

Official Proclamation

ONE BOOK ONE VALLEY, 2024

A valley-wide Community Read sponsored by the
Towns of Avon, Eagle, Gypsum, Minturn,
Red Cliff and Vail

WHEREAS, Community Read programs have united and uplifted hundreds of cities and municipalities throughout the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, the book "Calling for a Blanket Dance" by Oscar Hokeah is the author's "highly anticipated debut novel that tells the story of Ever Geimausaddle, the son of a Kiowa and Cherokee mother and a Mexican father, as he navigates life across Native lands in Oklahoma"; and,

WHEREAS, Hokeah's novel will feel familiar to fans of Louise Erdrich and Tommy Orange, shifting between the perspectives of different characters and jumping around in time to tell a story of the contemporary experiences of Indigenous people, while also taking care to disrupt any reductive notions of homogeneity in this arena; and,

WHEREAS, the title "Calling for a Blanket Dance" tells the story of a young Native American boy who belongs to a splintering family, grasps for stability and love, and makes all the wrong choices until he finds a space of his own". Oscar Hokeah's electric debut takes us into the life of Ever Geimausaddle, whose family--part Mexican, part Native American--is determined to hold on to their community despite obstacles everywhere they turn.

Ever's father is injured at the hands of corrupt police on the border when he goes to visit family in Mexico, while his mother struggles both to keep her job and care for her husband. And young Ever is lost and angry at all that he doesn't understand, at this world that seems to undermine his sense of safety. Ever's relatives all have ideas about who he is and who he should be. His Cherokee grandmother, knowing the importance of proximity, urges the family to move across Oklahoma to be near her, while his grandfather, watching their traditions slip away, tries to reunite Ever with his heritage through traditional gourd dances.

Through it all, every relative wants the same: to remind Ever of the rich and supportive communities that surround him, there to hold him tight, and for Ever to learn to take the strength given to him to save not only himself but also the next generation. How will this young man visualize a place for himself when the world hasn't made room for him to start with? Honest, heartbreaking, and ultimately uplifting, Calling for a Blanket Dance is the story of how Ever Geimausaddle finds his way home; and,

WHEREAS, this Eagle Valley Community Read is the 13th Year of the One Book One Valley initiative. According to Ali Teague from the Bookworm of Edwards; "I can't believe this incredible book is a debut novel with its lyrical language and wholly unique characters and voices. Calling for a Blanket Dance illustrates what it's like to be Mexican American and Indigenous in the United States. I'm so glad we picked it for our community-wide read, because it demonstrates the expectations that communities have for each individual, and the responsibility we all have to raise each other; and,

WHEREAS, this Eagle Valley Community Read will feature book discussions in venues around the valley; special programs being planned by our two newest partners - the Vail Symposium and the Eagle Valley Land Trust; and, a special Guest Appearance by the author in April; and,

WHEREAS, the Vail Public Library, in collaboration with the Bookworm of Edwards, Colorado Mountain College, Battle Mountain High School, Eagle Valley High School, Vail Mountain School, the Vail Symposium and the Eagle Valley Land Trust have collectively resolved to bring this valley-wide Community Read program to the citizens of Eagle County; and,

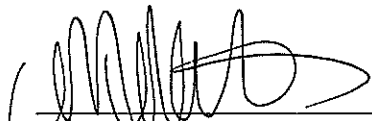
WHEREAS, the One Book One Valley initiative will encourage literacy and shared enjoyment of reading throughout Eagle County.

NOW THEREFORE, we the representatives from the Town of Red Cliff, do hereby promote the One Book One Valley initiative and officially announce and promote the book "Calling for a Blanket Dance" to all Eagle County residents for their enjoyment and the enjoyment of all.

By:  _____

Mayor Duke Gerber

ATTEST:



Melissa Matthews, Clerk