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Western & Protection

The Star-Press

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

Volume 143 / Issue 14 | Official Newspaper for Comanche County, All Cities, Townships and USD 300 | November 5, 2026

Hoffman Cruises to Re-Election for Kansas House Seat

STAFF REPORT

Comanche County voters cast 636 ballots in Tuesday's general election, according to unofficial results released Nov. 3 by the Comanche County election office.

The county has 1,113 registered voters, putting voter turnout at approximately 57.1 percent. Of the ballots reported, 15 were provisional ballots.

Republicans make up the largest share of registered voters in Comanche County, with 863 registered Republicans. The county also has 131 unaffiliated voters, 104 registered Democrats and 15 registered Libertarians.

District, County Races

In the Kansas House of Representatives 116th District race, Republican Kyle D. Hoffman received 403 votes in Comanche County, while Democrat Nathan Bales received 185.

In the State Board of Education 7th District race, Republican Alana McWilliams received 476 votes, while Democrat Ann Zimmerman received 130.

For the District 16, Division 1 District Court judge position, Sidney R. Thomas received 538 votes.

In the Comanche County Commission District 1 race, Republican Zackery Ellis received 138 votes.

The county clerk vacancy race saw Republican Abriana (Bri) Uhl receive 537 votes.

Federal, State Races

In the U.S. Senate race, Comanche County voters favored Republican Roger Marshall, who received 446 votes. Democrat Adam Hamilton received 149 votes, while Libertarian David Graham received 33.

In the U.S. House of Representatives 4th District race, Republican Ron Estes received 507 votes in Comanche County. Democrat Katy Tyndell received 106 votes, and Libertarian Drew Cranmer received 18.

In the governor's race, Republican Ty Masterson and running mate Jeffrey Klemp received 488 votes. Democrat Cindy Holscher and running mate Chakra Ohaebosim received 142 votes in Comanche County.

Other state race results in the county included:

Secretary of State: Republican Pat Proctor, 461 votes; Democrat Jennifer Day, 118; United Kansas candidate Scott E. Morgan, 42.

Attorney General: Republican Kris Kobach, 437 votes; Democrat Chris Mann, 171.

State Treasurer: Republican Steven Johnson, 506 votes; Democrat Juan C. Luengo, 83; Libertarian Eric Lund, 30.

Commissioner of Insurance: Republican Daniel Hawkins, 449 votes; Democrat Dinah Sykes, 104; Libertarian Ric Koehn, 68.

Township Races

Township clerk positions were also included on the ballot.

Coldwater Township: Roy Hoffman received 304 votes.

Powell Township: Clark Yost received 32 votes.

Protection Township: Becky Holler received 215 votes and Shirley Norton received 26 votes.

Constitutional Amendment

Comanche County voters supported a proposed constitutional amendment to require that voters be a citizen of the United States by a 477 yes to 92 no margin.

Fiber Internet Coming to Protection

PRESS RELEASE

Building on its recent announcement of a new fiber project in Jetmore, United is continuing its investment in Southwest Kansas with a new fiber network build in Protection.

United's Board of Trustees has approved a project to make fiber internet available to more than 300 homes and businesses, primarily within the city limits of Protection.

Construction is expected to begin in late fall 2026, weather and other factors permitting.

For 75 years, United has served Southwest Kansas, helping residents, businesses, schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations stay connected to opportunities that reliable communications make possible.

"United has always believed rural communities deserve access to the same quality of connectivity typically only available in larger urban areas," said United General Manager/CEO Todd Houseman. "This project reflects our mission of investing in the long-term strength and vitality of the communities we serve, and ensures that Protection has the communications infrastructure it needs to compete, grow, and remain a great place to live and do business for generations to come."

Once complete, the new fiber network will give Protection residents and businesses access to multi-gig internet speeds, supporting remote work, online learning, telehealth, streaming entertainment, e-commerce, and precision ag.

The network will also provide access to United's full suite of services, including voice services and feature-rich United Streaming TV.

United will share additional updates on its Facebook page and at getunited.com.

About United

Headquartered in Dodge City, United has been serving Southwest Kansas since 1951 as a member-owned communications provider. United delivers state-of-the-art internet, television, wireless, and voice services and is recognized by NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association as a Smart Rural Community Multi-Gig Provider. United is focused on providing reliable, high-quality connectivity while strengthening the communities it serves. To learn more, visit getunited.com.

USD 300 Staff Receive Active-Assailant Training

STAFF REPORT

Preparing for the unthinkable was the focus on Monday, Nov. 2, as all USD 300 employees participated in a four-hour active-assailant training at the South Central High School cafeteria.

The mandatory training brought together staff members from all levels of employment in both school buildings. The session was led by John Calvert, head school safety specialist with the Kansas State Department of Education's Safe and Secure Schools Unit.

Through real-world scenarios, statistics and practical instruction, Calvert addressed how school employees should respond during an active-assailant situation, including when to run, hide or fight.

An important part of the training focused on understanding when each response is appropriate and how staff can help lead students to safety during an emergency.

Comanche County Sheriff Jacob Bruckner and Deputy Tanner Huck also attended the training, providing an opportunity for school personnel and local law enforcement to strengthen their coordination.

Calvert emphasized the importance of having law

See **TRAINING** / *Page 2*



PAULA BRADLEY / The Star-Press

South Central senior quarterback Easton Huck stiff arms a South Grey defender during last week's 46-0 playoff win at home. The Timberwolves now turn their attention to Trego.

Timberwolves Topple South Gray With Ease 46-0

BY BOB MORRIS
Managing Editor

The South Central football team rolled past South Gray 46-0 in the first round of the playoffs Thursday at home.

Head coach Brett Westrup said it wasn't the best game that the Timberwolves have played, but it was hard to do so given that they had just 15 offensive snaps in the game.

"It's hard to get in a groove, you know," he said. "There's times we have drives in normal games that are half that long.

"And we had 15 snaps all game. It was hard to get in a groove, we didn't play real great, but we took care of business. This time of year is playoffs and you win in advance, so we're advancing and we're just going to get better this week."

Westrup said that the low number of offensive snaps happened because South Central started with short field on every drive. He noted that the Rebels only punted one time and the Timberwolves blocked the punt. After that, the Rebels didn't attempt to punt.

"They literally went – I mean it was fourth and like 15, they were on their own two-yard line and they went for it," he said. "They would not punt.

"So it's hard to get in a groove. It's hard to play at a high level when, you know, two plays and you score, or one play and you score."

Westrup noted that the Rebels ran 41 offensive plays. South Gray got just 23 yards of total offense and failed to convert on eight third-down plays, with just one fourth-down conversion on seven attempts. South Gray also had five penalties for 35 yards.

"They really couldn't do much because we were just far more athletic that they were," Westrup said. "We didn't have to play great to be successful.

"But we've just got to get better. We had some areas that we just kind of got a lackadaisical in, offensively and defensively."

Coda Lindsay rushed for 65 yards on five carries with three touchdowns. Easton Huck completed 4-of-6 passes for 83 yards and three touchdowns.

On defense, Colt Yoder had 11 tackles and Wiley York had eight. Yoder, Eli Girk, Jack Willems and Dakota Thorensbery each had a quarterback sack. Wilems had a blocked punt and Yoder got a tackle for a loss that resulted in a safety.

South Central (9-0) will host Trego Community this Friday at 6 p.m. The Golden Eagles are 6-3 for the season and finished third in District 5. Trego beat Hill City 62-54 in the first round of the playoffs. Westrup said that the Golden Eagles have a talented quarterback in sophomore Vladon Crawford.

See **FOOTBALL** / *Page 6*

Heaton Competes at State Cross Country Meet at Wamego

STAFF REPORT

South Central junior Corbett Heaton finished 63rd out of 100 runners at the Class 1A State cross country meet held last Saturday at Wamego Country Club.

Heaton ran a time of 19:21.56. It proved to be a strong field, with Eli Gaeddert, of Goessel, winning the race with a time of 16:21.18 and 50 runners finishing with times of less than 19 minutes.

Heaton will return to the Timberwolves next year, along with Gavin Martin, Sophia Hernandez and Jacob Reed. Seniors Denin Johnson, Dominic Macias and Breckyn Snyder wrapped up their final season.

NEWS

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

Hamilton Makes History in U.S. Senate Victory

BY ANNA KAMINSKI
Kansas Reflector

The Rev. Adam Hamilton made history as the first Democrat elected to the U.S. Senate in Kansas in 94 years, defeating Republican incumbent U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall at the end of a fervid race defined by clashing political visions and strong turnout in some of the state's most populous counties.

Hamilton led in unofficial counts for most of Tuesday night, but the margin narrowed as final tallies rolled in. He led with 51 percent of votes compared to Marshall's 45 percent by the time the AP called the race around 10:25 p.m., accounting for 90 percent of votes.

"This election is a rebuke of unkindness and cruelty in Washington," Hamilton said addressing a crowd of around 1,000 people in Overland Park.

Marshall said at a watch party in Wichita he called Hamilton to congratulate him on his win.

Standing next to his wife, Laina, he said they would seek understanding from the Lord and "keep leaning not on our own understanding."

"I don't have any answers," Marshall said. "I'll just tell you, it's been a great honor of my life to serve the state of Kansas for 10 years, and just love this state, love this country."

Marshall, a former OB-GYN in central Kansas and first-term U.S. Senator, faced a tough reelection bid against Hamilton, a pastor in the Kansas City area and the co-founder of one of the largest Methodist congregations in the country.

In the race that has made this election the most expensive in Kansas history, Marshall and Hamilton have held nothing back, relentlessly campaigning on each other's pasts and affiliations, perceived or otherwise, while trying to convince voters of which future they ought to choose.

Hamilton picked up the state's most populous counties in the Kansas City and Wichita areas while Marshall led in rural areas. But Hamilton also managed to sweep at least three counties that went to the Republican gubernatorial candidate in the other statewide race.

Voter turnout was strong Tuesday in Kansas' three largest counties, said Brian Caskey, the state elections director, during a virtual press conference Tuesday afternoon. As of 3:30 p.m., 55 percent of registered voters in Johnson County had turned out to vote, along with 44 percent of voters in Sedgwick County and 35 percent of voters in Wyandotte County.

On the campaign trail, Hamilton would often mingle with attendees before and after events, shaking hands, taking pictures. A crowd of around 1,000 people at the Marriott Kansas City in Overland Park on Tuesday night milled around a conference hall, waiting for Hamilton and cheering for Democratic victories displayed on a pair of projectors.

The crowd at Hamilton's

See **SENATE** / *Page 6*

TRAINING

• *From Page 1*

enforcement involved in school safety planning, noting that although officers are often invited to participate in these types of trainings, they do not always attend.

He also praised the district's existing safety preparations, pointing out that local officers already have an established response plan and detailed maps of both school buildings. Those maps can help officers navigate the buildings and locate potential threats during an emergency.

The training provided USD 300 employees with an opportunity to better understand their roles in an emergency and reinforced the importance of preparation, communication and coordination between school personnel and first responders.

COLDWATER WEATHER

By AccuWeather

OCTOBER 27
High72 / Low 58 / Precip - N/A
OCTOBER 28
High 80 / Low 62 / Precip - N/A
OCTOBER 29
High 79 / Low 55 / Precip - N/A
OCTOBER 30
High 69 / Low 56 / Precip - N/A
OCTOBER 31
High 64 / Low 56 / Precip - N/A
NOVEMBER 1
High 66 / Low 59 / Precip - N/A
NOVEMBER 2
High 77 / Low 58 / Precip - N/A

WHEAT PRICES

Alliance Ag & Grain
Coldwater - 620.582.2251
Protection - 620.622.4619

Tues 10/27 5.63
Wednesday 10/28 5.65
Thursday 10/29 5.64
Friday 10/30 5.64
Saturday 10/31 CLOSED
Sunday 11/1 CLOSED
Monday 11/2 5.66
Tuesday 11/3 5.61

OBITUARIES

LINDA GLEE PETTY FISHER

Linda Glee (Petty) Fisher, 89, died on Nov. 1, 2026.

Funeral service will be held at 2 p.m., on Friday, Nov. 6, at Westwood Presbyterian Church.



Linda was preceded in death by her parents, Bus and Tootie Petty; spouse, Robert Fisher; and brother-in-law, Mike Harden.

She is survived by her son, Mike Sollars; daughter, Susan (Kenyon) Chambers; stepsons: Robert Fisher, III and Timothy (Charlene) Fisher; stepdaughters: Pam Anderson and Jennifer Fisher; grandchildren: Tara, Shanna, Carissa, Mikaela, Gage and Rylie; step-grandchildren: Hollie, Shanon and Leah; and 12 great-grandchildren; siblings, Melvina (Larry) Harvey, Alice Mintz, Rita (Gary) Snyder, and Gayle Harden.

A memorial has been established with: Westwood Presbyterian Church, 8700 W. Maple, Wichita, KS 67209.

Arrangements made by Downing & Lahey West Mortuary. Share tributes online at: dlwichita.com.

GARY B. EATON

Gary B. Eaton passed away peacefully at the Comanche County Hospital, surrounded with love, on Oct. 24, 2026, at the age of 81.



Gary was born on Dec. 27, 1944, at Fort Sill, Okla., to Claire Steele and William Henry Eaton. He was raised by his mother and stepfather, Clarence Putney, in Lawton, Okla. His childhood home included: stepbrothers Gene Putney and Leon Putney (both of Lawton); stepsisters Joella Putney Black (Lawton) and Kay Putney Pierson (California); half-sister, Betty Sue Peters (York, Pa.). Gary later located and formed loving relationships with his half-siblings Billy Eaton (Chattanooga, Tenn.), Houston Eaton (Powder Springs, Ga.) and Mary Margaret Shriver (Pine Bluff, Ark.).

He married Marilyn Atteberry, on April 14, 1963, at Antioch Church, in Buttermilk. Together they had three daughters: Cindy (Steve) Lohrding (Cherokee, Okla.), Chris (LaVern) Durst (Independence, Mo.) and Teresa (David) Commerford (Oxford). They share eight grandchildren: Keenan (Debra) Lohrding, Trevor Lohrding, Brendan Lohrding, TC Edwards, Danae (Ben) Baker, Alyssa (Travis Merritts) Edwards, Emery Commerford and Connor Commerford. They also share 10 great-grandchildren: Briggs, Brett, Bexley, Ellie, Barrett, Sutton, Hudson, Lainey, Keagan and Tinley.

He is survived by his wife, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as siblings Leon, Houston and Kay.

Gary attended Lawton schools and joined the Air Force at age 17. He was stationed at Forbes Air Force Base in Topeka. He met Marilyn on a blind date arranged by mutual friends, and they married a month later. After leaving the Air Force, Gary worked on the family farm for his father- and mother-in-law Nig and Mildred Atteberry, in Coldwater. Mildred helped Gary to attain his GED so that he could join the Kansas Highway Patrol, where he served from 1968 to 1973 in Garnett and Ulysses. The family settled in Coldwater, where they remained until 1989 when work obligations with Panhandle Eastern Pipeline took Gary and Marilyn to the Louisburg area. The couple returned to Coldwater after retirement, as the community always felt like home.

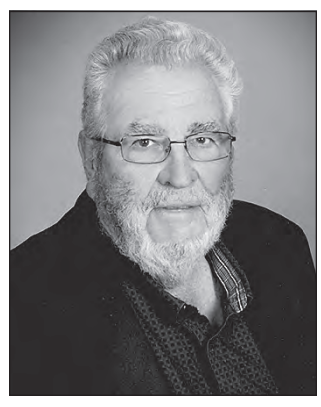
Gary enjoyed the outdoors, spending many early mornings hunting quail and pheasants or fishing at Lake Coldwater. He was an avid sports fan and became known in the area for shooting the "Big Red Guns" at Coldwater High School football games. He loved all kinds of car racing, but especially NASCAR. He loved clowning around when water skiing, which led to a few big wipeouts and injuries although this never slowed him down.

Services will be held at Coldwater United Methodist Church on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 2 p.m. There will be no viewing as cremation has taken place. Interment of ashes will take place at Crown Hill Cemetery after the service. The family will receive visitors before the service, beginning at 11 a.m. in the church basement fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Comanche County Hospital or Pioneer Lodge Nursing Home in care of Hatfield-Prusa Funeral Home, P.O. Box 417, Coldwater, KS 67209.

FRANTZ SEVERIAN BETSCHART

Frantz Severian Betschart passed away at his home near Ashland, on Oct. 31, 2026, in the same house he was born in over 85 years ago on Dec. 27, 1940.



The first child of Forrest and Irene (Helean) Betschart, he grew up on a farm near Acres, helping and learning from his dad. He attended Ashland Schools, graduating with the class of 1958. He went to work for Don Baker, learning the carpentry trade. He became a skilled carpenter and cabinet maker, helping build several houses in Ashland.

On Aug. 25, 1960, he married the love of his life, Ellen Sue Cunningham, at St. Anthony Catholic Church, in Fowler. To this union three children were born: Michael, Brenda and Anita. They made their home in Ashland until they moved to his grandparents' farm north of Acres in 1963, where they farmed and raised cattle. One of his greatest pleasures was to tell people he owned his very own town – Acres. They had purchased the "town" from the Lunsford family. Frantz was featured on an episode of *Hatteberg's People*.

As a young boy, he worked at the Ashland Sale Barn and from there his love of sale barns grew. He was co-manager of the South Sale Barn, in Dodge City, for several years and was also owner of the sale barn in Liberal. He was a cattle buyer and ran his own starter feed yard and sheep operation. He also was a sheep buyer for Farm Bureau.

In his younger years, he enjoyed quail and pheasant hunting with his dad, brothers, uncle and cousins. Many hours were spent with Ellen, his kids, grandkids, and the greyhounds, hunting coyotes; even on the way to church in the pickup, dog box full of dogs – those were the days.

Although he tried not to show it, he was so very proud of his children and the talented hard-working adults they grew up to be. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren were truly a huge bright spot in his life. He loved following whatever they were doing, going to watch them when he could. He liked nothing better than having them all come home.

He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, in Ashland, and at one time served on the finance council and was a member of Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by Ellen, his wife of 66 years; his son Mike and wife, Gloria, of Ashland; his daughter: Anita Johnson, of Ashland; his grandchildren: Eric Betschart and Marshell Norris, of Hays, Jake and Amber Betschart and Bret Betschart all, of Ashland, Jeston and Jhaymie Mead, of Holcomb, Kolton and Casie Mead, of Garden City, Baylee Johnson, of Goddard, Cooper Johnson and Taryn Berger, of Edgemont, S.D., Dana Bear of Ponca City, Okla. and Kimberly Esplund, of Bucklin; his great-grandchildren: Braxton Johnson, Jeci and Jru Mead, Kaiden Mead, Rocky, Brody and Cole Betschart, Stetson, Addi and Wade Johnson, Benny Reeves, Story Bear and Skylar and Rylan Courtney; his brothers: Tom Betschart, of Ashland, and Ken Betschart, of Torrington, Wyo.; his sister, Ruth Ann Jellison, of Protection; his son-in-law, Jerry Ellis; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Brenda Mead, his parents, and father- and mother-in-law, Charley and Glenda Cunningham.

This grumpy, likeable old man will be missed by all who knew him and heaven gained a great story teller.

Vigil service followed by Rosary will be held at 6:30 p.m., on Thursday, Nov. 5, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, in Ashland. Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m., on Friday, Nov. 6, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Burial will follow at the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, in Ashland.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to KSDA Assistance Dogs Inc., St. Joseph Catholic Church, Ashland and Englewood Fire Departments, or Ashland EMS in care of Hatfield-Prusa Funeral Home, P.O. Box 417, Coldwater, KS 67029.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT
October 15, 2026 Through December 7, 2026

Your community pharmacy is once again offereing FREE, Medicare D plan reviews for your prescription needs for 2027. We are the prescription experts that you have trusted to save you money with Medicare D since 2006.

Call us at 620-582-2134 or stop by to have our pharmacist review your options for next year for FREE, help you enroll in a better plan if needed.

Trust your medication professionals with your prescription needs.

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Tony & Lisa Gales, Pharmascists
(620) 582-2134 or 1 (800) 794-4307
113 East Main Coldwater

Chicken Noodle Pre-Order Takeout Meal

Protection Baptist Church
will be serving Homemade Chicken & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls and Cake!
When: Sunday, November 8th
Pickup Time: 5-6:30 p.m.
We are serving Family Style Take Out Meals. Pre-orders taken until November 4th. Place your orders on the Facebook Event (Chicken Noodle Takeout 2026) or text your name & order to one of the ladies below.
Small Order - Feeds 2 / Large Order - Feeds 4
Free Will Donation
Hilary Murphy 622-7059 / Paula Bradley 622-7373
Lisa Girk 622-7032 / Tammie Thronesbury 622-7943
Susan Gates 620-635-5596

City of Coldwater
Sewer Cleaning Notification

We will be cleaning sanitary sewers throughout the City the months of November and December.

Sewer lines can develop air pressure or a partial vacuum from the cleaning process. Usually any excess air pressure or vacuum will dissipate through your plumbing vents, but occasionally there are homes with inadequate plumbing vents (no vents, undersized vents, or obstructed vents). In the case of inadequate venting of air pressure could escape through your toilet, floor, sink, tub, or shower drains, causing water to splash out or, a vacuum could draw the water out of your fixture traps causing an unpleasant odor.

To guard against this possibility please:

• COVER ALL FLOOR DRAINS WITH PLASTIC AND PLACE A WEIGHTONTHE PLASTIC
• COVER ALL TOILETS WITH PLASTIC AND CLOSE THE LID ON THE PLASTIC.
• IF YOU SHOULD EXPERIENCE AN UNPLEASANT ODOR, RUN WATER INTO EACH DRAIN TO REFILL THE TRAPS.

Water and drains may be used as normal. The cleaning of sanitary sewer is necessary to help prevent stoppages.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION. OUR APOLOGIES FOR THIS INCONVENIENCE.

If you have any questions, please call
(620) 635-6457

Western & Protection
The Star-Press

(USPS #679-660)

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Jason Jump
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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

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

Advertising:
Katee Underwood
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Advertising deadlines are Tuesdays by noon

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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
Nov. 8, 1901

Protection prattle
Election is over and quiet reigns again.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Cross was brightened on election morning by the arrival of a baby boy.

A number of people came down from Coldwater on Election Day to learn the latest election news, and some of them lost money by coming.

The election here on Tuesday resulted in the election of the following township ticket: Trustee, John L. Moore (Republican); clerk, Harvey Vilroy Snell (Republican); treasurer, J.A. Wuchter (Democrat); justices of the peace, Mitt Poe and Edward C. Fleming (Republican); constables, Albert M. Thornhill and C.W. Moore (Republican).…

A nice game of ball was played here on Election Day between the "scrub" teams. Umpire, C.W. Moore; battery, F. Moore and Clyde Moore.

It has been announced that the protracted meetings here will continue at least over Friday. The Rev. Dexter, a former pastor at this place, will preach on Friday. —[Correspondent] "JUNIPER."

Protection paragraphs
Italian-like weather. School is progressing nicely.

Some relatives of C.W. Sherman arrived from Illinois Wednesday.

A dance is announced to take place here on Friday night, October 15.—[Correspondent] "OWEN."

Among the stockmen
Two trainloads of cattle went east from Clark County on Monday.

H.C. Jett shipped two carloads of cattle this week from Protection to Kansas City.

A.E. Nuttle shipped four carloads of cattle from Protection this week to El Dorado.

J.M. Campbell placed about 125 head of cattle on grass in the Smith & Mussett ranch [south of Protection] last week. Bob Kirk will pasture 50 head of cows for Mr. Campbell, beginning December 1.

Voted in
In the third commissioner district—comprising the townships of Irwin, Protection and Valley—the interest in the election was quite general. In each township nearly the entire vote was cast.…

For commissioner the race between Marble Lane Baxter, the Republican nominee, and Joseph Edward Harbaugh, the Democratic nominee, was quite spirited.

The unofficial vote is as follows: Valley Township—Harbaugh, 18; Baxter, 4. Protection Township—Harbaugh, 38; Baxter, 57. Irwin Township—Harbaugh, 14; Baxter, 4. Totals: Harbaugh, 70; Baxter, 65. Harbaugh's majority, 5.

Big cheese here
J.E. Hurley, general superintendent of the La Junta Division of the Santa Fe [Railway], passed over the Englewood branch Tuesday on an inspection tour.

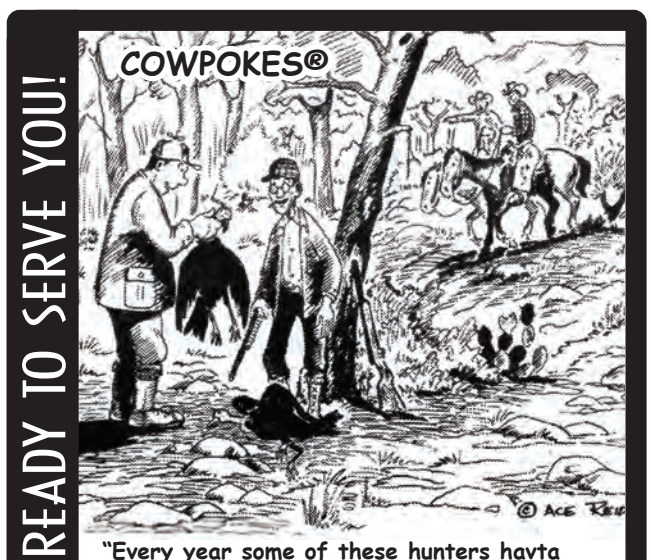
This branch and the Panhandle road [are] each included under Mr. Hurley's jurisdiction.

100 YEARS AGO
Protection Post
Nov. 4, 1926

First-person experiences
Last Friday evening at the Pastime Theatre was given the second number of the 1926–27 Protection Lyceum course.

Countess A de Lozina gave her lecture on "Russia." A de Lozina is a Russian refugee, now making her home in Toronto, Canada. Her father, a veteran of the Bolsheviks of Russia, was a high government official. Her husband and daughter were victims of typhus and for four years she experienced all the horrors and the terror of the Russian Revolution.

In her lecture, which was very interestingly given, Countess A de Lozina described Russian life before the revolution, during the war,…[and] after a brief intermission she gave the second part of her lecture in costume and answered questions that the audience [wished] to ask her.



"Every year some of these hunters havta learn there's a difference 'tween wild turkeys and buzzards!"

YOUR HOMETOWN BANKS ARE READY TO SERVE YOU!

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

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

bankofprotection.com FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Radio performers
Dr. Winston and Lula Mae Ramey, their daughter Miss Gladys, their son Master Charles; Mrs. Grace Bender; Miss Luella Marie Peacock; Mr. and Mrs. T.M. Hughes, their son, Mr. Harlan Hughes, and their daughter, Miss Mamie Hughes; and Mr. and Mrs. Gay Hughes and their daughter, Miss Lottie Hughes, made up the party that motored to Wichita, Friday of last week.

In last week's "Past" column about the radio performance in Wichita, the Hughes family name was misspelled as Hughs.

The parents accompanied the young people and Mrs. Bender, as Misses Gladys Ramey and Miss Luella Peacock broadcasted [*sic*] from the Lassen Hotel [radio] station in piano solos and duets, and Mr. Harlan Hughes and Miss Mamie Hughes broadcasted in vocal solos and duets, and Miss Lottie Hughes and Mrs. Bender in piano solos.…

In their program, which was given Saturday evening and listened in on by numerous local parties, the Protection musicians not only won the appreciation of their friends locally, but numerous letters and messages have been received from many strangers who heard their radio program—letters written in the most complimentary and laudatory terms of the splendid program that they gave.

Needless to state, that as a community, Protection has much pride in the great measure of success that the party received.…

Winter weather
Quite a blizzard visited this section of Kansas and Oklahoma, Sunday night, and continued through until Monday evening. Lots of snow and some rain fell. A high, bitter north wind swept bitterly across the country.

Monday night the high velocity wind passed but the weather has been quite cold since. Locally, roads were considerably muddy and travel was limited.

North and northwest roads are reported blocked and it will be several days before the roads will be such as to present pleasant motor travel.

Ditched
Monday, during the storm, as Roscoe Zane and Al Kirk were driving north of Protection, the sleet and rain clouded the windshield of their car so bad that they could not see where they were driving and they drove into one of the deep ditches north of Mr. Sibbitt's.

The car, a Ford roadster, had the top torn from it and the fenders on one side. Neither Roscoe or Al were insured. The car had to be towed to the Ford garage.

75 YEARS AGO
Protection Post
November 2, 1951

Derailed doodlebug
The Santa Fe's "doodlebug" was partly derailed Wednesday morning when it struck a loaded semi-trailer truck at the grade crossing one mile northeast of Coldwater.

Seven head of cattle were killed outright and several other animals were injured so badly they had to be destroyed. Matt Donley of Woodward, driver of the truck, was uninjured as were the train members.

The motor unit of the train was derailed but the passenger coach remained on the track.

Members of the local post office staff, led by Postmaster Dean Hopkins, drove to Coldwater to pick up the mail for local delivery. No mail was dispatched from the Protection post office Wednesday.

The passenger and mail service was in operation Thursday, but the steamer, replacing the "doodlebug," was running an hour late.

Wildcats over Panthers
Minneola's Wildcats outscored Protection's Panthers last Friday night, 21–7. Several convenient breaks were the difference. Although the field was wet and it continued to rain lightly through the game, the Minneola field was not too slippery. Fumbles were also held to a minimum.

In defeat the Panthers had the consolation of being the only aggregation to score on the Wildcats this season.

The loss for the Panthers was their first in six games this season. The victory was Minneola's 15th straight over a two-year span.

The league picture still is very tight. Coldwater, undefeated, still has to meet the Wildcats.. A victory by the county seat team would give possibilities of the race ending in a three-way tie. Coldwater must also play Protection in the annual Turkey Day game.…

Wintry Halloween
Winter arrived in Protection Wednesday as the first snow of the season fell. Ground temperature melted the flakes as they hit the ground, but a white mantle covered trees and roofs. A light snow has fallen most of the day, Thursday.

The sloppy conditions of the streets and chilly north wind kept Halloween pranksters by the fireside Wednesday night for the most part.

Windows were soaped but the usual street littering was not as much as in recent years. A number of boxes, tires and oil drums blockaded most of the streets leading off Broadway, but the usual implements, stock tanks and "biffy" were let alone. A number of automobiles had the air let out of their tires, but it was pretty quiet.

New guy in town
J.D. and Audrey Rowland announce the birth of their son, John Frederick, born October 28, at the Comanche County Hospital. He weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces.

In a Capsule…
By Orin Strobel

We have received numerous and constant complaints the past several weeks from parents and students concerning our failure to run school news in the POST.

So everyone will recognize our position, we'd like to say we would welcome any and all news which might originate at the school. We have asked to have the news made available to us. However, it has not been forthcoming. That's as far as we can go.

The first snowfall brings you up with a jerk. It's only seven weeks 'til Christmas!

With college terms well underway, Bob Webb has rejoined Earl Rhodes, Ralph Sanders and Abe Cox in the Bachelors Club. His absence this summer was regretted.

Glenn Maris and the post office gang have decided there are about 40 available basketball players in the vicinity and they want to form a league in town. If you are under 70 and can walk the length of the court, give your ideas to Glenn. Oh, my aching back!

Some of the hunters are getting in some good licks at the ducks. All surplus mallards may be left at the POST.

For Coldwater/Wilmore subscribers who might not be aware, Orin Strobel co-published and co-edited the Protection Post with his wife Judy from 1949 to 1976. When he chose to include personal comments, he wrote under the "In a Capsule" heading. Judy sometimes contributed her own column, "Judy's Jots." They were the parents of former Press editor Susan Edmonston.

55 YEARS AGO
Protection Post
Nov. 5, 1971

Close call, but PHS wins
In what looked bleak for the Protection Panthers last Friday night, a game of standoff football with a fired-up Cimarron team, came to a 0–0 score after four periods of play.…

The game went into two overtimes, with Cimarron taking over the ball in the first overtime on the ten-yard line. Keith Ott broke through our line on a two-yard run for a TD. The extra point failed.

The Panthers then had their chance at scoring and made it good when Craig Edmonston made a five-yard run for a TD. The extra point also failed.

Going into another overtime, with many anxious fans and many fired-up boys, Cimarron again had the ball on the ten-yard line. An excellent defense held the Bluejays and the Panthers took over the ballgame when Ross Girk made good on a one-yard run making the scoreboard read 12–6. The extra point failed, but what a relief on the Panther bench.…

Shooting for the playoffs
Determined that lightning does not strike the same place twice, the Panthers play Fowler tonight and they are determined that the Goldbugs will not deprive them of an undefeated season two years in a row.

The Panthers were heavily favored last year to defeat the Goldbugs, but an extra point upset them 13–12 to knock Protection out of the Iroquois League championship and a berth in the state 1-A playoffs.

[Pictured on page 1 of that week's issue was the entire undefeated Panther team and coaches]: Brian Edmonston, Tim Ewy, Mike Morlan, Eddie Dowling, Tom Harmon, Doug Brooks.

Kent Woolfolk, Steve Hazen, David Jellison, Nyle Girk, assistant coach W.L. Sanders, Kevin Lauffer, Rex Maris, Jim Overocker, Sid Herd, Ross Girk, Phillip Keidel, Stone Priddy.

Jack Cook, Tim Smith, coach Tom McVay, John Bare, Gary Jellison, Rick Miller, Sid Rowland, Randy Rich, Danny Eubank.

John Teter, Robert Eubank, assistant coach David Harris, and Craig Edmonston (not pictured).

35 YEARS AGO
Protection Press
Nov. 7, 1991

Smutz retires from Co-op
By Bob Greer

"It will take some adjusting for me."

That's the way that Dale Smutz described his feelings about retiring last week, after serving almost 42 years with Protection Co-op. Dale's last day of work was Thursday, October 31.…

Dale started work for the cooperative on December 7, 1949. At one time or another he has done about every job around the co-op. Wade Harmon, who retired as manager of the co-op recently, went to work [there] just a few days before Dale did in 1949.…

[Smutz] believes the biggest harvest of all was in the summer of 1952. "We had another big harvest two or three years ago, too."…

"When I started, the co-op office was located where the feed mill is now. I think we had only seven or eight employees then.

"I remember we used to load boxcars with wheat, and nail boards over the doors. Now they load the wheat into hopper cars."…

How many bushels of wheat did Dale handle during his long Co-op career? Complete records are a bit hard to come by.

But Protection Co-op in the past 25 harvests (1967 through 1991) handled more than 19 million bushels of wheat and nearly 3 million bushels of milo.

It would be safe to say that in his years here, Dale Smutz and his coworkers handled more than 30 million bushels of wheat—possibly as high as 37 million bushels.

Winter weather delays
By Bob Greer

Postponements, then more postponements.

That was the story in Protection this week as chain reactions from last week's very-welcome winter storm played out.

The winter's first area storm left a blanket of white over the region. As much as 14 inches of snow fell in the Garden City area. Icy roads and slick conditions postponed or canceled many events.

Protection's final high school football game at Lewis was to have been Thursday night, November 7. Travel conditions postponed it until Saturday night. Conditions then were still hazardous, so the game was scheduled again [for 5 p.m. Monday].…

The annual school musical, *The Music Man,* had been scheduled for Friday and Saturday night performances here. School officials decided to postpone the play for two weeks.

And that delay in the play caused another postponement. [The United Methodist Church's annual soup supper will now be held Friday, November 22.]

15 YEARS AGO
Protection Press
November 3, 2011

Plugged by a jug
Mary Schultz brought to the *Press* office last Tuesday what Doug Brooks discovered as he dug up a sewer line on the Schultz property on South Broadway. It was an old 10-pound jug about 10 inches in diameter!

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 Nov. 7, 1896 Star

William McKinley has been elected President, according to the latest reports by a majority of 81 electoral votes.

President Cleveland issues his annual Thanksgiving proclamation on the heels of the election. He sets apart Thursday, November 26, as the national day to return thanks.

The state legislature is hopelessly lost to the Republicans and a Populist senator will again likely be sent from Kansas. Besides this, Congress will have four if not six Populist congressmen. Jerry Simpson's majority in the Seventh District over Congressman Chester I. Long, Republican, will be over a thousand.

At that time Comanche County was in the Seventh Congressional District and had been represented by Simpson, from Medicine Lodge.

Flag Day was observed here last Saturday. The excitement over the election has made it an unsettled week to do business.

George and Ed Deppink are opening up a merchant tailoring establishment one door west of Peter Snyder's butcher shop. The boys are first-class workmen and will guarantee satisfaction. Give them a call.

We understand that a bold attempt has been made by [Mont] Eiklor to disqualify jurymen in the case to be tried at the December term of court in this county.

Last week, it is claimed that Mont Eiklor passed through the county with a lot of pamphlets entitled "The Eiklor-Phillips Homicide," and handed them around with the request that they be distributed to voters on Election Day.

The said pamphlet purported to give a full history of the Eiklor case up to date. Sheriff McIntire stopped the distribution as soon as he learned of it. If all reports are true, it was certainly a bold attempt to defeat justice and against the law.

If there are any persons in possession of these books they should burn or destroy them and not allow them to be read in the county until after the case is disposed of at the next term of court.

120 YEARS AGO
From Nov. 2, 1906 Star

Some frosty mornings this week.

Thanksgiving Day only four weeks away.

The ladies of the Methodist church of this city will give a Fancy Article Sale and Dinner on Saturday, December 8. Further announcement later.

We are glad the schools of the present are made as pleasant as possible for children, and that so much of barbarism in government and of experimenting in teaching has disappeared, but it should never be forgotten that, "there is no excellence without great labor;" and that a child cannot be carried to an education on "flowery beds of ease." — *Western School Journal.*

110 YEARS AGO
From Nov. 3, 1916 Star

In this issue "Old Timer" tells of "Coldwater's Beginning." This and subsequent articles on the same subject will give our readers considerable new information in regard to Coldwater's early history.

Don't stay away from the election and then find fault because your choice of candidates may not have been elected. Voting is not only a privilege but a duty as well.

The Coldwater High School football team is still undefeated. Last Friday in Ashland, the team won its fifth consecutive game, defeating the Ashland team 64 to 6. Hurrah for undefeated Coldwater!

Thanksgiving Day occurs on November 30 this year.

Hear the "Mount Vernon Singing Party" at the opera house tonight. Second number in the winter's lyceum course.

100 YEARS AGO
From Nov. 5, 1926 Star

The leaves are putting on their autumnal colors in all their beauty.

In Tuesday's election, the women took quite an active part. It is worthy of note, also, that the number of wrongly voted ballots seems to grow less at each succeeding election.

In Coldwater Township, a total of 681 votes were cast which was about 35 more than two years ago and about 16 less than four years ago. A little less than 400 votes were cast in Protection Township this year.

The first meeting for the year, of the Comanche County Teachers' Association will be held in the Coldwater high school building on Saturday, November 20.

Professor C.E. Rarick of the Hays Teachers College, who is also president of the State Teachers' Association, will be the chief speaker for that day.…

The Coldwater, Protection, and Wilmore schools will give some good musical numbers before the address.

Comanche County will have representatives at each meeting place of the Kansas State Teachers' Association. The town schools and a large per cent of the rural schools will be closed at that time.

90 YEARS AGO
From Nov. 6, 1936 Star

George Thompson is the latest one to report unpleasant experiences with youthful hunters. He has already had two cattle killed by stray bullets.

About 4 p.m. last Saturday afternoon, while Mrs. Thompson and children were in their home in the northwestern part of Coldwater, a rifle bullet crashed through a screen, blind and large window, shattering the glass and striking an opposite wall about two inches from a fine mirror. The bullet then ricocheted about the room before its force was spent.

A neighbor woman discovered a bullet hole in a kitchen window of her home on Tuesday of this week.

It is suggested that the parents of small boys with .22 rifles do some checking up as to the "big game" ambitions of their sons. Also, investigate the law about carrying arms and crack down before there is a tragedy for some parents to regret the rest of their lives.

The Annual Old Settlers Reunion will be held on Wednesday, November 11, at the Antioch church in Avilla Township in an all day home coming gathering. Then will be a good program and a basket dinner at noon.

Coldwater played the second home game of the season on Friday evening, when they met the undefeated Ashland team. The Coldwater team played in the Ashland territory all the first half but were unable to score.

In the last half, Ashland came back with much fight but were unable to penetrate the Coldwater line, until the closing minute of the third quarter when Jenkins, the Ashland colored boy, ran eighty yards for the touchdown, and then converted, making the score 7–0.

On Wednesday of last week, the work of curbing and guttering the streets along three blocks in the business district of Coldwater was started. The project was asked for by the city last summer but was not approved by the WPA* officials until October 24.

The work will be completed along Main Street from the Peoples Bank to the Coates Hotel corners and south from the National Bank corner to Jay Bott's office.

An underground storm sewer will also be constructed. A maximum of 30 men will be employed on the project. Foster Kessee has charge of the work which is being done by the city.

**The Works Progress Administration was a federal government agency created during the drought and depression of the 1930s to provide work for unemployed men.*

80 YEARS AGO
From Nov. 8, 1946 Star

Not for many a year has Comanche County been so soaked by beneficial moisture as at the present time. Last Saturday afternoon a slow rain began to fall and it continued uninterruptedly until early Wednesday morning.

The subsoil of the fields was already moist and the rain, which totaled between two and three inches, gave the fields of wheat a new start. The cool, damp weather was ideal for the wheat and County Agent H.L. "Pat" Murphey, states that he has never known wheat prospects at this time of the year to be more favorable. He states that the ground is moist to a depth of between three and four feet.

Best of all, while western Kansas had from three to 12 inches of snow, with many roads blocked, Comanche County had only rain and above freezing temperatures. Killing frosts have not yet arrived here.

The Coldwater football team goes Friday to Minneola to play the next league game of the season. Coldwater, after two ties and a loss, defeated the Medicine Lodge eleven and is in better form than it was. So a good game is expected today. A number of our football fans will accompany the local team to Minneola.

Eighteen months after the REA Electric Cooperative was formed, work has actually started. Staking of the line started October 16, 1946, and the survey party is all lined out now and going right on down the line.

Mr. Zink, the manager, states that, after a recent talk with the contractor and the contractor's supplier of materials, line construction will start within the next two or three months.

The Cooperative has 300 miles under contract, which the engineers are staking now, and 500 miles more for which the material has been ordered since last March.

As soon as some definite word is received on the delivery date of material for the next two sections, contracts will be let on them, and the way things stand now, it will be sometime next spring.

Board members and the manager feel that they have accomplished a considerable amount in getting the preliminary work all set up toward electrifying the four counties, Comanche, Clark, Meade and Seward.

70 YEARS AGO
From Nov. 9, 1956 Star

The $21 [$260 in today's dollars] cash prize last Saturday offered by the Business Men's Association went to Lloyd Ward. The drawing next Saturday at 7 p.m. will be for the same amount and several merchandise prizes. Plan to be present.

Please note that the annual meeting of the Comanche County Historical Society has been postponed from last Monday until Saturday of this week, November 10, with the covered dish dinner scheduled for 12 o'clock noon at the Memorial Building in Coldwater.

There will be prizes given; also a table reserved for those married 50 years or longer. Special music and a good program will be given. Plan to attend this growing organization.

Coldwater is on top of the Iroquois League once again. They regained the top spot by defeating Ashland, the former leader, 19 to 7. This was Ashland's first loss in league play. Coldwater can maintain their lead and win the league if they can defeat Minneola and Protection in the next two weeks of play. Coldwater is favored In both of these contests.

Coldwater's B team met Ashland's B team at Ashland recently. The score was 12 to 0 in favor of Coldwater.

The Medicine Lodge Indians found hunting Eagles at Coldwater very much to their liking last week and when the last Indian raid had finally settled, the football tally ran Medicine Lodge 39, Coldwater 6.

Clerk of the District Court, Mary Guyer, points out an unusual occurrence, in that both she and two of her first graders in the old Darroch rural district northwest of Coldwater were on the same ticket at the general election in this county on Tuesday. The first graders of years ago are Clyde Marley and Wallace White.

60 YEARS AGO
From Nov. 3, 1966 Star

The Coldwater Eagles won from Protection 22–0 last Friday on the home field. Coldwater had 205 rushing yards and 77 passing yards for Protection's 40 rushing and 62 passing. The Eagles completed seven out of 18 passes while Protection completed four out of 11. We made 15 first downs, Protection, 3. The Eagles had two passes intercepted.

Tuesday night the Eagles squad traveled to Attica and won a non-league game 26–0.

The next game will be with Southwestern Heights, there, at 2 p.m. on Veterans Day, November 11, and will complete the games for this season.

Next Tuesday will be Election Day in Kansas. The hotly contested governor's race between incumbent Republican William Avery and Democrat Robert Docking, appears to place Docking ahead with a claimed 49 percent of the vote. Three percent are undecided in these same polls.

Docking, among other things, promises to repeal the state parks users permits for which a reasonable charge is being made, the same as is done in Yellowstone National Park and many, many others. Few other state contests are drawing much attention.

Due to re-apportionment, Comanche, Kiowa, Clark, and Meade counties will lose representation this year. In this contest John Conard was the successful primary candidate on the Republican ticket. He is from Kiowa County. The successful candidate on the Democratic party is Victor Stark from Coldwater. One of these will be chosen to represent the new 120th Representative District.

50 YEARS AGO
From Nov. 4, 1976 Star

If the light rain that fell all through the ball game Friday night wasn't bad enough, Meade had to run up the score on Coldwater, winning 50 to 8.

Coldwater's next opponent is Greensburg, Friday night at Greensburg. Greensburg has only two wins on their record.

With a high number of deaths on Kansas highways last year, motorists wishing to reduce this shocking figure this year are invited to participate in a Defensive Driving Course now being sponsored by the Comanche County Farm Bureau.

All motorists with any type of Kansas driver's license, or learners permit, can participate in the course to be given at the Farm Bureau office in Coldwater on November 8 and 9 at 7 p.m.

This course will in no way affect the status of your driver's license. The Defensive Driving Course is being offered in cooperation with the Kansas Farm Bureau in the hope that it will make motorists more conscious of defensive driving tactics to avoid accident producing situations.

The project, developed by the National Safety Council, is a special eight-hour course for licensed drivers. Kansas was one of the first states to offer the course based on instruction used to train professional drivers.

Additional details on the course can be furnished by inquiring at the Comanche County Farm Bureau office or Mrs. Leo Oller, County Farm Bureau Safety chairman.

Mrs. John (Ruby) Booth of Coldwater, was honored at the Mental Health Association in Kansas annual meeting as "Outstanding Volunteer" from Comanche County.

The award was presented at the special luncheon on Friday, October 29, during the three-day mental health conference. Delegates from 50 county mental health chapters in Kansas gathered at the University Ramada Inn in Manhattan on Thursday, October 28–30 for the 26th annual state meeting of the Mental Health Association. The theme of the conference was "The Best is Yet to Be," and focused on aging.

The General Assembly Friday morning featured an address by Jack Ossofsky, Washington, D.C., the director of the National Council on Aging.

Ruby, retired Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Services employee from Coldwater, has served her local association as treasurer for 12 years. She also contributes her time annually to two direct service activities for patients at Larned. Amazingly, Ruby still has the time for her hobbies of bowling and golf and to help with various community activities. Coldwater and Comanche County honor Ruby not only for her mental health work but for all areas of community service.

40 YEARS AGO
From Nov. 6, 1986 Star

Friday night in Pratt, the Coldwater Eagles upped their season's record to 8–0 and ran their winning streak to 20 straight ball games as they downed a scrappy Skyline football team 38 to 8.

Also with this win it upped the Eagles' district record to 3–0 and set up the showdown with undefeated Greensburg here at Coldwater Friday night.

As the two teams line up for the opening kickoff, the weather suddenly changed. The temperature just before kickoff was near 60. By the end of the first quarter the temperature had dropped into the 40s with the wind howling out of the north. This might explain the sluggish play of both teams in the first half of the game.

Coldwater pretty much dominated play but could manage only one score going late into the first half. The Coldwater score came on a 23 yard run by Jeff Couchman on the option play from Joe Dunn around left end late in the first quarter to give the Eagles a 6–0 lead.

The Eagles gave up a score to Skyline late in the final period to make the final score read Coldwater 38, Skyline 8.

The Comanche County Extension Council executive board met October 27 in the county extension office in Coldwater to tabulate ballots for the 1986 Extension Council Election.

A total of 1,675 ballots was mailed out in 984 envelopes. The return was 219 envelopes for 22 percent and 367 ballots for voting percentage of 22. This return was outstanding and the extension council expresses appreciation to all who participated in the election.

The Comanche County Council on Aging met at the home of Fayette Blount in Coldwater on Tuesday, October 28, and members unanimously voted to apply for grant money which is available from the Kansas Department of Transportation for help with maintenance and operation of the Comanche County minibus.

If the grant is approved, the present operating policy will remain as it has been in the past. The minibus is operated by the Comanche County Council on Aging and will be available to the general public for use on an equal opportunity basis. We would like to see it used more by people who need the service. For more information, call Ruth Baker or Tommy Hopkins at Protection or Fayette Blount at Coldwater.

With USD 300's current capital outlay levy due to expire this year, the board voted Monday night to extend the levy another five years.

Capital outlay is the fund from which the district pays a variety of expenses including building costs, remodeling, new buses, new roofs or roof repairs and covers the purchase of major equipment. Bond and interest payments for remodeling are currently being paid from the fund.

The board voted to extend the levy no more than four mills for capital outlay for five more years. This is the way the current capital outlay levy was approved five years ago.

A protest petition signed by 10 percent of the district's registered voters could stop the levy from being extended. A petition, if presented, would mean the board of education would have to decide to either eliminate the levy or take it to a districtwide vote.

NEWS

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

WILMORE NEWS

By Christina Griffin

One half inch of rain in Wilmore this week with more expected by weeks end. That will put everyone in a good mood for the election.

Well the annual pilgrimage to the tree dump has started, two gator loads of leaves have been delivered. Many more to follow.

The Pruett's had visitors this weekend, their grandson and his friend and their niece.They stayed for several days, gave Jeanie a whole new roster of visitors and they rode the carousel. Nice to see you.

Angel's Attic received a $2000 grant on Monday from Economic Development, well deserved. Congratulations and thank you.

On Sunday I woke up to a small stream of water in the kitchen. My first thought, was maybe I'll get a new refrigerator for my birthday, but after several clean ups of the stream I realized it was coming out of the ceiling. Ernie poked the broom up there and released the remaining water.

First task, put water in buckets, then turn off the water. We've had this happen before, big cast iron pipe burst in a past January and we arrived in march. This time, smaller pipe and we're here, big difference. We had to wait until Tuesday to have it fixed, Ernie had to take part of the ceiling out and I showered at the Yosts. All fixed now, and the ceiling is almost done.

We're getting ready for a big cleaning at the church, Monday, November 1 in the afternoon. Not that it needs it, come on over.

We took our visitor to Wait A Awhile Park, east of Wilmore last week. So surprised, it looked good. I don't know who is taking care of it, but thank you, thank you.

Betty Yost had visitors this week end from South Dakota and Denver. Her sister Bonnie and husband Dick Miller from South Dakota and their son Paul and Ann Marie from Denver. Welcome.

I have given my resignation as of now as the volunteer weed whacker around town. My wrists have given out with arthritis, so I have to save it for my yard.

The Wilmore Federated Church is having a Soup Supper November 8, 6pm in the Community Center. There will be a free will donation, which will go to a new sound system. We haven't done this for a long time so come on over and help us. The group Joyful Noise will provide the entertainment. The carousel will be open both before the supper, come ride in the dark, it is beautiful, and after.

Thanks for having me, see you next week.

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OPINION/NEWS

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

I Want Local Journalism: Why Do I Have to Pay for It?

By Dot Smith, Senior, University of Kansas

Now that readers have access to cheap or free news online and through social media, a question is asked more and more frequently: Why do I have to pay for news?

The short answer to that question is that if we don't pay, then local journalism disappears. The long answer is to look at the places in America where that's already happened.

As of 2026, 238 of the 3,144 counties in the United States are considered news deserts, according to Northwestern's latest State of Local News report.

That means that they have no reliable, local form of journalism. Twenty years ago, this number was 150.

This stark increase is influenced by the digital age. Tech giants like Meta and Google are seen as cheaper and more effective for advertising than a local paper, so businesses want their ads there. Local journalism is then given what's left, which isn't always enough to keep newspapers alive.

This issue of losing local news is primarily prevalent in smaller communities, as 80 percent of news deserts are in counties designated as rural by the USDA.

Without funding, that number will only continue to grow.

That's where we, as readers, come in. Local advertising revenue alone isn't enough. It's the community, all the readers that make it up, that can keep the newspaper afloat.

That line of thinking comes with another question: If it's the community, why is it important for me specifically to pay?

If everyone in a community has that mindset of "I don't have to because someone else will," then there is no longer someone else. No one is paying because they're assuming everyone else is, and they think that their individual voice doesn't matter.

That couldn't be further from the truth. You, as an individual, matter because you, as an individual, are a part of a community. A community that is covered by one source: your local paper.

Your local paper covers many things, all of which are necessary to keep communities informed:

- School board
- Local government and elections
- Your children's sports events
- Obituaries
- Crime and safety
- Community features
- Business spotlights
- Construction and city planning.

All of these topics covered by local journalism are representative of you. It's you reflected on the page and it's you who can ensure those pages continue to do so.

The words may be on the journalists' papers, but the power is in your hands.

Dot Smith is a senior majoring in journalism at the University of Kansas.

ABPWC Accepting Nominations for Community Woman of the Year

PRESS RELEASE

Ashland Business and Professional Women's Club is accepting nominations for Ashland community woman of the year.

Anyone may nominate a woman who has outstanding achievements or has made a contribution to the community of Ashland.

Nominations should include the person's name, any outstanding achievements or accomplishments. Include ways she has contributed to the community, and why you feel she should be chosen community woman of the year.

Deadline for nominating someone is Monday, Nov. 16. Community Woman of the Year nomination forms are available at the Ashland Library or nominations may be sent via mail to Ashland BPW Community Woman of the Year Chair Diana, PO Box 122, Ashland KS 67831 or email to redger@ucom.net.

ASHLAND LIBRARY

Upcoming Events:

• Friday, November 13: Cake Club, Noon to ?.

• Saturday, November 14: 1pm to 4pm. Adult art with Rebel Mahieu. Class cost is $50 per student, all materials supplied. Please Rsvp to 620 635 2589.

• Monday, noon, November 16, Lunch & Learn with Jerry Hodges. Grief through the holidays.

• Tuesday, 6pm, Adult Watercolor with Mary Harden. Class cost is $25 per student, all materials supplied.

• Monday, November 16, Lunch & Learn

Join us to learn how to deal with the loss of a loved one when the holidays come around. Presented by Jerry Hodges, M.Div., CT, Chaplain and bereavement counselor. Seminar begins at noon. Please Rsvp to 620 635 2589.

Future Books, Activities:

Can you suggest some awesome books you would enjoy reading? Also, let us know if you have an idea for a future library activity! The library offers kids' arts and crafts, Cake Club, Lunch & Learns, art shows, and more.

New Books:

• Tess Gerritsen: *The Shadow Friends*

• Chloe Bernardo: *Under Story*

• Jodi Picoult: *Hollow Friends*

• Sam Kean: *The Museum of Lost Things*

• Sally Hepworth: *Mad Mabel*

• J.D. Robb: *Fury in Death*

• Emma Cline: *Switzy*

• Sarah Anderson: *Fallow*

New Games Available for Checkout

• Once Upon a Time: The Storytelling Card Game

• Magical Kitties Save the Day! – A Roleplaying Game for All Ages

• Godsforge

• Cursed Court

Many happy returns at the library.



SENATE

• *From Page 2*

watch party in Overland Park began chanting "USA! USA! USA!" when CNN projected a Democratic win just after 10:15 p.m.

They chanted, "Adam! Adam! Adam!" when AP called it.

Hamilton addressed a roaring crowd, telling the parable of the good Samaritan, drawing connections between its lessons and the current political climate.

"I figure I got six years. I'm going to do all I can to love boldly – I'm going to help us as a nation to love boldly – to serve joyfully and lead courageously," he said.

He also said he wanted to become Kansas Republican U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran's best friend.

Hamilton has campaigned on affordability, health care and the divisive nature of modern politics. He beat out 10 other primary candidates to become the party's nominee in April, and Marshall's lone primary opponent endorsed Hamilton.

In the months since, national attention has flocked to Kansas. The Center for Politics at the University of Virginia changed its rating Monday in the Kansas U.S. Senate race to "leans D," a remarkable shift from the "safe R" rating the race had back in July.

Outgoing Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat, said Hamilton has run a campaign that shows "what he says is what he means" in a time when voters nationwide have grown accustomed to broken promises.

"I don't think he comes across as a Democrat or a Republican, and I think he just is sort of party-free," Kelly told Kansas Reflector on Thursday. "I think that he's been able to get Kansans to trust him."

Polls ahead of Election Day put Marshall and Hamilton neck-and-neck, while Marshall has been supported by two visits each from fellow Republicans President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance. Marshall has accused Hamilton of being controlled by U.S. Sen. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-New York, while Hamilton has criticized Marshall for failing to break with Trump when his administration's policies hurt Kansans.

Greg Orman an independent U.S. Senate candidate in 2014, said at Hamilton's watch party he believes voters recognized Hamilton's authenticity. Orman, who also donated to Hamilton's campaign, ran against former U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kansas, and he said the 2026 election was set to be "an incredible year for Democrats."

"I think both Sen. Roberts and Sen. Marshall really felt like when they got elected to the U.S. Senate, it was a lifetime appointment," Orman said. "When you take a job like this for granted, sometimes people are going to surprise you, and they're going to say, 'You have to earn my vote.' And Roger Marshall's behavior over the last two years clearly demonstrated a disregard for the voters of Kansas."

Marshall relied on his record in the Senate and loyalty to the Trump administration to resonate with voters on the campaign trail, often touting efforts to advocate for year-round E15, a gasoline-ethanol blend. Trump promised at an Oct. 19 rally in the Wichita area to institute such a rule if Marshall won.

Marshall, at a second Trump rally in Salina on Sunday, made a final pitch that every vote matters, and that a vote sends a message in Kansas. He said every time he would see former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kansas) he would tell Marshall: "Roger, remember where you're from."

"I think that's so important," hel said. "And I want to make sure that everybody – whether you're from Salina or, like I was, raised in El Dorado and lived in Great Bend now for 25 years – let's let Washington know where we're from."

Trump said Tuesday on X that Marshall "is one of the Best Senators in the United States of America."



FOOTBALL

• *From Page 1*

"They're very athletic," Westrup said. "They spread it and they got a good young quarterback. He can throw the ball and he likes to run."

The SCHS head coach said that he wants to see if the Timberwolves can limit Crawford's running game and make him throw the ball more often. He said that Crawford can throw the ball, but he is a much better runner than he is a passer.

"If we can take away his run game to force him to throw the ball and maybe make some errant, some bad passes, we can cause some turnovers," Westrup said.

As for the offense, Westrup said the Timberwolves need to be more physical, because Trego will have bigger players. He said his players need to engage on their blocks and keep driving, along with making good decisions with the football.

"We've got to win in all three aspects of the game," Westrup said. "We've got to win the offensive side, defensive side, and we've got to win the turnover battle as well."

Westrup noted that the Golden Eagles will run a 3-2 defense and a four-front, so the Timberwolves will have to work on formations to go against those defenses. He said it will be important for the players to recognize the defensive front and either keep the call or go to a check call.

Susie's Scribbles

By Susan Edmonston

Here is an update on the precipitation that has been recorded by Protection's weather recorder Bonnie Lindsay.

Last month Protection had a total of 15.22 inches during the 2026 year. The month of October added 2.44 inches, bringing the total now to 17.66 inches.

Oct. 1 - .56; Oct. 14 - .74; Oct. 15 - .10; Oct. 26 - .07; Oct. 27 - .58; Oct. 31 - .39.

The pastures are green, and the newly-planted wheat looks like a lush carpet.

• • • • •

I spent Halloween in town at my daughter's home. Granddaughter Gretchen and I sat outside as it was a nice evening to greet the kids in their costumes and give them some treats. My favorite was the inflated penquin. Inside was Tripp Bayne, son of Kasey Bayne.

More than 60 years ago, our senior class patrolled the town to keep vandalism down. Back then, tires were rolled out in the street from Oyer's Service Station, business windows were soaped, objects were moved around, and toilet paper was used to decorate trees. By the way, Mr. and Mrs. Oyer are still living and probably remember those Halloweens.

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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 eithic and dependable attendance. Apply in person at US-160, in Protection. For more information, call (620) 622-4456.

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

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

Pioneer Lodge has the following openings:

RN or LPN charge nurse full time or part time, C.N.A. Full time or part time, Laundry Aide part time - Stop by for an application or email diana@pioneerlodgeks.org for more information.

Benefits include sign bonuses for nurses and C.N.A., insurance, vacation.

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.