

SPORTS PREVIEW

Starting on A8

GCHS girls' soccer ties with North



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Board approves Teacher Apprentice program

BY MEGHAN FLYNN
Garden City Telegram

The USD 457 Board of Education approved the Teacher Apprentice program for the district at its regular meeting on May 5.

LeeAnn Thon, USD 457 HR Coordinator, said the TAP program was designed by the Kansas State Department of Education to help school districts grow their own teachers.

Thon said an apprentice teacher is someone who's going to work alongside a "highly effective" mentor teacher and they're going to get on-the-job training so they can build that apprentice teacher from the ground up.

"They might be somebody with some classroom experience, they might be somebody who

just graduated high school, but they're going to be learning alongside someone through their four years in the program at most – depending on where they're at when they get started," she said.

They're not going to be the teacher of record, they'll be working alongside somebody else, however they will be employed by the district full-time, Thon said.

"Another stipulation is that they have to be able to enroll in teacher prep program, they can choose whichever one they want, but they have to be enrolled in one of those," she said. "Then they're going to attend some professional development ... we're going to put them on the same teacher contract that we would any other teacher, so they can get that extra



Drew Thon, USD 457 Chief Human Resources Officer, talks about the teacher apprentice program May 5 during the Board of Education meeting. MEGHAN FLYNN/GARDEN CITY TELEGRAM

on-the-job training as well."

Thon said one reason they want to implement the program is staffing shortages.

The district has tried every creative way they can find to get teachers in the classroom and growing

their own seems to be the most effective way they've found, she said.

"We also want to retain our staff," she said.

A lot of the apprentices are probably going to be paras, Thon said. They're probably going to be a lot of

people that the district has already hired and then they'll continue to keep them on.

"They're going to also get that hands-on prep," she said. "They're never going to be a first-year teacher, they're going

See BOE, A5

USD 457 schools named national showcase schools



Jennie Wilson Elementary School and Buffalo Jones Elementary School recently received word that they were awarded the 2024-25 Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School award.

This distinction directly reflects the unwavering dedication and collaborative efforts of students, staff, and the entire school community. The recognition of a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School award serves as a testament to the commitment held by the campus community

See SCHOOLS, A3

Summer Movie Nights get new locations, split from concert series

BY MEGHAN FLYNN
Garden City Telegram

The Garden City Parks and Recreation Department's annual summer Movie Nights are changing locations for 2025.

Katie Cole, Recreation Coordinator with GCPR, said instead of being at Stevens Park every time, the Movie Nights this year will move around to different parks in Garden City.

"I wanted to make it so it's a more local thing," she said. "So people can walk or go with their family and their neighbors and go to kind of more their community park – bring a blanket, bring some chairs ... have it be more of a neighborhood feel if you're getting together with all of your neighbors, going somewhere that's a little bit closer."

Cole said she feels like if the event is only at Stevens Park, not everybody knows about it, whereas if it's right there near you, it's going to be more fun.

The Movie Nights will be held basically every other Saturday through June and July, Cole said.

The first one will be on June 14 at Deane Wiley Park, then June 28 at Finup-Scout Park,



The Garden City Municipal Band performs a selection during one of its summer Friday night concerts last season in the bandshell at Stevens Park. The community-based band, founded in 1879, performs at 7:30 p.m. each Friday through its season, June through mid July. BRAD NADING/GARDEN CITY TELEGRAM

July 12 at Ayala Park, July 26 at A. Harold Long Park and finally on Aug. 9 at Garcia Soccer Park.

Cole said she's still figuring out sponsors, so she doesn't know which movies will be happening on which days as the sponsors get to select that, but the movies they've chosen are: "Sonic 3", "The Wild

Robot", "Inside Out 2", "Dog Man" and "The Lego Movie".

She estimates that the movies will be playing around 9-9:30 p.m., once it's dark enough.

"It's kind of hard to set a specific time when the movie will start, just based on when it's dark enough that you can see the projector, but it'll be probably around 9-9:30 p.m."

she said. "And you just show up, the movies are totally free, bring your friends, bring chairs or blankets, bring some snacks."

Cole hopes to have a small concessions stand at each movie night.

It's not something they've

See MOVIE NIGHTS, A3



LiveWell hosting youth-adult partnership session

LiveWell Finney County is excited to partner with Upstream Kansas to host a one-day Youth-Adult Partnership Training from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, in Classroom B at St. Catherine Hospital.

Sponsored by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), this interactive training is designed to strengthen collaboration between adults and youth to create healthier, more engaged communities.

Participants will gain

See LIVEWELL, A3

RELIGION

Check out the activities at local churches in the coming week. **A5**

SPORTS

Buffalo track stars Hailey Brown, Ryder Carr break school records **A8**

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