

Around Indian Country

Supreme Court considering law enforcement in Indian Country

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta*. At issue is whether the state of Oklahoma can prosecute non-Indians who commit crimes against Indians in Indian Country.

The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals ruled that jurisdiction lies with the federal government. The hearing lasted about two hours and 12 minutes, far longer than the 70 minutes allotted by the Supreme Court.

The hearing concluded with a

tribute to Justice Stephen G. Breyer, who is stepping down at the end of the court's current session. **In other national Native news:**

In late April, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs hosted a hearing on several pending Native American-related laws:

Senate Bill 789 would repeal the Existing Substandard Provisions Encouraging Conciliation with Tribes Act. The bipartisan bill would repeal outdated racist and discriminatory laws that were im-

posed on tribes and their citizens. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs approved the bill at a business meeting on March 24.

Senate Bill 314 is a proposed law to repeal the Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Act.

The Klamath Tribes, headquartered in Southern Oregon, are seeking to repeal a termination-era law that affects their trust funds and trust assets. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs approved the bill at a business meeting on March 10.

Senate Bill 559 is a proposed law to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to address lands held in trust in Oregon for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs approved the bill at a business meeting on March 10.

Bill 6181 is the Samish Indian Nation Land Reaffirmation Act.

The bill confirms the acquisition of 6.7 acres in Washington State in trust for the Samish Nation. A draft discussion of an an-

amendment in the nature of a substitute has been offered.

Senate Bill 437 would amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude payments to Alaska Native elders for determining eligibility for need-based federal programs and services.

House Bill 6063 is a proposed law to authorize the U.S. Court of Federal Claims to hear a land claim from the Miami Nation, headquartered in Oklahoma. The tribe has a treaty-based claim to 2.6 million acres in the state of Illinois.

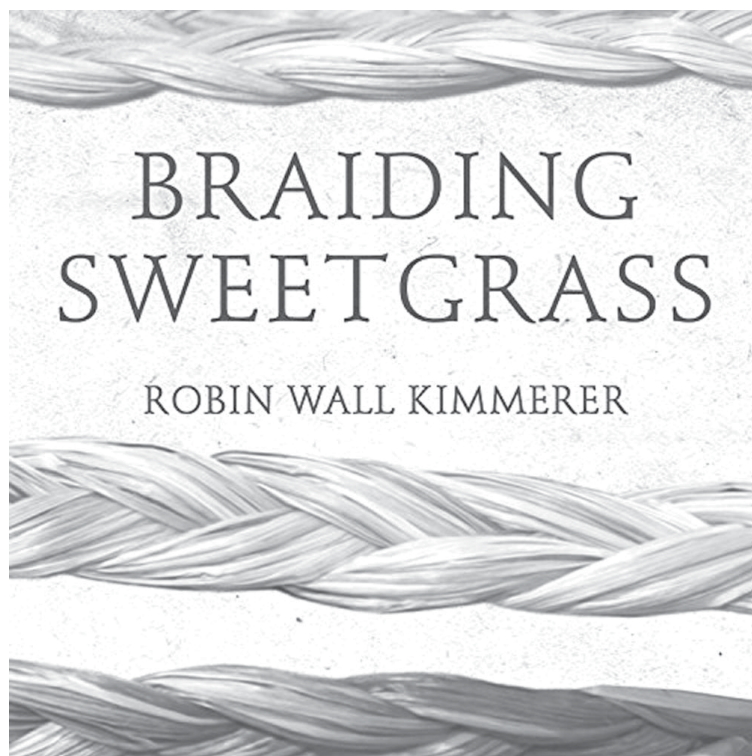
WSU selects 'Braiding Sweetgrass' as next common read for students

Washington State University has selected as its 2022-23 common read for first-year and other students the book *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Published in 2013 by Milkweed Press, it features essays that convey scientific knowledge as well as indigenous lore and reflections on subjects such as the relationship between humans and the land, sacred traditions, agriculture and land use, environmental threat and regeneration, climate change, and more. The book is divided into five sections: planting, tending, picking, braiding, and burning sweetgrass.

"I am very excited about the possibilities this selection offers in terms of topics, its utility across multiple disciplines, access, and connection with university initiatives and with our local region," said Karen Weathermon, director of First-Year Programs, which includes the 16-year-old Common Reading Program.

Each year, first-year and other students use topics from a shared



book in classes across several disciplines, sparking discussions with professors and among students and building a community of learners.

In this current year, 2021-22, the book *Tales from Two Americas* has allowed the program to

host and partner with 19 other units across the university to host 92 events or exhibits that have carried common-reading credit. Students can typically select from three-to-five events per week to enhance their knowledge relating to book topics.

Native American hires reflect changing Interior leadership

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland is recruiting a notable number of Native American political appointees, a trend advocates hope will lead to greater consideration of Indigenous perspectives within a department that touches tribal lives in myriad ways.

In the most recent moves, Interior announced a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Joel West Williams, as deputy solicitor for Indian Affairs; and a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, Tracy Canard Goodluck, as a senior adviser to the assistant secretary for Indian affairs.

Haaland, a member of New Mexico's Laguna Pueblo, is the first Native American to head the Cabinet-level department.

"We've never seen so much Native leadership," said Kevin Washburn, a former Interior

assistant secretary for Indian Affairs. "We have seen less pigeonholing of Natives into the obvious positions, such as in Indian Affairs."

Shannon Holsey, president of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians and treasurer of the National Congress of American Indians, commented:

"Appointing American Indians and Alaska Natives to the Department of the Interior and across all federal agencies is incredibly significant and important for Indian Country. They bring a unique perspective and understanding of Indian Country to their positions and have a direct impact on crafting policies and internal decision points that can make a substantial difference for Tribal Nations and tribal citizens across the United States."

COCC has free summer credits for high school grads

Just in time for pending high school graduates who are considering summer plans, Central Oregon Community College offers a new 'four free credits' special.

This will allow in-district, Class of 2022 grads to try a college class completely free.

With a value of up to \$529, the free credits are intended to help put college careers in motion. To learn more visit the website:

cocc.edu/departments/admissions/future-students/class-of-2022.aspx

Deadline in June

"Students can choose from an extensive summer catalog that includes graphic design, automotive, entrepreneurship, public speaking, software applications, math in society and many, many others," said Tyler Hayes, director of admis-

sions and records.

"For some, this could mean gaining the necessary skills to enter the workforce or perhaps to further their education at COCC or another college or university."

Some summer classes at COCC are offered remotely, with loaner laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots available, while others are held in-person.

The offer includes both tuition

and standard course fees.

Registration for new COCC students is now open and will go through June 12.

Classes start Tuesday, June 21. Students who wish to take advantage of the free credits at COCC, who are not already enrolled at the college will need to submit an application and pay a one-time (lifetime) \$25 application fee for summer term and complete the necessary

enrollment steps.

Eligible students include public, private, home-schooled and GED-earning in-district high school students from the graduating class of 2022.

Students must provide a copy of their high school diploma, transcript or GED, submitted electronically no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, June 24, to receive the free summer term credits.

Personnel change at Columbia Fish Commission

Dear partners and stakeholders of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission:

I am writing to announce that I have resigned my position as manager of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Human Resources Department.

The following are a list of con-

tacts. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. Contact information: General Human Resources questions can be sent to HR@critfc.org

Payroll and benefits questions can go to Sue Wallace at: SWallace@critfc.org.

Accounts payable questions

should be sent to AP@critfc.org

The Partners Group questions should be sent to Rey Perez, Employee Benefits Consultant, rperez@tpgrp.com; Janet Rodriguez, Benefits Account Manager, by email: jrodriguez@tpgrp.com

Sincerely, **Lorilee Morsette.**

Chickasaw citizen new Native advisor at the White House

The White House has a new Native advisor in the second year of Joe Biden's presidency.

Daron Carreiro, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, began serving as the Senior Policy Advisor for Native Affairs on the White House Domestic Policy Council in April. He recently updated one of his social media profiles to reflect his new role in the Biden administration.

Carreiro comes to the White

House after nearly a decade at the Department of Justice. He served as a trial attorney in DOJ's Indian Resources Section, where he worked on a number of high-profile cases, including several that resulted in significant victories for tribes across the nation.

One of the most recent cases led to victory for the Yakama Nation in a long-running dispute in Washington state. With the United States acting as trustee for the tribe,

the federal courts confirmed that the Yakama Reservation includes sacred areas that were promised to the Yakama people by the Treaty of 1855.

"The Yakama Nation will never compromise when our Treaty is at stake," Chairman Delano Saluskin said last week, after the U.S. Supreme Court finally put an end to litigation that Carreiro supported as a federal government attorney.



Tananawit's ARTSPACE
GRAND OPENING
& Art Crawl with Live Art
& Vendors

This is a celebration of a landmark feat in the non profits strategic plan & initiative to provide arts opportunities , programming & other endeavors for artist representation of the Columbia River Tribes, but specifically the community of Warm Springs.

May 6th | 10am-2pm
Casino Plaza | 3240 Walsey Lane ste #5

10:00
Opening Prayer & Blessing Opening by Executive Director Jaime Scott
10:10
Prayer Song by Eagle Thunder Singers
10:15
Close by Chair Charlene Dimmerick
10:30
Ribbon Cutting & Cake Slice
11:00-2:00
Art Crawl Starts with Live Art Exhibits & Vendors