

It's Fair Time

A glance at the calendar reminded me that our area county fairs are going to be getting started over the next several weeks.



the gardener

• Marty Melia

Most everybody has a favorite aspect of their county fair that they enjoy the most... 4-H activities, grandstand shows and races, and of course lots of food. For me... what else, but the 4-H and open class garden and horticulture shows. I've had the privilege of judging vegetables at several of the area fairs and I certainly enjoy participating in my hometown fair's garden show.

Most of our county fairs follow the guidelines of the Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service with their respective garden shows. Rules vary from fair to fair, and 4-H horticulture exhibitors will have much different regulations than open class exhibitors, like me, to abide by.

If you are interested in exhibiting garden produce in your fair's open class vegetable garden show, the easiest thing I can suggest is that you do it stop by your local KSU Extension office and pick up their pamphlet entitled "Exhibiting Fruits and Vegetables". It will give you tips on how to prepare your vegetables for display. And some of this information is usually outlined in your official fair book from your county fair.

The pamphlet will give you tips on how to select, clean

and trim certain vegetables, and what the judge is going to be looking for. Cleanliness and size are important factors, plus uniformity. For example, in most cases new exhibitors will be confused on what size some vegetables are expected to be, or how they should be displayed. Take onions, the biggest mistake a gardener will make with their onions is to peel them so they look nice and shiny. Your shiny peeled onions can be the biggest and most uniform onions entered, but will be dis-qualified every time.

The KSU pamphlet is full of great tips on how to be a vegetable garden champ. Imagine being able to brag about how beautiful your first place beets were. Or having the biggest pumpkin, or the most mouth-watering red cherry tomatoes in the show.

When I do vegetable judging at some of the area fairs, it's interesting to see the different and sometimes very unique and fun features that defines each fair's garden show. I don't think there is anything more exciting than seeing the beautiful bounty that our hard working backyard gardeners have created. We will see you at the fair!

Hear The Gardener Tuesdays and Fridays on KYVZ FM 106.1

Main Street Arts Council Celebrates 10th Anniversary with Special Broadway Guest Artist

HOXIE, Kan. – As part of the Main Street Arts Council's 10th anniversary celebrations, we are beyond excited to announce a special performance with Broadway performer, singer, and songwriter Desi Oakley.

Oakley is a versatile and accomplished Broadway performer, singer-songwriter, and voiceover artist based in New York City. Raised in Wichita, Kansas, she began her theatrical journey at Music Theatre Wichita, taking on roles such as Eponine in Les Misérables and Ariel in The Little Mermaid. She continued her studies at the University of Michigan, earning a BFA in Musical Theatre.

Oakley's Broadway credits include Wicked, where she served as a swing and understudied Elphaba and Nessarose; the 2012 revival of Annie, where she understudied Grace Farrell and Lily St. Regis; and the 2014 revival of Les Misérables, where she was an understudy for Fantine. She also performed in the National Tour of Evita as the alternate for Eva Perón.

In addition to her stage work, Oakley has co-starred on televi-

sion in shows such as Gotham (FOX), The Gilded Age (HBO), and Only Murders in the Building (Hulu). She has also recorded voiceovers for national commercials and appeared in films like Dear Evan Hansen, Tick, Tick... Boom!, and Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile.

As a singer-songwriter, Oakley has released several albums, including Don't Look Back (2014), Repeat (2019), and A Pocket of Time (2020), with proceeds from the latter benefiting the Dramatists Guild Foundation. She is also passionate about mentoring young artists and co-founded the Pop Rock Broadway program in 2019 to provide training and support to aspiring performers.

The public is invited to see Oakley perform in a free concert on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hoxie High School Auditorium, 1625 Queen Avenue. This concert will be a memorable evening for all to enjoy, and we encourage everyone to attend.

The concert is free, however, ticket reservations are required and can be made online at www.mainstreetartscouncil.com/events. Free-will donations will be accepted.

El Dos Gets Shut Down by State

by Derek White

In a sweeping enforcement action across Northwest and Central Kansas, agents from the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR) on Tuesday seized the assets of San Juan Mexican Restaurant Inc. and several individuals associated with the business, citing more than \$300,000 in unpaid state taxes.

The multi-county operation was executed on July 8 with the assistance of sheriff's departments from Russell, Scott, Thomas, Phillips, Rooks, and Pawnee Counties. Authorities closed six San Juan Mexican Restaurant locations in the fol-

lowing communities: Russell, Colby, Scott City, Phillipsburg, Plainville, and Larned.

KDOR officials reported the total tax debt at \$301,031.29, stemming from unpaid sales tax and liquor drink tax obligations. Tax warrants were also issued for personal income tax liabilities against several individuals linked to the business, including Bernabe A. Lopez, Margarita Lopez, Johnaton Lopez, Santiago Gutierrez, Bernabe K. Lopez, and David Serrato.

Assets seized include on-site cash, all known bank accounts, business inventory, and personal property. Each business was sealed and marked with

a public notice indicating closure. According to the release, all confiscated assets will be sold at public auction, with proceeds applied toward the outstanding tax debt.

"The Department of Revenue works extensively with taxpayers in delinquency to reach voluntary repayment agreements," said Aubrey Challquist, KDOR's Taxation Communications Manager. "Only after repeated failed attempts to resolve the matter do we resort to enforcement actions such as these."

KDOR stated that its goal is to ensure fairness to law-abiding businesses and to recover funds vital for public services

like education, highways, and public safety.

The six San Juan restaurant locations impacted are: 740 E Wichita Ave, Russell 1921 S Range, Colby 1213 S Main St, Scott City 609 3rd Street, Phillipsburg 711 S Washington, Plainville 421 W 14th St, Larned

The KDOR release listed 18 tax warrants across multiple counties involving both corporate and personal tax violations. Despite repeated efforts, officials said, the business and its owners failed to comply with Kansas tax laws, leading to this coordinated enforcement effort.



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