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**From:** USAO-Oregon <USAO-Oregon@public.govdelivery.com>  
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**To:**  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] December 2023 Oregon Indian Country Newsletter



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## Greetings from U.S. Attorney's Office Indian Country Team

Dear Partners and Friends,

Welcome to the final edition of the U.S. Attorney's Office Indian Country Newsletter for 2023. We would like to begin by thanking all of our law enforcement partners for their dedication and hard work to address public safety issues in tribal communities this year.

Our year is certainly ending as busy as it [began](#). This year we prosecuted a significant number of cases in or related to tribal lands in the District of Oregon. Our Tribal Victim Assistance Specialist accompanied 30 victims or family members of victims to federal court to participate in or observe detention review, plea, and sentencing hearings. This will continue into 2024 as there are already four hearings scheduled from January to March that will involve accompanying at least 18 victims or family members to federal court.

In November, we joined many public service partners in recognizing Native American Heritage Month. This year's theme, "[Celebrating Tribal Sovereignty and Identity](#)," was particularly meaningful for all who live or work in Indian Country. On October 31, the White House issued its annual [Proclamation on National Native American Heritage Month](#), honoring the many contributions of Native peoples to our country and the hundreds of Tribal Nations who continue exercising their inherent sovereignty.

Also in November, we had the special privilege and opportunity to speak with students at the Chemawa Indian School about a critically important topic: fentanyl and the risk to youth of accidental overdose. This topic continues to be an urgent priority for our office, and we were happy to draw on our experience to share vital safety information with Chemawa students. We encourage anyone interested in arranging similar talks with community groups, especially those that include youth, to contact our office.

Finally, last week, the Department of Justice [announced](#) the opening of the 2024 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) for funding to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. In FY2023, the department awarded 182 CTAS grants, totaling more than \$96 million in funding to 111 Tribes

and Tribal consortia (including more than [\\$2.7 million](#) to four Oregon tribes). For more information on CTAS, please see our full update in the grant section below or visit DOJ's CTAS [website](#).

As we approach 2024, the U.S. Attorney's Office remains committed to maintaining and strengthening our long-held relationships with Tribal leaders and communities across Oregon. Pursuing justice on behalf of Tribal communities and victims will always be a top priority for us.

We look forward to connecting with as many of you as possible in the coming year (in-person or virtually) and wish each of you the happiest of holiday seasons and a joyful New Year.

Sincerely,

The U.S. Attorney's Office Indian Country Team



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## Meet the U.S. Attorney's Office Indian Country Team

Our present Indian Country Team consists of the following individuals:

**AUSA Tribal Liaison Tim Simmons [All 9 federally recognized tribes]:** AUSA Tim Simmons has been an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice since 1995 and serves as a Tribal Liaison for all 9 Tribal Nations. AUSA Simmons is located in our Eugene Office and can be reached at [tim.simmons@usdoj.gov](mailto:tim.simmons@usdoj.gov) or (541) 465-6740.

**AUSA Pam Paaso [Warm Springs]:** AUSA Pam Paaso has been with the U.S. Attorney's Office since February of 2017 and is the dedicated prosecutor for crimes related to the Warm Springs Tribe. AUSA Paaso is located in our Portland Office and can be reached at [pamela.paaso@usdoj.gov](mailto:pamela.paaso@usdoj.gov) or (503) 727-1000.

**AUSA Cassady Adams [CTUIR]:** AUSA Cassady Adams has been with the U.S. Attorney's Office since November 2020 and is the dedicated prosecutor for crimes related to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. AUSA Adams is located in our Portland Office and can be reached at [Cassady.Adams@usdoj.gov](mailto:Cassady.Adams@usdoj.gov) or (503) 727-1084.

**AUSA Jeff Sweet [Burns Paiute and Cow Creek]:** AUSA Jeff Sweet has been with the U.S. Attorney's office for 12 years and is the dedicated prosecutor for crimes related to the Burns Paiute Tribe and Cow Creek Tribe. AUSA Sweet is located in our Eugene Office and can be reached at [jeff.sweet@usdoj.gov](mailto:jeff.sweet@usdoj.gov) or (541) 465-6903.

**Tribal Victim Assistance Specialist Ella LeVally:** Ella LeVally became the Tribal Victim Assistance Specialist in 2020 and is located in the Portland Office. Ella can be reached at [ella.levally@usdoj.gov](mailto:ella.levally@usdoj.gov) or at (503) 727-1172.

**MMIP Coordinator Cedar Wilkie Gillette:** Cedar Wilkie Gillette has been the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Coordinator since June 2020 and is located in our Eugene Office. Cedar can be reached at [Cedar.Wilkie.Gillette@usdoj.gov](mailto:Cedar.Wilkie.Gillette@usdoj.gov) or (541) 465-6045.

**Public Affairs Officer Kevin Sonoff:** Kevin Sonoff serves as the spokesperson and primary media contact for the USAO and is located in our Portland Office. Kevin can be reached at [kevin.sonoff@usdoj.gov](mailto:kevin.sonoff@usdoj.gov) or (503) 727-1000.

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## In the News

On November 1, 2023, the *Not Invisible Act Commission* released its [Final Report](#) of recommendations “focusing on improving safety, prevention, justice, support services, and healing for American Indian and Alaska Native communities through increased funding, policy reform, action-oriented programs, and training and technical assistance”. The Commission also calls for a “Decade of Action & Healing to address the crisis of missing, murdered, and trafficked Indian people.” The Not Invisible Act of 2020, among other things, required the Departments of Justice and Interior to create a joint commission on violent crime within Indian lands and against Indians and submit a written response to the recommendations developed by the joint commission. Commissioners included an Oregon tribal member and an OSP officer.

In June, the Supreme Court of the United States issued several opinions impacting tribal issues. On June 15, 2023, the Supreme Court issued an opinion in [Haaland v. Brackeen](#) which upheld the validity of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and affirmed the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals judgment regarding Congress's constitutional authority to enact ICWA. On June 15, 2023, the Supreme Court issued an opinion in [Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians v. Coughlin](#) which held that the Bankruptcy Code abrogates the sovereign immunity of all governments, including federally recognized Indian tribes. On June 22, 2023, the Supreme Court issued an opinion in [Arizona v. Navajo Nation](#) which held that the 1868 treaty establishing the Navajo Reservation reserved necessary water to accomplish the purpose of the Navajo Reservation but did not require the United States to take affirmative steps to secure water for the tribe.

In September, fourteen more tribes were selected to participate in the [continued expansion](#) of the Tribal Access Program for National Crime Information (TAP), a program that provides Tribal governments with means to access, enter, and exchange data with national crime information systems, including those maintained by the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division.

In August, the Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs published its list of [Federally Recognized Tribes](#).

### Recent Prosecution Highlights from the USAO District of Oregon

**U.S. v Quinten Greene:** On December 15, 2023, a Warm Springs man was [sentenced](#) for attempted murder on the Warm Springs Reservation. Quinten Xavier Greene used a motor vehicle to intentionally strike and severely injure a person on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. Greene pleaded guilty to attempted murder and was sentenced to 78 months in federal prison, three years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$20,000 in restitution. This case was investigated by the Warm Springs Tribal Police Department with assistance from the FBI and prosecuted by AUSA Pamela Paaso.

**U.S. v Kevin Neal Strampher, Jr.:** On December 7, 2023, a Bend man [was sentenced](#) for stealing tools from Warm Springs Composite Products, a wood products manufacturing business owned by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Kevin Neal Strampher, Jr. stole more than \$2,000 in power and hand tools and pleaded guilty to theft from an Indian tribal organization. Strampher was sentenced to time served, one year of supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$2,378 in



restitution to the tribe. This case was investigated by the Warm Springs Tribal Police Department with assistance from the FBI and prosecuted by AUSA Pamela Paaso.

**U.S. v Maron Graybael Jr.:** On June 1, 2023, Marion Brent Graybael Jr. [was charged](#) by criminal complaint with assault resulting in serious bodily injury. One week later, on June 7, 2023, a federal grand jury in Portland indicted him on the same charge. On August 31, 2023, Graybael was convicted at trial. The jury found Graybael assaulted his intimate partner on May 16, 2023 causing serious bodily injury. On November 30, 2023, Graybael was sentenced to 40 months in federal prison and three years' supervised release. This case was investigated by the FBI and the Warm Springs Tribal Police Department and prosecuted by AUSA Pamela Paaso and AUSA Suzanne Miles.

**U.S. v Dennis DeChenne Jr.:** On July 12, 2023, a Gresham man [was sentenced](#) to 10 years in federal prison after he was arrested transporting methamphetamine in Deschutes County. Dennis Richard DeChenne Jr., pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute methamphetamine. DeChenne was involved in transporting large quantities of methamphetamine and heroin from the Portland area to Central Oregon for resale. DeChenne was arrested with two pounds of methamphetamine and a loaded pistol. DeChenne was sentenced to 130 months in federal prison and five years' supervised release. The case was investigated by the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE) and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and assisted by several law enforcement entities including the Warm Springs Tribal Police Department. The case was prosecuted by AUSA Jeffrey S. Sweet.

**U.S. v Paul Martinez and Vanessa Plazola:** On July 18, 2023, Paul Martinez was charged by indictment with attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, and assault resulting in serious bodily injury stemming from a June 27 incident involving a shooting on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. Vanessa Plazola was charged with assault with a deadly weapon, and assault resulting in serious bodily injury in the same incident. This case was investigated by the FBI and the Warm Springs Tribal Police Department and is being prosecuted by AUSA Pamela Paaso.

**U.S. v Antoine Scott:** On August 1, 2023, Antoine Scott was charged by indictment with assault with a deadly weapon and assault resulting in serious bodily injury stemming from a June 21 incident on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. This case was investigated by the FBI and the Warm Springs Tribal Police Department and is being prosecuted by AUSA Pamela Paaso.

**U.S. v Nicholas Kelly:** On September 19, 2023, Nicholas Kelly was charged by indictment with Theft of a Tribal Organization. Kelly is charged with stealing computer equipment, gift cards and cash from the Painted Pony Espresso Café on July 11, 2023. This case was investigated by the FBI and the Warm Springs Tribal Police Department and is being prosecuted by AUSA Pamela Paaso.

**Domestic Violence Prosecutions:** Two defendants were charged with assaulting intimate partners by strangulation on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation and were sentenced to 24 months on July 11, 2023, and 18 months on November 14, 2023. These cases were investigated by the FBI and the Warm Springs Tribal Police Department and prosecuted by AUSA Pamela Paaso.

**U.S. v Cameron Jacob Sheoships:** In June, a federal grand jury [indicted](#) a Pendleton man with possessing child pornography. Cameron Jacob Sheoships has been charged with one count of possession of child pornography. According to the indictment, on or about May 24, 2023, Sheoships is alleged to have knowingly and unlawfully possessed material containing child pornography. This case was investigated by the FBI and being prosecuted by AUSA Cassidy A. Adams.

*Please note: Indictments and criminal complaints are only accusations of crimes, and defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

### **News in Oregon**



On November 20, 2023, AUSA Scott Kerin and AUSA Cassidy Adams conducted a Fentanyl Awareness presentation to the students at the Chemawa Indian School. The presentation discussed the overdose rates for American Indians/Alaskan Natives and included a discussion with the students about things they can do to help with the fentanyl problem (*being aware, talking with their friends and family, etc.*). Some helpful resources discussing issues surrounding Fentanyl include: [Song For Charlie](#); [SAMHSA.gov](#); [Drugabuse.gov](#).

In June, the Klamath Tribes announced that Elyesse Lewis would be serving as the Tribe's first MMIP Coordinator.

The Oregon Department of State Police created a Tribal Liaison position and hired Glendon Smith, a Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs member, as its first Tribal Liaison.

A new Oregon law ([HB 2112](#)), proposed by the Oregon State Archives Division of the Secretary of State's Office, passed this year which allows agencies to consider tribal cultural values when determining how long to retain a public record. The law gives tribal governments in Oregon a voice in how their information is kept.

In the November 2023 edition of the DOJ COPS Office e-newsletter, there is an article entitled [Accreditation for Tribal Law Enforcement: Voices from the Field](#) which discusses the benefits of tribal police accreditation regarding four tribal law enforcement agencies, including the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department.

In November, the Oregon Peace Officers Association honored [the lifesaving efforts](#) of Grand Ronde Tribal Police officers Angel Arenas and Austin Gomez at its annual statewide awards banquet.

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## Missing and Murdered Indigenous Person (MMIP) Information

In November 2019, the Department of Justice launched a national strategy to address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) that included the hiring of MMIP coordinators to serve with U.S. Attorney's Offices. In June 2020, Cedar Wilkie Gillette became the District of Oregon's MMIP Coordinator. In this edition, MMIP Coordinator Wilkie Gillette discusses participation in public events, the completion of the Warm Springs TCRP Pilot Project, and a brief update on the USAO MMIP Working Group.



The Lane County Public Safety Coordinating Council held two MMIP panels on November 28 at the University of Oregon Many Nations Longhouse. MMIP Coordinator Wilkie Gillette was invited to be a panelist for both panels. The first panel educated the Council on the MMIP crisis and the second panel led a MMIP discussion with the community and students. Pictured are panelists OSP Captain Cord Wood, MMIP Coordinator Wilkie Gillette, and Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Police Chief Brian DuBray.

- MMIP Coordinator Wilkie Gillette attended the Klamath MMIP Event in Chiloquin on May 5, 2023.
- The District of Oregon MMIP Working Group meets quarterly and met in May and September 2023.

- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and USAO [completed](#) the Tribes' Tribal Community Response Plan in July 2023.
- The Eastern District of Washington has [charged](#) at least seven people in connection with the death of Rosenda Strong on the Yakama Reservation. Strong, who was Umatilla and Yakama, went missing in late September 2018 and her body was discovered on the Yakama Reservation in 2019.

MMIP Coordinator Cedar Wilkie Gillette can be contacted at (541) 465-6045 or [Cedar.Wilkie.Gillette@usdoj.gov](mailto:Cedar.Wilkie.Gillette@usdoj.gov).

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## Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Information



### FY 2023 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside

Congress first created a Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside (TVSSA) from the Crime Victims Fund in the FY 2018 budget. The amount of the first set-aside was 3 percent—totaling \$133 million—and was made “available to OVC for grants, consistent with the requirements of the Victims of Crime Act, to Indian Tribes to improve services for victims of crime.” Congress authorized subsequent Tribal set-asides of:

- \$167.65 million in 2019;
- \$132.05 million in 2020;
- \$100.75 million for 2021;
- \$130.00 million in 2022; and
- \$95.00 million in 2023.

In FY 2023, OVC made 212 TVSSA Formula awards, totaling \$69,632,900, the most awards made in a Fiscal Year since the TVSSA program was initiated. Applications were received from 23 first-time applicants for OVC grants, 10 of which were from Alaska Tribes. Based on feedback received during consultation and listening sessions, OVC continued, or implemented new, unique efforts for the FY 2023 TVSSA application period.

1. Applicants were again provided the option of completing their application program description in one of three formats:
  - as a traditional program narrative not to exceed 20 pages;
  - as a checklist using the format provided within the solicitation; or
  - via an interview with OVC staff who would document the information about the planned project into a checklist that the grantee would submit with their application.
2. OVC implemented an Alaska Pilot Project under which four OVC staff traveled to multiple cities in Alaska to conduct in-person interviews with 25 applicants, who requested the option to develop the program narrative via an interview with OVC staff. A total of 90 virtual and in-person interviews were conducted by OVC staff, which was 30 percent more than in 2022.
3. OVC supported TVSSA applicants in including construction and renovation projects in their project designs to support the delivery of victim services. In FY 2023 applicants requesting funds for renovation or construction activities, including the purchase, installation, and site preparation for modular buildings and other prefabricated structures, submitted a Construction-Renovation Questionnaire with their application. The purpose of the questionnaire was to assist applicants in articulating their plans for construction projects with the goal to expedite referrals for specialized technical assistance and the approval



process to begin renovation or construction activities. OVC received new applications from 36 Tribes interested in using FY 2023 funding for construction or renovation projects.

4. OVC staff hosted four pre-application webinars and two days of “Office Hours” to provide guidance and technical assistance on the TVSSA application requirements and submission process. The webinar recordings, presentation materials, and transcripts are posted on the OVC website.

For more information about the history of the TVSSA program, please read the [OVC FY 2023 Crime Victims Fund Tribal Set-Aside Program report](#).

## **OVC Virtual Tribal Consultation on the FY 2024 Tribal Set-Aside**

OVC will host a **virtual** Tribal Consultation on the Tribal Set-Aside from the Crime Victims Fund for Fiscal Year 2024 on **Wednesday, January 17, 2024, and Thursday, January 18, 2024**, from 1:00–3:30 p.m. eastern time each day.

[OVC invites Consultation testimony](#) to be provided by:

- an elected Tribal leader,
- an appointed Tribal leader, or
- someone designated by an elected or appointed Tribal leader. *Designation must be provided in writing.*

In preparation, OVC presents the [OVC FY 2023 Crime Victims Fund Tribal Set-Aside Program report](#) that provides a brief history of the program and how Tribal Set-Aside funds were obligated in FY 2023. An [informational Framing Paper](#) on the FY 2024 Tribal Set-Aside provides relevant background and questions for participants and testimony presenters to consider. If you would like to participate in the consultation, please register to [attend](#).

## **OVC FY 2024 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Formula Grant Program**

OVC’s Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside (TVSSA) formula grant program is dedicated to supporting the vital work of American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes in meeting the needs of crime victims.

OVC strongly encourages federally recognized Tribes to submit a Population Certification Form to signal their intent to apply for the noncompetitive FY 2024 TVSSA formula grant program funding opportunity. Tribes also have the option to designate another organization to submit an application on their behalf, or to seek TVSSA funding as part of a Tribal consortium.

OVC will use the information from the forms to allocate a portion of any Tribal Set-aside Congress might authorize for FY 2024 to each eligible applicant who submits a Population Certification Form. OVC will then notify each applicant of their award amount and invite them to submit a full application in response to a TVSSA Program solicitation planned for release in spring 2024.

**Deadline:** Submit a [population certification](#) by 11:59 p.m., Alaska time on Friday, February 9, 2024.

### **Developing Future Victim Specialists to Serve American Indian/Alaska Native Victims of Crime**

In an effort to increase the number of victim service providers that serve American Indian and Alaska Native victims of crime in locations that are remote and where positions are hard to fill, OVC released the [Developing Future Victim Specialists to Serve American Indian/Alaska Native Victims of Crime](#) funding opportunity in FY 2023. Ten grants of \$500,000 each were awarded to eligible entities across the country. Grantees will:

- Establish (or continue operating) and administer a structured program that links individuals interested in victim service careers to internship or residency opportunities with either a BIA or Tribally run victim services program.
- Provide supervision and training to participants in the program by experienced victim service professionals.
- Establish baseline data and a data collection process for performance metrics. In addition to satisfying OVC reporting requirements, this data could potentially be used in an additional OVC evaluation or assessment of the program or to inform recruitment and workforce-building practices for other victim service programs that serve AI/AN communities.

If you have questions about the Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside formula grant program, or any other OVC tribal grant program, please contact [OJPTribalSetAside@OJP.usdoj.gov](mailto:OJPTribalSetAside@OJP.usdoj.gov).

For information about additional funding opportunities, visit the [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), and the U.S. Department of Justice [Program Plan](#).

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## Upcoming Training, Events, and Grants

*Please note that these dates and venues may change- please check with the individual sponsoring agency for updates and confirmation.*

### [DHS CISA Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program](#)

In September, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program (TCGP), which will provide approximately \$18.2 million to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems owned or operated by tribal governments in Fiscal Year 2023. Applications are due January 10, 2024.

### [NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant Program](#)

The NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant Program provides federal funding for grants to Eligible Entities to expand access to and adoption of: (i) broadband service on Tribal Land; or (ii) programs that promote the use of broadband to access remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources. Applications are due January 23, 2024.

### [FEMA BRIC Direct Technical Assistance for Communities and Tribal Nations](#)

FEMA offers direct technical assistance for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Direct Technical Assistance (BRIC DTA) initiative provides tailored support to communities and tribal nations that may not have the resources to begin climate resilience planning and project solution design on their own. Through process-oriented, hand-in-hand assistance, BRIC DTA will partner with communities interested in enhancing their capability and capacity to design holistic, equitable hazard mitigation solutions that advance community-driven objectives. The deadline to make a submission is February 29, 2024.

### [NICWA 42nd Annual Protecting Our Children Conference](#)

The 42<sup>nd</sup> National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) Annual Protecting Our Children Conference will take place on April 7-10, 2024 in Seattle, WA. A virtual option will be available.

### [NCJTC National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference](#)



The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference will take place on April 16-18, 2024 in Las Vegas, NV. The Keynote Speaker will be Desire Young discussing a Mom's Perspective on Kyron Horman who went missing from Portland, OR in 2010.

#### [OJJDP Family Survival Guide Videos](#)

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) online video library now includes "*When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide*". The video segments highlight experiences, lessons learned, and recommendations from the parents of missing children who contributed to the fifth edition of the guide, which is designed to help families take necessary steps and contact the right people when their child is missing.

#### [Missing Child Investigations in Indian Country Series](#)

This National Criminal Justice Training Center self-paced series addresses the key challenges law enforcement officers and supporting agencies working in or with Indian Country communities often face when a child goes missing.

#### [2024 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation](#)

On December 13, 2023, the Department of Justice [announced](#) the opening of the 2024 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) for funding to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. This funding solicitation provides federally recognized Tribes and Tribal consortia an opportunity to apply for funding to aid in developing a comprehensive and coordinated approach to public safety. Many of DOJ's existing Tribal government-specific programs are included in and available through this single solicitation. The application deadline is March 5, 2024.

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## What We're Watching and Reading

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There is an interesting [OPB article](#) discussing how some Northwest tribes, including the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, cultivate land for first foods and traditional medicines.

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, some people [wore an orange shirt](#) to recognize National Day for Truth and Reconciliation or National Day of Remembrance. "Orange Shirt Day" was first established as an observance in 2013 as part of an effort to promote awareness and education of the Canadian residential school system and its impact on Indigenous communities.

In October, Indigenous designers were highlighted at the [Northwest Native Fashion Show](#) which took place on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

In October, the [Crow's Shadow](#) Institute of the Arts located on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, announced a new executive director.

Matika Wilbur, a Swinomish and Tulalip photographer and storyteller, recently [released a new book](#) titled "[Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America](#)".

There is an interesting article in Police Chief Magazine regarding [serving vulnerable populations in Indian Country](#) which discusses some of the challenges and potential solutions from a tribal law enforcement perspective.

There is an interesting report issued by DOJ COPS titled [Improving Learning Outcomes in Police Academy Training](#) which describes the results of an initiative aimed at studying ways to improve the methodology for delivering basic police training content. The project conducted a randomized controlled trial in five U.S. police academies to determine if students who participated in an in-person or online integrated curriculum performed better than those who participated in a traditional in-person or online lecture.

There is an interesting study which explored the potential role of victim advocacy in Native American missing person cases. The study interviewed 25 tribal and non-tribal victim/social service providers to assess their perspectives on the factors which make Native Americans vulnerable to going missing, the barriers and challenges regarding reporting and investigating missing persons, as well as how victim/social service providers might better support the families of missing persons. The study is titled [Native Missing Persons Cases Will Not be Solved by Police Alone: The Case for "Missing Persons Advocates"](#) ([sagepub.com](#)).

The movie *Killers of the Flower Moon* is set in 1920s Oklahoma and focuses on a series of murders of Osage Nation members after oil was discovered on tribal land. For an interesting article that discusses the history behind the movie, take a look at this BBC History Magazine article: [Killers of the Flower Moon History](#).

If you're interested in reading about the inadequacies in data gathering practices and how Native people are taking action to fill these gaps take a look at [Indigenous Data Warriors and Ongoing Fight for Data Sovereignty](#). The article features interviews with several figures leading the way in Indigenous data sovereignty.

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## A Note About Our Language

"Indian Country" is the legal term used to describe reservations and other lands set aside for Indian use, such as Indian allotments and lands held in trust for Indians or Indian tribes, and is defined under 18 U.S.C. § 1151. We use the term Indian Country versus the term Native American or some other term because it describes the statutory jurisdiction of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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## Disclaimers

The links provided in this newsletter are for information only. Not all content reflects the views of the U.S. Attorney's Office or Department of Justice. Events and trainings are not vetted or otherwise endorsed by the USAO or DOJ.

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If you have questions or content suggestions, please email [USAOR.ICNews@usdoj.gov](mailto:USAOR.ICNews@usdoj.gov) or call (503) 727-1000.