



Kanza News

April 2024



Letter From the Chair



I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. Now that summer is upon us it seems everyone is busy with gardening, graduations, and upcoming powwows. Here at Kaw Nation, we have been busy with several ongoing projects that Lonnie has included in this newsletter. Land Management Department has been keeping busy! Between their projects of cutting firewood, and fencing, they have begun clearing out the flowerbed in front of the museum. Once it is all cleared out, the kids from the Daycare will come and plant some pretty flowers and herbs for Title VI to use in the foods they serve. Two sets of three flag poles have been purchased. One set will be placed at headquarters, in front of the administration building and the other set will be placed at the Washunga Cemetery. KHDD will be putting on two summer camps in June for their JOM youth at the powwow grounds. The Tribal Council will soon be visiting a couple of greenhouses to see what the best fit for Kaw Nation will be, for the future plan of greenhouses. There has been discussion on using the OneStop facility in Kaw City, as a distribution center for the foods and plants grown at the greenhouses and putting the laundromat back in for business. The cabins are now being rented out and spots are now available at our Eagle Nest RV Park in Kaw City. If you or someone you know is interested or would like more information, please call the office at 580-269-2552 and ask for Ida. An online store has recently opened for the Kanza Gift Shop! To start shopping, please visit:

kanza-gift-shop.square.site/

Wishing all Kaw Nation Citizens and their families a safe and fun summer!

Wiblahan,

Kim Jenkins, Kaw Nation Chair

KAW NATION HONORS A RETURN FROM SERVICE

Standing steadfast in our commitment to uphold the values of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), Kaw Nation is thrilled to extend a warm welcome back to Antonio Garcia, who returns as a cherished member of our esteemed maintenance team. Having served honorably in the Army since 2006, his most recent deployment was in the horn of Africa as an 11 Bravo Infantryman. Prior to his deployment, Antonio had already demonstrated exceptional contributions during his tenure with Kaw Nation, earning recognition as an invaluable asset to our maintenance operations. Throughout his time away on Infantry duty, Antonio was assured that his position with Kaw Nation awaited his return.

His homecoming was celebrated by administration and fellow colleagues who thanked him for his service with a beautiful cake and a dedicated banner that now hangs proudly in the maintenance shop. Antonio's seamless integration back into the workforce exemplifies the spirit of resilience and support that defines Kaw Nation as an employer and as a people. Welcome back, Antonio!



KAW NATION IS LARGEST EMPLOYER AT PCDA EVENT

The Ponca City Development Authority's Job Fair on January 31, 2024, held at City Central, included a number of Kaw Nation Employers. Drawing a diverse pool of job seekers, the event offered a dynamic platform for engagement, featuring on-site application submissions and even an exclusive interview room.

Among the array of employers participating, Kaw Nation Human Resources, Kanza Human Development Division, and Rock & Brews Casino were notable contributors. The event unfolded as a remarkable success, with Kaw Nation employers establishing meaningful connections with several enthusiastic candidates.

For those eager to be a part of the Kaw Nation team and take advantage of the generous benefits it offers, a myriad of exciting career opportunities awaits. Visit kawnation.gov/careers to pursue the available positions and embark on a fulfilling journey with Kaw Nation, where your skills and aspirations can find the perfect match. Join us in shaping a prosperous future together.



KHDD JOINS FORCES WITH UNIVERSITIES & INSTITUTES

Kanza Human Development Division (KHDD) continues to empower the youth of our community as they navigate their postsecondary journeys. Recently, KHDD collaborated with a distinguished lineup of colleges, universities, trade schools, and other esteemed organizations for a remarkable gathering. KHDD students hailing from various local schools converged upon the event, excited to explore the multitude of options available to them after high school. With a focus on facilitating informed decision-making, the event provided a platform for students to engage directly with representatives from diverse fields of study and vocational paths helping

them to gain valuable insights. From traditional higher education to specialized vocational training and alternative pathways, students were exposed to a broad spectrum of possibilities. KHDD exemplified its dedication to nurturing the overall growth of our community's youth by facilitating connections and offering essential information. As students left the event, they departed with a clearer direction and renewed motivation, ready to pursue their goals with confidence and well-informed choices.



Kaw Nation Presents 2024

WASHUNGA DAYS POWWOW

JUNE 21ST & 22ND

Allegawaho Park - 1645 S. 525 Rd Council Grove, KS

HEAD STAFF

Head Singer **DON PATTERSON** Head Man **JAMES PEPPER HENRY** Head Lady **Miah Parker**
Master of Ceremonies **KEN BELLMARD** Arena Director **JASON MURRAY**
Water Carriers **AUSTIN WOOD & SAGE GODDARD**

All Kaw Mission activities are **FREE**, open to the public and presented in partnership with our sponsors:

Friends of Kaw Heritage - City of Council Grove - Area Foundations - Kaw Nation

FOOD - ARTS & CRAFTS SPACES AVAILABLE FOR VENDORS

To inquire about becoming a vendor, reach out to Kaw Nation Headquarters: (580) 269-2552



6:00pm-7:00pm Registration - 7:30pm Grand Entry

Friday

Tiny Tots Ages: 5 & Under
Jr. Boys & Girls Ages: 7-17
Boys: Straight, Traditional, Fancy & Grass
Girls: Cloth, Buckskin, Fancy Shawl & Jingle

Saturday

Sr. Men & Women Ages: 18-54
Men: Straight, Traditional, Fancy & Grass
Women: Cloth, Buckskin, Fancy Shawl & Jingle
Men & Women Golden Age 55 & Older

Depending on the number of contestants, some categories may be combined. With the exception of tiny tots, dancers must be in full regalia to receive prize money. Prize money will be awarded at the close of Saturday evening's program.

In'zhúje'waxóbe Rematriation Celebration – Saturday @ 2pm

Directions

From Council Grove, head South on Dunlop Rd., then turn left onto X Ave., the left onto South 525 Rd., the arbor will be on the left in 0.5 mile. Watch for the signs.

- BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR -

The area beneath the arbor is used for dancing and ceremonies. The area is called the arena. For the Kaá^ze Níkashin^ga (Kaw People), the arena is a sacred place. The ground has been blessed by the spiritual leaders. Photographs may be taken during the powwow but please ask permission before taking photos of the individuals.

NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ALLOWED. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFTS, ACCIDENTS, OR INJURIES.

TEAM TAJÉ SAGE: A WINNING LEGACY AT ONAYLF

PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Katzy Buffalohead	<i>The Arrest</i>	1st Place
Declan Clark	<i>Duck Jokes</i>	1st Place
Bear Donelson	<i>The Wind People</i>	1st Place
Sterling Donelson	<i>Learning Songs</i>	1st Place
Cooper Engleking	<i>Minecraft</i>	3rd Place
Hunter Goodno	<i>Bear Facts</i>	Honorable Mention
Maudie Jones	<i>Cheers</i>	1st Place
Tiger Jones	<i>Duck Jokes</i>	1st Place
Adalyn Langley	<i>Learning Songs</i>	1st Place
Zach Langley	<i>Weather Report</i>	2nd Place
Sandra LeClair	<i>Prayer & Personal Story</i>	2nd & 2nd Place
Dasan Little Deer	<i>5 Heart Facts</i>	1st Place
Damien Little Deer	<i>The Turtles</i>	2nd Place
Jesus Little Deer	<i>Minecraft</i>	3rd Place
Christopher Moorhead	<i>Days of the Week</i>	3rd Place
Jonathan Moorhead	<i>The Turtles</i>	2nd Place
Kaydence Moorhead	<i>Cheers</i>	1st Place
Nekole Moorhead	<i>Cheers</i>	1st Place
Jacey Pappan	<i>Veteran's Prayer by Judy Sells</i>	3rd Place
Anna Spotted Bear	<i>Sovereign by Robert Allen</i>	1st Place
Irene Spotted Bear	<i>Learning Songs</i>	1st Place
Thomas Spotted Bear	<i>The Turtles</i>	2nd Place
Austin Wood	<i>Old Man & the Snake</i>	Honorable Mention
Brandy Wood	<i>Big Turtle</i>	2nd Place



Hosted by the Sam Noble Museum in Norman, Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair (ONAYLF) is a highly anticipated event, drawing speakers of over 40 native languages, including the Kaw Nation's renowned Team Tajé Sage. This annual gathering has become an increasingly familiar destination for the team under the leadership of Director Storm Brave, as they have consistently seen success competing at ONAYLF.

This year marked yet another milestone for Team Tajé Sage, with over 22 competitors clinching medals across multiple categories and over 1400 competitors. Their outstanding performance included an impressive trophy tally of 12 first-place, 6 second-place, and 4 third-place finishes, along with 2 honorable mentions. Such recognition not only brings honor to our community, but it also showcases the team's exceptional dedication to language preservation.

Kaw Nation's continual presence and success at ONAYLF underscores the importance of indigenous language in modern society and hopes to inspire more tribal citizens to participate in upholding our linguistic traditions.



KANZA LIBRARY & LEARNING CENTER CONTINUES TO BUILD RESOURCES

The recent transformation of the Kanza Library & Learning Center into a vibrant hub of community engagement and learning has been truly inspiring. Through dedication and creativity, Kaw Nation directors and coordinators have come together to create a fun, educational, and welcoming environment filled with enriching activities and resources for people of all ages.

Amenities like coffee and popcorn, along with a diverse range of events such as board games, story time, festive activities, and an afterschool program undoubtedly contribute to making the library a warm and inviting space for students and families to gather and connect. Moreover, the implementation of recent projects like the walking path and amazing new percussion park demonstrates a commitment to promoting not only literacy but also physical activity and cultural enrichment.

The soon-to-come "story walk" along the path is another fantastic initiative that will further enhance the visitor experience by combining literature with outdoor exploration. It's evident that the Kanza Library team is dedicated to providing innovative and engaging programming that caters to the diverse interests and needs of the community.

Acknowledging the hard work and coordination of individuals like Bernadette Hicks, Rayna Rowe, and Tomi Faulkner, is crucial, as their efforts have been instrumental in bringing these projects to fruition. Their passion for creating a vibrant community space shines through in every aspect of the library's development.

Kaw Nation expresses deep pride in the Kanza Library & Learning Center for their commitment to serving the Kaw City community and beyond. We encourage both tribal citizens and members of the greater community to take advantage of the wealth of resources and experiences available at the library. With its welcoming atmosphere and wide range of offerings, it's truly a gem worth visiting.



Grants Director, Bernadette Hicks, coordinates with construction crew during the recent installation of the "percussion park" along the Kanza Library & Learning center walk path.

KNBS RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

Congratulations to Dave Ringwald on his retirement after 16 years of dedicated service at the Kaw Nation Smoke Shop II and Gift Shop. Contributions like his have been invaluable to the success of Kaw Nation Business Enterprises, and his commitment is truly commendable. The celebration of Dave's retirement, marked by pizza, appetizers, and shared memories, reflects the strong sense of camaraderie and appreciation within the workplace. It's heartwarming to see colleagues and leadership come together to honor Dave's achievements and wish him well in this new chapter of his life. As a nephew to one of the last Full Blood Tribal Citizens, Jesse Mehojah, Dave's retirement holds special significance within the Kaw Nation community. His dedication to service and his embodiment of tribal values are a source of pride for the entire tribe. Kaw Nation enterprises play a vital role in the success and sustainability of the tribe, and Dave's contributions have undoubtedly been a part of that success. As the tribe looks toward the future, our

commitment to providing lasting careers and opportunities for tribal citizens remains a priority. Dave's retirement serves as a reminder of the importance of honoring and celebrating those like him, who have dedicated themselves to the betterment of their community. We extend a heartfelt thank you to Dave on this well-deserved milestone, and wish him all the best in his retirement years ahead.



Kaw City Acquisitions and Demolitions

As Kaw Nation continues to expand its property holdings in Kaw City, various departments and contractors have been diligently enhancing these assets to better align with our requirements. In a

recent acquisition of the property just west of our office complex on Grandview Drive, we successfully demolished a deteriorated shed and its contents, resulting in a significantly improved and aesthetically pleasing environment. Further along Grandview Drive, the property formerly known as One Stop, now owned by Kaw Nation, presents another opportunity for development. While the building itself holds promise for the Tribe, we have removed outdated gas pumps and in-ground tanks to pave the way for Kaw Nation's future plans for the site.



The unused and deteriorating shed adjacent to the Kaw Nation office complex in Kaw City was demolished and cleared from the lot.



The underground gas tanks were excavated and the gas pumps were dismantled at the former One Stop in Kaw City.

CONTROLLED BURNS KEEP WASHUNGA BAY SAFE AND VIBRANT

Kaw Nation Land Management and Maintenance crews recently collaborated to execute a controlled burn in Washunga Bay. Initiating from Kaw Nation property on East Ferguson Road, the burn covered over 100 acres extending westward to the shoreline of Kaw Lake near the bridge leading to the Washunga Bay campgrounds. Controlled burns serve as an effective method for wildfire risk reduction while simultaneously facilitating habitat restoration by eliminating dead vegetation and enriching the soil with nutrients. The project was meticulously planned and executed, involving crews stationed across various areas and multiple

firetrucks on standby. Additionally, coordination efforts were undertaken with the Army Corps of Engineers and local landowners to safeguard and preserve Kaw Nation lands, as well as other areas within the community.



KNPD ENSURING COMMUNITY SAFETY



Ensuring the safety and security of the community is paramount for the Kaw Nation Police Department, and recent qualification testing at the KNPD firing range in Kaw City underscores this commitment. Adhering to stringent CLEET standards, officers honed their skills with handguns, shotguns, and rifles, reaffirming their proficiency in handling crucial firearms. Beyond mere compliance, these qualifications signify a dedication to maintaining peak performance levels essential for safeguarding the community effectively. Regular training and assessment not only bolster officers' individual capabilities but also foster a cohesive and highly skilled law enforcement unit. By prioritizing ongoing skill development, the Kaw Nation Police Department stands poised to respond adeptly to any situation, ensuring the continued safety and well-being of those they serve.

NEW KAW NATION HIRES

Chloe LaBlue – School Age Teacher; 2/5/24
 Shylar Colton – Wellness Clerk; 2/5/24
 Tamera Patterson – Daycare Teacher; 2/7/24
 Sierra Johnson – Daycare Teacher; 2/12/24
 Jennifer Jernigan – Grants Admin. Asst.; 2/12/24
 Erin Marsh – Receptionist/Backup Tag Agent; 2/20/24
 Shannon Reed – A/F Associate; 2/26/24
 Shayne Pope – JOM Floater; 2/26/24
 Andrew Traxler – ICW Caseworker; 3/4/24
 Maggie Miller – Floater; 3/4/2024
 Haylee Harris – Child Care Manager; 3/11/24
 Tonya Treat – KHDD Office Manager; 3/18/24
 Kayla Burgess – Tribal Government Program Advocate; 3/18/24
 Tim Grim – Heavy Equipment Operator/Mechanic; 3/25/24
 Jonathan Carlisle – Land Management Specialist; 4/1/24
 Jennifer Henkins – Licensing Investigator Supervisor; 4/1/24
 Kalley Horn – Daycare Teacher; 4/1/24
 Hannah Davis – Daycare Teacher; 4/1/24
 Jeremy Willett – Maintenance Helper; 4/8/24
 Chelsi Green – SoonerCare Coordinator; 4/15/24
 ReAnna Sage – Police Officer; 4/15/24
 Jennifer Hutchison – Janitor; 4/22/24

Kaá'ze Íe Receives Generous Donation from Chickasaw Leadership Academy



Jesse Bussey, from the Chickasaw Nation Division of Research and Public Health, recently spearheaded a successful fundraising effort, amassing over \$1,100 in support of the Kaw Nation Language department. Hailing from Kaw City, Jesse has nurtured a deep bond with the Kaw Nation community and was eager to contribute to the Kaá'ze Íe programs through his involvement in the Chickasaw Leadership Academy. His passion for language stems from his 13-year tenure as a linguist in the Army. The ceremonial presentation of the donation took place at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City, where documentary camera crews were capturing the event. In recognition of his service and longstanding support for the language department, Jesse was honored with a stunning Pendleton wool blanket. The occasion also provided an opportunity to discuss future collaborative endeavors between Jesse and the Kaw Nation Language department.



HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND COMES TO KAW CITY

After years of planning, a long-awaited project is now becoming a reality. Kaw Nation, with the help of Ken Bellmard, has partnered with Kanokla to introduce high-speed broadband internet to Kaw City. This development is welcomed with enthusiasm by the local community, which has lacked this essential service until now. The ongoing project aims to establish broadband infrastructure capable of serving over 500 homes across the greater Kaw City region. This achievement is made possible through Kaw Nation's funding eligibility, overcoming challenges that have hindered companies like Kanokla in expanding broadband access to rural areas. As we progress with this initiative, we kindly request that the residents of Kaw City extend their awareness and hospitality to the crews and work vehicles of Monte R. Lee & Company as they carry out their tasks in the vicinity. Together, let's embrace this milestone achievement, which not only addresses the digital gap but also strengthens our community's connectivity and opportunities for growth.



Kaw Nation's Ken Bellmard along with representatives from Kanokla, and Monte R. Lee & Company at the Broadband Public Information Meeting in Kaw City.

KHDD INTERN PROGRAM CELEBRATES SUCCESS

As a participant in the KHDD internship program, Haiden Weant began his journey at the Kanza Wellness Center at the age of 16. Over the years, he transitioned from intern to a



Haiden stands in front of the Kanza Wellness Center where he worked as a highschool student before being accepted to NWOSU.

valued employee, with this summer marking his third and final season at the center. Recently accepted into Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Haiden reflects on the multitude of lessons, values, and enduring friendships he has acquired through his internship and employment. Grateful for the early start he was afforded, he eagerly anticipates bringing these invaluable experiences with him as he embarks on his next chapter at the university. On behalf of KHDD and Kaw Nation, we extend our heartfelt pride and best wishes to Haiden as he ventures into this exciting new chapter. Go forth with confidence, knowing that you carry the support and encouragement of your community with you.

In Loving Memory

David Taylor
01/25/2024

Tristan William Sawatski
02/01/2024

Bradley Wayne Horton
02/29/2024

Marietta Louise Factor
03/06/2024

Julia Ann Knapp
03/20/2024

Stephen Lee Taylor
04/11/2024

Donna Sue Gaston Craft
04/29/2024

KAW NATION POWWOW GROUNDS 12613 E. FERGUSON RD. WASHUNGA, OK



TAJÉ SAGE / KAÁⁿZE ÍE 8TH ANNUAL YOUTH POWWOW

MAY 18TH, 2024

GOURD DANCE @2PM | SPECIALS AFTERNOON ONLY | TINY TOTS | SUPPER @ 5PM | POWWOW @ 7PM

HEAD STAFF

HEAD MAN - SAMUEL ALLEN | HEAD LADY- RAEGAN WEATHERLY | HEAD SINGER- JORDAN JONES | HEAD GOURD DANCER- THOMAS SPOTTED BEAR | M.C. - JOHN PARKER, CO M.C. - CHUCK PONTIOUS | A.D. - DAMIEN LITTLEDEER SR. , DASAN LITTLEDEER | INCOMING TAJÉ SAGE PRINCESS- ANNA SPOTTED BEAR | OUTGOING TAJÉ SAGE PRINCESS- JACEY PAPPAN | FIREMEN- LAKEN MCCONNELL , CHRIS PAPPAN, WES PAPPAN, AUSTIN WOOD, DAVID WOOD, WYATT WOOD | HEAD COOK- KATZY BUFFALOHEAD | WATER BOYS-HUNTER GOODNO, JESUS LITTLEDEER, COOPER ENGELKING

**SHÍDOHÍⁿGA / BOYS 7-12
CONTEST 1ST, 2ND, 3RD**

SPONSORED BY
COUNCILMAN WES PAPPAN

**SHÍMÍHÍⁿGA/ GIRLS 7-12
CONTEST 1ST, 2ND, 3RD**

SPONSORED BY
KAW HOUSING AUTHORITY

**SHÍDOHÍⁿGA / BOYS 13-18
CONTEST 1ST, 2ND, 3RD**

SPONSORED BY
JAMES PEPPER HENRY

**SHÍMÍHÍⁿGA/ GIRLS 13-18
CONTEST 1ST, 2ND, 3RD**

SPONSORED BY
ROCK & BREWS CASINO BRAMAN

Tapóska / Kaáⁿze Íe Director - Storm Brave

Office: 580-269-2739 or langdir@kawnation.gov

| Mobile: 580-716-6622

VENDORS:

Please contact: Tapóska Samantha Smith

Moblie: 580-716-1376

(***Please leave voicemail***)

SPECIAL THANKS TO:



NO ALCOHOL, NO DRUGS. KAW NATION NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS

KNFTHC EMPOWERS VICTIMS & BUILDS COMMUNITY

To coincide with National Crime Victim's Rights Week, the Kaw Nation Family Trauma Healing Center organized a Community Resource Fair on April 25th at the Carolyn Renfro Event Center in Ponca City. The event saw participation from numerous vendors, such as the Tonkawa Tribe, White Eagle Health Center, Ponca City Police Department, and various other Kaw Nation Departments to name a few. This gathering served as a heartfelt tribute to National Crime Victims' Rights Week, empowering attendees through access to crucial resources like counseling services, legal aid, and healthcare. Additionally, it raised community awareness about the significance of mutual support in times of need. The event was made even more enjoyable with a generous array of door prizes raffled off throughout the proceedings. It was heartening to witness such strong community turnout, with many members actively engaging in and benefiting from the resource fair. The Kaw Nation Family Trauma Healing center looks forward to coordinating more gatherings for Tribal Citizens in the near future.



KAW NATION MAKES 2024 EASTER EGGSTRA SPECIAL

Easter Day in Kaw City was an unforgettable experience for children and families, featuring multiple Easter Egg Hunts organized by various Kaw Nation Departments. The festivities began at 10am with the Kanza Library and Learning Center hosting a vibrant celebration, complete with a Rock & Brews Casino-sponsored bounce house, visits from the Easter Bunny, and expertly hidden eggs. The excitement continued as Southwind Express held a grand egg hunt at Noon, covering the entire south lot of the property with a colorful array of eggs. With three different age groups and three prize eggs per group, the event catered to all attendees, ensuring a safe and joyous Easter celebration for everyone involved.





**698 Grandview Drive
P.O. Box 50
Kaw City, OK 74641
Phone: 580-269-2552
Fax: 580-269-1157**

**Visit us on our Website:
www.kawnation.gov**

**Editor:
Lonnie Doyle
communications@kawnation.gov**

CERTIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THE 2024 KAW NATION ELECTION:

SEPTEMBER 8TH 2023

Tribal Council Seat #2

-Cameron Colt Donelson
-Samantha Goodno

Tribal Council Seat #4

-Desiree Storm Brave
-Nicholas Coble

Tribal Council Vice-Chair

-Robert Allen
-Charles Pontious

ABSENTEE VOTING

Voters may request an Absentee Ballot from the Election Board. Please send the written requests to:

**Kaw Nation Election Board
P.O. Box 48
Kaw City, OK 74641
Or by Fax:
Kaw Nation Election Board
580-269-6060**

Or by Email: electionboard@kawnation.gov (Sign and Scan request)

Upon receipt of a written request containing the voter's signature, the Election Board shall mail absentee ballots to the requester. The last day that a written request for an absentee ballot can be received by the Election Board is August 9th, 2024.

Absentee ballots must be received by postal mail at P.O. Box 48, Kaw City OK 74641, no later than September 6, 2024. Absentee ballots will not be accepted in person or at any other location.