

SPORTS
PREVIEW

Starting on A8

GCHS girls' track wins Andover title

The Garden City

Telegram

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Kathleen Whitley thanks those gathered after receiving the 2024 Award of Merit Thursday during the Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet. The banquet was held at Garden City Community College's Perryman Athletic Complex. BRAD NADING/GARDEN CITY TELEGRAM

Kathleen Whitley named Chamber's 2024 Award of Merit recipient

BY MEGHAN FLYNN
Garden City Telegram

The business community of Garden City came together Thursday night for the 2025 Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Banquet and Business Awards at the Garden City Community College's Perryman Athletic Complex.

At the event, the Chamber recognized the 2024 Award of Merit winner.

Debbie Young, 2025 Chamber Board Chair, said the award is given each year to an individual who has "made a lasting impression on the Chamber and the community through leadership, service and dedication to the greater good."

Kathleen Whitley was named as the 2024 recipient.

Deb Oyler, the 2023 Award of Merit

Motivational speaker Matt Havens talks about the various generations Thursday during his keynote address at the Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet at GCCC. BRAD NADING/GARDEN CITY TELEGRAM

See CHAMBER, A3

County selects company to conduct organizational review

BY MEGHAN FLYNN
Garden City Telegram

The Finney County Commission approved Raffetis to conduct a staff analysis and organizational review of the county at its regular meeting on April 21.

Gary Meagher, Interim County Administrator, said this comes after the commission approved sending out a Request for Proposals on March 3 for consulting firms to "assist the county in a staffing

analysis and organizational review."

The RFP was sent out on March 10 and was due back by April 1. Raffetis was the only consulting firm that responded to the request.

Commissioner Mike Utz said while no other bids were received, Raffetis gave a great presentation and believes the analysis and review will be good for the county.

"I think the organizational review will give the administration, HR, as well as the commission, a better overview of

where we're at and where to improve as an organization to be stronger and be the top dogs," he said.

Commissioner Kevin Bascue agrees. He said it will give the county a better idea of staffing needs now, staffing needs in the future and pay and benefits.

"I think it's really going to assist us in the budget process moving forward

See FC COMMISSION, A3

Music concerts scheduled at USD 457 schools

A number of music concerts are scheduled during the coming week at Garden City Public Schools USD 457. The free concerts are open to the public.

Bernadine Sitts Intermediate Center will present a band and choir concert at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, in the school's cafeteria, 3101 Belmont Pl.

Jennie Barker Elementary School will present a fifth and sixth grade music concert at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, in the school gym, 5585 N. Jennie Barker Rd.

Charles O. Stones Intermediate Center will present a music concert at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 1. The concert will be held in the cafeteria at the school, 401 Jennie Barker Rd.



Holcomb Police Department conducts Operation 'Yellow Bus'

On Wednesday, April 23, the Holcomb Police Department conducted a proactive traffic safety initiative, titled Operation "Yellow Bus", aimed at promoting school bus safety and protecting our community's children.

As part of the operation, Holcomb Police officers rode along on several school bus routes to monitor for motorists violating Kansas school bus stop sign laws and other related traffic safety regulations.

The HPD reported that no violations were observed during the course of the operation.

See BUSES, A3