



# KANZA

The Newsletter of  
Kaw Nation

Kaw City, Oklahoma,  
Headquarters

Vol. 7, No. 1  
Spring 2013

Updates online at  
[www.kawnation.com](http://www.kawnation.com)

## Harnessing the wind

Wind will soon be caught on Chilocco land divided between Kaw Nation and other tribes. PNE Wind will break ground on the project in March. By the end of the year, the wind farm will start operating.

The wind farm will cover the area surrounding the old Chilocco Indian School and will produce 153 megawatts of power, including 13.9 megawatts for Kaw Nation. The total amount of wind produced is equivalent to powering 18,000 homes in Oklahoma for a year.

Ten to 12 turbines will be spread across 630 acres of Kaw Nation's land at Chilocco.

Each turbine will stretch 130 meters — or 423 feet — with blades stretching 50 meters (163.5 feet). A crew of 18 employees will maintain them.

PNE Wind USA Vice President Andre De Rosa said the company is excited to partner with Kaw Nation and its partner tribes of Chilocco.

"It's a successful partnership between not just us and the Kaw, but us and five of the six tribes of Chilocco," De Rosa said. "We view tribe development assets as a key part of our portfolio in North America."

Turn to WIND FARM, 4



Gena Warren, Ken Bellmard and Guy Munroe review documents pertaining to the proposed wind farm during a special meeting of the Kaw Nation Tribal Council Aug. 30, 2012. File photo.



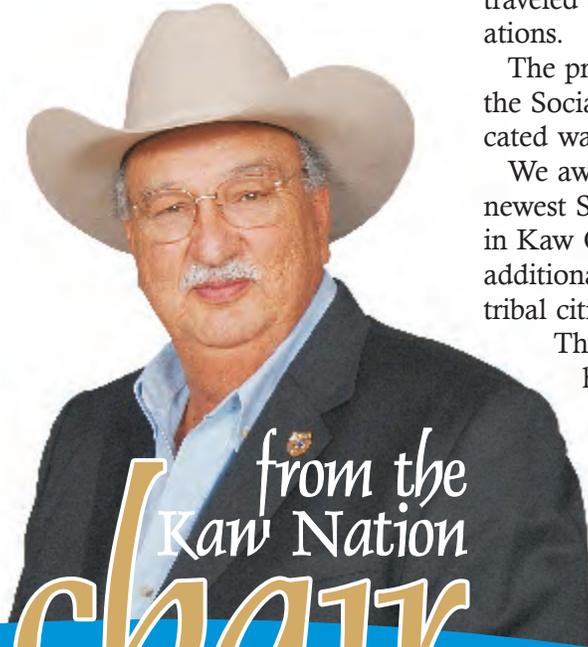
From the Chair, 2 • Bingo anniversary at casino, 5 • Princess candidates sought, 9  
Eagle Watch, 10 • Environmental news, 14 • Rough justice in Indian child welfare, 16

# Tribal updates; save these dates

Dear friends:

Here are a few recent accomplishments of the Kaw Nation:

We are presently negotiating a



from the  
Kaw Nation  
**chair**  
GUY MUNROE

burn ban compact and a tobacco compact with the State of Oklahoma. The state's negotiators from the governor's office recently traveled to Newkirk for these negotiations.

The property in Kaw City where the Social Services Building is located was put in trust.

We await the opening of the newest SouthWind Casino location in Kaw City. This will bring additional money for services for tribal citizens.

The Veterans Honor Dance has been moved to the first Friday in October at the Kaw Nation Powwow Grounds in concurrence with the annual Kaw Powwow. All Kaw citizens who have served or

are currently serving in the armed forces are invited to dance along with their families.

Here are two other events coming up in the next few months that you need to mark down:

➤ The quarterly General Council meeting on April 14 at 10 a.m. in the community building at the Kaw Nation Powwow Grounds.

➤ The Washunga Days Powwow on June 14 and 15 in Council Grove, Kan.

As we enter the spring, please remember that my door is open for you to ask questions, express concerns and share family news.

Have a great spring. I hope you feel all the joy that comes with this season.

*Guy Munroe*  
Chair, Kaw Nation

## Resume bank looking to promote your skills

Kaw Nation is looking for tribal members with technical, mechanical, science, information technology and other skills.

Interested tribal members should send pertinent information, such as a resume, to Erin Kehkabhah via e-mail at [ekhekbah@kawnation.com](mailto:ekhekbah@kawnation.com).

We will be compiling a resume bank as we are continually asked for this type of information from tribal members. This information will be kept confidential and will only be distributed to those who contact the tribe about people with particular skills.

## Seeking graduate photos

The *Kanza News* is requesting photos of graduating high school or college students.

Photos may feature the graduate in cap and gown, in his or her senior portrait or in otherwise pleasant-looking attire.

Please include with it

the graduate's name, age, major (if graduating from college), activities and future plans. We hope to celebrate the accomplishments of the Kanza youth with this graduate page.

Please submit your graduate's photos and information by June 1.



**Kanza**

**Kanza News**  
P.O. Box 50  
Kaw City, OK 74641  
Office 580-269-2552  
Fax 580-269-1161  
[www.kawnation.com](http://www.kawnation.com)

Tom Firme, Editor  
[tfirme@kawnation.com](mailto:tfirme@kawnation.com)

The *Kanza News* is mailed free to Kaw Nation Tribal citizens ages 16 and older. We also mail the *Kanza News* to universities, libraries, Oklahoma government officials and others, upon request.

Editorial statements of the *Kanza News*, guest columns

and readers' letters reflect the opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the *Kanza News* editor, staff or tribal administration of the Kaw Nation.

Reprint permission is granted with credit to the *Kaw Nation* unless other copyrights

are shown. All editorials and letters will become the property of the *Kanza News*.

Editorials must be signed and include address and telephone number. Please send all inquiries to *Kanza News*, P.O. Box 50, Kaw City, OK 74641.

# Enrichment Center's party from the heart

Love and joy was in the air as the Kaw Nation School Age Enrichment Center celebrated Valentine's Day with their families and children.

Everyone enjoyed the stations of activities. Art stations, such as "Message in a Bottle" and "Card Making for Kyra," allowed for messy, glittery fun. We were honored to take part in creating valentines for a child who is ill and could not return to school to attend her own valentine's party.

Giggling erupted as families joined in on "Pin the Arrow on Cupid" and shot Q-Tips out of straws to play the game "Cupid's Arrow." Although the game was intended for target practice into heart-shaped bowls, participants quickly turned on each other for added fun.

The excitement continued as parents bonded with their children thru several science experiments with candy. They used M&M's and Skittles in the floating experiment "Floating M's and S's."

A fizzy explosion was concocted in the experiment "Frozen Vinegar Hearts," and sparks flew in the experiment "Lightning in Your Mouth" with breath mints.

A family favorite was the "Photo Booth" as dads dressed up in tiaras and goofy sunglasses, and children donned feather boas and mustaches.

The dinner menu included heart-shaped pizzas, salad, "Love Potion" and cheese-cake for dessert. Parents were grateful for the festivities. At the end of the evening, a smiling mother approached the staff and said, "I'm so blessed that my children are a part of this. You guys really do put your whole selves into this program. Thank you."

It was not only another successful event for KNSAEC, but also another opportunity to show our children and their families how much we appreciate and love them.

*Submitted by Child Care Development staff*



## NOTICE TO ALL TRIBAL CITIZENS

### QUARTERLY GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Sunday, April 14, 2013 • 10 a.m. to noon**  
**Community Building**  
**Kaw Nation Powwow Grounds**

Lunch will be served for those in attendance

Visit [www.kawnation.com](http://www.kawnation.com) for future notices

Questions? Contact Elaine Huch, Council Secretary, 580-269-2552

## Wind farm

continued from front

This will be the first PNE Wind farm in the United States. The company is the biggest wind developer in Germany, with more than 1,000 Mw produced around the world.

While saying that PNE Wind is looking forward to future wind projects in Oklahoma, De Rosa noted how interesting it is that the company started in the north central part of the state.

“You have to look at the history where the Kaws and Cherokee started independently, not together 10-12 years ago. On a national standard, it’s windy, but in Oklahoma it’s on the lower end of the performance scale. The further you go west, the wind speeds dramatically start to increase. It’s interesting that we were able to do it here. But it shows that wind power is not just open to western part of the state. It can be done in different parts of the state.”

De Rosa added that the clean, renewable power of wind energy comes at a comparable price to coal power.

“We’re able to do wind power at a competitive price if not better than coal,” he said. “We’re not trying to replace coal. Coal, natural gas and oil are the backbone of our industry. But natural gas varies with the price of gas, whereas wind comes at a fixed cost. They all work very well together, as an investment, as an energy resource.”

He stated that the buyer will save about 50 percent over the next 30 years.

# Historian’s new book looks into tribe’s darkest period

An upcoming book about Kaw Nation will take the story of the tribe to a new depth.

Ron Parks, a former chair of the Kaw Mission in Council Grove, Kan., explores the Kanza people’s time at the Council Grove reservation that is scheduled to be released in the spring of 2014.

This work, which has the working title “The Darkest Period: The Kanza and their Homeland, 1846-1873” and is being published by the University of Oklahoma Press, discusses the culture, trade, health and history of the tribe during that time, as well as the dissolution of the reservation and the tribe’s move away from it.

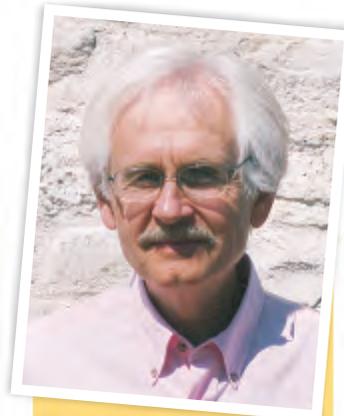
Kaw Nation saw a steep decline in population while on the reservation — from 1,600 upon arrival in 1846 to roughly 600 in 1873, when they left the reservation. This resulted from poor health, a shrinking resource base and a smallpox outbreak in 1855.

The encroachment of white settlers on the reservation between 1856 and 1862 also hurt the tribe. Settlers squatted on tribal land and built on it.

Tribal leaders are shown in the book as resisting the forces that hurt the tribe, trying to maintain the tribe’s culture and economic well-being.

“The Kanza weren’t simply victims being trampled on by an industrial juggernaut, but the odds were stacked against them,” Parks said.

Parks fit the story into the historical context of manifest destiny and perceived racial supremacy by whites. Kaw Nation arrived at Council



Ron Parks shares a series of short essays related to specific events affecting the Kanza, or Kaw, Indians who lived in present-day Kansas. These essays explore the cultural and natural contexts in which they occurred at Council Grove, Kan., more than 150 years ago.

Find Parks’ essays on our website at [www.kawnation.com](http://www.kawnation.com). Click on “Culture,” then “Kanza archive stories.”

Grove in the earlier part of western expansion. The Santa Fe Railroad passed through the reservation.

Parks expressed gratitude to people at the Kanza Language Project, the Kanza Museum and the *Kanza News* for assisting with his research.

“Kaw Nation was very generous sharing resources with me,” he said.

His primary sources for this book include letters from agents of the Kansas Agency to his supervisor at the Office of Indian Affairs and annual reports from the commissioner of Indian Affairs. The

letters from the agents requested resources and shed light on the daily life and work of the Kanza people at the time.

Agents sometimes reported statements from Kaw Nation chiefs. Chiefs would sometimes write to the Great Father. The statement would be translated and sent on.

“When Kanza speak, I want to get as much of that into the text as possible,” he said.

Parks found that some agents were better than others at reporting the state of the tribe.

Parks said that William Unrau’s book about Kaw Nation, “Kanza Indians: The History of the Wind People, 1673-1873” laid the foundation for his book.

“His books and articles provided us with the information and analytical framework,” Parks said. “We owe a debt to his work.”

Since Parks focuses on a more specific time period in his book than Unrau did in his, he was able to go into greater depth than the previous book.

He decided to write a book in 2008, a few years after retiring. Then, he took his research to a higher level.

Parks had worked with the Kaw Mission in Council Grove for three-and-a-half years, from 1990 to 1994. During that time, Parks did consistent research on the tribe.

Before joining the Kaw Mission, he participated in the Eisenhower Centennial Commission. After the centennial project ended, he transitioned into his role with the Kaw Mission.

# Casino marks, or daubs, 28 years of bingo

Players collected their bingo cards and stepped to their respective tables ready to mark all the winning spots on a special occasion. SouthWind Casino's bingo hall celebrated its 28th anniversary on the weekend of Dec. 28-30, 2012.

The opening of the momentous event Dec. 28 attracted 380 players. That included many of the regular players, some of whom had been playing for more years than spots they would mark in two games.

Dec. 29's games saw about 330 players check

cards. On Dec. 30, close to 300 people took part in the festivities.

Participants had a chance to win a \$1,199 payout on the \$28 buy-in. The free pack paid out \$500.

After one of the later games, about a dozen players were honored for having played ever since the beginning of the casino's bingo run in 1984.

Terry Ashby, who has worked in the bingo hall for more than 20 years, announced the games from the podium in front of the crowd.



A number of patrons have been playing bingo at SouthWind Casino since the game was first offered there in 1984.

# Smoke-free casino opening in Kaw City

Boaters, swimmers and other patrons of Kaw Lake are about to find a little off-the-lake fun in Kaw City starting this spring. At that, it will come with a smoke-free environment.

SouthWind Casino is coming to Kaw City, setting up its second venue next to Kanza Museum.

The casino location in Kaw City will be the first smoke-free casino in Oklahoma when it begins business in March.

"In my experience, I've found this is something there's a market for," said SouthWind Casino manager Pam Shaw. "People want to go somewhere where there's no smoke."

Shaw said that nonsmoking casino visitors represent one of the two markets the casino will unlock. This location is also expected to attract people spending time at Kaw Lake during the warmer months.

Shaw said the casino will begin with 60 games and soon after have around 75. "Our plan is to have some of the favorite Class 2 and Class 3 games," she said.

Snacks will also be available to people as they enjoy the thrills of the three-rule game machines and video game-like gaming consoles.



From left, Kaw Nation Tribal Council members Jim Lessert and Jason Murray, Tribal Chair Guy Munroe, Tribal Council members Erin Kehkahbah and Gena Warren and Tribal Council Secretary Elaine Huch at the casino groundbreaking.

As SouthWind Casino in Newkirk is the luckiest casino in Oklahoma, with the greatest proportion of winners, people will experience great winning excitement at the coming location.

"There will be a lot of winning and a great selection of games," Shaw said.

Cece Stevens will be the floor manager of the new casino, and Pam Shaw will serve as the general manager, just as she does for SouthWind Newkirk.

People can look forward to learning about the promotions at this casino when the grand opening is held in the first week of April.

# Village dig uncovers tribe activity

Archaeologist Donna Roper presented the largest collection of findings from Blue Earth Village since the Kanza village was discovered in 2012.

The discoveries that she spoke of during the Friends of Kaw Heritage meeting at the Kaw Mission in Council Grove, Kan., on Feb. 10 scratched at the surface of the tribe's activity at the village.

Roper and her crew had investigated remains of huts. She explained how the earth huts the Kanza people lived in didn't last a long time. Still, her crew was able to explore the insides of huts. They noticed foot patterns, which showed traffic patterns, including smooth ground where people often walked.

Also, Roper and her crew found household items like tea kettles and other personal belongings, including gun parts. She said that since the tea kettles were metal instead of handmade, they were among the earliest items for which the Kanza people traded.

A trade list from 1794 was discovered.

Roper said that some knowledge had been gained pertaining to the location of grave sites.

Blue Earth Village was thought to have been lost before Roper's group found it. The tribe was located at the village from the 1790s to 1825, when they were moved by treaty to areas north of Topeka.



Roper said that more work will be needed to understand the context of various items — where, how often and in what way they were used — since these things might have traveled up to three meters

(9.8 feet) due to tractor activity and other forces.

The researcher hopes to unearth more as her group searches the one-time domain of the tribe in the coming months.



COURTESY DONNA ROPER



Among the artifacts found at the Blue Earth Village site were, clockwise from top left, horseshoes, outdoor tools, domestic objects such as this mask, and gun parts.

# Parenting plans help provide for children

In the last issue, we took a bit of your time to answer a few questions you might have about paternity. Kaw Nation Child Support Services would like to continue this conversation and answer a few more questions that you may have.

In this issue, we would like to talk briefly about custody and access or visitation. This is not a matter that the Kaw Nation Child Support Services can address. However, it is a very important issue. We hope you find this information helpful.

## What is parental custody?

Parental custody refers to your responsibility and right as a parent to care for your child. This responsibility doesn't end when you get divorced or are separated.

Both of you will still have the duty of providing for your child's physical, emotional, financial and other needs just as you did before you separated.

Part of the challenge caused by a separation or divorce is that parents no longer reside in the same location. This can make it difficult for both parents to actively provide for their child's necessities because they have to divide the child's time between them.

Before your separation, you were able to pool your resources and provide for your child together. However, you should not have to stop acting as a parenting team just because you are no longer together.

Because of this, it is vital for you as divorcing parents to create a parenting plan that dictates how you will provide for and care for your child. This will provide your child with the structure and stability that he or she needs

and will help you raise your child together even though you are apart.

## What is a parenting plan?

A parenting plan is often called a custody agreement. It should contain all of the rules the parents will follow as they raise their child apart.

Once approved by the court, a parenting plan becomes a court order and both parents will be legally obligated to follow the terms and conditions of the plan.

A good parenting plan should contain:

➤ **A child visitation schedule** (also called a custody schedule or parenting time schedule) that dictates when the child will be with each parent. This should include a regular schedule as well as a holiday schedule and a vacation schedule.

➤ **Stipulations regarding parental rights and responsibilities.** These should be very specific and designate either or both parents as being responsible for making important decisions (medical, educational, religious, etc.) for the child. It should also include details about the sharing of information on matters regarding the child.

➤ **A method of dispute resolution.** A good plan will include a process that will keep parents from returning to court when and if they are not able to agree on something in the future. If you can agree on a process for settling disputes now, you can avoid future litigation, saving time and money.

➤ **Provisions for modifying the plan.** As a child grows, the parenting plan should grow, as well. A system for making changes to the plan should be included



## Contact Child Support Services

580-765-9952 [kncss@kawnation.com](mailto:kncss@kawnation.com)

Aimee Turner [aturner@kawnation.com](mailto:aturner@kawnation.com)

Dawn Briner [dbriner@kawnation.com](mailto:dbriner@kawnation.com)

to accommodate the needs of the child as they will change as the child gets older.

➤ **Provisions pertaining to the care of the child.** Transportation, communication, extra-curricular activities and how to handle the child's belongings are just some of the issues that may be addressed.

➤ **Any other stipulations the parents would like to include.** Parents know the specific needs of their child and should be able to anticipate situations that may arise and may include rules for dealing with them. You may include anything you feel is relevant to raising the child in your parenting plan.

Including all of the information you need in your parenting plan may seem overwhelming. Where do I start? What should I include? What if I leave something out? How should I format my documents?

These are questions best answered by an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, you can work with the Kaw Nation Tribal Court. The court can refer you to the legal professionals or instruct you as to the legal processes of the court to address your particular circumstance.

## How can I get my parenting plan approved?

The best way to get your parenting plan approved is to get the other parent to agree to it. When parents are able to agree on a custody plan,

the court will review the plan to ensure it meets the needs of the child and will typically approve it.

If you are having trouble reaching an agreement, you may want to use an individual that provides mediation services to help you negotiate your agreement. Mediation is an inexpensive way to use a "middle man" so that you don't have to talk with your ex face-to-face.

Even if you are not able to agree on all aspects of your parenting plan, you can submit your proposed parenting plan to the court or a mediator. You let the court know what portions of the plan you were able to agree on and the court (or mediator) will decide on the rest of the portions of the parenting plan that are in dispute.

You should be prepared to tell the court (or mediator) why your proposed parenting plan will be in the best interest of your child and how it will help you fulfill your custodial duties.

A well-organized plan will be sure to make an impression on the judge and will increase the chance that your plan will be accepted by the court.

These are just a few questions that open the door to what is parental custody. If there is more you would like to know, either for yourself, a loved one or a friend, contact our office. We will be happy to direct you to someone who can help you with your custody and visitation matters.

In loving memory  
of our Kaw  
Tribal citizens

**Marie Koopman**  
D.O.D. 02.04.2013

**Noelani Crawford**  
D.O.D. 02.05.2013

**Laverna Greenwood**  
D.O.D. 02.06.2013



## Remembering the life of Viola Farnsworth

Viola, who was born on Nov. 28, 1917, was the daughter of Talbot (Tobi) Farnsworth (Indian name: Wah-sis-tah), a full-blood Kaw who was born June 25, 1893, and Alta (Boyles) Farnsworth. Viola grew up on Little Beaver just outside Washunga with her two brothers, John and Herb Farnsworth.

She attended Washunga grade school until 1931. Both of her parents died that year. After their death, she was sent to Chilocco Indian School for the ninth, 10th and 11th grades. While at Chilocco, she said the times were difficult.

Her most memorable experience at Chilocco was when the late great Jim Thorpe came to visit. His daughter was Viola's roommate. The man known as the greatest athlete of the early 20th century took them to Newkirk for dinner.

She attended Kaw City High School for 12th grade. She graduated with the last full-blood Kaw, William



Mehojah. Her grandparents were Som-jum-wah and Chesame, both full-blood Kaws.

Viola married Harry Weso Pappan (one-eighth Kaw, one-eighth Osage, three-eighths Potawatomi). They lived in and around Kaw City until 1945 when they moved to Vancouver, Wash. They moved back and forth between the two cities for several years until they finally settled in Vancouver in 1948. They had two children, Buford and Virginia. Harry retired from Alcoa Aluminum Plant and Viola

from Jantzen Knitting Mills.

Viola was very active in her children's school and outside activities. She loved to bowl and was an excellent seamstress. At one time, she was one of the top three bowlers in the state of Washington.

While living in Kaw City, she always saw that Silas Conn was cared for. She wanted her children to know him and listen to his stories. He had been one of her dad's friends before he died.

Her last visit to Kaw City was in 1955. Her brother, John, also passed away in 1985 and is buried in the Washunga Cemetery. Her other brother, Herb, lives in Texas and is one of the elders of the Kaw Nation. He often is one of our lead flag bearers at the annual Kaw Powwow.

Her life was full and happy. She died on April 5, 1985, of lung cancer. She had six grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

*Submitted by  
Buford Pappan*

## Town of Braman to get new recycling center

The Kaw Nation Environmental Department will soon bring recycling collection to places in the area that lack the service.

KNED will set up the recycling center on Broadway Avenue in Braman, across the street from the American Legion Post 259 home.

The recycling crew will pick up materials from Blackwell schools, Newkirk schools, the four Ponca City elementary schools, Shidler schools, Northern Oklahoma College-Tonkawa and all of the Kaw Enterprise Development Authority businesses.

In the beginning, KNED will ship aluminum to Ponca City, cardboard and paper to

Wichita and plastic to Oklahoma City.

Currently, Ponca City and Tonkawa are the only municipalities in Kay County that have recycling facilities. However, Recycle OK in Tonkawa does not pick up recyclables.

The town of Braman and Post 259 will be partners in the recycling center. Braman will own the building and cover utilities. The post is helping prepare the facility and some legionnaires will volunteer with the center.

"They do an awesome job helping the environment," said KNED staff member Skyler Mathews. "We're glad to have those guys on board."

KNED will operate the

facility at first, picking up recycled material once each week. Mathews said that they are looking towards incremental expansion with revenue from recycling covering costs.

Initially, only plastics and paper will be collected. Soon after, metals will also be picked up.

In January, the General Council approved purchases of a 5,300-pound compactor, a dig floor scale, a pallet jack and 20 bulk bins.

On Feb. 5, KNED staff presented market research to

the Braman Town Board.

In March, the recycling center will open. Mathews said during the Feb. 5 meeting that KNED plans to keep the facility in Braman as this recycling service grows.

Post 259 Commander Marv Sandbek said that the recycling center is an important part of encouraging the practice of recycling in the area.

"Above all, it's about promoting recycling and good stewardship of the environment," he said.





# Kaw Nation seeks Princess candidates

## Kaw Powwow Princess eligibility requirements

### A. Application procedure. An applicant for Kaw Nation Princess:

1. Must submit to the Kaw Nation Cultural Committee by Dec. 1 of the year prior to her intended reign:
  - a. a photograph in traditional Kaw dress;
  - b. a biography;
  - c. a letter of intent, telling why she wants to be Kaw Princess and how she will serve.
2. Will be notified verbally and by letter of the Cultural Committee's decision by Jan. 31 of the year of her proposed reign.
3. If chosen, must accept verbally and submit her Letter of Acceptance by Feb. 28 of the year of her reign. The Cultural Committee will then schedule a date for the selected Princess to attend a meeting to go over the expectations and requirements.

### B. Materials received. Each Princess will receive a Princess Packet and must sign an acknowledgment of its receipt. The packet will contain:

1. a list of eligibility requirements;
2. a language CD;

### C. Requirements during reign as Princess.

1. Must wear Kaw traditional dress – broadcloth skirt with pleat, traditional Kaw shirt, yarn belt, traditional Kaw moccasins and leggings – at all Powwows and ceremonial functions where she represents Kaw Nation.
2. Must be of good character, be willing to greet the public, and be a good ambassador for Kaw Nation.
3. Must be of Kaw descent or legally adopted by an enrolled Kaw tribal member.
4. Must be a current student in junior high, high school or college and be between 13 and 21 years of age.
5. Must be single with no children.
6. Must never have been married.
7. Must be able to represent Kaw Nation at a minimum of five powwows, more if possible. The five shall include Council Grove, Kaw and Standing Bear powwows and two others within a 50-mile radius of Kaw Nation headquarters.

8. Must attend other cultural or public relations events as requested by the Cultural Committee.
9. Must know and perform all appropriate dances.
10. Must wear Kaw crown and banner at all powwows. Must not hold any other princess titles until reign is over.
11. Must check in with Cultural Committee one hour prior to each event.
12. Must participate in all afternoon and evening sessions at Kaw Powwow and Council Grove Powwow in traditional Kaw dress.
13. Must learn enough Kaw language to give a greeting and/or prayer at public events.
14. Must be willing to fulfill unexpired term of her successor if said successor has relinquished title [see item D(3)].
15. Must sit in the powwow arena if seating for princesses is provided.

### D. Policies and procedures.

1. A \$1,000 princess fund has been established. Mileage will be paid from this fund for travel to and from any pow-

- wows throughout Oklahoma. A mileage voucher should be completed and turned into the Cultural Committee Chairperson for forwarding to the Kaw Nation Accounting Department.
2. Princess requirements for 2012-2013 candidates will be published in the Kanza News, distributed at General Council meetings, and posted at Kaw Nation facilities. If no candidates submit applications, the Princess will be selected by invitation from the Kaw Nation Cultural Committee.
3. If any Kaw Nation Princess is determined by the Kaw Nation Cultural Committee after fair hearing to be unable to perform her duties or unfit to represent Kaw Nation, she will be asked to relinquish her title and crown and will be replaced by her predecessor for the balance of her reign.

For more information, contact Rima Bellmard at Kaw Nation Headquarters at 580-269-2552 or email [rbellmard@kawnation.com](mailto:rbellmard@kawnation.com).

Revised and approved by Kaw Nation Cultural Committee, February 2007.

To fill out an online application, go to [http://kawnation.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/APP\\_Kaw\\_princess.pdf](http://kawnation.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/APP_Kaw_princess.pdf)

Those who took part in the horseback Eagle Watch tour could spot this eagle near Sarge Creek. More photos of the horseback tour on page 12.

# Flocks of people gather at Eagle Watch



Jan. 19 brought a warm opportunity for area residents to see eagles during the 24th annual Kaw Lake Ultimate Eagle Watch, presented by the Kaw Lake Association and sponsored in part by Kaw Nation.

The Eagle Watch was attended by 579 people. Even though hunters scared off some of the birds, people were able to catch sight of several eagles throughout the day.

Masses of people crowded into the Kaw Nation Community Center as Ryan VanZant of the Sutton Avian Research Center presented his eagle, BENSAR.

“BENSAR is a fine ambassador for his species,” VanZant said.

BENSAR (whose name stands for Bald Eagle Northern Sutton Avian Research)



Luther Pepper discussed the significance of eagles in Native American cultures.

is 27 years old and weighs eight pounds. He once flew over the Grand Canyon.

BENSAR flew off his perch at one point, unsure of his place in the room. Also, he took a moment to comb his wings as VanZant answered questions.

“It’s an indication that he’s comfortable here,” VanZant said.

Among other presentations given that morning, Luther Pepper discussed the significance of eagles in Native American cultures. Pepper spoke about how eagle feathers are presented to people to wear with their dancing regalia.

“You can’t just get one of those feathers and stick it on your head and start dancing. There’s a process — a ceremony — you have to go through to be able to go to a

person who has the right to put a feather on a person. In our tribe, it's the eldest son that has that right," he explained.

Pepper mentioned how fancy dancers used to wear eagle feathers in the bustle of their regalia.

He discussed how Native Americans believe that the eagle carries prayers up to the Great Father, Wakanda.

Jennifer Randel of the Potawatomi Tribe gave a presentation on the Citizen Potawatomi Aviary Project. She decided to start the aviary after attending the Kaw Lake Ultimate Eagle Watch in 2008. Upon hearing that anyone from a federally recognized tribe could start an aviary during a presentation about the Iowa Aviary, she decided to start one.

"Literally on the way home I called my grandmother, who is an elder in my tribe, and told her what happened to me. I told her, 'I had an epiphany. I realized that this is what I'm sup-



**Clockwise from top, BENSAR; Jennifer Randel talks about the Potawatomi aviary; Mark Howery gives a presentation on the habitat and history of eagles in Oklahoma; Ryan VanZant of the Sutton Avian Research Center presented his eagle, BENSAR.**

posed to do with my life,'" she said.

She went to various eagle watches and training sessions to learn about taking care of eagles. In 2009, she won a grant for the aviary. At the aviary, Randel and others nurture sick and injured eagles so that they may fly again.

Tribal members also pray with eagles.

Having an aviary enables the tribe to gather molted feathers. She mentioned that this eases the process of obtaining feathers for personal use.

"Sometimes you have a death in your family or a veteran coming home and you need that feather within a day or a week. We can offer that," she said.

Rondi Large gave a presentation on WildCare, a wildlife refuge for injured or orphaned animals that are native to Oklahoma. WildCare treats 5,000 animals per year among 125 species. A few eagles are able to find a place at WildCare each year.

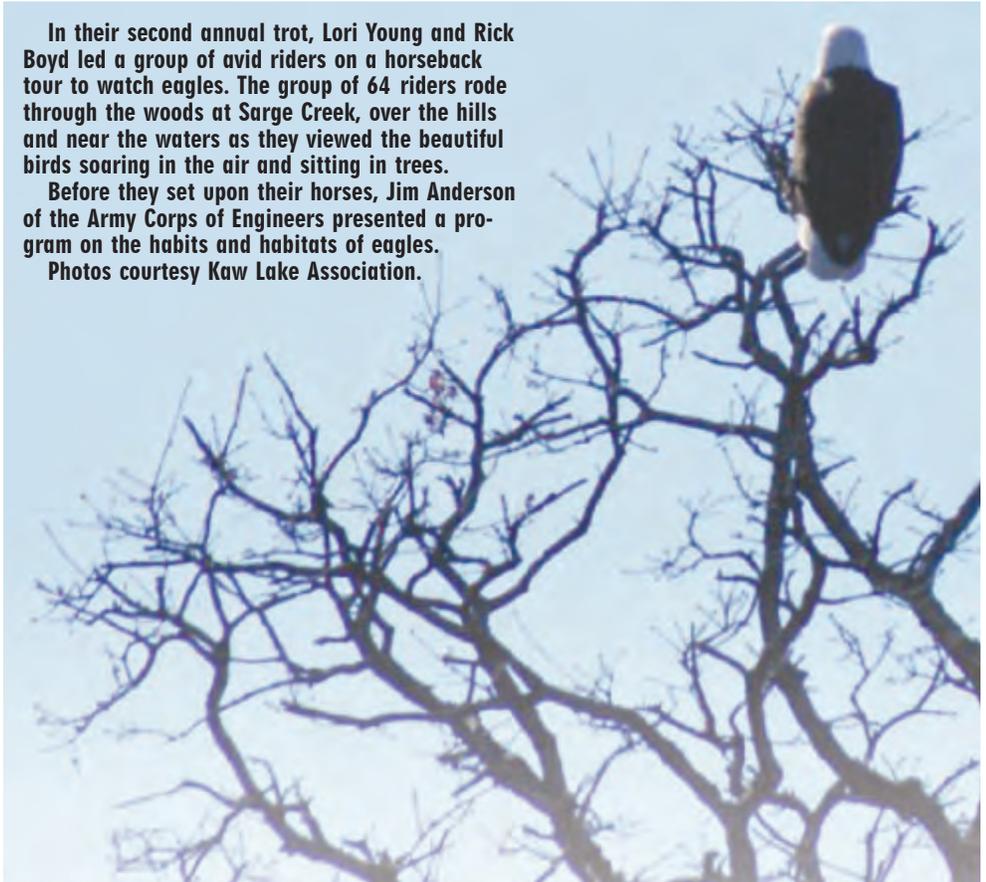


Jim Anderson speaks to eagle enthusiasts about the bird's life and environment.



In their second annual trot, Lori Young and Rick Boyd led a group of avid riders on a horseback tour to watch eagles. The group of 64 riders rode through the woods at Sarge Creek, over the hills and near the waters as they viewed the beautiful birds soaring in the air and sitting in trees.

Before they set upon their horses, Jim Anderson of the Army Corps of Engineers presented a program on the habits and habitats of eagles. Photos courtesy Kaw Lake Association.



Tiffany Buckley gets ready to join the group with her horse, Glory.



Lori Young and Sky meet up before settling down for lunch.



All of the riders give their horses a rest from the march and bring them to the water for a drink.

The parade of riders wind past the shore of the creek.



More photos on the association's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/pages/Kaw-Lake-Association/110266545681506](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kaw-Lake-Association/110266545681506)

# Kaw Nation represented in AIS powwow



Above, from left, Kaw citizens Jason Murray, Sklyer Mathews and Ken Bellmard in regalia at the American Indian Society Powwow in January. Right, Sklyer Mathews, far right, participates in the color guard. Submitted photos.

Tribal leaders attended the American Indian Society Powwow in January.

During the event, tribal leaders were able to meet business and political leaders in the Washington, D.C., area.

In 1966, Native Americans living in the Washington, D.C., area decided to form AIS, a non-profit organization with a constitution and elected officers, to fill the need for a central organization representing as many tribes as possible.

In 1969, AIS held its first Native American inaugural event and formed its first parade unit, which marched in the Presidential Inauguration of Richard Nixon.



## A Kanza family's wrestling legacy

As many Oklahoma families carry wrestling legacies — participation in the sport that is handed down from one generation to the next — a number of Kanza families share in this tradition.

One of the more prestigious Kanza wrestling legacies lies in the Lynes family, which has a pair of brothers who won state championships, as well as state finalists in multiple generations.

Karl, Kelsy and Kenin Lynes were nurtured in the sport at an early age by their father, Gary, who coached their YMCA team.

Kelsy Lynes won the Oklahoma 4A championship in the 178-pound weight class for Ponca City High School in 1978. A year later, Karl won in the same weight class, becoming the third Wildcat wrestler in four years to win in the class. Karl

joined a string of tribal members winning state titles in the late 1970s that included Kelsy, Bruce Horton and Ken Bellmard.

Kenin placed fourth in the 4A championships in 1977. He went on to wrestle for Northern Oklahoma College.

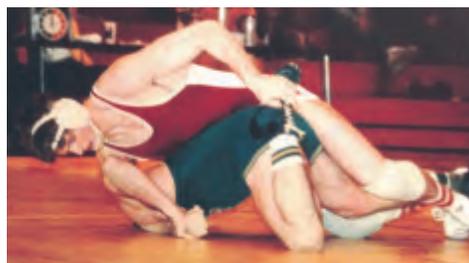
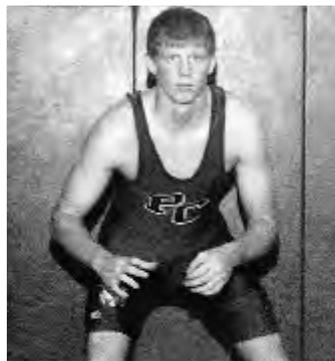
Karl wrestled for two years at NOC before wrestling at Oklahoma State University. He was a two-time junior college champion at NOC, amassing a 57-1 record and going undefeated in 1980-81. He placed third in the Big Eight in 1983 before being a conference runner-up and fourth-place finisher in the NCAA championships in 1984.

Kelsy wrestled for The University of Oklahoma.

Karl's son, Jacob, was a state runner-up for Ponca City in 2004. Jacob wrestled for two years for the Air Force Academy.

Karl spent 12 years as a head wrestling coach at Central High School in Sand Springs, Okla., and then another 12 as an assistant coach for Ponca City High School.

Kenin coaches wrestling at Trinity High School in Euless, Texas. He previously coached at Central High School in Tulsa and East Junior High School in Ponca City.



Clockwise from top left, Jacob Lynes in 2004; Kelsy Lynes in the late 1970s; Karl Lynes in the early 1980s. Submitted photos.



Kaw Nation representatives view a demonstration of water being processed through reverse osmosis at the Amcon facility in Springfield, Mo. Purified water is bottled after going through the filtration system.

# PRESERVE PROTECT & IMPROVE



**KAW NATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT**

## Making our drinking water better

Recently, a number of Kaw Nation representatives attended a tour to Amcon, a water bottling treatment facility in Springfield, Mo. Amcon conducted a reverse-osmosis demonstration to show us how to make our drinking water better and soon be able to use efficiently at Kaw Nation.



Above photo, Kaw Nation representatives view a demonstration of the actual purification of water through the reverse-osmosis water filtration system at the Amcon facility in Springfield, Mo. Left photo, Kaw Nation Tribal Council Member Jim Lessert, Kaw Nation Attorney Ken Bellmard, Kaw City Mayor Tom Trueblood, KEDA Board Member Jerry Johnston and Jason Murray with the Amcon plant supervisor.



### Braman receives recycling compactor

Kaw Nation Environmental Department looks forward to many projects for 2013. So far this year, we were able to purchase a commercial recycling compactor to put in Braman, Okla.

The compactor is designed to efficiently and safely compact all recyclable materials. It will recycle small volumes of aluminum or plastic on an ongoing basis, or recycle cardboard into bales the size of refrigerator boxes.

Kaw Nation Environmental Department strives to find new ways to make our environment better every day.

### Wastewater and septic training

Dr. Dejene Alemayehu and Skylar Mathews were able to attend training in Lawton, Okla., over wastewater and septic systems. The training allowed them to gather ideas for putting in septic systems for lagoons. This consists of one or more lagoons designed to receive, hold and treat wastewater.



# Ponca City dump site cleaned up

Keeping our land clean is very important. Kaw Nation Environmental Department was able to clean up a dump site in Ponca City. Because of this cleanup, we were able to make a more safe and healthy environment.

This dump site had no hazardous waste materials, but household and normal backyard waste. If not cleaned up properly, it would have spread toxins into the soil or even reach creek waters.

Kaw Nation also cleans up Highway 11 twice each year through contractor George Pease.

A little help from everyone will go along ways to keep trash under control.



Top photo, a dump site near Ponca City. Right photo, KNED Director Dr. Dejene Alemayehu walks through the dump site in Ponca City.

## New faces at KNED

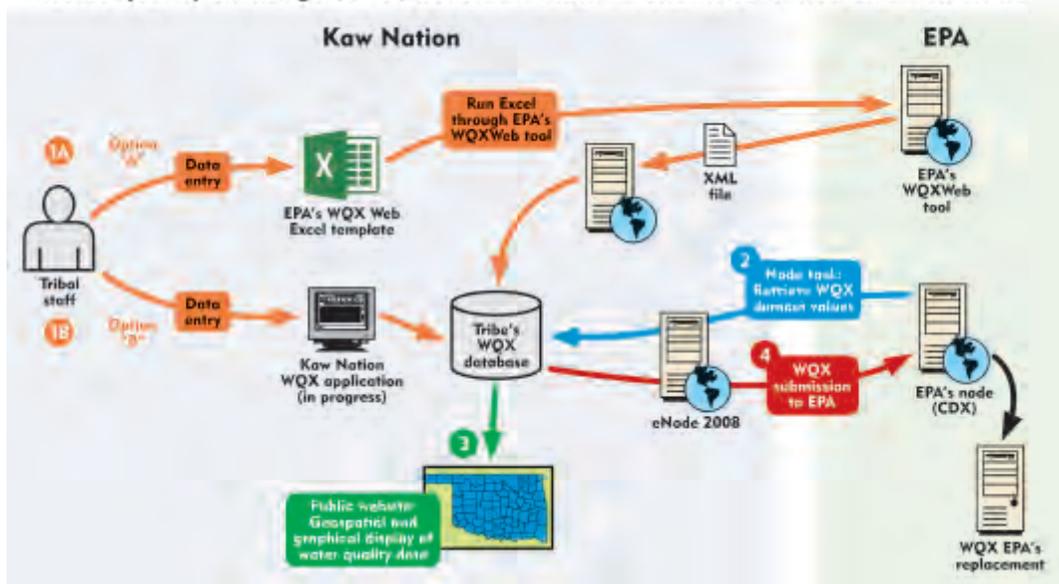


The environmental department added a new team member to Kaw Nation. Jordan Lunsford will be the KNED secretary. She is originally from Ponca City. She graduated from Ponca City High School and Northern Oklahoma College with an associate's degree in general studies.



Chance Plunk has returned to the department as an intern. Chance is a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving for more than eight years. He studies environmental science at Northern Oklahoma College.

## Water quality exchange (WQX) node data flow — Cherokee Nation and Kaw Nation



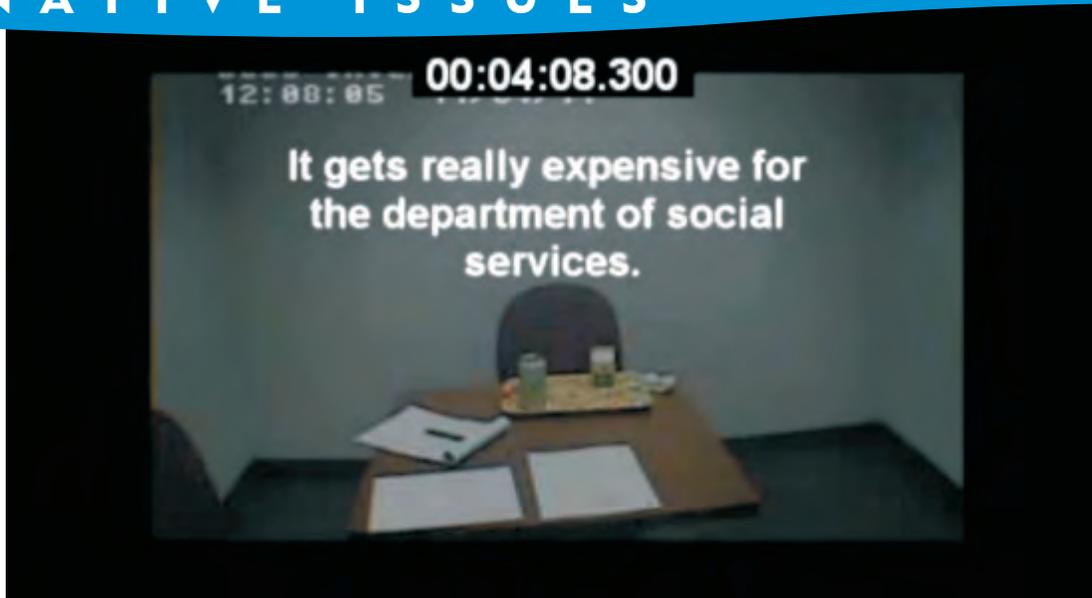
**Data submissions to the EPA.** The graph above illustrates the Kaw Nation Environmental Department node server. This server is the central hub for all data collected by the Environmental Department.

The node is used to submit all the data collected in

our Water Quality, Open Dump and Air Quality programs to the federal government and ensures eminent funding for the department.

KNED IT technician Kristopher Russell has been keeping the node data flow up to date.





Still from a video of a conversation between South Dakota state investigators Nov. 4, 2011, prior to obtaining a search warrant, discussing their plan to criminally prosecute Brandon Taliaferro and Shirley Schwab, despite having no evidence of any wrongdoing. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ev1mLcuVMe4&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ev1mLcuVMe4&feature=youtu.be)

# Rough justice in Indian child welfare

By STEPHANIE WOODARD

**IN A BASEMENT INTERROGATION ROOM** in South Dakota, agents of the state’s Department of Criminal Investigation were on the firing line. A group of Native American children were claiming sexual and physical abuse by their white adoptive parents, whose home they first entered as foster children.

South Dakota was already under Congressional scrutiny for the high number of Native children it takes from their homes and tribes and then places, for the most part, with white foster families or in white-run group homes — seemingly to claim a higher share of federal foster care funding. Though Native children make up about 13 percent of South Dakota’s child population, they are typically more than

50 percent of those in care, according to federal figures. The state’s response to the Native children’s accusations against their white parents offers a rare look into South Dakota’s foster care system, which places 9 in 10 Native children in state foster care with white families or white-

run group homes. The state’s actions also raise questions about the commitment of officials to protect Native children taken from their natural families, particularly when homes that are presented as safe havens turn into places of abuse.

Startlingly, the agents who summoned the children to the interrogation that day in November 2011 were working hard to get the youngsters to recant their abuse claims. State officials also brought charges against the deputy state’s attorney and a child welfare advocate,

Brandon Taliaferro and Shirley Schwab, who moved to stop the abuse. Their trial on charges of getting the children to lie about the abuse was set for Jan. 7, 2013.

That day, sheriff’s deputies had taken the children out of school, court records show, and brought them to the basement room, with its table, chairs, one-way mirror, and recording equipment. One by one, the children faced Agent Mark Black of the Department of Criminal Investigations and a partner. The children were each alone, without an adult present on their behalf.

While being questioned by the agents, the children became fearful and wept, according to someone familiar

Stephanie Woodard is a member of 100Reporters who writes about Native American issues.  
<http://100r.org/2012/12/rough-justice-in-indian-child-welfare/>

with the case who asked not to be identified for fear of retribution. The youngsters were apparently not told they were being recorded. While left alone for a time, one explored the room, discovered the camera equipment behind a peephole, and began to cry.

The DCI video of the interrogation is now a court document. In a four-minute excerpt that can be seen on YouTube, the agents are taking a break. They're off-camera, apparently unaware that the microphone is still picking up their voices as they plan their strategy.

One agent says the children "have been f—ing with us." The men talk about questioning the therapist to whom the children described the sexual assaults. Agent Black says, "I guarantee we put [her] in here. Put the f—ing hot screws in her. Bitch, you're in f—ing deep shit. You better start talking." Later Black says, "At least we f— with Brandon."

Taliaferro had brought charges against the adoptive parents in 2010, following a police investigation of the children's abuse allegations. He charged the parents nearly three dozen felonies, including incest, rape, sexual exploitation and cruelty toward five children, the youngest 5 years old when the alleged abuse started in 2003. Schwab, the children's court-appointed special advocate, supported Taliaferro's action. Local news media followed the case avidly as it developed.

Since the interrogation, Agent Black has testified multiple times that his questioning aimed to get the children to recant their abuse claims and to say that Taliaferro and Schwab had encouraged them to lie about the abuse, but the youngsters never did. Nevertheless, the state moved on the two whistleblowers, raiding their homes and of-

fices and hitting them with felony and misdemeanor charges related to persuading the children to lie. Later testimony would indicate that investigators had turned up no evidence of this.

In May 2012, Michael Moore, the state's attorney prosecuting the case against the adoptive parents, dismissed charges against the mother. She had been accused of witnessing sexual assaults on the children and failing to protect them. The state returned the children to her and gave the father a deal. He admitted to one count of raping a child younger than 10 and was ordered to serve 15 years in prison, making him eligible for parole after seven and one half years.

*[100Reporters is withholding the parents' identities to protect the children's privacy.]*

Listen to the NPR report "Lost Children, Shattered Families."  
[www.npr.org/2011/10/25/141672992/](http://www.npr.org/2011/10/25/141672992/)

Frank LaMere is a prominent Indian child welfare advocate and director of Four Directions Community Center, a Native nonprofit in Sioux City, Iowa. He called for a federal investigation into South Dakota's foster care system and predicted that this latest situation may become South Dakota's Penn State. "This is a scandal of the highest order," said LaMere.

### A very bad year

Late 2011 was a difficult time for South Dakota's foster care system. In addition to facing this latest abuse case, the state was working out a financial settlement in the so-called Jane Doe lawsuit. It had been brought on behalf of a 9-year-old foster child who was reportedly sexually abused over a period of two years in a group

home. Schwab was one of the whistleblowers for that case as well, she said.

Then, days before Black's interrogation of the Native children and the searches of Taliaferro's and Schwab's premises, National Public Radio broadcast a scathing report, charging South Dakota with rampant taking of American Indian children into foster care. The network said the state receives \$100 million dollars annually in federal funds on behalf of foster children of all races, giving it an incentive to keep the numbers of children in care high. Alarmed, six House members had asked the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs to look into possible violations of the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act, intended to keep Native children within their Indian families and communities.

A new report by South Dakota tribal officials also confirms the findings of the earlier NPR report, which state officials had contested. The tribal report accuses the state of "willfully" and "systematically" violating the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and taking Indian children "at least partly to bring federal dollars into the state." The document came from a committee of ICWA directors in South Dakota, the tribal child welfare officials tasked with enforcement of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

On Dec. 7, Congressmen Ed Markey, D-Mass., and Ben Ray Lujan, D-N.M., sent a tough letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Markey is the ranking Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over Indian affairs, and Luhan is ranking member of the subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native affairs.

Citing the tribal report, the congressmen pledged to



**"This is a scandal of the highest order."**

**FRANK LaMERE**

**Director of the Four Directions Community Center**

renew an earlier request for the House to investigate South Dakota for possible “misappropriation of federal dollars to state coffers.”

“This has gone on long enough,” said Markey.

Markey and Lujan also reminded the Bureau of Indian Affairs that 14 months ago, House members asked the agency to hold a “summit” on the situation. Congressman Tom Cole, R-Okla., and three others had gone even further. In a move reminiscent of Robert Kennedy sending federal marshals to enforce civil rights in Mississippi in 1962, they proposed in late 2011 sending federal attorneys to South Dakota tribes to help them enforce the Indian Child Welfare Act. At that time, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced it was looking into these suggestions, but took no action.

The bureau has been closely following events in South Dakota, said spokeswoman Nedra Darling. “The BIA supports the ongoing tribal efforts to resolve this matter, and we stand ready to participate in future forums,” she said.

### Millions at stake

South Dakota is not the only state that removes Native American children from their families and tribes in disproportionate numbers, but its numbers are among the most skewed, according to the National Indian Child Welfare Association.

The federal dollars South Dakota receives on behalf of all children — Native and non-Native — are considerable. They flow onward to state agencies, foster and adoptive parents, and group homes, as well as to any employees and suppliers. This

movement of money has “a measurable effect” on a state’s economy, according to the healthcare consumer group Families USA.

Department of Social Services spokeswoman Kristin Kellar said the agency complies fully with the Indian Child Welfare Act and does not take children to attract federal dollars. Removing a child from the home harms society economically, she said, no matter what “paltry amount of funding the federal government expends to support foster care.” She challenged NPR’s \$100-million figure, saying the agency would like to see the numbers on which it is based.

Attorney Daniel Sheehan, general counsel of the Lakota People’s Law Project, an advocacy group, disputed the “paltry” characterization and noted the importance of federal funding to South Dakota. An analysis from the Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan research group, reveals that South Dakota is third in the nation for dependence on the federal government, with 45.6 percent of its total expenditures covered by the federal subsidies.

Sheehan pointed to the state’s 2012 budget, which reveals that Washington’s share of South Dakota social services skews even higher, to about two-thirds of the total — \$660 million in federal funding, out of the \$1 billion in total state spending on all social services. That means Native foster children, who are more than half of all kids in care in the state, could be responsible for significant portions of several federal funding streams, according to Sheehan.

“They would bring the state chunks of the \$30 mil-

lion in federal money for child protective services; the \$67 million for nutrition, health, and other economic assistance; the \$37 million for behavioral health; and the \$19 million for Department of Social Services administrative costs,” said Sheehan. “We could be looking at substantial federal funding captured by Native children once they are in the custody of a state that relies heavily on it.”

### Orders from above

As the most recent South Dakota child-abuse case unfolded, top state officials appear to have been closely involved. While raiding Schwab’s premises and seizing computers and other items, DCI Agent Black told Schwab that his orders came from the highest echelons of state government.

“The attorney general himself has told me to work on this until I am done with it,” Black can be heard saying in an audiotape he made, which has now been turned over to the courts. “This is my priority case right now. Short of a homicide happening.”

Along the way, Taliaferro lost his job as deputy state’s attorney. Taliaferro’s former boss told local media multiple times that the firing was done “with the support of the attorney general.”

The South Dakota attorney general’s office referred a request for a comment to the Department of Social Services.

The head of that agency was apparently directly involved as well. In a preliminary hearing for Taliaferro and Schwab’s case, the presiding judge interrupted Black’s testimony to ask him a question: “It just popped into my mind. How did you

get the kids out of school?” Black responded that the social services department’s director had given permission for deputies to take the children from school so agents could question them.

Kellar said the social services agency “cannot comment on specific abuse and neglect cases, due to confidentiality reasons.”

Schwab and Taliaferro say they fear for their safety. Said Schwab: “Knowing Pierre [South Dakota’s capital] is calling the shots on this is terrifying. We have no one to turn to.” Their trial was set for Jan. 7, 2013.

State’s attorney Moore is also prosecuting the Taliaferro-Schwab case; he said he could not talk about a pending lawsuit, but that the case against the lawyer and child advocate would be made clear in court next month. In addition, Moore insisted that in the parents’ case, the only abuse charge against them that stuck — the single count of rape — is the one that should have.

Moore conceded that Black and his fellow officers were “unprofessional” during the break in questioning. However, Moore said, they had behaved differently during the questioning itself: “The interviews weren’t in any way consistent with what was on camera. If you’ve been around law enforcement, you know they swear a lot, they make statements they may regret.”

Moore also said that children who are being questioned do not need to be accompanied by an attorney or guardian when they are witnesses, not defendants.

O.J. Semans, a Rosebud Sioux and former chief public defender for the tribe,

took a different view. “Ordinarily, children are interviewed alone when there’s an indication that they were victims of a family member who should not know of the interview. If the interview is to determine whether the children provided false statements, which is a crime, they should have representation.”

Semans went on to say, “And, by the way, any law enforcement officer knows the difference between an interrogation, with tough questioning in an intentionally stressful environment, and an interview, which elicits a narrative. Because children can be easily influenced, the latter more accurately reflects a child’s perception of a situation.”

Sara Rabern, spokeswoman for the Department of Criminal Investigation, said the agency could not comment on an ongoing prosecution. Neither the agency nor Black responded to requests for an interview with him; however, Black has testified that he made the recorded statements attributed to him here.

### Bad outcomes rising

In the first decade of the 21st century, figures from the federal Administration for Children and Families show a fivefold increase in the percentage of Native foster children in South Dakota whom the system failed, the tribal report found. During that period, the percentage of children who were transferred to correctional or mental health facilities, or who died or ran away, soared to 36 percent in 2010 from 6.9 percent in 1999. During the same period, reunifications with family dropped. The percentage of white children leaving under the same circumstances grew much more slowly during those years, from 6.3 percent to 11.4 percent; and the share reunified

with their families increased.

“Native American foster children,” the report concluded, “are becoming an increasingly important attractor of federal corrections dollars to South Dakota.”

“Our Native children feed the system. They always have,” said LaMere, a member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. He added that tribes share responsibility for the exodus of Native children into care. “Many of our tribal leaders have been lax in protecting our greatest resource — our children.”

The tribal child-welfare officials’ report also confirmed that last year almost all Indian children in state foster care were in non-Native homes and white-run group facilities. That’s despite the availability of relatives willing to take the children in and Native foster homes, some of which sit empty on reservations, the directors said.

The Indian Child Welfare Act encourages kinship care, which involves placing children who have been taken from their families with relatives. Tribes favor it, because it preserves the children’s culture and maintains the community. “In our families, there’s always room for one more,” said Terry Yellow Fat, ICWA director for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and co-chair of the committee that produced the tribal report.

But tribal members have testified at a 2005 hearing before state lawmakers that social workers for the state routinely rebuffed them when they offered to house young relatives who were being

taken into care. One Native American woman asked why she was never considered as a candidate to care for her sister’s children.

Another, whose family had not been allowed to keep a cousin’s children, said the state Department of Social Services, which manages this process, was overwhelming to parents, who generally did not understand the often-changing requirements in child-care plans. A DSS representative at the hearing said that these decisions are made, sometimes quickly, to ensure the safety of the child.

### Disappearing into the system

Congress passed Indian Child Welfare Act in 1978 to stop the massive removals of Indian children that had taken place over the preceding century, first to notoriously violent boarding schools, then to foster care and adoption in white homes and group settings. During the mid-20th century, as many as 35 percent of Native children were taken from tribes nationwide under federal-, state- and church-run programs, according to testimony Congress gathered while considering the legislation. Sheehan called this “the intentional disassembling of Native American communities through the seizure of their children.”

In South Dakota, Native children are often taken for “neglect,” according to Yellow Fat. “The prevailing attitude on the part of the state is that poverty is a crime,” he said.

“A federal law is being flouted — and frankly, it’s

happening in courts all over our state,” said Diane Garreau, ICWA director for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, in South Dakota, who also worked on the report.

The result can be devastating for parents and children, according to attorney Brett Lee Shelton. “Frequently, the kids have already undergone a lot of trauma. Then, when things they don’t understand happen to them, it only adds to their pain,” said Shelton, a member of the Oglala Sioux, another South Dakota tribe, and principal of the Colorado law firm Smith Shelton Ragona.

When tribal youngsters are being removed, time is of the essence, according to Garreau: “If we are not watching, if we don’t start hustling as soon as we hear there’s a problem, if we don’t fight for every single child, they’re lost to us forever. Can you imagine how frightened they must be?”

LaMere charged that the Indian children’s odyssey through the foster care system as it unfolded in the most recent South Dakota abuse case is not an anomaly.

“As outrageous as it is, it is the sad reality for Native children in South Dakota and around the country,” said LaMere. “That father will walk free long before these Indian kids begin to think about recovery.”

### Update

On Jan. 9, 2013, the third day of Brandon Taliaferro and Shirley Schwab’s trial, the state finished presenting its case and rested. The following morning, Circuit Court Judge Gene Paul Kean dismissed all charges against Taliaferro and Schwab for lack of factual basis; no appeal is available.

Judge Kean stated this was this just the third time in 30 years on the bench that he has done this.

**“If we don’t fight for every single child, they’re lost to us forever.”**

**DIANE GARREAU**

**ICWA director for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe**

698 Grandview Drive  
P.O. Box 50  
Kaw City, OK 74641  
580-269-2552  
1-866-404-5297  
www.kawnation.com

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 49  
STIGLER, OK 74462



NATIVE YOUTH PREVENTING DIABETES

# NYPD 2013

**JUNE 10-14**

5 days and 4 nights of outdoor activities,  
Native American cultural activities  
and **HEALTHY FUN**

**REGISTER BY FRIDAY, MAY 10**

For more info, contact Cindy Wilson at 580-362-1039 or [cindy.wilson1@ihs.gov](mailto:cindy.wilson1@ihs.gov)