



Kanza News

October 2023



Letter From the Chair

Hawè,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. Cooler weather has hit Kaw Nation, and everyone is dressing warmer. The Tribal Council has been busy, and we have several projects going on. The gym in Newkirk is coming along nicely. We will have a new floor, walls, and ceiling. I have been promised that it will be ready for our December 17th Kaw Nation Christmas party. This year we will be giving door prizes and Santa



will be there to give out Christmas gifts to all the kids. The Union Street project should begin in December we are all looking forward for that to be finished. Lonnie has included several of our projects that we have been working on in this newsletter with some really nice pictures. Land Management is back at cutting wood and setting up dates and times for pickup. Kaw Nation has just purchased an RV park in Kaw City along with 70 acres. It has 14 hookups and is located between our Headquarters and Southwind Express

on the southside of the road. We have started work on the One Stop building in Kaw City and the bank building in Braman which will house our Gaming Commission. I hope to be able to include more pictures and progress updates of projects being completed in the next newsletter.

Wíblaha,,
Kimberly Jenkins
Kaw Nation Chair

Back to School Bash Makes a Splash

The Kaw Nation Housing Authority, in collaboration with Kaw Nation and KHDD, recently hosted a spectacular Back to School Bash, marking the beginning of a new school year. The event, now a much-anticipated annual tradition, provided fun in the sun for school-age children and their families. The festivities kicked off featuring three massive 25-foot inflatable water slides and a giant, enclosed bounce house. Excitement filled the air as kids splashed down the slides, bidding farewell to the lazy days of summer with water-filled adventure. Kaw children also enjoyed a number of contests and games that were coordinated by event organizers.

Adding a flavorful touch to the event, a featured taco truck was on-site, treating attendees to authentic Mexican food. The tantalizing aroma of tacos wafted through the air, creating a communal dining experience that brought everyone together in the spirit of celebration.

Beyond the festivities, the Back to School Bash played a vital role in community engagement. Employees and directors from various Kaw Nation departments, including Social Services, Human



Resources, and the Justice Center, were present, reinforcing the community's commitment to supporting its members. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with these representatives, gaining valuable insights into the array of services and resources available within the community.



47th Annual Kaw Nation Powwow A Success

The 47th annual Kaw Nation Powwow, held at the Kaw Nation Powwow Grounds on August 4th, 5th, and 6th, was an extraordinary success. Drawing one of the largest crowds to date, this event showcased an impressive lineup of 20 dance categories. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the dedicated head staff and the generous event sponsor, Rock & Brews Casino Braman, whose support played a vital role in making this powwow a memorable and culturally enriching experience for all attendees.



CONTEST WINNERS



Jr. Girls Cloth
1st Place | Jacklynn Bighorse
2nd Place | Mikia Littlecook
3rd Place | Tayja Hall



Jr. Girls Buckskin
1st Place | Danessa Two-Hatchett
2nd Place | Ephira Two-Hatchett



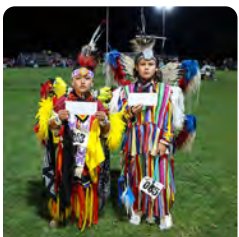
Jr. Girls Fancy Shawl & Jingle
1st Place | Wahreshe Hamilton
2nd Place | Lillian McCartney
3rd Place | Ajay Hall



Jr. Boys Straight
1st Place | Elias Standsblack
2nd Place | Davyn Echohawk
3rd Place | Rambo Dunbar



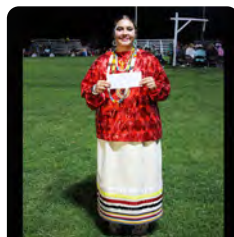
Jr. Boys Traditional & Grass
1st Place
Sky Wildcat



Jr. Boys Fancy
1st Place | Josiah Bruner
2nd Place | Jaxon Enloe



Teen Girls Cloth
1st Place | Madison Bighorse
2nd Place | Mash-ta Littlecook
3rd Place | Kathleen Headman



Teen Girls Buckskin
1st Place
Laney Lefthand



Teen Girls Fancy Shawl & Jingle
1st Place | Emmary Elizondo
2nd Place | Cedar Littlecook
3rd Place | Katzy Buffalohead



Teen Boys Straight
1st Place | Alex Elizondo
2nd Place | Aiden Jones
3rd Place | Blaine Hipp



Teen Boys Traditional
1st Place | William Hamilton
2nd Place | Heston Echohawk
3rd Place | Jimmie Wildcat



Teen Boys Fancy
1st Place | Vann Wildcat
2nd Place | Alec Kent
3rd Place | Pete Moore IV



Women's Golden Age
1st Place | Tammy Cunningham
2nd Place | Lynette Satepauhoodle
3rd Place | Carolyn Littlexe-Saelongei



Sr. Women's Cloth
1st Place | Addison Cloud
2nd Place | Storm Brave
3rd Place | Cyleyss Stumblingbear



Sr. Women's Buckskin
1st Place | Lydee Archie
2nd Place | Cresencia Two-Hatchett
3rd Place | Leah Montes

CONTEST WINNERS



Sr. Women's Fancy Shawl & Jingle
1st Place | Taima Wilson
2nd Place | Marcella Hudson
3rd Place | Brionna Badoni



Men's Golden Age
1st Place | Pete Moore Jr.
2nd Place | Charlie Grass
3rd Place | Robert Allen



Sr. Men's Straight
1st Place | Keetha Buffalohead
2nd Place | OJ Littlecook
3rd Place | Dave Madden



Sr. Men's Traditional & Grass
1st Place | Wes Littlecook
2nd Place | Chad Kills Crow
3rd Place | Cameron Soxie



Sr. Men's Fancy
1st Place | Graycloud Lieb
2nd Place | Christian Rangel
3rd Place | Thunder Lieb



The Return of In'zhúje 'Waxóbe to the Kaw Nation

In a historic moment encompassed in cultural significance and reconciliation, the Kaw Nation recently fulfilled a tremendous milestone—the reclamation of In'zhúje 'Waxóbe, a sacred red Siouan quartzite boulder that had, until August 30th, 2023, resided in Robinson Park in Lawrence, Kansas. This momentous undertaking, funded through the University of Kansas's Monuments Initiative, by way of the Mellon Foundation, is a 30-month, \$5,000,000 project illustrating the enduring spirit of the Kaw people.

The story of In'zhúje 'Waxóbe begins millions of years ago when it was deposited



In'zhúje 'Waxóbe being loaded onto flatbed. Photo Credit: Molly Adams

by a glacier along the banks of the Kaw River at the mouth of Shunganunga Creek. This sacred boulder served as a spiritual anchor for the Kaw Nation, a people with deep connections to the land and its resources. It was not merely a geological formation but a vessel of history, culture, and spirituality for

the Kaw people.

However, in 1873, the Kaw Nation endured the devastating consequences of forced removal from their ancestral lands, marking a dark and unjust chapter in their history. In 1929, In'zhúje 'Waxóbe was relocated to Robinson Park near Lawrence's City Hall, where, regrettably, a plaque was added to the massive rock to honor the town's European founders. This act unintentionally underscored the complex and challenging history of the region, marred by the unjust appropriation of Indigenous heritage. Despite this painful displacement, the Kaw's sacred rock persevered, transcending time and distance.

For the Kaw people, this 10-foot-tall red rock was not just an inert object; it was a living testament to their beliefs and traditions. It served as a focal point for religious ceremonies, and it held the sacred power to provide stones for crafting pipes. It was, above all, an ancient prayer rock—a spiritual touchstone that connected the Kaw to their ancestors, their songs, and their identity.

The return of In'zhúje 'Waxóbe to the Kaw Nation was a momentous occasion, filled with emotions that overflowed like the river that once cradled the sacred boulder. On August 29th, community members gathered under a tent, their hearts brimming with anticipation and hope. The celebration



Jim Pepper Henry and Jancita Warrington, Executive Director of Kansas' Office of Native American Affairs. Photo Credit: Molly Adams

included gifts, an Honor Song, and dances—a fitting tribute to a relic that had waited almost a century to return to its rightful place.

James Pepper Henry, tribal vice chair of the Kaw Nation, remarked on the significance of this event, stating that the return of the Sacred Red Rock was a historic moment not only for the Kaw People but also for the citizens of Kansas. It marked a pivotal step in the ongoing reconciliation efforts between the Kaw Nation and their original Kansas lands.



Attendees of formal ceremony. Photo Credit: Dave Lowenstein

With the assistance of a massive crane and a formidable flatbed truck, the Sacred Red Rock embarked on its journey to Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park in Council Grove, Kansas, situated on lands owned by the Kaw Nation. Kaw Nation leaders and project coordinators, including James Pepper Henry, Kim Jenkins (Tribal Council Chair), and Ken Bellmard (Director of Government Relations), were present to oversee this monumental departure

The City of Lawrence played a crucial role in this endeavor, expressing its support for the Kaw Nation’s efforts and offering a heartfelt apology to the Kaw Nation people for having taken their sacred prayer item.

As Iᵐ’zhúje ‘Waxóbe returns to the embrace of the Kaw Nation, it carries with it not only the weight of history but also the hope for unity, understanding, and healing. This extraordinary journey reminds us that cultural heritage is not confined to museums or monuments; it lives in the hearts and spirits of a resilient people determined to preserve their identity and traditions for generations to come.



Kimberly Jenkins and Watkins Museum Executive Director Steve Nowak sign the loan agreement for the bronze plaque. Photo Credit- Dave Lowenstein



Kaw Nation Chairwoman Kimberly Jenkins and JPH place a blanket on Kansas Governor Laura Kelly Photo Credit: Molly Adams

Lawrence Mayor Lisa Larsen presents Kaw Nation Chairwoman Kimberly Jenkins with a gift. Photo Credit: Molly Adams

Landmark Landback Celebration in Topeka



Kaw Nation recently celebrated the return of a significant piece of its ancestral land in Topeka, Kansas. Nestled near Veteran’s Park in Topeka’s vibrant NOTO district, the ceremonial “Three Sisters” repatriation ceremony marked a tremendous occasion for the tribe.

The ancestral plot, once owned by Evergy, was officially presented back to the Kaw Nation in a symbolic gesture of reconciliation and recognition.

The ceremony included not only the return of the land but also featured the unveiling of a striking mural and the planting of a newly cherished tree on the sacred ground. Kaw Nation Chairwoman, Kim Jenkins, expressed her gratitude and reflected on the rarity of such a landback event. “Normally, corporations don’t want to give land back. We haven’t really experienced something like this, and I’m not sure that many tribes do. So, I’m hoping that other organizations will follow suit and think about that,” remarked Chairwoman Jenkins. The sentiment

resonates not only as a triumph for the Kaw Nation but also as a call to action for corporations and organizations to consider the significance of returning ancestral lands to their rightful stewards.

The return of this land signifies not just a legal transaction but a reconnection to heritage, culture, and identity for the Kaw Nation. The Three Sisters ceremony, deeply rooted in Native American traditions, represents a commitment to sustainability, cooperation, and the interconnectedness of three essential crops—corn, beans, and squash. The inclusion of this ceremony in the repatriation process adds a layer of cultural richness and spiritual significance to the return of the land.



Chair Kim Jenkins & Ken Bellmard observe a Topeka Map in NOTO Arts Center.

The mural, a visual testament to the resilience and history of the Kaw Nation, is a captivating piece of art that tells a story of survival, strength, and the enduring ties to the land. The newly planted tree stands as a symbol of growth, continuity, and the hope for a harmonious future between the Kaw Nation and the land that is rightfully theirs.

The ceremony’s conclusion saw a group walk back to the NOTO Arts Center, where participants immersed themselves in the cultural experience. A fry bread feast and



Kaw Nation Government Relations Director, Ken Bellmard observes artwork at NOTO Arts Center.

the sharing of 3 Sisters soup brought people together, fostering a sense of community and shared celebration.

Kaw Nation’s journey to reclaiming their heritage in Topeka, Kansas, sets a precedent and sparks a conversation about the broader implications of landback movements. It challenges organizations to reflect on the historical injustices and consider how they can contribute to a more equitable future.

In the spirit of this celebration, let it be a catalyst for change and inspire others to engage in meaningful dialogues and actions that acknowledge the historical and ongoing struggles of Indigenous communities. The return of the Kaw Nation’s ancestral land is not just a milestone for them but a step towards healing, understanding, and justice. May this event be a ripple that creates waves of positive change, fostering a world where the relationship between Indigenous peoples and their lands is one of respect and shared prosperity.

“Voices of the Wind People” A Glimpse into History



On the evening of September 16th, 2023, Council Grove, Kansas, came alive with the echoes of history as the city’s Neosho River amphitheater played host to the much-anticipated “Voices of the Wind People” performance. This annual pageant and historical drama, conceived to provide an authentic reenactment of the clash between Native American and Euro-American



cultures, unfolded in the historic setting of Council Grove along the Santa Fe Trail.

At the heart of “Voices of the Wind People” are two pivotal characters: Chief Allegawaho, the Kanza (Kaw) Chief, and Seth Hays, Council Grove’s first Euro-American resident. These two characters narrate the compelling story of a time when two profoundly different cultures converged,

bringing about profound changes. As the Kaw Indians faced relocation and European American settlers began to populate Council Grove along the Santa Fe Trail, the dynamic interplay of these two cultures proved to be severe, leaving a lasting impact on the region.

What makes this production truly remarkable is its dedication to historical accuracy and its multi-dimensional approach to storytelling. “Voices of the Wind People” seamlessly weaves together historic photos, depictions of the picturesque prairie landscape, video imagery, and live-action scenes. The audience is transported back in time as they witness a pack train, wagon train, stagecoach, riders on horseback, tepees, and the flickering campfire of a Kanza village.

One of the more important aspects of the performance is the involvement of the People of the Kaw Nation from Kaw City, Oklahoma. These individuals, whose ancestors once inhabited the Council Grove area, return each year to participate in the production. They not only provide the principal narration for Chief Allegawaho but also enact village scenes and take on dramatic roles, all while showcasing authentic

traditional dances and cultural portrayals.

Among the Tribal Citizens who performed this year was Ken Bellmard, the Kaw Nation Government Relations Director. Bellmard expressed the significance of the pageant, stating, “The pageant is important because it speaks to a very critical time not just for us but for the State of Kansas. It shows the deprivations we had to face and how westward expansion was so detrimental to us.” His words underscore the historical weight and importance of “Voices of the Wind People” as it educates and raises awareness about the complex and often painful history of Native American communities.



This annual pageant serves as a vital bridge between the past and the present, fostering understanding and empathy among its audience members. It is a reminder of the resilience and strength of Kaw Nation and our enduring connection to the land. As “Voices of the Wind People” continues to captivate audiences in Council Grove, it displays the power of storytelling in preserving history, promoting cultural awareness, and honoring the voices of those who once walked the same trails and camped by the same rivers, leaving an indelible mark on the land and its people.

A Gift of Love and Culture at the Washunga Tribal Cemetery

In a heartwarming display of love, respect, and cultural preservation, the 47th annual Kaw Nation Powwow became the backdrop for a meaningful gesture that will forever enhance the atmosphere at the Washunga Tribal Cemetery in Newkirk, Oklahoma. Among the lively dances and vibrant regalia on the 2nd day of Powwow celebrations, a touching act of generosity unfolded—a donation from the surviving family of Donna Villa and Ted Thompson.

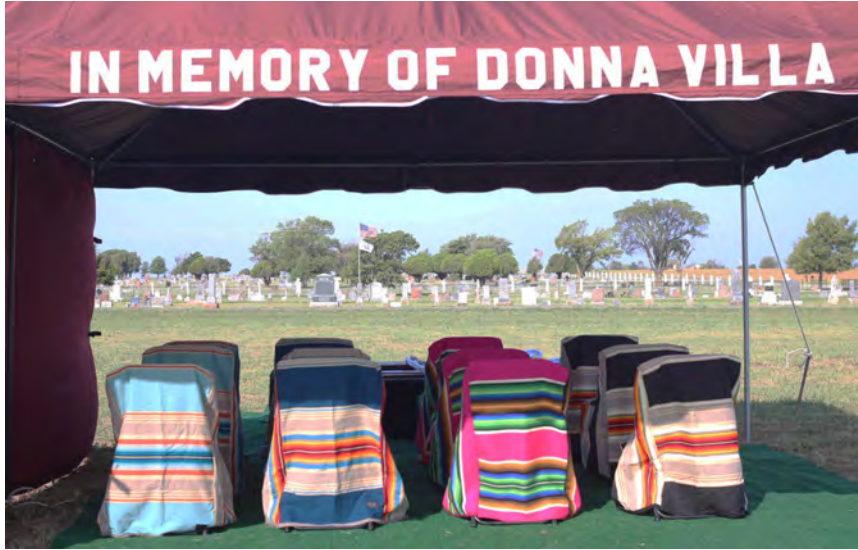
With intentions of honoring their memory in a meaningful way, family members of Donna and Ted presented a remarkable gift to the Kaw Nation Cemetery Committee. A set of exquisite chair covers, skillfully sewn from Pendleton blankets, seamlessly complemented the cover tent donated also by Donna Villa’s surviving family members in 2019 to commemorate her and her father, Ted Thompson.

The chair covers, adorned with a vivid spectrum of colorful tribal designs, not only provide appropriate seating, but also serve as a visual tapestry that



reflects the diversity and vibrancy of Kaw Nation culture. The tent, a sleek addition to the aesthetics, stands as a testament to Donna's foresight in creating a space that dignifies the memories of their loved ones. These donated items come together harmoniously, creating a serene and respectful environment during Funeral Services at the Washunga Tribal Cemetery. As the community gathers to bid farewell to their beloved tribal citizens, they can now find solace and comfort in a space that pays homage to the cultural richness and familial ties that define the Kaw Nation.

The Kaw Nation Cemetery Committee extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Villa and Thompson families for this generous donation, a gift that transcends mere physical objects and becomes a symbol of continuity, love, and cultural pride. The Washunga Tribal Cemetery is now adorned with not just blankets and tents but with the enduring spirit of those who came before, immortalized through this thoughtful act of remembrance.



Renovations at Kaw Nation Powwow Grounds: A Vibrant Transformation



We are excited to share the latest developments at the Kaw Nation Powwow grounds in Kaw City, Oklahoma, where renovations have been brought to life under the capable oversight of Suann Palmer, ARPA Funds Coordinator. These renovations have not only enhanced the beauty of the grounds but have also improved resources for future powwows.



One of the standout features of the renovation project is the installation of fresh sod for the main dance arena. This new and lush sod was generously provided by Daniels's Sod Business LLC out of Tonkawa. What makes this even more remarkable is that the sod was harvested on the same day that the installation began, ensuring that it was ready for use during the 47th annual Kaw Nation Powwow.

Another notable addition to the grounds is the brand-new medical hut, a crucial resource for the safety and well-being of all participants. The construction and delivery of this facility was provided by Bartlett Building Center out of Ponca City. The old building was gracefully removed, and the site was meticulously prepared by

the dedicated teams from the Kaw Nation Maintenance and Land Management, which are led by Scott Rennie and Colt Donelson.

These renovations not only beautify the grounds but also provide a safe and enjoyable environment for all event attendees in years to come.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to Suann Palmer, ARPA Funds Coordinator, Daniels's Sod Business LLC, Bartlett Building Center, and all those involved in making these enhancements a reality. Their dedication and hard work have added a new layer of vibrancy and pride to the Kaw Nation Powwow grounds, ensuring that they remain a cherished place for generations to come.

Standing Bear Powwow Celebrates 30th Anniversary with Kaw Involvement



The Standing Bear Powwow in Ponca, Oklahoma, held on September 29th and 30th, was a remarkable event that held special significance for the Kaw Nation. This annual celebration of heritage and tradition is a highlight in the northern Oklahoma area, and this year, Kaw Nation's involvement reached unprecedented levels.

Kaw Nation proudly served as one of the six local tribes acting as co-hosts for this year's Standing Bear Powwow as part of a deep commitment to preserving and sharing the Native American culture. This collaborative effort brought together Kaw Nation, Osage Nation, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Pawnee tribe, Ponca Nation, and Tonkawa Tribe, strengthening the sense of unity and

community among indigenous peoples.

One of the standout features of this year's event was the prominent presence of Kaw Nation members among the Head staff. Three of our Tribal Citizens assumed key roles within the powwow's leadership including Head Man Dancer, Arena Director, and Water Carrier who all played roles in the



overall success of this cultural gathering. Their involvement not only highlighted the importance of tribal representation but also added a unique Kaw Nation perspective to the event.

In addition to the representation on the Head staff, the Kaw Nation also had a member participating in the Princess competition showcasing the talent and grace of our Tribal Citizens.

The Standing Bear Powwow is a cherished annual tradition, a time when indigenous communities come together to celebrate their shared heritage. Kaw Nation's involvement in this year's event was representative of our commitment to preserving and sharing our legacy with the world.

As we reflect on the success of the Standing Bear Powwow and Kaw Nation's role, we look forward to future opportunities to continue participating in and contributing to future Standing Bear Powwows. We are immensely proud of the remarkable achievements at this year's powwow and anticipate even greater cultural exchange and unity in the years to come.

Kaw Nation ICW Joins Forces at 2023 Standing Bear Powwow

The 2023 Standing Bear Powwow featured the active participation of the Kaw Nation's Indian Child Welfare (ICW), collaborating with other tribal ICWs and the DHS Foster Care Team to create the "Pawnee Area Tribal and Department of Human Services Child Protection Team." This alliance aims to raise awareness about the need for Tribal foster homes in Oklahoma and the importance of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

This partnership addresses the shortage of foster homes that preserve Native American traditions. One critical issue discussed at the powwow was the need for Tribal foster



homes to prevent Native American children from losing their cultural heritage and identity.

The ICWA is a federal law designed to keep Native American children connected to their families and tribes. Kaw Nation ICW and its partners at the Standing Bear Powwow educated the public about the importance of ICWA in preserving Native American children's well-being and family bonds.

Through this collaboration, they seek to prevent the separation of Native American children from their communities, ensuring they grow up in nurturing environments

that honor their cultural identity. These organizations remind us that each child in a traditional foster home represents a piece of our culture lost, and it's our duty to protect families for future generations.



KHDD Attends Native American Leadership Day



Kaw Nation students recently joined the 10th Annual Native American Leadership Day at Northern Oklahoma College. This event was made possible through collaboration between the Kanza Human Development Division,



Northern Oklahoma College, Tribal Youth Program, and several other tribes, including the Ponca Tribe, Osage Nation, Pawnee Nation, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Tonkawa

Tribe, and the Iowa Tribe, who brought their tribal youth members.

During this event, students learned from two Native American guests: Kasey Nicholson, a motivational speaker and comedian from Billings, Montana, who is passionate about creating positive change in tribal communities, and Jake Roberts, the Director of Behavioral Health/Licensed Professional Counselor for the White Eagle Health Center, who educated students about the game of stickball, emphasizing its role in teaching values to Native American youth.

Students also attended preparatory courses, including a College Prep Session by Regina Riley, the Higher Education Director for the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, and a talk by Lauren Redeagle, Tribal Education Advocate

for the Osage Nation, on saving money and its importance. They had the opportunity to interact with representatives from various universities and tribal institutions to explore further education opportunities.



The event recognized leadership through awards for academic performance and cultural involvement. Among the awardees were two Kaw students: Maycie Brandt, an enrolled member of the Kaw Nation, who received an award from the Kanza Human Development Division, and Aiden Jones, an enrolled member of the Pawnee Nation and a descendant of the Kaw Nation, who received an award from the Pawnee Nation Tribal Youth program.

Donation Empowers Aspiring Law Enforcement Professionals



We are thrilled to announce a recent Kaw Nation contribution to the Pioneer Technology Center's Criminal Justice Program. The Kaw Nation has proudly donated a 2014 Dodge Truck to further enhance the training of budding law enforcement professionals in our community. The truck will serve as a valuable resource for the students playing a crucial role helping them gain practical knowledge and hands-on experience in essential areas of law enforcement.

As part of our commitment to the program, we look forward to recruiting future graduates of the Criminal Justice Program to join the Kaw Nation Police Department. This initiative not only benefits our community but also ensures that our law enforcement agencies are staffed with well-trained, dedicated, and passionate individuals who are committed to serving and protecting our community.



Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: KHDD Intern Program

KHDD's 2023 Intern Program achieved great success with eight students dedicating part of their summer break to work across various Kaw Nation departments. This program consistently offers invaluable learning experiences for its participants, and it inspires hope for their future careers as they transition into adulthood.

Nurturing future leaders, the KHDD Intern Program provides a valuable experience, offering students a chance to immerse themselves in the workings of tribal governance and gain insights into their own cultural heritage. As the interns return to their academic pursuits, the Kaw Nation looks forward to their success, both within the Nation and beyond.



Ben Jackson
Transportation

Assisted the transportation workers on job sites.
Helped transportation director with changing out tires on the trailer.
Helped with cleaning the Community Building by taking turns power washing the outside of the building.
Cleaned out flower beds by pulling up old weeds/flowers.
Vacuumed out tribe vehicles.
Cleaned out the shop by sweeping.
Assisted in assembling office guest chairs together.
Attended Chilocco and helped with the younger kids with games.
Helped with the back-to-school bash at Kaw Housing.



Jacey Pappan
KHDD

Helped organize and shred documents.
Made signs for language department.
Helped with making the JOM Pamphlets for the Powwow.
Assisted with the KHDD booth at the back-to-school bash and hand out goodie bags to the youth.
Attended the JOM Camp with the school age children located at the powwow grounds.
Assisted with picking vegetables from the childcare garden for a lesson class.



Blaine Owen
Chair

Shredded Documents
Cleaned out flower beds along with renovating the railing at Title VI.
Assisted in cleaning the Museum| dusting and sweeping.
Helped with cleaning the Community Building by taking turns power washing the outside of the building, sweeping, and mopping.
Attended the JOM Camp with the school age children located at the powwow grounds.
Helped with the back-to-school bash at Kaw Housing.



Brandy Wood
Language

Remodeled cubical/case at the Kanza Clinic.
Worked on the bulletin boards for the immersion classes on days of the weeks/months.
Helped organize the Washunga Days trip as well as the Powwow.
Assisted in organizing Tajé Sage Lemonade Stand for Kaw Powwow and helped with the donations.
Helped in the immersion classes over the summer.
Helped with the garden project at the Powwow grounds.
Translated the 2023 Charlie Adams Day Skit.
Helped with the ELF Grant Fire Circle.
Attended Chilocco and helped with the younger kids with games.
Helped with the back-to-school bash at Kaw Housing.



Ava Owen
Childcare

Helped with the preschool kids.
Answered the phones when needed.
Assisted in the classrooms with the children as well as help clean and disinfect the rooms.
Interacted with the children in activities such as reading to them daily.
Attended the JOM Camp with the school age children located at the powwow grounds.
Helped with the school age children at the back-to-school bash at Kaw Housing.



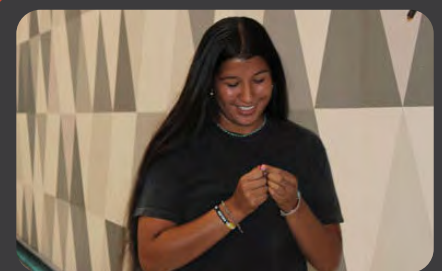
Maycie Brandt
Wellness

Maycie learned how to answer questions about membership prices and hours of operation as well as checking people in at the front desk.
Helped with answering the phones.
Ran the register and made it a personal goal to learn how to count the money back.
Completed a daily task work sheet along with keeping the McCauley building clean for rentals.
Attended Chilocco and helped with the younger kids with games.
Helped with the back-to-school bash at Kaw Housing.



Micah Kekabbah
Wellness-Tribal Youth

Assisted the Tribal Youth Director in planning and getting things ready for fieldtrips.
Prepare the classroom for the kids.
Helped renovate the railing at Title VI.
Assisted in cleaning the Museum| dusting and sweeping.
Helped with cleaning the Community Building by taking turns power washing the outside of the building.
Attended the JOM Camp with the school age children located at the powwow grounds.



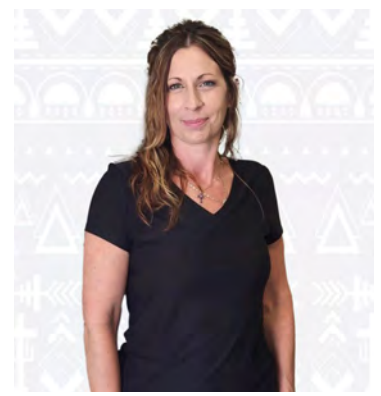
Katz Buffalohead
KNPD

Assisted the Tribal Youth Director in planning and getting things ready for fieldtrips.
Prepare the classroom for the kids.
Helped renovate the railing at Title VI.
Assisted in cleaning the Museum| dusting and sweeping.
Helped with cleaning the Community Building by taking turns power washing the outside of the building.
Attended the JOM Camp with the school age children located at the powwow grounds.

A Great Direction for Kanza Wellness

We are excited to announce Bobbi Ollenborger as the new Director of Kanza Wellness Center. With over 25 years of experience in the fitness industry, Bobbi brings a wealth of knowledge to this role. Born in Winfield, Kansas, Bobbi's journey into fitness began at the age of 18 when she joined a local gym. By 19, she was teaching fitness classes and went on to earn multiple training certifications, working closely with the American Aerobic Association International. By 21, she was leading as the fitness director of a 24-hour health club, learning alongside established instructors.

Bobbi's vision for Kanza Wellness Center is to create a strong sense of community among its members. She believes in the holistic connection between physical and mental health and aims to foster a tight-knit community focused on wellness. Outside of her role, Bobbi enjoys gardening and tending to houseplants, reflecting her passion for nurturing physical and natural health. Join us in welcoming Bobbi Ollenborger as our new Director. We look forward to an exciting and healthy future under her leadership as we pursue health and wellness together.



Kaw Nation Language Department Shines at 2023 Charlie Adam's Day



On September 9th, 2023, the Kaw Nation Language Department made a remarkable impression at the annual Charlie Adam's Day celebration in Newkirk, Oklahoma. The event, held at the Newkirk Public Library, featured captivating performances that highlighted the rich cultural heritage of the Kaw Nation.

Team Tajé Sage, the Youth Language Team, took center stage on Stage Two. They wowed the audience by re-enacting a traditional Kanza story in Kaá'ze Íe, the Kaw Language. Their performance resonated deeply with the spectators, who responded with enthusiastic applause. This showcases the younger generation's commitment to preserving their native language and reflects the

importance of cultural continuity.

Following this stellar performance was another compelling act titled "Wanda Kekahbah Stone, First Woman Kanza tribal CEO." This portrayal was written and brought to life by Storm Brave, the Director of the Kaw Nation Language Department. Storm's portrayal provided a moving first-person depiction of Wanda Stone, an iconic figure in Kaw Nation's history.

During her remarkable 16-year tenure as Kaw Nation Chair, Wanda Stone dedicated herself to ensuring tribal sovereignty and led the Kaw Tribe to a historic status. Under her leadership, the Kaw Tribe became the first and only tribe in

the region to be recognized as a self-governance tribe by both the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS). Her legacy and contributions to the Kaw Nation are nothing short of extraordinary.

The performances at Charlie Adam's Day were not only a celebration of the past but also a strong statement about the resilience and determination of the Kaw Nation to exercise its sovereignty. The Kaw Language Department continues to play a pivotal role in preserving the Kaw language and promoting the cultural identity of the Kaw people. These inspiring acts were a fitting tribute to the Kaw Nation's history and a reminder of the importance of nurturing indigenous languages and traditions.



Empowering Communities: Combating Human Trafficking in Oklahoma



The Kaw Nation Family Trauma Healing Center, in collaboration with the Human Trafficking Capacity Building Center, recently hosted an impactful event aimed at tackling the pressing issue of human trafficking in Oklahoma. Held on July 27, 2023, at The Pioneer Technology Center

in Ponca City, this day-long regional gathering brought together local Tribal community members, victim advocates, and sexual assault/domestic violence advocates for an enlightening and educational workshop.

The event, graced by distinguished session facilitators Whitney Anderson, Executive Director of The Dragon Fly Home, and Jolene Engelking, National Tribal Sexual Assault Resource Center Coordinator, was a platform for attendees to deepen their knowledge about human trafficking while fostering peer networks and relationships.

The workshop featured insightful discussions on various topics, including human trafficking in Oklahoma and the region-specific risk factors that contribute to its prevalence. Attendees were also

introduced to trauma-informed tools and practices for identifying victims of human trafficking through a culturally responsive lens, recognizing the importance of culturally tailored approaches in addressing this issue.

In summary, the Kaw Nation Family Trauma Healing Center's regional gathering, co-sponsored by the Human Trafficking Capacity Building Center, provided an invaluable opportunity to raise awareness about human trafficking, equip attendees with the tools to identify victims, and underscore the importance of culturally responsive support for survivors. It was a significant step toward combatting human trafficking in the region and fostering a stronger network of advocates dedicated to this cause.



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