

# THE ITKN CONNECTION

Leadership in Action



## Old Water Tower Removed After 42 Years of Service

The Iowa Tribe recently removed the original water tower that served the community for more than four decades. The tower was built and placed into service in 1984 and remained an important part of the Tribe's water system until May 2025,

when a newly constructed water tower took over operations. After the new tower was completed, the original structure was no longer needed.

Last week, the tower was officially taken down after approximately 42 years of service. The required structure removal was completed by our internal team rather than outsourced, saving the Tribe approximately \$15,000. The steel from the tower will also be repurposed for future use, allowing materials from the structure to continue serving the community in a new way.

For many in the community, the tower had become a familiar landmark on the landscape. While it is no longer standing, it remains a small but meaningful part of the Tribe's history.



## ENHANCING PRIVACY AND SAFETY AT CINA AKIDAWE

Plans are underway to create a separate entrance for the Cina Akidawe department, an important step in strengthening privacy and safety for those who access services.

The planned entrance will allow individuals to enter the office more privately and discreetly, helping ensure that those seeking assistance can do so comfortably and without drawing attention. Privacy is a top priority for the department, as many of the services involve sensitive or personal situations.

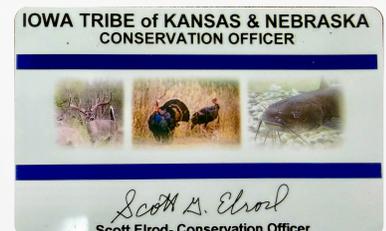
These improvements are intended to create a safer and more supportive environment for community members who rely on Cina Akidawe's services.

By continuing to improve facilities and access, the Tribe is reinforcing its commitment to protecting and supporting the wellbeing of its people.

## Fish and Wildlife

Fish and Wildlife codes can be found on the Tribe's website. [Click Here!](#)

To request a Hunting, Fishing, Foraging, and Trapping card, please contact Coreena at the office during regular business hours. (785) 595-3258



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## IOWA TRIBE REPRESENTED ON GIRARD NATIONAL BANK ADVISORY BOARD

The Girard National Bank Advisory Board met March 3 in Hiawatha to review the bank's financial health, local economic trends, and community outreach priorities.

The Iowa Tribe is represented by Chairwoman Missty Slater, serving her third year, and citizen Dr. Deb Bryan, a respected business owner. Their involvement ensures the Tribe's perspective is included in discussions that shape the bank's investments and community impact.

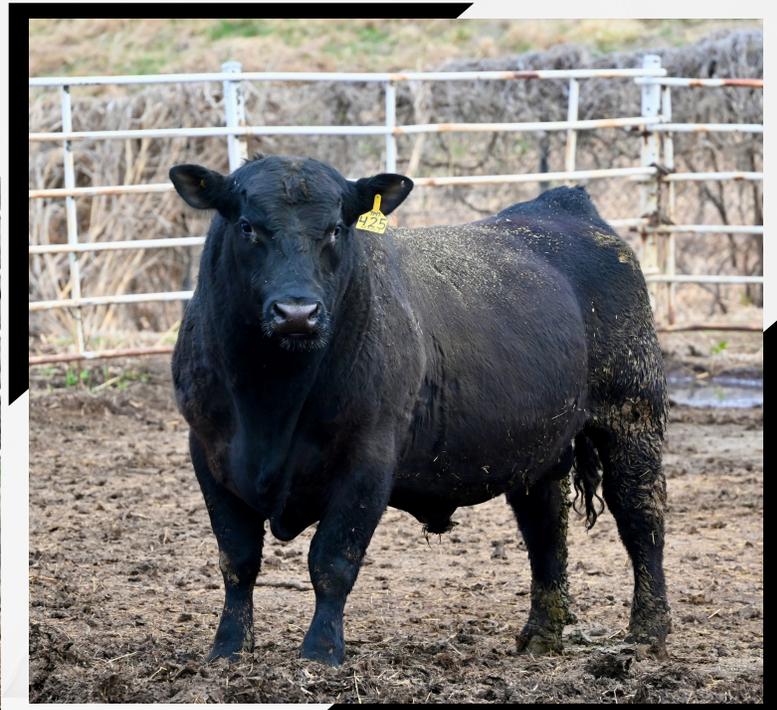
The Advisory Board meets annually to guide the bank's communications and outreach for the year ahead.

## FARM UPDATE: CALVES SOLD AND NEW BULLS ON THE RANCH

The Tribal farm has been busy! Recently, 50 calves were sold—24 heifers at 479 pounds and 26 steers at 508 pounds. These sales help keep the herd healthy and the farm running smoothly.

Next month marks the start of calving season, and the farm is ready for new arrivals. To strengthen the herd, two new bulls have also joined the ranch.

Check out the photos of the new bulls! Future herd leaders in the making!



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## IOWAY GREENHOUSE

Hanwe Pi relatives,

We at the Ioway Greenhouse are excited for spring and want to share what's transpired here and some of our plans for 2026 and beyond.

Many of our 2025 efforts focused on implementing systems centered on two goals. The first is food sovereignty—growing food without relying heavily on outside purchases, such as making compost instead of buying bagged soil and harvesting seeds instead of purchasing them. The second is growing food with a reciprocal relationship with the earth. As Báxoje people, we honor the blessing of each sunrise by caring for the mother who takes care of us. This includes evaluating farm inputs and avoiding “forever materials” like plastics whenever possible. While our structure is covered in plastic, like many of you we are on our own path toward where we want to be and welcome the challenges and dialogue that come with it.

After establishing our foundations in 2025, we see 2026 as our expansion year. We are adding new fields and plots and expanding our perennial plantings. Our goal is to plant hundreds of fruit and nut trees to support local food production for generations. Many of you have already enjoyed the food grown for your boxes, and we hope to cover an even larger portion this year. It takes around 700 pounds of food each week to fully supply these boxes, and we are building a system to reach that goal.

Currently the greenhouse holds over 2,000 starts as we approach spring and our

projected final frost date of April 21. Some will be planted earlier in the greenhouse where soils warm sooner than in outside fields. We are also partnering with members of Nebraska tribes to grow starts for an Indigenous medicine garden at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. We planted extras for this project, so please feel free to reach out if you would like to grow some at home—we are always happy to share knowledge, seeds, and starts.

Lastly, our greenhouse may not always look like our neighbors', and that is intentional. We are proud Báxoje people, and the greenhouse reflects our food and culture. While many of our services are local, anyone interested in engaging with the greenhouse is welcome to reach out.

[tfoster@iowas.org](mailto:tfoster@iowas.org)



# THE ITKN CONNECTION

L e a d e r s h i p   i n   A c t i o n

## Tribe Expands Land Holdings Through Recent Purchases

The Iowa Tribe recently bought two parcels of land: a 40-acre tract from Eileen Koppa and a 400-acre tract from the Slominski family.

These purchases are part of the Tribe's ongoing land buyback efforts, helping bring important historic and cultural lands back under Tribal ownership. This supports the Tribe's connection to the land and creates opportunities for future community and cultural projects.



### Website Update Coming Soon

The Iowa Tribe will soon be upgrading its website to make it faster, easier to use, and more user-friendly. The new design will provide smoother navigation and improved access to information and services for Tribal citizens.

We want everyone to be prepared for the change. While the site is being updated, some features may look different or be temporarily unavailable. Stay tuned for updates and tips on how to navigate the new site once it's live.

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## IOWAY BEE FARM BUZZING WITH ACTIVITY

The Ioway Bee Farm is busy this spring and has exciting news to share. Our bees are currently in Texas, pollinating Yaupon, and are expected to return to the farm in April.

This year, the Bee Farm will introduce new queens to expand the hive population and boost honey production. Our honey will also be for sale at RES, where the farm will be in attendance.

In addition, the Bee Farm has partnered with the Trex gas station franchise to sell our honey in select locations in Missouri, bringing our locally produced honey to more customers.

These steps continue to strengthen the Tribe's agricultural and business initiatives while sharing a taste of Tribal lands with the wider community.



**We honor our past while  
building a healthy  
future - thank you for  
staying connected.**

### General Council Dates:

**May 30, 2026  
August 1, 2026  
October 17, 2026**

### Upcoming Event Dates:

**April 11, 2026 - Demo Derby  
April 18, 2026 - Car Show  
April 30 - May 3, 2026 City of  
White Cloud Flea Market**

## PLEASED TO MEET YOU

**Randy Teboe - THPO Deputy**

**Dave McClain - Chief of Police**

**Donell R. Zerkel - Human Resources  
Director**

**Mari Assefa - Director of Development,  
Iowa Community Development Corp.**