaping wound left by the OBBB.

Rural Kansans deserve a representative who will show up, listen, and deliver on their behalf. They deserve someone who respects them, their values, and their way of life. They deserve to know that the people who grow our food, care for our neighbors, educate our children, and keep our small towns alive have a champion in Washington.

I was born and raised in rural America. Our family has invested heavily in Kansas’ oil and gas industry. The people I grew up with taught me that you work hard, you take care of each other, you keep your word, and you fight for the place you call home. I owe everything I am to those values. And after spending the past few weeks listening to rural

Kansans, I know one thing for certain: rural Kansas matters. The people who live here matter. And I’ll not stand by and watch our communities wither away.

Katy Jackman Tyndell

Katy Jackman Tyndell is a fifth-generation Kansan, attorney, businesswoman and mother of three running to represent Kansas’ 4th Congressional District.

She has spent more than a decade helping lead her family’s Kansas businesses and previously worked with the National Congress of American Indians advocating for tribal communities and working with lawmakers and federal agencies.

In 2025, she co-founded Leading Kansas, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to bringing Kansans together across political differences and strengthening democracy.
Laura Lombard
Campaign Manager, Katy for Kansas

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

(Published in The Western Star and Protection Press on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026) 3t

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

CANDIDATES TO BE VOTED FOR AT THE GENERAL 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 NOMINATIONS:

NATIONAL OFFICE

UNITED STATES SENATE

DAVID C GRAHAM (LIB)
7220 W. 83RD ST, OVERLAND PARK, KS 66204
ADAM HAMILTON (DEM)
PO BOX 6, STILWELL, KS 66085

ROGER MARSHALL (REP)

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE – 4TH DISTRICT

RON ESTES (REP)
PO BOX 782952, WICHITA, KS 67278
KATY TYNDELL (DEM)
PO BOX 781004, WICHITA, KS 67207
DREW CRANMER (LIB)
3626 N. RIDGE PORT ST, WICHITA, KS 67205

STATE OFFICES

GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

CINDY HOLSCHER/ KC OHAEBOSIM (DEM)
PO BOX 2903, OLATHE, KS 66063
TY MASTERSON/ JEFFREY KLEMP (REP)
PO BOX 424, ANDOVER, KS 67002

SECRETARY OF STATE

JENNIFER DAY (DEM)
PO BOX 104, MISSION, KS 66202
SCOTT E. MORGAN (UNITED STATES)
1618 INVERNESS DR., LAWRENCE, KS 66047
PAT PROCTOR (REP)
PO BOX 3421, FT LEAVENWORTH, KS 66027

ATTORNEY GENERAL

KRIS KOBACH (REP)
PO BOX 155, LECOMPTON, KS 66050
CHRIS MANN (DEM)
PO BOX 4005, OVERLAND PARK, KS 66204

STATE TREASURER

STEVEN JOHNSON (REP)
10197 S. HOPKINS ROAD, ASSARIA, KS 67416
JUAN C. LUENGO (DEM)
14904 S. SUMMIT ST, OLATHE, KS 66062
ERIC LUND (LIB)
3003 LAKEVIEW CIR S, PAOLA, KS 66071

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

DANIEL HAWKINS (REP)
9406 W. HARVEST LN, WICHITA, KS 67212
RIC KOEHN (LIB)
PO BOX 468, CIMARRON, KS 67835
DINAH SYKES (DEM)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 116TH DISTRICT

NATHAN BALES (DEM)
112 N NINNESCAH ST. APT 303, PRATT, KS 67124
KYLE D. HOFFMAN (REP)
1318 AVENUE T, COLDWATER, KS 67029

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 16 DIVISON 1

SIDNEY R. THOMAS (REP)

PO BOX 135, MONTEZUMA, KS 67867

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION 7TH DISTRICT

ALANA MCWILLIAMS (REP)
ABILENE, KS 67410

ANN ZIMMERMAN (DEM)
3904 N. OHIO, SALINA, KS 67401

COUNTY OFFICES

COMANCHE COUNTY COMMISSIONER- DISTRICT 1

ZACKERY ELLIS (REP)
2287 AVENUE C, WILMORE, KS 67155

COMANCHE COUNTY CLERK FOR VACANCY

ABRIANA (BRI) UHL

110 N TOPEKA, COLDWATER, KS 67029

AVILLA TOWNSHIP CLERK

NO CANDIDATE

COLDWATER TOWNSHIP CLERK

ROY HOFFMAN (REP)

POWELL TOWNSHIP CLERK

CLARK YOST (REP)

PROTECTION TOWNSHIP CLERK

BECKY HOLLER (REP)

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 GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON THE 3RD DAY OF NOVEMBER 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 NOVEMBER 3RD, 2026. ADVANCED VOTING WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2026, AT THE COMANCHE COUNTY CLERKS OFFICE 201 S NEW YORK, COLDWATER, KS 67029. ADVANCED VOTING WILL END ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 2ND, AT 12:00 NOON.

DONE AT MY OFFICE IN THE CITY OF COLDWATER, COUNTY OF COMANCHE AND STATE OF KANSAS THIS 28TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026.

BRI UHL
SEAL
COMANCHE COUNTY ELECTION OFFICER

NEWS

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

Timberwolves Win District Opener at Greensburg



PAULA BRADLEY / The Star-Press

South Central's Colt Yoder (7) breaks into the open field and rushes in for a touchdown during last Friday's district-opening win over Kiowa County in Greensburg.

BY BOB MORRIS

Managing Editor

The South Central football team won its District 7 opener at Kiowa County 44-12 Friday night.

The Timberwolves held a 12-0 lead at halftime and the Mavericks scored on their first possession of the third quarter. But South Central responded with three scoring plays to close out the third and lead 36-6.

While head coach Brett Westrup said that his players didn't have a great game, but noted that Kiowa County has improved a lot from last season and challenged the Timberwolves.

"They were very physical," Westrup said. "We had some mistakes but, obviously, we're not going to complain a whole lot when we win.

"But there's still a lot of things we've got to fix – a lot of just silly mistakes like running the wrong routes. Those kind of things where we just hurt ourselves more than Kiowa County hurt us."

The Timberwolves also had an interception and a couple of missed blocks that killed drives. But Westrup added that Kiowa County had a lot of size.

"They were way bigger than us, and when I saw way bigger than us, they had three guys bigger than our biggest guy," Westrup said. "That's how much they had us outsized. I mean, they had one kid that outweighed everybody on our team by 45 pounds. And their boys did a really good job of, on defense, playing physical."

But the head coach was happy to see the Timberwolves limit big plays and shut down the Mavericks' passing game. Special teams also came up big for the Timberwolves, as Wiley York returned a kickoff 65 yards for a touchdown.

"We did well matching the physicality of their offensive line since they're so much bigger than us," Westrup said.

He added that the Timberwolves did a better job of pursuing whoever had the ball and gang tackling, something they didn't do enough in the loss to Reno County two weeks ago.

"One of the things we emphasized after the Reno County loss, we have got to have better defensive pursuit," Westrup said. "We've got to have six, seven guys to the ball making tackles and we did so much better pursuing and being a gang tackling team this

week."

On defense, Colt Yoder lead with 14 tackles, four for a loss, while Westynn Stapleton and Jack Willems each had 10, Willems getting two for a loss and two quarterback sacks.

Easton Huck completed five of 10 passes for 67 yards with a touchdown pass to Parker Price, who finished with four catches for 53 yards. Huck also rushed for 150 yards on 23 carries with a 55-yard touchdown play. Coda Lindsay had touchdown rushes of six and 23 yards, finishing with 61 yards rushing on six carries. Yoder had three carries for 57 yards, one a 52-yard touchdown run.

Westrup said things are coming together at the halfway point of the season but there are a few mental things the Timberwolves need to improve.

"You know, X's and O's wise, we're playing pretty good football," he said. "We've just got to clean up a few little things – make our pass routes a little bit crisper, do a little bit better job of going through our pass route progressions, doing a better job of reading our blockers and make a cut off their

See **FOOTBALL** / Page 8

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NEWS

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 Oct. 3, 1896 Star

The past few days have been warm enough to remind us summer is not ended. The nights and early mornings are cool enough.

J.E. Conklin, of the firm of Jarvis Conklin Mortgage Co., is here to make a compromise with the Board of County Commissioners, and pay up the back taxes on about forty-seven tracts of land. This compromise is asked for with the promise that they will keep their taxes paid up in the future.

After today, it will be just thirty days 'til the election. The election will occur on the 3rd day of November.

Ex-sheriff Taylor made the office a call last Saturday. Since he has retired to his farm, he is not so familiar a figure on our streets as he used to be.

The primary room in the public schools has missed 8 or 9 pupils from roll call this week. It is necessary that every pupil be prompt and regular in attendance.

No close classification can be effected in a school in which attendance is poor. When pupils miss lessons, they fall behind, become discouraged and drop out of the class. Let regularity be your motto.

To get up a readable newspaper just now without dabbling extensively in politics, is a hard task, especially in a town where local happenings are at a low ebb, as they have been here the past few weeks. All our exchanges are almost wholly devoted to politics now, and will continue to be until after election.

120 YEARS AGO

From Sept. 28, 1906 Star

Cool weather this week. The prairies are still quite green.

The county Sunday school convention is in progress today.

All the evening services at the churches now begin at 7:30 instead of 8 p.m.

A number of schools over the county will begin on next Monday.

Talk about prolific corn! Have you seen that stalk containing thirteen well formed ears now on exhibition in P.H. Thornton's real estate office?

On and after Monday, September 24, 1906, the banks of Coldwater will close each business day at 4 o'clock p.m. except on Saturdays. Close Saturdays at 5 o'clock p.m.

The Meistersingers Male Quartette will be the second number in the Coldwater lecture course and will be here on Friday evening, October 19. The Meistersingers were here last winter and their entertainment was one of the best in the course. They will no doubt be greeted by a large audience upon their return date.

A dance is announced to take place at Fred Schenk's, ten miles east of Coldwater, on Thursday evening of next week.

110 YEARS AGO

From Sept. 29, 1916 Star

Under the heading, "Comanche County Thirty Years Ago and Now," the STAR begins this week, the publication of a series of articles which we feel sure will be of much interest to our readers, and especially to those who have lived in the county for 30 years or more.

On one day this week the Farmers Elevator Co. alone

contracted for about 40,000 bushels of wheat at \$1.50 [worth just over \$46 in today's dollars]. The price was back to \$1.45 yesterday.

The Santa Fe station in this city is receiving a complete overhauling, a force of painters and paper hangers having been at work there this week painting the entire exterior and painting and papering the interior, all of which will greatly improve the appearance and the durability of the building.

The next needed improvement at the depot is the installation of electric lights, which would not only make possible more efficient work on the part of the depot employee, but also add much to the convenience of the public.

The First Annual Fair for Comanche County is now in progress in this city today, Friday, being the closing day.

In the matter of attendance, the expectations of the most sanguine have been more than realized. Even on the first day, Wednesday, a good-sized crowd was present.

Yesterday the fair grounds was the scene of a large gathering of people from all parts of the county, and from nearby counties, all forming a happy, animated and interesting throng. Of course the record crowd will be present today.

100 YEARS AGO

From Oct. 1, 1926 Star

A drop of 48 degrees in temperature over night is some drop, but this is just what took place in this county on Thursday night of last week.

All day on Friday and Saturday, the temperature hovered between 40 and 50 degrees. Fires were needed in heating stoves on Saturday and for several days following.

This week, W.H. Shaw associated himself with the Roberts Hardware Co. in the handling of electrical and radio goods.

Mr. Shaw will be in charge of these lines, principally. Besides a complete line of electrical supplies, a full line of Stewart-Warner and Crosley radios will be carried. Mr. Shaw moved his goods to the Roberts store on Tuesday. He has been occupying a portion of the brick building just west of the Coldwater Bakery.

"The candidates have only four more weeks of suspense. 'Twill not be long until the 'fodder's' in the shock," whether "the frost is on the pumpkin" or not.

Interest in football is warming up.

Be a booster for the CHS football team. They will play the Protection team in that city on Friday of this week, and the Pratt Reserves in Coldwater on Thursday of next week. Other games will follow from week to week.

Our team gave a good account of themselves in their initial game for the season, which was played with Bucklin in that city on last Friday. Everybody should boost and help the home team keep up the good record.

90 YEARS AGO

From Oct. 2, 1936 Star

The weather is warm this week.

A special effort is being made by the National Re-employment Service, through its various offices to secure employment for men and women out of work.

Merchants, housewives and others who need help of any kind are urged to call the National Re-employment office in Coldwater, even for a short time. Mrs. Leone Wood has charge of the office.

Three weeks of school and the football squad has played its first game and lost. The new football lights have been used.

The Pep Club is not the only organization with new uniforms. The band uniforms will be much snappier this year with new black ties, and with red stripes for the sides of the white pants. Rehearsals have been taking place three times a week.

Our first public appearance under our new leader was before Walter Huxman, Democratic candidate for Governor. He termed our band as good as Sousa's, not because we could play as well, but because we had the spirit and support of our own hometown.

"Butter Cake and Its Variations," the 4-H foods demonstration given by Freda Butcher and Madeline Richardson, placed first in the Foods class at the Kansas State Fair at Hutchinson, last week.

Thirty-one teams from various counties competed in this class, among them the team which placed first at the Topeka Free Fair September 14-18. The Comanche County team placed first in the county contest and first at the Dodge City Fair.

80 YEARS AGO

From Oct. 4, 1946 Star

Coldwater and most of the Comanche County received a driving rain last Saturday, which enabled most of the farmers to start drilling. The rain totaled 1.16 inches in Coldwater and two to three inches at the Browd Sweeney farm on the North County Line. Mrs. Sadie McKinney reports an even heavier rain. In the southeastern part of the county, only a sprinkle fell. Pastures and feed crops have benefited greatly from the rain and the feed is maturing nicely. Now if frost will only hold off.

Coldwater was in hot water for 47 minutes and 13 (more or less) seconds of their gridiron grapple with Greensburg but managed to keep the Greensburg total score for the years to the same old round zero while getting a big 6 in the last minute for Coldwater's portion.

So the Eagles eked out, or squeaked out, another victory, and again held the opposition scoreless for the second time this year. Final score 6-0. Help Coldwater beat Bucklin Friday night.

L.G. Whitzel, of this city, last week realized his boyhood ambition. He has always wanted to referee a college football game, and that was his privilege last Friday evening when he refereed the game at Alva, Okla., between the Northwestern State College, Alva, and the Panhandle Aggies at Goodwell, Okla. Alva won the game 27-0.

Playing with the Northwestern squad this year are three Comanche county young men: Donald Nicholas, a senior, and "Porky" Smith, a freshman, from Coldwater, and Wayne Thornhill, another freshman, from Protection.

70 YEARS AGO

From Oct. 5, 1956 Star

The weather - hot and dry

and prospects for more of the same. Cooler at nights, though.

Starting with the drawing on Saturday, October 6, the drawing sponsored by the local merchants will be held at 7:00 p.m. instead of earlier. At the drawing last Saturday, Mrs. Hattie Bain was given the \$21 cash prize [worth just over \$258 now]. The drawing this weekend will be for the same amount, plus the usual merchandise prizes.

The Coldwater Eagles opened their defense of their Iroquois League title last Friday night at Greensburg with a sparking exhibition of running and blocking, especially in the second half of the game and when the excitement had finally settled, it was Coldwater 26 and 7 for Greensburg.

On October 5 the Coldwater Eagles play Meade on Meade's own football field. The Eagles have had two victories so far this season and will need a great deal of support if they are to add another victory to their list this Friday. We hope that this next game will be as well attended by the Eagle fans as the other two games have been.

The Coldwater B-team came from behind in the last quarter to win from Greensburg B-team 14-6 on the local field last Monday night. Greensburg made nine first downs to five for Coldwater, but at the same time fumbled the ball numerous times with most of the recoveries being made by Coldwater.

60 YEARS AGO

From Sept. 29, 1966 Star

On October 1, 1917, the Santa Fe passenger train stopped in Coldwater to let the passengers off. One young man stepped down from the train and inquired the direction to town. Then he picked up his suitcase and walked to Main Street where he located the Coldwater National Bank building.

He entered, set his suitcase down and said, "I am Chet Mahan and I am ready to go to work." Forty-nine years later...he is still working at the same bank. Chet has seen many changes in the town but he is still glad that he came to Coldwater to work and live.

In a hard-fought game where at one time the score was tied, the Greensburg team pushed forward and won 26 to 13 over the Coldwater Eagles.

The Greensburg team made a touchdown in each quarter. Coldwater made theirs in the second quarter.

This Friday the Eagles go to Meade where they will face a strong team. There will be a piggyback game for the junior high beginning at 6 p.m. The A-team game will begin around 7:30 p.m.

The Coldwater Junior Eagles, faced with a rash of penalties, scored three touchdowns the second half Friday evening to defeat Kiowa by a score of 27 to 6.

The Coldwater Junior Eagles put together a fine ball control offense with a strong defense to defeat the Greensburg Little Rangers by a score of 19 to 6 Friday evening.

The Junior Eagles will travel to Meade this week for a 6 p.m. game. The Meade Junior High team is favored to win the Junior High League title this year. They have a very strong offense. This showed up when the beat Ashland two weeks ago by a score of 32 to 0.

This should be the test for the Coldwater defense.

50 YEARS AGO

From Sept. 30, 1976 Star

Weather, as reported by John Lehman, official U.S. Weather Observer, shows a definite trend to fall weather. The lowest temperature to date was Tuesday night, a cool 36. However, no killing frost reported as yet. Moisture received last Saturday was highly beneficial giving good second growth to feed, filling milo heads and making planting conditions ideal for wheat. Thanks for the blessings, Lord!

A Craft Day and Quilt Show will be sponsored by the Comanche County Homemaker Council on Friday, October 1st, at the Veterans building in Coldwater. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Crafts will be offered in the morning only and will begin at 10 a.m. If you are interested in participating in any of these crafts, contact the County Extension office to see the supplies you will need.

The Quilt Show will be held in the afternoon. Mrs. Betty Hardesty of Ashland will give a talk on "Original Quilt Patterns." Mrs. Hardesty tells about the origin of some of the quilt patterns and shows examples. The public is invited to come join in the fun and hear this interesting and informative talk.

Open House! The Wheatbelt Area Girl Scout Council's troops are inviting the general public to their Bicentennial Fair. This event is being held at the Pratt Community Junior College on October 10 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to come, take part, and view the exhibits set up by the troops in Wheatbelt Area Girl Scout Council. Typical exhibits will be taffy pulls, wood-carving, cheese making, bread making, fold dancing and many other pioneer arts and crafts.

40 YEARS AGO

From Oct. 2, 1986 Star

On another beautiful early fall evening in front of a nice "Moms Night Crowd," the number one-rated Coldwater Eagles totally humbled the Protection Panthers 56 to 21 to up their record to 3-0 on the season and extend their winning streak to 15 straight games over the past two seasons.

This was a renewal of a rivalry that started in 1916

and has been played every year since, except in the 1981 and 1982 seasons when Coldwater was 8-man and Protection was 11-man. After 70 years of playing each other, the series between Coldwater and Protection stands dead even with Coldwater having 42 wins, Protection having 41 wins, and there have been three ties.

On a foggy, drizzly evening the Coldwater Junior Varsity upped its record to 2-0 with a come from behind victory over the Greensburg Junior Varsity, 22-14. With this victory the Coldwater Junior Varsity ran its winning streak over the past three years to 10 games. The Eagles Junior Varsity will play again this week when the boys play the Fowler Junior Varsity here Thursday night at 7:30. They will play again on Monday night against Minneola here at 7.

Interested local and area residents, young and old alike, should register now for the Hunter Safety Course to be given next week in Coldwater. The Kansas Fish and Game sanctioned course will be held in two parts.

First, a classroom session will be held at 6:30 p.m. next Monday, Oct. 6, at the Coldwater High School cafeteria.

Second session will be an all-day affair on Saturday, Oct. 11. While it is a field-day session, participants will gather at CHS. Transportation and lunch will be provided at no cost. Participants should be ready to leave the high school by 7:30 a.m. that day.

Anyone interested should contact Walt Byram at the Byram Manufacturing office in Coldwater to register and to pick up manuals which should be studied before the first class session.

Volunteers are the backbone of a community and especially our community. Without them our town would be desolate in appearance. They beautify our town and help with civic projects and help each other in time of need.

As the health department expands, it is apparent there is more of a need in the community to have volunteers to help care for persons in homes, to fix meals, write letters or just to be there. Anyone who would like to help as a volunteer for this project should contact the county health office.



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SPORTS/NEWS

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SCHS Largest Among 1A Schools

STAFF REPORT

Most schools in south central Kansas didn't change classifications from last year, though a couple came closer to cutoffs.

Kingman and Chaparral will remain in Class 3A for all sports. Chaparral had an enrollment of 201 students and Kingman had an enrollment of 185. Both were toward the lower end of 3A, which ranged from 164 to 298 students.

Medicine Lodge will remain in Class 2A for all sports. The school had a reported enrollment of 149, toward the upper end of Class 2A. The class ranged from 102 to 162 students.

Attica, Cunningham, Norwich, South Central and South Barber will all remain in Class 1A. South Central was among the schools with the highest enrollment at 102, while Norwich had an enrollment of 74, Cunningham an enrollment of 70, South Barber an enrollment of 59 and Attica an enrollment of 47.

Three schools moved up from Class 2A to Class 3A: Central Heights, Hillsboro and Syracuse.

Schools that moved down from Class 3A to Class 2A are Jayhawk Linn, Oskaloosa and Phillipsburg, while schools that moved up from Class 1A to Class 2A are Clifton-Clyde, Olpe and Wabaunsee.

The schools that moved down from Class 2A to Class 1A are Northern Heights, Rawlins County and Udall.

Banned News Organizations Seeking Help From District Court of Columbia

BY JENNIFER SHUTT

States Newsroom

The three news organizations that President Donald Trump barred from entering the White House grounds earlier this month have asked a federal judge to ensure their reporters continue to have access after a temporary restraining order expires in early October.

Attorneys for CNN, MS Now and Politico filed paperwork late Monday requesting a preliminary injunction from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, arguing that without it the administration is likely to again revoke press passes for journalists at those news organizations and possibly others.

"The President has stated that there will be 'Other Fake News Media Outlets to follow,' ... leaving other news organizations covering the White House to face the prospect that their access may likewise depend on the President's view of their coverage," the brief states. "And each day the ban remains in effect, the public loses access to essential reporting on the President and his administration."

Trump announced on Sept. 18 that he planned to prevent reporters from CNN, MS Now and Politico from reporting on White House grounds. Those news organizations filed a lawsuit a few days later, after several of their reporters were denied entry at a security checkpoint and had their press passes confiscated by

Secret Service officers.

District Court Judge Timothy Kelly, who was nominated during Trump's first term, issued a temporary restraining order on Sept. 23, requiring the White House to return the press passes and allow the journalists it had barred back in.

That order expires Oct. 8, but could be replaced by a preliminary injunction if the judge agrees with the request filed by the three news organizations this week.

That 49-page brief argues the president's ban retaliated against the news organizations "for engaging in speech, publication, and newsgathering activities that the First Amendment protects but the administration disfavors."

The attorneys representing the journalists wrote that Trump administration officials claiming the ban was related to national security concerns were "not credible."

They later wrote that "the President's own words leave no doubt that banning Plaintiffs from the White House and denying them the access they had as of September 18 is retaliation for their protected newsgathering and speech — adverse action intended to cow them into conforming the content of their reporting to the President's preferences and to threaten other journalists lest they suffer the same fate. That is a paradigmatic First Amendment violation."

The administration's response brief is due Friday.

Lady Timberwolves Showing Progress as Season Continues

BY BOB MORRIS

Managing Editor

South Central girl's tennis head coach Stephanie Salisbury is happy with the progress the Lady Timberwolves have made in their recent matches.

On Sept. 17, the Lady Timberwolves sent some players to a junior varsity tournament in Pratt to gain some experience. Nevaeh Pankrat played her first action at No. 1 singles and finished 1-2 for the day.

"She battled through several matches that included long deuce points, including an incredibly close 6-5 loss to Larned," Salisbury said. "For a player making her singles debut, Nevaeh showed a tremendous amount of fight and determination."

Alyson Harrel played No. 2 singles and lost one match, then withdrew for medical reasons. Aileny Zarate and Sydney Sanchez played No. 1 doubles and finished 1-2, losing a close match to Dodge City 6-4 and showing improvement, Salisbury said. Tegahann Shanniak and Sienna Miller

played No. 2 doubles and went 1-2, including a 6-1 win over South Barber.

From there, the Lady Timberwolves attended a tournament in Meade Sept. 22. Fabiola Rivero went 0-2 in her No. 1 singles matches, but Salisbury said the record didn't tell the whole story.

"Both matches were extremely competitive, and her second match against Ashland lasted nearly two hours," Salisbury said. "She battled through countless deuce points and continued fighting for every game."

Mia Napierala finished 3-1 at No. 2 singles, continuing what Salisbury said has been an impressive season. Napierala finished second for the day.

Max Miller and Pankrat played No. 1 doubles and, while finishing 0-3, the head coach said they gained valuable experience. Zarate and Sanchez played No. 2 doubles and Salisbury was happy with how they continue to grow as a team, even though they went 0-4.

South Central then attended the Chaparral tournament on Saturday.

Napierala took third at No. 2 singles, as did Miller and Pankrat at No. 2 doubles.

"Their performance was especially exciting because of the work they have put in throughout the season," Salisbury said. "Max and Nevaeh have spent much of the season competing in the No. 1 position, helping create opportunities for other players on our team to gain experience in varsity meets. Seeing that hard work translate into a third-place finish was a great moment for them."

The head coach said that's what the season has been about — players stepping into new positions, gaining experience against strong competition and finding a way to come back after losing a close match.

"My one ask for every player is that they do not quit," Salisbury said. "They play with the same energy and zeal for the first and last point of every match."

The Lady Timberwolves will head to Dodge City for a tournament Saturday, then play in the Southern Plains League tournament Monday at Kiowa County High

School. From there, South Central will head to the Regional tournament Oct. 9-10 at Conway Springs.

"As we head into the final three meets of the regular season, we're beginning to see the bigger picture come together," Salisbury said. "We're setting our regional roster with significant opportunity for seeding and placement. Fabiola currently sits at 4-6, putting her in position to potentially earn a Regional seed. Mia is sitting at an impressive 11-4, also putting herself in a strong position for potential seeding."

She said the weather in the coming days may make things challenging, both with practice time and match play. But the head coach said the team has learned to adapt.

"We've practiced wherever we could, competed through difficult conditions, and found ways to keep moving forward," Salisbury said. "We need to finish the regular season so that we are in a competitive position for postseason. We still have work to do and matches to play."

Funding Cuts Lead to Announcement of Museum Closure

BY SUZANNE PEREZ

Kansas News Service

In an announcement late Monday, Fort Hays State University President Tisa Mason said the Sternberg will close Dec. 18. On Tuesday afternoon, supporters of the Sternberg Museum launched an online fundraising campaign in hopes of saving it.

Supporters said they want to raise \$855,000 by year's end to help sustain future operations.

"Sternberg is more than a museum. It is a true gem that makes Hays and north-west Kansas unique," the fundraising website says. "We are fortunate to have an institution of this caliber right here in our own backyard — and we cannot take it for granted."

Museum officials posted on the Sternberg's Facebook page that they "were not aware that our doors were at risk of closing until the decision was made, and we initially were not given the opportunity to find a way to save ourselves."

But they said Tuesday that the Fort Hays State University Foundation "has been given the green light to begin fundraising direct-

ly on our behalf."

University leaders have not said whether the closure would be canceled or postponed if the museum raises money for its operating expenses.

Mason told the Hays City Commission during a meeting last week that the school faces a \$2.4 million cut in state funding and needs to eliminate any programs that do not directly benefit students.

"The key question that we are asking is, 'If we stopped this activity tomorrow, would students be less likely to enroll, persist, graduate, or secure successful employment, and can we back that up with data?'" Mason said.

Mason said in the statement that the Sternberg "has not been financially stable for some time." It spends about \$1.3 million a year and generates about \$470,000 in revenue from visitors, memberships grants and sales, she said.

The building that houses the museum also has about \$20 million in deferred maintenance.

"Over the past decade, the annual subsidy averaged about \$835,000," she said in the statement.

"For a university that is already the leanest operator among the Kansas Board of Regents universities, that is not a gap we can close on our own."

Mason said closing the museum will save the university about \$850,000 — about a third of the current budget gap and "the largest single piece of our solution."

She said Fort Hays State plans about \$1 million in other cuts across the university and still needs to find about \$550,000 to close the budget gap.

"When you cut into your leanest, most efficient state university, you are not trimming excess. You are cutting into muscle," Mason said.

According to a study by the Docking Institute of Public Affairs, Fort Hays State has an annual impact of more than \$240 million on its region, and is the No. 2 employer in Ellis County.

Mason said closing the Sternberg was a difficult decision, and pointed to state lawmakers as the cause.

"The frustration in our community right now is real, and it is understandable. However, its

true source is not a disagreement about whether Sternberg belongs in our academic mission. It does; that was never in question," Mason said.

"The real source is a funding model that has asked more of FHSU than it asks of its peers, and a set of legislative decisions that made \$2.4 million in cuts, with more likely on the way."

Supporters of the Sternberg have urged the university and local officials to reconsider.

Jessica Lamb, who works on the museum's animal care team, told city leaders last week that she worries what will happen to about 100 live animals housed in the Sternberg.

"Right now, we are terrified. We are heartbroken. We have cried nonstop with thinking about having to say goodbye to these animals, our babies, our families," Lamb said.

"We are more than a building or a budget, we are a true living and breathing part of the community of Hays."

Some supporters said Fort Hays should eliminate athletic programs before closing the Sternberg.

CLASSIFIEDS

Call Stephanie at 620.532.3151 to place an ad.

Bar-Six Manufacturing, Inc. is hiring a welder. No experience is required. Must be 18 years old or older, have reliable transportation and the ability to lift 50-plus pounds. Need the ability to work in a shop environment (heat, noise, dust) and a willingness to learn welding and fabrication skills. Need the ability to use basic hand tools. Need a good work ethic and dependable attendance. Apply in person at US-160, in Protection. For more information, call (620) 622-4456.

Lane Myers in Protection is now hiring machine operators and laborers. Competitive starting pay with opportunity for pay increases after probationary period. 5 hours overtime every week with paid holidays. Benefits include medical and dental insurance, PTO, retirement plan and life insurance. Call Doug at 620-622-4310 if interested.

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. 51fnc

ON-FARM TIRE REPAIR — Call Kropf Oil Company in Coldwater. 620-582-2391. 11fnc

Now that summer is over, Pioneer Lodge is looking for some C.N.A.'s. Consider joining our team as a FT, PT or Relief employee. Wages vary for each category, and FT employees are eligible for a \$2500 bonus. Stop by for an application or Call Chuck at 620-582-2123 for more information.

South Central High School Custodian (4 ten-hour days per week) — Please contact the district office if you are interested in a bus driver or substitute teacher position. Applications are available at <https://usd300ks.com/en-us/employment-1887b0dc> — Positions Open Until Filled

Send resume and credentials to: Mike Baldwin, Comanche County USD 300, PO Box 721 Coldwater, Kansas 67029



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NEWS

FOOTBALL

• From Page 5

blocks when we're the ball carrier. If we can clean those things up, we'll be playing some pretty good football.”

South Central (3-1) will have a bye week this week. Westrup said that the teams that the Timberwolves could have played were Ell-Saline, Hoxie and Stanton County, but because Ell-Saline and Hoxie were close together, they decided to play each other, while Stanton County was also a no go for the defending State champs.

“We tried to play Stanton County and they said, no, we don’t want to play,” We-

strup said. “So then we tried to reach out and fill that schedule with somebody else, but there was nobody in Kansas open. We reached out to some schools in Oklahoma and nobody wanted to pick us up.”

The head coach said that the Timberwolves will use this week to clean up mental mistakes and get ready for a District 7 showdown against Central Plains in two weeks’ time. Central Plains is undefeated, 4-0, at the halfway point of the season.

“They will like to throw it – they've got a pretty good quarterback and so we're gonna have to work on our defensive backs and pass coverage,” Westrup said.

“So we’re just gonna work on a lot of little individual things.

“I’m a firm believer if you can get the individual things down, it makes the team time easier and so, working on going through plays and running through plays as a team and team sessions is not going to help those individuals.

The head coach said that the Timberwolves will focus on that individual work in practice, particularly when it comes to progressions with the quarterback, working on pass routes and handoffs and reading the blockers.

“That way, we can throw them together in a team session,” Westrup said.

COACHES

• From Page 1

South Central then faced Sterling and lost in three, 20-25, 25-18, 17-25.

“Competing against these teams showed the girls what it takes to be successful against strong competition while also exposing areas where we still need to improve,” Snyder said. “Good

teams have a way of exposing weaknesses, and these matches gave us valuable opportunities to identify and work on those areas.”

She added that Murphy and Kate Heard stepped up their hitting and were solid throughout the tournament.

“We will continue to focus on improving our hitting, coverage, and consistency while working to play at our

highest level from the first point to the last in every match,” Snyder said.

South Central (13-8) is set to play a triangular at South Gray against the host team and Bucklin Tuesday. The Lady Timberwolves will then play in the St. John tournament this Saturday.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Katee Underwood, Bob Morris and Jason Jump contributed.

PIZZA

• From Page 1

refrigerator caught fire and severely damaged the building.

Fortunately, half a block west was the vacant Hooper’s Grocery. It was available and three months later, Dave’s Pizza Oven reopened, and remains there to this day. It has been the most popular eating place in town. It catches a lot of travelers going through Coldwater, and people from neighboring communities. Plus, a lot of business comes from Lake Coldwater, just south of town.

The building seats 130, and special occasions occur there frequently for all kinds of groups. Also, holidays bring many there to eat.

Gerstner continued to have his business open seven days a week and it wasn’t until recently that he began to limit days to be open. Dave’s Pizza Oven is now closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Buffet meals for lunch now happen on Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Typical Day

Pizza dough made daily by the owner himself varies from 100 to 200 pounds; many times the seasons and events determine how much. Dave and Monika both help set up the buffet.

The Gerstners have been lucky to have a low turnover when it comes to help in the restaurant. Presently, they have nine part-time employees, many of them are high school students. Some employees have been there for 15-20 years.

The busiest day is Sunday as families come after church. It also is very busy before ball games and other school events.

Growing Up Years

Dave was born, in 1960, at St. Anthony’s Hospital, in Hays. Three older sisters welcomed him home. Gerstner’s baptism was at St. Joseph’s, in Hays.

The family lived in Hays but had farmland near Victoria, 10 miles from Hays and Walker. His grandfather helped build Victoria’s historic cathedral, and Gerstner has aunts and uncles buried in that community.

Gerstner has experience working in fuel stations, a bicycle shop and Cross Manufacturing where they made hydraulic cylinders.

He attended Thomas More Prep for two and a half years but did not finish his senior year at Hays High because Pizza Inn hired him as a dishwasher and delivery man before eventually promoting to manager at the Garden City location. There, Godfather’s Pizza hired Gerstner away from Pizza Inn. He also worked with pizza places in Larned, Oakley, Russell and two years at Pizza Hut, in Hays.

When Gerstner was 24, he experimented with pizza crust. The basic recipe uses flour, salt and yeast. He developed a flavor he wanted from a technique that makes each one the same and is consistent in making.

“That recipe hasn’t changed for 41 years, and it’ll continue this month as we begin our 42nd year,” Gerstner said.

Family

He met Monika, from Poland, in 1993 and they have four children: daughters Tonia, age 44 and Nicci, age 42; sons Conrad, 28 and Carson, 24.

The sons were homeschooled, but Tonia graduated from Coldwater High School, in 1999, and Nicci graduated from South Central High School in 2002. All four have helped their parents with Dave’s Pizza Oven.

In June of 1999, the Gerstners moved into a house that was built in 1920. Currently, Monika’s dad lives with her and Dave.

Collections, Hobbies

Gerstner collects old watches, gadgets and cameras, some he sells.

He likes wind surfing, camping, motorcycles, road racing and billiards. Since 1984, the business in Coldwater has had a game room that young and old alike enjoy.

Photography has been a lifelong hobby for Gerstner. He had his own darkroom to develop negatives. Until the digital-age came along, he had a fair amount of equipment and has kept the enlarger and several other items.

Some of his electrical storm photos have been displayed in the past on the walls of Dave’s Pizza Oven.

He also loves metal detecting and has seven or eight devices in his possession. Gerstner used them in old Comanche County ghost towns, ranches, ballparks, trails and beaches. He’s found old coins, tools that probably fell off tractors and even a late 1700s-early 1880s brass crotal bell. Many of his finds were given to the owners of the property.

“No place is ever detected enough,” Gerstner said. “After a rain, soil washes away and things surface.”

He is also very interested in reading local history books and removing maps from National Geographic magazines. Those large maps are pasted upon the wall people see when they enter Dave’s Pizza Oven.

“And I have some that I haven’t put up yet,” he said. “I found many of the maps in junk shops and antique places.”

In the mid 1980s and early 1990s, he went storm-chasing up to 200 miles from Coldwater just for the fun of it. He quit after cresting a hill and came up on 20 vehicles. He decided then traffic was too dangerous plus a couple of times he had come too close to a tornado. Sometimes there was no warning.

Memories

Back in the 1980s, students earned a coupon that Pizza Hut entitled them to have a personal pan pizza for reading a certain number of books.

Dave’s Pizza Oven celebrated with the public when the Gerstners had been in business for their 30th and 40th anniversaries.

Future of Dave’s Pizza

Gerstner began thinking of retirement in 2025 and he posted that message on Facebook. He said several people have inquired about the business, and Gerstner believes his pizza business will continue with a new owner eventually.

He says he is offering a buyer the training and the pizza recipe that he has kept secret.

When Gerstners finally retire, they will travel more. Dave said he has been to Poland three times.

“I’ll miss the people, the friendships, and thanks to all for the support given me and Monika all these years,” he said. “By the way, you might not know this, but a good steak is my favorite food.”



PAULA BRADLEY / The Star-Press

Valley Manor: Cline Retires as Administrator

Sandra Cline poses for a photo with her plaque that recognized her for the decade of service she provided to Protection Valley Manor during Cline’s retirement party held recently at the nursing home. Casey Wagner will be the facility’s new administrator.



Upcoming Events:

Every Wednesday after school, Kids’

Corner features crafts and treats from 4 to 5 p.m.

- Saturday, Oct. 3, Taste of Ashland.

The Rebel Mahieu Art Showing continues and we will serve tasty treats.

- Friday, Oct. 9, Cake Club, Noon to All Gone
- Friday, Oct. 16, Who-Dunnit Mystery Club
- Monday, Oct. 19, Lunch & Learn with Jill Eller.

Oct. 24: We’ll see you at the Ashland Health Fair.

Activities:

Check out the many activities at the library. Let us know if you have an idea for our next activity. The library offers kids’ arts and crafts, Cake Club, Lunch & Learns, art shows, and more.

New Books:

- Chloe Benjamin, *Under Story*
- Allison Brennan, *I’ll be Watching You*
- Emma Cline, *Switzly*
- Ariel Lawhon, *The Pirate Queen*
- Jodi Picoult, *Hollow Bones*
- J.D. Robb, *Fury in Death*
- Sam Kean, *The Museum of Things: True Tales of Fabled Treasures, Legendary Cities and Mythical Creatures that Vanished From History*



PHS Directory Update

The Protection High School reunion should be happening around Memorial Day weekend in 2027. This event takes place every five years. The last PHS graduation took place in May of 1999.

The reunion committee is meeting this Sunday at 4 p.m. in the principal’s office at Protection.

One of my responsibilities is keeping track of all the graduates from the Protection High School classes of 1913 to 1999. We also include the freshmen, sophomore, and junior students in the PHS classes of 2000, 2001, and 2002, as well as some high school non-graduates who attended PHS but didn’t graduate due to moving, marriage, death or enlisting in the military to serve during the war years.

A 28-page directory was printed in May 22, 2022. It included mailing addresses and some email addresses.

Working in the Protection Press newspaper office has helped me keep track of changes in subscribers’ addresses and news of marriages and deaths.

Dave Webb sets up the program on the computer so I can type in the changes then he finalizes it for the printers in Wichita and the directory is distributed to alumni who attend the reunion as well as mailed to those who request a copy.

Recent Alumni Deaths

So far, I have recorded 93 deaths since 2022, including the four latest ones of Margaret (Jellison) Simon of Hutchinson, PHS class of 1961, on Sept. 14; her sister, Linda (Jellison) Ballew of Hope, Michigan, PHS Class of 1959, on Sept. 11; Roger VanDorn of Buffalo, OK, PHS Class of 1960, on Sept. 26; Kathy Webster Vickers of Wichita, PHS Class of 1967, on Sept. 26.

Weather Update

Our pastures and yards in this area are turning green again as there have been numerous electrical storms in September to bring rainfall.

Protection’s precipitation recorder is Bonnie Lindsay. The rainfall received in September amounted to 3.60 inches, and

what came after Wednesday morning’s total will be written on Thursday morning, Oct. 1.

Lindsay noted that 11 of the 30 days in September had precipitation: Sept. 6 - .06; Sept. 10 - .34; Sept. 13 - .13; Sept. 16 - .15; Sept. 17 - .01; Sept. 22 - .24; Sept. 23 - .05; Sept. 24 - .49; Sept. 25 - .17; Sept. 26 - .49; Sept. 30 - 1.47 inches.

Her records show a total of 15.22 inches received for the first nine months of 2026.

January - .53; February - .79; March - trace; April - .22; May - 1.07; June 5 - .03; July - 1.40; August - 2.58; September - 3.60.

Streets Looking Better

Many of Protection’s streets received a new layer of gravel in September.

Use Local Libraries

If you didn’t renew your subscription to the newspaper, please visit the library in town to read The Western Star & Protection Press there. Reading areas with table and chairs for your convenience. Owner Jason Jump is having some 10-page issues. Now that school has begun, more photos are being included.

I’ll be submitting a feature story almost every week. Katee Underwood wrote one for last week on Chuck Salisbury, age 97, of Coldwater. His daughter is Brenda Fry, and both are attending the First Baptist Church in Protection.

When my husband died, Brenda sent a booklet on grief four times during the year. She does this for others, too, as well as providing grief sessions at the church.

McGee Service at Protection Cemetery

I went to the Protection cemetery on Saturday, September 26, to decorate my husband’s grave. He died two years ago. I noticed many new monuments have been added and lots of flowers were in vases or near the grave sites.

The family of Gary McGee had gathered at noon. I had seen a notice about that on the counter inside the post office on Friday. It was a pleasant day to be outdoors with a slight breeze. Gary had passed away on Sept. 22, 2024.