

Food

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fruit, and milk. The team of volunteers arrives about 8 a.m., and each knows her part in the preparation.
Debbie Zook Makings is the director of this summer program, along with the help and support of a team of committed volunteers. The program offers a free meal during June and July to any kid between the ages of one and eighteen. “You don’t have to live here to receive it, and sometimes people think that. For example, there might be kids visiting a parent or relative for the summer, who lives somewhere else during the year.”
How did Debbie come to be recognized by the State Department of Education?
Given the local program’s high success, the Kansas State Board of Education noticed the food distribution efforts throughout the state and wanted to learn more. Debbie was selected

by the director of the Kansas Summer Food Service Program as one of three individuals in the state to present her observations to the State Board and answer their questions. “I was interviewed via Zoom since there was no way I could be traveling to Topeka on a weekday,” she explained. “They wanted to hear from sites that were not from a school and wanted to know how that works.” The program is federally funded by the state, and the state reimburses the food program for each meal.
How do you qualify to receive this free benefit?
“You don’t have to sign up per se. If a parent or adult is going to be picking it up, we need to see the child the first time they come for the meal. But many of the kids pick up their own meals. Since we live in a small community and I teach school, I know the kids and the

parents.” Debbie added.
Who are your volunteers?
“The kitchen staff consists of: Patty Smith, Linda Franzello, Sheila Converse, Dru Dougan, Beth Slack, Row Shepherd, Connie Fox, and Dava Keith. Dava is the young one, and she easily goes up and down the stairs to carry items for us! Then, Derek Slack, my husband Eli, and Tim Taylor help distribute, and Tim is our “milkman.” He is

the “go-to” guy who knows how many kids are in a car, or how many more meals will be needed to take care of those who haven’t come yet. He knows everyone! We need four women in the kitchen each day, so they schedule their duty times accordingly.”
And once again, we understand the significance of the quote, “It takes a village...” It certainly does. “When we feed the children, we feed the future”, author unknown.

County Commissioners Meet with Quivira Water Officials

Concern Over Rattlesnake Creek Water
By: C. TABLER

St. JOHN—Thursday afternoon, County Commissioners from Pawnee County, Stafford County and Barton County met in St. John with representatives of the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks concerning the impact of the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Plan.
The Commissioners from Pawnee and Stafford County had been seeking this meeting for months. Also attending the meeting were representatives of the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition, QNWR manager Kate Brenner, Kansas Department of Agriculture Chief Engineer Earl Lewis and Groundwater District No. 5 Manager Orrin Feril.
At the heart of the discussion are water rights along the Rattlesnake Creek, the management of that water in the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and the ability of government officials to invoke eminent domain to seize private property as a water right requirement. Another key element is the right of the government bodies to reduce or retire agriculture water rights.
Pawnee County Commissioner Robert Rein was elected chairman for the meeting and concluded that “This is a good first step. We are trying to ensure that what we finally end up with is going to last and is for the benefit of all.”

DID YOU KNOW.....That for many years the number-one hole at the Larned Golf Course ran uphill to the northeast? Many a T-shot was slammed into the stone wall and ricocheted backwards.

Cyclist

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And he was impressed. George remarked how he was enjoying the amenities of Larned.
This British biker explained. “I began my trip across the U.S. when I landed in New York on the 28th of May. From there, I traveled down to Philadelphia, then to Baltimore, and Washington. Yes, I am by myself, but I have met a number of bikers from various places: New Zealand, Switzerland, the Netherlands, all traveling east to west.”
“I believe I have chosen the wrong direction, though, heading east to west, because I am riding against headwinds.”
By August 24th, I will be in California, first in San Francisco and then in Los Angeles, from where I will fly back to England.
Reporter: What do you think about when you are riding?
He answered. “Good question. When I was going through the Blue Ridge Mountains, I was in awe of the scenery, the mountains, the sunshine, the incredible hills, and the horizon. I end up looking around, enjoying the scenery, and taking note of what’s going on. Sometimes I will stop and chat with people. I suppose the last couple of days have been difficult due to the vast farmland stretching west for miles. That may be a bit taxing on the bike, like going 60 miles in a straight line in the heat.”
“It’s always quite nice to cruise down a hill now and then.”
Reporter: Where do you stay at night?”

“I have a full camping setup; however, a few times I have been cycling along and someone would say, ‘Come stay with us’ in a local church or youth center. People have been quite accommodating. And, many towns have bike hostels where I have stayed as well.”
“I follow a route on my GPS, and each day, I plan which towns I will be visiting.”
“I have seen some incredible landscapes, I have seen the country change from the mountainous to foothills, the open plains, and the changes as I go. I have also observed a few similarities between the US and England. The topography of the UK seems to mirror the landscape of America. I have been genuinely humbled by the kindness of the people shown to me. I will have ridden a long way, like 50 miles or so, and someone will offer me a drink or an invitation.”
Questions by the grandmother group:
Are your parents in support of this effort?
“Yes, my parents were a bit worried at first that someone would take my things, or generally, for my safety. But I think they are now warmed to the idea.”
Do you have brothers or sisters?
“Yes, I am the second oldest of four brothers.”
The ladies wanted a picture of him and the group, and after some hugs and promises to pray for him on his adventure, they sent him on. George Wilson, Godspeed to you in the weeks ahead!



EL DOS de OROS SEIZED AND CLOSED IN LARNED
San Juan Mexican Restaurants Shut Down Across Kansas for Owing Over \$300,000 in Back Taxes

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 following 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.

LEGAL	LEGAL
(First published in The Tiller & Toiler, July 3, 2025) 3ts Millsap & Singer, LLC 8900 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 180 Overland Park, KS 66210 (913) 339-9132 (913) 339-9045 (fax)	
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF PAWNEE COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT	
NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing	
Plaintiff,	
vs.	
Estate of Wesley J Johnson (Deceased), Kathleen S Brown fka Kathleen S. Johnson, both individually and in her capacity as Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of Wesley J Johnson (Deceased), Abigail Brown, Aimee Johnson, Alex Brown aka Alexandra Brown, Anjoelina Johnson, Brandon Johnson, Linda Hughes, Peyton Johnson, and Unknown Heirs of Wesley J Johnson (Deceased), et al.,	
Defendants	Case No. PN-2025-CV-000011 Court No. Title to Real Estate Involved Pursuant to K.S.A. §60
NOTICE OF SUIT	
STATE OF KANSAS to the above named Defendants and The Unknown Heirs, executors, devisees, trustees, creditors, and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; and the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability and all other person who are or may be concerned:	
You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Pawnee County, Kansas by NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, praying to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate:	
LOT TWO (2) AND THE EAST HALF (E/2) OF LOT FOUR (4), IN BLOCK NINE (9), ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF THE CITY OF LARNED, PAWNEE COUNTY, KANSAS, INCLUDING EASEMENT FOR GARAGE EAVE AND RETAINING WALL PURPOSES AS SET FORTH IN EASEMENT FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OF PAWNEE COUNTY, KANSAS, JUNE 1, 1995 AT 2:45 P.M., IN BOOK M/SS, PAGE 571 AND CORRECTION RECORDED IN JUNE 9, 1995 AT 11:50 A.M., IN BOOK M/SS, PAGE 590. Parcel ID No. 073-109-32-0-40-09-001.00-0. Commonly known as 403 W 7th St., Larned, KS 67550 ("the Property") MS 226182	
and all those defendants who have not otherwise been served are required to plead to the Petition on or before August 13, 2025 in the District Court of Pawnee County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the request of plaintiff.	
MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC	
By:	Dwayne A. Duncan, #27533 dduncan@msfirm.com 612 Spirit Dr. St. Louis, MO 63005 (636) 537-0110 (636) 537-0067 (fax)
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF	
MS 226182.454261 KJFC	
MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.	