



INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY

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E-Weekly Newsletter - December 12, 2018



Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., gives her victory speech at a Democratic election watch party in Boston, Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

Anonymous staff say Warren's DNA test decision was a 'strategic failure' and reparations are needed if seeking a presidential bid

NY Times reports Sen. Warren's DNA test may have darkened Presidential ambitions

By Vincent Schilling

On December 6th, New York Times reporter Astead W. Herndon released an article titled: **Elizabeth Warren Stands by DNA Test. But Around Her, Worries Abound** which discussed how the infamous DNA test – which Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts took to prove evidence of Native American ancestry – may have likely led to a darkening of her presidential ambitions for 2020.

Additionally, Warren staff members, advisers, and former advisers, who spoke to the New York Times on condition of anonymity, said they were “shocked” and “rattled” by Warren’s decision to take the test, with one former staff member stating the decision was a “depressing and unforgettable ... strategic failure.”

[Continue reading Schilling's piece here](#)

Inside this week's
issue of
Indian Country Today

#PresidentTrump
Mark Trahan looks
into what's ahead for
the presidency

#NativeConservation
Tribes help bring fish
off endangered species
list

#NativeEntertainment
Hit 90s television
series Northern
Exposure might get a
reboot

Five questions about the Trump presidency

By Mark Trahant

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President Donald J. Trump at the Army-Navy game Saturday. (Photo via YouTube)

Special counsel's legal filings allege that 'Individual 1' (the president) directed a crime

A series of filings by special counsel Robert Mueller last week raised new questions about the presidency of Donald J. Trump. The documents identify "Individual 1" as directing illegal actions, but only represent the beginning of the criminal process that is unfolding. It's time to ask hard questions about the presidency and what's ahead.

Is the president a crook?

In November 1973, at a news conference President Richard Nixon defended himself before reporters.

"I made my mistakes, but in all of my years of public life, I have never profited, never profited from public service — I earned every cent," the president said. "And in all of my years of public life, I have never obstructed justice. And I think, too, that I could say that in my years of public life, that I welcome this kind of examination, because people have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I am not a crook. I have earned everything I have got."

The people have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Federal prosecutors have now publicly alleged that the answer is yes, the president is a crook.

The key documents come from the two legal channels, **[filings by the Special Counsel Robert Mueller](#)**, as well as additional filings by the U.S. Justice Department prosecutors representing the Southern District of New York. One of the documents is a sentencing memo for Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen.

"The defendant's crime was serious," reports the sentencing memo filed by special counsel. "The defendant admitted he told these lies—which he made publicly and in submissions to Congress—in order to minimize links between the Moscow Project and Individual 1 and give the false impression that the Moscow Project had ended before the Iowa caucus and the first presidential primaries, in hopes of limiting the ongoing Russia investigations ..."

[Read the other questions Trahant asks by clicking here](#)



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wellsfargo.com/nativecommunities



Now that's a fish name: Razorback Sucker off endangered list with Tribes' help

By Lee Allen

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reporting that the Razorback Sucker (and the Humpback Chub) are proposed to have a change in status from endangered to threatened. Navajo fisheries, along with other biologists from the Jicarilla Apache Nation, Southern Ute, and Ute Mountain tribes have played a big part in the return. Courtesy photos

Navajo fisheries, biologists from Jicarilla Apache Nation, Southern Ute, and Ute Mountain tribes have played a big part

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reporting that the Razorback Sucker (and the Humpback Chub) are proposed to have a change in status from endangered to threatened. Navajo fisheries, along with other biologists from the Jicarilla Apache Nation, Southern Ute, and Ute Mountain tribes have played a big part in the return of the Razorbacks.

Although these fish have a face that only a mother could love, there are lots of people and organizations – including the four Native American tribes – that have been working to ensure the continuing survival of the Razorback Sucker.

Tom Chart, Director of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program says they have been working to create an environment more friendly to the fish populations. “Our partners along the Colorado River have restored flow, created habitat, removed non-native predators, and re-established populations across the species range, which are key components to recovery.”

The Razorback Sucker, a unique-looking fish with a sharp-edged hump or ‘razorback’ behind its head, is one of the largest of the Sucker fish family that goes as far back as 5 million years. Feeding on insects, plankton, and plant matter, it can live up to 40 years and grow to 3 feet in length.

[Continue reading about the fish here](#)

Northern Exposure returning? Elaine Miles says 'maybe,' but is not sure if she is involved

By Vincent Schilling

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The Emmy-Award winning cast of the popular television series Northern Exposure: The cast, listed clockwise from the far left are: Elaine Miles, Darren E. Burrows, Peg Phillips, John Cullum, Cynthia Geary, Barry Corbin, Janine Turner, and Rob Morrow. Photo: CBS/Photofest

Creator Joshua Brand tight-lipped, but expects Native presence on the possible reboot

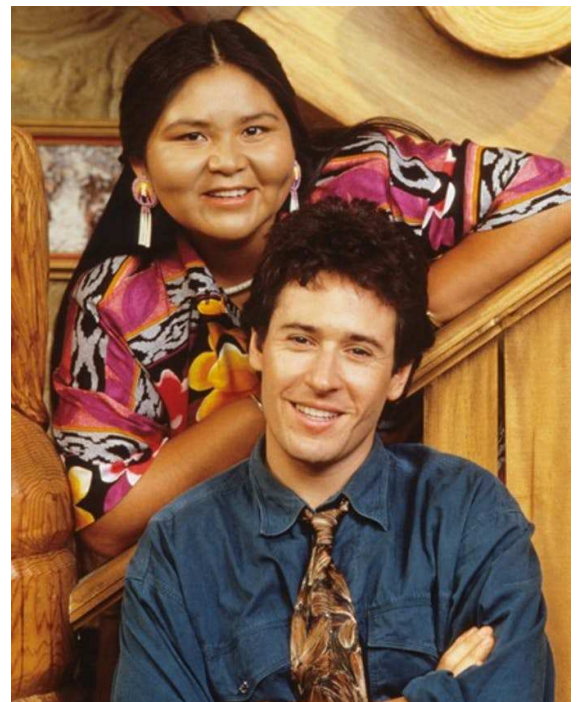
Who could forget the multiple Emmy-award winning television series Northern Exposure, which ran for 110 episodes on CBS from 1990 to 1995? The series, which concentrated on a young Jewish doctor from New York who operates his practice in a small Alaskan town, was enjoyed by millions during its primetime six-year run.

Some of the most comedic moments of the show were the interactions between an extremely high-strung Dr. Joel Fleischman, played by Rob Morrow, and his laid back and unflinching Native Alaskan secretary Marilyn Whirlwind, played by Elaine Miles.

The report said more than 70,000 people died of drug overdoses last year alone, a nearly 10 percent increase from 2016 and the highest ever in the United States for a single year. (As a comparison: Only about 17,000 people died of overdoses in 1999.)

Other enjoyable characters included millionaire businessman Maurice Minnifield, played by Barry Corbin, the tough pilot Maggie O'Connell, played by Janine Turner and the Native Alaskan handyman Ed Chigliak, played by Darren E. Burrows. Many of the actors still share close friendships to this day.

In a conversation with Elaine Miles, she shares in short that she isn't too sure if she is involved, but touched on some of the pleasant moments from the past.



Dr. Joel Fleischman, played by Rob Morrow, and his laid back and unflinching Native Alaskan secretary Marilyn Whirlwind, played by Elaine Miles. Photo: CBS

[**Read Schilling's conversation with Elaine Miles here**](#)

Beginning on **December 3, 2018** applications will be available for the waiting list for COUNCIL TOWERS II HDFC Senior Housing at 99 Vandalia Avenue, Brooklyn, New York to households headed by persons 62 years of age and over (including units that are handicap accessible). Qualifications will be based on Section 8 Federal guidelines.

Applications may be requested **by mail** from:

**Council Towers II Senior Housing
c/o Met Council
77 Water Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10005**

OR by downloading an application from the internet at www.metcouncil.org/housing

OR Applications can also be picked up in person at the following locations:

Council Towers II	Met Council
99 Vandalia Avenue	77 Water Street, 7th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11239	New York, NY 10005
Mon–Thurs (9am–4 pm)	Mon–Thurs (9am–4 pm)
Friday (9am–2 pm only)	Friday (9am–2 pm only)

OR by **telephone: (212) 453-9537**
(please speak clearly)

OR by sending an **email** to ct2inquiry@metcouncil.org with your name and mailing address

Completed applications must be returned by **REGULAR MAIL ONLY** to Council Towers II HDFC c/o Met Council 77 Water Street, 7th floor New York, NY 10005. One household member must be at least 62 years of age to qualify. Applicants who submit more than one application will be assigned a higher log number (least chance of obtaining an apartment).



In the Spring of 2017, an image of a group of Wisconsin High School students making a collective Nazi salute went viral prompting reactions from all over the world.
Photo: Peter Gust

Baraboo School ramps up efforts for diversity teaching after student Nazi salute

By Vincent Schilling

In the Spring of 2017, an image of a group of Wisconsin High School students making a collective Nazi salute went viral prompting reactions from all over the world. The Baraboo superintendent said the students would not be formally punished for the actions related to the photo due to their first amendment rights, and because the image was not taken on school grounds and that the photographer was an independent contractor not affiliated with the school.

In response to the social media backlash, which included one tweet from the Auschwitz Memorial Twitter account, calling the incident as "It is so hard to find words," the school has initiated a series of talks and responses embracing diversity and is using the incident to foster a teaching moment for the school.

As **reported in the online news website Slate**, "despite a 10-day investigation there are still lots of things school authorities don't know. "Despite our efforts, we are still unclear about some key details," the superintendent wrote on Wednesday."

[Finish reading the article here](#)

Savanna's Act passed by Senate, moves onto House for vote

By Jourdan Bennett-Begaye Indian Country Today E-weekly Newsletter December 12, 2018 Page 7



Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, 22, was killed in 2017. (Twitter)

The act creates efforts to bring national MMIW statistics to tribes, originally introduced by Sen. Heidi Heitkamp.

The Senate has passed Savanna's Act and the bill is now on its way to the House of Representatives.

Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND), chairman of the Senate on Indian Affairs announced the passing of the **S. 1942** bill.

"Savanna's Act will provide Indian tribes with better access to databases that track missing and unidentified persons across the country," Hoeven said. "This will help bring greater awareness regarding tragic cases of missing and murdered Indians in the United States." (**[Read the rest of Bennett-Begaye's story on MMIW here](#)**)

News Release form the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs reported the following

S. 1942 is named for Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind from North Dakota, who was tragically murdered in 2017. The bill:

- Improves tribal access to federal databases that track missing and unidentified persons, specifically American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- Requires the Department of Justice to consult with Indian tribes while developing national law enforcement and justice guidelines when responding to cases involving missing and murdered Indians.
- Incentivizes federal, tribal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to incorporate these guidelines into existing processes.
- Provides Indian tribes and law enforcement agencies with training and technical assistance relating to the implementation of the guidelines developed under this Act.
- Mandates annual reporting to Congress on known statistics relating to missing and murdered Indians in the United States.

[Read entire press release here](#)



[Watch online: The ICT Weekly Video News Report by Vincent Schilling for 12-10-18](#)

Topics: Last Mohawk code talker honored, Savanna's Act approved in Senate, PJ Vegas, Terrible flu tragedy, Warren's DNA



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Ute Indian Tribe

ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Director



The Ute Indian Tribe practices **TRIBAL PREFERENCE** in accordance with the Indian Preference Act, Indian Civil Rights Act and Indian Self Determination Act.

Employees must clear a **Background Check** in compliance with the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act.

Employees must clear **pre-employment alcohol/drug screenings** in compliance with the Ute Tribe Substance Abuse Policy.

Must **successfully complete a three (3) month's probationary period** in accordance with the Ute Tribe Personnel Manual

POSITIONS

Position is permanent fulltime. Minimum working hours of 32 hours per week (Monday thru Thursday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM) with the understanding that the employee must be willing work long and irregular hours.

Employee must be dependable, reliable, responsible, and fulfill obligations.

This is a tribally funded position.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

The Assistant Director will perform skilled work in the operation and oversight of the Ute Tribe Organization.

This position requires working in the office as well as occasionally in the field. Willingness to work within the environment associated with the position's location and purpose. **Able to work extended hours, which might include weekends/holidays.**

This is an advanced working level. Incumbent works under the general guidance and direction of the Executive Director and Tribal Business Committee.

The incumbent must also deal with residents, members of the public, and staff in a courteous and respectful manner. This includes receiving complaints as well as documenting and preparing report on any such complaints and respond in a courteous and respectful manner.

Supervision Received

Employee works under the supervision of the BUSINESS COMMITTEE and Executive Director

Supervision Exercised

Over all department personnel directly or through department heads or subordinate supervision.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

(Examples may include but are not limited to the following).

- Oversee and coordinate the activities of the operating division of the Membership Fund.
 - Assist the Executive Director as assigned.
 - Responsible for formulation of departmental annual budgets and assisting departments over which he or she presides with their budget.
 - Ensure compliance and look into ways of streamlining the various departments operational budget.
 - Coordinate inter-department fiscal management needs and projections.
-
- Direct, review and approve all major expenditures.
 - Perform quarterly fiscal reviews of departmental budgets and submittal of modifications to the Executive Director.

- Provide supervision, evaluation and direction to department managers and other assigned staff to include periodic performance reviews.
- Assist in the development of reports and presentations as required.
- Conduct regular and monthly staff meetings.
- Create and facilitate necessary training at all levels.
- Review and approve on and off-site training request.
- Recruit department directors with coordination of Personnel Department.
- Comply with the Financial Plan.
- Assist in the establishment of goals and objectives, business plans and strategic plans for the membership fund in harmony with the Financial Plan.
- Ensure compliance with approved tribal policies, applicable state and federal regulations and applicable codes and laws.
- Review all personnel actions and ensure compliance with the Human Resources Manual.
- Facilitate on-going reviews of organizational flow charts and collaborate with management staff to make and recommend change.
- Approve leave time for those under direct supervision.
- Assist in the development and maintenance of effective working relationship with the reservation, community, local, state, regional and national Indian and non- Indian organizations.
- Protect, preserve, and perpetuate the sovereignty, culture, history, integrity, cultural and natural resources and land base of the Ute Indian Tribe.
- Coordinate and cooperate with the management of the Enterprise Fund and Venture Fund.
- Assist in the implementation of a management training program designed to give tribal members the educational and work experiences necessary to be eligible for more senior management positions.
- All other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Required knowledge, skills, and Abilities

Knowledge of:

1. Knowledge of the principal and practices of public or business administration.
2. Knowledge of organization and administration techniques, methods, practices, planning and procedures.

Ability to:

1. Ability to establish and maintain cooperative interdepartmental and public relations.
2. Ability to research and to prepare comprehensive written reports.
3. Ability to work with the public and interpret tribal goals, objectives, and policies including the ability to present oral and written recommendations.

NECESSARY REQUIREMENT

- Must possess a valid Utah State Driver License and qualify for a Ute Tribe Driver License Driving history must meet insurance carrier requirements.
- Must pass a pre-employment drug test and take a random drug test when required.
- Must pass a Criminal Background Check
- Must successfully complete a three (3) month's probationary period during which the incumbent will be evaluated for satisfactory performance of typical duties listed.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

Graduate from college with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or a related field. Three (3) years' experience managing governmental activities; or an equivalent combination of training and experience which provided the capabilities to perform the described duties.

How to Apply: How to apply to add: applicant can go to Ute tribe website go to personnel and go to application fill out an application and send to UIT Human Resource P.O. Box 190 Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026 or email to cindylinw@utetribes.com or Taunishac@utetribes.com phone number Direct line (435) 725-4044 or ronevav@utetribes.com **Direct line** (435) 725-4017. **Fax** (435) 722-6823.

Native American Agriculture Fund to begin grantmaking in 2019

News Release

The Native American Agriculture Fund

The Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) launched its website today and is soliciting public feedback to inform NAAF's priorities and future funding activities. NAAF plans to begin its first round of grantmaking in 2019. To view the survey and find additional information about NAAF, please visit NativeAmericanAgricultureFund.org.



Photo courtesy: Henry Be

NAAF was created by the settlement of the landmark *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* class-action lawsuit. The charitable trust provides grants to eligible organizations for business assistance, agricultural education, technical support, and advocacy services to support Native American farmers and ranchers. With approximately \$266 million in funding, NAAF is the single largest philanthropic organization devoted solely to serving the Native American farming and ranching community. In accordance with the terms of the settlement agreement, it must distribute its funds within a period of 20 years.

"It is critical that we directly engage Native farmers and ranchers from the very beginning of our work," said Janie Simms Hipp, President/CEO of the Native American Agriculture Fund and citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. "These funds present an incredible opportunity to strengthen food sovereignty and Native food systems, and ultimately improve the economic vitality, health and wellbeing of our communities."

The launch of NAAF's website and feedback survey is the first step in its public communications efforts. Those interested in receiving the latest news from NAAF may sign up for the organization's e-newsletter, or follow NAAF on Twitter and Facebook. NAAF will also conduct a series of listening sessions beginning in 2019 within Native communities around the United States, and is committed to transparent and regular communication about its grants process, financial reports, and distribution of funds.

Have questions about our weekly ICT
newsletter?

Reach out to Associate Editor
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Contributions to this
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'I'm buying my land back, one bag at a time.'

By John Tepton

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Nearly all of the lands in United States of America, including Alaska, once being thought of as "our land."

So there he was, a young Alaska Native man, maybe 30, maybe 35, standing in line with a bag of pre-mixed soil in his arms at Home Depot. A woman is standing in line right behind him. She has stuff in her hands too.

"So what are you planting?"

"Nothing," he said.

"But you've got pre-mixed soil there." she said.

"No, not planting anything," he said. "I'm buying my land back, one sack at a time. And I have receipts."

This little story was told to me by my son Mark, a friend of Kevin O'Halloran, the one who coined what I think is the most profound statement in America.

The symbolism here for Native people everywhere, is likely the greatest story ever told. It's a story of nearly all of the lands in United States of America, including Alaska, once being thought of as "our land." When I was a youngster, Dad and us boys went caribou hunting at Denali every year. Along the way, we'd see signs posted: "No Trespassing." Dad would comment: "This used to be our land."

That's how we thought.

Native people have had a hard time wrapping their arms around the concept of "owning land." Land was the same as air we breathe, freely given by the Creator. So were the waters of the sea and rivers of the countryside.

So it has taken a couple of generations for us to be able to think in terms of buying land and owning it – even at one bag at a time. The comment was probably said in jest, but I can understand the meaning of it.

When the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, they probably thought they had arrived in a new land. What they didn't know is that Native American tribes had lived and died there since time immemorial.

[Click here to finish](#)

Thanks For Reading!

Indian Country Today

E-weekly Newsletter

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