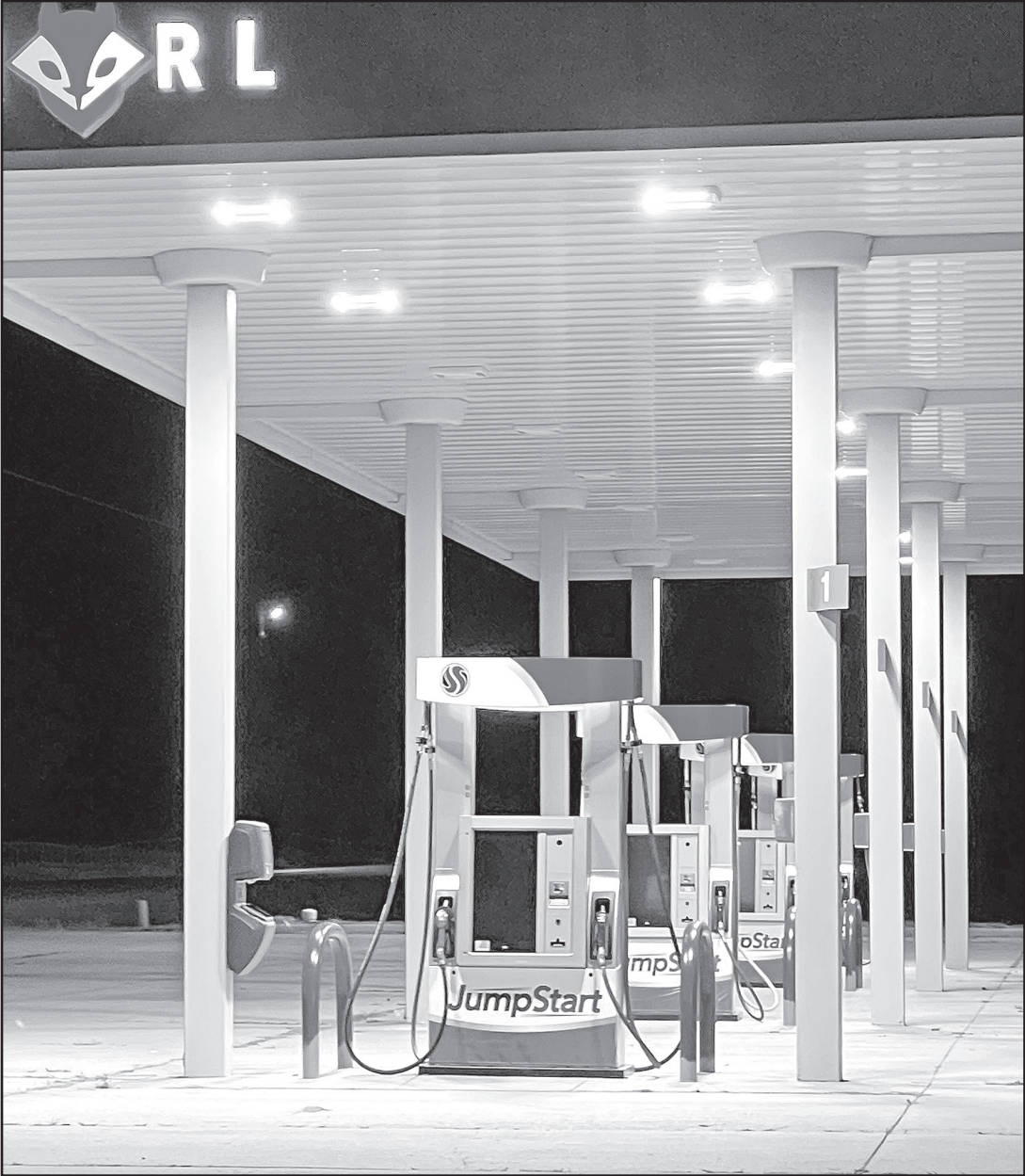




New gas pumps have been installed at what will be a new Jump Start location in Cheney.

Travis Mounts/TSnews

Jump Start coming to Cheney

By Travis Mounts
TSnews

CHENEY – The newest Jump Start convenience store appears to be coming to Cheney. The company is taking over the former SQRL location on Main Street, across the street from Cherry Oaks Golf Course.

Workers were seen early last week at the site. Over the weekend, new gas pumps with the Jump Start logo had been installed, explaining any mystery about the long-closed

convenience store.

Wichita-based Jump Start Stores shows 34 stores on its website's location map. The company's foot print covers south-central and central Kansas, with stores as far north as Salina and Abilene, and as far south as the South Haven exit off of the Kansas Turnpike, just four miles from the Oklahoma state line. Most of the stores are located in and around the Wichita metropolitan area.

In the TSnews readership area, Jump Start

operates stores Haysville and Clearwater. Jump Start took over an existing convenience store at the corner of Grand Avenue and Broadway in Haysville. The company remodeled and opened in the former Walmart Express grocery store on East Ross Avenue in Clearwater.

The Cheney location was originally opened by Kevin O'Brien as KAPS, and was operated locally as part of his small chain of stores, most of which were in central Kansas. KAPS was eventually sold and became

a Yesway location. After that, it operated for a short time as an independently-owned business. SQRL remodeled and opened the store, but it did not last long. The SQRL chain had expanded rapidly to more than 500 stores, but quickly hit hard times. The company's assets were liquidated, purchased by Gas Hub, LLC in early 2024. That company filed for bankruptcy later in the year with \$1.2 billion in debt.

A call to the Jump Start corporate office was not returned before press time.

Goddard man dies in sheriff's custody

WICHITA – The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office is investigating the death of an 80-year-old Goddard man Thursday, April 30, at the Sedgwick County Adult Detention Facility.

The inmate was pronounced dead at 7:54

a.m. in the facility's clinic, where he had been receiving hospice care for multiple chronic illnesses.

He had been in custody since Jan. 15 on charges of rape and four counts of aggravated indecent liberties with a child. Medical staff monitored

him throughout his incarceration. He was hospitalized seven times, spending a total of 51 days in the hospital before requesting placement in hospice care.

The sheriff's office has notified the inmate's family. His identity is being

withheld at the family's request.

This is the second in-custody death at the Sedgwick County Adult Detention Facility in 2026.

Goddard project to include restaurant

By Nancy D. Borst
TSnews

GODDARD – Goddard residents can look forward to another restaurant coming to town in the next 18 months.

The Goddard City Council at its meeting Monday approved a development agreement with Paradise Corner LLC to build a 20,000 square foot commercial strip center at the southeast corner of Main Street and US-54 Highway. The estimated cost of the project is \$5.1 million.

The agreement requires the development to include a fast-casual, casual or formal dining restaurant option that must be open for business no later than Dec. 31, 2027. If that deadline is not met, the city may terminate the agreement and revoke its incentives.

Construction on the development must begin by Oct. 1, 2026 and be completed by May 1, 2027.

"Citizens have been very vocal in expressing a desire for more dine-in restaurant options and expanded commercial choices," city manager Craig Crossette told the council. "This requirement is important because it directly ties the development incentives to the community's stated desire for more dining opportunities and helps ensure the project advances that public objective rather than resulting in only general commercial space."

The city held a public hearing at Monday's meeting regarding issuing industrial revenue bonds for the project, which will provide a sales tax abatement on construction materials. The council approved a resolution to issue the IRBs.

The development also will receive a 10-year property tax abatement,

with no abatement in the USD 265 school district capital outlay and none in certain retail aspects of the project. The city will waive water and sewer connection fees and will rebate city building permit fees. The developer also has options to request special sales tax districts in the future to help offset costs.

"Importantly, per Kansas law, the agreement provides that no abatement may be granted for any portion of the project used in retail enterprises (identified in the agreement). That limitation means the abatement is not a blanket subsidy across the entire facility," wrote Crossette in a report to the council.

In other business, the council:

- Approved agreements for construction inspection services (\$186,258) and K9 Turf (\$58,193) for Legacy Bank Park. The special turf will be installed in a portion of the dog park area.
- Approved a bid from McPherson Backhoe for the water looping project. McPherson's bid was \$3,053,274.26, well below the engineer's estimate of \$4.6 million.

The council also met April 28. That meeting included awarding naming rights for the new north park, which now will be known as Legacy Bank Park. In return, the bank will pay the city \$50,000 per year for 10 years.

The council at that meeting also received the 2025 audit report and 2026 first quarter financial report. Council members also approved a resolution to apply to the Kansas Main Street program to be designated as an Aspiring Community in 2026. They appointed Amanda White as their representative to the Goddard Main Street board of directors. This new group is in its early stages and will exist as a 501(c)(3).

Legislators to attend public forum

WICHITA – The South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation will take part in a public forum next week.

The forum will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 14, at

the Advanced Learning Library, located in Wichita at 711 W. 2nd St. N. The public is invited to address the legislative panel.

Doors will open at 5:15 p.m. for speaker sign-up.

Each speaker will have a maximum of two minutes for remarks.

The forum is hosted by the Regional Economic Area Partnership of South Central Kansas.

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