



# INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY

Digital. Indigenous. News.

## E-Weekly Newsletter - January 30, 2019



Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). Photo: Vincent Schilling

## Savannah's Act, legislation to improve interactions between federal, regional and tribal authorities to benefit #MMIW

### Sen. Murkowski keeps promise to Heidi Heitkamp, reintroduces Savannah's Act

By Vincent Schilling

Keeping her promise to Senator Heidi Heitkamp, the former North Dakota Senator that was not re-elected in 2018, Senator Lisa Murkowski, the Republican senator from Alaska, has kept her promise to Heitkamp by re-introducing legislation known as Savannah's Act, after the bill was stalled in Congress at the end of the last session.

As previously reported in Indian Country Today and as described in a release by Murkowski's office, the official background of Savannah's Act is as follows: 'In October of 2017, former U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp introduced Savanna's Act, cosponsored by Senator Murkowski, the first piece of major legislation specifically addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The legislation is named for Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, who was abducted and killed last year in Fargo, North Dakota. It passed the U.S. Senate unanimously in December of 2018.' ([Read more about bill here](#))

Inside this week's  
issue of  
Indian Country Today

#ICTFellow  
Indian Country Today  
welcomes new  
reporter from  
Navajo Times

#ClimateChange  
Polar Bears travelling  
further inland for food

#NativeArt  
Art installation to  
honor history,  
resilience of Puyallup  
people

# Pauly Denetclaw joins Indian Country Today as tribal media fellow

By Jourdan Bennett-Begaye Indian Country Today E-weekly Newsletter January 30, 2019 Page 2



Photo courtesy of Pauly Denetclaw

*Award-winning reporter will cover Washington agencies that impact the Navajo Nation*

Pauly Denetclaw, Diné, is the second media fellow for *Indian Country Today*.

Denetclaw is a staff reporter for the Navajo Times in Window Rock, Arizona, for more than year and will be reporting from Washington, D.C., this March.

Denetclaw brings a wide-range of skills and experience from her previous fellowships and time as an independent journalist to the newsroom of *Indian Country Today*.

In 2018, she won four awards from the Native American Journalist Association's National Native Media Awards. On top of those, the Arizona Newspaper Association awarded her for the Best News Story in the 2018 Best Newspaper Contest.

Denetclaw obtained impressive fellowships over the years with the Journalism and Women's Symposium, Generation Justice and the Native American Journalism Fellowship. She was part of the first cohort of Knight-CUNYJ Journalism Fellows and spent the summer working in New York City at NPR's Latino USA in 2015.

The former University of New Mexico student interned and freelanced for National Native News and received the Native American Journalist Association's 2016 Richard LaCourse investigative journalism award alongside Antonia Gonzales.

The award-winning journalist is curious to see how a digital newspaper works.

"I'm really looking forward to working in a newsroom that is predominately online. I haven't worked in that type of newsroom and I'm excited to see the differences and add more skills to my tool kit," she said. "I would also like to learn how to better incorporate digital into my reporting."

**[To finish reading article and see comments by Indian Country Today staff on new team member, click here](#)**

# ‘Stalking is more common than people realize’

By Jourdan Bennett-Begaye

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(Photo courtesy of StrongHearts Native Helpline)

*StrongHearts Native Helpline exists to help victims of domestic violence, which is where stalking can lead to.*

Social media has made stalking more dangerous and more common, especially in Native American communities.

Between six and seven million people are stalked every year, said StrongHearts Helpline Assistant Director Lori Jump, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians from Michigan.

The StrongHearts Native Helpline is an organization that hosts focused on helping Native survivors of domestic violence and concerned relatives. They provide a “culturally-appropriate,” free, anonymous and confidential service to callers.

“Stalking is more common than people realize,” she said.

January has been acknowledged as National Stalking Awareness Month since 2004 with the help of advocates.

The general definition of stalking is behavior that causes a reasonable person to feel fear. However, the definition can differ among tribes because they define it themselves.

Approximately half of American Indian and Alaskan Native women, which is 48.8 percent, have experienced stalking in their lifetime, according to a 2016 study by the National Institute of Justice.

Within the past year, approximately one in 10 Native women, 11.6 percent, have experienced stalking.

“It can turn into dangerous behaviors. People tend to say, ‘Yes, just ignore him and he’ll go away.’ It doesn’t happen that quite often,” Jump said.

The person stalking can be a stranger, a current intimate partner or former partner.

**[Find more information on StrongHearts Native Helpline and read rest of the story 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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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## Hoeven: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs passes 12 Bills for Indian Country

*News Release*

*United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs*

Senator John Hoeven (R-ND), chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Tuesday organized for the 116th Congress and passed 12 pieces of legislation for Indian Country.

“In its first meeting of the 116th Congress today, the Committee approved 12 pieces of legislation that will benefit tribes across the country,” said Hoeven. “These bills are a strong start for the committee’s work this year and help advance the bipartisan agenda of the Indian Affairs Committee in the 116th Congress.”

[Click here to see the 12 bills](#)

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# Polar bears seek food 100's of miles inland, as Beaufort Sea melts, U.S. freezes

By Jon Tepton

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*Here come to Polar Bears as Anchorage is basking in 40-degree spring like days while the northeast US is freezing.*

If the species known as mankind won't do anything to deal with rapid climate change in Alaska, maybe another species will incite action. It is the polar bear, (*Ursus Maritimus*), also called the white bear, sea bear, ice bear, or great white northern **bear** found throughout the **Arctic** region.

In the Arctic, where ice is melting faster than ever before, the polar bear is now traveling hundreds of miles inland to find food.

According to climatologists, Alaska is now the leading barometer in the climate change world.

Scientists are finding that a rapid warming trend is responsible for sea ice melting at a remarkable rate, leaving polar bears without enough ice cover to hunt for seals.

Last week, a trapper in the small hamlet of Arctic Village in Alaska, was just as surprised as the polar bear he saw, when the two accidentally met in the wilderness. Arctic Village, population 192, is located about 100 miles inland from the shores of the Beaufort Sea, the bear's natural habitat. To defend himself, the trapper shot the bear. In 2008, another wandering polar bear was encountered in the village of Fort Yukon, also more than 100 miles inland.

The polar bear travels long distances over vast desolate expanses, generally on drifting ocean ice floes, searching for seals, its primary prey. Except for one subspecies of **grizzly bear**, the polar bear is the largest and most powerful **carnivore** on land. It has no natural predators and knows no fear of humans, making it extremely dangerous.

Other sea mammals being impacted are seals and walrus.

Seals, walrus, and polar bears need large areas of frozen sea ice to live a normal productive life. When Arctic ice melts, the animals have to change their habitat or starve.

[Continue reading by clicking here](#)

# Transgender veterans are the 'minorities of the minorities'

By Jourdan Bennett-Begaye

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Billie Two Feathers, centered and standing in a steel-pot helmet, is pictured with her Pathfinder Class 2-68. She received this photo from the son of the guy holding the flag. She only has three photos of her in the military. "They didn't want anyone to know where I was. I had a bounty on my head. The Vietnamese government wanted us dead," said Two Feathers. (Photo courtesy of Billie Two Feathers, Oglala Lakota)

## *Trump administration's transgender ban raises concerns from Two-Spirit veterans*

Billie Two Feathers' remembers her last six weeks in humid Saigon in 1968. She was attached to the Army's general staff, the 101st airborne division. Her only job at the biggest hospital in the country was to check the roster each day and find out if soldiers were going back to the war zone, to Japan, home to the United States, or were dead.

Two Feathers had to make phone calls at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. That's it. The rest of the days it was her time to spend how she chose.

Sometimes she made "PX runs," or a trip to the retail store on base, picking up magazines, books, or cigarettes for the troops. (This is when smoking was allowed in hospitals.)

"That was the normal run of the mill thing for me to do," she told Indian Country Today in a phone interview.

[\*\*Continue reading Bennett-Begaye's piece on the President's ban of transgender people serving in the military here\*\*](#)



***Read the most recent  
#NativeNerd Column:  
15 techniques to achieve success I've learned over the years***

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Have questions about our weekly ICT  
newsletter?

Reach out to Associate Editor  
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Contributions to this  
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# Europeans acknowledge Native American holocaust with series of events

By Lisa J. Ellwood

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Indigenous Youth Ceremonial Mentoring Group. (Photo courtesy: Naila Clerici)

## *Week-long series of Native American holocaust events taking place in Switzerland for Holocaust Remembrance 2019*

Every year the Associazione Ticinese Degli Insegnanti Distoria which translates as the Swiss Association of History Teachers, dedicates the European International Holocaust Remembrance Day or Day of Memory (as it is often referred to in Europe) to a different case of genocide. This year their focus is on **Indigenous genocide in North America**.

Swiss history teachers Massimo Chiaruttini and Maurizio Binaghi are the organizers.

The week-long series of events in Switzerland exploring the Native American Holocaust began with a screening and discussion of Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee on January 27. The events will be facilitated by Oglala Lakota siblings 19-year-old **Nina**, and 17-year-old **Nolan** Berglund of the Minneapolis-based **Indigenous Youth Ceremonial Mentoring Society** and Dr. Naila Clerici, Professor of History of the Indigenous Peoples of America at the University of Genova in Italy and founder of the non-profit cultural organization, **Soconas Incomindios Italy**.

**[Find all the events and read more about the program here](#)**

# \$150,000 art installation will honor history, resilience of Puyallup people

By Richard Walker

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*Project initiated in 2015 by a retired elementary school principal as a way to 'fill in a missing chapter of Gig Harbor'*

A Coast Salish sculpture that will be installed in 2020 at a historic Puyallup village site in the Tacoma, Washington suburb of Gig Harbor, will be a tribute to the strength, resilience and enduring presence of the Puyallup people -- as well as a symbol of healing between the Native and non-Native communities.

The project is called the Honoring Project and is funded by the City of Gig Harbor and the local Kiwanis Club, with matching funds from the Puyallup Tribe. The project was initiated in 2015 by Gary Williamson, a retired elementary school principal, as a way to "fill in a missing chapter in Gig Harbor's history book."

"Several years ago, I noticed that there are no street names, nor public art nor any formal acknowledgment of Gig Harbor's indigenous people," he said. "It's time that story was told. It's long overdue."

The 15- by 4-foot artwork will be installed at Austin Estuary Park, which at the time of the grandparents' grandparents was *tuwawəʔqəʔ* (twah-well-kax), the main village of the *sxwəbabš* (sk-WHUH-babsh) band of Puyallups.

The Honoring Project committee raised \$150,000 for the art from the city and the Kiwanians with a match from the Puyallup Tribe and issued a request for proposals from Native American artists. The deadline for proposals is March 15. The request for proposals, or RFP, is [available online here](#).

## **To Educate, Inspire, and Help Understand**

The finished work will have a massive world of cultural relevance and survival behind it.

This area was ground zero in the Fish Wars of the 1960s and 1970s. Here in south Puget Sound, Native Americans stood up for their right to harvest fish in accordance with treaties their leaders and U.S. representatives signed 100 years earlier.

[Finish reading about the project here](#)

# Thanks For Reading!

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### E-weekly Newsletter

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