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POTAWATOMI TRAVELING TIMES

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Winter's End Powwow 2019



2019 FCP Royalty Winter's End Powwow: (I-r) Senior Princess Penelope Peters, Brave Brody White and Junior Princess Lovey VanZile.

by Val Niehaus

This year's Winter's End Powwow was jam-packed with people stretching from wall-to-wall in Crandon High School's gymnasium. They all came to celebrate and enjoy the turning of a new season. With temperatures nearing 50 degrees, you simply couldn't ask for a better opening day on March 23.

Saturday kicked off with grand entry

PRSRT STD US POSTAGE **PAID** PERMIT NO. 317 OND DU LAC, WI at 1 p.m. There were so many in attendance that it actually took quite some time for all to enter! After the flags and staffs were entered and veterans announced, Forest Count Potawatomi's (FCP) Vice Chairwoman Brenda Shopodock gave the invocation to start the weekend off with good feelings and great dancing!

Host drum was Southern Style; cohost drum Fire Nation. Invited drums included Iron Boy, Smokeytown and Pipestone. Other drums that were able to sing were Ho-Chunk, Tomahawk Circle, Savage Creek, Battling Bucks and Savage Nation. There was a limited amount of space for drums which happened due to the venue, but there were plenty of others who wished they could have sat in. This limitation of space was reflective of how busy the powwow was – the attendance was incredible.

Emcees for the weekend did a phenomenal job in keeping the spirit of the powwow alive. Wendall Powless was one of them, and many recognized the voice of Vince Beyl, well-known as an emcee for the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, N.M. That event is the largest powwow in the United States and his voice is very familiar to many who frequent the powwow trail.

The arena director, who did a great job of keeping things under control in

the circle, was Lil Man Quintero. Arena director are very important in each powwow because they help keep the dancers informed as to what dance is coming up so they know what to expect next. They also work to keep the spectators and little ones off the dance area of the floor so the dancers have an open area to show their moves. They are quick thinkers and fast on their feet as is especially seen when a baby bottle comes flying across the floor in the middle of a special. Quintero showed many this weekend just how adept he is at handling such unexpected occurrences as he filled this important role.

Head dancers this year were husband and wife duo Darrell and Grace Hill. They both hosted their own jingle dress and men's fancy dance specials, with these being highly-attended by all dancers in these categories. Head veteran for the weekend was John Teller Jr. As always, it is an honor to have veterans participate in the powwow weekend and to share their stories and good feelings with the crowd.

New royalty was also selected this year with Senior Princess presented to Penelope Peters, Junior Princess to Lovey VanZile and Brave to Brody White. Congratulations to you all. We can't wait to see what the year has to bring for you!

Committee specials for the weekend also had high numbers of participants.

These included Men's Traditional 18+, Women's Traditional 18+ and Men's Traditional Champ vs. Women's Traditional Champ. Saturday night the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) dance took place and this was well-received. There were many jingle dress dancers participating in this very emotional dance, along with others who were wearing red for MMIW.

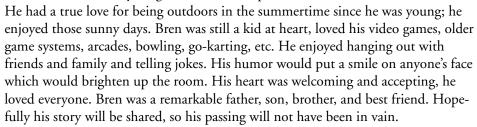
The quantity as well as the quality of vendors was impressive as always, with many selling blankets, beaded earrings, beaded medallions, furs, clothing and, of course, all the Indian tacos and fry bread you wanted. There was even a lemonade stand with hard-serve ice cream and a gourmet coffee stand with iced mochas and iced caramel macchiatos. These were a real hit with many!

It was an incredible weekend to say the least. The attendance was outstanding with over 500 dancers registered, the singing and dancing were non-stop, and there were many old and new faces smiling, laughing and dancing. Everyone seemed to be in good spirits, which may have had to do with the fact that winter is finally ending her reign and spring is right around the corner. It was a long winter and many wondered if it would ever end, but the Winter's End Powwow is a great reminder and celebration of the fact that spring always comes.

Bren Alloway Spaude "Majigishik" - Night Sky Going

Bren Alloway Spaude, age 24 of Wausau, Wis., passed away March 13, 2019. He was born on Aug. 30, 1994, in Wausau, Wis.

Bren graduated from Ashland High School in 2012. He went on to be his young, kind, and free-spirited self.



He is survived by his mother: Ann Spaude; daughter: Harmony Gomez, son: Dakota Alloway-Gomez; sisters: Brea Spaude, Deneen Spaude, Jolene Spaude, Trena Alloway, Marie Alloway, Michelle DeVerney; brothers: Julius Alloway, Blake Spaude, Mitchell Anwash. He is preceded in death by his father, George Alloway Jr.

Native American services were held March 16, 2019, at the Potawatomi Cultural Center, officiated by Jim Thunder. Interment was at the Potawatomi Tribal Cemetery, Crandon.

NEW CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP +++++++

A Caregiver Support Group is being offered by the Forest County Potawatomi Elderly Department and the Forest County Office on Aging for all types of caregivers: grandparents, spouses, parents and friends.

Join us on the second Wednesday of every month from 5 – 6 p.m., at the Laona Senior Center located at 5277 Linden St. in Laona. Please RSVP to Penny at (715) 478-4892 or Tammy at (715) 478-3256.

FCP CARING PLACE April 2019 Activities Calendar

Activity room is open daily for activities at the Caring Place. Exercise is every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. SPECIAL EVENTS (RSVP REQUIRED):

4/2: Casino Day • 4/9: Shopping 4/19: Rouman Cinema • 4/23: Birthday BINGO at 12:30 4/28: BINGO at Carter Casino

Happy April Birthday to These Elders!

- 4-1 Velma Waukechon
 4-4 Jeanette Towns
 4-17 Judith Kasparek
 4-4 Jeffery Crawford
 4-17 Clarence Daniels
 4-4 Patricia Elliot
 4-18 Stanley Frank
 4-5 Oopie Elayne Shepard
 4-19 Ora Monegar
 4-9 John Mann
 4-20 Carole White
 4-9 Ned Daniels Jr.
 4-10 J.R. Holmes
 4-17 Clarence Daniels
 4-18 Stanley Frank
 4-20 Carole White
 4-9 Paul Kezick
- 4-12 Deanna Olson4-20 Patricia Shopodock4-13 Eugene Shawano Sr.4-20 Jo Anne Jackson
- 4-14 Karen Ritchie

• • • PUBLIC NOTICE • • •

Due to the elderly population growth, FCP Executive Council has made the decision that the Elderly Department will now only provide services to those over the age of 55.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. You are strongly encouraged to utilize the FCPC Transit system for transportation. To find out more about the transit or to request a schedule, please call (715) 478-4779.

SPRING IS HERE! Housing Department Helpful Hints

Reminder:

• Please make sure your SUMP PUMPS are plugged in and working. Watch for water entering into your basement throughout spring and summer. Keep rain gutters clear of debris and make sure the gutters are extending away from your house as pictured below.



Help:

• Keep the neighborhood and your yard looking clean by picking up any garbage laying around now and for the rest of the spring/summer season.



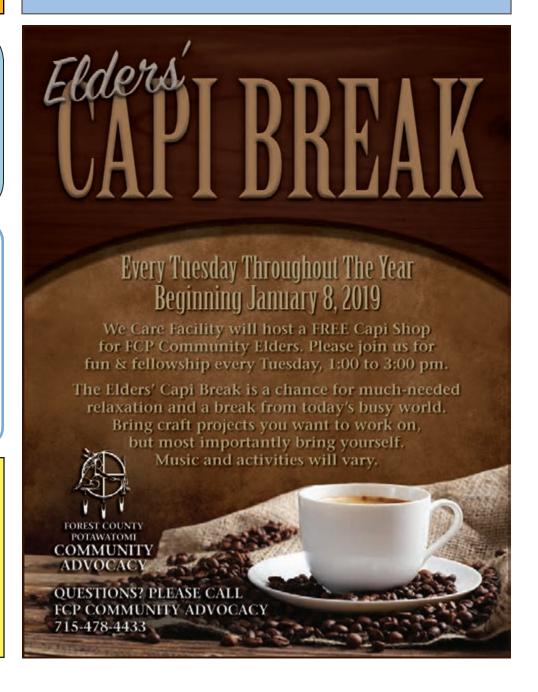
Message From FCP Veterans Post 1

WE HAVE MOVED BACK TO THE OLD TRIBAL HALL!

Meetings take place on the first Monday of the month at 5 p.m. We consider it an honor and a privilege to be of service to the Potawatomi community. Membership in

FCP Veterans Post 1 is open to all veterans and spouses of

Potawatomi tribal members. Please join us!



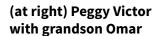
Tribal Elders Take in Bucks Game

submitted by FCP Elderly Department

On March 9, 2019, a group of FCP elders attended a Milwaukee Bucks basketball game at Fiserv Forum. Playing against the Charlotte Hornets, the Bucks came out on top with a score of 131 - 114.



(at left) Mike and Peggy Konaha with grandson Waylon





(above) Lorrie Shepard, Frank Shepard Sr., Jayson and Shirley Jackson, Linda Sturnot, JR Holmes, Harvey III, Susan Reiter, Michael Goodrich

Deadline for the April 15, 2019 issue of the *Traveling Times* is Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

POTAWATOMI TRAVELING TIMES

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Elder Menus - April 2019

Monday, 4/1
BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich,
Spinach, Sliced Cucumbers,
Strawberry Yogurt, Strawberries

<u>Tuesday, 4/2</u> Cobb Salad, Garlic Bread, Cinnamon Apple NutriGrain[®] Bar, Grape Juice

Wednesday, 4/3
Hamburger Gravy, Mashed
Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn,
Cherry Crisp

Thursday, 4/4
Baked Cod, Baked Potato, Baked
Beans, Coleslaw, Rye Bread, Kiwi

Friday, 4/5
Broccoli & Cheese Soup, Deviled
Egg, Crackers, Cheese Stick,
Watermelon

Monday, 4/8
Baked Chicken, Mashed
Potatoes & Gravy, Brussels Sprouts,
Dinner Roll, Orange Juice

Tuesday, 4/9
Chop Suey over Rice, Egg Roll,
Fortune Cookie, Cantaloupe

Wednesday, 4/10
Fully Loaded Baked Potato w/Ham,
Cheese & Broccoli, Side Salad,
Hummus & Crackers,
Banana Nut Bread

Thursday, 4/11
Turkey Bacon Wrap w/Lettuce,
Tomato & Cheese, Cranberry Sauce,
Peaches in Jello®

Friday, 4/12
Beef Stew, Corn Bread,
Cheese Stick, Strawberry-Banana
Fruit Juice

Monday, 4/15
Creamed Chicken & Vegetables
over Biscuit, V-8® Juice,
Fruit in Jello®

Tuesday, 4/16
Mexican Lasagna, Black Bean
Side Dish, Bread Stick,
Blueberry Parfait

Wednesday, 4/17
Scalloped Potatoes & Ham,
Carrots, Asparagus, Dinner Roll,
Chocolate Chip Cookie,
Mandarin Oranges

Thursday, 4/18
Chef Salad, Garlic Bread,
Fresh Berries

<u>Friday, 4/19</u> Chicken Dumpling Soup, Crackers, Apple

> Monday, 4/22 Holiday

Tuesday. 4/23
Spaghetti & Meatballs,
Cottage Cheese, Corn,
Bread & Butter, Banana

Wednesday, 4/24
Turkey Hot Dog w/Sauerkraut,
Parsley Potatoes, Green Beans,
Orange

Thursday, 4/25
Chicken Salad w/Lettuce & Tomato on Croissant, Apricots, Grape Juice

Friday, 4/26
Split Pea & Ham Soup, Cheese
Sandwich, Applesauce

Monday, 4/29
Egg Salad Sandwich on
Whole Wheat, Side Salad,
Cherry Walnut Fluff

Tuesday, 4/30
Pork Tenderloin, Stuffing,
Broccoli, Carrots, Pineapple

*Menus subject to change.

FCP Congratulates Crandon Girls Basketball Team

by Val Niehaus

In celebration of the Crandon Cardinals girls basketball team's accomplishment of making it to the sectional finals this year, the regular awards banquet usually held at the school was instead held at Potawatomi Carter Casino & Hotel (PCCH). This happened on the night of March 12, 2019. Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) Secretary James A. Crawford opened up the event with a bit of explanation as to why the banquet was being held at PCCH. He said, "FCP Chairman of the tribe was so proud of you girls making it to state last year and this year for making it to sectional finals, that he wanted to be sure you were recognized for your hard work."

PCCH put out a great spread with chicken, BBQ ribs, potatoes, corn and a dessert treat at the end of the dinner. Jennifer Sue's Cupcakery made a huge sheet cake with all of the players' numbers on mini basketballs for all the girls to enjoy.

After everyone was finished eating, an awards banquet took place. The junior varsity (JV) team was the first to be recognized by coach Ted Ison for all the hustle, dedication and sweat they have put into this season. Ison reviewed the record for the girls' season and commended them on how much they have all shown their commitment to being on this team. Some of the highlights and stories were quite impressive, to say the least. Ison said, "Overall, it's really been a great year - it's a testament to the parents and the girls themselves, and we really enjoyed coaching them. It makes it easy and fun when you have good kids. With this group of JV girls right now, I wouldn't be surprised if we don't get to go back to Green Bay. I just really feel these younger girls are that good." Awards were then given to each player and each was gifted with a little highlight memory of the year.

Next, it was the varsity players turn for individual awards along with any pins for their letters. Head coach Keegan Kincaid said some words before handing out the individual awards. He also shared a few special highlight moments from this year's season - not only game and play wise, but also some personal funny moments that gained a few chuckles from both the audience and girls. Being in his second year of coaching, Kincaid has really experienced the best-of-the-best when it comes to girls' basketball with a trip to state tournament last year and almost being in the same seat this year. But as he says, it's really the girls on this team who have put in the work and heart to show what they are made of. He said, "I'm really just proud of these girls and for all they have done in these last few years, and I am looking forward to what the future brings!"

The four seniors who are finished with this year's season of basketball have left an imprint on the school history, and they should all be very proud of that fact. They include: Micasslyn Crawford (FCP tribal member), Autumn Shalllock, Alexa Neilitz and Sarah Kalkofen.

The 2018/19 junior varsity team includes: Tana VanZile, Ava Neilitz, Madison Ackley, Gabrielle Ostrowski, Macie Palubicki, Elle Reeder, Claudia Krueger, Skyler Holm, Alexis McCorkle, Laura Cochrane, Haley Walentowski, and coach Ted Ison.

The 2018/19 varsity team includes: Autumn Schallock, Alexa Neilitz, Sarah Kalkofen, Micasslyn Crawford, Lindsay Littleton, Maddie Stamper, Abbie Samz, Leah Palubicki, Lynzee McGeshick, Brandi Okrasinski, Tabitha Renkas, as well as head coach Keegan Kincaid, assistant coaches Hollie Ackley, Ted Ison, Jeff Mayer, and managers Holly Palubicki and Mara Stamper.



Both head coach Keegan Kincaid (l) and FCP Secretary James A. Crawford expressed their pride in the team's accomplishments.





Junior varsity team with awards from the night



Varsity with awards from the night



Fruit/Vegetable of the Month: Green Beans

submitted by Community Health

After all the snow this winter, the time for gardening is right around the corner! In many Native American tribes, traditional gardening included corn,

squash and beans. These three plants grown together became known as the Three Sisters. Today, green beans are a favorite,

non-starchy vegetable for many people. You may want to consider growing green beans from seeds or young plants this summer.

Green beans are versatile, widely available, and good for you. You can eat them raw, cooked, cold, hot, alone, or in combination with other ingredients. There are some benefits to eating green beans raw (more vitamins and minerals), but there are also some benefits to cooking (gentler on your digestive system). Choose fresh: from the grocery store, farmer's market or your garden, or choose frozen green beans. You may want to avoid canned due to added sodium.

Green beans are healthy: one cup of raw green beans has 30 calories, 7 g carbohydrate, 3.4 g fiber, and 1.8 g protein (and nearly 0 g fat). Green beans contain

many essential vitamins, including folate, vitamin C, some vitamin A and other vitamins, minerals and phytonutrients.

Finding a recipe

for green beans is not easy because green beans alone are healthy and tasty. It is important to consider the added fat and sugars when looking for recipes. Since olive oil is one of the healthiest oils, and garlic is a pre-biotic and very flavorful, you may want to try the recipe shown below. (You can also watch the video on the following link www.cookingchanneltv. com/recipes/heavenly-sauteed-string-beans-with-garlic-3101317.)

If you'd like more information on green beans or other nutritional topics, contact Community Health at (715) 478-4355.

Sautéed Green Beans

Ingredients

- 2 lbs. fresh string beans, trimmed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3 tablespoons chopped garlic
- ½ teaspoon iodized salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper Directions:
- Bring a large stockpot of water to a boil. Cook the string beans for two minutes, then drain and set aside.
- Heat a large high-sided skillet over medium heat. Add the olive oil, two tablespoons of the garlic, string beans and stir. Add the salt and pepper and mix again, then add the remaining one tablespoon garlic and stir to make sure the string beans are coated. Cook until tender, five minutes, and then serve.



April Is Sexually Transmitted Infection Awareness Month

submitted by Community Health (info courtesy fiveactionsteps.org)

To bring awareness to April being Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Awareness Month, Community Health shares the Five Action Steps to Good Sexual Health courtesy National Council for Sexual Health. For more in-depth information on each step, visit www.fiveactionsteps.org.

#1: Value who you are and decide what's right for you.

It starts with believing that each and every one of us is valuable, and that we all have the right to be treated with respect and to express who we really are. When we feel good about ourselves, we usually make better decisions. There can be big benefits: feeling happier, and having better relationships and sexual health.

#2: Get smart about your body and protect it.

Sex, which can be expressed in many ways, can bring you pleasure and intimacy, but it can also bring unwanted things like sexually transmitted infections (STIs), unplanned pregnancies and fear. However, you can take simple steps to protect yourself and your partner. Simple steps can protect you and your partner and help you both enjoy a healthier and more satisfying sex life.

#3: Treat your partners well and expect them to treat you well.

It all starts with our expectations. When it comes to how sexual partners treat each other, do we have low or high standards? And do we believe that every one of us deserves to be treated with respect and kindness? We all have the right to safe, healthy, and satisfying

experiences with partners – whether they are short-term hook-ups or on-going relationships. This holds true even if you've had bad experiences with partners in the past. Yet, most of us lack a rulebook or "know-how" when it comes to partners.

#4: Build positive relationships.

For most people, good relationships are essential to a happy and healthy life, and for many of us, romantic relationships are at the top of the list. Building relationships that are healthy and positive is key to our sexual health and well-being. But when it comes to this important life skill, many of us don't feel prepared. The good news? It's never too late to learn.

#5: Make sexual health part of your health care routine.

Did you know that sexual health services can prevent serious health problems, lifelong illnesses, and even death? Yet, over half of us – both men and women – are not getting these highly-recommended services, which can include vaccines, screenings, contraceptives, and counseling. Are you one of them?

Did you know that the Forest County Potawatomi Community Health Department has a Brown Bag Program? These brown bags contain condoms/lube and education about sexually-transmitted infections and pregnancy prevention FREE of charge. Stop by today to protect yourself and your partner during STI Awareness Month. The public can access the Action Steps on this mobile-friendly website and learn more about each one by visiting www.fiveactionsteps.org.

National Public Health Week 2019

National

submitted by Community Health

National Public Health Week is April 1-7, 2019! During the first full week of April each year, the American Public Health Association (APHA) brings

together communities across the United States to witness National Public Health Week (NPHW) as a time to recognize the influences of public

health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation. APHA creates new NPHW materials each year with different public health themes.

Everyone deserves to live a long and healthy life in a safe environment and community. To make that possible, we need to address the causes of poor health and disease risk within our communities. Where we live, learn, work, worship, and play affects each of us and can determine our health and life expectancy. In the workplace, let's partner across public and private sectors to make sure decisions are made with the public's health in mind. Within our communities, let's start new conversations with our neighbors and become advocates for positive change. Working together, we can build healthier

communities and, eventually, the healthiest nation. But we need your help to get there!

During each day of National Public

Health Week, APHA focuses on a particular public health topic. These areas are critical to our future success in creating the healthiest nation, and everyone

can do their part to help. EVENT: Come stop by the Health & Wellness Center on Wednesday, April 3, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. to come learn about how we are creating a healthier community within Forest County Potawatomi! There will be a chance to win some healthy prizes! Check us out!

We all have a role to play:

- Create a safe, healthy community
- Help young people graduate from high school
 - Achieve health equity
- Give everyone a choice of safe, healthy food
- Prepare for the health effects of climate change
 - Make healthy choices the easy choice











Tapping Trees with Education/Culture

by Val Niehaus

With a winter that seemed like it was never going to end, there is a ray of hope that it will be over soon. This ray of hope comes in the form of maple trees ready to start giving up their sap to make sweet maple syrup. It is always the best treat that this Spring weather brings as Mother Earth herself offers up this delicacy.

Brian Franz from Education/Culture and Jeffery Cisneros, who is a program participant under economic support department, began this process on March 19, 2019. They invited the Gte Ga Nēs

students to come to Sugar Camp and watch the beginning process of maple syruping. Cisneros said a prayer to give thanks to Mother Earth for this bounty and for letting him drill into a tree to begin the process. This is done with a hand drill. He then proceeded to place the spout into the tree and attached the bucket to collect the sap.

Franz said, "I am really proud of Jeffery. Billy Daniels Jr. was the one who taught me this process and the lessons involved and I am now passing it down to the generation who will follow me. Jeffery is learning and showing the younger youth now. He's doing an awesome job and it's great to see this knowledge passed down to the next."

Franz said that once the sap starts running a bit more as the weather warms, he will be having a handful of older students from Wabeno coming to Sugar Camp to help with making the syrup as well. There will be more on that to follow in future editions of *Potawatomi Traveling Times* so keep an eye out for further reports as the entire process proceeds bit-by-bit.

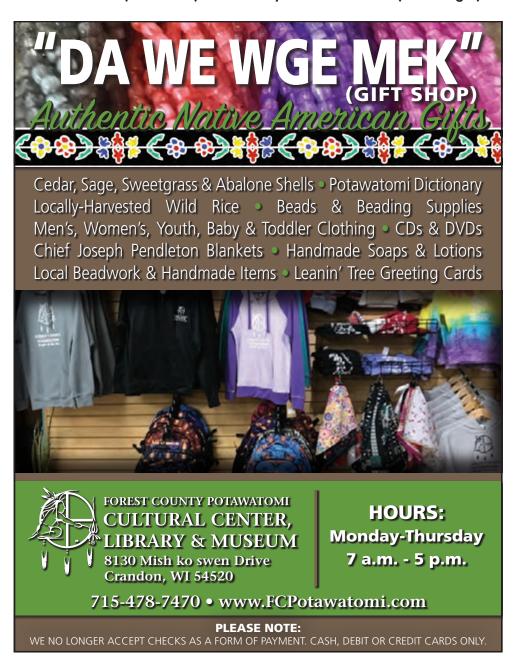
Collecting the sap, boiling and

canning is all a process that many in this area, and in Wisconsin in general, are familiar with. But most important is teaching these younger children the importance of what Mother Earth can offer to us all if we if just put in the work and effort together. Collecting sap and making syrup is an activity that goes back for hundreds of years, and it is one which continues to be done to this day. It is a very cool legacy to hold on to, and it is truly an important – and tasty – part of tribal heritage.





(above left) Cisneros lays down his sema. (above right) As he drills into the tree, Gte Ga Nes students watch every step.





Rising Sun Annual Art Show

by Val Niehaus

Rising Sun Daycare held its annual art show on March 21, 2019.

The staff and children invited parents, grandparents and guardians in for this time of fun and creative expression. The children's ages that participated in this are from age zero to four with all doing a bit of something to show off their creative side.

There was a special guest who came to sing and play his guitar. His name is David Dall and the children loved listening to him sing and had fun playing silly games.

Refreshments were served and, as

Refreshments were served and, as always, all the children did a great job on their masterpieces!



Shown here are more of the children's handiwork.



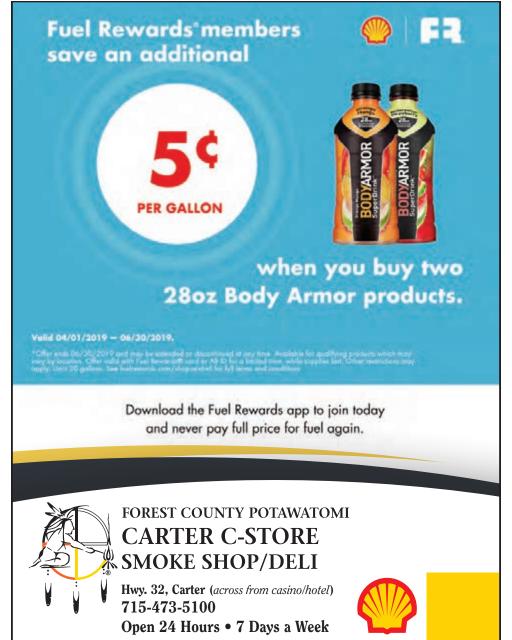
Mom and son enjoy the show together.



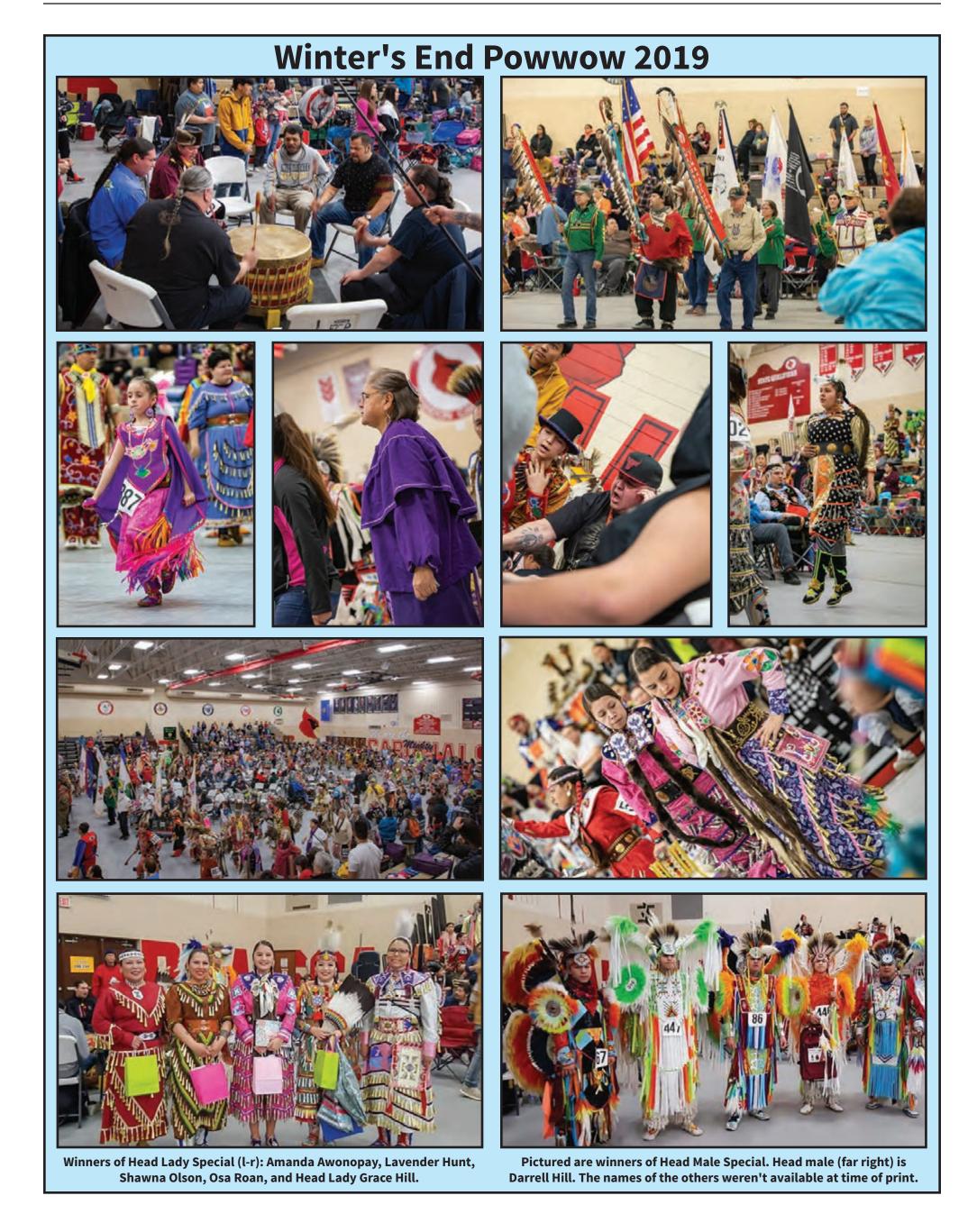
David Dall sings to the children.



The children were very creative with their artwork.







FY 2020 Budget Proposes \$936.3 Million for Bureau of Indian Education

submitted by U.S. Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON. D.C. (March 11, 2019) – President Donald Trump proposed a \$936.3 million Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

The BIE's primary mission is to provide quality education opportunities from early childhood through life in accordance with a tribe's need for cultural and economic well-being, in keeping with the wide diversity of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes as distinct cultural and governmental entities.

For the first time in its history, the BIE's budget request is being presented in a separate budget justification. All BIE budget activities are shifted out of Indian Affairs' Operation of Indian Programs account into a new Operation of Indian Education Programs account. In addition, the Education Construction budget activity is shifted to a new Education Construction account.

"The President's Fiscal Year 2020 budget for the Bureau of Indian Education supports his goals for tribal self-determination by improving education services to Indian Country," said Acting Interior Secretary David L. Bernhardt. "This budget recognizes the BIE being as important to tribes in the education of their children as the BIA is to supporting them in the management of their trust lands and resources."

"I appreciate the President's recognition through his FY 2020 proposal of the need to elevate the BIE budget to bureau-level status within the overall Indian Affairs budget, given its broad range of responsibilities for educating our students," said Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Tara "Katuk" Sweeney. "Our children are sacred and we're fighting for their futures. That is why having the BIE budget as a separate account will allow for greater transparency and accountability for our education responsibilities."

The 2020 budget acknowledges the distinct and separate responsibilities and missions of Indian Affairs' two bureaus – BIE and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) – by elevating the BIE budget request to

the bureau level and presenting it separately from the BIA's. This proposal will advance BIE reform, provide autonomy and accountability, streamline services, maximize efficiency, and build capacity.

The request also supports the Administration's commitment to helping promote tribal nation-building and self-determination, empower tribal communities, foster tribal self-sufficiency, create educational and economic opportunities, ensure safe Indian communities, and preserve and foster cultural heritage. The goals and vision reflected in the FY 2020 budget are informed by tribal leaders and the Tribal-Interior Budget Council (TIBC) who helped the Department identify the priorities in this request.

<u>Budget Overview</u>: The President's FY 2020 budget for BIE is \$936.3 million in current appropriations.

The Bureau manages the Federal school system comprised of 169 elementary and secondary schools and 14 dormitories, located on 64 reservations in 23 States, providing educational services to 46,692 individual students, with an Average Daily Membership of 40,641 students. It also operates two post-secondary schools and administers grants for 29 tribally-controlled colleges and universities and two tribal technical colleges.

BIE funding supports classroom instruction, student transportation, native language instruction, cultural enrichment, gifted and talented programs, and school improvement and maintenance. In some schools, funding also supports residential costs, mostly in remotely located sites. And, because the BIE functionally serves as a State Education Agency (SEA), it administers and oversees U.S. Department of Education programs in BIE-funded schools, and receives additional Education Department funds to educate and provide services to students attending these schools.

The FY 2020 budget request prioritizes direct school operations, school improvement, early childhood programs, and completing the Bureau's reform efforts to

improve service and technical assistance for BIE-funded schools. Staffing is estimated at 2,448 full time equivalents in 2020.

Operation of Indian Education Programs: The FY 2020 budget for the Operation of Indian Education Programs account is \$867.4 million. In 2020, priority is given to sub-activities providing for direct school operations and school improvement in line with the BIE's Strategic Direction plan.

Foster Tribal Student Success – The FY 2020 budget proposes to accomplish this in two ways: 1) By serving as a capacity builder and service provider to support tribes in delivering culturally-appropriate education with high academic standards to allow students across Indian Country to achieve success, and 2) By prioritizing funding for core mission programs and operations at BIE-funded elementary and secondary schools and tribally-controlled colleges and universities. The request includes:

- \$726.8 million for Elementary and Secondary programs,
- \$98.0 million for Post-secondary programs
- \$42.6 million for Education Management

The FY 2020 budget requests focus on direct school operations, which includes classroom instruction, student transportation, Native language development programs, cultural awareness and enrichment, school improvement and maintenance, and in some remotely located schools, residential costs, reflects its continuing investment in activities that promote educational self-determination for tribal communities. The request includes \$81.5 million for Tribal Grant Support Costs for tribes that choose to operate BIE-funded schools themselves – a funding level that supports 100 percent of the estimated requirement.

BIE Reform Efforts – The FY 2020 budget proposes \$32.3 million in education program management funds to improve service to BIE-funded schools and build inhouse capacity and accountability.

Tribal Priority Allocations – The FY 2020 budget proposes Tribal Priority Allocation funding of \$16.1 million.

Compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act – Funding from the Department of Education would provide for continued implementation of the Act and help BIE establish high quality standards, accountability and capacity to invest in meaningful assessments.

Construction: The FY 2020 budget proposes to shift the Education Construction budget activity to a new Education Construction account and requests \$68.9 million in annual funding for this activity.

Funding will continue to focus on facility improvement and repairs at existing BIE-funded schools. In addition, available funding from prior years will enable work to continue on completing construction on schools listed on the Bureau's Replacement School Construction Priority List published in the Federal Register on March 24, 2004, and to begin design and construction phases for schools listed on a subsequent list published on April 29, 2016.

The Assistant Secretary–Indian Affairs advises the Secretary of the Interior on Indian Affairs policy issues, communicates policy to and oversee the programs of the BIA and the BIE, provides leadership in consultations with tribes, and serves as the DOI official for intra- and inter-departmental coordination and liaison within the Executive Branch on Indian matters.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs' mission includes developing and protecting Indian trust lands and natural and energy resources; supporting social welfare, public safety and justice in tribal communities; and promoting tribal self-determination and self-governance.

The Bureau of Indian Education implements Federal Indian education programs and funds 183 elementary and secondary day and boarding schools (of which two-thirds are tribally operated) located on 64 reservations in 23 States and peripheral dormitories serving nearly 47,000 individual students. The BIE also operates two post-secondary schools and administers grants for 29 tribally-controlled colleges and universities and two tribal technical colleges.

Bicameral Native American Voting Rights Act Introduced

submitted by U.S. Senate & U.S. House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 12, 2019) – U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.), vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and U.S. Representative Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M) led a group of Senate and House Democrats in re-introducing the Native American Voting Rights Act, landmark legislation that would provide the necessary resources and oversight to ensure Native Americans and Alaska Natives have equal access to the electoral process. Udall led the introduction of the Native American Voting Rights Act last Congress.

"For too long, Native Americans have been blocked from exercising their constitutional right to vote," Udall said. "In 1948 – 70 years ago – my grandfather,

Levi Udall, served as Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court where he authored the opinion extending the right to vote to Native Americans living on the reservation. He wrote, 'To deny the right to vote... is to do violence to the principles of freedom and equality.' I wholeheartedly agree. But with every election cycle, state and local jurisdictions come up with new ways to deny Native Americans equal access to the ballot box. From eliminating polling and registration locations, to passing strict voter ID laws that target Native Americans living on reservations, these undemocratic barriers have blocked many Native Americans from exercising their basic civil right to vote. It is more important than ever that we pass legislation to ensure that the voices of Native communities in New Mexico and across Indian Country are counted, not discounted."

"Our Democracy cannot succeed unless every eligible American has the opportunity to make their voice heard. Unfortunately, we've continued to see barriers erected to stop Americans from exercising their right to vote. And too often, those barriers target Native American voters and other Americans of color, including recent measures that forced strict and burdensome voter ID laws on tribal communities in North Dakota," said Luján. "By removing barriers for Native Americans to register and vote, we strengthen our democracy. The creation of a first-of-its-kind Native American voting rights task force will ensure that states can

bolster and protect the right to vote for Native Americans in the future."

The legislation would enact key measures, such as increasing Native access to voter registration sites and polling locations, and authorizing tribal ID cards for voting purposes. The bill would also bolster Native voter registration, education, and election participation efforts in tribal communities by authorizing a first-of-its-kind Native American Voting Rights Task Force. Finally, the bill addresses the devastating effects of Shelby County v. Holder by prohibiting states from undertaking discriminatory actions without Department of Justice agreement and government-to-government consultation.

continued on pg. 11...

Native American Voting Rights Act

...continued from pg. 10

"Our nation's democracy is founded on the right to vote and the ability of every citizen to participate in that process equally. Unfortunately, there are many obstacles in Indian Country that stand in the way of Native Americans' ability to vote – from language barriers and burdensome voter ID requirements to the locations of polling places for remote and rural communities," said Heinrich. I'm proud to support this legislation to provide resources and oversight to overcome those obstacles and ensure equal access to our democracy."

"For too long Native communities throughout America have waited for the federal government to guarantee their civil rights, including the right to vote," said Cortez Masto. "The Native American Voting Rights Act is essential to removing barriers to voting that are all too common in Tribal communities. I remain committed to fighting for and protecting the rights of Nevada's Native American communities in the Senate."

"The right to vote is fundamental, and we must ensure that everyone has a voice in our democracy. I'm proud to join my colleagues in reintroducing this legislation to address the specific, systemic barriers that Native Americans face in the democratic process and to give the federal government greater tools to enforce voting rights law on behalf of tribal communities," said Harris.

"When the right to vote is restricted, it undermines the very foundation of our democracy. And if certain groups are barred or discouraged from voting, then our elected representatives cannot be held accountable for protecting the rights and interests

of all of us," said Smith. "I'm proud to support legislation to ensure Native Americans have equal access to this fundamental right."

"For too long, Native Americans have been silenced by unfair rules that prevent them from casting ballots," Tester said. "We should be doing everything we can to increase voting access so all Americans can exercise their constitutional rights. This bill would give tribes the tools they need to get more folks to the polls and make their voices heard in our democracy."

"Native communities have long faced numerous obstacles to exercising their right to vote, from inconvenient polling places to discriminatory voter ID requirements," Warren said. "It's critical that tribal communities have equal access to the ballot box, which is why I'm pleased to join Senator Udall in introducing this powerful legislation to help safeguard Native voters' voices in the democratic process."

"Native American communities, especially in rural areas, face unacceptable obstacles to voting. Until satellite voting locations were implemented in 2014, members of the Red Lake Native community in Minnesota had to travel as far as 100 miles to cast a ballot, a trip that could cost as much as \$40. There were similar barriers to voting for the tribal communities in White Earth and Leech Lake. While Minnesota has worked to address some of the barriers to voting, many states have not and more must be done," Klobuchar said. "The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy, and the Native American Voting Rights Act is an important step in safeguarding that right for Native Americans."

"Every person who is eligible to vote should be able to participate in our democracy. However, Native American voters face seemingly insurmountable obstacles to the ballot box. During the 2018 election, there were laws on the books that automatically omitted Native American voters from exercising their right to vote by putting restrictions in place to disproportionately disqualify them. This goes against America's fundamental principles and shows that we need the Native American Voting Rights Act to ensure everyone has equal access to make their voice heard in our democracy," said Haaland.

"Voting is the very foundation of our democracy, yet Native Americans have long faced repeated barriers at the ballot box. I'm proud to stand with my colleagues from both the House and Senate to ensure that Native Americans have equal access to the electoral process and an equal voice in our democracy," said Davids.

"This bill will help close many of the gaps in registration and accessibility that have persisted in Indian Country," said Gallego. "It is unacceptable in this day and age that any American faces barriers to participating in one of the most basic functions of our democracy."

"Restoring and strengthening voting rights is critical to ensuring our democracy works for everyone," said McCollum. "I'm proud to join Rep. Luján in reintroducing legislation to remove barriers to voting for Native Americans. The Native American Voting Rights Act will empower tribal communities in their efforts to improve access to voter registration, education on voting procedure, and ensuring equal treatment of tribal identification at the ballot box. A

strong and vibrant democracy relies on the inclusion of every voice."

"The bottom line is: voting is the cornerstone of our democracy, and every elected official should be making it easier for Americans to make their voices heard at the ballot box," Sewell said. "During the November 2018 mid-term elections, we saw the North Dakota state legislature implement a voter-ID requirement that acted as a barrier to voting for thousands of Native Americans who live on reservations and use P.O. boxes, rather than residential street addresses. I am proud that the Native American Voting Rights Act will build upon the protections in H.R. 1 and H.R. 4, and specifically address the challenges posed by voters on tribal lands."

A recent letter of support signed by over 40 voting rights organizations, including the Native American Voting Rights Coalition and the American Civil Liberties Union, states: "The Act takes significant steps towards achieving the equal political opportunities envisioned by Frank Harrison and Miguel Trujillo when they bravely sought to exercise their first right of citizenship over 70 years ago."

"We know the importance of making our voices heard and exercising our right to vote," said National Congress of American Indians President Jefferson Keel. "As tribal leaders, we often discuss what we can do to motivate our tribal citizens to vote, but one of the problems is that voting is simply harder for our citizens than it is for others. This legislation would help change that, and we hope Congress will move quickly to enact this important legislation."

Oversight Hearing on GAO High-Risk Indian Programs Convened

submitted by the office of Senator Todd Udall

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 12, 2019) – U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M), vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, joined committee chairman John Hoven (R-N.D.) to convene an oversight hearing on the U.S. Government Accountability Office's (GAO) continued "High Risk" designation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), and the Indian Health Service (IHS). This hearing followed up on the three hearings the committee held last Congress on agencies' high risk designation in 2017.

"The GAO reports that high-risk Indian programs have made some notable progress in addressing its open recommendations," Udall said in his opening statement. "However, members of this committee and Tribal leaders are still concerned that this progress isn't translating into real change. Factors such as underfunding, management accountability, and agency transparency continue to pose barriers to efforts by the IHS, BIE, and BIA to address high risk areas."

During the hearing, Udall pressed IHS Principal Deputy Director, Admiral Michael Weahkee, on IHS's failure to address the widespread reports of abuse of Native American children and misconduct by one of its former employees, Dr. Stanley Weber, who worked as an IHS pediatrician in four states over the course of a 21-year period.

"I find the failure of IHS to address the multiple reports of Dr. Weber's abhorrent conduct with young IHS patients appalling," said Udall. "IHS officials reportedly ignored reports, retaliated against employees who tried to raise the alarm, and left Native children in the hands of a predator. Has the Service determined why Dr. Weber wasn't fired after the Billings Area leadership became aware of his misconduct? Why was he allowed to remain an IHS employee and transfer to the Great Plains Area?"

Weahkee could not provide answers to the senator's questions, but testified that IHS has retained a third party contractor to conduct a complete review of the factors that allowed Weber to remain in the IHS system for so long. Udall continued, "As far as I am concerned, management at every level failed to do their jobs — and their duties — under federal law. This failure aligns with the concerns raised in this committee's report of 2010, called the Dorgan report, that IHS management does not follow federal employee misconduct procedures and instead transfers problem employees in a system colloquially referred to as 'pass the lemon. How is IHS working to make sure service units and area management do their job to document and address federal employee misconduct?"

Weahkee responded, "I would first like to start by committing to you that it will not be tolerated to 'pass bad lemons while I am in this seat, and we are going to put the infrastructure in place to ensure that that's sustainable at the agency moving forward." He then outlined several new policies that will provide higher ethical standards for healthcare providers and make all IHS employees mandatory reporters.

Udall then asked GAO Director Jessica Farb to review IHS's history of misuse of employee transfers, administrative leave, and duty reassignments.

After this exchange, Udall drew attention to the Interior Department's failure to ensure the safety of students at a BIE school, Pine Hill School, in New Mexico.

Udall noted, "Between 2012 and 2018, the Department of Interior spent \$1.2 million to fix the fire alarm and lightening protection systems at the Pine Hill School in New Mexico. It is my understanding that the major contributing factor for these cost and timeline overages was inaccurate project scoping and contracting. GAO documented similar issues with facilities contracting in a 2017 report. What is Interior doing to increase management oversight of procurement personnel and contracting officers?"

In response, both BIE Director Tony Dearman and BIA Acting Director Darryl LaCounte committed to improving inter-bureau communication as well as meeting with committee staff on contracting oversight for BIE facilities projects.

continued on pg. 12...

Oversight Hearing

...continued from pg. 11

The full text of Udall's opening remarks at the oversight hearing are below:

Thank you, Chairman Hoeven, for scheduling today's hearing to discuss the status of Indian Programs on the GAO High Risk List. I appreciate your follow through on this important topic.

Last Congress, our Committee held three hearings on the GAO High Risk Report for Indian Programs.

Each hearing demonstrated that the federal government must do better to provide trust and treaty-based services to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes.

The GAO reports that high risk Indian programs have made some notable progress in addressing its open recommendations.

However, members of this Committee and Tribal leaders are still concerned that this progress isn't translating into real change. Factors such as underfunding, management accountability, and agency transparency continue to pose barriers to efforts by the IHS, BIE, and BIA to address high risk areas.

As a practical matter, it's reasonable to ask – how effective are IHS, BIE, and BA

reforms in response to GAO's high risk designation?

As the ranking member on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I understand that underfunding has a direct impact on nearly every Indian program – but that impact is particularly acute for programs on the high risk list.

In my home state of New Mexico, there are still serious facility and resource issues at a number of BIE schools, IHS clinics, and BIA programs.

I've fought to increase funding at all three agencies but, without continued meaningful investments and adequate appropriations, BIE, IHS, and BIA reforms will be less effective.

At the same time, recent high profile events at the BIE and IHS raise serious questions about management accountability and transparency.

At the BIE, the Bureau has a string of unanswered Congressional letters, school closures due to asbestos, and lack of compliance with federal education laws.

It's to the point where I have had to call in BIE and BIA leadership to submit weekly updates directly to my office.

And at the IHS, the Weber incident has alarmed many and, to speak frankly, it has sickened me.

For over 20 years, Mr. Weber used his position of trust and authority as an I-H-S doctor to prey on young, innocent victims.

What he did is a travesty. And what IHS didn't do to intervene – to protect Native children who were patients – is unconscionable.

Even though Mr. Weber has been convicted and sentenced for his crimes in Montana and awaits trial in another federal court for similar crimes, questions remain: who in IHS leadership failed to document and remove Weber from his position within the Service?

To that end, Chairman Hoeven and I sent a letter to HHS Office of Inspector General asking it to investigate whether any current or former IHS staff were complicit in or had knowledge or involvement with Mr. Weber's misconduct.

While we wait for concrete answers, I expect IHS leadership - here, today to commit to management reform that

• All future allegations of abuse by medical professionals at I-S facilities are properly investigated;

• Reports against I-H-S employees who are a danger to patients are not swept under

• Whistleblowers do not fear for their reputations or their livelihoods.

Above all, today's hearing must be more than just hearing about progress on GAO's recommendations. I need to see evidence of a cultural shift to improve accountability at the IHS, the BIE, and the BIA. And I need to see a commitment to transparency and ensuring the federal government is upholding trust and treaty responsibilities.

Finally, I will close by noting the Committee's newly adopted "Rule 4-b". This rule states that, if the Administration misses the Committee's 48 hour deadline for submission of testimony, the Administration witness must state on the record why the testimony was late. Thank you, Admiral Weahkee and Ms. Farb, for submitting your testimony on time. But, Mr. Dearman and Mr. LaCounte, please be prepared to start your testimony with an explanation why you did not comply with the Committee's

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to our panel for joining us.

Funding to Reclaim and Repurpose Abandoned Coal Mines Provided

submitted by U.S. Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 19, 2019) – U.S. Acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt announced that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) will provide \$588,522 to the Hopi Tribe, \$1,211,505 to the Crow Tribe, and to the Navajo Nation in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation grants, to clean up and repurpose abandoned coal mines. This year's grants will provide more than \$291.2 million [1] for states and tribes to reclaim and repurpose abandoned coal lands.

"These grants are a great example of Interior partnering with states, tribes, and local governments to provide resources for conservation efforts and infrastructure and public safety improvements, like fixing embankments, stabilizing land above underground mines, and restoring streams," said Acting Secretary Bernhardt. "The investment we're making back into coal country helps protect people, land, water and property, and enhances the lives of local citizens."

AML grants, funded in part by a fee based on coal produced in the United States, help to eliminate dangerous conditions and pollution caused by past coal mining. AML-funded projects have closed dangerous mine shafts, eliminated high walls, reclaimed unstable slopes, treated acid mine drainage, and restored water supplies damaged by mining.

OSMRE provides AML grants to the

25 coal-producing states and three tribes according to a congressionally-mandated formula based on their past and current coal production. Each year, after the distribution is announced, eligible states and tribes apply for annual reclamation grants to access money in their allocations. OSM-RE evaluates and verifies the requests, and makes the award amounts available.

The authority to collect AML reclamation fees is slated to expire in September 2021, unless Congress reauthorizes the fee, as it did in 2006.

[1] Approximately \$120 million of the total AML Reclamation grants is the result of the final payment from the phase-in period for states and tribes to receive certified in lieu funds that were withheld under Surface

Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SM-CRA) between FY 2009 and FY 2011. Those states and tribes that have certified that they have completed their abandoned mine land reclamation obligations received \$61 million, in addition to the certified in lieu funds those states and tribes otherwise receive each year from the U.S. Treasury. Uncertified states also received a similar increase of \$61 million as well as their annual payments from the AML Fund. The total amount available for the FY 2019 AML Grant distribution was reduced by the mandated sequestration amount of 6.2 percent that was applied across the board resulting in a reduction of \$19.2 million.

State Health Officials Warn the Flu Season is Far from Over

submitted by Wisconsin Department of Health Services

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) expects this to be one of the longest flu seasons in recent memory with the powerful influenza A/H3 virus currently affecting young and old alike.

"The average peak for flu activity is the first week of February, but we expect this season to extend at least through the end of March, if not beyond," said DHS Influenza Coordinator Thomas Haupt.

ful than the A/H1 virus that circulated earlier in the flu season. While the first wave was hard on younger people, Haupt says the H3 virus is hitting people 65 years old and older especially hard.

"H3 is covered by this year's flu vaccine, so if you haven't already, know there is still time to get a flu shot," Haupt added.

The flu vaccine is safe and effective and

The H3 type of the virus is more power— is a better match to this season's virus than last year's vaccine. Plus, by getting the flu shot, you're protecting yourself and everyone around you from serious illness.

> In addition to the vaccine, people are strongly urged to cough or sneeze into a sleeve or tissue (and throw the tissue away after one use), wash their hands and use hand sanitizer, and stay home if they're sick to avoid spreading germs to others.

Hospitalizations for flu-related symptoms are increasing to about 50 a day in Wisconsin, with one in five hospitalized patients being admitted to the intensive care unit due to the severity of their symptoms. So far this season, there have been 36 influenza deaths in the state.

Fentanyl Pills Seized by Law Enforcement Task Force on Opioids

submitted by U.S. Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 15, 2019) – Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior David Bernhardt announced the Department's Joint Task Force on Opioid Reduction (JTFOR) seized approximately 30,000 fentanyl pills and more than a \$100,000 worth of other illegal drugs during a recent operation in Arizona. This operation was related to a BIA Drug Enforcement joint investigation into large amounts of fentanyl pills from a Mexican drug trafficking organization being transported into the United States through points of entry located on the Tohono O'odham Nation.

"President Trump is committed to combating the opioid crisis and making America's border communities safer, and our first-of-its-kind joint task force is delivering on that commitment," said Bernhardt. "The law enforcement officers of the joint task force, led by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is doing incredible work to keep tribal communities safe from the deadly and illegal drugs pouring in from Mexico. I commend them all for their hard work and for putting themselves in harm's way to keep others safe."

The operation was conducted by BIA drug agents and the NATIVE Task Force, along with Department of Security Investigations Special Response Team and Arizona Department of Public Safety. They conducted a buy/bust operation related to a BIA Drug Enforcement joint investigation where an undercover operative successfully purchased approximately 30,000 fentanyl pills from the drug organization. This operation was related to a joint drug investigation that began along the southwest border on the Tohono O'odham reservation. During the operation, three non-Indian subjects were taken into custody without incident. One subject was found to be in possession of a pistol during the incident.

The JTFOR was formed in 2018 in response to President Trump's commitment to ending the opioid crisis. It is led by the

BIA Office of Justice Services in coordination with state, local, tribal and other federal partners. In the first year, joint task force operations in Arizona, New Mexico, North Carolina, Washington, Montana, and other states have led to the seizure of millions of dollars' worth of fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine and other drugs, and hundreds of arrests and indictments.

Recent Successes

New Mexico: A BIA K-9 unit was patrolling the interstate on the Laguna Pueblo when he conducted a traffic stop. Upon searching the vehicle, the BIA K-9 officer detected several packages containing more than \$230,000 worth of marijuana and THC Concentrate.

Arizona: In February, the Opioid Task Force conducted a criminal interdiction operation focused on areas known for high drug trafficking in and around the San Carlos Apache Reservation in Arizona. The DOI Opioid Task Force consisted of special agents from the BIA, Division of Drug En-

forcement and BIA K-9 uniformed officers, the San Carlos Apache Police Department, and the Bureau of Land Management. This operation capped a two-phased enforcement effort aimed at disrupting the drug distribution networks targeting the San Carlos Apache Reservation. This resulted in the purchase and seizure of approximately 417 grams of methamphetamine (estimated street value \$27,060) as well as 18 federal indictments.

Washington: A Feb. 28 operation on the Spokane Reservation resulted in the seizure of more than \$200,000 worth of heroin and methamphetamine, and the arrest of two non-Indian subjects. On March 13, 2019, BIA Drug Enforcement, DEA, U.S. Border Patrol and Mattawa Police Department seized approximately 4.6 pounds of methamphetamine from a residence known to be a source of supply to reservations in Washington State with an estimated street value of approximately \$105,350.

AICF Names Tribal College and University Honoree of the Year

submitted by Dina Horwedel, American Indian College Fund

DENVER (March 18, 2019) — The American Indian College Fund (AICF) named Robert Bible, President of the College of Muscogee Nation (CMN) in Okmulgee, Okla., its Tribal College and University Honoree of the Year. Bible was selected for his outstanding contributions to American Indian higher education. He received a \$1,200 honorarium at a reception in Billings, Mont.

The award should come as no surprise to those who know Bible whose favorite day of the year is the first day of school. He was destined to become an educator. As a youngster, Bible enjoyed school. "I looked up to the teachers, coaches, and administrators at school. I knew it was the environment I wanted to be in."

His parents had other ideas. They wanted their children to go to college. But Bible's father, who worked as the head maintenance man at the school district, and his mother, who worked in Indian education, wanted their children, who were the first in the family to go to college, to become doctors and lawyers.

Bible decided to give dentistry a try, but knew after taking a few courses it wasn't for him so changed his major. When his parents expressed displeasure, he left college. Bible took a job working at an engineering firm working on the business side of the operation and after his first son was born, decided to revisit his dream of being an educator. Even then, as he returned to college as a student, he was coaching his siblings!

"I tried to talk them into going back to college with me," he says. My brother said, "I will be 40 when I graduate!" I told him, "You still will be 40, with or without a college degree."

"My background is similar to that of tribal college and university students,"

Bible says. He is a Native man, was a first-generation college student, and stopped out of college after he realized his major was not a good fit. This background prepared him for his work as a tribal college president working with Native students.

After earning a degree, Bible entered the teaching field. Two years later, a colleague encouraged him to earn his master's degree. After teaching for five years, he moved into leadership. His education career included administrative and teaching positions in diverse districts, from rural to wealthy.

"Students are students. Everyone needs resources to be successful. As administrators we can't let money be the determining factor for success. I brought that philosophy to the College of Muscogee Nation."

Bible says he believes students deserved the best. His own experiences in education inspired his desire to create a sense of place for students on campus for students. Growing up in Oklahoma City and attending a mainstream high school, Bible was not raised in his culture or speaking his language. Yet, despite that, he says he still didn't feel like he fit in. It took him awhile during his education and as an educator to find a sense of belonging. Knowing that, "We want to make everyone feel like this is their home," he says.

After assuming his role as president at CMN, he realized the importance of culture in students' lives, right down to the design of the building. "I learned so much about the culture from the students and the faculty," he says. "Our students are in the majority here for the first time, and for the first time, they feel at home." Wanting students to feel at home at college, to feel successful, to do well, and to be successful and proud of who they are is a goal that keeps him awake at night.

Bible also wants young people to envision college as a possibility. CMN hosts elementary, middle, and high school challenge bowls on the CMN campus to help young people feel at home on campus at an early age. "We want to get kids on this campus, see what's going on, and get them thinking about college."

On-campus programs are also geared to prevent students from dropping out in high school. "In the ninth and tenth grades, we start losing students. Yet we know they are talented! This is why we participate in programs like the high school program sponsored by the College Fund and AT&T to get students on campus," Bible says.

Bible helped lead the 10-year-long accreditation process for CMN after he came on board as the college's third president (and ninth employee hired). The college received accreditation in 2016.

"Dr. King started the college with a \$20,000 grant and provides wisdom and knowledge," Bible says. "I came in that first year on its Board of Regents," Bible says. The majority of employees are Muscogee, and the tribe made the commitment that students can attend college at no cost if they are tribal members.

Bible, who grew up eating commodities, also wanted to nourish bodies as well as minds, giving students a cafeteria that serves nutritious meals. Students living in CMN housing receive 20 meals a week at no cost. When other students inquired about cafeteria access, Bible went to the CMN Board of Regents on their behalf. Today, commuter students receive 20 meals per semester at no cost.

Today, the CMN campus spans nearly 40 acres, is worth \$22 million, and is debt-free. "Now that we are accredited, students see our college as building a strong

academic foundation for them. There are so many opportunities for research, student internships, and more. This is a classic TCU. At every position in the college, we have grown our own," Bible says.

Bible relies on the wisdom and expertise of those on campus, in the community, and other tribal college and university presidents. "I can call other presidents for advice and learn about processes such as accreditation; giving people ownership and the sense that we are working towards the same goal," he says.

Despite his achievements, Bible remains humble. "Once a coach, always a coach," he says. You can't win games by yourself...I have succeeded because I am surrounded with dedicated, loyal people. To lead we walk beside each other. Leadership is not about one person; it is a team effort. I am excited, honored, and humbled by this award. It could go to a lot of people. None of us is doing anything different; it's all student success-driven."

About the American Indian College Fund

Founded in 1989, the American Indian College Fund has been the nation's largest charity supporting Native higher education for 30 years. The College Fund believes "Education is the answer" and provided 5,896 scholarships last year totaling \$7.65 million to American Indian students, with more than 131,000 scholarships and community support totaling over \$200 million since its inception. The College Fund also supports a variety of academic and support programs at the nation's 35-accredited tribal colleges and universities, which are located on or near Indian reservations, ensuring students have the tools to graduate and succeed in their careers.

NOTICES

HEALTH

- Wellbriety 12-step meeting, Mondays at 6:30 p.m., FCP Museum lower level. Walking in a good way...a sober way. ALL ARE WELCOME! If you have any questions, call FCP Behavioral Health at (715) 478-4332 or Isaiah Phillips at (715) 889-4945.
- Kwe Kenomagewen Women's support, Wednesdays, 2 p.m. @ Old Tribal Hall. Call (715) 478-4332 with questions.
- Hour of Power Big Book, NA Book or Wellbriety Book, Thursdays, 2 - 3 p.m. @ Old Tribal Hall. Call (715) 478-4332 with

Do You Feel Like No One Understands

You? You're not alone! Let your voice be heard! Let someone share your pain! If you are thinking of committing suicide or know someone who is, please get help! Crisis Line: (888) 299-1188 (Serving Forest, Vilas & Oneida counties: 24 hours a day/7 days a week); Kids in Need: (800) 622-9120; The Get-2-Gether Peer Support Drop-In Center: (715) 369-3871; Run-Away Hotline: (800) 621-4000; (800) 273-TALK; TTY: (800) 799-4TTY or visit suicidehotlines.com.

Smoking Cessation Incentive Program -

Open to FCP tribal members and individuals eligible for Alternative Care Program. Services include: appointments with nurses and CHRs to determine a quit plan, kit filled with items that aid in the quitting process, educational materials and products, plus a reward upon completion of third smoking cessation appointment.

To learn more about the program or to schedule an appointment, contact Sara Cleereman, R.N., at (715) 478-4889.

SPARKS Weight Mgmt. Program -

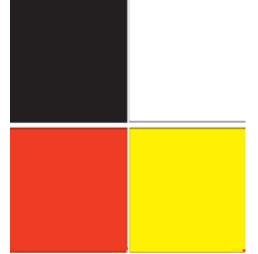
By appointment. S - Support; P - Program; A - Get Active, Stay Active; R - Reap the Rewards: feel better, be healthier; K - Know the basics of good nutrition; S - Stay focused on being healthy. Please call Lisa Miller, RD, CD, at (715) 478-4320.

Diabetes Education Program -

By appointment. Including blood glucose monitoring, making healthy changes, psychosocial, complications, sick day and travel, planning for pregnancy, hypoglycemia, medications, diabetes in general, insulin and goal setting. Please call Anne Chrisman, RN, at (715) 478-4383, or Cathy Chitko at (715) 478-4367.

CULTURE

Language Classes - Please call (715) 478-4173 with questions regarding times/locations of language classes.



SERVICES OFFERED

Tribal Employment Skill Program -

available to adult tribal members who can be placed on a paid work experience opportunity in various tribal departments for up to six months. This allows tribal members to test drive different areas to find a good fit. The staff can assist with:

- Obtaining, reinstating, determining what is needed to obtain the driver's license
 - Work-related expenses
 - Résumé development/résumé critiquing
 - Mock interviews and tips
 - Job-seeking skills/soft skills
 - Employment guidance/advocacy
 - Fidelity bonding available

Work Study Program - for students that are in their senior year. Students can be on a work experience but must have good standings in all their school classes. We work with the FCP Education Department to set this up.

Badgercare - a state/federally-funded program that provides health coverage for individuals living on the reservation or within Forest County, tribal children and affiliated-tribal members.

Foodshare - a state/federally-funded program that provides an EBT food card to eligible individuals living on the reservation or individuals that have tribal children living in Forest County. The program has eligibility requirements that also considers shelter/housing expenses.

Foodshare Employment & Training Program (FSET) - individuals that are eligible for Foodshare would be eligible for this program which can assist with gas voucher, job training costs and other expenses relative to the goals that are set for securing employment.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) - this work program is funded through the Administration for Children and Families with an income limit of 125 percent of federal poverty level for individuals living on the reservation or individuals living in Forest County that have FCP tribal children. Individuals get a cash payment each month providing that they completed their work activities each month.

General Assistance (GA) - this work program is funded through the Bureau of Indian Affairs and is available for federally-recognized tribal members living on the reservation. Eligible individuals will get a cash payment each month providing that they are complying with the work plan developed with their case

Native Employment Works (NEW)

Program - this work program is funded through the Administration for Children and Families for individuals living on the reservation or within the service area. The paid work placement opportunity is for three months at 24-35 hour per week and we have limited slots available based on funding.

Resource Rooms - located at the old tribal hall and at the Family Services Building. Each area has computers that individuals can utilize to complete their resumé, type correspondence, work on the self-paced Microsoft Computer Training Program, apply for jobs, or apply online for healthcare coverage programs.

FCP Economic Support staff is available to provide services. If you want more information on any of these programs, please stop by the Family Services Building or call (715) 478-4433.

APRIL EVENT CALENDAR

CHOICES Program

- Youth 9 11: Mondays (1, 8, 15, 29)
- Youth 12 17: Tuesdays (2, 9, 16, 23, 30)
- Youth 6 8: Wednesdays (3, 10, 17, 24)

Youth will be picked up from school and dropped off at home after 5 p.m. Call (715) 478-4839 for more info.

Family Resource Center

- Healthy Relationships Class: Mondays (1, 8, 15, 29) from 1 3 p.m.
- FRC Girls Group (ages 10-17): Tuesdays (2, 9, 16, 23, 30) 3: 30 5 p.m.
- Team Building w/CHOICES (age 6-8): Wednesdays (3, 10, 17, 24) 3:30 5 p.m.
- Positive Indian Parenting Class (PIP): Thursdays (4, 11, 18, 25), 10 a.m. noon.
- Community Women's Talking Circle: TBA
- Open registration Fatherhood is Sacred & Motherhood is Sacred parenting class: 12week curriculum; two-hour duration, one-on-one sessions.
- Open registration Nurturing Fathers parenting class: 13-week curriculum; two-hour duration, one-on-one sessions.

Child care available; please RSVP if needed. Call (715) 478-4837 with questions about any programs.

Community Health

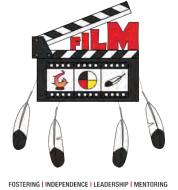
- 4/2 Infant Nutrition (HWC): 8 a.m. 4 p.m.
- 4/3 National Public Health Week (HWC Lower Conf. Room): 11 a.m. 2 p.m.
- 4/4 Infant Nutrition/WIC (Carter We Care): 1 4 p.m.
- 4/9 WIC (HWC): 8 a.m. 4 p.m.
- 4/17 Diabetes Luncheon (HWC Lower Conference Room): noon 1:30 p.m.
- 4/18 Blood Drive (FCP Museum Lower Level): 10 a.m. 4 p.m.



New FILM Workshops Coming!

Each Monday and Wednesday through April (with the exception Monday, April 22) from 4 - 5:30 p.m. at the FILM Studio at FCP Education Building located on Elm Street in Crandon.

Visit the FILM page on the FCP website (www.fcpotawatomi.com/ government/film/) to fill out an interest form with contact info and request for transportation if needed.







Wgema Campus: FCP ACQUIRES ADDITIONAL PROPERTY

By Sean Ryan - Reporter, Milwaukee Business Journal



Photo by: CURTIS WALTZ, AERIALSCAPES.COM

The Forest County Potawatomi Community bought and will tear down an apartment building on West Wells Street in an effort to better the neighborhood surrounding its Wgema Campus in Milwaukee.

There was a desire in the area to do something about the apartment building at 3210 W. Wells St., which had generated 750 service calls to the Milwaukee Police Department since the start of 2016, said Potawatomi spokesman George Ermert. Tenants have been given until the end of March to move out, and demolition is to start in May, he said.

That building is next to the historic Wgema Campus, which formerly was Concordia College. The Potawatomi have been renovating buildings on the campus for new offices and a charter school, for example.

"They saw the opportunity to do something good and better for the neighborhood, and they took it," Ermert said of the apartment purchase.

An affiliate of Jomela Property Management in Milwaukee sold the building for \$1.88 million, according to state records.

Jomela principal and Milwaukee developer Scott Lurie said reducing the density of that area will improve quality of life.

"Removal of that density is a good idea," he said. "They (Potawatomi community) have a vested interest. Nobody wants a 66-unit apartment building in their back yard, and they've taken the position they are going to get rid of it, and that's OK."

Since starting the Wgema Campus renovations around 2010, the Potawatomi have acquired several duplexes in that area, either to demolish or renovate for new tenants, Ermert said. The Potawatomi don't have future plans for the land after the apartment building is demolished, he said.

Employee Spotlight: PBDC & REDHAWK NETWORK SECURITY



Potawatomi Business Development Corporation recently hired William Fang as a Desktop Support Analyst in ts IT Department. He will be responsible for handling helpdesk and troubleshooting issues for its end users. Prior to coming onboard at PBDC, Fang worked as a Desktop Support Technician for Ascension Medical Group. He is originally from Minnesota but has lived in Wisconsin for the last five years with his wife and two young daughters. Fang holds a bachelor of science degree in information systems from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Outside of work, he likes to travel and spend

time with his family. His favorite food is tacos.

Redhawk is pleased to announce the return of Chris Akenson as Chief Information Security Officer/Senior Security Consultant.

Mr. Akenson comes to Redhawk with a deep background in security implementation and practices. He has extensive experience in building and maintaining security standards and practices, and has a breadth of knowledge across many compliance and regulatory industries. A veteran of Redhawk and IT, Chris bridges the gap between IT and compliance, and brings a direct connection to both service and security. He provides our clients with a pragmatic and sound understanding of security. His recommendations are practical and prioritized to help organizations better



plan and remediate. With a strong focus on security, Chris also serves as the Redhawk Chief Information Security Officer further strengthening and solidifying our commitment to cyber security.

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APRIL 5 -&-APRIL 19







SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Monthly cash drawing, receive one entry with every admission pack purchased.



