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HOMETOWN NEWS SINCE 1862

# CHASKA HERALD

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**“I WISH PEOPLE WOULD SAY ‘HI.’”**

**Michael Brindisi**  
Chanhassen  
Dinner Theatres  
artistic director



**“MY WISH FOR 2019 IS THAT MORE YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL CONNECT WITH NATURE YEAR-ROUND.”**

**Marnie Wells**  
Camp Fire Minnesota CEO



**“THE BOTTOM LINE IS ... WE NEED TO BE MORE RESPECTFUL OF EACH OTHER.”**

**Tom Abts**  
Deer Run Golf Club golf pro



**“I HOPE THE NEW YEAR BRINGS GOOD HEALTH AND LOVE.”**

**Carolyn Spargo**  
“All Things Nordic”  
columnist



PHOTO BY MARK W. OLSON

Victoria resident Genevieve Lane, with her daughter River, 5, a kindergartner at Victoria Elementary School. Lane is active on the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee.

## Cultural bridge

American Indian parents advocate for education

BY MARK W. OLSON  
[editor@chaskaherald.com](mailto:editor@chaskaherald.com)

As a child, Alena Boklep danced with a ballerina as part of a Redwood Falls school program.

However, Boklep performed as a fancy shawl dancer, showcasing an athletic and colorful style of American Indian dance.

Juxtaposed with traditional European ballet, the cross-cultural event was meant to spark a community conversation.

“I grew up with these types of things already in place,” recalled Boklep, who is Dakota and a member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (Nation) in South Dakota. As

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BY UNSIE ZUEGE & ALEX CHHITH

Helping others, taking a deep breath, and just saying hello.

These are a few answers the newspaper received when we asked area residents, leaders and

writers to tell us their hopes for the new year.

What are your hopes for 2019? Send an email to [editor@chaskaherald.com](mailto:editor@chaskaherald.com), or post your thoughts on our Facebook page.

Happy new year from the Chaska Herald!

READ MORE ABOUT NEW  
YEAR WISHES ON  
PAGES 17-18.

## WISHES FOR 2019