

When life gives you lemons ...



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Tribal youth Kalea Liebelt, 9, delivers a cup of lemonade to Early Childhood Education Program Manager Angie Blackwell in Tribal Housing on Wednesday, March 31. It was the third time that Liebelt has offered lemonade since mid-March. While the goal of the stand is to earn money, she has also reinvested some of the funds to purchase a new table, jug and cups.



Tribal youths Owen Campbell, 11, and Kalea Liebelt, 9, help a customer at the lemonade stand Liebelt set up in Tribal Housing on Wednesday, March 31.



Contributed photo

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced the formation of a new Missing & Murdered Unit within the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services in early April.

New BIA unit will assist with investigating missing, murdered Indigenous cases

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo Nation) announced the formation of a new Missing & Murdered Unit within the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services.

According to a press release, the new unit will provide leadership and direction for cross-departmental and interagency work involving missing and murdered Native Americans and Alaska Natives, helping to put the full weight of the federal government into investigating these cases and include federal law enforcement resources across agencies and throughout Indian Country.

“Violence against Indigenous peoples is a crisis that has been underfunded for decades,” Haaland said. “Far too often, murders and missing person’s cases in Indian Country go unsolved and unaddressed, leaving families and communities devastated. The new MMU unit will provide the resources and leadership to prioritize these cases and coordinate resources to hold people accountable, keep our communities safe and provide closure for families.”

Haaland, a former New Mexico congresswoman, became the first Native American Cabinet member in the history of the country in mid-March after being confirmed by the U.S. Senate and sworn in by Vice President Kamala Harris.

Approximately 1,500 Native American and Alaska Native missing persons have been entered into the National Crime Information Center, and approximately 2,700 cases of murder and nonnegligent homicide have been reported to the federal government’s Uniform Crime Reporting program.

To help address these unresolved cases, Operation Lady Justice — a

task force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives — was formed in 2019. The new unit will build on that work by designating new leadership and support positions.

Investigations often remain unsolved due to a lack of investigative resources available to identify new information from witness testimony, re-examine new or retained material evidence, and review fresh activities of suspects.

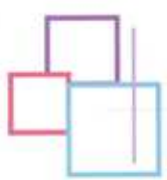
The Missing and Murdered Unit, in addition to reviewing unsolved cases, will immediately begin working with Tribal, BIA and FBI investigators on active cases. It also will enable the department to expand its collaborative efforts with other agencies.

“Whether it’s a missing family member or a homicide investigation, these efforts will be all hands-on deck,” Haaland said. “We are fully committed to assisting Tribal communities with these investigations, and the MMU will leverage every resource available to be a force-multiplier in preventing these cases from becoming cold case investigations.”

The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Oregon released its own Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons report on Feb. 19, the first of its kind released by any U.S. Attorney’s Office since Operation Lady Justice was launched.

The Oregon report provides Tribes, law enforcement and the public with an overview of current cases as well as the Attorney’s Office plans to address the crisis in 2021.

The report includes summaries of eight murdered and 11 missing Indigenous people, including Grand Ronde Tribal member Heather Cameron, who has been missing since Aug. 18, 2012, from a remote area near of Redding, Calif. ■



ANGEL BOOKKEEPING LLC

Karen Case 971-237-1230
930 SW Bales Ave., Willamina, OR 97396
angelbookkeepingllc@gmail.com

UPDATE FROM: ANGEL BOOKKEEPING LLC – Karen Case

The Federal Tax Deadline to file is **May 15, 2021**

You are valued and please be assured we continue to be available to care for all your tax needs during this time of encouraged social distancing.

Due to the impact of Covid-19, we will not be scheduling any appointments in person at the Confederated Tribes in Grand Ronde, but will be available in the Willamina home office location.

We will continue to be doing taxes and accepting your documents via email, mail, drop-off, or by appointment at the Willamina home office location.

We are sorry for this inconvenience and encourage you to stay safe and healthy.

You may contact us at **971-237-1230**

ANGEL BOOKKEEPING LLC
Karen Case
930 SW Bales Ave.
Willamina, OR 97396

angelbookkeepingllc@gmail.com

Massage at Health & Wellness Center

Mind, Body & Soul Therapeutic Massage started at the Health & Wellness Clinic.

Remember: Appointments for massage are not managed by the Health & Wellness Center staff.

To schedule an appointment, call 971-237-2561. ■