



INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY

Digital. Indigenous. News.

E-Weekly Newsletter - November 14, 2018



Members of the Cowboy and Indian Alliance rode on horseback and protested in unison against the Keystone XL Pipeline.
Photo: Vincent Schilling

"The Court enjoins Federal Defendants and TransCanada from engaging in any activity in furtherance of the construction."

Federal Judge blocks Keystone XL Pipeline - Indigenous Nations respond

By Vincent Schilling

Two days into his presidency, Donald Trump signed an executive order to approve the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline and Dakota Access Pipeline. Late Thursday, A federal judge ruled to temporarily block construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, stating the Trump administration had failed to justify its decision in granting the permit.

President Barack Obama rejected the \$8 billion project in late 2015, citing leadership could suffer based on curbing the reliance but President Trump reversed that decision in March 2017, and the State Department granted TransCanada a permit for construction.

But after the latest decision in Montana, the Keystone XL Pipeline – a 1,200-mile long pipeline that would connect Canada's tar sands crude oil with refineries on the Texas Gulf Coast, with emphasis on the major coast's ability to serve as a port for world exports – is now in another state of limbo. ([Finish reading the story here](#))

Inside this week's issue of Indian Country Today
#MMIW

New report identifies hundreds of urban Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls

#NativeVote18
Takeaways from historic Election Night, Deb Haaland Newsweek cover and more!

#NativeFashion
Nike N7 unveils winter collection with Taboo and USA gymnast Ashton Locklear

Urban Indian Health report identifies 506 urban Missing & Murdered Women, Girls

By Vincent Schilling Indian Country Today E-weekly Newsletter November 14, 2018 Page 2



Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski.
YouTube screen capture

Murkowski comment on MMIW: While Canada has contributed 10's of millions to effort, "the U.S. has invested about zero."

Researchers have looked at the data from 71 U.S. cities and have identified 506 cases of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIW / MMIWG). The report was released today by the Urban Indian Health Institute, a division of the Seattle Indian Health Board, titled **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls, a snapshot of data from urban cities in the United States.**

In the report, researches also revealed significant challenges in collecting data on the total number of missing or murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives residing off-reservation and outside rural villages.

"Seventy-one percent of American Indian and Alaska Natives live in urban areas, yet, accurate data does not exist regarding the rates of violence among this population," said Abigail Echo-Hawk, director of the Urban Indian Health Institute and citizen of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma.

Echo-Hawk, who said in a release that the report is a "step towards addressing this epidemic," also stated the report would provide "a necessary snapshot of the epidemic and is a call-to-action to protect Native women and girls."

Annita Lucchesi, Southern Cheyenne descent, is a co-author of the report with Echo-Hawk. Lucchesi found in the course of her research some significant issues: a lack of available data on urban Indians; the need for non-tribal law enforcement agencies to coordinate with tribal nations regarding their members and to share data on MMIWG; the racial misclassification of missing and murder cases who may be American Indian or Alaska Native -- but it was not noted in their records; and inadequate funding for research on violence against urban American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls.

"We owe it to these women and girls to fully identify the scope of the problem," Lucchesi said in a release. "What we found in our research was that in some cases law enforcement agencies didn't even have records on file to consult, they were simply going off what they could remember of past cases. This is unacceptable."

[Continue reading the story on #MMIW here](#)

Seven election lessons from Indian Country

By Mark Trahant

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Rep.-elect Sharice Davids on Election Night.
(Photo by Rhonda LeValdo)



Washington state Rep.-elect Debra Lekanoff. (Facebook photo)

At the ballot box this really was the Year of Native Women #SheRepresents

So much history was made this Election Day and it really was the year of the Native woman.

The first two Native American women in Congress, Representatives-elect Deb Haaland, New Mexico, and Sharice Davids, Kansas. Haaland is Laguna Pueblo and Davids is Ho Chunk and both are Democrats. The first Native woman elected lieutenant governor of a state, Peggy Flanagan of Minnesota. She is White Earth Nation and on the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party ticket.

Arizona tripled the number of Native representation in its state Senate. Senators Jamescita Peshlakai, Navajo; Victoria Steele, Seneca; and Mary Ann Gonzales, Pascua Yaqui, and enough members to caucus. All three are Democrats.

There were at least 28 Native women elected to offices ranging from state legislature to Congress, nearly half of the 58 seats won by tribal citizens.

But the historic nature of last week is not just about gender.

To continue reading about the takeaways from the election, click [here](#)

Native Congresswoman-elect Deb Haaland makes cover of Newsweek

By Vincent Schilling

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Newsweek feature story covers the historic firsts in Indian Country to include Haaland, Sharice Davids, Peggy Flanagan

In tandem with a feature-length story by Newsweek correspondent [Rebecca Nelson](#) titled [Native American Women Made History in the Midterms. Here's Why It Took So Long](#), Laguna Pueblo Congresswoman-elect Deb Haaland appears on this week's cover of Newsweek magazine.

In the article Nelson tells the story of Haaland's journey to Standing Rock and how she decided that Native people needed a voice to represent them.

"People went there and saw this coming together of all these tribes in this inspirational atmosphere, and it created a sense of entitlement, that it's our time to do something," says Mark Trahant, the editor of Indian Country Today.

Then Nelson cites the results of the 2018 midterm elections.

On Tuesday, she made history, becoming one of the first Native American women elected to Congress, along with Sharice Davids in Kansas (a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation and a Democrat). It's been a long time coming. Though Native Americans are nearly 2 percent of the population, they account for just 0.03 percent of elected officials.

Nelson's article also cites the other candidates who made good to include Sharice Davids, and Peggy Flanagan. She also speaks about current and former political leaders that are Native American.

In August Nelson traveled to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and spoke to a Pueblo elder.

When I ask Ricardo Campos, a 65-year-old Native American who lives in Albuquerque, what Haaland's candidacy means to him, he clasps his hands together and looks at me. "It's a long time coming," he tells me, tears running down his face.

[Read the entire article online here.](#)



Courtesy St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council Donates 446 Winter Jackets for Akwesasne Youth

By Vincent Schilling

446 jackets donated from Tribal Council's Community Support Fund that is funded by Mohawk Gaming Enterprises, LLC.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council began their annual donation of winter jackets for Akwesasne youth at local schools and childcare programs. Now in its seventh year, 446 jackets are being donated from Tribal Council's Community Support Fund that is funded by Mohawk Gaming Enterprises, LLC.

This morning, Tribal Sub-Chief Benjamin Herne and Tribal Chiefs Eric Thompson and Michael Connors assisted High School Guidance Counselor Assistant Jodele Hammond with jackets for Mohawk students attending Massena Central Schools.

Other schools and childcare facilities that will receive winter jackets include the Akwesasne Freedom School, Salmon River Central School, St. Regis Mohawk School, Saint Regis Mohawk Head Start and Early Childhood Development Program, Noel's Small Steps Daycare, Nooch's Daycare, Above and Beyond Daycare, Ista's Little Helpers Daycare, and home-based daycares operated by Michelle and Lisa Collette.

"Niawenkó:wa/Thank you to the following members of Tribal Council and tribal staff for the tremendous amount of work organizing, purchasing, sorting and packaging 446 winter jackets for this year's donation," wrote the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe in a release.

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Black Eyed Peas' Taboo, USA Gymnast Ashton Locklear unveil new N7 Collection

By Vincent Schilling

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Indian Country icons Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas, Shoshone, Hopi, Mexican, and world class USA gymnastics champion Ashton Locklear, Lumbee, are unveiling the latest Nike N7 collection. Courtesy Nike

Taboo: "It's not just about fashion, Nike N7 is also about the Mission Statement and helping Native communities."

Showing off the latest white hoodie with Native-themed designs, and the Women's full-zip hoodie, Indian Country icons Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas, Shoshone, Hopi, Mexican, and world class USA gymnastics champion Ashton Locklear, Lumbee, are unveiling the latest Nike N7 collection.

The Nike N7 collection has been a trailblazer in the world of Native-themed fashion collection and has been guided by the intuitive sights of Nike General Manager Sam McCracken.

According to Taboo, who says the clothing -- which is designed by Native designers -- "It's not just about fashion, Nike N7 is also about the Mission Statement and helping Native communities."

He spoke with Indian Country Today's Vincent Schilling regarding his support of the N7 brand.

Vincent Schilling: You are one of the latest Nike N7 ambassadors, what are your thoughts on giving this support and wearing the gear designed by Tracy Jackson?

Taboo: Well, first of all, it's more about the mission statement that Nike N7 represents, you know, the aesthetics and the apparel and the designs are just an extension of that.

The Nike N7 fund really represents most of all -- how it goes back to help tribal communities and helping Native youth stay active and stay healthy. It is an effort that is constantly working in giving opportunities to play basketball, to have gear to play sports, while encouraging Native youth to remain athletic.

It just it always goes back to Native communities and that's what Nike N7 really means to me. It's not just about the gear, it's not about the shoes, It's about the mission statement and it's about what it means to be able to give back.

[To continue reading the conversation with Taboo, click here](#)



A week's end review of the top stories in Indian Country Today as picked by our readers

[Click here to view the Top 10](#)



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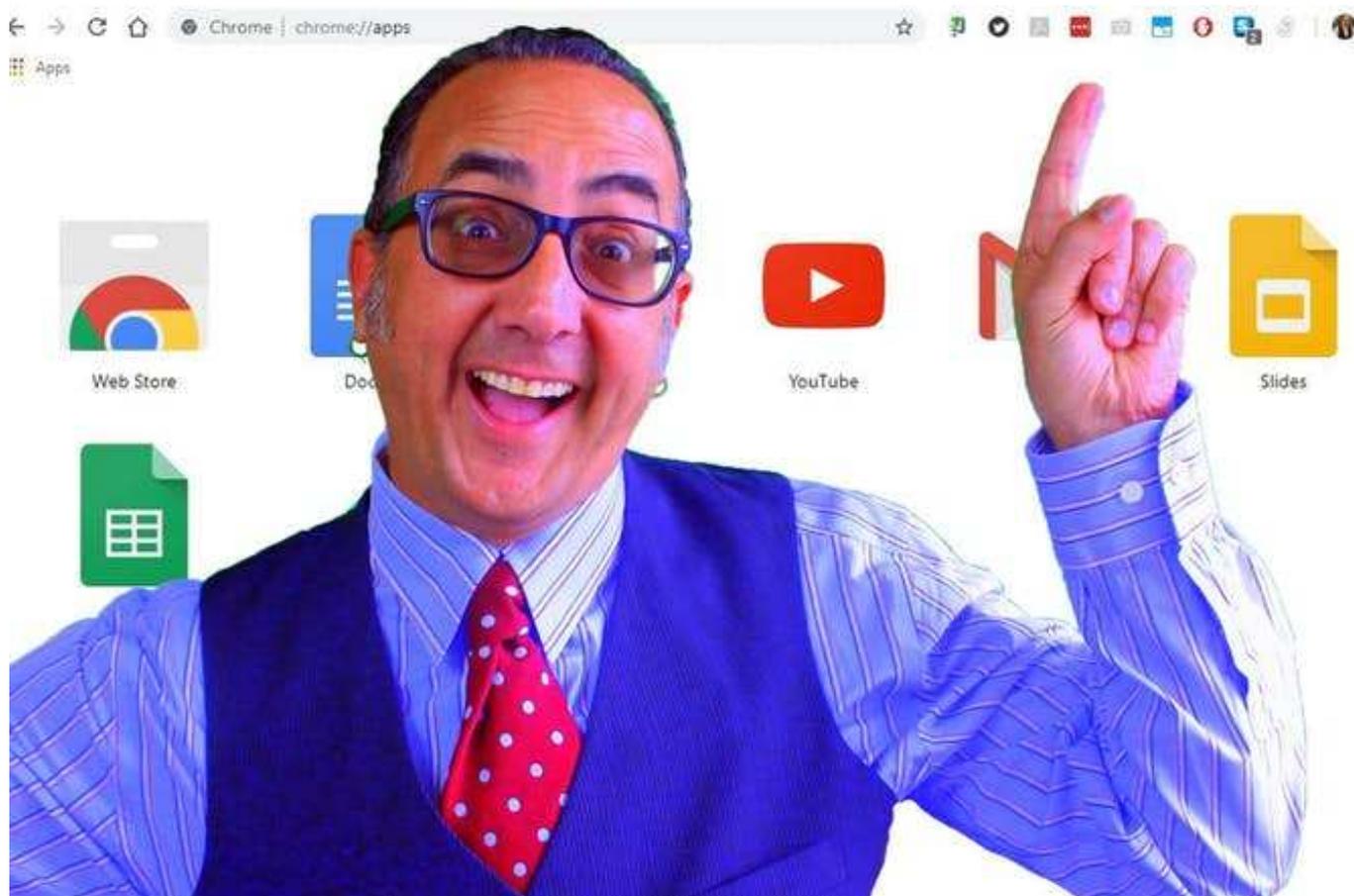


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#NativeNerd Column - Seven internet tools I use everyday

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Associate Editor
Vincent Schilling
Email:
vschilling@indiancountrytoday.com

Twitter- [@VinceSchilling](https://twitter.com/VinceSchilling)

Contributions to the creation of
this newsletter courtesy

Kolby KickingWoman

Twitter - [@kdkw_406](https://twitter.com/kdkw_406)

Making the case for a free, independent press in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

By ICT Opinion

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Sterling Cospers

Sterling Cospers

Muscogee (Creek) journalist

Mvskoke Media is like National Public Radio or Public Broadcasting Service working for the best representation of truth

On the evening of Nov. 8, 2018, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation government repealed a 2015 law that established its news outlet Mvskoke Media as independent, and moved it back under an official of the tribal administration.

The department had been overseen by an editorial board that adhered to Native American Journalists Association and Society of Professional Journalists ethics. Two of the members had to be journalists and one had to be an attorney.

When the free press law first passed, the legislative body of the tribe was also asserting its power in the checks and balances of the government in other ways such as starting a forensic audit on the administration and a campaign finance bill, which was also recently overhauled.

At that time, Principal Chief James Floyd was a candidate for his current position and also showed support for the bill, which included a posted comment on coverage of the committee meeting where the free press bill was introduced and approved for a full vote.

Six of the seven National Council representatives that voted to repeal the bill also were in favor of putting it in place in 2015.

One of them, Rep. Rufus Scott was not seated at the time.

The main sponsor of the repeal, Rep. Adam Jones was not there to vote on it. He also originally voted in favor of free press, and was and is on the committee where this was introduced.

One of the repeal cosponsors Rep. Pete Beaver, also originally voted in favor of free press and was and is also part of the committee where free press was introduced.

[Finish reading the piece by Cospers here](#)

Thanks For Reading!

Indian Country Today

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Indian Country Today Team

Editor

Mark Trahant, Shoshone Bannock
mtrahant@indiancountrytoday.com
[@TrahanReports](#)

Associate Editor

Vincent Schilling, Akwesasne Mohawk
vschilling@indiancountrytoday.com
[@VinceSchilling](#)

Reporter / Producer

Jourdan Bennett-Begaye, Dine' [@JourdanBB](#)

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)

Embassy of Tribal Nations
1516 P Street NW, Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 466-7767

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Executive Director

Jacqueline Pata, Tlingit

Director of External Affairs

Jamie Gomez, Tlingit

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(202) 210-1640 (646) 924-3836 Fax
E-mail: hdonovan@indiancountrytoday.com