

House Bill 2625 signed

LCIS continued
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es and ideas ... we have to be good stewards of the land and be strong on issues that affect our people. We stand strong together as Tribal leaders."

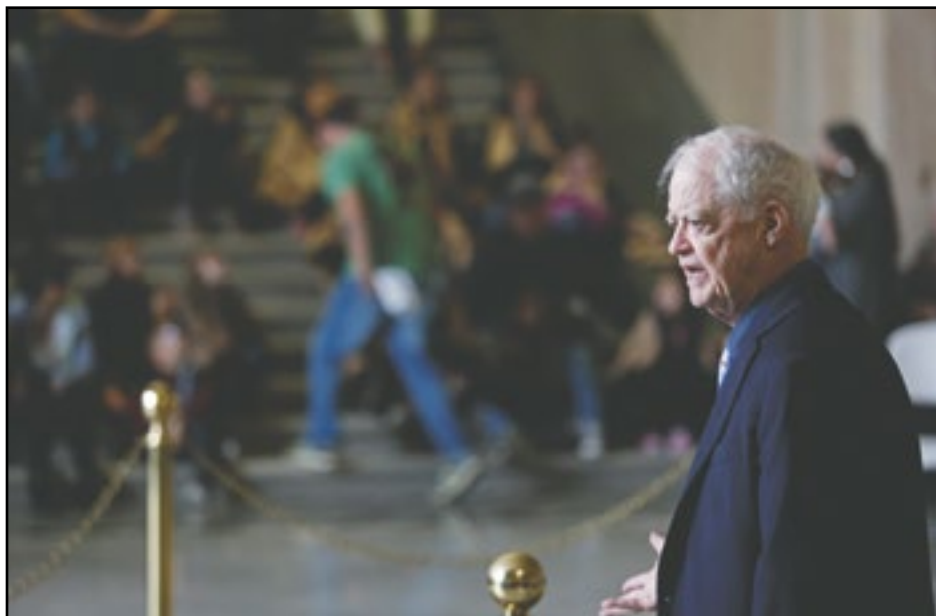
Kennedy reviewed some of the commission's work, such as working to remove the derogatory word "squaw" from state landmarks, flying the Tribal flags outside the state Capitol and including Native American curriculum as a learning requirement in Oregon's public schools.

"This is due to the work these nine nations did," Kennedy said. "We stand together to address health care needs so our people could better their lives and live with dignity. We move together on into the future. LCIS is a byproduct of what it took to unite us. ... Today, we will watch our governor sign a proclamation for American Indian Week and to correct the injustice for those who are missing and murdered. ... I raise my hands to all of these leaders."

After representatives from the nine Tribes and the Native American Rehabilitation Association spoke, the ceremony ended with the Grand Ronde singers and drummers performing. Brown closed the ceremony by signing a proclamation declaring May 18-25 as American Indian Week.

"I'd like to first recognize our veterans in attendance today," she said. "Oregon's Native American community stepped up in much higher numbers and we are eternally grateful for your service."

Brown sat at a desk surrounded by Tribal leaders and LCIS members, read the proclamation aloud and distributed commemorative pens to all nine Tribal representatives after signing the proclamation. Following the ceremony, employees of Spirit Mountain Casino served a complimentary lunch of salmon, roast beef, salad, rolls and cupcakes.



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Senate President Peter Courtney, D-District 11, speaks during the Legislative Commission on Indian Services Spring Celebration held at the Capitol in Salem on Thursday, May 16.

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Tribal Council member Denise Harvey carries in the Grand Ronde flag at the beginning of the 16th Legislative Commission on Indian Services Spring Celebration.

House Bill 2625 signing ceremony

Later in the afternoon, a group of legislators, advocates and Tribal leaders gathered in the governor's signing room to witness House Bill 2625 become law. Tribal Council members Lisa Leno and Denise Harvey were in attendance.

"This bill is a response to a need," Sanchez said. "I just happen to be the one who gets the privilege of speaking today. I am here because people recognized we didn't

department had no jurisdiction on Tribal land, but his conclusion was that could be overcome with a collaboration between local, county, Tribal and state police.

"When I heard the Tribal members speak about the missing and murdered women ... these are the people of Oregon," he said. "This is honorable work. I give my assurance that I will treat these women as if they were my own daughters, and put my best foot forward."

Sanchez thanked Portland Tribal Liaison Laura John (Blackfeet/Seneca) for her assistance, as well as Patsy Whitefelt, a Yakama Nation educator and activist for missing and murdered indigenous women and girls who pushed for a similar bill in Washington state. It was signed into law in April 2019. Whitefoot's sister disappeared in 1987 when she was 29 and was never found.

Brown thanked everyone who helped make the bill a reality.

"It is rare to see bills on my desk with so many legislators' names on it," she said. "Thanks to all of you who worked on this."

After the bill signing, Leno said it was "a great day."

"This is an opportunity for the State Police to really start looking at this issue and the injustice that has been happening," she said. "It's a chance to right that wrong. We'll be committed to continue to work on this and be active partners in the work that is to come. I am so excited."

Other states that have passed similar legislation include Montana, Arizona and New Mexico. A bill in

the U.S. House of Representatives would expand Tribes' access to federal crime databases, require annual reports and establish standards for handling cases of missing and murdered Native American women.

The federal bill is named Savanna's Act, after Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, a pregnant woman who was killed by a neighbor in 2017 in North Dakota. Her baby was cut from her womb but survived. ■



Gov. Kate Brown signs HB 2625 into law during a ceremony held at the Capitol in Salem on Thursday, May 16. The bill directs the Oregon State Police to study how to increase criminal justice resources relating to missing Native American women in Oregon. Tribal Council member Lisa Leno, center rear, joins other Tribal leaders to watch the signing.

have the voices we needed in this building. Being able to bring this bill forward was a privilege. Many families have struggled with this issue of having no answers (when loved ones go missing). It's a huge issue all over the country at this point and time."

Oregon State Police Superintendent Travis Hampton said that when he first met with Sanchez, his initial thoughts were that his

Casino receives gold medal in Best of Mid-Valley

Spirit Mountain Casino once again received the gold medal in the Best Casino category of the *Salem Statesman Journal's* annual Best of the Mid-Valley competition. Spirit Mountain bested Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City, which received the silver medal, and Ilani in Ridgefield, Wash., which received the bronze medal.

The special advertising section was published on Sunday, May 12. ■

Elders Marketplaces scheduled

The Elders Marketplace will be held at Spirit Mountain Casino, 26820 S.W. Salmon River Highway, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, May 31, through Sunday, June 2.

Future marketplaces will be held July 12-14 and Aug. 16-18.

For more information, contact Julie Little at 503-689-5005 or Penny DeLoe at 971-241-0864. ■

WIC visits Community Center monthly

Pregnant? Breastfeeding? Does your family include a child under the age of 5?

If so, you may qualify for the Women, Infants and Children program. With WIC, people can receive answers to nutritional questions and access fruits and vegetables, whole grains, eggs, milk, cheese, juice, cereal and more.

A WIC representative visits the Tribal Community Center on the third Tuesday of the month, which will be June 18.

Walk-ins are welcome between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 503-879-2034. ■