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Western & Protection The Star-Press

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

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Funfest Returns to Protection After Long Absence

STAFF REPORT

Protection residents brought back a tradition many had missed for years with the return of Funfest this past weekend.

Funfest was originally held annually from 1988 through 1999, followed by a one-time event in 2003. This year, a local committee came together to revive the celebration, with plans for Fun Fest to become an annual event once again.

The three-day celebration featured activities for residents and visitors of all ages, including a car show, a sloshball tournament, live music from local talent, a street dance, food trucks and a community church service.

Four teams competed in the sloshball tournament, with the Alcoballics taking home the championship.

The event was made possible in part through several auctions and fundraisers held beforehand to raise money for the celebration.

Despite temperatures climbing above 100 degrees throughout the weekend, the community turned out in large numbers to support the event. Former Protection residents also returned to town to participate in the festivities and lend a hand in making the event a success.

The strong turnout and community support demonstrated that Funfest still holds a special place in the hearts of Protection residents – both past and present.

With this year's successful return, organizers are looking forward to continuing the tradition and making Fun Fest an annual community celebration.

DAVE WEBB / The Star-Press

Mary Sawyers sits along the parade route in Protection during the FunFest parade, while her children await candy being tossed from different parade entries.

USD 300 Announces Homecoming Pairings

PRESS RELEASE

It is that time of year again. South Central High School will be hosting its annual Fall Football Homecoming on Friday, Sept. 11 when the Timberwolves host Reno County Homeschool.

The parade will begin at 3:30 p.m. and follow the same route as last year and will end at the football field for the community pep rally. The pep rally should start around 4 p.m. at the football field.

The homecoming crowning ceremony will be held at 6:30 pm at the football field. Queen candidates are Remi Martin, Piper Price, Ellie Murphy and Breckyn Snyder, while Easton Huck, Coda Lindsay, Eli Girk and Jack Willems are vying for the title of Homecoming King.

Price is the daughter of Tyler and Morgan Price. She is involved in FFA, FCCLA, volleyball, basketball, golf and softball. After high school she plans to attend a trade school, marry someone who can out man her, is hilarious and plans to have a big happy family with lots of animals.

Her escort will be Lindsay, who is the son of Kris and Nicky Lindsay. He is involved in football, FFA and FCA. After high school, Lindsay plans to go work on Double Spade ranch, get married, settle down and have some kids.

Murphy is the daughter of Joe and Hillary Murphy. She is involved in volleyball, basketball, golf, FFA, FCA, FCCLA, YMAD, STUCO and youth group. After high school, Murphy plans to go to college, graduate with a

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SOUTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Homecoming candidates for South Central High School pose for a photo. Candidates include: front row (L to R) Remi Martin, Breckyn Snyder, Ellie Murphy and Piper Price; back row (L to R) Easton Huck, Jack Willems, Eli Girk and Coda Lindsay.

SUSAN EDMONSTON / The Star-Press

Special Guest: Funfest Honors Leeper

A special presentation was made on Saturday evening during Funfest 2026 to special guest Nathan Leeper, a 1996 graduate of Protection High School, for his achievements in high jump and competing in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. His lifetime record is 7-feet, 6.50 inches on June 8, 2001. Pictured (L to R) are Earl Webster III, Nathan Leeper and Funfest organizers Mikaela and Jonathan Webster.

Timberwolves Officially Begin Title Defense

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

The South Central football team got its first chance to see action against other teams during a jamboree at Attica last Friday.

The Attica-Argonia Titans and Central Burden were the teams that the Timberwolves faced. Head coach Brett Westrup said it was good to see teams like that before the Timberwolves open the season this Friday at home against Meade.

He said the Titans brought a lot of pressure defensively, so he didn't run his quarterback much because he didn't want him to get hurt. Usually, the Timberwolves like to have their quarterbacks run the football.

"We've just got to get a little bit better at picking up pressure on the pass, and got to do a little bit better job of running our good, crisp routes," Westrup said.

Still, Westrup said, he thought the boys did some good things against the Titans.

As for Central Burden, the head coach said that team was bigger but the

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NEWS

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

Susie's Scribbles

By Susan Edmonston

Surprise for The Star-Press Subscribers Receiving the Aug. 27 Issue in the Mailbox

Jason Jump and his staff worked extra hard last week. Not only did subscribers receive their own local newspaper but included was a special 28-page Fall Sports Preview section.

Here are the newspapers that are now owned by the Jumps: *The Attica Independent; The Cunningham Courier; The Derby Informer; The Gyp Hill Premiere; The Harper Advocate; Kingman Leader-Courier; Medford Patriot-Star; and The Western Star & Protection Press*.

Mr. Jump said he and his staff had done a total of 128 pages last week. An accomplishment like that was amazing! It was stressful for me to do even a 24-page graduation issue. I think the most pages I ever done (with Dave Webb's help) was 36. That was when Editor Bob Greer interviewed all the seniors and wrote lengthy stories about them.

Extra Copies of The Star-Press

Buy a copy of *The Western Star & Protection Press* in Coldwater each week. Copies are available at King's Corner 2, Snappy Stop and Dave's Pizza Oven.

If a person lives in Comanche County and wants to subscribe or renew, mail a $50 check to M3 Publishing, at PO Box 353, Kingman, KS 67068.

All others outside of Comanche County will need to pay $60 to receive the newspaper in their mailbox.

If a person wants the online/digital copy, payment is $49.95 and *The Star-Press* shows up on Wednesday night. You will need a password when you subscribe or renew. What's nice with online is that all the former issues will show up if you missed reading what was going on each week.

Purchasing both the printed copy and the online issue, your cost will be $79.95.

65th Wedding Anniversary

When I was a young girl working with my parents in our *Protection Post*, the photo in the newspaper of the couple having their 50th wedding anniversary looked old. Did you have that same impression also?

Larry and Alice Rich, of Protection, had their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 27. The celebration was held Aug. 29 at Wichita in a church that their son, Jeff, and his wife, Donna, attend. All 39 of the Rich family were there, including Larry and Alice's three children and their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It was a festive occasion.

I know of several former Protection High School graduates (and subscribers) who have been married longer than Larry and Alice. Some have reached 70-plus years of marriage. Merle and Patricia "Pat" Nichols, of Saint Charles, Mo.; Sandy and Virginia "Ginny" (Baker) Oyer, of Wooster, Ohio, have been married since June 26, 1929. Merle was in the PHS class of 1944, Virginia in 1947.

July Weather Report

Every month I call Bonnie Lindsay who keeps tabs on the precipitation that the city of Protection receives.

It has been dry all this year. Protection began the month of May having only 1.54 inches of precipitation for the first four months. We received 1.07 inches in May, 7.03 inches in June and July and 2.58 inches in August, bringing the total for the year 10.22 inches by Sept. 1.

Funfest 2026

Despite the weather conditions, the three days of Funfest were very successful. The temperature reached 107 degrees when the Slosh tournament ended at 6 p.m. Sunday evening. The softball teams in that competition were Oldtimers, Alcoballies, Former Allstars and Bad Idea.

Alcoballies and Former Allstars each played three games with Alcoballies defeating Former Allstars in the fifth inning 21-19, winning the tournament. Each of the other two teams played two games.

I only meant to stay for 30 minutes so I could see why the game is named Slosh and to take some photos. The slow-pitch games were entertaining, so I stayed until the end. Each inning a slip of paper was drawn to determine what the players had to do. Examples were: dancing to the plate, running the bases backwards (third to second to first to home), batting left-handed instead of right-handed, hitting the ball from a T-ball stand instead of from a pitcher. Other rules were only receiving five pitches, no walks given.

The first game began at 11 a.m. and my lawn chair stayed in the shade for seven hours. All spectators were glad to have the breeze all afternoon.

The bubble machine was used as were the water balloons for the children to enjoy that afternoon.

Harness Celebrates 95th Birthday

Norene Harness is a resident at Protection Valley Manor. Monday was her birthday. I happened to be there that evening when her family were in her room celebrating her birthday. I chatted about FunFest, especially about the Slosh Tournament held Sunday. Craig and Connie (Harness) Edmonston from Fayetteville, Ark., told me they were staying in this area until Thursday.

First Funfest

According to the Past Paragraphs in this week's issue, Editor Bob Greer wrote that in 1991 that it was the fourth year for Funfest. I have been mistaken to say it began in 1988. That was the first year that I began videotaping after buying my first camcorder in November of 1997. Since that time I have videotaped and stored more than 1,000 VHS originals.

Video Keepsakes

I loved my new camcorder and started a business I named Video Keepsakes in June 1988.

My first experience with videos was when I purchased a video that David Harris (our school's industrial arts/shop teacher). He had videotaped the Methodist Church Vacation Bible School program.

Then at a Thanksgiving event in my sister Nancy's home at McPherson, she used her new camcorder to video what each family member was thankful for. I now wanted a camcorder!

Our oldest daughter Sheri was a senior at PHS and I began recording a lot of the school programs. Each of her classmates received a personalized video as a graduation gift from my family.

Does anyone look at my videos anymore? I had hundreds of customers who purchased copies of them. I have not watched any of my videos for 20 years and actually am afraid that my VCR and/or the videos might be damaged if I did.

It was my pleasure to video everything that was going on in Protection, Ashland, and Coldwater as well as other events to save memories for my family as well as others from 1988 to 2003.

DAVE WEBB / The Star-Press

Funfest 2026: Patrons Gather at Local Craft Fair

A large number of Funfest 2026 patrons made their way to the craft fair that was gong on following the parade this past weekend.

HOCO

• *From Page 1*

business degree, marry a nice man, settle down and have a big family.

Her escort will be Girk. He is the son of Slade and Suzie Girk. He is involved in football, FFA and FCA. After high school, Girk plans to go to college and get out of Protection for a little, but eventually come back home, get married and raise a family.

Snyder is the daughter of Tray and Kayla Snyder. She is involved in FFA, FCCLA, FCA, NHS, 4-H, yearbook, youth group, cross country, volleyball, basketball, track and cheerleading. After high school, she plans to attend Fort Hays State University to study business and marketing before she gets married, lives on a ranch and has some kids.

She will be escorted by Willems. He is the son of Cale and Rachel Willems. He is involved in football, basketball, baseball, FFA and FCA. After high school, he plans on going to a college and study business, get married and have kids.

Martin is the daughter of Rustin and Lindsay Martin. She is involved in, Stuco, FFA, FCCLA, volleyball, basketball and golf. She plans on going to college, getting married, having kids and being rich.

Martin will be escorted by Huck, who is the son of Nathan and Leasa Huck. He plans on going to college, studying agriculture and ranch management then getting a job, getting married, having kids and hopefully getting rich.

If you want to participate in the parade, please email Nicky Lindsay at lindsayn@usd300ks.com or Abby Robles roblesa@usd300ks.com what you will be doing for the parade so you will be eligible for judging. The categories for judging are most spirited-individual and group and most creative-individual and group. There will be prizes for each category.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Western Star & Protection Press on Thursday, Sept. 7, 2026) 1t

NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING

State of Kansas
2027 Special District

The governing body of
Coldwater-Wilmore Regional Library
Comanche County
will meet on September 14, 2026 at 5:15 PM at Coldwater Library for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds, the amount of tax to levied and the revenue neutral rate.
Detailed budget information is available at Coldwater Library and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

	Prior Year Actual 2025		Current Year Estimate for 2026		Proposed Budget Year for 2027		
FUND	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	78,796	4.024	90,027	3.562	163,863	68,579	3.562
Debt Service							
Employee Benefit	23,714	0.990	24,596		42,423	19,065	0.990
Totals	102.510	5.014	114.623	3.562	206,286	87,644	4.552
						*Revenue Neutral Rate***	*3.724*
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	102,510		114,623		206,286		
Total Tax Levied	108,822		71,687		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	21,701,054		20,124,590		19,250,404		

Outstanding Indebtedness,

Jan 1,	2024	2025	2026
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Pur. Princ.	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.
***Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988*

Coldwater-Wilmore Regional Library

Comanche County Hospital is seeking a Full-Time Housekeeper

Hours: 6:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
Benefits Include:
• Single Health Insurance
• KPERS
• Life Insurance
• Life Flight Membership
• Paid Time Off
• Annual Labs
• Competitive Pay

To apply call (620) 582-2144 for an application or visit our website at www.comanchecountyhospital.com.

ATTENTION

Announcement to all 1961 graduates of Coldwater High School in Coldwater, KS. We are having a class reunion in Wichita, KS at Spears Restaurant Sept. 19, 2026 located at 4323 W. Maple St. in Wichita.

Please RSVP to Janet Marsh at (316) 491-18888 or Naomi Jatz at (316) 684-4442. Or by mail to Janet Marsh at 2300 N. Tyler Rd. Apt. 233, Wichita, KS 67205.
We hope to see you there!

GOT NEWS?

Send your news tip to: jasonjump@thestarpress.news or call Katee at 620.518.1896.

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

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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 Sept. 5, 1896 Star

The small boy is getting all the fun out of life he can this week, for on next week his freedom will be curtailed by the commencement of school.

A cold wave will come sweeping down shortly and remind the people of their wasted summer's wages.

The town was very quiet Wednesday. It was enough to make a newspaper man weep to walk up and down the street looking for local news.

There has been no rain in this locality for more than a month, and consequently all vegetation is drying up to a considerable extent. Fruits and vegetables that have not matured are a disappointment. The late peach crop will almost be a failure. The range grass is as dry as a bone, except in the bottoms and low lands. The roads are dusty, and there is no telling when there will be a change.

T.J. Brown has opened up a livery and feed stable in the Parker Wright barn. The prospects of having free-coinage next year is causing new business enterprises to spring up in our county. Mr. Brown may call it the "Free Silver Barn."

The Coldwater Graded Schools will open next Monday, September 7, under an able corps of teachers, and it is requested that all pupils be on hand promptly, so they can be assigned to their respective rooms and classes on the first day of the school.

The School Board has made an order that all non-resident pupils who expect to attend our schools, must pay a tuition fee of $1.00 per month [almost $40 in today's dollars] in advance, which will be the actual cost to the district for each pupil.

120 YEARS AGO
From Aug. 31, 1906 Star

Another good rain last night. Some cooler weather this week.

The fall term of the Coldwater public schools will open on next Monday, September 3, at 9 a.m.

Senator Chester I. Long is making an automobile campaign tour of this part of the state and is billed to speak in Coldwater at 2 o'clock p.m. on Monday, September 17.

W.J. Fitzgerald, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, and C.E. Denton, candidate for secretary of state, will accompany the senator.

A grand reunion of the old and new settlers of Comanche and adjoining counties will be held at Helbert's ranch on Mule Creek, two miles southeast of Wilmore, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 20, 21, and 22, 1906.

110 YEARS AGO
From Sept. 1, 1916 Star

School will open at 9 o'clock Monday morning, September 4, at which time pupils in the grades will be enrolled. High school pupils are requested to enroll on Saturday, the 2nd. High school pupils are requested to purchase their books on Saturday, immediately after they are enrolled. Grade children should not purchase their books until after they are enrolled on Monday, the 4th.

Not much has been printed during the past few weeks in regard to the forthcoming County Fair to be held in this city on September 27, 28 and 29, for the reason, principally, that everybody has been very busy with harvest, threshing, plowing and other matters, but during the past week the committees have "got very busy" again, with the result that definite plans for the Fair have practically been agreed upon, so that now there is every assurance that the Fair will be a success.

At a meeting held at Thornton & Arnold's office on Tuesday evening the entire preliminary plans were gone over and finally agreed upon. Plans were agreed upon for the construction of some needed improvements at the fair grounds, just east of town. The premium list, including the race program, was revised and completed. The list will be printed next week. Two new committees were appointed.

Among the amusement features at the Fair will be a number of races by Comanche-co. horses and motorcycles, a merry-go-round, a good theatrical performance each evening, many minor amusements, etc.

On account of its rapidly increasing business, the Coldwater Telephone Co. has, since June 1, employed three day operators—Miss Elsie Holbert, Miss Mary Meers and Mrs. Frank Meers. Miss Mattie McWherter is the night operator. During the illness of Raymond Hoff, Ray McIntire of Sharon is doing the line work.

100 YEARS AGO
From Sept. 3, 1926 Star

Work on Kansas Highway No. 1 (on the five-mile stretch from Coldwater southward) is progressing rapidly. It looks as though the road work is being well done and that, when completed, there should be a permanency about it. Eventually, the entire stretch of this north-and-south road in this county will be competed in like manner. It will then be an ideal road to travel over. Kansas Highway No. 1 is known as the Albert Pike Highway in this county.

Turtle and terrapin stunts seem to be the latest attraction at fairs, rodeos and other gatherings. Some folks are making "good money" capturing terrapins and selling them for exhibition purposes, it is said.

The WESTERN STAR is distinctly a county paper, since it gives each week the important news from almost every neighborhood in the county. That, we believe, is one reason why the people want the STAR. We are striving to make our local news service as complete, as accurate and as prompt each week as possible. Our list of regular subscribers continues to grow rapidly.

A few dry, dusty days the fore part of this week.

It seems that rodeos have become the rage all over the country. About every county in Kansas, Oklahoma and Colorado is putting on some kind of an attraction in the way of a rodeo.

90 YEARS AGO
From Sept. 4, 1936 Star

Preparations are complete for the opening of our schools next Monday, September 7. One hundred ninety-one students have enrolled in the high school for the term. Several students are out of town, who will enroll later, and will thus run the enrollment over the 200 mark.

The freshman class has the largest enrollment, with a total of 54, the juniors are second with 48, the seniors next, with 45, and the sophomores have 43 enrolled. One post-graduate has enrolled to date.

The grade school pupils will go to their rooms for enrollment Monday morning at 9 o'clock, while the high school pupils will meet in the auditorium for a general assembly, after which short class periods will be held.

Dr. Norla Scott has moved her office from the Wright residence property to rooms over the Burton Drug store.

An increase fatalities because of collisions between cars and between cars and bicycles, and accidents in which cars ran into ditches or skidded boosted the number of traffic deaths by 17 during the first five months of 1936 over the same period the year before.

Exactly 218 people met death during the first five months of 1936, compared to 201 in the same months of 1935. This year there has been a decrease in deaths because of car train collisions, car-and-electric car collisions, and collisions with fixed objects such as bridges, culverts, and utility poles.

The number of pedestrians killed was the same both years, 56.

The 1936 rate of fatalities in Kansas is three people killed by automobiles every two days. Most of these unnecessary deaths are due, says the Kansas Safety Council, to people's reckless desire for speed and their lack of control over it.

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. announce that they will broadcast the *Literary Digest** poll over a national chain three times weekly beginning September 2. Poll charts may be secured at Stewart Bros. Garage.

**Since 1916 the Literary Digest poll had correctly predicted the winner of presidential elections—until 1936. Just before the election the magazine's poll showed Republican Alf Landon (Kansas governor at the time) would overwhelmingly defeat incumbent President Franklin Roosevelt with about 60% of the popular vote.*

Instead, Roosevelt received 61% of the vote, winning every state except Maine and Vermont. The Literary Digest went out of business two years later.

80 YEARS AGO
From Sept. 6, 1946 Star

Cool weather the past week. Why go to Colorado?

The Coldwater baseball team entered the Medicine Lodge tournament and won their first game from the highly touted Anthony team Monday afternoon by a score of 10 to 6.

Coldwater, Cunningham and Medicine Lodge remained in the running up to Wednesday. Wednesday evening Coldwater lost to the Cunningham nine 10 to 2 and had to play a second game that night losing it to Anthony 20 to 9.

The Coldwater schools, which opened on Monday of this week, had an enrollment on Wednesday of 342 pupils. This is an increase over last year to all grades except the fifth and sixth grades, Supt. T.L. Lindsey reports.

Donald Nicholas, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Nicholas of this city, has a very interesting exhibit this week in one of the J.C. Penney Co. windows, displaying some of his oil and watercolor paintings. Stop by and see them when in town.

Last Monday morning at 8:45, 14 planes which were on a goodwill tour sponsored by the Liberal Junior Chamber of Commerce arrived at the Stark airport adjoining Coldwater and made a 30-minute visit here. They were greeted by city officials and the Coldwater Lions Club and were advertising a four-day race meet to be held September 11–14.

70 YEARS AGO
From Sept. 7, 1956 Star

The Bucks and Does Square Dance Club of this city is sponsoring a square dance Saturday evening, September 8, starting at 8 o'clock. The dance will be held on the lighted concrete tennis court at the Coldwater school athletic field. The public is invited to attend.

One evening last week, shortly before retiring, Mrs. David Cary, who lives with her family in the old Bert Griffith place just south of Coldwater, heard their puppy outside the house yelping loudly as if in distress.

Mrs. Cary turned on the yard light and found that a half-grown skunk had a firm hold on the pup's upper lip and would not let go.

Theo, as she is known to her many friends, grabbed a broom and beat the skunk with the handle but with no results. Not knowing what else to do, she grabbed the skunk around the neck with both hands until the skunk was choked to death and the beloved puppy was released from danger.

Yes, you guessed. Theo washed her hair several times, buried her clothes and took several baths all on account of her love for a mighty cute little doggie.

At the drawing last Saturday evening, held by the Coldwater Trades Day Association, Riley Ford of Coldwater drew the $43 cash prize [worth over $525 now].

It is announced that the drawings starting Saturday, September 8, will be held at 5:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. The drawing Saturday afternoon will be for $21 plus several merchandise prizes given by the local merchants.

60 YEARS AGO
From Sept. 1, 1966 Star

This will be a first for the Coldwater area. A Fellowship of Christian Athletes in the high school of Coldwater at 2 p.m. September 11. Rev. Ed Beck, a former all-American player of the Kentucky University basketball teams will be the guest speaker.

All schools of the Iroquois League plus the rest of our school's opponents have been invited to attend. Our local coaches plus the boys who make up our FCA group will be sharing in this rally of their recent experiences at Estes Park, Colo.

Edward Jackson, Coldwater, has been awarded a Sears Roebuck Foundation scholarship to attend Kansas State University, Manhattan, this coming year. Jackson, the son of Neill and Betty Jackson, will enroll in the College of Agriculture.

The Sears Roebuck Foundation scholarships were awarded to outstanding high school graduating seniors who have good academic records and a sincere interest in agriculture or home economics.

Jackson was active in athletics, Student Council, National Honor Society and band of Coldwater high school. He was also a delegate to Boys' State and a member of 4-H and MYF.

The football squad of Coldwater High School enjoyed the first of several cuts of luscious watermelons—an annual affair sponsored by the Coldwater Lions Club. A Downtown Quarterback Club is being considered to help back the Eagles this coming season.

The rain Monday morning brought moisture as much as three inches in some places. Nig Atteberry reported two and a half to three at his place; Jimmy Hazen had two and one-half; Wood Beeley, .40; Horace Parker about three; Don York reported .20 at his place east of Coldwater and two and one-half inches on the highway where his aunts, Maude and Stella, live. So the amounts were pretty scattered.

Out here we may not be ready for a downpour, but like some fellow said, we take it when it comes. The cool weather we've had recently is a welcome change.

50 YEARS AGO
From Sept 2, 1976 Star

Enrollment in the attendance centers of USD 300 appears to be complete. The total full-time equivalent enrollment is 522.5. This compares with 521.5 on September 15, 1975, and 531.5 on September 15, 1974. Total head count is 542. Coldwater Grade School, 193; Protection Grade School 154; Coldwater High School 109; Protection High School 86.

Student population would seem to have stabilized. Many schools in the area are still losing enrollment, some as much as eight to ten percent per year. We are very fortunate to have reached a level of stability.

The Coldwater post office was moved last week across the street east and a half block farther to the new location just east of Vance's Tax Accounting and business offices. It is just west of Rogers Econo-Wash on the south side of Main Street.

The exterior is finished with buff brick and the wooden front is painted a rich chocolate brown. The windows and door are smoked glass. A sturdy flagpole stands out in front.

Postmaster Virgil McIntyre reports he likes the new quarters very much. There is much more room, convenience of location, more boxes available, etc. Patrons are getting used to having to have a key to open the new style boxes. However, this is a great convenience to those who had difficulty seeing the old combination locks which were really difficult to open sometimes. It will take some getting used to as some keep forgetting their keys and can't see in the boxes unless they are open, but it is a nice change with definite advantages.

A letter to the Carl McVeys: Dear Mr. and Mrs. McVey: CONGRATULATIONS! Your grandson, Timothy, has been named a Babe Ruth Baseball "Athlete of the Year" for 1976. He is one of a select few players from his league chosen for this national award.

Your grandson has earned this distinct honor on the basis of his athletic ability and outstanding contributions to his local team. In recognition, he will receive an official personalized certificate presented by his team manager. Tim is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McVey of Elgin, Ore.

40 YEARS AGO
From Sept. 4, 1986 Star

The Jr. Eagles football squad opened practice on Aug. 21, with 17 boys reporting. The weather has been cool and practice has been aided by this.

First game action will come this Tuesday, Sept. 9, at Haviland at 7. The opposition is a team composed of players from both Haviland and Mullinville.

The Jr. Eagles have only three lettermen returning from last year's team but the team hopes to improve on last year's three and three record. Six eighth graders will anchor the squad. There are also 11 seventh graders. The Jr. Eagles are coached by Rocky Stewart and Jay Goering.

Preliminary school figures show that Coldwater's enrollment is up slightly over last year while Protection's is down a little from a year ago.

As of Tuesday, Coldwater's enrollment stood at a total of 255 students, counting grade school, junior high and high school. That figure was 248 a year ago for a net increase of seven students.

A breakdown of the Coldwater enrollments shows an increase of three in the high school (80 last year and 83 this year). The grade school enrollment shows a gain of four (up from 133 a year ago to 137 now), while the junior high enrollment remains unchanged at 35 students.

Both principals, Coldwater's Sam Rawdon and Protection's John Garvie, reported to the board that the school year had started out "great" and students and staff were showing enthusiasm, as the new term begins. Noted by each principal was how well new staff members were working out.

As promised last week, the STAR's weather report has now taken on a new dimension and new look. But it's not done yet. This week we've added the precipitation readings from the Merrill Ranch as recorded by Phyllis Scherich. The annual total and year-to-date totals will remain that of Coldwater, however. Soon, we hope, another "change in the weather" will come about, but the equipment hasn't arrived yet.

Coldwater's slow-pitch softball squad for men won one game and lost two during the weekend in the annual Kiowa Invitational Tournament.

The big three-day meet attracted a rugged field of 12 squads, including a number from neighboring Oklahoma. It was a double-elimination and ran Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. On Saturday afternoon, Coldwater won its tournament opener. That was by 12–3 over the College Bums of Alva. That was a group of Northwestern Oklahoma State University students from Alva. The game was shortened to just five innings because of the runs-ahead rule.

Later that afternoon, Coldwater went against Molz Oil of Kiowa, one of the top clubs in that region. Kiowa posted a 10-6 decision over the locals.

That put Coldwater into the losers bracket of the double-elimination meet. On Sunday afternoon, Coldwater faced another Alva team: Kentucky Fried Chicken. The Oklahomans won a 7-5 thriller, sidelining Coldwater from further tourney play.

NEWS

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

Funfest 2026, *Photos by Dave Webb and Susan Edmonston*

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Western Star & Protection Press on Thursday, September 3, 2026) 1t

PUBLIC MEETING

The City of Coldwater, Kansas will hold a public meeting on September 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the city council meeting room at 239 E. Main Street to present and discuss the alternatives for sewer main improvements. The improvements will be funded under the low interest State Revolving Loan Fund Program through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The loan application will include funding for the following improvements:

1. Repair/replace sewer mains in 5 different locations. Rehabilitate/replace approximately 14 manholes and replace approximately 2580 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer mains, with an estimated amount of $713,000.00.

The anticipated amount of the loan application request will be $713,000.00 and the total project cost is estimated at $713,000.00. The alternatives will be discussed at the public meeting and comments by the public will be considered. Oral and written comments will be accepted.

(Published in The Western Star & Protection Press on Thursday, September 3, 2026) 1t

PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Coldwater, Kansas will hold a public hearing on September 14, 2026 at 6:40 p.m. in the city council meeting room at 239 E. Main Street to present and discuss the proposed improvements for the sewer main rehabilitation project. The improvements will be funded under the low interest State Revolving Loan Fund Program through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The loan application will include funding for the following improvements:

1. Repair/replace sewer mains in 5 different locations. Rehabilitate/replace approximately 14 manholes and replace approximately 2580 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer mains, with an estimated amount of $713,000.00.

The anticipated amount of the loan application request will be $713,000.00 and the total project cost is estimated at $713,000.00.

The anticipated increase in sewer use charges will be discussed. The proposed improvements will be explained and comments by the public will be considered. Oral and written comments will be accepted. Any written comments will become a part of the City's record of public hearing.

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NEWS

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

Past Paragraphs

Protection news from earlier times

Compiled by Dave Webb

125 YEARS AGO
Western Star
Sept. 6, 1901

Protection paragraphs

Bicycles continue to be as popular as ever in Protection.

Way & Meisinger got another [railroad] carload of lumber this week; also a carload of flour and feed.

G.E. Davison shipped out a carload of cattle this week.

Link King, of Clark County, went to Kansas City Tuesday with two carloads of cattle.

Delos Dunton's large stable is nearly completed.

Frank Hibbard, a plasterer and stone mason recently from central Kansas, is here and will probably locate among us. We assure him a hearty welcome.

Uncle Bob Chrisman came back from Woodward last week, and not alone, either. He threatened before he went away that he would bring back a wife with him—and so he did. That health, success and happiness may ever attend Mr. and Mrs. Chrisman is the wish of their friends here.—[Correspondent] "OWEN."

Protection prattle

Several "prairie schooners" have been passing through our city this week en route for the [Cherokee] "Strip."

A.J. Cantrell returned Saturday from Oklahoma, via the railroad. He got no claim as once reported. He will remain with us this winter.

The singing class of Mrs. Maud Meisinger which commenced last Friday night is progressing nicely. She now has 44 scholars. They have learned the departments of music—the scale, transportation of the scale, and other important points. Protection should be proud of her musical talent.—[Correspondent] "JUNIPER."

Cattle on the move

Bob Edgar and W.H. Weldon made a shipment of several carloads of cattle from Protection to Kansas City on Monday.

C.L. King shipped two carloads of cattle from Protection to Kansas City on Tuesday.

100 YEARS AGO
Protection Post
Sept. 2, 1926

Gerald Teter back home

Walter Teter and son, Owen, returned from Wichita, Thursday. They had been to the Ozarks on a short vacation and owing to an injury to Gerald [when he was hit by a car], who was in the Wichita Hospital at that time, they left Mrs. Teter and the boy there. Mr. Teter went to Wichita Saturday and brought Mrs. Teter and Gerald home. At this writing, Tuesday afternoon, Gerald is improving rapidly and we trust he will soon recover.

Nearly plowed under

Thursday afternoon, while Creede Dodson, who is working for Hugo Mockry, was harrowing in a field, his horses became frightened and started to run.

In an attempt to stop the team, Creede was pulled feet first from the harrow and the harrow fell on top of him, and both made several complete turns before the team came to a stop. It is believed that should he have fallen head first in front of the harrow, that undoubtedly he would have been killed.

Creede received a three-inch gash on his head, several gashes on his body, and his left knee was wrenched. At this writing, Tuesday, he is improving and we hope he will soon be able to be about his work.

Another accident

Ted Rieff was kicked by a stubborn mule last Thursday afternoon, near the Claude Rieff home southwest of Protection. The blows caused a cut on his left arm and bruises about the chest and ribs.

75 YEARS AGO
Protection Post
August 31, 1951

Out and about

Clinton and Betty Blue and family of Wichita were weekend guests at the Bill and Josephine Blue home. Mrs. Elsie Day accompanied them home and left from there Monday for her home at Ottawa, Illinois.

Walt and Lillie Christopher and daughters were Sunday dinner guests of Wendal and Maxine Lehman and Anne and Steve.

Lester Selzer, Lawrence and Sharon, and Miss Cleona Hershberger of Kansas City, were callers at the S. Enos Miller home Saturday.

George and Irene Herron and Don Lee returned home Monday night from their vacation in Colorado.

Fred and LaVaun Lohrding and sons and Ernest and Helen Bird and family were Thursday dinner guests of Clarence and Bertie Nichols.

Billy Jack Sanders took Larry Corson to his home in Wichita Sunday. Larry had spent the past two weeks visiting his grandparents.

Sherry Herd spent Friday afternoon with Lana Riner.

Lance Riner spent Wednesday and Thursday visiting Curtis Slaton at the Alva Alexander home.

Crist Beyler spent several days in eastern Colorado working on his wheat ground.

55 YEARS AGO
Protection Post
Sept. 3, 1971

Nursing home on track

A couple of problems that have apparently been surmounted this past week, have cleared the way for Protection Manors [now Protection Valley Manor], a 60-bed home for the aged, and construction on the home should begin soon.

The two problems that have held up construction on the home have been the lack of an "OK" from the regional planning authority that must determine the feasibility of any such construction. This permission was given this week.

The other problem concerned a survey of the land on which Protection Manors will be built. Apparently, when the land on the south edge of Protection was owned by E.G. Tharp, the state highway commission took some of the land to make the "Y" leading onto U.S. Highway 160.

The loss of this land apparently was never noted on the abstract and therefore, when the Sanders brothers sold the land to Retirement Homes, Inc., the abstract had to be brought up to date and the land area resurveyed so state requirements could be met....

35 YEARS AGO
Protection Press
Sept. 5, 1991

Yeah... FunFest was fun

By Bob Greer

Successful again. A good turnout of folks from throughout the area. And all seeming to have plenty of fun. That was the capsule summary of Saturday's fourth annual FunFest celebration in Protection.

A steady stream of activities kept folks plenty busy throughout the day. It started with the downtown parade at 10 a.m., and wound up with the big free street dance that ran until 1 a.m.

About 60 entries took part in the parade, including a number of floats. This time Comanche County Hospital took first place with its float depicting a MASH unit....

A large group of 34 individuals competed in the annual horseshoe-pitching tournament, run again by Garry Smith. Marvin Rabe from Offerle won the championship by 21-16 over Garry Smith....

About 60 persons played bingo at the Senior Center for various "white elephant" gifts. They raised about $60, which went into the general FunFest treasury.

This year's arts and crafts displays were highly successful, with many positive comments heard. Almost 35 exhibitors had booths and displays in the community building and along the street.

Fifteen teams competed in mud volleyball, attracting a large crowd of spectators. The tourney title went to a squad named "Matt's Team." Its roster was composed of Matt Jellison, Lance Walker, Derek Riner, Trent Hazen, Jessica Espinosa, Amy Kissel, Kelli Fiegel, Allison Miller and Neeley Hazen.

About 525 persons ate the free evening meal in City Park sponsored by the Bank of Protection. That was much larger than last year's crowd for that event.

Ben Shrauner, son of Randy and Jenny Shrauner, won the $100 gift certificate. The $50 savings bond was won by John Fitzwater of Olathe, formerly of Protection. Gail Baker won the coveted Ida Bare doll. Money from those tickets was added to the Project Protection fund....

Class of 1961 reunion

Held here Sunday evening, September 1, was the 30-year-reunion of the Protection High School Class of 1961.

Thirteen of the 21 classmates were able to attend. They enjoyed a hamburger cookout at the home of Larry and Mable (Young) DePriest.

Attending were Janice (Atteberry) Sims of Oklahoma City, Laura (Lamb) and Allan Covey of Newcastle, Oklahoma,

Margaret (Jellison) and Bill Simon of Hutchinson, Pat (Maris) and Don Winton of Wichita, Vesta (Rhodes) Rogers and Wendell Campbell of Valley Center, John and LaRetta Fitzwater of Olathe,

Roy Lee and Margaret Smith of Deerfield, Edwin and Judy Selzer of Sharon Springs, and Gary and Charlotte Girk, Myron and Susan Edmonston, and Orlin Loucks, all of Protection.

15 YEARS AGO
Protection Press
Sept. 1, 2011

Happy Birthday Venture!

By Bob Greer

Look who celebrated its first birthday earlier this week.

It was the Protection Community Venture Grocery Store. It came into existence on August 30 of last year.

The store is located on the west side of North Broadway. It is and has been the only grocery store in town for some time....

In the first year, the store has done extremely well. Protection, population 537, has solidly supported it. And interested area folks have "pitched in" to keep it going.

Shares of $50 each were sold to many area persons. And quite a few alumni and friends of their hometown have invested in the store as well.

A total of $124,750 worth of shares have been purchased. And those came from about 250 stockholders....

As of this week, 11 persons are employed at the store. Lewie Darr is the store manager. Amanda Garza is assistant manager.

Brandy Darr, Lewie's wife, is an employee, along with Victor Garza, Amanda's husband. He's in charge of the produce department.

Other employees include some students and part-time workers. They include: Ann Jellison, Bonnie McLean, Coby Lindsay, John Weis, Jordan Sanders, Kaitlyn Holler and Trista Rosenberger.

Bobbing Along Broadway

By Bob Greer

I love trains and I love college football. On Saturday my wife Wilma and I will board Amtrak at Dodge City. We'll meet our son Don at Kansas City who will drive us over to Kansas State University to watch the Wildcats play Kent State University. Sunday morning we'll ride the train back to Dodge City.

Capturing Classic Coldwater

ONE THE EARLIEST KNOWN PHOTOGRAPHS OF COLDWATER (below). The photographer apparently set up the camera at the main intersection in town—Central Avenue and Main Street. The date could be any time after November 1884, when Dr. J.E. Sombart built his drugstore. However, a close look at the two women on the porch of his business indicates they weren't wearing coats, so the earliest date might more likely be in 1885 during warm weather. Before a city water system was available in Coldwater in the Teens, the windmill in the photo no doubt served citizens who didn't have their own water well. The freight wagons shown perhaps went between Coldwater and Kinsley, because until the railroad arrived in Comanche County in the summer of 1887, nearly everything—dry goods, some food items, lumber and other building materials, coal, and so forth, was hauled into the county from the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad at Kinsley.

Wilmore That Was

SCHROCK LUMBER COMPANY (below), built in Wilmore in 1911 by John Schrock, the great-grandfather of the author of this history page. His brother Harvey "Harve" Schrock managed the business for years, which later grew to include farm implement sales. John also built a lumberyard in Protection that he sold to the Houston-Doughty company. It stood on the location of Protection's current library. John and his wife Cora also farmed north of Protection for a time.

THESE YOUNG MEN (below) and their 1937 Plymouth recently appeared in this snapshot for sale on eBay. The location was listed as Wilmore (based on the metal plate above their license tag). Who were they?

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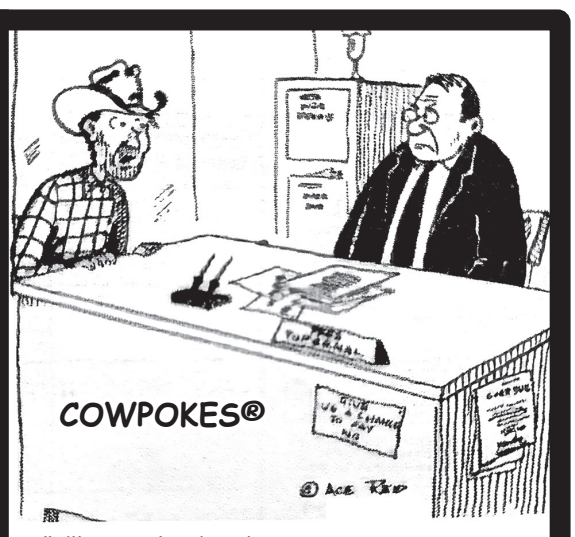

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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email jasonjump@thestarpress.news

JASON JUMP / The Star-Press

South Central quarterback Easton Huck (10) hands the ball off to his running back Coda Lindsay (12) during jamboree action in Attica last Friday. The Timberwolves took on host A&A Titans and Burden-Central.

SCHS

• *From Page 1*

Timberwolves did a good job of matching the physicality.

Westrup said it was good to get a chance to "finally hit somebody else" after the Timberwolves have spent two weeks practicing against each other. He said that practices have gone well but it's about fine-tuning things before the opener.

"You know, we just got to polish up on the little things," Westrup said. "You know, we haven't changed anything. We just got to get better on our combo blocks on offense and run better routes on the perimeter.

"And defensively, we got to do a better job of getting off blocks, really work on getting off blocks and making good tackles in the open field."

He added that the weather has made things challenging, with temperatures above 100 at times and more expected this week. The Timberwolves have had three morning practices already and Westrup expected to have more of those this week.

"We're going to have to really focus because it's going to be a shorter practice period," he said. "And we're just going to have to really focus on what we're doing.

"A lot more, just a lot more install and we're not going to be able to do a lot of individual drills. We're going to have to get a lot out of our team time and just really focus."

South Central and Meade opened the season against each other last year. The Timberwolves won 48-6, but Westrup said that the Buffaloes are bringing back a lot of players with a lot of size.

"We're going to have to be physical up front," he said. "We're going to have to use our athleticism to get us in space."

Westrup said that Meade is likely going to use a lot of inside runs because of their size, then try to get some outside runs and, occasionally, try to isolate defenders on pass routes. When the Buffaloes do pass, Westrup said, the Timberwolves will need to sit in the right zone when running their zone coverage.

The Timberwolves are still solidifying their depth chart, as far as determining who will be the No. 1 and No. 2 option at certain positions, the head coach said. To that end, those players will get plenty of snaps so he and the staff can finalize those things.

Westrup added that he wants the Timberwolves to be physical and play smart.

"We want to go out and be very physical and just use our physicality to just shut somebody down and play tough, you know, take care of the ball," he said. "We want to eliminate mental mistakes. We had a lot of those last year and we want to be better at taking care of the mental mistakes."

Girl's Tennis Opens Season at Cimarron

STAFF REPORT

The South Central girl's tennis team opened its season at a tournament at Cimarron last Thursday.

Fabiola Rivero played No. 1 singles. She beat St. John-Hudson's Zoey Carter 6-3, lost to Meade's Taylor Zeibart 6-3 and lost to Cimarron's Taylor Copper 6-2.

Mia Napierala played No. 2 singles. She beat St. John-Hudson's Caisalyn Kohl 6-1, beat Meade's Alejandra Valendzuela, lost to Cimarron's Drew Kugler 6-3 and lost to Scott Community's Adalei Zeller by injury default.

Marissa "Max" Miller and Nevaeh Pankrat played No. 1 doubles. They lost to St. John-Hudson's Lilly McAlister and Avery Younie 6-1, lost to Meade's Laura Lynn and Sayler Stapleton 6-1 and lost to Cimarron's Molly Price and Mia Mendez 6-1.

Bonnie Herd and Elsie Herd played No. 2 doubles. They beat St. John-Hudson's Addison McAlister and Charlotte Kellogg 6-3, lost to Meade's Rachelle Neely and Addison Tacha 6-0 and lost to Cimarron's Teryn Ellis and Drew Kugler 6-1.

The Lady Timberwolves were set to play at the South Barber tournament Tuesday, but the meet was postponed because of hot temperatures. South Central is scheduled to attend a junior varsity tournament in Meade Thursday, then a varsity tournament at Pratt this Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Lady Timbervolves Go 1-4 to Open Volleyball Season

STAFF REPORT

The South Central volleyball team played five matches in two days to open the 2026 season.

Last Saturday, the Lady Timberwolves traveled to Ingalls for a triangular. They lost to host Ingalls in a close three-game contest, 25-22, 21-25, 27-29.

After that, South Central played Meade and lost in two, 25-21, 25-18.

The Lady Timberwolves then hosted a quadrangular Tuesday night. They faced Kinsley in the first match and lost a close two-game contest, 26-24, 25-22.

South Central then faced Meade in a rematch and, this time, took the Lady Buffaloes to three games and made it a closer match, losing 22-25, 26-24, 21-25.

The Lady Timberwolves closed out the evening with a win over Satanta in two, 25-11, 25-12.

South Central (1-4) is scheduled to head to Attica on Thursday to face the Lady Bulldogs and Belle Plaine. The Lady Timberwolves will then head to Ashland Tuesday, Sept. 8 to face the host team and Spearville.

COLDWATER WEATHER
By Greg Vanderree

AUGUST 26
High 98 / Low 70 / Precip - None
AUGUST 27
High 93 / Low 70 / Precip - Trace
AUGUST 28
High 91 / Low 69 / Precip - None
AUGUST 29
High 96 / Low 70 / Precip - None
AUGUST 30
High 102 / Low 74 / Precip - None
AUGUST 31
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August 30 - CLOSED
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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. 51tfnc

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

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

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

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.

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

Part-Time Help Wanted: Comanche County Communications has a part-time position available. Applicants must be able to pass a rigorous background check, have no felonies, possess a valid driver's license, and have reliable transportation. Starting pay is $14 per hour. There are no set hours for this position, and it requires night, weekend and holiday shift work. Applications received 6 months prior to this notice must be resubmitted. Applications are available at Comanche County Sheriff's Office or call (620) 582-2511 to request a mailed application.