



INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY

Digital. Indigenous. News.

E-Weekly Newsletter - January 23, 2019



Screen capture

SOCIAL MEDIA FIRE: World reacts to viral videos of Nathan Phillips and Covington Catholic High School students

**A summary of Indian Country Today's coverage on
Nathan Phillips and #MAGAYouth
By Vincent Schilling**

**Outrage as non-Native youth wearing #MAGA hats taunt and
disrespect Native elder - [HERE](#)**

**An interview with Nathan Phillips on the #MAGA youth
incident - [HERE](#)**

**The Nathan Phillips incident: A long day of worldwide news
and a school apology - [HERE](#)**

**Well-known Navy Seal Don Shipley obtains Nathan Phillips'
Military records - [HERE](#)**

**Before and after video of Nathan Phillips, #MAGAYouth and
more - [HERE](#)**

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Nathan Phillips offers to meet with students, community, and Catholic leaders

News Release

Lakota People's Law Project

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Nathan Phillips has offered to represent the international coalition behind the Indigenous People's March

Omaha Nation elder Nathan Phillips gained sudden and unwanted fame after a YouTube video went viral showing him being mocked by a group of Catholic high school students wearing MAGA (“Make America Great Again”) hats while he was singing a traditional Native song at the conclusion of the Indigenous Peoples March at the Lincoln Memorial on Friday.

Now, he says he’d like to use what occurred as a teachable moment.

He’s offering to travel as a delegate representing the international coalition behind the Indigenous Peoples March to Covington Catholic High School in Northern Kentucky and have a dialog about cultural appropriation, racism, and the importance of listening to and respecting diverse cultures.

“Race relations in this country and around the world have reached a boiling point,” said Phillips. “It is sad that on the weekend of a holiday when we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., racial hostility occurred on the steps of the Lincoln memorial, where King gave his ‘I Have a Dream’ speech.”

Phillips and others were closing the Indigenous Peoples March with a prayer ceremony in their permitted area when, videos show, two groups without permits—Black Hebrew Israelites and the high school students—began arguing. Phillips said he approached and stepped between the two groups in an effort to quell the burgeoning conflict through spiritual song.

“Unfortunately, much of the students’ behavior was understood by me and those with me as a mockery of our cultures,” said Phillips. For example, he said, nearly half of the students were, at one point, making the “tomahawk chop” motion popular at sporting events.

“I have read the statement from Nick Sandmann, the student who stared at me for a long time. He did not apologize, and I believe there are intentional falsehoods in his testimony,” Phillips continued. “But I have faith that human beings can use a moment like this to find a way to gain understanding from one another.”

[**\(Click here to read entire release\)**](#)

Tribes come together to challenge the Indian Child Welfare decision

By Jourdan Bennett-Begaye

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(Photo by Jourdan Bennett-Begaye)

Law was designed to give Native children “equal rights and human rights”

A defending argument for the Indian Child Welfare Act was released **last week** with widespread support from 325 tribes, 57 organizations, 31 child welfare organizations and seven members of Congress.

The legal brief asks the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, a higher court, to look at the ***Brackeen v. Zinke*** decision of a lower court, the Northern District of Texas.

U.S. District Judge Reed O’Connor said last October that the federal law was a “race based statute” that violated the Equal Protection Clause and therefore was “unconstitutional.”

Texas and other opponents of the act claim they want “to protect the equal rights of American Indian children, said Shannon Keller O’Loughlin, executive director of the Association on American Indian Affairs.

She adds that they do not realize the welfare act for Native children is “equal rights and human rights legislation” and it was “meant to provide protections against this systemic bias and reduce the overrepresentation of Indian children into these systems.”

“Statistics show that state systems continue to remove Indian children from their families at greater rates than white children, even though incidents of neglect or abuse are similar,” she said. “Current studies that have researched systemic bias in the child welfare system have found that Indian families were two times more likely to be investigated and four times more likely to have their children removed and placed in foster care than their white counterparts.”

The case’s decision derived from when the Brackeen family, a non-Native couple, wanted to adopt a Native child. They were successful.

[Read the rest of the article and find out what the next steps are by clicking here](#)

CONCORD SEASIDE LP

Applications are now being accepted on a rolling basis through April 30, 2019 for **1, 2, and 3 bedroom** apartments at:

55 Bowen St and 18-20 Father Capodanno Blvd.,
Staten Island, NY

Qualification will be based on Section 8 Federal Guidelines and the Low-Income Rental Marketplace Program (LAMP) of the NYC Housing Development Corporation—Income and occupancy restrictions apply.

Apartment Size	Household Size*	Maximum Income Range**	Max Gross Rent
1 Bedroom	1	\$36,550	\$978
	2	\$41,750	
2 Bedroom	2	\$41,750	\$1,173
	3	\$46,950	
	4	\$52,150	
3 Bedroom	3	\$46,950	\$1,356
	4	\$52,150	
	5	\$56,350	
	6	\$60,500	

* Subject to occupancy criteria

** Income guidelines subject to change

Interested persons may obtain an application by one of two methods:

By sending a self-addressed envelope to:	Or Visiting the Management Office at:
Progressive Management of NY 1044 Northern Blvd., 2 nd FL Roslyn, NY 11576 ATT: Concord Seaside W/L	20 Father Capodanno Blvd., Suite 1E Staten Island, NY 10305 Office Hours: Wednesday 9am–4pm

Completed applications must be sent to the address shown on the application form via regular mail only, (no priority, certified, registered, express or overnight mail will be accepted).

Completed applications must be postmarked by April 30, 2019.

Applications postmarked after April 30, 2019 may be disqualified automatically.

Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

Qualified applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria.

The Fair Housing Act Prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin. Federal law also prohibits discrimination on the basis of age. This apartment community does not discriminate on the basis of handicap/disability status. The management coordinates compliance with the non discrimination requirements contained in HUD's Regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR part 8 dated June 2, 1988)

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www.nyc.gov/housing



Photo courtesy: haaland.house.gov

Haaland statement on banning transgender individuals from military service

News Release

Office of Representative Debra Haaland (D-NM-01)

Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-NM-01), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, released the following statement after the Supreme Court allowed the administration's order to bar transgender people from serving in the military to continue:

"Transgender people have proudly and openly served our country for the past several years. Yet, equality is continuously under attack by this administration. Today's Supreme Court decision to uphold this irrational ban is devastating for the transgender service members and enables blatant discrimination against transgender service members.

"Preventing people from devoting their lives to their country simply due to their gender identity is a cruel affront on American values. I am incredibly disappointed by the Supreme Court's refusal to uphold the rights of the transgender community. This irrational ban distracts from service, does nothing to promote military readiness, and directly opposes the American belief in coming together to support our country regardless of background."

Male nurse arrested for allegedly impregnating Native woman in vegetative state

By Vincent Schilling

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Nathan Sutherland a 36-year-old licensed practical nurse caring for the San Carlos Apache woman, arrested due to DNA

A 36-year-old male nurse has been arrested in connection to the impregnation of a San Carlos Apache woman who was a patient in a vegetative state, being cared for at a long-term care nursing facility in Phoenix, Arizona.

Nathan Sutherland is the individual arrested in connection to the allegations of sexually assaulting the woman, who later became pregnant and gave birth to a child. Previously, nurses at the facility claimed that they did not know that the patient was pregnant until she began moaning and shortly thereafter gave birth.

Local authorities in Phoenix then sought DNA samples from male staff members at the Hacienda Healthcare facility, and Sutherland was then arrested after his DNA matched the DNA of the baby.

According to a report by CNN, "Sutherland's DNA "matched the baby" when crime lab technicians tested it Tuesday, Phoenix police Sgt. Tommy Thompson said."

The incident began to unfold on December 29th, when caretakers at the facility called 911 and informed the dispatcher that they did not even know the patient was pregnant.

The San Carlos Apache tribal chairman later reported publicly that the woman was a member of the tribe. The patient was a victim of a drowning accident, that had been in a vegetative state and stayed under care at the facility. The woman had been there since 1992 and is now 29-years-old.

Since the incident, two doctors at the facility are no longer working there. One has resigned, and another was suspended.

Hacienda Healthcare has hired an attorney, who has served as a former prosecutor, and they have hired a third-party company to oversee operations including several other facilities. Authorities have also previously stated that the baby was 'in distress' at the time of birth, but now report improvements to the baby's welfare. Thompson has also reported to CNN, "The baby, I am told, is doing quite well."

Debate about border, government shutdown moves to the Senate

By Mark Trahant

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Senate could finally weigh in on the government shutdown, putting members on record with a vote

The Senate will finally debate its solution to the longest government shutdown and history. The Senate will vote on President Donald J. Trump's proposal to fund the government, including \$5.7 billion for some of the border wall.

But it's not the "beautiful" border wall from the Trump campaign. As the president put it: "This is not a 2,000-mile concrete structure from sea to sea. These are steel barriers in high-priority locations."

Much of the border is already protected by natural barriers such as mountains and water. We already have many miles of barrier, including 115 miles that we are currently building or under contract. It will be done quickly. Our request will add another 230 miles this year in the areas our border agents most urgently need. It will have an unbelievable impact."

The Senate will also vote for a three-year "legislative relief" for the 700,000 young people who came to the United States without authorization, those in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA. But that Trump proposal comes at a time when the DACA situation is **already before the federal courts**. And the administration is required to continue the program until the legal challenges are resolved.

The president also said his proposal includes a three-year extension of Temporary Protected Status, or TPS. "This means that 300,000 immigrants whose protected status is facing expiration will now have three more years of certainty so that Congress can work on a larger immigration deal, which everybody wants – Republicans and Democrats," the president said.

Congress set up the Temporary Protected Status as a way to protect people who come from countries where their lives are in danger from an armed conflict, an environmental crisis, or a temporary crisis. The Trump administration redefined this program and eliminated six countries with nearly all the participants. A federal judge has blocked the administration from deporting people cut from the program, more than 300,000. (**[Finish reading the story here](#)**)

Read more on the #GovernmentShutdown on page 9.



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#NativeNerd Column:
A list of awesome Native nerd-friendly Twitter accounts***



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Top 10 Stories: What Indian Country read this past week as of Jan 19, 2019



Indian Country Today's week's end review of the top stories, picked by our readers.

Have questions about our weekly ICT
newsletter?

Reach out to Associate Editor
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Contributions to this
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Senate to vote Thursday on Trump, Democratic plans to reopen government

By Mark Trahant

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Sen. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-New York. (C-SPAN photo)

Longest government shutdown in history continues to threaten Native people, tribes, nonprofits

The Senate will vote on two competing plans to reopen the government Thursday. First the Senate will take up the president's plan to fund the government, and, if that fails, the Senate would then vote on a three-week continuing resolution to fund about a quarter of the federal government through Feb. 8.

"We've heard members of Congress on all sides demanding a resolution to this impasse and a plan to quickly restore full funding to the federal government ... and we now have a plan from the president that would do exactly that, and quickly," McConnell said on the Senate floor. "The opportunity to end all of this is staring us in the face."

He said the president's offer would "accomplish everything Democrats have said needs to be accomplished right now. It's a strong proposal."

Democrats disagree. But they are keen on getting a vote before the Senate.

"For the first time, we will get a vote on whether to open up the government without any decision, one way or the other, on border security," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-New York, said on the Senate floor Tuesday night.

And so in the official language of the Senate "This will result in 2 cloture votes (60-vote thresholds) at 2:30 pm on Thursday on the President's proposal and the Emergency Supplemental appropriations with a CR through February 8. A live quorum and subsequent vote on the motion to instruct the Sergeant at Arms to request the presence of absent senators is also possible for Thursday's session." ([Read entire story here](#))

Thanks For Reading!

Indian Country Today

E-weekly Newsletter

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