



## **Greeting from U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams**

As I write these remarks for the final Indian Country newsletter for the year, I am reflecting on how this year will be forever remembered; the year of a global pandemic, unprecedented civil unrest against racial injustices, and economic hardships endured by so many. But I am also reminded, it has been a year filled with inspiring acts of kindness, selflessness, sacrifice and unity.

In addition to recognizing and celebrating Veterans and Thanksgiving in November, it is fitting that this edition is also in November, a month in which we recognize and celebrate Native American Heritage. While the celebrations and gatherings are surely different than in past years, it is no less inspiring to hear the stories of perseverance and spirit at the core of the experience of native peoples in this country.

On August 3, 1990, then President of the United States George H. W. Bush declared the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month, thereafter commonly referred to as Native American Heritage Month. The bill read in part that "the President has authorized and requested to call upon Federal, State and local Governments, groups and organizations and the people of the United States to observe such month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities". This landmark bill honoring America's tribal people represented a major step in establishment of this celebration which began in 1986 with then President Reagan proclaiming November 23-30, 1986 as "American Indian Week."

This commemorative month is important for all to reflect on the important role Native people have in the United States of America. The culture, traditions, music, crafts, dance, and ways and concepts of life as well as the historical injustices indignities and atrocities endured, are a rich tapestry. The U.S. Attorney's Office is thankful for the ability to serve the tribal nations in the District of Oregon.

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## **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (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 provides an update on Savanna's Act, the United States Department of Justice's National Initiative regarding MMIP, and the District of Oregon's activity related to MMIP.

- On October 10, 2020, both the Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act were signed into law. The Savanna's Act directs the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols to address missing or murdered Native Americans, including requirements to report statistics. The purpose of the Not Invisible Act is to increase the coordination of efforts to reduce violent crime associated with Indian lands and against Indians. It directs the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) to designate a BIA official to coordinate prevention efforts, grants, and programs related to missing, murdered, and human trafficking of Indians. Further, the law requires DOI and DOJ to form a joint commission and provide written recommendations. The U.S. Attorney's Office looks forward to working with tribal nations in Oregon on implementing both Savanna's Act and Not Invisible Act.
- The Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives, known as Operation Lady Justice, plans to release its first Report on November 25, 2020. Visit the [Operation Lady Justice](#) website after November 25 to view the Report. Also, see the below discussion in the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Information section for further information.
- MMIP Coordinator Wilkie Gillette has been involved in the development of national MMIP guides that can assist tribes in developing their own Tribal Community Response Plans (TCRPs) to respond to MMIP in their communities. The District of Oregon is one of six districts across the country approved for a pilot project that will work with at least one tribe in Oregon to develop a TCRP.
- Due to COVID-19, MMIP Coordinator Wilkie Gillette has not been able to meet with all the Oregon Tribes. However, in September, MMIP Coordinator Wilkie Gillette met with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Council and Warm Springs Tribal Law Enforcement as part of the 2020 Formal Annual Tribal Consultation.
- MMIP Coordinator Wilkie Gillette also plans to issue the first USAO MMIP Report and form a District MMIP Working Group in December 2020.

**Cedar Wilkie Gillette** was hired as the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Coordinator on June 8, 2020. Cedar holds a 2017 Juris Doctor degree from Vermont Law School and has done extensive work on indigenous human rights and environmental justice issues. MMIP Coordinator Wilkie Gillette is located in our Eugene Office. She can be reached at [Cedar.Wilkie.Gillette@usdoj.gov](mailto:Cedar.Wilkie.Gillette@usdoj.gov) or (541) 465-6045.



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## USAO Indian Country Team

In August, AUSA Jennifer Martin began her well-deserved retirement from a long career in law enforcement. Jennifer started her career as an AUSA in August of 2002 after already serving the community for many years as a deputy district attorney and an assistant attorney general. Jennifer spent the last six years prosecuting violent crimes and was the dedicated prosecutor for violent crime in Indian Country for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Chemawa Indian School, a federal enclave. During that time, Jennifer brought her passion for the rights of



victims, youth, and justice to all she did. She worked tirelessly to form and maintain close working relationships with our tribal partners. We thank Jennifer for her dedication to tribal communities, fighting hard for justice, and her selfless efforts to assist on behalf of victims.

**AUSA Natalie Wight, Deputy Chief, Organized & Violent Crime**

AUSA Natalie Wight has been an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice since 2003 and with the District of Oregon since 2012. She can be reached at [natalie.wight@usdoj.gov](mailto:natalie.wight@usdoj.gov) or (503) 727-1114.

**AUSA Tim Simmons [All 9 federally recognized tribes]**

AUSA Tim Simmons has been with the U.S. Attorney's Office for 25 years 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 and CTUIR]**

AUSA Pam Paaso has been with the U.S. Attorney's Office since February of 2017. She can be reached at [pamela.paaso@usdoj.gov](mailto:pamela.paaso@usdoj.gov) or (503) 727-1000.

**AUSA Jeff Sweet [Burns Paiute]**

AUSA Jeff Sweet has been with the U.S. Attorney's office for 12 years and will be working with the Burns Paiute Tribe. He can be reached at [jeff.sweet@usdoj.gov](mailto:jeff.sweet@usdoj.gov) or (503) 727-1000.

**AUSA Ashley Cadotte [Chemawa Indian School]**

AUSA Ashley Cadotte has been with the U.S. Attorney's Office since December 2019. She can be reached at [ashley.cadotte@usdoj.gov](mailto:ashley.cadotte@usdoj.gov) or (503) 727-1000.

**Ella LeVally, Tribal Victim Assistance Specialist**

Ella LeVally will be transitioning into the Tribal Victim Assistance Specialist position at the USAO in the coming months. Ella is located in the Portland Office and can be reached at [ella.levally@usdoj.gov](mailto:ella.levally@usdoj.gov) or at (503) 727-1172.

**Cedar Wilkie Gillette, MMIP Coordinator**

MMIP Coordinator Cedar Wilkie Gillette has been with the U.S. Attorney's Office since June 2020. She can be reached at [Cedar.Wilkie.Gillette@usdoj.gov](mailto:Cedar.Wilkie.Gillette@usdoj.gov) or (541) 465-6045.

**Kevin Sonoff, Public Affairs Officer**

As Public Affairs Officer, Kevin serves as the spokesperson and primary media contact for the USAO main office in Portland and the Eugene and Medford branch offices. He can be reached at [kevin.sonoff@usdoj.gov](mailto:kevin.sonoff@usdoj.gov) or (503) 727-1000.



# In the News

## Recent Prosecution Highlights from the USAO District of Oregon

- **U.S. v Roderick Arwite and Thomas Adams-** AUSA Seth Uram indicted two men accused of fraud against the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation. On September 25, 2020, Roderick Ariwite and Thomas Adams were federally indicted in Portland for Conspiracy and Theft/Misapplication of Funds from a Tribal Organization. This indictment charges Ariwite and Adams with conspiring to misappropriate \$93,700 of tribal funds and with five counts of substantive misappropriation of tribal funds.
- **U.S. v. Danny Hank Snapp-** AUSA Jeff Sweet indicted this Burns Paiute case related to domestic violence. On September 17, 2020, Danny Hank Snapp was federally indicted in Eugene for the felony possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number and for misdemeanor assault. Defendant Snapp was arrested following a September 13, 2020 domestic violence incident in which he assaulted a woman, fired shots into the air, and possessed a shotgun with an obliterated serial number. The incident took place on the Burns Paiute reservation and both Defendant Snapp and the victim are tribal members, though they are not members of the Burns Paiute Tribe. Defendant Snapp was arraigned on federal charges on September 30, 2020 and remains in custody.
- **U.S. v. Sonny Stacona-** AUSA Pam Paaso indicted this Warm Springs case related to domestic violence. In July of 2020, police responded to a report of an assault on the Warm Springs Reservation, and arrested Sonny Stacona. Because of the Defendant's two prior convictions for assaulting an intimate partner in 2013, he was charged with felony assault by a habitual offender.
- **U.S. v. Winnie Lynn Jim Hellon-** AUSA Pam Paaso indicted this Warm Springs case regarding an assault resulting in serious bodily injury. On July 29, 2020, Warm Springs Police responded to a rollover accident on BIA Hwy 3 on the Warm Springs Reservation. Evidence recovered at the scene indicated Jim Hellon was driving while intoxicated and lost control of the vehicle, causing the ejection of the front passenger who sustained serious injuries.
- **U.S. v. Royce Speedis and Lavella Thompson-** AUSA Pam Paaso indicted this Umatilla case regarding drugs. Royce Speedis and Lavella Thompson were charged with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and robbery stemming from a March 2019 incident on the Umatilla Reservation. Shots were fired in the course of the robbery leaving one person injured.
- **U.S. v. Thomas Campbell-** AUSA William McLaren participated in a sentencing hearing on November 23 regarding this case involving the illegal take of a threatened species from the Warm Springs Reservation. On August 13, 2020, Thomas R. Campbell pled guilty to three misdemeanor counts of violating the Lacey Act. Defendant Campbell is one of four federal defendants charged in operation No Bull, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted in collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Oregon State Police. The operation caught more than thirty individuals who illegally fished for bull trout, a threatened species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Defendant Campbell is considered the most egregious of the dozens of people cited or charged in the operation. Defendant Campbell trespassed onto Tribal land, led many others to take bull trout, bragged on social media, shot down a camera to avoid detection, and admitted full knowledge of the bull trout's protected status to law enforcement.

## News In Oregon

**Deal Reached to remove 4 dams on lower Klamath River:**



On November 17, 2020, an agreement was announced regarding the removal of four dams on the lower Klamath River. The agreement must be approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

#### **Warm Springs Treaty Nullified:**

On October 20, 2020, the President signed into law a bill nullifying the fraudulent 1865 Warm Springs Treaty. The bill eliminates an unenforced, but antiquated and unfair, restriction on tribal members' ability to leave their respective reservations without government permission.

#### **Statue Honoring Klamath Tribes Unveiled at Favell Museum:**

In September, the Klamath Tribes participated in the unveiling of a bronze monument at the Favell Museum in Klamath Falls. The statue commemorates and honors the indigenous people of the Klamath Tribes (the Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin Paiute).

#### **Oregon Hate Crimes and Bias Hotline Data Dashboard:**

The Oregon Department of Justice and the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission have released their Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents Hotline Data Dashboard. In January, 2020, ODOJ launched its Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents Response Hotline, dedicated to assisting victims, witnesses, and other reporters of bias incidents and hate crimes in Oregon. The hotline is confidential, and community members can make anonymous reports. Callers receive support as well as information and referrals about options for next steps, including reporting to law enforcement. The hotline data dashboard displays data about hate and bias reported to the hotline. The site is clickable throughout so that data can be sorted by month, county, bias determination (incident or crime), bias conduct, and targeted protected class (race, color, national origin, religion, disability, gender identity, and/or sexual orientation).

Victims and witnesses of bias can reach the non-emergency hotline at 1-844-924-BIAS (2427) or report online at [StandAgainstHate.Oregon.gov](https://standagainsthate.oregon.gov).

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## **Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Information**

Darlene Hutchinson, Senior Advisor of Victim Affairs from the Office of the Assistant Attorney General, continues to provide important information on DOJ/OJP's grant opportunities and high-level work in Indian Country. See the following:

#### **DOJ Grant Programs Recently Funded in Indian Country**

In September, DOJ announced nearly \$300 million in grants to improve public safety, serve victims of crime, and support youth programs in tribal communities. This includes \$2,531,719 awarded to three tribes and a tribal health center in the District of Oregon. "Public safety officials and victim service providers in Indian country face exceptional challenges, but they bring to their work an extraordinary array of skills and resources that enable them to meet and overcome any obstacle," according to Katharine T. Sullivan, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for DOJ's Office of Justice Programs. "OJP is proud to help fulfill Attorney General Barr's strong commitment – and the federal government's long-standing responsibility – to our tribal partners in the matter of their citizens' safety and well-being." To learn more about the numerous programs and tribal communities recently funded, [visit this DOJ's webpage](#).

#### **Consultations for Crime Victims' Funding**

On November 17-18, DOJ's Office for Victims of Crime hosted Consultations on the Tribal Set-Aside from the Crime Victims Fund, which included discussions about potential revisions to the interim formula and application process used in FY 2020. Written comments are still being accepted from tribal leaders, representatives, and stakeholders until December 10. For more details (including an Informational Framing Paper), visit [OVC's Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside site](#).

### **Operation Lady Justice & MMIP Task Force**

In November 2019, President Trump signed an Executive Order establishing the [Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives](#), also known now as [Operation Lady Justice](#), to enhance the operation of the criminal justice system and address the legitimate concerns of AI/AN communities regarding missing and murdered people. This year, more than 20 related events have been conducted – including in-person listening sessions, virtual listening sessions, and formal tribal consultations. Information about the Task Force's work, including readouts from all listening sessions and consultations, is available at [Operation Lady Justice](#). Later this month (November 2020), DOJ and its federal partners will release an interim Task Force report regarding activities and accomplishments, the status of projects, and specific recommendations for future Task Force action.

### **Video Explains Financial Management Services Available to Tribal Grantees**

DOJ's Office for Victims of Crime established a [Tribal Financial Management Center](#) in 2018 to provide training, technical assistance and resources to support American Indian and Alaska Native communities as they successfully manage the financial aspects of their federal awards. A [new video](#) highlights the wide variety of no-cost services available to tribal grantees) through the TFMC.

### **The Tribal Resource Tool**

While American Indian and Alaska Native populations have disproportionately high crime victimization rates, they often have difficulty connecting with the services necessary to assist victims and survivors. However, the recently updated [Tribal Resource Tool](#) is helping to change this dilemma. This web-based resource mapping tool, funded by DOJ's Office for Victims of Crime, includes a searchable directory of services available for survivors of crime and abuse in Indian Country, including a wide variety of assistance programs plus coalitions, national hotlines, law enforcement agencies, health services, and non-tribal-specific service providers. As new resources are developed or identified, the site is updated. To share information about your organization or agency, visit [here](#).

### **The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Tribal Communities**

Tribal populations experience a disproportionately higher rate of mental and behavioral health issues when compared to other segments of the population. Among the challenges facing tribal communities are "adverse childhood experiences," which can have long-lasting and extremely harmful effects. For more details about these impacts on children in Indian Country -- plus strategies to protect and assist children -- see [this summary](#) provided by DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

### **SORNA Update for Tribes**

A Second Edition of the "[Guide to SORNA Implementation in Indian Country](#)" has been released by DOJ's Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (the SMART Office). SORNA refers to the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (Title 1 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006), which provides a comprehensive set of minimum standards for sex offender registration and notification in the United States. SORNA aims to close gaps and loopholes that existed under prior law and strengthens the nationwide network of sex offender registration and notification programs. The Adam Walsh Act established the SMART Office to administer the federal standards for sex offender registration and notification, administer grant programs related to the Adam Walsh Act and sex offender management and coordinate related training and technical assistance. SORNA implementation can be complex, but this [updated Guide](#)

can assist SORNA officers in tribal communities, as it outlines who must register, the requirements, the three tiers, the public registry website and exchange portal, jurisdictional issues, community notification requirements, biometrics collection and submission, travel notices, and the application to juvenile offenders.

### **Vicarious Trauma in Indian Country**

On November 30, Fox Valley Technical College and Unified Solutions (with funding from DOJ's Office for Victims of Crime) will host a "Vicarious Trauma in Indian Country" webinar for OVC tribal programs to learn about vicarious trauma and its impact on the health and well-being of service providers. The 90-minute webinar will also explore how tribal programs can utilize the [OVC Vicarious Trauma Toolkit](#) to create a more trauma-informed, healthier work environment – particularly given the existing challenges and stress caused by COVID-19. For more information or to register, visit [here](#).

### **New Tribal Crime Data Released**

This past summer, DOJ's Bureau of Justice Statistics released "[Tribal Crime Data-Collection Activities, 2020](#)," as mandated under the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010. This report outlines data collected during the past fiscal year, and discusses BJS funding to enhance tribal participation in national records and information systems. Among the findings included: In 2018, the local jail incarceration rate for AI/ANs was nearly double the national rate, and among AI/AN state prisoners released across 30 states in 2005, about 44% were arrested within one year of release, and 69% within 3 years.



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## **Upcoming Training and Events**

**Please note that these dates and venues may change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check with the individual sponsoring agency for updates and confirmation.**

[Examining the Relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Substance Use among Tribal Populations](#)

*Wednesday, Dec 2, 2020 | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm CST. Sponsored by NCJTC*

[Suspicious Death Investigations: Finding the Right, Eliminating the Wrong, and Avoiding the Undetermined](#)

*December 14-15, 2020 in Chandler, AZ. Sponsored by the National Criminal Justice Training Center*

[Child Homicide Investigations](#)

*February 22-23, 2021 in Pasadena, TX. Sponsored by the National Criminal Justice Training Center*

[38th Annual National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest](#)

OJJDP invites fifth graders to participate in the 38th Annual National Missing Children's Day poster contest. This nationwide contest creates an opportunity for schools, law enforcement, and other child advocates to discuss the issue of missing and/or exploited children with youth, parents, and guardians and to promote child safety. Poster contest winners will be recognized at the Department of Justice's National Missing Children's Day commemoration on *May 19, 2021* (tentative).

#### Winter 2021 ECHO Programs

The Oregon ECHO Network's community is offering a catalog of programs to support Oregon healthcare professionals in treating patients with a variety of complex conditions. *CME is available and each program is offered at no cost.*

#### Community Response to High Risk Missing and Sex Trafficking Victims

Gather information on how to construct a collaborative Community Action Team to serve high-risk missing and child sex trafficking victims. Explore how a missing child's path to becoming a sex trafficking victim intersects with the child protection, law enforcement and juvenile justice systems. Identify opportunities within those systems for prevention and engagement. *(NCJTC Online Webinar)*

#### Online Protections for Children and Families When Social Distancing

During these difficult times of social distancing and self-quarantine, there has been a dramatic increase in online activities by children, and a heightened concern for their safety by parents/guardians, educators, and child protection professionals. Kids and teens are unable to go to school, participate in sports or other activities, or hang out with their friends, and instead spend many hours in the online world. This webinar provides ICAC members and other child protection professionals with tools and resources to help parents/guardians and others create a safer environment for all children. *(NCJTC Online Webinar)*

#### COVID-19 & Medical Advocacy Response

*Previously recorded webinar.* Sponsored by SATF and Oregon DOJ.

#### Understanding Human Trafficking

*Online interactive five-part course accessible at any time.* Sponsored by OVC.

#### Public Health Training

*Online course accessible at any time.* Sponsored by National Indian Health Board.

#### COVID-19 and Homeless American Indians and Alaska Natives

*Previously recorded webinar.* Sponsored by UIHI.

#### Tele-Advocacy Ensuring Accessibility for Underserved Crime Survivors During the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Previously recorded webinar.* Sponsored by Vera Institute of Justice.

#### Staying Centered: A Virtual Breather for People Supporting Survivors During the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Previously recorded webinar.* Sponsored by Vera Institute of Justice.

#### AMBER Alert in Indian Country

*Previously recorded webinar.* Sponsored by NCJTC.



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## Funding Opportunities

Remember to check out our new [IC Grant Opportunities website](#), a compilation of even more grant opportunities. We update the site every month. Some highlights are below.

You can also sign up for notices of new solicitations from U.S. DOJ [here](#).

[Community Grants Program 2020-2021: An Indigenous Approach to Chronic Respiratory Disease Education, Prevention, and Management](#): Urban Indian Health Institute is accepting applications for their Community Grants Program until November 30, 2020 at 11:59pm Pacific Time. This year, there are two funding opportunities. The Sage Grants will focus on Indigenous approaches to commercial tobacco use and cessation. Applicants may receive awards up to \$95,000. A total of six grants will be awarded. The Sweetgrass Grants will focus on building public health programs related to chronic respiratory disease prevention and management. *Four Sweetgrass Grants of \$10,000 will be awarded*

[Indian Land Tenure Foundation grants supporting Education, Cultural Awareness, Economic Opportunity, and Legal Reform](#): ILTF serves Indian Country in the recovery and control of rightful homelands. The organization makes grants to Indian nations and nonprofit organizations for land-related initiatives in four areas: education, cultural awareness, economic opportunity and legal reform. *Letters of inquiry accepted on an ongoing basis.*

[Kalliopeia Foundation's cultural and ecological renewal projects rooted in reverent connection to a sacred, living Earth](#): The foundation supports, connects, and lifts up extraordinary projects and leaders who are modeling powerful ways to reconnect ecology, culture, and spirituality. They find most of their grantee partners through networks, field research, and at gatherings, and accept proposals by invitation only. If you feel your work is strongly aligned with their mission, you can send a brief [email](#) telling them about your work. *Letters of inquiry accepted on an ongoing basis.*

[Margaret A. Cargill Foundation's funding for Native arts initiatives](#): Areas of interest include natural resources and animal habitat protection; natural disaster preparedness, relief, and recovery; arts, music, and human creativity; human services; animal welfare; professional development for educators; and special projects. *Letters of inquiry accepted on an ongoing basis.*

[Northwest Area Foundation's Access to Capital, Work Opportunity, Enterprise Development, and Financial Inclusion grants](#): The Northwest Area Foundation supports organizations anchored in the culture of the people they serve and dedicated to expanding economic opportunity for Native communities, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, and rural communities. Their funding advances good jobs and financial capability through [four portfolios of grantmaking](#): Access to Capital, Work Opportunity, Enterprise Development, and Financial Inclusion. *Letters of inquiry accepted on an ongoing basis.*

[NoVo Foundation funding for Indigenous communities](#): Interest in a cross-section of areas, including but not limited to, violence against girls, women, and the earth; leadership of Indigenous girls and women; Indigenous cultural expression; healing from historical trauma and oppression; and Indigenous education. *Letters of inquiry accepted on an ongoing basis.*

[Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company Foundation supporting the preservation, promotion, and advancement of American Indian self-sufficiency and culture in the United States](#): Focus areas include American Indian entrepreneurship, education, and cultural preservation. The Foundation's charter mandate encompasses the preservation, promotion, and advancement of American Indian self-sufficiency and culture in the United States, including programs for (i) the development of American

Indian entrepreneurship, (ii) facilitating American Indian education (particularly college, graduate, and post-graduate education), and (iii) the preservation and enhancement of American Indian culture. *Applications are reviewed four times a year: February 28, May 31, August 31, November 30.*

[Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community funding for tribes and Native organizations across the state, region, and country](#): SMSC's donation selection process aligns with Mdewakanton Dakota values. Through their work, the SMSC continues to plan seven generations ahead and stay true to its mission of being a good neighbor, good employer, and good steward of the earth. Last year's grantees supported education, youth programming, health, specifically care programs, legal aid, community development and infrastructure, women's health, arts and culture, local communities, environmental protection, and many more worthwhile causes and enterprises. *Applications are reviewed on a monthly basis.*

[W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#): Numerous grant opportunities providing funding for Indigenous communities. Focus areas of interest include educated kids, healthy kids, secure families, racial equity, and community/civic engagement. *Application deadlines vary per grant.*

[WeRNative Community Service Mini Grants](#): Step up and shape your community in positive ways with a community service mini grant. Open to American Indian and Alaska Native youth 13-21 years old with an adult mentor. The grant funds up to \$475 for a community service project. *Applications accepting on a rolling basis.*

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## Jobs and Opportunities

New Avenues for Youth Robinswood is hiring for youth advocates and relief staff. See the following:

- New Avenues for Youth Advocate, [Residential Program](#)
- New Avenues for Youth Advocate, [Relief Staff Member](#)

Raphael House of Portland is hiring a [Shelter to Stability Coordinator](#).

Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) is [hiring for numerous positions](#), including Program Support Assistant, Contract Compliance Officer, Connection Coach, Youth Development Advocate, Domestic Violence Advocate, Gang Intervention Outreach Specialist, and ECA Substitute Classroom Teacher.



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## What We're Watching and Reading

[A Hero of Native American Civil Rights](#): The United States Courts web page has a video link to the remarkable story of Chief Standing Bear, who in 1879 persuaded a federal judge to recognize Native Americans as persons with the right to sue for their freedom, establishing him as one of the nation's earliest civil rights heroes.

In September, a Native American was named 2021 [Oregon Teacher of the Year](#).

On September 3, 2020, the Washington State Supreme Court issued a Court opinion interpreting the [Indian Child Welfare Act](#).

In October, the Center for Native American Youth released the first annual [Indigenous Futures Survey](#) that looks at the priorities and needs of the Indigenous population in the United States.

On Indigenous Peoples' Day, Cedar Wilkie Gillette was a facilitator for a virtual International Feminist Organizing School with participants from 25 countries that, before COVID-19, was scheduled to be held in person in Kenya. Cedar was appointed in 2018 as an International Feminist Organizing School Curriculum Committee Advisor by the Indigenous Environmental Network and was tasked to create various International Feminist Organizing Schools worldwide.

In October, we saw [the first Native American woman](#) play in a National Women's Soccer League game.

In recognition of National Native American Heritage Month, the White House issued a [Proclamation](#) in November.

With many people impacted by large fires in Oregon this year, an article entitled [Oregon's Indigenous Communities Know How to Stop Megafires](#) provides an interesting view on fighting fires.

There is an interesting discussion regarding the application of the [death penalty](#) to an Indian Country case involving a citizen of the Navajo Nation.

A recent New York Times article discussed how some universities are [profiting off indigenous homelands](#).

There is an interesting article about Native American women's role in [suffrage activism](#).

If October left you with a desire for more horror stories, you may want to check out "[The Only Good Indians](#)" by Stephen Graham Jones.

If you are interested in a criminal novel with an Indian Country backdrop, you may want to look into "[Winter Counts](#)" by author David Heska Wanbli Weiden.

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## Tribal Victim Services Programs in Oregon

OJJDP's [AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program](#) has launched a set of online [investigative checklists](#) to help tribal law enforcement respond to and investigate cases of missing, endangered, or abducted children. These checklists provide strategies for first responders, investigative officers, and supervisory officers involved in a missing or endangered child investigation.

[National Criminal Justice Training Center](#): The National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) provides innovative training, expert instruction, and technical assistance solutions for combating prevailing public safety and community challenges. NCJTC has significant experience working in culturally sensitive areas, such as tribal communities. Access the above website *to* create a NCJTC profile and to gain access to self-paced courses based upon your credentials.



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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. Please contact [usaor.icnews@usdoj.gov](mailto:usaor.icnews@usdoj.gov) to submit suggested trainings for our next newsletter.

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