

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Trump immigration case won't get hearing

Associated Press
The Supreme Court won't weigh in on the legality of a controversial Trump administration immigration policy after an agreement by the Biden administration and states and groups challenging it. The agreement comes amid the Biden administration's reconsideration of the so-called public charge rule.

It's the latest outgrowth of the Biden administration's effort to undo Trump

administration immigration policies. The new administration recently dismissed high court appeals over former President Donald Trump's effort to deny funding to so-called sanctuary communities.

The justices, at the administration's request, also put off cases they had agreed to hear on the funding of portions of the wall along the border with Mexico and the policy of forcing asylum seekers to wait in Mexico for their hearings

The high court had in late February agreed to hear a Trump administration appeal of a lower court ruling against the public charge rule. The policy allows the denial of permanent residency status to immigrants because of their use of food stamps, Medicaid, housing vouchers or other public benefits. On Tuesday, however, the Biden administration withdrew the appeal, saying all parties involved agreed to dismiss the case.



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Travis Barker and Shelley Howell of Augusta, Montana, set up the Ford Creek Guest Ranch booth on Tuesday before the Central Oregon Sportsmen's Show at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond.

Show

Continued from A1

In a normal year, the Sportsmen's Show could see between 6,000 and 7,000 people on a Saturday, he said.

Even though the county will be moving into moderate risk under the state guidelines this week, Carskadon said the company is not considering moving

up its threshold.

"Unlike sporting events or concerts, we can control the flow of people, and we intend to," he said.

The event has also made other changes like widening the space of aisles between exhibits, providing plastic barriers between booths and holding about one-third of the whole event outdoors,

Carskadon said.

"We're just trying to run our business and keep people safe," he said.

The Sportsmen's Show and the county have drawn criticism by some in the community after it was announced the vaccination clinic held at the fairgrounds would have to move its operations out to accommodate the show.

Carskadon said he was sorry that people were upset, and that this show has had these dates on the books for years.

"Nobody ever asked us to move (the dates); nobody ever asked us to modify them," Carskadon said, referring to the county.

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Curriculum

Continued from A1

Adopting new curriculum was pushed to the side.

"All heck broke loose," said Skip Offenhauser, who was Bend-La Pine's director of teaching and learning in the 2019-20 school year. "Curriculum work completely halted."

In late fall 2020, Bend-La Pine's new curriculum chief, Juan Cuadros, finally rebooted the curriculum adoption process.

Still, Cuadros said the process will take time. The soonest new English language arts materials will be used will be in September 2022, he said.

"We don't want to rush through this process and do it poorly," Cuadros said.

When he was hired in July, Cuadros said he wanted to bring inclusive learning material to Bend-La Pine Schools. It's a goal that district leadership has emphasized repeat-

edly in the past few years, especially after the police killing of George Floyd in May 2020, which sparked nationwide racial justice protests.

This upcoming spring, the district plans to hold curriculum-focused listening sessions with groups representing various underserved groups in the Bend community, Cuadros said. These include the Latino Community Association, the Restorative Justice & Equity Group and Father's Group, a nonprofit organization primarily consisting of local Black fathers.

Cuadros also expects English classes to read authors that are from non-white backgrounds, like Black writer James Baldwin or Scott Momaday, who is a member of the Kiowa tribe from Oklahoma.

These writers' perspectives will be compared to those who are part of the traditional English canon, such as Walt Whitman, to see how their different backgrounds influenced

their views, Cuadros said.

Even subjects where race or gender isn't typically a factor, like math or science, can still be taught while keeping various cultures in mind, Cuadros said.

"An equation is an equation," he said. "But you can include mathematical problems from Egypt, like, how were the pyramids built?"

At the moment, there isn't a planned date for fully adopting new social studies curriculum for elementary and high school, said Cuadros and Offenhauser — who is now the executive director of elementary schools.

Although new middle school social studies curriculum was adopted in fall 2019, the other grade levels were in the middle of that process when COVID-19 hit, they said. Now, the district is waiting until the summer or fall to start again, Offenhauser said.

"This year has brought a lot

of new challenges. Our teachers are really stretched," he said. "Once all this ends, and we're in a better spot, we'll have to go back to where we left off and resurrect all this."

Offenhauser and Cuadros also said the district plans to soon switch to a new, quicker curriculum-adoption method.

Traditionally, textbooks and materials are used for seven years, before changing to new editions, Cuadros said. But Bend-La Pine leaders want to use the Canvas online learning platform to create easy-to-update curricula for all subjects.

For example, if another social justice movement occurs — like the anti-police brutality protests from 2020 — and the textbook doesn't reference it, teachers can easily swap in a relevant film, or article, or a new textbook, Offenhauser said.

"It would be very nimble," he said. "It's 21st-century teaching."

Link

Continued from A1

He's been sentenced four times, most recently in 2016, when his life sentence was amended to include the possibility of parole after 30 years.

Link now has the option of appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court, though his former lawyer, Thaddeus Betz, said it was highly unlikely the court would accept the case for review.

Oregon's Measure 11, passed in 1995, mandated lengthy prison terms for certain violent and sex-related crimes, and for children to be tried as adults for some violent and sex-related crimes.

The Oregon Supreme Court ruling, which upheld Link's 2016 sentence, applies to the 25 or so Oregonians who were minors sentenced as adults for murder or aggravated murder between 1995 and 2019, when the Oregon Legislature softened Measure 11's juvenile provisions.

The facts of the Redmond Five case are essentially this: In 2001, five Redmond-area teenagers hatched a plan to move to Canada and get into the marijuana business. To get there, Link and friends Adam Thomas, Seth Koch, Lucretia Karle and Ashley Summers, decided to steal Thomas' mother's car.

The teens went to her house near Tumalo and tore it up searching for car keys. They prepared the house to ambush her; the girls filled a syringe with bleach.

Link left the house as they waited for Barbara Thomas to return.

When Barbara Thomas arrived home, Koch and Thomas beat her in the head with empty champagne bottles. Koch, then 15, ultimately killed her with a hunting rifle.

The "Redmond Five," as they came to be known, were arrested at the Canadian border in Barbara Thomas' vehicle.

Though Link didn't physically take part in the attack, prosecutors asserted he instructed the others on what to do before he left the house.

Link opted for a trial by judge, rather than a jury, but ultimately, Judge Alta Brady

agreed with the state's characterization of Link as the mastermind behind Barbara Thomas' death.

In 2003, Brady found Link guilty of aggravated murder and gave him a sentence of life in prison without parole.

But over the intervening years, the trend in criminal justice has been away from harsh sentences for children and toward rehabilitation. In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Miller v. Alabama*, declaring life sentences without parole unconstitutional for minors. That, along with other developments, led to Link being resentenced in 2016 to life with parole possible in 30 years.

Oregon has a unique two-step parole process where inmates must first be found to be "rehabilitated" before they can make an argument for release. Advocates for reform call the process onerous and time-consuming.

Link's appellate lawyers pushed for a sentence lighter than life with parole possible in 30 years, citing the U.S. Constitution's Eighth Amendment provisions against cruel and unusual punishment. The Oregon Court of Appeals agreed in 2019, giving him a shot at a lighter sentence.

Link is today an inmate of Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem. Betz, his former lawyer, calls him a model prisoner.

"Children have a profound capacity for change," Betz said. "It's quite common for youthful offenders to never get in trouble again, and I think that's what you would have seen here."

Koch is an inmate of the Oregon State Correctional Institution in Salem, serving a life sentence without parole.

The female members of the group, Karle and Summers, opted for plea deals and were assigned 25-year prison sentences. They're currently incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Institution in Wilsonville, scheduled for release in 2026.

Adam Thomas has ended his appeals and resigned himself to a life in prison, according to Betz.

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Oscar Gonzalez, an employee with the Latino Community Association who works closely with education issues, said he was frustrated by some aspects of Bend-La Pine's curriculum rollout, like the lack of a plan to create separate ethnic studies classes. But he also understood why the district was moving at a slower pace.

"Maybe they're thinking, they need to walk before they can run," Gonzalez said.

Still, Gonzalez said Cuadros

was the right man to reform Bend-La Pine's curriculum. It's important that local students learn about cultures other than their own, he said.

"That way, we can get along better and appreciate our differences," Gonzalez said. "When you don't have that relationship and don't know that history, that's when you start conjuring and theorizing and coming up with stereotypes."

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