

History is made here: The little train in Fifth Street Park



A rideable miniature train that used to be in Fifth Street Park.

(Courtesy photo)

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There have been many improvements to the Fifth Street Park playground equipment in recent years. Not only are there fun pieces of equipment for children, but also for adults. These improvements have come about through the efforts of several organizations in cooperation with the City of Junction City. Newer equipment is currently being installed.

Some of our readers will remember when there was a small train capable of providing children with the experience of riding on it through the park. This was a small train like those seen at amusement parks.

Darren Gunderson published an article in the *Daily Union* newspaper in July 2000 titled Junction City's Forgotten Railroad Empire. Gunderson wrote that anyone who has had to sit at the railroad crossing on Chestnut, Ash or Eighth Street is very familiar with the fact that the Union Pacific Railroad line

goes through Junction City. We were also served by the Missouri, Kansas, Texas Railway or MKT line before it ceased service November 12, 1957. Junction City had a third short-lived railroad empire in the early 1950s – the Junction City Flyer or the No. 1069. The train was purchased by Bert McKinsey and brought from Wichita. McKinsey owned McKinsey and Phillips Barber Shop in the 600 block of Washington Street. It came with “some assembly required” and it was said the train, tracks and all could be set up in one day. Raymon Eller, who lost the use of his legs, because of polio and was attending Kansas State University. Eller was hired to operate the train in Fifth Street Park during the summer months. There were promotions for young people to get free rides if they brought three wrappers from Marvel Bread. The Junction City Flyer had a short life of only a couple of years at Fifth Street Park and one or two years in Coronado Park. The Flyer was purchased and taken from the area and last seen in Indiana.

ARRESTS — GEARY COUNTY

April 14

GCSO arrested Valjay R. McLean on a Manhattan Municipal Court warrant for disorderly conduct.

GCSO arrested Dwight A. Reid on a Geary County District Court warrant for failure to appear.

JCPD arrested Gary McKeever for violation of a protection order, unknown circumstance.

JCPD arrested Lahoma Frey for violation of a protection order, unknown circumstance.

JCPD arrested Megan Mangiaracino on an outside warrant.

JCPD arrested Jason Wright

for following another vehicle too closely, unsafe turning or stopping, failure to give proper signal, taxation: drugs, no drug tax stamp payment for marijuana or controlled substance, use/possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia into the human body, possession of paraphernalia with intent to manufacture, plant or cultivate a controlled substance and distributing marijuana > 30 kilograms.

officers and obstructing, resisting or opposing misdemeanor warrant service or execution.

JCPD arrested BN Nethon for operating a motor vehicle without a valid license and aggravated battery and DUI causing great bodily harm, habitual violator.

JCPD arrested Theresa Jones for robbery, aggravated assault, use of a deadly weapon, aggravated domestic battery, impede breath, blocking nose or mouth of family member or dating relationship and criminal restraint.

JCPD arrested Lalo Maldonado for exceeding posted speed limit and operating a motor vehicle without a valid license.

JCPD arrested Donald Peters for transporting an open container and DUI — liquor or drugs (first offense).

JCPD arrested Dontavia Scott for interference with law enforcement officers, obstructing, resisting, opposing misdemeanor warrant service or execution and theft: all others.

April 18

JCPD arrested Amma Stewart for falsely reporting a crime.

GVPPD arrested Robert Calvert for use/possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia into the human body, possession of marijuana, possession of opiate, opium, narcotic

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LEGALS

(Published in The Junction City Union on Wednesday, April 23, 2025)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID Demolition of structure(s) at 211 E 5th St City of Junction City, Kansas

The City of Junction City, Kansas will receive bids until 10:00 am (Local Time), May 13, 2025, at the City Clerk's Office of the City Municipal Building, 700 N Jefferson St, Junction City, KS 66441. The request for bids is for the demolition of the structures at 211 E 5th St. Bids shall be securely sealed and endorsed upon the outside, "Demolition of 211 E 5th St". The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bid packages are available at the office of the Building and Codes Department or the City website at www.junctioncity-ks.gov. Questions regarding the bids should be directed to Building and Code Enforcement at 785-210-2951.

J10960

LEGALS

(Published in The Junction City Union on Wednesday, April 23, 2025)

CITY OF JUNCTION CITY LAND BANK NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the Junction City Land Bank have conditionally accepted an offer to purchase the following lots :
 Lot Three (3), Block Four (4), Deer Creek Addition Unit No. 2 to the City of Junction City, Geary County, Kansas with the sale of such lots to be on a date which is not sooner than 30 days after the date of publication of this notice.

/s/ Ariana Diaz Lorenzo
 Land Bank Secretary
 April 15, 2025

J10959

April 15

GCSO arrested Jocelyn A. Quarcoo on two Geary County District Court warrants for bond violation.

JCPD arrested Mercedes L. Palmer for failure to appear.

April 16

JCPD arrested Jimmie King for failure to appear, interference with law enforcement of-