



KANZA

The Newsletter of
Kaw Nation

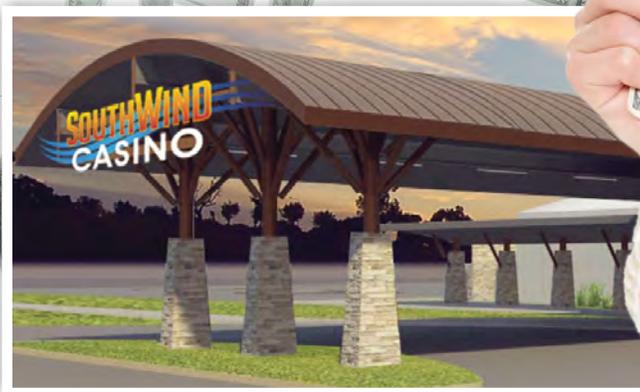
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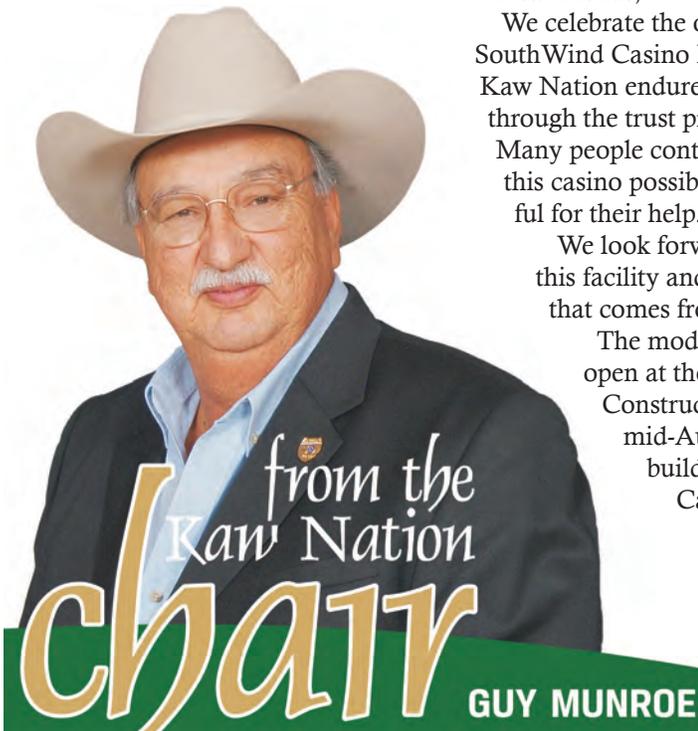
Updates online at
www.kawnation.com

CASINO SWEEPS INTO BRAMAN

SOUTHWIND
KAW NATION
CASINOS



From the Chair, 2 • Election notice, 2 • Kaw Nation, Braman long-term partners, 5
Sneak peek, 8 • Becoming familiar with SouthWind, 10 • Language Department, 11



Dear friends,
 We celebrate the opening of the SouthWind Casino Braman facility. Kaw Nation endured a long journey through the trust process to get here. Many people contributed to make this casino possible, and we're grateful for their help.

We look forward to developing this facility and watch the success that comes from it.

The modular casino will open at the end of August.

Construction will begin in mid-August for the next building of SouthWind Casino Braman.

Here are a couple important dates

to mark on your calendar:

The Kanza Health Fair will be September 19 at the Kanza Health Clinic. The walk starts at 8:30 a.m. There will be many other events that morning, including free health screenings.

On September 19 and 20, the Voices of the Wind People pageant will be held at the Neosho Riverbed Amphitheater in Council Grove, Kan., starting at 8 p.m. both nights.

This play tells the important story of our time at our Council Grove reservation from 1847 to 1873.

Remember that my door is always open. Feel free to stop by and share stories and concerns.

I hope you enjoy the rest of this summer.

Guy Munroe, Chair

Election Notice

Election Day will be Sept. 14.

The polling place is the Kaw Nation administration building at 698 Gradview Drive in Kaw City, Okla. The election is conducted in accordance with Article IX, pursuant to Section 8 of the Constitution of the Kaw Nation ratified on Aug. 20, 2011.

Positions to be filled

The following positions are to be voted upon in the upcoming election:

- Tribal Council Chair
- Tribal Council Secretary
- Two Tribal Council Members

Voter qualifications

A qualified voter must:

- Be an enrolled citizen of the Kaw Nation.
- Be 18 years of age or older on Election Day.
- Not have been adjudged mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Absentee voting

If you cannot make it to Kaw City to vote, you still have time to request an absentee ballot from the Election Committee.

Please send the request to:

Kaw Nation Election Committee

P.O. Box 48 Kaw City, OK 74641

Upon receipt of a written request, the Election Committee will mail an absentee ballot to the requestor. The deadline of Aug. 15 is coming soon.

Absentee ballots must be returned in the pre-addressed mailing envelopes provided with the ballot.

Ballots must be returned by mail to the above address no later than Sept. 13.

Absentee ballots will not be accepted in person or at any other location.

Election results

Immediately after tabulating ballots, the Election

Committee will issue an unofficial canvass of the election results.

The Election Committee will issue the Certified Election Results after the expiration of the protest period at 12 p.m. on Set. 17 or after the resolution of any challenges received by the Election Committee, whichever is later.

Election results will be posted at the appropriate tribal offices, and will be released to all appropriate media outlets at the conclusion of the election.



Kanza

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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.

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Editorials must be signed and include an address and telephone number for verification.

Please send all inquiries to **Kanza News, P.O. Box 50, Kaw City, OK 74641**.

SouthWind Casino sweeps into Braman



Kaw Nation Chairman Guy Munroe and SouthWind Casino General Manager Pam Shaw present the newest SouthWind Casino facility in Braman.

A brisk south wind blew through Braman during the ceremony on August 6 commemorating the upcoming SouthWind Casino Braman, symbolizing the gaming excitement that will soon arrive.

The SouthWind Casino Braman complex will hit its first big checkpoint with the opening of the modular casino on August 29. The launch of the facility is a small start as Kaw Nation hopes to build something much bigger.

“We will be competing with the Kansas Star and the Tonkawa Casino, but, right now, we want to have something quick to market to generate revenue for the tribe,” said SouthWind Casino General Manager Pam Shaw.

The casino will be open 24 hours per day, seven days each week. The floor managers will be Penny Coffelt, Joe Sisco, Beth

West and Hannah Toney.

The modular will feature more than 100 Class 2 video-game style games.

Construction will begin in the third week of August underway for the next phase of SouthWind Casino Braman—a permanent casino. This casino will feature 275 games, table games and a café. The second casino facility will open in October.

Currently, the two casinos are expected to create more than 100 jobs combined.

Kaw Nation is looking towards opening a larger casino at the site in two years. Along with 500 games, patrons will find table games and off-track betting. A restaurant would be built nearby.

Check kawnation.com as the opening approaches for special events related to the unveiling of the casino.



From left to right: Tribal Council members Jim Lessert and Erin Kekahbah, Chairman Guy Munroe, and Tribal Council members Gena Warren, Jason Murray and Patti Kramer ceremonially break ground on the site of the first permanent building for SouthWind Casino Braman, for which construction will begin in the third week of August.

Area poised to benefit from Braman casino

With a declining population, shrinking school and modest local economy, the town of Braman has had little thought of an upward trend. The arrival of South-Wind Casino Braman brings an unfamiliar word to residents' tongues—growth.

Braman has seen its population fall slowly since 1940, from more than 400 to 214 in 2013. An influx of casino employees and their families would give the first significant bump since oil was discovered in the town in the 1920s.

The stretch of Interstate Highway 35 south of the Oklahoma-Kansas border in Kay County has long been recognized as an untapped gold mine for major enterprises. This part of I-35 sees 15,000 vehicles pass per day, according to a 2008 traffic study.

Braman School has been reduced tremendously in the past decade. In 2009, the high school closed. Due to diminished property tax revenue, the school district merged with the Newkirk School District. Afterwards, the K-8 school, which sees enrollment hover above 50 students, put classes into pairs of grades.

For Kay County, the casino could boost the already solid employment numbers. The county's unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in June, 0.9 percent higher than the state.

The first two casino buildings would combine to create more than 100 jobs. More than 300 would be created once the larger casino facility opens.

"I think it'd be a boost just because of the sheer number of jobs," said Braman

Chamber of Commerce Director Harold LeValley.

Blackwell Chamber of Commerce Director John Robertson said that the employment potential would help people in the town near Braman.

"It's virtually a local opportunity for folks here. It fits their skill set. They'd be able to fill those roles," he said.

Robertson added that the construction of a hotel at the site of the casino would help. Oil field work has created overfill at hotels in Blackwell.

While noting that the Kansas Star Casino diverts from potential revenue, Robertson said that the casino would boost economic activity.

"Anything there would be a win for Oklahoma," he said.



Stay up to date online at www.kawnation.com

VOICES of the Wind People

SEPT. 19-20 8PM

OLD RIVERBED AMPHITHEATER
by the Neosho Riverwalk
Council Grove, Kan.

TICKETS
Adults \$12 Children \$5

Town welcomes SouthWind Casino Braman

Not since oil was discovered in Braman has this quiet little town seen the excitement that's coming with the opening of SouthWind Casino Braman. Residents are speaking animatedly about the benefits to come with the casino.

Braman Mayor Mike Barton spoke brightly about the potential for growth and the development of the relationship between the town and

Kaw Nation.

"It should be a great deal for the city. They've already done a lot of good work here. Hopefully, it will help us grow. Hopefully, we'll get more kids in our school. It will take a couple years, but down the road, I think it'll be a good deal. They always help us out, with water during ice storms and giving our ladies space [at the Kanza Travel Plaza] for

bake sales."

During an Aug. 7 town board meeting, the board discussed the need to plan for new businesses that might start in Braman after the casino develops.

American Legion Post 259 Commander Marv Sandbek said he's eager to see growth that will come with the casino.

"It's not only the Kaw Nation bringing the casino to Braman, but the possibility of

companion businesses coming to Braman to support the casino. I don't view this as a singular event. I see it as ongoing event, concurrent development, not only in growth in development, growth in many ways—growth in attitude and growth in optimism, something Braman really, really needs and could benefit from," Sandbek said.

Kaw Nation, Braman are long-term partners

Kaw Nation and the town of Braman have forged a sustaining partnership through a few operations in the town.

The nation has chosen the town as the location of a few of its facilities. In addition to SouthWind Casino Braman, the town is home to the Kaw Nation Recycling Center and the Kanza Travel Plaza, which is the busiest business in town.

American Legion Post 259, whose home is owned by the nation, works closely with Kaw Nation. Post 259 supplies a few volunteers at the recycling center each week. The cooperation between the post, the town of Braman and Kaw Nation earned them a Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Team Builder award last year.

While construction continues for the new casino, SouthWind Casino will hold its employee orientation at the post home.

The Kaw Enterprise Development Authority renovated a sidewalk outside the post home.

Recycling Center Manager Skyler Mathews informed Braman residents at the town meeting last year that the nation plans to keep the recycling center in Braman as it grows.

The town offered support for the casino project during the planning stages. In 2006, then-Mayor Jerry Johnston sent the nation a letter stating that the town's treatment facility would be able to take the estimated amount of wastewater and make any necessary adjustments according to the casino's growth.

Johnston served as a member of the Kaw Enterprise Development Authority board.

Kaw Nation built a water tower and an air quality monitor in Braman near the travel plaza.

They have also come together on smaller works. The Kanza Travel Plaza provides space for Braman fundraisers. Kaw Nation participates in parades in Braman. Post 259 serves as the color guard at the Kaw Powwow every year. The Kaw Nation Environmental Department brings students from Braman School to visit the Beaver Creek Wetland every year. In April, the KNED, the town and Post 259 partnered on a hazardous waste drive.

Top: Marv Sandbek drills in a new sign at the Kaw Nation recycling facility in Braman. **Center:** Rusty Partee of American Legion Post 259 hands off the American flag to Herb Farnsworth during the Kaw Powwow. **Bottom:** Lloyd Pappan and Kaw Nation Chairman Guy Munroe hand out candy at the Braman Christmas Parade.



A long, winding road to get a Braman casino

Kaw Nation's opening of the SouthWind Casino Braman complex arrives after a 24-year journey.

The road to put an off-reservation casino on the first Interstate 35 stop south of Kansas took many twists and turns before the project could start.

The nation bought the property with the travel plaza in 1989. On Dec. 8, 1990, Kaw Nation submitted its first application for trust status, which was returned for additional survey.

Then-Chairwoman Wanda Stone stated that a casino was in mind for the location.

"That's the main thing we wanted when we bought the property," she said.

Having submitted for trust status within a year of taking office, she made the trust placement a priority.

"It wasn't just me. It was the council. We hired several other consultants. It never seemed to come to a head," she said. "It was a bunch of us trying to get it into trust. We went to Washington, D.C., to talk to the BIA and everyone we could think of, senators and representatives, to try to help us."

Environmental work presented a series of hurdles for a decade. Old underground storage tanks that sat on the property before the nation purchased it needed to be removed.

Several times, underground storage tank leaks and spills prevented advancement with the trust application.

From 1991 to 2000, the nation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs performed environmental work to clean up the tanks.

During that time, work was also done cleaning lagoons.

"I think the environmental work was the major issue,"



Trust Coordinator Cheryl Craig (left) receives a blanket from Tribal Council Member Gena Warren (right) for her work helping with the Braman trust application. Contributors were honored at the July 14, 2013, General Council meeting after the Braman trust determination was issued.

said Ron Feazle, was was the Kaw Enterprise Development Authority director at the time.

After a leak was cleaned up with infused air in 2000, Kaw Nation had finished the most serious environmental cleanups.

The Kaw Nation Environmental Department conducted further environmental assessments, and published the final assessment in October 2008.

Efforts on the trust application became complicated after the nation entered a compact with the BIA to become self-governing.

At the administrative level, this meant completing documents within their own office.

"When we went into self-governance, we knew it would be on us to do everything ourselves to get our tribe headed in the right direction. It was a change, but that's what we wanted,"

Stone said.

Kaw Nation made new requests in December 1999 and July 2000.

Tribal officials discovered after the BIA's reorganization in the mid-2000s that it needed to submit new forms for a two-part gaming trust application.

This would affect the nature of the trust application, as well as the possibility of its passage.

No other Oklahoma tribe had successfully applied for a two-part gaming trust since 1988.

The property is 25 miles away from the Kaw City headquarters and 17 miles away from the Newkirk offices.

In 2006, the nation submitted a two-part off-reservation gaming trust application.

Numerous changes in the legal description of the property were made before the land could be put into trust.

"When we bought it, we

thought the legal description was correct. It seemed that it wasn't stated the way the BIA wanted. We had taken so long that every time it got to the top of the stack, they changed their documents," Stone said.

Stone said that administrative work was a bigger obstacle than any type of pushback.

After one last change in the legal description was made in February 2011, the Bureau of Land Management reviewed and approved the description.

Then, Kaw Nation seemed to be making progress towards trust status on the Braman property.

Once Mary Fallin was elected governor of Oklahoma later in the year, those facilitating the application for the nation encountered the familiar situation of having to brief a new state administration on the application and push them to move it through

the process.

“Any time there was a change of staff at any level, we had to bring people up to speed on the application,” said Trust Coordinator Cheryl Craig who spent 15 years working on the application after joining the nation in 1999.

Kaw Nation found a receptive listener in the new governor.

“The governor supported the project from the start of her administration,” Ken Bellmard said.

Early in Gov. Fallin’s administration, Bellmard and other tribal representatives briefed her on the application and its potential impact for Kay County.

“What we did was we explained the situation and the economic benefit to the area. The governor’s office found that the economic impact for the area was an appropriate reason for concurring with the BIA’s approval,” Bellmard said.

Tribal representatives spent two years meeting with Gov. Fallin and her staff.

Whereas many tribal gaming projects face local opposition, the town of Braman voiced its support for the project.

“We had a lot of local support and our local supporters expressed their hopes to the state,” Bellmard said.

Bellmard added that the combination of the local and state support rounded out the case for the trust application.



**“NOW THAT WE HAVE IT IN TRUST,
THEY CAN SEE WHAT WE REALLY HAVE.”
-WANDA STONE**

“We got the local and state support before we went to the feds,” Bellmard said. “That made it practical.”

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn issued his secretarial determination on May 17, 2013. Soon thereafter, Gov. Fallin concurred.

Even though this was only the first part of the trust approval, Chairman Guy Munroe was overwhelmed with joy because of the magnitude of the application and the work devoted to it.

Nonetheless, Munroe and

application ahead.

Washburn announced his final decision approving the two-part gaming trust on March 10, 2014.

“The Kaw Project will provide significant opportunities for economic development for the Kaw Nation, and will provide a means for the tribe to improve the governmental services it provides to its members. The acquisition of the site is necessary to support these efforts,” Washburn said in a press release.

In addition to being the first in Oklahoma to complete this type of gaming trust, it was one of a few in the country to be approved.

“The Tribal Council had a plan, stuck with that plan and was persistent in pushing that plan,” Bellmard said.

Stone felt satisfied that the vision of trust land in Braman was realized.

“It’s a location that is a great asset to the tribe now that we have it. We always knew, but it will take time. We got a lot of criticism from the tribe when we got it because at first it was losing money. But now that we have it in trust, they can see what we really have,” she said.

others remained in constant contact with the BIA Central Office to ensure that they and the regional office finished the work on the trust.

Kaw Nation continued working with the BIA’s Southern Plains Regional Office in Anadarko, as well as the central office, to move the



Left: A sign for SouthWind Casino Braman at the base of Kaw Nation’s water tower advises travelers of the upcoming casino. **Right:** The first section of the modular casino is put in place, as the nation’s dream of a gaming destination in Braman started to be realized.

A sneak peek at SouthWind Casino Braman



Top: The entrance to the casino. Left: A view of card tables at the casino. Below: A view of games at the casino. Renderings courtesy of BKL Incorporated.



Jim Lessert steps up to lead casino project



Jim Lessert (middle) talks with construction workers preparing space for a sewer line at the site of SouthWind Casino Braman. Lessert, who retired from Conoco 15 years ago and serves on the Tribal Council is the construction project manager for the casino.

All it took was a simple statement and Jim Lessert volunteered for the most significant project he would undertake for Kaw Nation.

“We were sitting in a meeting and trying to get it rolling,” he said. “I said, ‘I could get a building up. That’s what I thought I was going to do. But then it turned into a big, big, big project.’”

Lessert, a Kaw Nation Tribal Council member, then accepted the role of construction project manager for the SouthWind Casino Braman complex. This includes three casino buildings, two of which would be permanent.

While Lessert isn’t a veteran of the construction industry, he isn’t entirely new to such projects. In his career at Conoco, he planned proj-

ects and was a craft supervisor, among other things.

“I helped run big turnarounds where you bring big units down. I used to help plan them,” he said. “I ended up planning a big turnaround. It was \$13 million on the coker. That was the last big project I did before I retired in 1999.”

Lessert said that he feels a sense of pride in operating such a big project for his nation.

“I’ve accomplished some good things in my life, but this would be one thing that would really make me feel good,” he said.

In addition to serving on the Tribal Council, Lessert is the vice president of Kaw Gaming Inc. and serves on the Kaw Nation Tax Com-

mission.

He wasn’t active in tribal service before being elected to the Tribal Council in 2012. A few years prior, he began attending General Council meetings.

Lessert is a calm personality who takes a reflective approach towards tribal affairs.

“I like to think before I act. When it comes to this project, I can be a little more aggressive,” he said.

Lessert’s goal as a Tribal Council member is to ensure that the future will be better for tribal members.

“My desire for the tribe is that my great-grandkids will have something here. I want to be sure that the kids are taken care of, and I want to take care of the elders. I want to make sure that the domes-

tic violence program and all of the other programs can keep going. If I can do that, I’ll feel like I accomplished something,” he said.

Lessert expressed warm feelings about the tenor of the current Tribal Council.

“I think we have a really good council. We have good discussions, even if we don’t agree on everything. What I like about it is that we can sit there and talk it and get it to work,” he said.

He related his belief that SouthWind Casino Braman could make a big difference for Kaw Nation.

“This is one of the biggest things we could do if we hit a home run,” he said.

Becoming familiar with the SouthWind

A deeper view of the Southwind statue



Just as the horsemen on the Kaw Nation seal, the warrior depicted in the Southwind statue, created by Todd Whipple of Wichita, consults the south wind. Whipple designed the statue with layers so that the rider could become one with the wind.

The Kaw Nation seal symbolizes the relationship between the Kanza people and the south wind. The south wind travels far and fast and knows the movements of anything on the horizon.

In earlier times, the wind was seen as an aid collecting information on enemies and carrying messages to and from allies, as well as helping the Kanza people find nuts, fruits and grans and the hiding places of game animals they hunted.

Kanza, which comes from the Siouan language family, is a Siouan word that means Wind People or Southwind.

Order to invoke the wind

- East is the first direction
- South is the second direction
- West is the third direction
- North is the fourth direction

Colors of the directions

East is red. Red represents the sun, storm, animals, vegetables, life and reproduction.

South is black. Black represents war, the wind-makers and nighttime.

West is yellow. Yellow represents sunlight and power.

North is blue. Blue represents the wind, the west, moon, water, thunder and light.

The north and west (or the right side) is peace while east and south (or left side) is war.

Scenes from the SouthWind Casino Braman construction



Sound symbolism in color words

In many world languages, colors may be perceived differently than they are to an English-speaker. For instance, in some languages there may only be two words for color: light and dark.

In Kaw, colors are perceived almost the same as they are to an English-speaker, although blue and green may often be perceived as the same color to Siouan language speakers.

Here is a list of Kaw color terms:

ska	white
san	off-white
sábe	black
shábe	brown
tóho	blue
manhín egó	green ('grass like')
bazó egó	purple ('pokeberry like')
xóje	gray, light blue
shóje egó	gray ('smoke like')
zhúje	red
wézhuje	pink
zíhi	yellow
zhíhi	orange

An interesting aspect of Kaw that is evident in color terms is something called 'sound symbolism.'

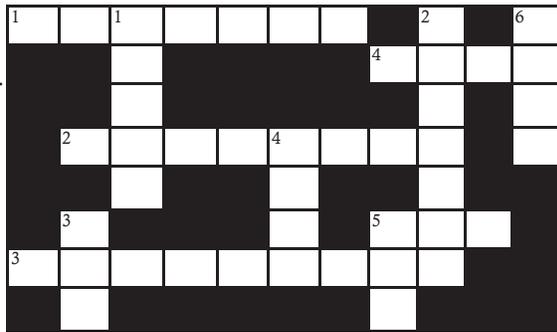
Note that there is only a slight difference in spelling and pronunciation between certain Kaw color names: black-brown, yellow-orange, light blue-smoky gray.

This is because these colors are considered to be similar to, or merely shades of, each other. This slight difference is communicated only in the change of the first sound and letter from sábe 'black' > shábe 'brown', zíhi 'yellow' > zhíhi 'orange', xóje 'light bluish gray' > shóje 'smoky gray.'

Besides these first sounds and letters serving to distinguish color tones, they also make learning the color names easier since there is only a slight change in the names!

Kaw colors are treated as adjectives, and, as in Spanish, they follow the nouns they go with, so that ci tóho is 'blue house' and shóngé sábe is 'black horse.'

*Submitted by Dave Kaufman
Kaw Language Director*



ACROSS

- 1 pink
- 2 gray (smoky)
- 3 green
- 4 mountain, hill
- 5 say so, say that

DOWN

- 1 orange
- 2 purple
- 3 off-white
- 4 so, therefore
- 5 like, similar to
- 6 gray, blue

Answers to Kaw hidden word puzzle from *Kanza News* summer issue

1	N	A	N	X	O	N		
2	L	U	Z	E				
3	G	A	B	L	A	N		
4	S	H	E	T	A	N	G	A
5	G	I	S	A	K	A		
6	I	K	H	A	N			

- 1 To step on and make a crackling noise
- 2 To take, get, seize
- 3 To smell, give off odor
- 4 Apple
- 5 Fresh (as bread or fruit)
- 6 Owl

Write the Kaw terms for each English definition (across) to discover the hidden word (down, shaded boxes).

Hidden word:

X	L	A	S	K	A
---	---	---	---	---	---

The Kaw word of the week appears on the kawnation.com home page. Weekly crossword puzzles and word searches appear on the WebKanza main page.

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The graphic features a central disco ball with a pair of red headphones around it. The word "Cosmic" is written in a large, yellow, cursive font across the top of the disco ball. Below it, the word "BINGO" is written in large, colorful letters (B in pink, I in blue, N in yellow, G in green, O in red) that appear to be floating or attached to the headphones. At the bottom, the text "WITH DJ DIAMOND" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The background is a dark blue and red gradient with light rays emanating from the center.

**Enter your name
in the hopper
for a chance to play
7 mini games and
5 guests will win
\$100 cashable
vouchers**

**First and third Saturdays
of the month at 10 p.m.**



**SOUTH WIND
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CASINOS**