

# Executive order addressing missing, murdered indigenous women

In a ceremony at the White House last week President Trump signed an executive order establishing the Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. "It's a tremendous problem," Trump said in announcing Operation Lady Justice, a government-wide initiative aimed at addressing the crisis of missing and murdered Native Americans.

"It's been going on for a long time—many, many decades, beyond that," Trump said.

Trump was surrounded by tribal leaders from around Indian Country, as he closed out Native American Heritage Month with the executive order. The president invited tribal leaders to share their own words on such a solemn occasion.

First to speak was Melanie Benjamin, the chief executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. She introduced herself in the Ojibwe language.

"It's a historical day to know that our missing and murdered women have a place and a remembrance, and that we care about them and their families," Benjamin said in the Oval Office, offering thanks to Trump.

Next was vice president Myron Lizer of the Navajo Nation. He was accompanied by wife, Second Lady Dottie Lizer, and their daughter, Halle Lizer.

"As the host people of the land, we feel that our prayers are being answered—and



Joyce N. Boghosian/White House

With tribal leaders, President Trump displays a signed copy of the executive order establishing the Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives at the White House in Washington, D.C., on November 26, 2019.

First Nations' prayers are powerful," said Lizer, who provided a blessing before the event started.

"We look forward to seeing some improvement in Indian Country," Lizer said as he thanked Trump in the Navajo language.

In attendance was Chairman Alvin 'A.J.' Not Afraid, of the Crow Tribe. Though Trump pointed out the uniqueness of his name, it was in a friendly and professional manner.

"I personally am affected," said Not Afraid, whose reservation is located in a county that suffers from the highest rate of missing and murdered cases in the state of Montana.

"So knowing that you support in the realm of this executive order, the Crow Tribe is honored," Not Afraid said, before present-

ing the President with an image of a group of Crow citizens in their headdresses.

Kevin DuPuis, the chairman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, introduced himself in the Ojibwe language. He too has been personally affected by the crisis of the missing and murdered in Indian Country.

"Our women are the ones who raise our children," DuPuis said. "Our women are the ones who take care of our village. Our women are the ones who take care of communities—our teachers."

"Our children are our future," DuPuis said. "And these are both being affected in that way."

Another Fond du Lac leader closed out the round of remarks from the Indian Country attendees. Council

member Roger Smith said he's been working on issues affecting the missing and murdered since being hired as his tribe's first police officer more than 20 years ago.

"I'm also honored to be sitting on Governor Walz from Minnesota's Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women," he said of an initiative signed into law by Gov. Tim Walz, after being written by State Rep. Mary Kunes-Podein, who is a descendant of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

According to Trump's executive order, the Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives will be housed and funded by the Department of Justice. It is being co-chaired by Attorney General Barr and Secretary of the Interior Bernhardt, who were present at the signing.

"As you know, this is a very vexing and dangerous issue in Indian Country, and I appreciate your leadership on it," Barr said to Trump.

"This is an opportunity to bring the expertise of the Department of Justice, and the experience and expertise of Interior, together with our teams to work for these communities that desperately can use our help," said Bernhardt.

In addition to the co-chairs, the task force will consist of the leaders of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of

Indian Affairs and the Administration for Native Americans, among other federal officials. The members have been directed to consult with tribal governments, and provide a written report within one year, to be followed up by another status update a year later.

"The issue of missing and murdered Indigenous persons has not only affected

families, but it impacts communities," Second Lady Dottie Lizer of the Navajo Nation said after the event at the White House. "As leaders, we must continue to advocate for safety and justice for Native women and children. Most importantly, we need to address efforts to restore balance, love, and harmony within Native homes and communities."

## Please contact Vital Statistics

The Confederated Tribes Vital Statistics Department would like the following individuals to assist in updating your contact information.

The information needed is a current mailing address. Note: Due to upcoming holiday, address changes for per capita to arrive in on time December is this Friday, November 22. Make sure your box is open and not closed.

Tribal member can come to the office, or send Vital Statistics a letter with the following information needed:

Name, enrollment number, date of birth, former address, and new address.

You may also fax to Vital Statistics Department, 541-553-2236.

Or by mail.  
Vital Statistics Dept.,

PO Box C, Warm Springs, OR 97761. This notice is to the following individuals (last name first):

Anstett, Randall  
Bechtol, Debbie  
Bruno III, Cecil  
Bruno, Joshua  
Caldera, Jordon  
Ching, Elmina  
Clements, Matthew  
Crowe, Marcus  
Dodge, Austin  
Fry, Joshua  
Heath, Rebecca  
Henry, Gilbert  
Ike, Lanell  
Jackson-Meanus, Vesta  
Jones, Linda  
Leach, Sabrina  
McCraw, Samantha  
Mitchell, Jeannie  
Neri, Richardo  
Sanchez Cabrera, Soledad E  
Torres, Stephanie  
Tufti, Wisdom  
Williams, Francelia  
Williams, Raymond

## In the Tribal Court of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Please note: All hearings are conducted at the Warm Springs Tribal Court.

**Sylvia Sampson-Spino, Petitioner, vs Lois Squiemphen, RESPONDENT; Case No. RO47-19. TO: Sylvia Sampson-Spino, & Lois Squiemphen:**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a RESTRAINING ORDER has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the **3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2019 @ 9:00 AM**

**S A N D R A CLEMENTS, Petitioner, vs GRANT CLEMENTS SR, Respondent; Case No. DO125-19. TO: GRANT CLEMENTS SR, SANDRA CLEMENTS, VOCS:**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a SHOWCAUSE has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the **7<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2020 @ 10:00 AM**

**MARY L. DAVIS, Petitioner, vs JULIA SIMTUSTUS, Respondent; Case No. JV91-14, JV68-17. TO: JULIA SIMTUSTUS, JARRON**

**DAVIS:**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a CONSERVATOR GUARDIANSHIP has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the **27<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2020 @ 3:00 PM**

**CTWS, Petitioner, vs CYNTHIA ISADORE, Respondent; Case No. JV53-17. TO: CYNTHIA ISADORE:**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a ASSISTED GUARDIANSHIP has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the **24<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2020 @ 9:00 AM**

**CTWS, Petitioner, vs TO: KISHON GRAYBAEL, MARION GRAYBAEL JR. Case No. JV35-10, JV12-15. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a ASSISTED GUARDIANSHIP REVIEW has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court.**

By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the **13<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2020 @ 9:00 AM**

**CTWS, Petitioner, vs AMANDA SWITZLER, Respondent; Case No. JV19-07. TO: AMANDA SWITZLER:**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a CUSTODY REVIEW has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the **8<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2020 @ 9:00 AM**

**PROBATE**

**In the matter of the estate of Jessica E. Gilbert-Finch, W.S., U/A, deceased. Estate no. 2015-PR31. To John Finch, Jessica E. Kirk and Bobby Spackman:** You are hereby notified that an informal probate hearing is scheduled for the **January 2, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

**In the matter of the estate of Marilyn Wagner, W.S., U/A, deceased. Estate no. 2019-PR17.** Notice is hereby given that Marilyn Wagner, who at the time of her death last known residence was 1706 Foster St., Warm Springs, OR, died on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019 and the court has appointed Valerie Squiemphen as public administrator.

**In the matter of the estate of Darrell Anthony James Smith, W.S., U/A,**

**deceased. Estate no. 2015-30.** To Cheryle Smith and Mackalin Kalama: You are hereby notified that an informal probate hearing is scheduled for **January 2, 2020 at 4 p.m.**

**In the matter of the estate of Tracy D. Fuentes, W.S., U/A, deceased. Estate no. 2019-PR41. To Dellarae Suppah and LaDonna Squiemphen:** You are hereby notified that an informal probate hearing is scheduled for **January 6, 2020 at 11 a.m.**

**In the matter of the estate of Glenn R. Brunoe, W.S., U/A, deceased. Estate no. 2017-PR43. To Lorene Wainanwit and Nicole Alexander:** You are hereby notified that an informal probate hearing is scheduled for **January 9, 2020 at 4 p.m.**

**In the matter of the estate of Shari A. Miller, W.S., U/A, deceased. Estate no. 2019-PR46. To Jeremy Miller and Roberta Tufti:** You are hereby notified that an informal probate hearing is rescheduled to **December 30, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.**

**In the matter of the estate of Eric L. Boise, W.S., U/A, deceased. Estate no. 2017-PR34. To Ila Jumping Bull:**

## 2020 Census initiative in Indian Country

The U.S. Census Bureau is recognizing the unique challenges of conducting the census as accurately as possible in American Indian communities.

To accomplish this goal, the Census is reaching out to those communities in advance to build awareness.

This work includes coordinating closely

with tribal governments to accurately count tribal populations on and off reservations.

The 2020 Census is now recruiting people from Indian Country to assist with the 2020 Census count.

You can learn more by calling 1-855-JOB-2020. The pay is very competitive, and the hours are flexible.

## Columbia gorge photo contest

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is now accepting submissions for its annual photo contest. The 2019 contest is entitled *Nature + Nurture*, featuring nature pictures at the Columbia. The deadline to submit is December 31. Grand prize is a \$300 Pro Photo Supply gift card,

and a large print of the winning photo.

Seven other category winners will receive \$100 Pro Photo Supply gift cards, and large print of their photo. For the list of contest rules, or to submit photos: [gorgefriends.org/photocontest](http://gorgefriends.org/photocontest)

You are hereby notified that an informal probate hearing is rescheduled to **December 30, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.**

**In the matter of the estate of Stanley R. Smith Jr., W.S., U/A, deceased. Estate no. 2017-PR07. To Rollina Smith, Lori Smith, Stanley Smith III, Jason Smith, Joella Smith and Jacoba Smith:** You are hereby notified that an informal probate hearing is scheduled for **January 6, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

**2020 at 4 p.m.**

**In the matter of the estate of Theda Whalawitsa, W.S., U/A, deceased. Estate no. 2015-PR21. To Lonnie James, Rodney Guerin and Susan Guerin:** You are hereby notified that an informal probate hearing is scheduled for **January 6, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**