NEWS

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

OBITUARY

JOANN MALONE

Joann Malone went to be with her Lord and Savior on Sept. 26, 2026. She was born on Oct. 3, 1957, at Ashland Hospital, in Ashland, to Lloyd and Roberta (Bliss) Malone.



Joann completed her education in Coldwater and shortly thereafter married Gary "Max" Williams. Together, they were blessed with two children – son, Justin Max and daughter, Jamie Jo. They later divorced in 2007.

Joann worked for 15 years at Wolcott & Lincoln Elevator and Feed Mill in Wilmore, where she handled both office duties and outside work. It became like a second home to her, as many area customers became lifelong friends.

She later poured her heart into her role as office manager at the Comanche County Health Department, where she worked for 28 years. She enjoyed working alongside many wonderful healthcare professionals and serving the residents of Comanche County, from newborns to those more than 100 years old.

Throughout her career, Joann enjoyed building relationships, learning new skills, and wearing many hats. Shortly after retiring, she moved to Fort Worth, Texas, in October 2024. Her heart longed to be in rural Kansas once again, so she made the journey north to Hill Top House, in Bucklin, mid-August 2026. There she made new friends and had a number of lifelong friends and family come visit her.

Of all the roles Joann held, her favorite was being a mom. That joy only grew when she became Grama Jo and, later, Great Grama Jo.

Joann is survived by her children Justin (Crystal) Williams and Jamie (Chris) Gifford; and her beloved grandchildren: Colton (Mariah) Linden, Tim (Lexi) Williams, Christa Williams, Jonah Ndungu, Joshua Ndungu, Kaedence McKee, Madeline Gifford, Braedon Gifford and Evan Gifford; and four wonderful great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, Lloyd Malone, and her fiancé, Mike Allen.

A celebration of Joann's life will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 1 p.m. at the Hatfield-Prusa Funeral Home, in Coldwater, followed by a graveside service at Crown Hill Cemetery.

WILMORE NEWS

By Christina Griffin

Ended up last week with three inches of rain, it sure greened everything up. We had to mow but first we had to get new mower blades. The Pit Stop in Wilmore took care of putting the blades on and changed the oil. They can take care of things like that for us and we appreciate it. Thanks Pitstop.

Marty Dillinger is home after having one kidney removed. He feels good, no pain, he's lost weight and his color is good. He had a doctor appointment last Friday, so he'll see how that goes. He was away from home from March to October with three weeks home during all that time. 2026 will be a year better forgotten by Marty. Good Luck.

Gene Glenn dragged the roads after the rains, it makes the roads more drivable. Thanks Gene.

We had Red hats on Thursday at Dave's Pizza. There were 6 of us, the theme was fall and the hostesses were Janis Allen and Pat Lording. We had good pizza, with cherry pizza for dessert and good conversations.

I'm back at my job at Angels Attic, and enjoying every minute of it. The store always looks so nice and is always well stocked. Stop by Thursday, Friday or Saturday in the morning.

Wilmore is really with it now, we have WiFi at the church. I hope that solves all the problems.

We went to the movie last week and this week, The Heart of the Beast. It is a great movie, Brad Pitt is the veteran with his veteran dog trying to enjoy life in the Alaskan wilderness. It's beautiful scenery, great acting and great rapport with dog and owner, a must see. Thanks for bringing that movie to the Chief and thanks for the date night special, 2 tickets, 1 large popcorn, and 2 drinks for only $20.

Virginis Helm really surprised me last week with a whole group of life sized Wizard of Oz characters. She is very crafty and had some time this summer and made these characters out of wood, fabric, and chicken wire. I made a few tweaks and we moved them into the gazebo to protect them from the weather. Come to Wilmore to see them and take a ride on the carousel. Greg Wolfe, his family and friends came from Sawyer for a ride last week. They enjoyed it, come again.

We went to the golf course Friday, and Ernie played a round of golf and I drove and analyzed, it was a beautiful day.

Thanks for having me, see you next week.

Send your news tip to: jasonjump@thestarpress.news

Ashland Celebrates NBWW

PRESS RELEASE

National Business Women's Week is Oct. 18-24 and is observed during the third full week of October.

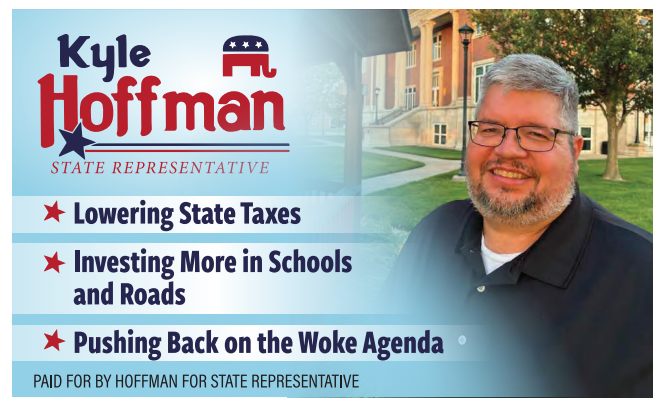
Next week honors women who work in business, highlighting their contributions to the economic and social fabric. These talented, driven women are our employers, our employees, our government and community leaders and family members who represent the highest ideals of the community.

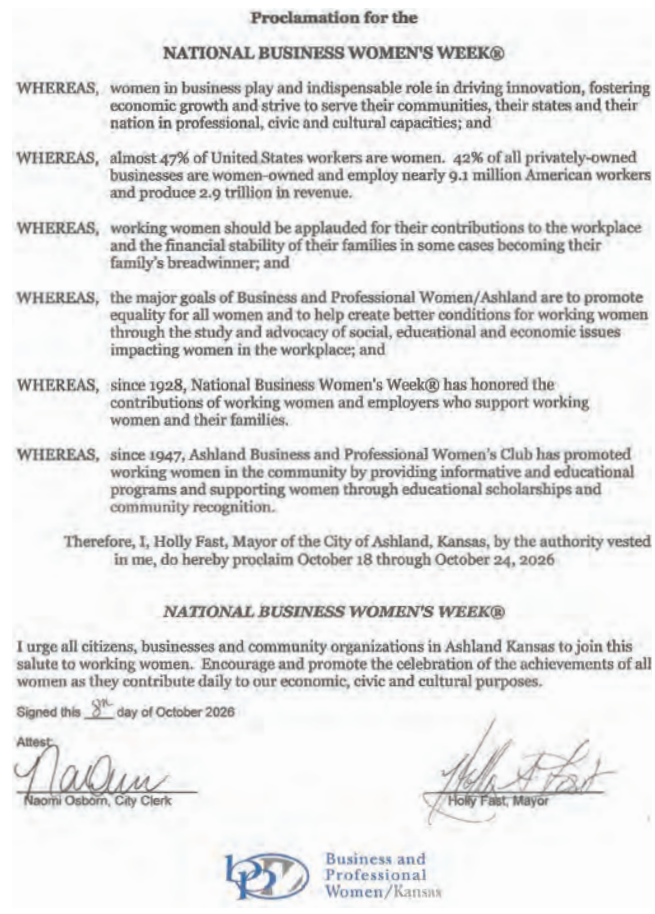
Ashland Mayor Holly Fast recently signed a proclamation making Oct. 18-24, 2026 as National Business Women's Week in Ashland.

The first National Business Women's Week was launched in 1928 by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. Within a decade it became a nationwide celebration. The week recognizes the growing presence and impact of women in business, from entrepreneurship to corporate leadership. The observance encourages recognition of these achievements and inspires future generations of women leaders. It applauds the contributions of women not only in the workplace but also their contributions to the financial stability of their families, often becoming their family's breadwinner.

Since its founding in 1947, Ashland Business and Professional Women's Club has promoted working women in the community by providing informative and educational programs and supporting women through educational scholarships and community recognition.

This year Ashland BPW plans to have a display of activities within the community at the Ashland Library. Stop by and see their contributions to the community.





Proclamation for the

NATIONAL BUSINESS WOMEN'S WEEK®

WHEREAS, women in business play and indispensable role in driving innovation, fostering economic growth and strive to serve their communities, their states and their nation in professional, civic and cultural capacities; and

WHEREAS, almost 47% of United States workers are women. 42% of all privately-owned businesses are women-owned and employ nearly 9.1 million American workers and produce 2.9 trillion in revenue.

WHEREAS, working women should be applauded for their contributions to the workplace and the financial stability of their families in some cases becoming their family's breadwinner; and

WHEREAS, the major goals of Business and Professional Women/Ashland are to promote equality for all women and to help create better conditions for working women through the study and advocacy of social, educational and economic issues impacting women in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, since 1928, National Business Women's Week® has honored the contributions of working women and employers who support working women and their families.

WHEREAS, since 1947, Ashland Business and Professional Women's Club has promoted working women in the community by providing informative and educational programs and supporting women through educational scholarships and community recognition.

Therefore, I, Holly Fast, Mayor of the City of Ashland, Kansas, by the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim October 18 through October 24, 2026

NATIONAL BUSINESS WOMEN'S WEEK®

I urge all citizens, businesses and community organizations in Ashland Kansas to join this salute to working women. Encourage and promote the celebration of the achievements of all women as they contribute daily to our economic, civic and cultural purposes.

Signed this 9th day of October 2026

Attest:

Naomi Osborn, City Clerk

Holly Fast, Mayor

Business and Professional Women/Kansas

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

(Published in The Western Star and Protection Press on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026) 3t

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

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

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

NATIONAL OFFICE

UNITED STATES SENATE

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

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE – 4TH DISTRICT

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

STATE OFFICES

GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

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

SECRETARY OF STATE

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

ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

STATE TREASURER

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

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

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

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 116TH DISTRICT

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

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 16 DIVISON 1

SIDNEY R. THOMAS (REP)
PO BOX 135, MONTEZUMA, KS 67867

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION 7TH DISTRICT

ALANA MCWILLIAMS (REP)
ABILENE, KS 67410
ANN ZIMMERMAN (DEM)
3904 N. OHIO, SALINA, KS 67401

COUNTY OFFICES

COMANCHE COUNTY COMMISSIONER- DISTRICT 1

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

COMANCHE COUNTY CLERK FOR VACANCY

ABRIANA (BRI) UHL
110 N TOPEKA, COLDWATER, KS 67029

AVILLA TOWNSHIP CLERK

NO CANDIDATE

COLDWATER TOWNSHIP CLERK

ROY HOFFMAN (REP)

POWELL TOWNSHIP CLERK

CLARK YOST (REP)

PROTECTION TOWNSHIP CLERK

BECKY HOLLER (REP)

POLLING LOCATIONS, TIMES

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

PURSUANT TO THE FOREGOING, I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT A GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON THE 3RD DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026 AT WHICH TIME THE CANDIDATES FROM THE ABOVE LIST MAY BE VOTED ON AT THE POLLING PLACES LISTED ABOVE. THE POLLING PLACE WILL BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. UNTIL 7:00 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 3RD, 2026. ADVANCED VOTING WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2026, AT THE COMANCHE COUNTY CLERKS OFFICE 201 S NEW YORK, COLDWATER, KS 67029. ADVANCED VOTING WILL END ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 2ND, AT 12:00 NOON.

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

BRI UHL
SEAL
COMANCHE COUNTY ELECTION OFFICER

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

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.

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

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.