

## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2017 Issues

**Dec 22, 2017**

Tension increases between Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN) Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett and Shawnee Mayor Richard Finley as the two community leaders openly disagreed about what they each believe was the cause behind the recent closing of St. Gregory’s University (SGU). The topic of discussion centered around specifics behind Shawnee’s deannexation of SGU and Barrett’s view of what ultimately caused the school’s closure. Issues of racism, attempts to annex and tax the tribal properties and more were raised in the exchanges.

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**Dec 19, 2017**

The United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, announced that Rodney Phillip Aird, age 50, of Seminole, Oklahoma pled guilty to Possession With Intent To Distribute Methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B), punishable by not less than 5 years and not more than 40 years imprisonment, and up to a \$5,000,000.00 fine or both. The charge arose from an investigation by the Seminole Nation Tribal Police, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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**Dec 4, 2017**

Dixie Restaurants, Inc., a Little Rock based restaurant company, announced today that it is closing all 17 of its Dixie Cafe and Delta Cafe restaurants located in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee effective Thursday, December 7, 2017. This includes the Shawnee restaurant.

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**Nov 15, 2017**

A Pottawatomie County Jury on Tuesday found an Earlsboro man guilty of soliciting for first-degree murder. Lawrence Raymond Silver Jr., 58, is accused, on or between May 1, 2016 and Jan. 19, 2017, while at the Pottawatomie County Public Safety Center, of soliciting another inmate to kill a witness from his court case by first-degree murder, court records show.

Silver remains jailed at the Pottawatomie County Public Safety Center.

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**Nov 9, 2018**

St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee, which is the only Catholic university in Oklahoma, will suspend operations at the end of this semester, the university announced this afternoon. Established in 1875, St. Gregory’s is a private liberal arts college and Oklahoma’s only Catholic university.

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## **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2017 Issues - Continued**

**Nov 9, 2017**

A judge ruled Thursday there is enough evidence for two suspects charged in the murder of Tecumseh Police Officer Justin Terney to stand trial and prosecutors are now seeking the death penalty for Byron James Shepard, 36. Shepard, charged with first-degree murder, along with Brooklyn Danielle Williams, 23, who is charged with second-degree murder, appeared in Pottawatomie County District Court for their combined preliminary hearing. Shepard will remain jailed with no bond, while bail for Williams remains at \$250,000

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**Nov 3, 2017**

Shawnee Fire Department just received a new Chief 6 apparatus that was recently placed into service. It is a 2017 Chevrolet Suburban that was special-ordered and then up-fitted with emergency lights, radios, equipment and graphics, Fire Chief Dru Tischer said. “Special thanks go to Deputy Fire Chief Andy Starkey who was our lead on this project.”

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**Oct 5, 2017**

TULSA, Okla.— The Department of Justice has awarded more than \$18 million in grants to Oklahoma tribal governments to enhance public health and safety. Among the recipients are the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. CTAS grants are designed to enhance law enforcement practices, expand victim services, and sustain crime prevention and intervention efforts. Awards cover nine areas: public safety and community policing, justice systems planning, alcohol and substance abuse, corrections and correctional alternatives, children’s justice act partnerships, services for victims of crime, violence against women, juvenile justice, and tribal youth programs.

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