

JULY, 2024

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Serving Eastern Oklahoma Since 1968



KI BOIS NEWS

KI BOIS VITA PROGRAM CONTINUES SUCCESS

The 2024 tax season came to an end on April 15th. Every year, volunteer preparers from Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore and Pittsburg Counties work diligently to maximize refunds for tax clients participating in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. These volunteers perform these duties in addition to their other obligations in the office they serve.

The VITA grant program is an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) initiative in the United States that supports free tax preparation services for the underserved through various partner organizations. VITA service helps low- to moderate-income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English speakers file their taxes each year. IRS awards matching funds to partner organizations throughout the country.

VITA was founded in 1971. All volunteers must pass a code of conduct exam and an intake interview/quality review exam. All preparers are tax law certified by the IRS and must pass an exam to receive their certification.

Amy Fair is the Program Director and has been for the past 17 years. Under her direction, the program continues to be a success. She has a wonderful relationship with her partner at IRS and brings that knowledge to her volunteer preparers each year.

In 2024, volunteers in each county were: Haskell County - Christi Dixon, Nikki Morrison and Royce Alverson; Latimer County - Amy Fair and Stephanie McCann; LeFlore County - Rosalind Newby, Wanda Wyatt and Jeremy Porter; Pittsburg County - Megan Reames and Debra Watson.

VITA SITE	FEDERALLY ACCEPTED RETURNS
Pittsburg County	297
Latimer County	156
LeFlore County	120
Haskell County	<u>136</u>
Total	709

In addition, 92 538-S forms were submitted to the Oklahoma Tax Commission for Seniors sales tax relief.



Larry Hall presents Amy Fair with a Thank You certificate at the recent VITA Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

From the Desk of Executive Director / CEO

R. Carroll Huggins



Effective leadership is the key to success of any agency. KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Incorporated has been fortunate over the years to have good leadership at both the board of director level and staff level. This is no accident. Leadership is something that has to be continually improved on. I encourage you to continue to develop your leadership skills and continue with your lifelong learning. The following are some facts on leadership that may be helpful to you:

Leadership is the art of influencing others to create positive change (transformation) in the community.

Leaders believe in.....

- * service to others
- * hard work
- * life-long learning
- * their ability to succeed

Effective leaders.....

- * Lead from the future
- * Communicate a clear vision & purpose
- * Act with courage and integrity
- * Empower followers
- * Persevere with strong passion
- * Engage conflict and controversy
- * Hold themselves accountable
- * Seek to understand before being understood
- * Respect the dignity of others
- * Keep commitments

Our KI BOIS Community Action leadership teams in each county work to improve training and interagency communication for our mid-management staff. KI BOIS Community Action Associate Director/COO Larry Hall, CCAP works with our six KI BOIS Community Action County Office Managers to implement this effort. KI BOIS Project Directors also conduct staff training on their respective programs as needed. KI BOIS Community Action County Office Managers are: Haskell County, Linda Love, CCAP; Latimer County, Claudia Jeffrey; LeFlore County, Kenny Barnhart, CCAP; Pittsburg County, Megan Reames, Sequoyah County, Melissa Lowe, and Muskogee County, John Ford. We have a weekly Zoom Program Director's Meeting to share information and exchange ideas. Our goal is to improve customer service to our low-income Community Action clients.

There is a big difference in being a boss and being an effective leader! Which are you? Let's work together to help people and change lives!

Have a Safe Summer!

***R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director / CEO***

KI BOIS COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

Cecil Williams
Board Chairperson

Joy Walker
1st Vice Chair

Frank Phillips
2nd Vice Chair

Jan Coplen
Secretary / Treasurer

Kodey Toney
Parliamentarian

Members of the Board

- De'Anne Booth
- Jeremy Bullard
- Henry Burris
- Rev. Rodger Cutler
- Rosalind Didlott
- Lyndon Emberton
- Lindsey Holloway

- John Jones
- Chuck Regan
- Charlie Rogers
- Bud Smithson
- Janice Williams
- Jonathan Wynn

Executive Leadership

R. Carroll Huggins, CCAP
Executive Director/CEO

Tom Marlatt, CCAP
Associate Director/CFO

Larry Hall, CCAP
Associate Director/COO

KI BOIS NEWS

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- July 4 & 5
- July 22
- July 25
- August 30
- August 1 & 2
- August 3
- August 5

- Independence Day Holiday
- Back To School Roundup - Stigler
- KI BOIS Board Meeting
- Back to School Bash - Poteau
- OKACAA Summer Camp
- Back to School Roundup - Sallisaw
- Back to School Bash—Wilburton



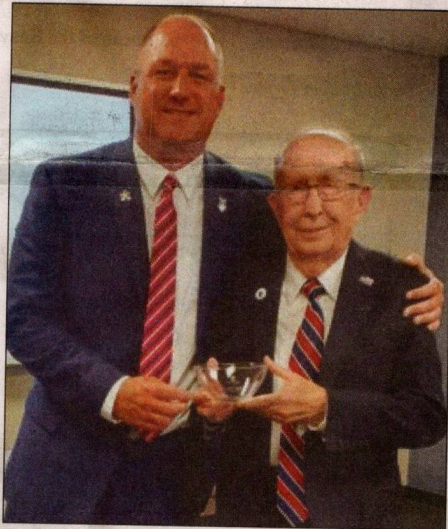


This article appeared on the front page of the weekend edition of the Poteau Daily News June 22-23, 2024.

CASC honors Huggins, approves budget

By Ashley Torres
PDN Reporter

Carl Albert State College President Jay Falkner presented Chairman R. Carroll Huggins with an honorary gift showing appreciation for his years of service at the Carl Albert Board of Regents meeting on Tuesday afternoon. It was his last meeting as chairman. He will continue on as a member of the board for an additional year. He had meant to retire this summer, but the governor's office requested that he stay on an additional year.



Carl Albert State College President Jay Falkner, left, with Board of Regents Chairman Carroll Huggins.

PDN photo by Ashley Torres

"It's one of the greatest honors of my life to work with you," Falkner told Huggins. "I am extremely thankful that we have one more year, selfishly, to learn from you and seek your guidance."

As Falkner handed Huggins the gift, he said it was "a token of our appreciation, on behalf of the board, on behalf of the executive cabinet, and the entire institution of Carl Albert State College, we just want to

say thank you for not only your leadership and your service, but who you are and what you mean to each and every one of us."

Huggins said he is looking forward to serving one more year as a member of the board of regents.

"I've spent 25 years here, he said. "This is the most fantastic bunch of people I've ever dealt with."

Huggins has had a long career, and has been heavily involved in both education and public service. He has served on the Carl Albert Board of regents for 25 years. He has served at CASC for 25 years, first serving in 1997. Huggins has served as Chairman for the Board of Regents several times.

Huggins has also worked for a considerable time with KiBois Community Action Foundation, and currently serves as the Executive Director, a position he has held since 1978.

Huggins also served on the Stigler School Board for 14 years. He also spent time teaching in Oklahoma City before serving in the National Guard, where he became a Sergeant Major.

His years of tireless service also include being a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Oklahoma Regional Health Planning Commission, and the Workforce Development Council.

"I'm very excited to serve one more year," he said.

The board of regents approved Lavon Williams as the new chairman. They also approved Dwight Spencer as Vice Chair and Deanna Reed as Secretary for fiscal year 2025.

The regents also voted to approve the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget, which was presented by the school's CFO Brian Roberts. The proposed budget totals \$13,771,269.

See CASC page 8



Jerry Faith and his son, Emmett are pictured bringing food to the KI BOIS Food Pantry in Latimer County. This act of kindness has blessed many recipients.



Tierra Bizzell, Left and Sabrina Padilla, Right with KI BOIS Community Action Muskogee Office recently presented hygiene kits to Green County Behavioral Health to assist in their homeless outreach efforts.

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918-647-3188



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FYI FOR YOUR INFORMATION



In July, we celebrate Disability Pride Month and the anniversary of the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA). On July 26, 1990, the ADA was signed into law. It provides civil rights protection for people with disabilities and allows for access to state and local government services, public transportation, public accommodations, employment, and telecommunications relay services. We recognize and honor people with disabilities and the advocates who continue to fight for their rights.



Social Security is committed to serving those with disabilities through our [Social Security Disability Insurance](#) and [Supplemental Security Income](#) programs. Through these programs, people with disabilities may be eligible for monthly payments. To learn more about these programs, read our publications, [Disability Benefits](#) and [Supplemental Security Income](#).

ROSS BECOMES CCAP



Congratulations to Marcy Ross on becoming the newest CCAP at KI BOIS. The Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) credential recognizes individuals who have demonstrated knowledge and application of the core competencies required to effectively carry out the vision, mission, purpose, and values of the Community Action movement.

CCAP positions the Community Action Network to serve the best interests of people experiencing poverty. The program:

- Transmits the vision and values of the Community Action movement from one generation to the next.
- Guides individuals towards effective leadership within Community Action.
- Solidifies Community Action as a true calling.
- Recognizes and elevates the professional status of those that earn the CCAP credential.
- Embodies the Promise of Community Action.

Marcy is an Accounting Supervisor at the Administrative office in Stigler. She and her husband, Brad, have two children: Kaden and Kiley.

Congratulations!

WEATHERIZATION NEWS



There's a new way to personalize your Weatherization experience. By navigating to <https://ok.mywaplink.org/>.

This site is provided for Oklahoma citizens seeking to apply for assistance with one or more household needs. A variety of services are available through local Community Action Agencies and other community service providers. Eligibility for most assistance programs is based on household income and available funding. The information contained in the application is to assist your local agency in determining if you qualify for any programs available. By filling out the information, we can better understand your need and how to contact you.

For more information about the KI BOIS Weatherization Program, contact Michael Knapp, Director, at 918-967-3325, or visit www.kibois.org.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION



HASKELL COUNTY COALITION

BACK to school ROUND UP

JULY 22ND 4PM-6PM

KIAMICHI TECHNOLOGY CENTER
1410 OLD MILITARY ROAD
STIGLER, OKLAHOMA

FREE BACKPACKS WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES
FREE HAIRCUTS
HYGIENE SUPPLIES
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD TRUCK



LEFLORE COUNTY COALITION FOR HEALTHY LIVING PRESENTS

Back to school!

Leflore County Residents

Resource Fair

Back to School BOOKBAG GIVEAWAY

WE'RE GIVING AWAY 600 FREE BACKPACKS ON JULY 30TH - 10 AM TO WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
D.W. REYNOLDS CENTER

SPONSORED BY





AUGUST 5, 2024
5PM - 7PM

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

FUN RESOURCES

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES
SPLASH PAD

FOOD GAMES

GARY ROSEBURE PARK - WILBURTON



Sequoyah County Resource Network's

Back to School ROUND UP

FOOD GAMES FUN FREE!

AUGUST 3 2024
10AM - 12PM

Line-Up begins at 9am | Gates open at 10am

SALLISAW RODEO ARENA

The first 650 students registered will receive a backpack stuffed with supplies!
BACKPACKS ARE FOR SEQUOYAH COUNTY STUDENTS ONLY!
STUDENT **MUST BE PRESENT** TO RECEIVE A BACKPACK.



All employment opportunities are posted on our website, www.kibois.org. *These positions are open to KI BOIS Community Action Foundation Staff as well as to the public.* (ALL POSITIONS SUBJECT TO CONTINUED PROJECT FUNDING.) **Deadline for all openings: Until Filled.** Current employees – please submit a letter of interest to Human Resources.



Applications may be picked up at any KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. office or printed from the website, www.kibois.org. Applications should be returned to:

**KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.
P. O. Box 727, Stigler, OK 74462
Attention: Human Resources**



The Promise of Community Action

Community Action *changes* people's lives, *embodies* the *spirit of hope*, *improves* communities, and makes America *a better place to live*. We care about the *entire community*, and we are dedicated to *helping* people *help themselves and each other*.



KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc.

Mission Statement

KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Inc. is a community-based organization dedicated to eliminating the causes of poverty and bettering the economic, mental, physical and social well-being of all people - most importantly the disadvantaged - by utilizing effective coordination and administration of available resources and information.