



"Phone Chatter"

kota@kanokla.com
www.kanokla.com

P.O. Box 111 - Caldwell, Kansas 67022-0111 - (620) 845-5682

VOLUME 30

MAY 2001

NO. 05

Straight Talk With Greg Aldridge General Manager



Our 2001 Town Meetings were a big success this year. I hope you had a chance to attend one of the meetings near you. If we missed your community this year, then we'll be there next year. I want to congratulate KanOkla's employees for doing a fantastic job of presenting the Town Meeting information.

The KanOkla employees that work at the Technology Store have moved into the remodeled building in downtown Caldwell. The subsidiary services that we provide for you, and for other companies, have grown quite a bit in the last year, and we had outgrown the space we were using downtown. All of the products that we sell can be purchased at the Store, and we are moving the purchasing and inventory of those products to the downtown location, too. We will be having an open house as soon as the outside of the building is completed, too. But if you're in the need for any of our communications products and services, please come in to the Store a take a look today!

I've talked about it before, and I don't really get asked this much, but some of you may still be wondering why we are marketing our services to communities outside our traditional telephone area. (And we plan to do more.) One of the reasons has to do with changing laws and regulations of our industry. Each telephone company's traditional service area is not protected like it used to be. And the basic premise to free market is growth. A business has to decide to grow, or it withers. We have chosen growth.



Justin Brown goes for the goodies!



Caldwell High School Kayettes help out.

KanOkla Easter Egg Hunt 2001

The grass surrounding KanOkla Telephone Headquarters was a sea of brightly colored candy filled eggs, along with gliders, bubbles, sunglasses and all kinds of goodies for the eighth annual Easter Egg Hunt. The event was held on Saturday April 14, 2001. There were 232 kids registered, from ages 1 to 12 years of age, who ran or crawled for the eggs and prizes. It was a fun filled morning so remember to join us next year.



MacKenzie Zulkoski and Danna Walta get a big "bunny" hug!

KanOkla Sponsors Trip to Nation's Capital for Area Youth

KanOkla Telephone is sponsoring an educational tour for area students, June 3-13, 2001, to Washington, D.C. The 7th Annual Youth Tour exposes and explains the telecommunications industry to students from rural America in a legislative context. Students also have the opportunity to visit many of the historical sites in the nation's capital.

Heather Cole of Braman, OK, and Maxe Wood of Caldwell, KS, will be KanOkla's representatives for the youth tour. Heather is the daughter of Richard Cole and Laura Holmes and is a junior at Braman High School. Maxe is the daughter of Colin and Lucinda Woods and is a junior at Caldwell High School.

The trip focuses on a comprehensive overview of the telecommunications industry,

including careers in telecommunications, the critical role telecommunications plays in rural America, and how legislative and regulatory decisions, made in Washington, affect the industry.

"Today's youth are the future of telecommunications in rural America and we hope that by educating them about the industry, we will not only broaden
(Youth Tour continued on page 2)



Heather Cole



Maxe

Inside this Chatter...

- Calendar of Events
- Survey Winners
- Internet Wizard
- Cathy Keating visits Braman
- Matching Funds at work for Hardtner
- Bucks for Books
- What Is DSL?
- Who won the computer?

KANOKLA TELEPHONE ASSN., INC.
 PO Box 111, Caldwell, KS 67022-0111
 (620-845-5682)

Greg Aldridge General Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ronald Frazier President
 (Corbin-Mayfield)
 Dave Lowe V. President
 (Caldwell-Renfrow)
 William H. Stanley, Jr. Sec./Treas.
 (Jet-Goltry)
 J. C. Feist Director
 (Director at Large)
 Howard Osborne Director
 (Bluff City-Danville-Freeport)
 Jerry Johnston Director
 (Braman)
 Sue Schwerdtfeger Director
 (Capron-Hardtner)
 Randy Lanie Director
 (Manchester-Waldron)
 Wayne Kufus Director
 (South Haven-Geuda Springs)

BUSINESS HOURS

7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Office closed Saturday and Sunday

COMPANY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

(No toll charge within KanOkla service area)

- Customer Service, Trouble Reporting, and
 Other Business 620-845-5682,
 or dial 611 inside the KanOkla Service Area.
 In Emergency Dial Operator

PHONE CHATTER

A member newsletter published by the
 KanOkla Telephone Assn., Inc.

Editor - Louise DeWitt

Assistant Editor - Pam Schneider

Staff - Kim Reilly

Survey Winners...

Telephone Service – one month free local service

Larry and Lynda Tompkins - South Haven, KS

New Telephone – one month free local service

Dearmon George - Corbin, KS

Internet – one month free local Internet service

Lou Ann Robinette - Goltry, OK

Tech Store - \$25 Gift Certificate

Bob Sedbrook - Goltry, OK

EMERGENCY NUMBER CORRECTION!!!

Emergency Number Corrections in the KanOkla Country April 2001 Directory Edition, please change:

1. In the **Oklahoma Emergency Numbers** Section on page 3 please change the **Nash – Fire** listing number to **580-839-2828**.
2. In the **Kansas Emergency Numbers** Section on page 2 please change the **Caldwell Fire** Emergency Number to **620-845-2345** or **911**.

(Youth Tour Continued from page 1)

their horizons, but strengthen our communities,” said Greg Aldridge, KanOkla’s General Manager. “We are proud to have a role in educating our local youth and contributing to the future economic health of our communities.”

The Youth Tour will bring together 100 high school juniors from across rural America to Washington, D.C. on a four-day legislatively and culturally enriched experience. The tour will allow youth to visit the Supreme Court and U.S. Capitol to meet with a member of Congress. They will also participate in an informational session about the Federal Communications Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service and more. Students will visit the nation’s most historic sites and popular tour sites, including the Supreme Court and the Lincoln and Roosevelt Memorials.

The 7th Annual Youth Tour is hosted by the Foundation for Rural Services (FRS). FRS leads aggressive public information, economic and community development projects, which focus on rural telecommunications, to educate the public and improve the quality of rural American life. It is the philanthropic arm of the National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA), of which KanOkla is a member.

KanOkla Trivia Winner

The winner for April’s KanOkla Trivia is Janice Strong of Caldwell, Kansas. Janice was drawn for having the correct answer Rusty Partee. Rusty is one of KanOkla’s Plant Technicians, who can be seen in the Caldwell, Renfrow, Corbin, and Mayfield area. Janice will receive a \$30.00 KanOkla Buck certificate. Congratulations Janice!



Russell Orton

Orton’s Win Computer by Attending Town Meeting

Throughout the year, KanOkla will be celebrating “50” years of service. For those who attended the town meetings you were able to sign up to win a computer from KanOkla to celebrate our “50th” year. Russell and Michelle Orton of South Haven, KS were the lucky winners of a new computer. Russell is the High School principal for South Haven Schools. They have four children; Chad, 15; Travis, 10; Ami, 6; and Madison, 4. Congratulations to the Orton family!

Graduation time is drawing near and we have the perfect graduation gift for your graduate, from a cellular phone to a computer system. Take advantage of our **Graduation Computer System Specials and receive FOUR MONTHS OF INTERNET FREE! Call KanOkla at 611 for details.**
 Offer valid through May 2001.
 Certain restrictions apply.

Bucks For Books

The 2001 KanOkla Country directories should have arrived at your home. Don't forget about Bucks for Books! KanOkla will pay fifty cents for every **KANOKLA** directory and will donate all proceeds to local youth groups. Here is a great opportunity to help youth and mother earth by recycling. So all youth groups get busy and collect the old KanOkla directories and make some fast cash for your group!

Are you tired of receiving those annoying telemarketer calls at dinner?
Don't be bothered by them anymore, add
Telemarketer Call Screening!
Unknown or Out-of-Area Callers will be routed to a message and best of all your phone will never ring!
Call KanOkla at 611 to receive TWO MONTHS FREE AND FREE ACTIVATION! Offer valid May 2001.
Certain restrictions apply.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chisholm Trail Festival—Caldwell, KS

May 4 & 5, Friday & Saturday. Various activities will be held downtown.

Pig Roast—Goltry, OK

May 5, Saturday. Starts at 5:30 p.m. There will be a Pig Roast at the Goltry Gym. The Goltry Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring it.

Annual Mother's Day Benefit Dinner—Jet, OK

May 13, Sunday. 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The Annual Mother's Day Benefit Dinner will be held at the Jet Fire Department. All you can eat: meat, salads, vegetables, desserts, and drinks. Will have Head Country BBQ Sauce.

If there are any special events happening in your community, please let us know. Call Brandi Williamson at KanOkla, 620-845-5682, to put in the Chatter's Calendar of Events. Thanks so much!

From the Desk of the WHIZ:

This month I'd like to share a few tips for customers that have been "blown away" by the KanOkla Whirlwind.

- **Eliminate DSL Interference:** DSL modems can be sensitive to radio frequency interference (RFI) resulting in lower performance. Such interference can be caused by electrical sources such as lighting switches or halogen lamps or AM radios, even when such devices are turned off. Users experiencing DSL performance problems, particularly if those troubles seem to vary according to the time of day, should check for interference. By completely disconnecting devices that could possibly interfere, users can monitor their DSL performance to see if it improves. One possible fix is to put the DSL modem on a power line RFI filter, often included in many surge suppressors. If lighting switches or fixtures seem to be causing interference, you also might consider replacing such devices with ones that generate less interference or ones that have better RFI filtering. As a general rule, cheaper light switches have less RFI filtering, while more expensive switches tend to have more filtering for less interference.
- **Tighten Security and Stop Sharing:** Increase security by disabling file and printer sharing. To do so, double-click the Network icon from the Control Panel. From the Configuration tab, click the "File and Print Sharing" button. Make sure both options listed in the pop-up "File and Print Sharing" dialog box are unchecked. Click "OK" twice to close the Network windows. Restart your computer to apply the changes.
- **Double check for security loopholes and open ports:** Find peace of mind by having your system checked. Perform a security check on your computer with security software such as NetView's Scanner Suite. This freeware is available for download at www.download.com and checks for open shares and ports on your DSL system.
- **Protect Your System By Installing Firewall Protection:** Even if you've disabled all built in Windows file sharing, your system could still be accessible from the internet. Know you're safe by installing a software firewall. A firewall blocks all incoming traffic on all ports. One of the best software firewalls available, Black Ice, is available at the KanOkla Tech Store for around \$40.



For more information about KanOkla Whirlwind DSL, or to check for availability at your location, contact KanOkla at 611 or 800-KANOKLA.

- the Whiz

Hardtner Library Approved for \$2500

The Hardtner Public Library is a very progressive library for a small town. The library was recently awarded \$ 1,125 by the South Central Community Foundation to expand their computer technology and to purchase stacking youth chairs for seating during Story Hour.

Friends of Kansas Libraries honored the Friends of the Hardtner Public Library for their outstanding volunteer service to the Hardtner Public Library at their recent annual meeting in Topeka. They were awarded a cash prize of \$100, a Birger Sandzen book of his art, and a framed certificate. During the year, this group has also raised funds that matched a grant from the South Central Library System to purchase a scanner/copier/printer for the Hardtner Library. When the library trustees voted to remodel the library restroom, the Friends raised and contributed a third of the costs.

The Hardtner Library has also been rated by the American Public Library Rating Index by Thomas Hennen as a high-ranking library with population of less than 1,000.

The KanOkla Economic Development Committee approved an application from the Friends of the Hardtner Public Library to make improvements to the Library. KanOkla will match up to \$ 2,500 for grants such as the one from the South Central Community Foundation listed above. The improvements will include a fire proof file cabinet to preserve and protect the pictures and memorabilia stored at the Library, a wheel chair ramp to make the Library more accessible, shelving, children's furniture, upgrading the computers and adding a DSL line. "It is important for KanOkla to continue to assist our communities such as Hardtner, in improving the Library for their community," stated Randy Lanie, KanOkla Economic Development Chairman.



Pictured left to right is Rusty Partee, Greg Aldridge, Jerry Johnston, Cathy Keating, and Marilyn Johnston.

First Lady Cathy Keating Visits Braman

Submitted by the City of Braman

Oklahoma's first lady, Cathy Keating, visited the town of Braman, Oklahoma to honor them for their first place finish in Community Project 2000-Downtown Beautification. Braman won this award in the category for communities with a population under 500. This was the first year for the program, sponsored by the Oklahoma Community Institute, to recognize cities and towns for their work in making their communities more appealing.

To spruce up the 104 year old former City Hall building with a "historically correct" paint job, a trip to Lowe's in Ponca City was needed to find out about the paint. At Lowe's Darrel Elgin told Jeanne McCulloch, Administrative Assistant for the Town of Braman and Julie Estrada, Town Trustee, about a free service offered by Valspar Paints' color design architect, John Crosby Freeman. McCulloch sent pictures of the building to Freeman in Pennsylvania, who in return sent color suggestions. The historically correct colors of paint were chosen.

The Town of Braman was recognized nationally for this project as well at a meeting in New York where John Crosby Freeman used Braman as an example of the newly introduced line of Valspar's historically paint colors. In fact, the new Valspar t-shirts with "American Tradition" were shown in New York, but presented first in Braman. The company sent two dozen of the shirts to the Town of Braman, and one of the shirts were presented to First Lady Keating during her visit. Freeman also plans to personally visit Braman in the future.

Although the city offices are now in a new building on the main street, the old City Hall houses Avery's Income Tax Service. Plans for a future Community Project entry include refurbishing the 1920's era jail portion of the building. Many volunteers spent hours helping with the project and are very proud of the first place finish.

In Honor of Mrs. Keating's visit to Braman, a reception was held at the new town complex. Braman Mayor Jerry Johnston welcomed Mrs. Keating to Braman and Ray Ball, representing the Kaw Nation, presented Mrs. Keating with a beaded shawl. Carol Clark did the intricate beadwork. Seventy-three area residents enjoyed the afternoon with the first lady. The Town of Braman was also recognized in January at the Oklahoma Community Institute awards banquet with a plaque honoring the accomplishment.

What is DSL?

Information from Dana Pierce
Plant Supervisor

It's pretty safe to assume that Alexander Graham Bell wasn't thinking about the World Wide Web in the year 1875 when he invented the telephone, but those thin copper wires he used back then are the basis of how we cruise the Internet today. Now, there's a new technology that uses those same copper wires to transform the Internet experience for home users, and it's called DSL (Digital Subscriber Line). DSL is a high-speed data service that brings the Internet and all it offers to your home at speeds up to 25 times faster than a standard dial-up connection. Actual DSL speeds may vary depending on the distance from your house to the phone company's central office.

The Internet and World Wide Web take on a whole new dimension when you access them at DSL warp speed. Here are some of the advantages of High Speed – DSL:

- You can access the Internet at speeds up to 25 times faster than a standard dial-up connection.
- High Speed – DSL is always connected, like your electricity, so there's no need to wait for your modem to dial and negotiate a connection to the host.
- Because you can download software in a fraction of the time it used to take, you can always keep your software up-to-date by downloading the latest patches and upgrades from Microsoft.
- Talk on the telephone while you surf the Web-without a second telephone line.

So, why doesn't everyone have it?

Frankly, even though our Whirlwind DSL service is great, most people don't have it because they don't know about it or what they can do with fast Internet access. But there are also a few issues and restrictions involved with DSL.

- Special equipment has to be installed in the telephone company's central office near your home. This central office is a secure building in your neighborhood that connects your home with the voice and data networks. While more and more central offices have been upgraded with this special DSL equipment, not all have been upgraded.
- The issue is the distance from your home to the central office. The closer you are to the central office, the greater the available speed. For DSL to be available, you must not be more than the maximum distance to the central office, which is usually about 13,000 to 18,500 feet. In order to assure high-quality connections, High Speed – DSL is only available up to 15,000 feet from the central office.

The last issue is the quality and availability of the telephone wire outside and inside your home. The wiring might not be adequate (new and of good quality) to support DSL. In this case, new wires must be installed and new wiring may not always be available or easily installed.



Mousetrap powered cars



Recycled CD Disc Turned Into Wheels

Well over 100 students proudly took home mousetrap powered cars because of many people like you who took time to turn them into KanOkla or handed them to me. Each car required four discs used for wheels. I received over 500 discs locally. A package of CDs came in the mail from Oxford, Kansas.

Through this hands-on project, the students learned science concepts relating to friction, levers, inertia, and motion. Allen Shellhammer provided the needed light wood for the chassis. Each student was given axles, lever arms, string, mousetrap, wheels, and rubber washers. The total cost of their car was \$1.78. A kit from the catalog is \$17.50 per car.

Their job was to construct a four-wheel car that would travel the longest distance powered only by a mousetrap. Friction was their biggest hurdle to overcome. There were cars made that traveled the total distance of the gym and hit the wall!

In the lower grades, we rolled the disc with pennies taped on them down ramps when studying potential and kinetic energy.

I want to say a big thank you to all of you and the South Haven and Caldwell teachers who helped make this a rewarding experience for students.

Thanks Again,
Al Melichar



P.O. BOX 111
100 KANOKLA AVE.
CALDWELL, KANSAS 67022-0111

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Caldwell, KS 67022-0111
PERMIT NO. 60

*Business Office Hours
Monday thru Friday
7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.*

touchtone

**Dial
Faster**

Touchtone Is Required To Use Advanced Calling Services And For Numbers With
Computer Automated Call Routing &
Messaging. And Now,
Available With A
Great Offer...

**Free
activation plus
two months
Free**

Offer Valid May 2001 Only.
Some Restrictions Apply.

