

# ‘Jailhouse’ rocks Garden City on Fourth of July

## Film will be shown on outdoor screen

By Joe Tougas

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GARDEN CITY — It makes you feel a little sorry for people whose patriotic fervor sends them to Washington, D.C., or Philadelphia or the Statue of Liberty on Sunday, the Fourth Of July. All that travel, all that fuss, all that airplane food in pursuit of the spirit of America when it's sitting just down Highway 169.

On Sunday night, while other communities are watching bombs bursting in air, Garden City caps off an evening of a communitywide dinner and bingo with — hats off and hands on the heart, please — an outdoor showing of Elvis Presley's "Jailhouse Rock."

This is the third year that Roxie Brandts has organized the Garden City drive-in, a **twice-yearly event** that involves hanging a 18-by-15 foot white canvas on the side of Formerly Crane's. They call it a drive-in, but a more accurate term might be a sit-in, as more lawn chairs than cars are set up in the lot next to the corner building.

Brandts said about 200 people tend to show up for these screenings, which in the past have included "Grease" and "American Graffiti." And here's how naturally American Sunday night is going to be: They didn't choose Elvis for any special reason.

"We just decided this time we were going to do Elvis. We didn't have a real method," Brandts laughed. "This year it was Elvis' turn."

That said, it could have gone disastrous, from a film fan's perspective. Of the 40 movies Presley made in his career, a scant few are worth actually watching, and those were among the first. "King Creole," "Loving You" and "Jailhouse Rock" are considered among the best, and it's the latter that perhaps best captures Presley's raw instincts.

He plays Vince Everett, a laborer who's hanging out at a strip joint, gets in a fight over a girl and kills his opponent accidentally. He goes to jail, where a hillbilly teaches him how to play guitar.

Somehow, a television show is produced that features Vince Everett singing "Jailhouse Rock" (with a musical number choreographed by Presley himself). Everett becomes a sensation and, once released from prison, hooks up with a nice girl in the record business and seems intent on ruining her life.

The best part is Presley's character is not a very likable guy — vain, arrogant and prone to excess, all the stuff that make for good characters and which he never repeated again in countless surfing and skirt-chasing movies. For fans of Presley who need to show he had great film potential, this is one to show all those who doubt. Have them bring a lawn chair.

**The show's at dusk, preceded by free bingo at 7 p.m. and a community dinner at 6.**

Outdoor screening of "Jailhouse Rock"  
Dusk Sunday  
Formerly Crane's, Garden City

